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News 01.2012

31.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill calls on Somare regime to surrender to police

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has called on all members of the Somare regime to surrender themselves to Police headquarters and undergo questioning as to their individual roles in last weeks failed mutiny.

"Every one of them, Somare, Amet, Kumbakor, Agiru, should all attend and explain their roles in this grubby story. There can be no doubt that they actively incited that mutiny attempt, and now that it has failed, they are asking the Court to pick up where Sasa left off," Mr O'Neill said.

He said the Somare group need to be recognised as criminals, for they have actively encouraged others to breach the criminal law.

"They have proudly boasted that they have attempted to stage a military coup to gain power. In many countries in the world, Somare and his gang would be facing execution for what they have done.

They are now planning another round of Court applications as a smoke screen to draw attention away from their criminal conduct and to destabilise democracy in PNG. Remember that there are only 12 weeks until election writs are issued, starting a process which will resolve all of these issues once and for all. There is no need for the Court to cast a vote, as the people will do it for them, Mr O'Neill said.

"Now they want to go to Court and ask the Court to ignore recent resolutions and laws of the Parliament which have overtaken the decision of the Supreme Court. Their attempt to use the military to stage a coup to gain power failed, so now they are asking the Court to do the same thing.

The affidavits they file in the Court will make no mention of their criminal conduct, inciting mutiny and risking bloodshed. The Court should not soil its hands with the matter, and let things be sorted out in the proper forum – the Parliament and the ballot box. What is being asked of the Court is an absurdity," he said.

"I did not appoint myself as Prime Minister, and neither did the members of NEC, the Parliament did. Is the Court going to have every member of the Parliament charged with contempt, simply because the Parliament voted in a way that the Somare gang do not like. I have already been elected twice by the Parliament, as Prime Minister. The will of Parliament is clear," a desperate Mr O'Neill said.

31.01.2012

Source: Post Courier

Use peace money wisely, says Chief

By PETERSON TSERAHA

FUNDS earmarked for peace purposes have to be used wisely and the whole community have to benefit from it, because peace money is big money.

Joseph Patuai a Chief from the Konnou Constituency and the chairman of the Wisai Peace Committee in Buin, South Bougainville, raised this concern after learning that a lot of peace funds have not been acquitted, and only certain individuals benefit from it.

“People have to know and understand that such funds, is public money, and it is for everyone.” Mr Patuai said.

“According to everyone’s understanding only fighters from certain factions involved get the money, but how about the women and children the real people who suffer from violence?” he questioned. Mr Patuai said people should utilise village banks such as microfinance for safe keeping.

He also further stated that the peace office should come up with a rule that money for planned reconciliations must be received by not only one person but something like five people, to prove that it is a community initiative and not for a certain individual only.

“The government is spending millions of kina on reconciliations, money that can be used for infrastructure development like roads, hospitals, and schools.” Mr Patuai said.

“The reconciliation process has to be really screened properly because there are lot of bad people involved nowadays who call other peoples name and get their money.” he said. Mr Patuai has appealed to people especially from the Konnou area to use peace funds wisely. As the chairman for the Wisai Peace Committee, he has stepped down due to threats, and that has now put to hold a major district to district reconciliation between Koianu in central Bougainville and Wisai in the south. Funds have already being earmarked for the major reconciliation but the money will and must be well looked after. According to the Koianu side, things are set but Mr Patuai said he will sort his side out first.

31.01.2012

Source: Post Courier

Sea transport vital in Isles

TRAVELLING by sea is the only means of transport available for the people living in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville including Carteret’s, Tasman, Mortlock and Nissan. When there is by any chance of shipping vessels travelling to the atoll islands, people living in Buka make sure they send goods for their loved once back at home. As seen in this picture, Tasman islanders residing in Buka loading cargoes on MV Bougainville Atolls, anchored at the Buka wharf.

31.01.2012

Source: Post Courier

DWU campus set for Bougainville

By Lucas Kawage

THE Bougainville Education Board (BEB) is planning to establish a Divine Word University (DWU) campus in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Chief executive officer of the Bougainville Education Division, Bruno Babato made this announcement, saying that the construction of the new school comes under the microscope, of the policy submission to be handed over to the Autonomous Bougainville Government this year.

The submission worth K10 million will task the ABG, to make a commitment, in next year’s (2013) budget.

Mr Babato said that if the plans work out, BEB and the ABG will negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with DWU.

He said that the new campus will be located in Mabiri, and arrangements will be made through the Catholic Education office of the Diocese of Bougainville.

Mr Babato welcomed one of the country's top higher learning institution – DWU, to set up a campus for the children of Bougainville. "DWU you are most welcome to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville." he said.

Also included in the policy submission are the construction of a nursing college and a teachers college.

The nursing college will be located Tanamalo at Haku Constituency in Buka, while the teachers college at Buin, South Bougainville, and Mr Babato says the education division are working around the clock to meet and negotiate with the landowners. Meanwhile Mr Babato said that the plans of the education division to build tertiary institutions in the autonomous region, is because many parents spend so much money, sending their children to further education in other provinces.

"Parents spend so much money who send their children to other provinces like Rabaul, Kimbe, Lae, Port Moresby and Madang, (just to name a few), just to look for proper education." he said.

He said that Bougainville needs more tertiary institutions to cater for the many students who miss out on selection or are unable to secure a space.

To date, there are no tertiary institutions in the autonomous region, and only these education institutions operate in the Bougainville: 383 elementary schools, 216 primary schools, 10 high-technical schools, three vocational and four secondary schools. Mr Babato said that the number of high, technical and secondary schools, indicates that Bougainville is in 'dire' need for tertiary institutions.

31.01.2012

Source: Jason South (picture)

Isolated: Sir Michael Somare



31.01.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

I was just carrying out orders, says hapless Col Sasa

BY KEITH JACKSON



THE ODDS AGAINST A COMEBACK are prohibitive but Sir Michael Somare, through the strident voice of his daughter and spokeswoman, Betha [pictured], is continuing the fight to be reinstated as Papua New Guinea's prime minister.

The 75-year-old Grand Chief is relentlessly repeating his cry that the Supreme Court order of last year reinstating him to office be respected. He is also calling upon the police and the military to join him.

"If this is to be my last and biggest battle I will fight for the constitution, the underlying law that holds the very fabric of our democracy and democratic institutions together," he says.

"I appeal to the leaders of our disciplinary forces to look beyond the current circumstances and come to terms with why you (are) a member of a law-enforcing agency. You are here first and foremost to uphold and enforce the law of the land and the orders of the Supreme Court."

His son and former minister, Arthur Somare, has also challenged prime minister Peter O'Neill to an early election.

"Let's go to an early election and see how many people you pick up, Peter" he goaded. "Let's go right now."

And Somare supporters claim that last week's failed military mutiny has not stopped their push to have the former leader reinstated.

"We are in charge of Taurama barracks. Taurama barracks is more than 200 soldiers who are there, and we have firepower," claims Andrew Kumbakor, who says he is the legitimate defence minister in Sir Michael's legitimate government.

"Sasa [leader of the mutineers], you have done no wrong. For a public defence force, we have done no wrong," Kumbakor said. "I stand with you and I will defend you all the way and in a very short while, I will have you out and you will be the defence force commander of Papua New Guinea."



Sasa [pictured], the retired colonel who led the hapless attempt to restore Somare, for his part says he has no regrets. "I was carrying out the government's orders. Yes sir," he said.

And now Arthur Somare says it was not the Somare group's intention to use military force to return his father to office. He claims Sasa's appointment as commander was just normal government business.

Meanwhile, Peter O'Neill has said he is contemplating bringing forward the national elections due in the middle of the year so Papua New Guineans can resolve the leadership conflict at the ballot box.

On that point at least, both sides would seem to agree.

30.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG cabinet to make historic visit to Bougainville next month

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, has promised to hold a meeting of his National Executive Council on the mainland of Bougainville, next month.

It will be the first time since the secessionist war in the late 1980's and 1990's that PNG's cabinet will have met on the island.

Despite an earlier cancellation, expectations are high.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: President John Momis of Bougainville

[Listen here !](#)

GARRETT: It is ten years since the PNG government signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement - that agreement brought an end a bloody secessionist war that had been sparked by landowner ill-feeling about the giant Rio-Tinto-owned Panguna copper mine.

The Peace Agreement the led to the formation of the Bougainville government and included financial guarantees from Port Moresby in the lead-up to a referendum on independence sometime between 2015 and 2020.

John Momis, President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, says the visit of the National Executive Council to Bougainville's burnt-out mainland capital, Arawa is very significant.

MOMIS: The whole ABG leadership and the people will be welcoming them with open arms, especially a visit to Arawa and mine because we have totally inadequate funding to deal with huge huge, huge responsibilities of rebuilding Arawa. And it would be good for the government to experience for themselves the sorts of difficulties that the ABG has been subjected to by the people.

GARRETT: Will Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, or any of his Executive Council be visiting the Panguna mine site?

MOMIS: I think so - it would be very good for them to see.

GARRETT: And you are not expecting any trouble with them getting access to the mine site?

MOMIS: No, absolutely not! No! No problem!

GARRETT: So is that a sign of just how far the peace process has now gone?

MOMIS: Yes, definitely. The Peace Process has gone a long way but to make it stick we have to start spending some money where it matters. And that is empowering people at the grassroots, finding employment or finding social or economic activities that people can be involved in. Bougainvilleans in general, are very hard working people to give you an idea of how they are not lazy, before the crisis Bougainville was the biggest producer of cocoa and we are still the biggest producer of cocoa, with all the expatriate plantations closed down.

GARRETT: President Momis sees developing Bougainville's economic self-reliance as a crucial factor in offering his people a real choice when they vote in the referendum on independence.

But obtaining funds to do that has been difficult.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement provides for 15 million Kina a year from the PNG for the Bougainville government to spend how it sees fit.

But that has been slow to arrive.

Recently, Bougainville agreed to accept 100 million kina a year instead of the peace process money.

President Momis says he hopes the PNG money comes without strings attached.

MOMIS: We hope that now the government is not giving the K15 million they are going to allow us discretion to extend the K100 million, even if we have to consult with them.

GARRETT: Bougainville has had trouble getting its funding out of the PNG government and, in fact, Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, has said he doesn't think the Autonomous Bougainville Government has the ability to spend the 100 million kina a year, wisely. Does that mean that he is thinking of going back on the funds?

MOMIS: I hope not! If he does he'll have a lot of problems!

GARRETT: When the National Executive Council has visited other provinces it has come with its cheque book at the ready.

Bougainville's President is hoping the visit to Arawa will produce a new spirit of co-operation.

30.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - News

PNG mutineers granted amnesty

PNG correspondent Liam Fox, wires

Papua New Guinea's Defence Minister has announced amnesty for soldiers involved in last week's attempted mutiny.

The troops involved in last week's attempted mutiny in Papua New Guinea have handed in their weapons in exchange for amnesty.

Defence Minister Belden Namah addressed soldiers from the First Battalion of the Pacific Islands regiment at Taurama Barracks on Port Moresby outskirts.

Among them were the troops involved in last week's failed attempt to install a defence force commander loyal to Sir Michael Somare, who says he is PNG's legitimate prime minister.

Mr Namah says the soldiers involved will be granted amnesties but if there is a repeat of the incident, they will be charged with mutiny.

He told them there is only one government in PNG, which is led by Peter O'Neill.

After his address, dozens of guns were loaded into the back of a truck and driven away.

30.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill considers early election as PNG leadership battle continues

Papua New Guinea's leadership conflict between Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare shows no signs of abating after last week's failed military takeover.

Over the weekend the leader of the unsuccessful overthrow was arrested and charged with inciting mutiny.

But the men who ordered him to do it - Sir Michael Somare and his supporters - are not backing down in their effort to regain the reins of power.

Presenter:Liam Fox

Speaker:Colonel Yaura Sasa, PNG Mutiny leader, Andrew Kumbakor Somare's appointed defence minister, Arthur Somare, MP & son of Sir Michael

[Listen here !](#)

30.01.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Mutinous troops surrender weapons to Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah

ABC CORRESPONDENT LIAM FOX reports on Twitter that the remaining soldiers holed up at Taurama Barracks have surrendered their weapons after discussions with deputy prime minister and defence minister Belden Namah.

Mr Namah says that he will seek Cabinet's approval to grant an amnesty to the mutinous troops, but only this once.

He has told them that there is only one government in Papua New Guinea and that is the government of Peter O'Neill.

30.01.2012

Source: The National - Editorial

Mutiny an act of desperation by chief

WHAT transpired last week was a clear act of desperation to wrestle political power by the Somare group.

Somare must be insane to go to the length he had last week. Where is the good governance and moral ethics that he has been preaching during his 40 years in politics?

Thrown out the window in last Thursday's actions?

The "old man" has resorted to this low act of using the Defence Force in his hunger for power.

The airing on the local TV news of Andrew Kumbakor confirms that Somare is behind the mutiny by the retired army colonel Yaura Sasa.

How low can Somare go to get what he wants? This is certainly another attempt by a desperate old man who has no more options left but resort to appointing an undisciplined retiree who does not even know the dire consequences of his actions.

The army colonel cannot use "protection of the Constitution" as cover for his actions because clearly, he is not protecting the Constitution by his actions, rather his actions are illegal and mutinous in nature.

Without realising it, he has actually committed an act of treason which is punishable by the laws he is purportedly trying to protect – that is the stupidity of this whole saga.

The body language of the retired colonel, when interviewed on the local TV, portrayed to the PNG viewers that he was very shaky and almost lost for words to back his stance and his actions.

This tells anyone watching and listening to the news that the colonel was not prepared to face the challenges of his purported rushed appointment. He was constantly looking at some written script on his table to try and answer questions from media personnel.

Going by the latest acts of desperation by Somare to try and regain the people's confidence and trust in his leadership, I don't think the old man deserves to be addressed by the titles Sir and Grand Chief because his actions are really demeaning and degrading these honourable titles.

On the other side, the O'Neill government has acted swiftly by taking the necessary actions to restore normalcy and to further deal with the perpetrators of the attempted coup.

There should not be any mercy shown to those people involved in the saga. They must be dealt with appropriately under the relevant laws.

This is considered a very serious offence and should not be taken lightly by every Papua New Guinean law-abiding citizen.

The call by O'Neill to bring the national election forward is probably a knee-jerk reaction by a shocked prime minister.

I would suggest to the current government not to rush the national election due to the logistic issues currently faced by the Electoral Commission but to conduct it on the scheduled time (July 2012).

This will ensure the election is run properly and also avoid some of the impediments of past elections.

30.01.2012

Source: The National

Power firm denies cutting off Buka electricity

By SHIRLYN BELDEN

CHIEF executive officer for PNG Power Ltd (PPL) Tony Koiri has refuted a newspaper report that electricity was cut off at the Buka Hospital last week.

He confirmed that there was load shedding but key establishments like the hospital were not affected because of the critical nature of their services.

The article by the Post Courier last Wednesday attributed statements to customers and hospital workers that the hospital was without electricity for an extended period of time.

"Reports of the Buka hospital being without electricity are wrong and at no time did we disconnect the hospital. It is standard practice that supply to key establishments is always supplied power because of the type of service they provide, like the hospital.

"PPL is aware that their standby generator which PPL helps to maintain was operational.

"So any suggestion that the hospital was without power for an extended period of time is totally false," Koiri said last week.

The power station in Buka town was carrying out load shedding two weeks ago due to the unservicability of three of its six generators.

Koiri said PPL had the courtesy of notifying consumers over radio and written notices were posted around the town.

"PPL hopes the fact is presented correctly to right the misleading statements made in the press last week," he said.

30.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Somare supporters 'still have firepower'

Liam Fox, PNG correspondent

Supporters of Papua New Guinea's ousted prime minister Sir Michael Somare say a failed military mutiny has not stopped their push to have him reinstated as PM.

The leader of last week's failed military takeover, former colonel Yaura Sasa, was arrested over the weekend and charged with inciting mutiny.

Sir Michael and his supporters ordered him to take the action.

Sir Michael's defence spokesman Andrew Kumbakor says Somare loyalists still have 200 armed soldiers at Taurama barracks on Port Moresby's outskirts, and they "have firepower".

He hinted they may still play a role in the ongoing dispute with newly-appointed prime minister Peter O'Neill.

Sir Michael's supporters say they will launch contempt proceedings against Mr O'Neill for ignoring a Supreme Court order to have the 75-year-old reinstated as PM.

Mutiny leader arrested

Following his arrest, Yaura Sasa said he did not regret his actions, but hoped the situation would now calm down.

"I was carrying out the government's orders. That's all. The state ordered me to do it," he said.

He also complained about his treatment at the hands of authorities.

"Last night when I was down at the police headquarters I had no access to a lawyer up until now, so the procedures that I went through, it doesn't seem right," he said.

After the court appearance he was taken back to the Boroko police station under heavy guard.

Failed mutiny

Last Thursday, Yaura Sasa and around 20 rebel soldiers stole into Murray Barracks and took the commander of the defence force hostage.

He said he had been appointed as the new commander by Sir Michael Somare, and demanded Sir Michael be reinstated as prime minister.

But before the day was over, the commander had been freed and the rebels had withdrawn from defence headquarters.

29.01.2012

Source: PNGExposed

Police charge the man behind the mutiny

by Liam Fox

Police in Papua New Guinea have arrested and charged the man who led last week's failed military mutiny.



Colonel Yaura Sasa (picture) was arrested at a lodge in the Port Moresby suburb of Boroko last night.

Today he made a brief appearance in the Waigani committal court.

Outside court Colonel Sasa said he had been charged with mutiny, but that he is not guilty.

He said he does not regret his actions but that he hopes the situation will now calm down.

He also complained about his treatment at the hands of authorities

“Last night when I was down at the police headquarters I had no access to a lawyer up until now, so the procedures that I went through, it doesn’t seem right,” he said.

After the court appearance he was taken back to the Boroko police station under heavy guard.

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He said he had been appointed as the new commander by Sir Michael Somare, and demanded Sir Michael be reinstated as prime minister.

But before the day was over, the commander had been freed and the rebels had withdrawn from defence headquarters.

Sir Michael is yet to comment publicly about the attempted mutiny.

28.01.2012

Source: AFP

Somare admits responsibility for military mutiny

From AFP

Ousted Papua New Guinea prime minister Sir Michael Somare (picture) has defended ordering a failed military mutiny, again insisting Friday he was the country’s legitimate leader.



Political tensions flared in the resource-rich but impoverished Pacific nation on Thursday when an ex-soldier loyal to Somare staged a dramatic grab to re-take power from current premier Peter O’Neill.

Former colonel Yaura Sasa led a pre-dawn mutiny, taking captive the head of the armed forces, Francis Agwi, and declaring himself the new military leader, reinforcing the country’s reputation as politically dysfunctional.

Sasa set a seven-day deadline for Somare to be restored as leader, warning that he “may be forced to take necessary actions to protect and uphold the integrity of the constitution” if his demand was not met.

But the rebellion was soon put down with O’Neill declaring the crisis over in the evening after arresting 15 of the 30

men loyal to Sasa and securing the withdrawal of the others and the release of Agwi.

O’Neill said Sasa was being “dealt with” by the appropriate authorities with reports on Friday suggesting he was demanding a full pardon for himself and his supporters.

“He is seeking a pardon, that is what is being said, but I can’t confirm that yet,” police Superintendent Dominic Kakas told AFP.

Somare, 75, said the mutiny was a legitimate response to the O’Neill camp not recognising a Supreme Court ruling in December that he was the rightful prime minister.

“We cannot allow this situation to continue where a rogue government commandeers the disciplinary forces,” Somare said in a statement sent by his daughter Betha to AFP.

“It is incumbent on the police and army to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court and support the legitimate government, which is the minority Somare/Agiru government.

"It is for this reason that my government appointed Colonel Yaura Sasa to take control of the PNGDF (Papua New Guinea Defence Force) while we await other outcomes of the court," he added.

"We are the legitimate government constitutionally formed in 2007 and restored by the five-men Bench of the Supreme Court."

Known as the "Grand Chief", Somare led PNG for almost half of its 36 years since independence but was removed from office while out of the country recovering from illness last year.

The Supreme Court subsequently declared him the rightful leader, plunging the country into turmoil before O'Neill eventually resumed the role after Governor General Michael Ogio rowed back on Somare's appointment.

Somare has consistently refused to recognise O'Neill's leadership, storming into parliament as recently as last week with the Supreme Court order to demand his reinstatement.

O'Neill said he may move to dissolve parliament next month and go to early polls to end the current political impasse, while lashing out at Somare's "desperate" tactics.

"Papua New Guinea deserves better from Somare," he said

"Somare has to realise that this country has looked after him for 45 years; now it is his turn to respect the country that respects him."

27.01.2012

Source: Investing News

Copper Rises as Fed Seen Keeping Low Rates Until 2014

By Shihoko Goto - Exclusive to Copper Investing News [1]

[2]

Hopes that US economic recovery will be on firmer footing amid expectations of continued low interest rates is pushing up copper prices. Bets are on that industrial output will rise and in turn drive up demand for the red metal is pushing up shares of copper producers as well.

The red metal reached a four-month high after the Federal Reserve [3]said Wednesday that it will likely keep rates below 1 percent until 2014 in an effort to keep the US economic engine humming along. At the press briefing following the release of the latest Federal Open Market Committee's [4]statement, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said that while there have been signs of improvement including a stronger jobs market, "there are mixed signals," including disappointing retail sales growth as well as continued worries about the financial state of the Eurozone.

In mid-morning trade Thursday, the COMEX copper contract for March delivery traded up 1.7 percent at \$3.89 a pound.

On the corporate front, Rio Tinto [5](LSE:RIO [6]) took majority control of Ivanhoe Mines [7](NYSE:IVN [8]) this week which will allow it to gain full control of Mongolia's Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold [9] mine.

"Rio Tinto's move to a majority stake in Ivanhoe further demonstrates our commitment to the safe and successful development of the Oyu Tolgoi mine for the benefit of all stakeholders. We are approaching a very important phase in the development of the Oyu Tolgoi mine, with 70 percent of the construction now complete. The lead-up to first ore in the second half of 2012 will mark an important milestone in the path towards commercial production of copper concentrate, slated for

the first half of 2013,” stated its copper chief executive Andrew Harding. By purchasing an additional 15.1 million common shares, Rio Tinto now has a 51 percent stake in Ivanhoe.

Meanwhile, London-based Anglo American [10](LSE:AAL [11]) reported fourth quarter copper output rising 10 percent from a year ago to 170,000 tons, which is 22 percent higher than the third quarter. The increase was a result of increased production capacity as it opened its Los Bronces mine in Chile in November. The company does, however, continue to be in dispute with Chilean state-owned copper giant Codelco [12] over its Chilean operations including the Los Bronces mine. The two companies are in a legal struggle regarding a long-standing contract which gives Codelco an option to buy a 49 percent stake in the Anglo American Sur unit.

As for Canada's Lundin Mining [13] (TSX:LUN [14]), CEO Paul Conibear told Bloomberg [15] that it is looking to make an acquisition this valued at as much as \$500 million.

“We're looking at a few things that are non-public...I'd like to do something significant this year,” Conibear said.

Also in Canada, Canyon Copper [16](TSXV:CNC [17],OTCBB:CNYC [18]) acquired Metamin Enterprises' Moonlight copper porphyry property in Plumas County, California by paying \$15,000 and issuing 75,000 shares of Canyon Copper to Metamin as well as 75,000 shares to Lester Storey, the optionor of the deal. Canyon Copper will also reimburse Metamin up to \$100,000 in expenses incurred on the Moonlight copper property.

As for Copper One [19] (TSXV:CUO [20]) , it signed acquired the Queylus copper gold property near the town of Chibougamau, Quebec from Lounor Exploration [21](TSXV:LO [22]) by paying \$23,750 in cash. It also issued to Lounor 475,000 common shares of Copper One and granted Lounor royalties ranging from 1 percent to 2 percent of the net smelter return in connection with ore extracted from certain claims comprising the property.

Turning to Kazakhstan, the country's largest copper producer Kazakhmys [23] (LSE:KAZ [24]) said it met its full year copper cathode equivalent production target of 300,000 metric tons and expects to produce a similar amount in 2012 due to strong demand for the red metal.

"For the fourth consecutive year we have met all our major production targets," stated CEO Oleg Novachuk, adding that "we anticipate maintaining similar levels of copper output in 2012 and our sales contracts for the coming year have all been completed, reflecting continued strong demand for copper."

Securities Disclosure: I, Shihoko Goto, have no interests in the companies mentioned in this article.

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[3] Federal Reserve : <http://www.federalreserve.gov/default.htm>

[4] Federal Open Market Committee's : <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/monetary/20120125c.htm>

[5] Rio Tinto : <http://www.riotinto.com/>

[6] RIO: <http://www.google.com/finance?q=LON%3ARIO&authuser=0&hl=en>

[7] Ivanhoe Mines : <http://www.ivanhoemines.com/s/Home.asp>

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27.01.2012

Source: PNGExposed

Did Arthur Somare plan Thursday's mutiny by Yauru Sasa?



It has been revealed that Michael Somare's son, Arthur, planned Thursday's mutiny executed by retired colonel Yauru Sasa.

It is understood, that Arthur and a few other loyal Somare supporters, who have been residing at the Ela Beach hotel, spent some time planning the mutiny and left written notes on a white board which contained the words: MILITARY ACTION, as

an action point.

The board, which was later placed in a corridor, attracted a great deal of attention by passersby. From a small article in The Drum, the Post Courier said:

“maybe a currently suspended MP whose hotel room has been the hub for huge comings and goings for more than a week now can explain the board he left in his room when he checked out. It was there in the corridor for all to see. A strategy on how to return his father to power and No 4 on the list? Military Action! Maybe just a coincidence after the clownish performance by the retired colonel?”

Several other officers involved in the mutiny have admitted that the Somares gave the orders to place PNGDF Commander Timothy Agwi and others under house arrest.

27.01.2012

Source: PNG Attitude / REUTERS

Thanks to Sir Michael Somare:

Failed mutiny worsens PNG investment risk

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S INVESTMENT RISK has worsened after a failed mutiny, with Standard & Poor's revising its outlook to negative today and warning that the political crisis, with two competing prime ministers, was impeding the resource-driven economy.

"Political settings in PNG have weakened following the detention and later release of the defence force chief," said S&P in revising down the outlook for PNG, whose 'B+/B' sovereign credit rating was affirmed.

"We would lower the ratings if the political friction remains unresolved, leading to a loss of donor support and investment required to diversify the economy and buttress PNG's government finances and external position.

"The unresolved claims to the prime minister position underlie the vulnerabilities associated with the country's fragmented political structure," said S&P.

Reporting by Michael Perry; Editing by Lincoln Feast and Richard Borsuk

27.01.2012

Source: The National

PM for early election

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill, shaken by yesterday's mutiny by rebel troops, will move to dissolve parliament next month and go to early polls to end the current political impasse.

He said he would seek his government's blessing to bring forward the scheduled June general election.

O'Neill said this after announcing that the day-long mutiny by the 30 rebels, led by retrenched colonel Yaura Sasa, at Murray Barracks headquarters, was over.

Fifteen of the soldiers have been arrested and Sasa was being "dealt with" but O'Neill declined to clarify what this meant (details, see Page 2).

O'Neill said he would ask his government during the February session of parliament whether they should pursue the option of an early election.

"We are looking at going for early election as quickly as possible to end this political impasse and we hope the Electoral Commission is ready for early elections," he said.

O'Neill said this yesterday when he accused the Somare camp of inciting mutiny at the Murray Barracks and trying to illegally take over the Papua New Guinea defence force

"The dramatic situation at the Murray barracks yesterday morning demonstrates the desperate length Somare can go to wrestle government," O'Neill said.

"Somare tried to cleverly manipulate an internal issue in the force to his advantage, to use the military to take government by force."

O'Neill late yesterday commended senior military officers for restoring control at Murray Barracks and thanked the public for showing restraint despite the drama.

O'Neill said issues relating to the soldiers' grievances would be addressed - including ending the political uncertainty by dissolving parliament.

In a dramatic turn of events at Murray barracks yesterday, a group of soldiers led by retrenched PNGDF Col Yaura Sasa detained Commander Francis Agwi at his residence.

"Yesterday morning, a group of soldiers illegally and unlawfully placed PNGDF Commander Brig-Gen Francis Agwi under house arrest and tried to take control of the country's defence force," O'Neill said.

"Without any lawful authority, retrenched Sasa declared himself the commander, held a press conference and made political statements he had no authority to make."

O'Neill said retrenched Sasa was not appointed by the government to replace Agwi.

"He has no legal and valid instrument to back his claim that he is the commander. He is a civilian who was misled by the Somare camp to carry out an illegal and unlawful act.

"The action by Sasa has no support of the rank and file of the PNG Defence Force. His attempt to take over the force has now been neutralised, and normalcy has been restored at Murray barracks.

"By his public statement, it is clear Sasa was used to stage this illegal act to call for the implementation of the Supreme Court decision. He has no authority to make this statement, He is a civilian who is not supposed to be at the barracks at all.

"As we are all aware, the Supreme Court handed down its decision on Dec 12."

He said parliament took note of the decision and disposed of it by making a number of legislative changes and decisions, one of which was to reaffirm him as prime minister.

O'Neill said the Supreme Court decision, and the decision of parliament, were now the subject of various court proceedings before the National and Supreme Court.

He said the proceedings were initiated by both sides and awaiting the outcome of these proceedings.

"But what we have witnessed is a desperate attempt by Somare to trample on proper and legal processes to get into government," he said.

O'Neill said Sir Michael had been looked after by the country for 45 years and he owed it to the seven million people of PNG.

"Sir Michael as the founding father of this nation should not be creating uncertainty," he said.

O'Neill said those responsible for the drama at Murray barracks would be dealt with - including Sir Michael and those supporting him.

27.01.2012

Source: ESBC comment

Poor Thing !



The statement (below) that Sir Michael Somare made yesterday is the best evidence ever for his increasing lack of realism and a probable major mental disorder. His daughter Betha and his son Arthur should show mercy and urge him leave the stage of politics forever now! If they don't the former Prime Minister will commit complete political suicide - soon. Already today he appears as a ridiculous stubborn old man. Until now there is no need that the "Grand Chief" and his children face legal prosecution one day. But, if they should continue like this, this might

happen. Sir Michael, Arthur and Betha are playing a highly risky game with the fire and they might loose their freedom. Earlier elections will be helpful to avoid an even worse scenario!

Please find out more here about a human tragedy called Michael Somare :

27.01.2012

The National

Grand chief appeals for calm

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare has called for calm in the capital city in light of the changes which have taken place at the Defence Force headquarters at Murray Barracks.

In a statement yesterday, Sir Michael said since the Supreme Court ruling on Dec 12 last year, his government had done its best to exercise authority as the legitimate government of PNG.

“Our last action was petitioning parliament last week to comply with the court decision. We cannot allow this situation to continue where a rogue government commandeers the disciplinary forces,” he said.

“It is incumbent on the police and army to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court and support the legitimate government which is the minority Somare-Agiru government.

“It is for this reason that my government had appointed Col Yaura Sasa to take control of the PNGDF while we await other outcomes of the court.

“I call on the disciplined forces to ensure public safety by exercising utmost restraint at all times. We are the legitimate government constitutionally formed in 2007 and restored by the five-man bench of the Supreme Court.”

His view was supported by independent commentators such as associate professor of the University of PNG, John Luluaki, who argued that the constitutional law must be upheld.

“Sasa has been appointed by the legitimate government as the new commander of defence and it is the duty of the disciplined forces to protect the Constitution.

“Should anyone be aggrieved, they should go to the same court that has restored the Somare government,” Sir Michael said.

27.01.2012

Source: The National

Agwi back in command

By JEFFREY ELAPA



PNG Defence Force commander Brig-Gen Francis Agwi (picture), who was placed under house arrest for more than 12 hours yesterday by a group of rogue officers, is back at the helm.

It followed the lack of support by senior officers for an attempted takeover of the military force by retired army colonel Yaura Sasa.

Sasa had tried to summon a military briefing of the top brass but senior officers refused to attend as they were suspicious of his sudden rise to power.

Sources said at about 2pm yesterday, the commander of the military police was allegedly shot at. Members of the military police retaliated and arrested 15 members of the group loyal to Sasa.

After negotiations, chief of staff Col Tom Ur took control of the barracks and disbanded Sasa's group, restoring normalcy in the Defence Force command at about 5pm.

Sasa, almost 60, is from Morobe. He was defence attaché to Indonesia in 1999-2003 before being retrenched in 2006. He was believed to be living in Lae

awaiting his final benefits from the department.

His men, armed and numbering about 30, arrived in hired vehicles and stormed the military headquarters at Murray barracks.

They took control of the headquarters and placed Agwi and other senior military officers under house arrest.

Sasa took over Agwi's seat.

Sources said the soldiers comprised members of the 1RPIR at Taurama barracks, a few members from the sea element, air transport squadron and recruits from the Goldie River training depot.

All gates to the Murray barracks headquarters were blocked to traffic. The media was allowed to attend Sasa's conference where he declared himself as the legitimate commander of the Defence Force.

However, a faction that opposed the alleged mutiny was grouped at the Murray barracks living quarters.

The Taurama barracks was also cordoned off to traffic and the public.

Military sources at Taurama maintained their neutrality.

Sasa said he had been duly appointed by the government of Sir Michael Somare.

"My immediate and most important task is to restore the integrity and respect for the constitution and the judiciary in PNG," he said.

"When I enlisted into the PNGDF, I have taken oath and promised to respect, uphold, and protect the Constitution of PNG at all time.

"With my appointment as the commander, I intend to do just that, by taking all necessary actions to ensure the Constitution remains supreme, protected and not subjected to abuse, as it is being done at the moment."

He called on the head of state to immediately implement the Supreme Court decisions relating to Sir Michael's position as prime minister.

"I also call on both Sir Michael and Peter O'Neill to recall parliament to sort out the current political situation.

"There is no doubt in my mind and in the minds of most people that so much damage has already been inflicted on the Constitution, and I cannot allow this situation to continue to prevail.

"I'm now calling on both parties, and the head of state to respect the Constitution and comply with orders issued by the Supreme Courts immediately within seven days.

"If this call is not heeded, I may be forced to take necessary actions to protect and uphold the integrity of the Constitution".

27.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill says Somare was behind short lived mutiny

The attempt by soldiers loyal to Sir Michael Somare to overthrow the Defence Force hierarchy lasted less than a day.

To many people in Papua New Guinea, yesterday's mutiny was sparked because there has been no satisfactory settlement of the competing claims to leadership by Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare.

Presenter:Geraldine Coutts

Speaker:Liam Fox, ABC Papua New Guinea correspondent

FOX: Ah well it appears to have been resolved. The Melanesian way through a negotiation, there were no shots fired yesterday afternoon as far as we know. Our producer Firmin Nanol was outside Murray Barracks for much of the afternoon and said there was no major developments or action or movement there, but when we went to the press conference with Peter O'Neill, late yesterday afternoon, he announced as we just heard that the crisis was over, that Brigadier General Francis Agwi had been released from house arrest, that the soldiers involved had withdrawn to Taurama Barracks and that Colonel Sasa, the ring leader of these rebel soldiers was being "dealt with". He was asked what he meant by dealt with. He declined to say, saying it's not his position to arrest people, that's the police's job. He was asked is Colonel Sasa in custody and he would only say that he's being dealt with by the appropriate authorities.

COUTTS: Do we know yet if Colonel Yaura Sasa acted on his own or he was acting on instructions from someone else?

FOX: Look, I think it was pretty clear he was acting on instructions from the Somare camp. During the press conference, he gave yesterday morning, he said I've been appointed by Sir Michael Somare and I want the governor-general to abide by the Supreme Court's orders of December to appoint him as prime minister.

Sir Michael Somare's spokesperson, Bertha Somare, said late in the morning that Sir Michael and his cabinet had appointed Colonel Sasa as the new commander of the PNG Defence Force.

COUTTS: And what now are Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill saying about this situation as to how they'll proceed from here?

FOX: Well, there's been no word so far from Sir Michael Somare, but Peter O'Neill has said that those who'd broken the law will be dealt with. He seemed to take a soft stance with the soldiers involved, saying that they have longstanding grips and complaints over pay and conditions and those issues will now be addressed and that he believed that the Somare camp had preyed upon those longstanding grias to get people involved in this attempted mutiny.

Earlier in the day, yesterday, Belden Namah had said what Colonel Sasa had done amounts to treason and that carries a death penalty.

Now in PNG there is a death penalty, but there's no way to actually carry it out, so the death penalty effectively means life in prison. We wait and see whether those sorts of charges are laid or whether it's a lesser charge like sedition.

COUTTS: Has Brigadier-General Francis Agwi said anything in public yet as to his treatment and the conditions under which he was held in the barracks?

FOX: No, he hasn't and I'm not sure that he will. He's not fond of making public statements, certainly in person anyway. He likes to stay in the background, but Peter O'Neill did say that he had spoken to Brigadier-General Francis Agwi yesterday afternoon and that he was in good health and in fine spirits.

COUTTS: Now, while this was going on, a few phone calls to me suggested from people living in Papua New Guinea that it was extremely tense, domestic flights were cancelled. What was the situation on the ground while all this was underway?

FOX: It was tense, but calm, certainly a lot of businesses around Port Moresby had closed during the day as word of this mutiny spread. As you mentioned, domestic flights had been cancelled. But people were still largely going about their business. There was still traffic on the roads, there was still people walking on the streets. Indeed there were still people walking around Murray Barracks itself. So the situation is tense, but calm, and Peter O'Neill has urged people to resume their normal lives today.

COUTTS: And is it likely anytime soon, just likely before we let you go Liam whether the O'Neill and Somare intend getting together to thrash this out?

FOX: Look, I think that's highly unlikely. The O'Neill camp maintain that Somare is not even a member of parliament, so how can they meet with him. They've maintained all along that while the Supreme Court made its orders to reinstate Sir Michael. They've dealt with that order in parliament by passing retrospective legislation to deal with that order, to effectively remove Sir Michael as both the prime minister and the member of parliament. As far as they're concerned, there's nothing to negotiate. There is no getting together to sort anything out. It is sorted out.

27.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill: No more mutiny

NORMALCY has been restored following a failed mutiny at the PNG Defence Force headquarters at Murray Barracks yesterday, according to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill put the blame squarely on Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare for inciting an illegal take over of the force's Commander, Francis Agwi, with retrenched colonel, Yaura Sasa.

Mr Agwi was put under house arrest and Mr Sasa assumed control at the Commander's office causing a day long stand off between two factions of the Defence Force.

By late yesterday, around 5pm, Mr O'Neill told a packed press conference that the attempted take over had been neutralised and normalcy restored.

Mr O'Neill warned in the strongest possible terms that the perpetrators of the mutiny will face the full force of the law, including Mr Sasa, who will be dealt with by the "appropriate authorities" tasked to handle the matter.

"I expected the rule of law to apply," Mr O'Neill said.

Since 5pm yesterday, no action had been taken against Mr Sasa, but Mr O'Neill's deputy, Belden Namah, whom Mr O'Neill announced yesterday as Acting Defence Minister is immediately dealing with the situation.

Mr Namah relieves Minister Guma Wau who is on personal leave.

Mr O'Neill's conference started an hour later than scheduled due to his attendance of critical matters relating to the mutiny including contingency plans to implement should the situation had deteriorated.

A critical Mr O'Neill quizzed how a civilian could be "plucked out of the street" and put in charge of the Defence by a person — referring to Sir Michael — who is also "not a Member of Parliament".

Mr O'Neill queried how the retired Colonel Sasa was appointed by the Somare regime without the legal instruments and authority to do so.

"Retrenched Colonel Sasa was not appointed by the government to replace Commander Agwi."

"He has no legal and valid instrument to back his claim that he is the commander.

"He is a civilian who was misled by the Somare camp to carry out an illegal unlawful act.

"His attempt to take over the force has now been neutralised and normalcy has been restored at the Murray Barracks," Mr O'Neill said.

He described the events at Murray Barracks yesterday as demonstrating the desperate length Sir Michael is prepared to go to in order to wrestle power from him (O'Neill), by cleverly trying to manipulate an internal issue in the defence force to his advantage.

Mr O'Neill said the Somare regime's appointment of Colonel Sasa was intentionally to create instability over a matter that should rightly be decided by the Courts.

He said if Sir Michael was still aggrieved he should resort to the judiciary as Parliament had already annulled previous challenges by him by changing the legislation now making him Prime Minister.

27.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Hunt is on for mutiny leader

POLICE were hunting for self-proclaimed Commander of retrenched Papua New Guinea Defence Force Colonel Yaura Sasa last night after he forcefully led a group of renegade soldiers placing Commander Brigadier General Francis Agwi and senior officers under house-arrest.

The renegade soldiers are from the First Pacific Island Regiment Bravo Company.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Enuma who was also placed under house-arrest together with the PNGDF Commander said last night that the self-proclaimed Brigadier General Sasa is a civilian and no longer a military man and police will arrest him and deal with him in a civilian way.

Lt Col Enuma said retrenched colonel Sasa as a former senior military man, should have known better especially the process in which a commander of the defence force is appointed and the way he conducted himself was in fact a saddest day for the country.

Earlier during the day Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah ordered that retrenched Col Sasa and his men surrender before 4:06pm.

Mr Namah said the O'Neill – Namah Government was the legitimate government of the day and the legitimate Prime Minister was the Member for Ialibi-Pangia Peter O'Neill.

“What happened in the early hours of yesterday morning was totally a mutinous in nature. I am saying this because I went through the same charges as a soldier, however in my case it was different – while for them...it's completely wrong,” Mr Namah said.

“I say this because the actions of these soldiers to put the Commander and other senior officers under house arrest, is completely wrong under the military laws – what these rogue soldiers have done will come with serious implications upon them,” he said.

Mr Namah visited Murray Barracks accompanied by six ministers, National Planning Minister Sam Basil, David Aore (Education, Science and Technology, Jamie Maxtone Graham (Health and HIV/AIDS), Francis Awesa (Works and Transport), Powes Pakop (Governor NCD), John Boito (Police), Puri Ruing (Dei Open) and Maprik Open MP Gabriel Kapris.

However, they only met with senior officers inside the main gate for about 20 minutes briefing with Mr Namah promising to return today to meet with the Brigadier General Agwi and his senior commanders in the barracks.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill also announced yesterday that his deputy Mr Namah will now act as Acting Defence Minister.

27.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Somare's mutiny

All the plans for the failed take-over of the position of the Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, was planned through out the weekend at a hotel in Port Moresby.

This was revealed to the Post-Courier by certain members of the renegade soldiers, many of them lower ranking when admitting they were on duty at that time and were only carrying out orders from their superiors on the events that unfolded yesterday.

This was also confirmed by a Colonel we interviewed earlier yesterday. These soldiers who kept General Agwi, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Enuma (Policy, Planning and Force Development) and Commanding officer of Taurama Barracks Lieutenant Colonel Francis Kari confirmed the Somare regime were behind the events that transpired. These soldiers admitted that Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and his regime hired 10 vehicles from a car dealer and four of these vehicles were given to police while six were given to them to effect retrenched Colonel Yaura Sasa's appointment as the Somare regime's appointed PNGDF Commander.

27.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mutiny!

By staff reporters

The struggle for power between Parliament elect Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and the Supreme Court reinstated Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare is far from over.

This follows a failed mutiny — the first ever in this country's Defence Force — led by a retired army officer supported by about 40 gun-toting soldiers who stormed the military headquarters of the PNG Defence Force at Murray Barracks in Port Moresby in the early hours of Thursday January 26, catching everyone by surprise.

The mutineers placed the commander, Brigadier General Francis Agwi under house arrest and installed retired colonel, 65-year-old Yaura Sasa as commander.

The drama unfolded first at the Taurama Barracks, home of the 1st Royal Pacific Islands Regiment where the mutineers, placed their own Commander Officer Lt. Colonel Francis Kari under house arrest and then proceeded to Murray Barracks.

As the drama unfolded at the PNGDF headquarters, Police, who were aware of the mutiny threat went into action and secured all strategic locations and government institutions including state house, Government printer and Mourata House, the seat of Government.

"We were all caught by surprise. Fully armed soldiers moved into the barracks and cut power off, proceeded to the residence of the officer who looked after the armoury and ordered him out. They led him at gun point to open the armoury and armed themselves," an eye witness told Post-Courier.

The mutineers, in a press conference with the local media demanded that the Parliament be recalled in seven days and Sir Michael be restored as the Prime Minister. They also demanded that all entitlements for retrenched and former soldiers of the PNGDF be paid promptly by the State.

While the mutineers lay siege to the defence headquarters, soldiers loyal to their commander watched helplessly from a distance at the main barracks. Eye witnesses told Post-Courier the mutineers that fired on the soldiers to disperse them, sending the public running for cover and had had to move in to close all roads leading into the barracks.

"This is mutiny and the actions of the soldiers borders of treason too," Government Chief secretary, Manasupe Zurenuoc told Post Courier.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, in a press conference later said normalcy was restored following at the PNG Defence Force headquarters.

And he put the blame squarely on Sir Michael for inciting an illegal take over of the force's Commander, Francis Agwi, with retrenched colonel, Yaura Sasa.

And he warned in no uncertain terms that perpetrators of the mutiny would face the full brunt of the law adding Mr Sasa himself will be dealt with by the "appropriate authorities" tasked to handle the matter.

"I expected the rule of law to apply," he said.

Mr O'Neill announced that his deputy, Belden Namah, had been appointed as Acting Defence Minister to deal with the situation, relieving Minister Guma Wau of duties.

As of 5pm the situation at the army headquarters was neutralised. The mutineers had returned to their barracks and the commander was freed.

Post Courier understands that retired Colonel Sasa will be arrested soon.

The UN and all diplomatic missions in the country also watched the development in the Port Moresby. The Australia Foreign Affairs Department has issued an alert to its citizens in the city to be careful when moving around.

27.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - News

26.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - News

26.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG mutiny over, says O'Neill

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says a mutiny by about 30 rebel soldiers is over.

Soldiers led by former Colonel Yaura Sasa placed their commander under house arrest on Thursday morning, in a move backed by former prime minister Michael Somare.

Mr O'Neill says Brigadier General Francis Agwi has now been freed.

"The government has now taken control of the barracks and the soldiers have now withdrawn to Taurama Barracks, those who were at Murray Barracks," he said.

"The commander is now released, he's not under house arrest. And as a result the government has taken full control the defence headquarters.

"We will now start an investigation into the issues that the soldiers have and we'll resolve them as we move forward."

The prime minister says Colonel Sasa is being "dealt with" but declined to clarify what this meant.

Mutinous soldiers

Earlier, Colonel Sasa told reporters in Port Moresby that soldiers under his control fired several shots as they stormed barracks and took Brigadier General Agwi hostage under house arrest.

He said the action did not amount to a military mutiny or takeover, but said he had been appointed commander by former prime minister Sir Michael Somare.

He called on Sir Michael and Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to return to Parliament to resolve what he called the country's constitutional impasse within seven days.

"I once again am now calling on...both parties and the head of state to respect the constitution and comply with the orders issued by the supreme court immediately," he said.

"If this call is not heeded, I may be forced to take necessary actions."

Though he was appointed by Sir Michael, Colonel Sasa said he was a "neutral" party and insisted his actions were "not a military takeover".

"I assure the international community, our investors, this is not a military coup. I am intervening to uphold the constitution and I have made my intentions known and that the two parties comply with this promptly," he said.

"My task is restoring the integrity and respect of the constitution and the judiciary.

"I am now calling on the head of state (governor-general Sir Michael Ogie) to immediately implement Sir Michael's post as prime minister."

Arrested

The deputy prime minister Belden Namah told reporters that 15 of the 30 or so men supporting Colonel Sasa had been arrested.

Mr Namah, a former soldier, said the Colonel does not have the support of the wider military and that he should give himself up.

He said Colonel Sasa's actions amounted to mutiny, which carries the death penalty.

Mr Namah also accused PNG's former Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, of orchestrating the mutiny.

"If he can muster the numbers, he can go back to the floor of Parliament. But not like a small rascal on the street," he said.

"These actions amount to be that of a criminal. This is mutinous, this is sedition, treason."

Barracks raided

A senior source in the PNG defence force said a group of between 12 and 20 soldiers overpowered guards at the Taurama barracks at around 3am on Thursday morning.

They took the commanding officer captive then moved to Murray barracks and placed Brigadier General Francis Agwi under house arrest.

When the conflict erupted last month, Commander Agwi recognised Mr O'Neill as the country's legitimate prime minister.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs is warning Australians in Port Moresby to avoid travelling in the city because of "disturbances" at the barracks.

Businesses across the city were closing on Thursday morning and workers were being sent home amid a tense atmosphere.

DFAT said it was concerned by the developments and said Australia's High Commissioner in Port Moresby has spoken to Mr O'Neill about the situation.

Australian reaction

The Australian acting foreign affairs minister, Martin Ferguson, says the government recognises Peter O'Neil as the rightful leader of PNG.

"His position has been established through the constitutional political processes that operate in Papua New Guinea," Mr Ferguson said.

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Australian officials were closely monitoring the situation.

Political deadlock

Sir Michael was ousted as prime minister and replaced by Mr O'Neill in August last year after his seat was declared vacant while he received medical treatment in Singapore.

In December, the Supreme Court ordered his reinstatement as prime minister and as an MP.

But despite that order, Mr O'Neill remained the effective prime minister with the support of the public service, police, defence force and most MPs.

Last week there were rowdy scenes in the parliament when Sir Michael walked in brandishing the court order and demanding his reinstatement.

He was warned by Mr O'Neill that he could be arrested if he showed up again.

A former commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, General Jerry Singirok, says the politicians must sort themselves out in order to end the army mutiny.

"I am just calling on the speaker for parliament, Jeffrey Nape, to convene parliament and O'Neill and Belden Namah's group come and resolve this issue on the floor of parliament with Sir Michael Somare and his group," he said.

"I think that's the only way that we can resolve this."

26.01.2012

Source: Euronews

26.01.2012

Source: PNG exposed

Col. Yaura Sasa, the Somare puppet who claims to be “defending” the constitution



Can you just piss off from the Commander's office?

26.01.2012

Source: Süddeutsche Zeitung

Unruhen in Papua-Neuguinea

Rebellierende Soldaten stützen Militärführer

Im Inselstaat Papua-Neuguinea soll es eine Meuterei gegeben haben. Eine Gruppe von Soldaten hat laut Radio- und TV-Berichten den

Militärchef des Landes unter Hausarrest gestellt und fordert die Wiedereinsetzung des im vergangenen Jahr abgesetzten Premiers. Im Inselstaat Papua-Neuguinea hat es australischen Medienberichten zufolge eine Meuterei gegeben. Eine Gruppe von zwölf bis 20 Soldaten habe den Militärchef General Francis Agwi am Donnerstag unter Hausarrest gestellt und ihn durch Oberst Yaura Sasa ersetzt, berichtete die Rundfunkanstalt ABC. Die Soldaten fordern den Rücktritt von Ministerpräsident Peter O'Neill binnen einer Woche und die Wiedereinsetzung von dessen Vorgänger Michael Somare. Die Regierung forderte die Soldaten zur Kapitulation auf und erklärte, die Mehrheit der Streitkräfte stehe nicht hinter dem Aufstand. Sasa, ein Oberst im Ruhestand, erklärte, dass es sich nicht um einen Putsch handele. Die Streitkräfte würden jedoch nicht näher bezeichnete Maßnahmen ergreifen, falls O'Neill nicht innerhalb von sieben Tagen zurücktrete, sagte Sasa vor Journalisten. Der stellvertretende Regierungschef, Belden Namah, erklärte, 15 der an der Meuterei beteiligten Soldaten seien festgenommen worden.

27.01.12 Unruhen in Papua-Neuguinea - Rebellierende Soldaten stürzen Militärchef«

Das australische Außenministerium bestätigte in einer Erklärung den Sturz Agwis und äußerte sich besorgt über die Ereignisse. Das Ministerium rief zu einer raschen Klärung der Lage auf. O'Neill habe der früheren Schutzmacht Australien versichert, dass man sich um eine Lösung bemühe.

Später am Tag teilte O'Neill mit, dass die Regierung die Lage wieder im Griff habe. Agwi sei aus dem Hausarrest der Putschisten befreit worden und habe sein Kommando wieder übernommen.

In dem pazifischen Inselstaat tobt seit Monaten ein Machtkampf zwischen Somare und O'Neill. Somare war im August vergangenen Jahres für abgesetzt erklärt worden, als er sich zu einer medizinischen Behandlung im Ausland aufhielt. Er war der erste Regierungschef Papua-Neuguineas nach der Unabhängigkeit 1975. Im Dezember 2011 erklärte der Oberste Gerichtshof des Landes die Absetzung Somares und Wahl O'Neills zum neuen Premier für unrechtmäßig und forderte die Wiedereinsetzung von Somare.

26.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

Mutinerie au sein de l'armée de Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée

Un terme refusé Yaura Sasa, un colonel à la retraite qui s'est emparé hier du commandement des Forces de défense. À trois heures du matin, de 12 à 20 soldats ont maîtrisé les gardes de la caserne Taurama pour y arrêter le commandant. Ils se sont ensuite rendus à la caserne Murray pour interpellé cette fois le chef des Forces de défense, le général Francis Awgi maintenant assigné à résidence.

Yaura Sasa refuse le terme de mutinerie ou de coup d'État militaire, Il affirme faire son devoir après avoir été nommé à la tête de l'armée par le gouvernement de Sir Michael Somare et n'aurait pour but que de résoudre la lutte de pouvoir entre Sir Michael Somare et Peter O'Neill, le Premier ministre élu par les députés en août dernier pendant que Sir Michael, Premier ministre d'alors, se faisait opérer du cœur à Singapour.

Le mois dernier, la Cour suprême a réinstallé Sir Michael Somare dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre qui a donc formé son gouvernement. Toutefois, Peter O'Neill est resté à son poste avec

le soutien de la police, de la fonction publique, de la plupart des députés et de l'armée puisque le mois dernier le général Awgi a reconnu la légitimité de Peter O'Neill.

Le colonel Sasa exige la restitution du pouvoir à Sir Michael Somare.

SASA : « Je demande aussi au chef de l'État [le Gouverneur-général] d'appliquer la décision de la Cour suprême relative aux fonctions de Sir Michael Somare au poste de Premier ministre de Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée. Et je demande à Michael Somare et à M. Peter O'Neill de convoquer le Parlement pour résoudre cette situation politique. Il n'y a aucun doute dans mon esprit et dans l'esprit des Papous que beaucoup de dégâts ont déjà été faits à la Constitution et je ne peux pas laisser cette situation persister. »

Et le colonel Sasa de conclure :

SASA : « Si cet appel n'est pas entendu, je serai contraint de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour protéger et maintenir l'intégrité de la Constitution. »

Peu après ces déclarations, le Vice-premier ministre, Belden Namah, un ancien soldat, a déclaré que de 15 à 30 partisans du colonel à la retraite Sasa ont été arrêtés. Et d'ajouter.

NAMAH : « D'aller occuper le bureau du commandant et d'assigner à résidence le chef des forces armées relève de la trahison. Et la trahison requiert la peine de mort. »

Dans la soirée d'hier, le Premier ministre Peter O'Neill a indiqué que la crise était maintenant terminée et que le chef des forces armées, Franics Awgi avait été libéré. Il ne s'est pas exprimé sur le sort réservé au colonel Sasa. Une enquête est en cours, a-t-il indiqué.

26.01.2012

Source: Reuters

METALS: Copper rises after Fed signals stimulus

By Silvia Antonioli

LONDON, Jan 26 (Reuters) - Copper rose more than 2 percent to a four-month high on Thursday as investors cheered news that the U.S. Federal Reserve was ready to offer additional stimulus, a move that could lift economic growth and demand for industrial metals.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said late on Wednesday the U.S. central bank was ready to offer the economy additional stimulus after it announced it would likely keep interest rates near zero until at least late 2014.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange rose more than 2 percent to a session high of \$8,610 a tonne, its highest since Sept. 19. It closed at \$8,590 from a last bid of \$8,384 on Wednesday.

"The Fed's announcement certainly seems to have helped," said Natixis analyst Nic Brown.

"If you think the Fed's action will lead to stronger economic growth, then yes, it should boost base metals demand, but if you think that the Fed's action signals more prolonged weakness, then the connection is not that obvious."

New orders for U.S. manufactured goods rose in December, and a gauge of future business investment rebounded, while new claims for jobless benefits rose only moderately last week, suggesting the labour market in the world's biggest economy was still healing.

Hopes that Greece will wrap up tortuous negotiations on a debt swap this week to avoid a chaotic default also supported market sentiment.

The euro hit a five-week high against a broadly weak dollar on Thursday on speculation of progress in Greek debt negotiations and after the U.S. Federal

Reserve indicated interest rates would stay at ultra low levels for at least another two years.

A weaker U.S. unit makes dollar-denominated commodities more affordable for holders of other currencies.

THE CHINA FACTOR

Copper stockpiles in LME-monitored warehouses have fallen by almost a third in the past four months, an indication that demand for the metal has improved recently.

Inventories of the red metal fell by 1,875 tonnes to 337,875 tonnes in LME-bonded sheds, their lowest level since Sep. 2009, the latest data showed.

Copper stocks in warehouses monitored by the Shanghai Futures Exchange, however, increased in the past few weeks, which may indicate some demand weakness in China, the world's largest consumer of the metal.

This weakness is temporary, though, according to some analysts.

The Shanghai Futures Exchange is closed this week for the Lunar New Year holiday.

"Stocks in Shanghai have gone up recently as imports went up ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday, but demand from end-users in January has been muted, so you get a certain accumulation," Brown said.

"That was in anticipation of stronger demand later this year, so I don't think it is hugely worrying. The absolute level of stockpiles around the world is low."

Natixis expects China's apparent demand for copper to grow by 9 to 10 percent this year as a destocking phase comes to an end and apparent demand once again starts to reflect the needs of real end-users.

"China has stepped up its metal imports ahead of the Chinese New Year, and the question is whether the latest uptick in imports was just due to stockpiling or whether end-user demand has indeed continued to strengthen," Credit Suisse said in a note.

Chinese imports of refined copper rose 18.3 percent in December on the month to a record high due to improved arbitrage and increased use of copper for financing purposes, but inflows fell 3 percent in 2011 from 2010 on low imports in the first half.

In other metals, tin closed at \$24,005 from \$22,450, zinc closed at \$2,205 from \$2,175 at Wednesday's close. Lead closed at \$2,325 from \$2,281 and nickel at \$21,600 from \$20,940.

Aluminium, untraded at the close, was last bid at \$2,276 from \$2,252.

26.01.2012

Source: ESBC

Game over?

It seems that Sir Michael Somare's insidious attempt to get back in office by military force failed.

Backed by a few older followers of former Prime Minister Somare and by Somare's son Arthur, a small group of misled soldiers illegally intended to take over power in PNG this morning, This was confirmed by Somare's daughter Betha.

The ESBC take the view that time has come to bring the Somare family finally to justice now!

Behind the Coup:

Sir Michael Somare and his children Arthur and Betha



Suffering from Lack of Power and Public Funds:

Somare and Supporters



26.01.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Live blog: Agwi freed; Sasa being 'dealt with', says O'Neill

WITH KEITH JACKSON

SOURCES INCLUDE ABC, AAP, NAMORONG REPORT, TWITTER, PNG ATTITUDE READERS

18:15 The ABC's Liam Fox [Liam (Old Irish, noun)= he who is first with the news] reports Peter O'Neill saying that Brig Gen Agwi has been freed, soldiers involved have withdrawn to Taurama Barracks and Col Sasa is being "dealt with". The prime minister "wouldn't clarify", says Fox. The ABC is also reporting that all domestic airports in PNG are closed (thanks Peter Kranz).

18:10 Y'know it's eerily quiet. If this was a western, I'd be expecting the hail of arrows. It's all tender and no hook. And we've got 2,000 readers needing a fix.

You can now read a transcript of retired Papua New Guinea General Jerry Singirok's interview with Radio Australia [here](#)

And watch Damien Kingsbury, professor of international relations at Deakin University, speaking to Al Jazeera on the PNG political situation

18:05 "Is a military coup in PNG just around the corner?" contributor Paul Oates asked last year. "Given the 'solidarity' being expressed by PM Somare for [the] Fiji coup leader, it wouldn't take much for some PNG soldiers see a parallel 'window of opportunity'." I'd take a lottery ticket on the back of that prescience, Paul

17:40 The man claiming to be the new commander of Papua New Guinea's Defence Force, retired Col Yauara Sasa [pictured] denies he conducted a mutiny this morning. "It looks as though it's a military coup but it is not a military coup. I'm restoring, I'm intervening to restore the constitution and that means all - that is also the public servants, heads of the departments, statutory bodies and institutions - comply with what (the court has decided). The court has made its decision but nobody seems to be adhering to the court decisions. So what does that mean: the court has no powers now?"

16:40 Still no news, but plenty of entertainment. "All indications are that Namah and O'Neill will still be in power and the Somare regime may face High Treason charges for trying to overthrow the state. But hey this is the fucking land of the unexpected and I'm just a drunk blogger writing this nonsense for you with loud music in the background. OMG, just ran out of alcohol. Maybe PNG also has ran out of sanity" – Martyn Namorong at his intemperate best. [Read more here](#)

16:20 The deadline for the surrender of the army mutineers has come and gone. So far no reports of action. Peter O'Neill is believed to have been in the Southern Highlands at the scene of the tragic Tari landslide. Sir Michael Somare is maintaining a sullen silence.

16:10 Liam Fox (ABC) tweets that he has heard that Jacksons (international) airport has been closed. Could this be to stop incoming support for the mutineers or to prevent pro-Somare people from getting out of town?

15:15 More from Peter Kranz about the Belden Namah media conference. Quotes from Namah - "Somare has now lost the total respect of the country he fought for independence (for). He was the chief minister, the first prime minister. He is the grand chief. I want to say this to Somare: You have lost your mind. You have lost total control of yourself. You have lost your mind. You have lost sanity."

Mr Namah said 15 of the 30 men loyal to Sasa and Somare had been arrested but those numbers cannot be verified. He said the army officers had until 4.06pm to surrender or face the full force of the law.

15:00 So let's try to recap the critical elements in the latest crisis to envelope Papua New Guinea; a crisis triggered by a mutineer colonel who paradoxically says he is trying to alleviate a crisis.

Just before 3 pm there's a little over an hour left before deputy prime minister Belden Namah's deadline expires for the rebel soldiers to surrender – 4.06 pm, the official public service knock-off time.

There seems to be less than 100 of them under the command of retired colonel Yaura Sasa, apparently commissioned by the 'Somare cabinet' to take control of the Army from its rightful commander, Brig Gen Francis Agwi [pictured], who is variously said to be under house arrest or, according to Sasa, not under house arrest.

Commander Sasa appears to have taken control of the Murray and Taurama barracks in an attempt to restore the Somare government and claims the authority of the Supreme Court and the PNG Constitution to justify his extreme actions.

So far prime minister Peter O'Neill has not made any public statement but was said to be wanting to visit the barracks with loyal troops, although this could not be confirmed.

Air Niugini flights to Lae, Wewak, Vanimo and Kiunga - all close to Army bases– have been suspended to deter soldiers likely to be sympathetic to the Somare faction from travelling to Port Moresby.

Meanwhile Port Moresby is reported to be quiet

Live blog: Mutiny leader gives MPs 7 days to resolve 'crisis'

SOURCES INCLUDE ABC, AAP, NAMORONG REPORT, TWITTER, PNG ATTITUDE READERS

CLICK YOUR REFRESH BUTTON FOR UPDATES

14:25 Sir Michael's Somare's daughter and spokeswoman, Betha, has told journalists that Sir Michael ordered Colonel Yaura Sasa to take control of Papua New Guinea's Army.

Ms Somare said a decision was taken by Sir Michael's cabinet to install the retired soldier as head of the defence force, replacing Francis Agwi. "A decision was taken by Somare's cabinet for Col Yaurra Sasa to take charge of the PNGDF," Betha Somare said.

AAP reports that Commander Sasa appears to have taken control of the Murray and Taurama barracks. He has also held two press conferences in the office of arrested Army Commander Agwi.

An army officer at Murray Barracks, who asked not to be named, told AAP the gates had been locked in anticipation of the arrival of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and troops loyal to him.

Police say they are monitoring the situation. Spokesman Dominic Kakas told AAP Commander Sasa may be in control of 20 to 100 troops.

Col Sasa denied reports in the PNG media that Commander Agwi was under "lock and key", telling journalists the veteran soldier who denied Sir Michael's request for a military intervention in December was not under house arrest

14:00 We, where were we? Peter Kranz reports:

Colonel Sasa gave a news conference at around 1:00. He claims he is just trying to enforce the Constitution and decision of the Supreme Court and was appointed by Somare yesterday to take control of the PNGDF. Some astute journos asked what he would do if Parliament met and merely confirmed O'Neill as PM (as it already has done). He refused to be drawn, other than saying if it wasn't sorted out he would take 'necessary actions.'

Later deputy prime minister Belden Namah gave a press conference and stated that some of the soldiers involved in the action have been arrested (by the police presumably). He has given Sasa till 4:00 to step down. Meanwhile he has ordered the suspension of Air Niugini flights to Lae, Wewak, Vanimo and Kiunga - all close to Army bases likely to be sympathetic to the Somare faction. This was against the background of reports that some Army units were mobilising and travelling to Port Moresby.

A tambu [close friend] in Moresby in an email to me states "the O'Neill side condemns the action saying that it's an act out of desperation by the Somare faction. Nothing has eventuated around the Waigani government offices towards the parliament as yet.

"There is now a heavy police presence around the various MPs houses and offices. The streets are quiet and businesses are normal as usual around Waigani. I think the commotion is around Konedobu and around the Murray Barracks towards 3 Mile and 2 Mile..."

"The general election for PNG is just months away and I don't know when this political impasse will ever stop and the MPs prepare for the election. What a Land of the Unexpected..."

12:00 Trouble with one man bands is that the band needs to take a break sometimes. We'll resume here in about two hours. Meanwhile keep the feedback flowing.

11:55 Blogger Martyn Namorong reports that Col Yaura Sasa is from Morobe Patrol Post in the Huon Gulf area and is an elder brother of Hon Zibe Sasa, PNG's Health Minister

11:50 The man who has staged a raid on a military barracks in Papua New Guinea has given MPs a seven day deadline to resolve the country's political crisis, or he will resort to force, but claims he is not staging a mutiny or a military takeover. Retired Colonel Yaura Sasa declared himself commander after his soldiers placed Brig Gen Francis Agwi under house arrest.

11:30 The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade called on the O'Neill government to quickly resolve the crisis. "We are concerned about these developments overnight in Port Moresby," it said. "We urge that the situation be resolved as soon as possible, and that the PNGDF chain of command is restored."

Australia's High Commissioner in Port Moresby, Ian Kemish, spoke earlier today with Mr O'Neill, DFAT said. "Mr O'Neill told the High Commissioner authorities were taking steps to manage the situation," a statement said. "The Head of the Australian Defence Staff at the High Commission has also talked with Brigadier Agwi. 'We understand that discussions underway within the PNGDF to resolve the matter.'"

11:25 The leader of the overnight army mutiny has demanded the return of Sir Michael Somare to the prime ministership, reports The Australian newspaper. Colonel Yaura Sasa, a former defence attaché to Indonesia, who arrested the country's military commander Brigadier Francis Agwi and placed him under house arrest, has given the nation's politicians seven days to decide who is in charge of the country.

He says he has taken control of PNG's military following discussions with Brigadier Agwi. "My task is restoring the integrity and respect of the constitution and the judiciary," Colonel Sasa told reporters from the commander's office in Murray Barracks.

"I am now calling on the head of state (Governor General Sir Michael Ogio) to immediately implement Sir Michael's post as prime minister."

He said Mr O'Neill must recall parliament and gave PNG's 109 MPs a seven-day deadline to "sort out" the constitutional mess.

The gates of Murray Barracks have been locked and Mr O'Neill is expected to go to the barracks with troops loyal to him.

There have been no reports of any injuries or gunfire so far, nor any sign of police involvement.

11:15 The leader of the mutiny has been identified by commentator Nou Vada as Colonel Yaura Sasa, commanding officer Charlie Company , 1 PIR



Colonel Yaura Sasa

11:05 Email from Bruce Hill at Radio Australia with a note on an interview worth catching up with: "I spoke to General Singirok about the mutiny about an hour ago. We played the full seven minute interview with him of Phil Kafkaloudes morning program just before 11am, and a 20 second clip from it is currently being played in our news bulletins.

"Gen Singirok says essentially that this is a problem caused by the Somare-O'Neill political standoff, and he's called on the Speaker to reconvene parliament so the impasse can be dealt with once and for all. He admitted that ethnic loyalties are still clearly a factor within the PNGDF, suggested that more resources are needed to ensure the professionalism and neutrality of the military, and offered his own services as a mediator if required.

"We will be playing the interview again in Pacific Beat at 4pm Melbourne time today."

10:20 Reporter Ruth Rungula from EMTV says US Embassy representatives are at Murray Barracks PNGDF HQ

10:15 "The streets of Port Moresby are calm. National TV is broadcasting the Adelaide [India v Australia] test," reports Martyn Namorong. "Eyewitnesses report that Taurama Barracks is swarming with fully armed soldiers."

10:10 "At this stage it is not clear if the incident is related to the conflict between Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare over the country's prime ministership, or if it is the work of disgruntled soldiers," the ABC says on its website.

09:55 "We in PNG don't want Somare and the Chinese back in power," tweets award-winning blogger Martyn Namorong

09:45 The Melbourne Herald Sun reports: "Armed soldiers - some with camouflage paint on their faces - were preventing reporters from entering the Murray Military Barracks this morning, but they are expected to be taken to a commander soon. AAP's reporter at the scene says the soldiers say the barracks are under their 'operational command' and there are rumours of a change in command."

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has advised Australians to limit travel around Port Moresby today "due to disturbances at Murray and Taurama Barracks".

09:15 - Peter Kranz reports from Twitter sources (unverified) that soldiers are being organised to enforce the orders of the Supreme Court to reinstate Sir Michael.

Martyn Namorong says that the former defence attaché to Indonesia, a Colonel Sasa, has now declared himself PNGDF commander.

08:45 A possible attempted military coup is underway in Papua New Guinea with top military officers reported to be under house arrest. The mutinous troops are operating under the name Operasin Strongim Konstitutuson [Operation Support the Constitution].

Among other officers, Francis Agwi the Defence Force commander, and Kyrie Eleison, the Commanding Officer of Taurama Barracks, are said to have been placed under house arrest by around 40 soldiers this morning.

Trade union leader Michael Malabag has commented: "Just what is going on now is the evil hand of politicians infiltrating the Defence Force of PNG. I am very concerned about this latest development."

Radio Australia says supporters of former prime minister Sir Michael Somare are believed to have staged the raid on Murray Barracks early in the day.

A report just in from the ABC's PNG correspondent Liam Fox says: "At about 3:00am today a group of between 12 and 20 soldiers are believed to have raided the defence force headquarters at Murray Military Barracks and placed the head of the army, Brigadier General Francis Agwi, under house arrest.



Brigadier General Francis Agwi

"The ABC understands that a new commander has been sworn in. The raid on the barracks is believed to have been peaceful."

Eyewitness accounts from readers can be sent here. Comments from readers are also welcome [below]

Weapons have been released and orders given for the O'Neill/Namah cabinet and police commissioner Kulunga to be arrested.

An unnamed sources is quoted as saying: "We are now under military edict. Anyone resisting arrest will be shot. Orders have been issued to that effect."

26.01.2012

Source: Reuters

PNG rebel soldiers demand return of former PM Somare

By Michael Perry

(Reuters) - Forces loyal to deposed Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare raided the country's main army barracks on Thursday, installing a new military commander and demanding Somare be reinstated as leader of the resource-rich nation.

Papua New Guinea has for months been gripped in a political deadlock, with incumbent Prime Minister Peter O'Neill taking office in August after Somare was ruled ineligible as a member of parliament due to illness and absence from the legislature.

In the early hours of Thursday, up to 20 soldiers raided the main army barracks, seized their chief commander and placed him under house arrest in an action dubbed Operation Protect the Constitution.

"I call on the disciplinary forces to ensure public safety by exercising restraint at all times," Somare said in a statement announcing he had appointed a new defense force chief and again declaring he was the legitimate prime minister.

Residents of Port Moresby said the dusty port capital was quiet although tense with roadblocks around the main army barracks.

PNG has a history of political and military unrest. An army mutiny in 1997 overthrew the government after it employed mercenaries to try to end a long-running secessionist rebellion on the island of Bougainville, home to a big copper mine.

The Supreme Court in December ordered Somare reinstated but O'Neill rejected the ruling, with parliament again voting him prime minister, leaving two competing leaders.

"Col Yaura Sasa has been appointed by the legitimate government as the New Commander of the Defence and it is the duty of discipline forces to protect the Constitution," Somare said in an email sent to Reuters by his daughter, Betha Somare.

"Should anyone be aggrieved they should go to the same court that has restored the Somare government."

Sasa called for Somare's reinstatement and set a seven-day deadline for lawmakers to resolve the constitutional crisis, warning he "may be forced to take necessary actions".

"I am calling on both Sir Michael Somare and Mr Peter O'Neill to recall the Parliament to sort out the current political situation," he said.

Sasa sat alone at a desk when he held his news conference, with no other soldiers present.

A few hours later, O'Neill's deputy prime minister, Belden Namah, said some 15 Sasa supporters had been arrested and called on the mutineers to surrender to police, warning that "treason carries a death penalty".

"For Somare to use rogue policemen and rogue soldiers to pursue his own greed and selfishness is really a sad situation for a person who claims to be the father of the nation ... you have lost sanity," Namah told a news conference in Port Moresby.

CRISIS JEOPARDISES INVESTMENT

The crisis has jeopardized PNG's prospects as an investment destination just as U.S. oil giant ExxonMobil develops a \$15.7 billion liquefied natural gas plant, the country's biggest-ever resource project.

Exxon spokeswoman Rebecca Arnold said the company had been monitoring developments.

"At this stage, it's business as usual," she said.

PNG, a country of 6.5 million people, has vast mineral wealth although 85 percent of its people live a subsistence village life. Port Moresby is plagued by lawless and often violent "raskal" gangs of youths.

The military is careful to draw its membership evenly from regions and clans, ensuring no single ethnic group can take control or command enough support for a coup.

Reporters said it was unclear how much support the rebels had inside the military, believing they may be only a small band, with most soldiers either backing O'Neill or dissatisfied with both O'Neill and Somare.

Neighboring Australia called for a restoration in the line of command in the defense forces.

"We urge that the situation be resolved as soon as possible, and that the Papua New Guinea Defence Force chain of command is restored," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Authorities cancelled flights from the capital to other towns in the mountainous South Pacific island.

"There is no place for the military in a PNG situation," Australia's Resources Minister Martin Ferguson, who is acting foreign minister, said on Australian TV.

"The sooner we return to the normal constitutional political process, the better for Papua New Guinea," Ferguson said, adding that Australia accepted Peter O'Neill as the prime minister under the country's constitution.

Last month, O'Neill declared victory in the standoff against Somare after the governor general named him the legitimate head of government. The country's civil service, police and army leaders also backed O'Neill.

For many Papua New Guineans, the crisis is a contest between the old political guard of Somare -- known as The Chief who led the country to independence -- and O'Neill's administration, which is seen offering a fresh, more open alternative.

Elections are due in June.

26.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Pau: Be fair in reports

By FABIAN HAKALITS

Recently appointed health secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville, Michaeline Pau, has challenged the media to report accurate, balanced and fair stories.

Her challenge was made, following a published article in The National newspaper headlined: "Bougainville nurses await salaries" which appeared last year on Tuesday November 29.

The young and energetic secretary did not deny the fact nurses of Teoruki Health Centre in Tinputz were not paid their salaries, for five fortnights and understood the cries and pleas of her staff.

She also accepted the fact that a letter was received from the staff, regarding the salary matter.

"I visited some of the health centres and explained why the payments were not paid on time. But some weeks later some staff insisted and reported the matter to The National newspaper." she said.

She claims that such actions taken by staff is unprofessional and did not follow protocol.

She described such journalists as lazy and unethical in their journalism code of ethics for not getting both sides of the story "before putting ink to your papers".

"I call on the journalist to make sure that they should always balance stories, and get information from the relevant authorities. Interview many sources so that the story is well balanced." she said.

Ms Pau explained that there was a shortfall in the staff budget and added that the Treasury office in Port Moresby is responsible for the delay because it did not release the funds on time.

"The problem was not with the Church Medical Council of PNG, but Treasury because they are the monitors of the public funds." Ms Pau said.

Meanwhile Ms Pau said that the government and the churches should work together to deliver effective health services, since churches now own and run many schools and most nursing colleges in the county.

She said that churches provided about 50 per cent of the health services in urban and almost 90 per cent in rural areas, but is still receiving less funding under the State-church partnership program initiated in 2008, that needs to be reviewed so the government releases funds in a timely fashion.

26.01.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Mutiny at PNG military headquarters

A group of men has seized and replaced the head of the Papua New Guinea defence force in what is believed to be linked to the power struggle between two senior politicians.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation says 12 to 20 men raided the military headquarters at Murray Barracks in the early hours of the morning.

They put Brigadier General Francis Agwi under house arrest and replaced him with a new commander, Yaura Sasa.

The action comes a day after the veteran politician, Sir Michael Somare, reiterated that he is the legitimate prime minister despite key institutions siding with Peter O'Neill who took control last August.

26.01.2012

Source: The National

Court: Kulunga is top cop for now

By JUNIOR UKAHA

THE National Court has ruled that Tom Kulunga will continue in his role as police commissioner until the constitutional matters on the row over the position is properly determined.

Justice Catherine Davani however cautioned Kulunga not to usurp the powers of the police commissioner by issuing punitive orders against Fred Yakasa.

She urged all parties involved in the case to maintain civility until the Supreme Court decided on the matter.

Yakasa, who was appointed by the Somare-led group on Dec 12, took the matter to court after he was sidelined by the regime led by Peter O'Neill.

Davani yesterday referred the matter to the Supreme Court for a reserved hearing on Feb 16.

She said the matter had to be adjourned to give time to Yakasa's lawyer to serve the amended originating summons to all the parties involved in the case, including recent interveners, on or before Feb 2.

Davani said the amendments sought, in her view, were relevant and necessary to provide a foundation for the court to move forward and issue orders.

"I give leave to amend in the form of the originating summons attached to the affidavit of Christopher Niken sworn and filed on Jan 11 by Dotaona Lawyers," she said.

"I find that I was not misled by the plaintiff. Both parties have put before me all relevant facts.

"All parties who have just joined have followed suit by filing affidavits stating their position."

In her view, Yakasa's action had revealed that there were serious issues to be decided by the Supreme Court before the National Court could proceed.

further.

Davani ordered that the interim injunctive orders of Dec 16, 2011, preventing Kulunga and his agents from arresting, harassing, intimidating, approaching, hindering or interfering with Yakasa, his servants, agents, subordinates and commanders be complied with. And this will be in effect until after the hearing of the reservation and decisions.

She however explained the extension of the interim order did not make Yakasa and his agents immune to criminal acts while performing their duties as "policemen".

26.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Military raid in PNG

The head of Papua New Guinea's army, Defence Force Chief, Brigadier General Francis Agwi, has been placed under house arrest.

A senior source in the PNG defence force said a group of between 12 and 20 soldiers overpowered guards at the Taurama barracks at around 3am this morning.

They took the commanding officer captive then moved to Murray barracks and placed the Brigadier General Agwi, under house arrest.

The source said the former defence attache to Indonesia, a Colonel Safa, has now declared himself commander.

At this stage it's not clear if the incident is related to the conflict between Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare over the country's prime ministership, or if it is the work of disgruntled soldiers. When the conflict erupted last month, Commander Agwi, recognised Mr O'Neill as the country's legitimate prime minister.

26.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Drunkard lady out of control

by Aloysius Laukai

A small white ute driven by a drunken woman driver and full of drunken male counterparts with cans in their hands missed the New dawn Fm main steel gates at 0730hrs this morning.

The car was on full throttle when it failed to negotiate the raised road near New Dawn FM office on Buka island.

The car then got stuck in the mud and stopped completely.

Noone was hurt in what could have been a nasty road accident.

Police were called in but the car had already left the scene of the incident.



25.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Book Co queried

By FABIAN HAKALITS

THE Bougainville Education Division is frustrated over the delay of school materials - books - from the Web Books Company.

Chief executive officer Bruno Babato said that the books were ordered in August 2010, at a total cost of K450,000, but they never arrived.

The school materials were purchased for the two new high schools in the autonomous region- Haku Day High School and Koromira Technical High School.

“The materials were purchased, for the students in the two grade nine classes of the two schools to be used last year. Since the books were not delivered, these schools borrowed books from other high and secondary school in Bougainville. Until today we still do not know the whereabouts of these materials,” he said.

Mr Babato said that the division tried numerous attempts to contact the company, but this has proved unsuccessful.

“Since 2010 when the materials were purchased, we have not received any positive response from the company.

“We made four trips to Port Moresby, sent emails and did phone calls, to check the cause of the delay and ... we still were not properly informed. And today we are still waiting in vain,” Mr Babato said.

This year the two school will have their second intakes, but Mr Babato is concerned that the delay of the materials will affect both the new and pioner students’ learning.

The Bougainville Education Division has sought legal action against Web Books, filing an application with the lawyers of the National Department of Education (NDoE) to investigate the matter.

Post-Courier also made attempts yesterday calling the Web Company on three different numbers, landline, Digicel and Be-Mobile provided, but all calls went unanswered.

25.01.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville Hospital will still charge medical fees, says director

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Buka General Hospital will continue to charge patients fees for medical care, acting director of medical services Dr Mathias Tovilu said.

He said the announcement by the government last week that all medical services by hospitals nationwide would be free to the public was not being implemented at Buka Hospital.

“We have followed up with the secretary for health in Port Moresby and what he has advised us is that all hospitals will function, will charge fees, as usual,” he said.

“There has been no direction given from the Health Department to provide free health services to the people.”

He said until then charges for hospital services would remain.

“Our position is that until we get clear directions from the department, we will not provide free services.

“Outpatient, X-ray and blood test charges of K2 will remain and all admissions in the adult wards will pay a hospital fee of K10,” Tovilu said.

He said from a personal point of view, free health services at this stage would not solve the many problems, including understaffing, drug shortage and poor facilities that hospitals throughout the country, including Buka, faced.

Tovilu said if hospitals were to provide free health services, it would not be quality services because the hospitals would be regularly short on medicines and funds.

“These days we buy medicines regularly from other sources because the supply of medicine through the normal government medical stores is not adequate and many times it does not arrive on time and they are always running out of stock.

“The money we get from charging hospital fees, once it ceases, is going to cause us a lot of problems because it will dry out the source of funds that we use to buy medicines,” he said.

25.01.2012

Source: The National

Atoi gives car to cops

BOUGAINVILLE police at Kunua district, North Bougainville, have received a 10-seater vehicle from North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi.

Atoi said the work of supporting local law and order agencies did not lie with any one person but with everyone.

He said without law and order, “development would not take place in the region”.

He urged all agencies and politicians to work together to attract investors to the region and to ensure that government services flowed efficiently to the people.

“We can talk about all the other things but without law and order, all our talk will be a waste.

“Yes, we cannot accommodate everything but we must try by working together.

“It is all about the people, it is not about our self. Leadership is about making changes for our people,” he said.

The recently purchased police vehicle worth close to K200,000 adds to the three ambulances, two high school trucks and more than five sawmills given to the people of North Bougainville since Atoi took office last June.

“I am doing the best I can. With only six months to work in, I have made some progress.

“People should not judge me too quickly,” Atoi said responding to those who criticised his leadership.

25.01.2012

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20120125

ESBC President Lauds Landowners!

“This proposal sounds interesting”, said the President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Axel G. Sturm, on Wednesday in Andorra. “I consider it as truly fair as it is not at a disadvantage of anybody. Herewith the Landowners have really done a great job. Hopefully they will finally install their umbrella body so that the negotiations will start soon! The ESBC welcome the Panguna landowners as future fellow shareholders in our company.”

Only the landowner’s claim to repeal the still existing BCA sounds a bit harsh, said Mr. Sturm: “The ESBC will not accept that the actual legal situation will be changed unless a new deal is signed. Our company is linked to Bougainville for more than four decades. Therefore we will not allow any intermediate nor legal non binding position. We also will not accept that Bougainville Copper (BCL) to be represented by only one representative in future negotiations while all other groups - National Government, ABG and landowners - have two representatives.”

Please find here the landowner's proposal concerned as attached PDF file!

24.01.2012

Source: PNG Mine Watch

Panguna landholders want Copper Agreement Act repealed

By Poreni Umau

LANDOWNERS of the Bougainville Copper Mine have called on the government for the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) Act 1969 to be repealed, reports the Post Courier.

Panguna Landowners Association (PLA) stated that if Panguna Mine is to be re-opened, this has to be negotiated under a totally new agreement.

The landowner executives have consulted with their lawyers and the legal opinion is that, the landowners cannot participate in the BCA review as they were never a party to that agreement. The same goes for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

The matter has been discussed in length by the six Panguna mine Lease Executives with the President and his Bougainville Executive Council Ministers over the past year.

They said that if Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and the National Government want to talk about re-opening the Panguna mine with them, then the whole BCA Act must be repealed.

However, both the government and BCL must first agree to re-open the mine, they said.

They have called on the Bougainvillean MPs to bring to the attention of parliament through the Prime Minister and the Mining Minister that BCL and the National Government must first agree to repeal the BCA Act if they want ABG and the Panguna Landowners to come to a negotiation table to discuss the re-opening of the mine .

24.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kunua Police

By Aloysius Laukai

Kunua Police today officially recieved their new police car from the ABG member for Tewa constituency and Minister for LLG and communications, JOE NOPE at the Kunua district office.

The car was paid for by the member for North Bougainville, Lauta Atoi recently.

PPC Chief inspector Cletus Tsien in his official remarks thanked the member for donating the vehicle to the district.

And he called on the police officers to look after the vehicle in the cause of their duty.

He said this was the first time for the police from Kunua to have a vehicle.



24.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville President talks of visit to former Philippines insurgents

The President of Papua New Guinea's autonomous island of Bougainville, John Momis, has just returned from the Philippines where he has been looking at the re-integration of militants into the community after a conflict, and talking to investors.

During his visit, President Momis spent time in the Philippines capital Manilla, in the port city of Cebu and on the island of Mindanao.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government

Listen here !

GARRETT: Bougainville is set to hold a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea sometime between 2015 and 2020.

President Momis is determined that by that time, his civil-war shattered islands will have built a lasting peace and have enough economic self-reliance to be able to make a real choice.

His latest hunt for investors and for new ideas to sustain the peace process has taken him to the Philippines.

On Mindanao, he saw the results of a peace process that has been working to reduce the impact of a decades-old Muslim insurgency.

MOMIS: I met some of the former rebel leaders, who have become mayors and secretaries of the new government, and the general feeling is that you create rebels when you marginalise them. And the best way of re-integrating them is to bring them on-stream, involving them in decision-making, giving them a voice, empowering them through participation in socio-economic development.

GARRETT: And how do you plan to do that on Bougainville?

MOMIS: We've invited some businessmen to come and go into joint venture with us; banana plantation, pineapple plantation, chicken projects, and even fishing. This will be the first time ever in Bougainville. In all these years we couldn't get anyone interested in doing these kinds of things, so we are very happy if people are happy to come and work with us.

GARRETT: President Momis says a delegation of investors from the Philippines is due to arrive in Bougainville in 2 weeks time.

MOMIS: First of all, we've got to get the agreement to come and assess for themselves but we are quite confident that with the kind of technology and capital that they have, we being the resource owners, I think we can strike up a good deal.

GARRETT: Further steps with reconciliation and the peace process are also on President Momis' agenda.

The top priority, he says, is to create an environment conducive to weapons disposal.

MOMIS: You can't just tell them to hand in their guns unless they are gainfully employed in money-making activities, as well as in decision-making. And that is why our aim is to strengthen our COE's, Council of Elders, and set up places or centres where skills can be transferred and we can involve them in food growing rice and other vegetables, furniture-making.

GARRETT: The biggest trouble spot on Bougainville is in the south where 200-300 people are estimated to have died in the last 5 years. What sort of priority are you be putting on that area?

MOMIS: Just before Xmas we signed an amazingly successful cease-fire agreement with about ten thousand people. And we intend to involve them in social and economic development, involving them in these kinds of things, as well as in training them and perhaps even setting up some kind of vocational school. We've had Bougainville university students who spent their holidays going around talking to a lot of the people, explaining autonomy, explaining the timeline that we have, the need for reaching international standards, rule of law - all of these concepts that are talked about in the Bougainville peace agreement. These students spent their own free time to go and explain to the people and the feedback I am getting is that they've been very successful.

GARRETT: Some time has passed since that breakthrough was signed. How different is the feeling down there?

MOMIS: You now have former resistance fighters and BRAs (members of the Bougainville Revolutionary army) playing sports, attending meetings to discuss what they should do from now on, you know, in the terms of getting weapons disposal effectively carried out. So there is a lot of difference since the signing of the peace agreement. People are now moving around freely. It 'll take some time to actually get everybody to feel that way but at least leaders are committed to it and so far we have had good news from the area.

24.12.2012

Source: PNG exposed

Arthur Somare, Peter Iptas and David Dotaona named in Kulunga bribery case

Alice Kimbu, of Purua lawyers, has filed a sworn affidavit [see below] in the National court that alleges Mr Peter Iptas, the Enga Governor, MP Arthur Somare and lawyer David Dotaona conspired to offer her a bribe of K200,000 to swap sides in the legal proceedings over the contested Police Commissioners position.

Alice Kimbu is acting for Police Commission Tom Kulunga in legal proceedings brought by Fred Yakasa in which he claims he is the rightful police chief, having been appointed by Michael Somare after his Supreme Court case decision last month.

Ms Kimbu says the bribe was offered to her on Sunday January 8 while she was in a vehicle with David Dotaona, the lawyer for Fred Yakasa, who has already been arrested on charges of trying to pervert the course of justice by organizing the bribe.

Kimbu also alleges that after the bribe was offered by Iptas she was taken to a breakfast meeting with MP Arthur Somare who was informed of Mr Iptas' offer to her and told her that if she wanted anything else she was to talk to Mr Dotaona.

[Read here lawyer Alice Kimbu's affidavit !](#)

24.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PLA want BCA repealed

By PORENI UMAU

LANDOWNERS of the Bougainville Copper Mine have called on the government for the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) Act 1969 to be repealed.

Panguna Landowners Association (PLA) stated that if Panguna Mine is to be re-opened, this has to be negotiated under a totally new agreement (find out below!).

The landowner executives have consulted with their lawyers and the legal opinion is that, the landowners cannot participate in the BCA review as they were never a party to that agreement. The same goes for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

The matter has been discussed in length by the six Panguna mine Lease Executives with the President and his Bougainville Executive Council Ministers over the past year.

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However, both the government and BCL must first agree to re-open the mine, they said.

They have called on the Bougainvillean MPs to bring to the attention of parliament through the Prime Minister and the Mining Minister that BCL and the National Government must first agree to repeal the BCA Act if they want ABG and the Panguna Landowners to come to a negotiation table to discuss the re-opening of the mine.

[Click here and read what the Panguna landowners claim for !](#)

24.01.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville works on quality checks

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

QUALITY checks on the electoral rolls in the Autonomous Bougainville Government will be completed this month, electoral commissioner Raitama Taravaru says.

The exercise was behind schedule but Taravaru is confident it would be completed by the end of the month.

Quality check for South Bougainville had been completed with the updated data sent to Port Moresby last week.

The electoral office began updating the rolls for Central Bougainville last Saturday. It expects to dispatch the data to Port Moresby by Friday.

The PNG Electoral Commissioner had set the end of the month as the deadline for all quality check exercises to be completed.

This is to allow time for the objection period," Taravaru said.

24.01.2012

Source: The National

Somare accused of recklessly spending K76.6 billion

SIR Michael Somare's regime has been accused of spending K76.6 billion in the past six years without the country seeing any tangible changes.

Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, while launching his PNG Party's first provincial electoral office at 14-Mile outside Lae last Saturday, said a few "selfish and corrupt ministers" in the Somare regime had benefited from the money.

He claimed they were the same people fighting to have Sir Michael back as prime minister so they could have access to state funds to benefit themselves and their families.

He called on voters to be careful who they gave their ticks to in the general election.

The Vanimo-Green MP said the government wanted to make sure that the people got what was owed to them.

He mentioned the free education policy and free medical services for the people.

He revealed initiatives by the government to push for 100% ownership of resources by landowners with the government receiving taxes and fees benefits.

A new ministry - ministry of religious affairs - would be created by the government with one tenth of the country's budget to be used to further the work of recognised Christian churches in the country.

"The prime minister and I have a good working relationship and believe in the cause to change the nation," Namah said.

The government was also committed to making sure work on the Lae port begins next week, he said.

24.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA ROAD UPGRADE

Buka town street roads are currently being upgraded.

These streets have been neglected for so many years however drainage system for these roads must also be included in these upgrades for the roads to last.



Pictured are workmen upgrading the stretch of road between BMF and Mark Murava building on the back street.

24.01.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

A day in the life of an expat in Bougainville

BY ALICE BANFIELD *

I can hear the sound of sweeping; I can always hear it at this time of morning. The women do it every day, sweeping clean the sandy ground that surrounds our houses in the village. I can feel dampness on my pillow. It rained heavily during the night, and there's a small gap in the sago-palm roofing, just above my head.

Rising, I step outside and walk across our yard to the well, to haul water for my shower. Then I hear someone calling out to me. "Wara i stap, Alice!" It's Sandy, my host mum, letting me know that today she has beat me to it.

Sandy is from a village about an hour north, and married to a man from the clan here. The two of them became good friends with my mom when she worked here with the recently-formed government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville—a region which was part of Papua New Guinea, and gained its autonomous status after a civil war which lasted around a decade and ended in 2001.

Through connections I made when I once went to visit my mom, I've ended up back here, working as an intern with a development agency in the regional capital, and living in the village with Sandy, her husband, and their teenage son. Sandy tells me they consider me their daughter. I believe her: I'm twenty-three years old and they won't let me go out past nine on a Friday night.

The water in the buckets which Sandy has filled is brackish, since the well is only a short distance from the sea, so I take a small bottle to our rainwater tank and fill that too, for rinsing my hair. Only a little though—our tank once ran dry after a long period without rain, leaving us with no source of drinkable water except the jerry cans which Sandy had filled in advance.

I shower on a raised platform outside, gazing at the sky overhead, my privacy ensured by three walls of tarpaulin and a shower curtain.

After a quick breakfast of fresh fruits and coffee, I take my umbrella and leave the house. It doesn't often rain at this time of morning, but the sun is now intense and I need the umbrella for shade.

I bump into Margaret, a middle-aged woman who lives on the other side of the hibiscus hedge from us. I think she's the cousin of Sandy's husband, Frank, but I'm not sure—relationships are complex here, and I don't know exactly how they all fit together.

Margaret's also on her way to work, so together we turn onto the main road, a short strip of tar-seal which leads into town in one direction, and abruptly turns into a pot-holed dirt highway in the other. As we walk, we stori — one of my favourite Pidgin words (both to say and to do), and which more or less means "chat."

The road's busy at this time of morning, with ute-loads of workers heading into town from the outlying villages, uniformed school children waiting for the next bus, and women walking back from their daily swim in the sea, the wet sarongs in which they have washed still clinging to them.

Other women are heading to the gardens behind the palm trees on the side of the road furthest from the beach, carrying a machete and sometimes a small child, ready for the day's work. We greet every passer-by, the response always accompanied by a smile stained red from chewing betelnut, and the path spattered blood-red with spittle.

Twenty minutes later, I reach my office, grateful that the air-conditioning is working today. The focus of my internship here is human rights, a challenging sector in a post-conflict region. Violence against women and children, for example, is perpetrated at alarmingly high rates.

Papua New Guinea is party to international human rights treaties designed to protect people from such violations, and my job here is ostensibly about making those treaties a reality at the grassroots, by providing support to those who are already working to defend human rights. This means working with everyone from government, to civil society organizations, to activist-nuns.

But I realise there is a limit to what I can achieve during a 10-week internship off the back of university, and my role here first and foremost is to learn as much as possible.

After a few hours standard office admin – email and the like – my boss suggests I accompany him to a youth workshop, and asks me to run a session on human rights. It's not something I'm prepared for, but I'm getting used to the "expect the unexpected" approach to dealing with life here.

We jump in a 'banana boat,' a small, open boat with a 25-horsepower engine, and head to the other of the two main islands which comprise Bougainville. The passage between these two is fast-flowing and narrow, but since the weather's fine today, our journey is smooth and takes only five minutes.

There, we are greeted by a large group of youth waiting inside an open-air hall. They come from a rural constituency and range in age from 18 to over 30. "Youth" is a broad term here, and refers to anyone who is no longer in school but is not yet married.

Someone takes a coconut husk and wipes the whiteboard clean, and I begin the session with a brainstorming exercise on the human rights issues faced by the local communities.

The participants come up with a long list of issues: violence against women and children, rape, forced marriage, child marriage, discrimination on the grounds of gender or HIV status, and on it goes. They next form into small groups, pick one issue, and together discuss what practical steps they could take to address this issue within their communities.

When the groups report back, the spokesperson for the first group is a young man with dreadlocks, a green t-shirt, and gums stained red by years of betelnut-chewing. He talks about the issue of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDs.

Half-way through, he introduces a second spokesperson, a young woman he explains was chosen "to show gender equity, you know." Their group has come up with five practical activities to address the discrimination, ranging from running awareness events on HIV/AIDs, to supporting those who are directly affected by it.

When the workshop finishes, I boat back to the office and snack on ice-cream whilst typing up a report from some recent stakeholder consultations. Normally I have a more substantial lunch like saksak, a pudding-like dish made from sago palm cooked in coconut milk, wrapped inside banana leaves. But they've stopped selling the usual cooked food at the markets as part of the safety precautions in place to stem the recent cholera outbreak.

We live next to Tatok, a popular local band who make music by beating bamboo drums with the soles of old flip-flops.

Following a last-minute NGO meeting in the afternoon, I leave town in time to make it back to the village just before dinner. Dinner, like the dark, always comes early. Sandy has cooked tonight, over the open fire outside. Like most nights, it's rice topped with instant noodles and a few vegetables, with a sweet potato (or savory banana) on the side, and a spinach-like green called ibika. Occasionally we have fish, if a friend's had a good day out fishing.

Most of life is lived outside, and eating is no exception. Sitting under the overhang of our house, a fluorescent light is buzzing above us, forming a counterpoint to the rhythmic, popping beat coming from next door, behind Margaret's house.

It's Tatok, a popular local band who make music by beating bamboo drums with the soles of old flip-flops. It's surprisingly harmonious, and I count us lucky to be neighbors, especially when it's time for band practice.

There's a smell of coconut in the air from the copra, or dried coconut kernel, which Sandy has been making to sell. It's hard to see much beyond the flecks of orange from the charcoal fire, and the darkness is heavy—a new moon and cloudy skies. I think it's going to rain.

With the falling of the dark has come a coolness, so we sit out there and we stori a while. Sometimes Sandy's husband Francis will tell me stories from the war, about the various places he sought refuge.

But tonight the conversation is more lighthearted, as Sandy tells us of her previous life, long ago, when she was a flight attendant for an international airline. She regales us with the tale of the time she and her fellow stewardesses went clubbing in Singapore. "But we were silly back then," she says, as though she needs to justify her youth.

*** Living in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Alice Banfield spent her time stori-ing with her adopted family, running post-conflict human rights workshops, and trying not to get rained on throughout the night**



MOST DAYS I WAKE around six, and today is no different. It's already light, but the sun is still low enough behind the coconut trees outside my room that I don't have to face its full intensity for a little while yet. Later, it'll start streaming in through the gaps in the bamboo weave which make up my walls.

23.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis urged people to work for change

By FABIAN HAKALITS

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Chief John Momis has urged Bougainvilleans to work for change.

President Momis made this statement last Friday in Buka, after returning from Philippines, where he underwent medical treatment.

"As Bougainvilleans, we should work together for change, by contributing meaningfully to the developments of Bougainville." he said.

He said independence for Bougainville is a "joint effort" mechanism, which every stakeholder has roles to play for the betterment of Bougainville.

"Full autonomy for Bougainville lies on our hands. We have to work and stand together, and strive for our future." he said.

One social issue Momis highlighted, is the attitude problem. He said Bougainville will persevere, only if people have a listening heart.

"Our attitude needs to change. We should have a heart for everything we do. By developing such good attitudes, we should accomplish our dreams and not be spoon-fed all the time, but be being self reliant." he said.

Momis also said the ABG government will work to implement education as a national priority. He said education is the vehicle of change that will drive developments in the autonomous region.

"Bougainville needs an educated society. By educating the people, they will have a deeper understanding of confronting issues." Momis said.

Meantime Chief Momis said networking is vital which strengthens bilateral relationships.

"Building relationships with other countries is essential. Bougainville as an autonomous region will continue to strengthen its bilateral relationship with other countries" he said.

Momis added Bougainville has a bright future destined for independence.

23.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Elections set for June - Trawen

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea's 2012 June Elections is ready to go, Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen announced in Port Moresby yesterday.

And the Electoral Roll (formerly the Common Roll) will be ready in time for polling come June 23, 2012.

Further, a total of two million eligible voters have been registered on the roll out of approximately 4.3 million eligible voters for the 2012 elections.

Mr Trawen also defended the appointments of election managers and electoral officials throughout the country stressing that they have been done on merit and not by "choice and nepotism" as alleged by some Members of Parliament last Friday during Parliament Sitting.

Mr Trawen was responding to a series of questions raised in Parliament last Friday by Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, Western Province Governor Dr Bob Danaya and several other MPs during Grievance debate and Question Time.

Mr Namah accused Mr Trawen of allegedly appointing his cronies in his electorate while Dr Danaya (backed by Namah) also accused him and the District Election officers of deliberately deleting his name from the Electoral Roll in his Western Province.

They both said that Mr Trawen has failed the Electoral Roll miserably and that action should be taken on him if he did not perform his duties on time to allow for the elections to proceed on time.

But Mr Trawen yesterday assured the people of Papua New Guinea that he was ready to roll the elections and that the Electoral Roll for the 2012 elections will be ready on time for polling which begins on June 23.

He blamed Treasury for not releasing the funds on time to carry out the electoral roll update on time in 2011.

“The Electoral Roll update work has not failed and I want to assure the people of Papua New Guinea that the Electoral Roll for the 2012 elections will be ready on time for polling which begins on June 23,” Mr Trawen said.

“We expect to deliver the 2012 preliminary electoral roll in early February for public display and objection nationwide before it is finalized for the June polls,” he said.

“Had funding for electoral roll update work in 2011 been released by the Treasury in a timely manner or even front-loaded instead of on a piecemeal basis all fieldwork in the provinces should have been completed and all elector data should have been completed by now.”

He said the electoral roll update work was progressing well on a 24-hour basis with recruitment of additional data processing officers, roll auditors and checkers plus the purchase of additional 30 computers to speed up the work.

He said so far rolls for six provinces have been completed and they include Central, Northern, Milne Bay, Gulf, National Capital District and West New Britain.

Data entry for six more provinces will be completed this week to bring the number of provinces to 12 and they include East New Britain, New Ireland, Manus, West Sepik and Morobe.

“Generally, Southern, New Guinea Islands and Momase are set to have their preliminary rolls ready before the end of this month (January) except for Bougainville and Western Province while the Family Order listing concept is taking a long time for fieldwork to be completed in the Highlands.

Eastern Highlands, Chimbu, Hela and Southern Highlands provinces have parts of their preliminary ward rolls printed and ready for objection while field work is still in progress for Jiwaka, Western highlands and Enga with data yet to be dispatched to Port Moresby for processing.

23.01.2012

Source: The National

MPs urged not to use Sir Michael as puppet

POLITICIANS in the Somare camp should stop using Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as a puppet to smear the commendable reputation he built during the past 40 years, a former National Alliance Party life member says.

Rasis Gorondowe, from Daulo district, Eastern Highlands, said in Goroka last Friday: “It is time Sir Michael is left alone to recover from his heart operation.

“MPs in his camp must stop using him as a puppet to pursue personal interests,” Gondorowe said.

He said it appeared Madang MP Sir Arnold Amet, suspended Angoram MP Arthur Somare, Pomio MP Paul Tiensten and Southern Highlands Governor Anderson Agiru were using Sir Michael as a tool to pursue their own interests.

“Sir Michael has achieved a lot for Papua New Guinea.

“But it is now time for young vibrant leaders of the likes of Peter O’Neill to take charge of the country.

“They must now leave him alone and provide a minority opposition for the remaining four months before the general election,” Gorondowe said.

23.01.2012

Source: The National

Churches want O'Neill and Sir Michael to talk

THE Papua New Guinea Council of Churches has written to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare expressing the people's disappointment over the political impasse.

In a letter dated Jan 19 and signed by Catholic Archbishop of Port Moresby John Ribat and Anglican Bishop of Port Moresby Peter Ramsden, they said they were willing to arrange a peace meeting between the two leaders.

"We are unhappy about the situation we are in.

"The issue of prime minister and police commissioner are not resolved yet. The people of PNG watched helplessly, the MPs quarrelling in the floor of the parliament on Jan 18," they said in the letter.

"We, the members of the PNG Council of Churches, under the chairmanship of moderator Samson Lowa, are ready to facilitate a forum for a dialogue of both the leaders to resolve the issues amicably.

"We are ready to arrange the place and the facilitators for this dialogue if both of you agree."

20.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

BDA gives beds

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Border Development Authority (BDA) through its social services program, has once again donated 13 hospital beds to Bougainville's rural and remote health centres.

The beds were officially handed over to the Bougainville Health Chief Executive Officer Anthony Pumpara, on Wednesday, by BDA regional co-ordinator, John Rea.

Some of these beds will be distributed to some of the most remote areas of Bougainville especially the atolls islands of Mortlock, Tasman, Fead, and Caterets.

"On behalf of the Health Department, I would like to thank BDA for their kind assistance. They have helped us in a lot of ways and are also funding the maintenance of our other health centres." said Dr Pumpara.

These beds for the remote atoll health centres have already been loaded onto the BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls, and by this weekend they will arrive in Caterets Fead and Nissan islands in the oceanic outskirts of the region.

BDA co-ordinator on Bougainville John Rea said, BDA is funding a lot of small scale projects like, the maintenance of school classrooms, distribution of 34 water tanks and also portable saw mills.

The BDA vessel itself has now got a fixed schedule between Buka and Rabaul and the atolls of Bougainville bringing a much needed service to the people.

20.01.2012

Source: Resource Investing News

The Commodity Investor: China, Industrial Metals and the 2012 Base Metals Outlook

By Amine Bouchentouf

Columnist Amine Bouchentouf is a partner at Parador Capital LLC [2], an institutional advisory

firm focused on commodities and emerging markets. He is the author of the bestselling *Commodities For Dummies*, published by Wiley. Amine is also the founder of Commodities Investors LLC [3], an advisory firm dedicated to providing insightful information on all things commodities.

While many casual market observers seem to know of China's growing importance in the commodities markets, very few people have a solid understanding of what that actually means. Over the last five years, China's growing importance in the global economy and commodities has been staggering and cannot be overstated.

China now accounts for over 40 percent of global copper [4] consumption; 50 percent of global iron [5] ore consumption; and 48 percent of global coal [6] consumption. Even more important is that China's consumption of key commodities is increasing year-over-year, both in relative and absolute terms.

China surpassed Japan to become the second-largest consumer of oil [7] globally, right behind the United States. In fact, China has catapulted past economic powerhouses such as Germany, Japan and the UK to become the second largest economy in the world—and growing at a staggering 8-10 percent per annum. Therefore, one of the biggest market drivers influencing commodities in 2012—and particularly base metal commodities—will be the strength or weakness of Chinese economic growth.

Can we expect a Chinese hard landing?

Over the last couple of years, many market observers predicted a “hard landing” in the Chinese economy. Investors such as hedge fund manager Jim Chanos went so far as calling China “the big short.” However, China's economy grew 9.6 percent in 2008, 9.2 percent in 2009 and 10.3 percent in 2010; even in 2011 it grew by a staggering 9.1 percent, proving many economists and investors wrong.

This growth is helping put a floor on commodities such as crude oil and iron ore. While we have seen prices for key industrial metals such as copper and aluminum decline in 2011, that decline would have been much steeper were it not for Chinese demand helping keep prices from succumbing to a total free fall.

At the same time, China is an export-driven economy and so is vulnerable to a global economic slowdown. Specifically, it is not immune to a European sovereign debt crisis which could have reverberations worldwide. Already we saw prices drop precipitously for base metals in 2011. Copper dropped 23 percent for the year, aluminum declined by 19 percent while other industrial metals such as lead [8], nickel [9] and zinc [10] were each down anywhere between 20 percent and 25 percent. Many of these price declines can be attributed directly to the fear of contagion from a European economic meltdown.

If Europe does implode, that will have a significant effect on China since the Eurozone is one of China's biggest export markets. In such a scenario, China's economy will cool down and that will decrease its appetite for commodities. On the flip side, if the European sovereign debt situation is contained you can expect China to remain strong which will be bullish for commodities in general and industrial metals in particular. Therefore, in the current macroeconomic environment China's economic strength will depend to a large extent on the health of the global economy.

Industrial metals are the best indicators for global economic health due to their ability to measure global industrial consumption and production trends. Given 2011, what strategies should investors be considering in 2012?

What's an investor to do?

The most prudent strategy at the moment is a monitoring strategy: closely monitor the economic data coming out of China, but also other key countries such as the United States and Europe. Equities still provide the most convenient exposure to industrial commodities, especially companies with exposure to both emerging market growth as well as OECD demand.

One company I recommend monitoring closely is VALE [11] (NYSE:VALE [12]), the Brazilian mining giant which is the world's leading producer of iron ore, the key material for steel. VALE exports a large amount of iron to China, and is thus a good indicator of Chinese industrial activity. The company's shares were down 35 percent in 2011, in line with the global demand slowdown for base metals. If there is a rebound in Chinese demand, expect VALE to be one of the main beneficiaries; this is a company I'll be watching carefully, especially if Chinese economic data shows signs of strength.

In Latin America, Brazil is by far the leading supplier and producer of iron ore; however, another

up-and-comer in the Latin American iron industry is Peru. Peru has a rich mining tradition and is a leading global producer of copper and lead. Recently, the country is also diversifying into iron ore production. This is a play I like because of Peru's developed mining infrastructure which includes railways and advanced port infrastructure ready for export; what's more, Peru's geographic location gives it a natural edge over other Latin American competitors since it lies in the Pacific Ocean and faces directly the largest iron ore market: China.

One company that can offer you Peruvian iron exposure is Cuervo Resources [13] (CNSX:FE,FWB:CRR [14]). Cuervo has been operating in Peru for several years and has active prospecting and drilling activity on over 25,000 hectares in the country. The company has a resource estimate indicating 56 million tonnes of iron that's measured and indicated. While still not in production, investors looking to get exposure to Peru should take a look at this stock. In the copper space, I recommend keeping a close eye on Freeport-McMoRan [15] (NYSE:FCX [16]). Freeport is the world's largest copper producer, and owns the largest copper mine in the world: Indonesia's Grasberg mine in the Papua province. It does a lot of business with China and other key countries, so it's a good company to track for a potential rebound in copper prices.

Another company in the copper space that I'm watching is CuOro Resources [17] (TSXV:CUA [18]), which gives you exposure to up-and-coming copper mines in Colombia. It's well known that Chile is an important and mature player in Latin American copper markets, but Colombia is becoming an increasingly important producer in the region. This is a company that can give you that kind of exposure.

The bottom line is that 2012 will provide very interesting opportunities for the discerning investor. Monitor the data very carefully, and keep an eye out for momentum trades with a focus on key base metals such as iron ore and copper.

Securities Disclosure: Amine Bouchentouf, hold no direct interest in the companies mentioned in this article.

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- [17] CuOro Resources: <http://www.cuororesources.com/>
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Source: Post-Courier

SPF gives K10 million for Bougainville women

WOMEN of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have received a New Year's blessing of \$US2,518 230 million (5,736,287) in grants from the State and Peace Building Fund (SPF).

The World Bank has funded the Inclusive Developers in Post Conflict Bougainville (IDIB) project that focuses in developing the capacity of women's organisation.

According to project co-ordinator David Haputo, the project aims in providing an environment for women to actively participate in community development activities and decision making.

He said this will enable women in the 13 district of the autonomous region, to contribute to the building of post conflict, social capital at community levels.

Funds worth K20,000 he said, have been equally distributed to each district, which they are entitled to apply twice. "Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are the key project partners that will facilitate and implement the three year IDIB program." he said.

He said the program comprises of three components which looks at strengthening and supporting women's priorities in development activities.

Projects to be implemented include , building capacity for inclusive community developments;

n Small grants for inclusive community development and

n Project management, knowledge sharing and networking.

Haputo said the weakened capacity of women as agents of change with their communities and the low capacity of government departments working at the local level are widely viewed as significant challenges to development efforts. Meanwhile the Capacity Needs Assessment is being conducted in Tinputz and Arawa.

Haputo said the assessment will help to create recommendations for further training to proceed.

19.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Telikom's wireless phones sell like hot cakes in Buka

Going for the cheap call rates ... customers lined up the Kieta wharf in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to purchase Telikom's fixed wireless telephones. Telikom's sales team recently conducted outdoor sales in Buka and Awara following the completion of two towers that are radiating the wireless voice and internet coverage with the Bougainvilleans welcoming Telikom's low rates of 2 toea per minute for calls, 1 toea sms and 29 toea per Mb for internet connectivity.

19.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

'Piano peace games a success'

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Piano Peace and Reconciliation Games held at the Piano Parish station in the Makis constituency in Buin, South Bougainville, recently were hailed as a success.

The two-week tournament which was held from January 2-10 was funded by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

Kamma had chipped in with a timely K10,000 sponsorship, resulting in the successful staging of the games.

Akoa soccer team was crowned the champions after defeating Caltex, in the men's soccer finals while Topi Rocks defeated Black United to claim the third spot.

In the women's finals, Tigers claimed the major title defeating Brothers, while Caltex proved too strong for Akoa taking out the third place.

In the men's volleyball, Lombas claimed the first placing after defeating K-Crew, while Rescuers and Akoa settled for third and fourth placings respectively.

Yama were crowned the champions after crushing Muka 2 in the womens division, while Caltex claimed the third position after coming out victors against Maluatu 2.

In the Konga area of Siwai, Rataiku 1 men's soccer team were crowned the champions of the inaugural Jomik Cup after defeating Konga 1 on Monday.

The tournament which was held in Konga, Siwai district of South Bougainville, saw the boys from the mountains in the Ramu constituency area proving too strong for their Kopii constituency opponents defeating them 2-1 to claim the Jomik Cup and K3000 in cash prize.

Though both teams were evenly matched throughout the game, it was the Rataiku boys who had the last laugh, leaving Konga 1 going home with the runners-up title and a cash prize of K2000.

In the third and fourth playoffs, Ruhwaku 2 proved their critics wrong by defeating Wantoks 2-1.

Ruhwaku 2 also pocketed K1500, while Wantoks netted K800.

The weeklong tournament which had attracted a total of fourteen teams was sponsored by one of Bougainville's leading business company, Jomik Limited.

The next tournament is expected to be held in 2015

19.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville gear up for PNG Games

By FABIAN HAKALITS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation (ABSF) has assured that team Bougainville is ready to participate in this year's PNG Games to be held in East New Britain.

ABSF secretary Robert Semoso said that plans and preparations are underway, which aims to build the athletes of team Bougainville.

"We have finalised selections however within the remaining months before the games, we will run tournaments in each district. This is to make sure, a competent team is send to defend the title team Bougainville has won," he said.

He said Bougainville is expected to send a contingent of 4000 athletes and technical officials. Athletes will compete in 17 codes.

Semoso further said to make it work, ABSF will focus in developing individual codes, emphasising on training level.

"In the last PNG Games held at Port Moresby in 2009, team Bougainville finished fifth on the ladder with very high performance. This year we would like to move further up," he said.

"Affiliation fee of K500 was approved and has to be paid by each code before April this year."

He added ABSF will not tolerate any late payments.

In the meantime, Semoso said ABSF has budgeted K800,000 for the PNG Games.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has allocated K500,000 while there is still a shortfall of K300,000.

Semoso called on all business houses to support team Bougainville.

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Source: Post-Courier

Sir Michael demands PM seat

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday pulled a stunner when he made an unexpected entry onto the floor of Parliament and presented a petition demanding vacation of the Prime Minister's seat.

Sir Michael, backed by the referrer of the Supreme Court Reference, Governor of East Sepik, Peter Wararu and a member of his constituency, Tony Aimo walked into the Chamber of

Parliament while NCD Governor Powes Parkop was asking a question to the Agriculture minister Sir Puka Temu on the issue of the Indonesian rice monopoly in PNG.

Bulolo MP Sam Basil was the first MP to raise a point of order when Sir Michael walked in tailed by Kairuku Hiri MP Paru Aihi, Nipa Kutubu MP Philemon Embel, Pomio MP Paul Tiensten, Nawaeb MP Timothy Bonga and Middle Ramu Ben Semri. "Mr Speaker, there's a point of order here, I think we have a stranger in the floor of Parliament here," Mr Basil said.

"Take him out, there is a process to follow here and," his voice buried amongst the screams from his fellow MPs yelling at Sir Michael to get out with his team.

Confusion reigned with everybody screaming from all corners of the Chambers for Sir Michael and his team to get out of the Parliament Chambers, some even alluding to some of the team members as "conmen".

Deputy Speaker Francis Marus made several orders for silence but his voice was buried among the shouting politicians in the chamber.

He repeatedly announced the dismissal of Sir Michael as an MP but voices from the back benchers and MPs present took precedence. "I will stand by Speaker Nape, therefore I will ask the Grand Chief Sir Michael to leave the chambers," he said eventually suspending the Parliament to 10 am today.

Sir Michael and his team stressed yesterday that they will continue to be in the chambers to petition the Speaker until the Supreme Court decision of December 12 is enforced.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill had a show of strength before responding to the saga by holding a press conference at the State function room.

He told the nation that Sir Michael, being the oldest MP in the history of politics in PNG "breached the code of ethics" as a leader and his actions were "acts of desperation".

"This is a shameful act! He is no longer a member of Parliament...and Arthur Somare, cannot enter Parliament because he's on suspension," Mr O'Neill said.

The Grand Chief on Tuesday visited the Speaker of Parliament Jeffery Nape to urge him to comply with the Supreme Court Order of December 12, 2011.

Sir Michael called on Mr Nape to allocate seats in parliament so his members could take their rightful seats in compliance with Order number 3, 4 and 6 of the Supreme Court Order.

But late yesterday afternoon Prime Minister's Media Unit sent out a statement to advise that a major announcement will be made on the floor of Parliament this morning.

"This is to inform all respective newsrooms that a major announcement regarding parliament and constitutional processes will be made on the floor of parliament from the office of the Speaker tomorrow morning," the notice said.

19.01.2012

Source: The National

Somare's visit disrupts house

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

THE row over who the legitimate government is came to a head in parliament yesterday after Sir Michael Somare made an unannounced appearance.

It triggered off a heated exchange of words with MPs loyal to Peter O'Neill as Sir Michael walked up to the speaker's chair to deliver a copy of the Supreme Court order of Dec 12.

The court order had restored Sir Michael as prime minister.

The confrontation forced Deputy Speaker Francis Marus to suspend the sitting after he ordered Sir Michael to leave the parliamentary chamber.

The heated exchanges included one in which Kerowagi MP Guma Wau called Nawaeb MP Timothy Bonga a criminal. Wau pointed a finger at Bonga and challenged him to a fight. But he was stopped by other MPs.

Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah shouted across the floor to remove the “stranger” (Sir Michael) who he claimed was no longer an MP.

The session started with the morning prayer and Question Time.

NCD Governor Powes Parkop was directing questions at Agriculture Minister Sir Puka Temu on the Trukai rice advertisement on another rice firm that wanted to take over a monopoly over rice production and supply.

It was then that Sir Michael and his group came into the chamber, stood at the back until Parkop completed his questions.

Sir Michael’s group of about 20 MPs then walked to the speaker’s chair where Sir Michael presented the court order.

Bulolo MP Sam Basil raised a point of order that there was a “stranger” on the floor. Sir Michael replied: “Who is the stranger?”

Sir Michael later told the media that the move was to petition the speaker to enforce the Supreme Court ruling in allocating his government members their rightful seats in parliament.

He said he was not a “stranger” after winning nine general elections and serving 44 uninterrupted years as the member for East Sepik.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sir Michael visited the Speaker of Parliament, Jeffery Nape, to urge him to comply with the Supreme Court order of Dec 12, 2011.

He said his group was making a point that they were MPs who should be allocated their rightful places in the house.

Sir Michael was accompanied by the referrer of the Supreme Court reference, East Sepik Governor Peter Wararu and a member of his constituency, Tony Aimo, into the parliamentary chamber.

He said his members merely followed parliamentary procedures by petitioning the acting speaker with the court order so that parliament could comply with.

Prime Minister Peter O’Neill described the action of Sir Michael and his followers as “disgraceful and disrespectful”.

“There are a handful of MPs who stubbornly use the old man in that manner for their own political gain,” O’Neill said.

“You cannot serve court orders in parliament and it is disgraceful because parliament is a separate arm of government.”

19.01.2012

Source: The National

O’Neill warns Somare of arrest

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill has warned that leaders who bring shame to parliament will face contempt of parliament charges.

“If (Sir Michael Somare) continues to disrupt parliament, he will be arrested.

“Sir Michael is not above the law,” O’Neill said yesterday following a surprise visit to the chamber by Sir Michael and a group of MPs.

O’Neill indicated that Speaker Jeffery Nape would tighten up security in parliament to ensure such a “disgraceful and shameful act is not repeated again”.

He made the comment after the Somare group promised to interrupt parliament for the rest of this month until they were allocated their “rightful” seats by Nape.

“I call on (Sir Michael Somare) to stop this act of desperation. He must respect the fact that he led the government with a majority and a lot of members have left because they no longer have faith in him,” O’Neill said.

He said parliament’s business was disrupted by “this shameful act and the Grand Chief must realise that he is no longer a member of parliament”.

He said suspended MP Arthur Somare was in the chamber too which was illegal.

"This kind of behaviour goes to show that they think they own this parliament," O'Neill said.

"The general election is three months away and I ask them to go back to the people to seek their mandate."

O'Neill said many MPs on the Somare side did not condone the antics in parliament yesterday.

"They are trying to sabotage parliament.

"They will be dealt with through the parliamentary process. I urge them to think before involving in such acts."

O'Neill urged the two factions to work together, including getting one of Somare's MPs to move a motion to rescind the motion to disqualify the Grand Chief for him to return to parliament.

He said the Supreme Court decision of Dec 12 had been superseded by events in parliament and, if the Grand Chief wanted to challenge that, "he can go back to court".

"The acts played out on the floor of parliament are to get attention at any cost, even to the country.

"I am sure the speaker will make necessary security arrangements."

18.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Somare ordered out of parliament

VIDEO from Australia Network News

18.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Somare ejected from parliament

Liam Fox, Papua New Guinea

One of the men claiming to be Papua New Guinea's prime minister has been ejected from parliament amid chaotic scenes.

Sir Michael Somare and several of his supporters appeared in the chamber and called on the deputy speaker to give him a seat.

He was brandishing last month's order by the Supreme Court for his reinstatement both as the prime minister and as a member of parliament.

Somare lost his position in parliament after missing too many sessions while receiving medical treatment overseas.

He later went to the Supreme Court to challenge that decision.

But the deputy speaker said he stood by parliament's decision to eject Sir Michael and told him to leave the chamber.

Supporters of Sir Michael's opponent Peter O'Neill shouted "stranger" and "get out" before parliament was adjourned.

Despite the court order Mr O'Neill remains the effective Prime Minister with the support of the police, defence force, public service and most MPs.

18.01.2012

Source: Panguna Landowners / ESBC Research

New Deal !

Referring to acting ABG president Patrick Nisira's statement in the Post-Courier on January 17th, 2012 (scroll down to find out!) the ESBC are proud to present the reviewed version of the latest landowner proposal.

The ESBC appreciate that the document called "New Deal" was published in time. It is supposed to be discussed soon after ABG President John Momis returns to Buka within the next days. This is in preparation of the Joint Supervisory Board (JSB) meeting in Buka and the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Arawa next month. The ESBC expect the paper to be crucial for the re-opening of the Panguna mine.



Please click here to read the original version as PDF file:

18.01.2012

Source: Copper Investing News

Copper Shrugs Off Europe Downgrades with Eyes on China

By Shihoko Goto

After an initial knee-jerk reaction to sell on Standard & Poor's [2] decision to downgrade the ratings of nine Eurozone countries last Friday, commodities traders appear subsequently to have taken the credit rating agency's pronouncements in stride. What's more, many investors expect the commodities markets to be resilient enough to any further European government bond downgrades by agencies they expect emerging economies to be the driving force to determine base metal demand.

Prior to January 13, there had been much speculation that S&P would downgrade a number of European countries, so Friday's announcement caught few completely off-guard. Still, the fact that both France and Austria lost their AAA rating by one level to AA plus, while Italy, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus were cut back by two steps and Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia were downgraded by one level increasing selling pressure on global markets. The price of copper, for instance, fell nearly 1 percent following the news.

Still, the fact that copper has gained over 2 percent even after S&P cut its rating of the European Financial Stability Facility [3] from AAA to AA plus on Monday January 16 speaks volumes about how market players have already factored in the persisting economic weakness across Europe, according to some investors. Instead, they are focused more on how developing countries will continue to drive up demand for commodities, especially China.

"Europe could implode... but that (scenario) has been discarded," said Michael Cohn, founder and chief investment strategist at New York-based Global Arena Investment Management [4]. He added that while the global economy could face a "Lehman moment number two" that would depress growth worldwide, that appears to be unlikely for now, and the odds are that demand for raw materials in particular will be driven by China and other emerging markets, and there is "very little that would derail that" over the next decade.

Certainly, market eyes are on Beijing's next moves as commodities across the board are gaining ground on hopes that the government will lower interest rates in order to stimulate the economy. Tuesday, China's National Bureau of Statistics [5] reported that the country's economy grew at its slowest pace in over two years in 2011 as exports fell, the real estate market took a hard hit, and banks tightened credit. Speculation is therefore rising that the central bank could ease monetary policy as a means to jump-start the economy. That, in turn, would encourage greater industrial

output and demand for copper as well as other materials in a country that accounts for about 40 percent of the world's total consumption of the red metal.

In fact, mining shares including Freeport-McMoRan [6] (NYSE:FCX [7]) and Southern Copper [8] (NYSE:SCCO [9]) are gaining ground even as European leaders continue to downplay the significance of S&P's downgrades. Moreover, S&P's rivals Moody's [10] and Fitch [11] have both kept their top rating for France, giving greater confidence to investors that Europe's financial woes can be overcome in the longer-term, even though the continent is likely to continue being mired with debt issues for the foreseeable future.

"Copper is going to stay relatively stable," Cohn said, especially as China will need to keep its economy growing at a steady clip of around 8 percent in order to ensure economic security. Beijing simply "can't afford to stop that trajectory."

Junior copper mining groups could therefore be heartened that any continued downturn in Europe's growth is likely to be offset by China's continued expansion.

Shihoko Goto, have no interests in the companies mentioned in this article.

18.01.2012

Source: The Nation

Missing billions-State funds stolen through corruption

ALMOST K1 billion of public funds goes down the drain annually because of widespread corruption, it has been revealed.

During a debate in parliament on the first national anti-corruption strategy 2010-30, Public Service Minister Bart Philemon stressed that if nothing was done to address the problem now, the government would continue to lose that much money each year.



Government agencies have over the years conducted investigations and inquiries into the misappropriation of public funds but nothing had been done to effectively address corruption, Philemon said.

Because of this, he said, the national wealth had failed to trickle down to the people - despite the billions of surplus money in government.

He told parliament that there had been unequal and inefficient distribution of services although there had been a record budget of K60 billion in the past nine years.

He said corruption was worse than the killer disease HIV/AIDS because it affected everyone in society while the latter affected only individuals.

Philemon said the way to address corruption was at the top "and come down gradually to the bottom".

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill introduced in parliament the 20-year strategy which set out a clear pathway to address corruption in PNG.

"Yet there is common agreement that despite efforts to eradicate it, corruption continues to run unabated and is doing inexorable harm to the very fabric of the PNG society," he said.

"Influential reports from both the PNG government and independent sources show clearly that corruption is no longer sporadic, isolated to certain segments of the community and institutions. Rather corruption appears to be more systematic and endemic."

For example in 2010, the Public Accounts Committee reported that it had made inquiry into 1,000 agencies, each examined from 2003 to 2008.

The findings showed that the management and accountability of public servants and the government had collapsed miserably.

Overall, there had been a rise both in terms of the number and frequency of corruption and bad governance practices as shown by the investigations of a range of inquiries by government and the public accounts committee, auditor general and Ombudsman Commission.

“This is both frightening and worrisome and should elicit the attention of both citizens and authorities at all levels,” he said.

He said corruption and bad governance tended to feature prominently in areas that included:

- qQuestionable and dishonest conduct which undermines and questions the personal integrity of those who are in position of trust and authority;

- qThe use of bribery to acquire preferential service or treatment;

- qTheft of public money and illegal acquisition of assets by abusing one’s position of authority;

- qDisregard and by-passing officially sanctioned process to acquire a service or select appointees;

- qLack of compliance with the Public Finance Management Act including breaching of procurement process;

- qConflict of interest in public decision making; and

- qNepotism, resulting in recruitment and retention of unqualified staff.

He said corruption also existed in the private sector which had often been implicated in corrupt procurement processes.

“Companies will pay bribes or rely on contact to rig tenders,” he said.

“Additionally, with PNG’s wealth of natural resources, while of great potential benefits to citizens, at the same time have opened up huge opportunities for corruption.

“Corruption in how revenues from natural resource extraction activities are collected and distributed is a huge problem.’

O’Neill said PNG could not afford to pay for the cost of corruption and by extension, bad governance.

“Loss arising from thefts and siphoning off of financial resources, poor policy making and weak transparency and accountability have already placed heavy toll on the delivery of services to our people and the political and economic governance of the country at all levels.”

He said the anti-corruption strategy was not only about criminalising corrupt conduct but more importantly preventative measures in educating youths and children about the dangers of corruption

18.01.2012

Source: The Nation

Somare is evil, says Polye

FINANCE Minister Don Polye (picture) has described Sir Michael Somare as an “evil” man.

Polye, the Kandep MP, told reporters in Mt Hagen that Somare was good in destroying young vibrant leaders and suppressing them.



He claimed that Sir Michael used highlands leaders as the “perfect football to play around with” without the leaders themselves knowing.

He gave as an example of Wabag MP Sam Abal who Sir Michael had appointed as deputy prime minister. Likewise, he used Governor Anderson Agiru to try to destroy Peter O’Neill, Polye said.

Polye accused Sir Michael of blocking the late Sir Tei Abal, father of Sam Abal, from becoming prime minister even though he had the numbers.

He did the same thing to Sir Imbakey Okuk and other leaders from the highlands, Polye said.

“Cutting and chopping young leaders for hidden motives is undemocratic and evil.”

Polye warned those in the Somare camp that Sir Michael would not groom or mould a young vibrant leader to lead the country.

Polye wanted to destroy the evil in the National Alliance by de-registering the party and forming a new one.

18.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Fr Kiaku begins 'Heaven's Angels'

IN Australia and the United States they have what is known as "Hells Angels" they are bikey gangs who travel far and wide. You just don't want to get near to or be involved with them because they are bad. But in Bougainville we have the answer "Heaven's Angels".

A Catholic priest stationed in the Siwai District of South Bougainville can now easily carry out his pastoral visits to the rural and isolated communities following the donation of a new motorbike by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

Fr Dominic Kiaku, who is the parish priest of Monoitu parish, was given the motorbike after Mr Kamma saw that the priest was facing transport difficulties visiting the Monoitu parishioners who live many kilometres away from the Monoitu area. The motorbike, which was bought at a cost of about K16,000 was presented to Fr Kiaku by Mr Kamma early this year. Thanks to Mr Kamma, "Heaven's Angels" will begin a new chapter in Bougainville with Fr Kiaku being the first and founding member while more will be called to join to spread His Good News.



18.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Boat runs over man

By ALEX MUNME

AN elderly man was admitted to the Buka General Hospital after a boat ran over him last Saturday morning at sea near Bei village, Peit constituency on Buka Island.

James Mami aged 59yrs from Bei village was out fishing with other fishermen from the same village when he was involved in the accident.

The incident occurred between nine and ten o'clock in the morning when a Bougainville Police Service boat ran over him while travelling to Buka from Nissan Island, breaking his canoe into pieces and causing injury to several parts of his body.

The boat was on a Care International arranged run with members of the organisation and the skipper was a civilian who was hired by the police because of his local knowledge on the route and waters.

The victim was unable to answer any questions when we visited him late on Monday afternoon as he was still recovering from the incident.

Bougainville Police Service Sgt Emmart Tsimes when confirming the incident said full investigation will be carried out to determine the actual cause of it.

Meanwhile relatives of the victim turned up with three truck loads at the Buka Police station on Saturday afternoon to demand compensation but were told to come up with a dialogue peacefully before anything is done to settle the problem.

18.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Council of Elders elections writs issued

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE long awaited Council of Elders elections on Bougainville will now be on, after the writs were officially issued on Monday.

The issue of writs were signed by Local level Governments ABG minister Joseph Nopei and returning officer Sione Nash and witnessed by LLG CEO Herbert Kimai and Electoral boss on Bougainville Reitama Taravaru.

Also there to witness the signing were members of the media and other staff from the LLG and electoral offices in Buka.

“It is now very much appreciated when the long awaited COE elections have arrived, a lot of people have been complaining to the government about it,” Minister Nopei said.

He said the elections would also cover the remote atolls mainland of Bougainville and also will include the Arawa and Buka town councils.

“The election manager Reitama Taravaru will be conducting the polls and the nominations are open now and will close next Tuesday.” he said.

17.01.2012

Source: Bloomberg

Copper Rises to 16-Week High on Chinese Outlook, Rio Output Drop

Copper rose to a 16-week high on speculation that the government will seek to spur economic growth in China, the world's biggest consumer, amid signs of tighter global supplies.

China's economy expanded at the slowest pace in 10 quarters, signaling the government may ease lending curbs and increase spending, bolstering demand prospects. Output of mined copper slid 23 percent last year from 2010, Rio Tinto Group, the world's third-largest mining company, said today.

“As long as there's the threat of a slowdown, the pressure will be there for China to stimulate the economy,” Dennis Cajigas, a senior market strategist at Zaner Group in Chicago, said in a telephone interview. The Rio Tinto “figures are a factor as well,” he said.

Copper futures for March delivery gained 2.5 percent to settle at \$3.7295 a pound at 1:19 p.m. on the Comex in New York, after reaching \$3.759, the highest for a most-active contract since Sept. 21.

On the London Metal Exchange, copper for delivery in three months rose 1.4 percent to \$8,200 a metric ton (\$3.72 a pound).

The price may climb to \$9,000 in the middle of the year, partly on rising Chinese demand, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said yesterday.

Copper inventories monitored by the LME declined for the 10th straight session to 353,425 tons, the lowest since Dec. 14, 2010.

Aluminum, zinc, lead, nickel and tin also advanced in London.

Editors: Steve Stroth, Patrick McKiernan

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To contact the editor responsible for this story: Steve Stroth at ssstroth@bloomberg.net

17.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUNUA POLICE GET VEHICLE

WORK on maintaining law and order at Kunua in North Bougainville has been made easier with the presentation of a vehicle by Member for North Bougainville Lautu Atoi.

In officially handing the key to the vehicle to ABG minister for Local Level Government, Traditional Authorities and Communications Joseph Nopei today, Atoi said he was pleased to be doing what little he can to boost the work of the Bougainville Police Service.

He said in order for any development to take place and for an efficient delivery of goods and services to the people, law and order must be upheld.

He added that having a vehicle would increase police mobility and flexibility into areas once inaccessible to rural based police personnel.

Atoi called on the politicians, business and community stakeholders to work together in supporting the work of the police in Bougainville.

17.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New pact for Panguna mine

By PETERSON TSERAHA

The re-entry into Panguna by any best bidder or Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) can be made possible by the end of 2012 according to ABG vice president and now acting president Patrick Nisira (picture below) .



The ABG by March this year wants to see positive progress for negotiations for a totally new agreement for Panguna mine which will replace the old Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA). The old agreement was done without genuine consent from landowners, Mr Nisira said.

The BCA is widely considered in Bougainville as foreign and counterproductive to the common interest and welfare of the people including the autonomy arrangements they have with the national government of PNG, he said.

Mr.Nisira made the remarks while addressing the executives of the Rorovana-Uruava land owners association on the future of the Panguna mine and the Loloho port facilities which comes directly under the care of the Rorovana- Uruava landowners.

“After one and a half years of consultations with various landowner groups in Panguna, Bana, and Rorovana including former combatants from all sides, and after listening to our people through their elected representatives in the Bougainville house of representatives, the council of elders throughout the Bougainville region on the mining issue, I want to see negotiations with the government of Papua New Guinea and maybe BCL commence in March this year, especially negotiations that will help kick start the mining activities in Panguna by a reputable mining company.” Mr Nisira said. The Panguna mine and mining on Bougainville has been an agenda between the ABG and the National government since 2005.

"We have been procrastinated for too long and that is not good for the region." Mr.Nisira said. "We in the ABG have helped establish the respective mine lease associations in the mine affected areas, we have strengthened capacity in our mining division, we have established peace and good order in Panguna and the mine affected areas through continued dialogue with the Mekamui leaders, the MDF, the respective council of elders, we will soon complete these processes through the election of one umbrella association." Mr.Nisira said. "The official position of the BCA review is that we do not want to review the Bougainville Copper agreement, it is old outdated agreement with no Bougainvillean input." Mr Nisira said. "The mining industry has moved on and landowners have developed new ways of dealing with governments and mining companies things are no longer the same." he said.

17.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill to visit Bougainville

PAPUA New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Cabinet Ministers are expected in Bougainville in February for two very important meetings.

Mr O'Neill announced yesterday that the National Government will hold its first ever Cabinet meeting in Arawa in February.

But before that, the Joint Supervisory Body meeting, the avenue that sees the National Government and Bougainville leaders iron out issues pertaining to Bougainville moving forward, will be held in Buka.

The Joint Supervisory Board meeting was scheduled for in Buka on December 5, (three days before the Supreme Court Decision was handed down on the validity of the O'Neill-Namah Government) last year, while the NEC was scheduled for Arawa in January this year.

O'Neill yesterday said that plans are now being undertaken and all parties have been instructed to have ABG in preparation for the scheduled meeting in Arawa next month.

He said that he was looking forward to meeting with the landowners of the Panguna mine in Arawa and the people of Bougainville.

"NEC will be held in Arawa in February and I am very much looking forward to meeting with the landowners," Mr O'Neill said.

"You see, the people of Bougainville are now much happier because there is a government in place that is helping them."

O'Neill said that the National Government was more committed to Bougainville especially having released the K100 million in this year's National Budget and pumping money for the Kokopau-Arawa highway including the repair and maintenance of roads in Buka town .

15.01.2012

Source: PNGExposed

Days of Public Satirical Reckoning ?

Read and watch here the embarrassing outcome when an elder statesman dismantles his own image and becomes a compliant tool of his greedy and unscrupulous family:

Treason, sedition and the attempted Coup-De-Tat conspiracy from the Chief Justice to the Somare Court

Submitted anonymously

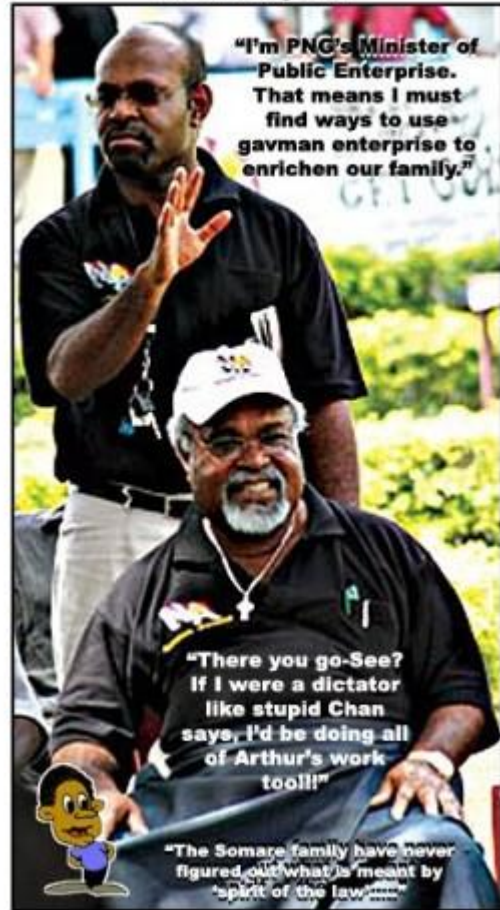
Summarized below are my opinions regarding our recent political impasse.

Gathering from all letters published, I note with interest and disappointment that while Papua New Guineans focused on the constitutionality of O'Neil Government not one single writer learned or otherwise discussed the true story of the bigger picture, the web of conspiracy and treason from the Supreme Court's Bench, to the legal team, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, the Somare Attorney General, the Somare Ministers and their high ranking officers.

The Supreme Court's Decision on the unconstitutionality of the then O'Neil Government was correct, however the Supreme Court Decision regarding Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as PM was wrong and not in the spirit of the constitution. In anticipation of the constitution impasse, the majority of MPs in parliament moved to appoint a new Prime Minister correctly.

Supreme Court in 1987 had set a Precedent declaring as unconstitutional Prime Minister Pius Wingti's rushed appointment by parliament and duly noted that the Supreme Court had no powers to appoint a Prime Minister. The Chief Ombudsman Commissioner too stated quite clearly that the Constitution is clear on separation of powers between the 3 arms of government (the executive arm, the legislature and the judiciary) each having no power to interfere with each other's processes. UPNG Family law specialist Dr luluaki's poor attempt to discuss the constitutional issues published in three parts in the National Newspaper, deliberately omitted many important issues and previous decisions such as this to misguide the readers.

Somare Family Straightens Out a Common Misconception



The Somare Team



The handing down of the Supreme Court Decision was the first phase in the Coup-De-Tat Conspirators' plan. The declaration of unconstitutionality of the O'Neil government was correct, but on the bench Chief Justice automatically created a Junta of three judges in an attempted judicial coup-de-tat by declaring Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare Prime Minister (ignoring the previous Supreme Court's Wingti Precedent). In the

next phase the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and his Attorney General Sir Arnold Amett sprung into action ordering the PNGDF to move in, while Somare Minister Aimo ordered the CIS special ops team at Bomana and certain Somare Ministers ordered RPNGC mobile units around the country to converge on Port Moresby to support Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare usurp power from the O'Neil majority government only to be refused permission by sane regional

Assistant Police Commissioners, the CIS Commissioner and the PNGDF Chief. The conspiracy was well thought out and planned by quite highly educated Papua New Guineans.

The continued solidarity of the majority of MPs in parliament and the prevailing sanity amongst service chiefs and the majority of service rank and file to leave politics to the politicians saved the Papua New Guinea. We narrowly missed a military coup after the Judicial Junta's Coup-de-tat.

This is indeed a very serious matter and a Commission of Inquiry must to be set up by the Ombudsman Commission now to investigate the extent of this web of treasonable and sedition actions from the Chief Justice and his Junta to the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and his ministers, lawyers and officers in this attempted coup-de-tat at the Judicial and political levels during a political impasse. Appropriate laws or constitutional changes to prevent this from happening again must be proposed, discussed by public and parliament and enacted.

The Supreme Court has lost serious credibility and must regain its lost standing through resignation of the Chief Justice and the other two Junta members and their arrest and charge for Treason and sedition

“No reason at all why PNG can't become like the Zimbabwe dictatorship.”



I congratulate all the officers and personnel of the RPNGC, the PNGDF and CIS on standing steadfast to their roles in their services and left politics to the politicians. And I congratulate the people of Papua New Guinea on our handling of our “monkey” politics with both tolerance and humor. We the people have set a precedent for our future.

I wish everybody a Happy New Year!

13.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aliens in PNG

PAPUA New Guinea does not have the capacity to monitor and clamp down on illegal immigrants entering the country.

Government authorities say the problem is huge and complex as the illegal immigrants are entering through sea ports in the provinces where there is very little or no processing facilities.

Immigration and Foreign Affairs office including Customs this week told the Post-Courier that the issue has gone out of hand because of the fact that duties have been compromised, no facilities and resources to tackle the problem and those involved have already widely established themselves and working with elite leaders and MPs in the country as partners.

The country's spy office, the National Intelligence Organisation is the worst affected because there is very little or no resources and funding to handle the task of maintaining the illegal immigrants coming into PNG.

Documents obtained by the Post-Courier details that there were allegedly three Asian triads operating in the country with their heads already into major businesses throughout PNG. The obvious according to the papers obtained include the "snake head", the "dragon" and the "scorpion" all of whom have established businesses in the field of real estate, hotels, restaurants, security companies, and the apparent, human trafficking across PNG since the 1990s.

The documents detail that an estimate of 11,000 Asians entered every five years and since the 1990 an estimate of more than 30,000 are "floating", "squatting" and working illegally in places throughout Papua New Guinea. According to the papers, they have established businesses in Port Moresby, Oro, Mount Hagen, Lae, Gulf, Kimbe, East New Britain, Goroka, the Highlands Region, Milne Bay, New Ireland, Madang, Wewak, Vanimo, **Bougainville** and Manus Island.

"We have lost control of the issue of immigrants coming into the country as early as 10 years ago. It's not because we cannot handle it, it's because we do not have the resources and finance to tackle the issue very effectively," immigration officials told the Post-Courier. You see, some of these people have already become naturalised citizens and some have become permanent residents overnight while others are full time citizens of PNG."

"We have done our best in years, we have done our duties of recommending to the Government for responsible authorities to deport those heading these triads but it has become very hard because our PNG system has already crippled onto them...by this I mean they have PNG connections and these men and women are also dealing with elite leaders of these country," Government's spy office said yesterday.

"One big problem we have is the inability of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigrations to communicate with law enforcement agencies, and over the years this has posed a serious threat to Papua New Guinea's national security. It's one thing when we talking about the national security issues relating to visas, citizenship and migration matters where it is not communicated effectively."

13.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

NIP man is K10,000 richer in Bougainville

A NEW Ireland man in Bouganville won the K10,000 Digicel's New Year Santa SMS Promotion Johnson Esau had been announced as the top cash prize winner of Digicel's 'New Year Santa SMS' Promotion in Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Mr Esau, an account manager with Wilkins, sub-contracting to South Bougainville Engineering has taken out K10,000 after playing the game and was ranked number one in the SMS game. He said that he was really overjoyed when he discovered that he had won K10,000 because he usually participates in Digicel's promotional SMS games and this is my first time to win.

Mr Esau said that he was not too sure about his win at first until he received a call from Digicel confirming that he was the top prize winner and when asked what he plans to do with the money, he said he would buy some house building materials and also celebrate with his friends.

Digicel's operations director-Lorna McPherson congratulated Johnson on his win and said that Digicel was delighted to continue its prize giveaways to reward another one of its wonderful customer and hope the money goes a long way in helping him and his family.

Meanwhile, the second ranked customer title was awarded to Leo Vali from Mendi in the Southern Highlands Province.

Leo was rewarded a cash prize of K5000 while minor prizes included instant K1 free credits.

The 'New Year Santa SMS promotion' was launched on the 28th of December, 2011 and ended on the midnight of January 8 this year.

The promotion allowed subscribers to search and collect Santa's lost Christmas goodies from their mobile phone by sending the keyword "Santa" to short code 204

13.01.2011

Source: Islands Business

Cover Report: Fragile islands economies in for a tough ride

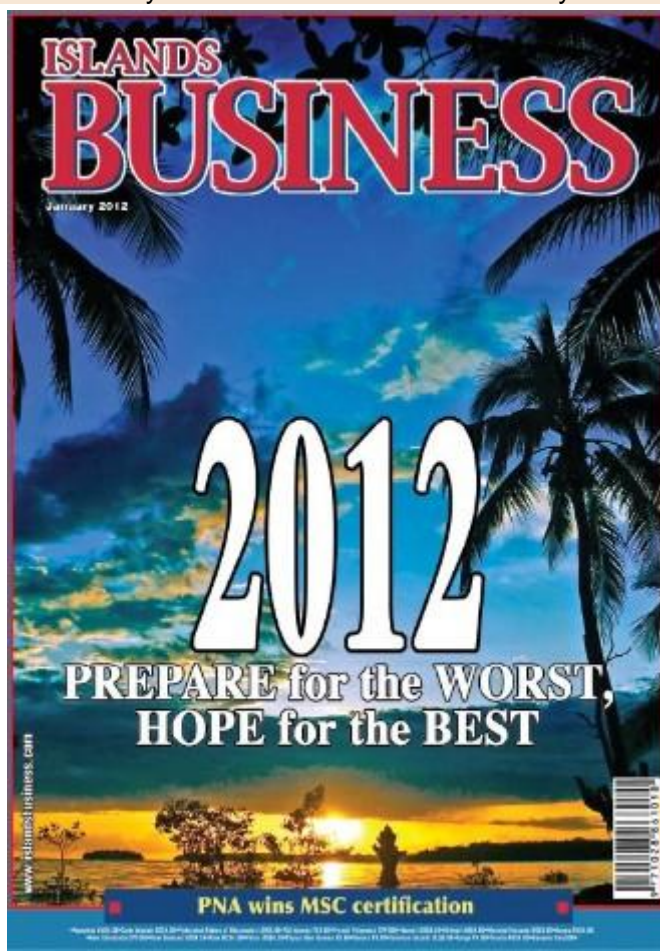
by Dr Satish Chand

Forecasting the shape of the economies in 2012 is tough and particularly so given the volatile global markets.

Stock markets in the major markets have bounced around like a yoyo for the past several months. The Australian dollar, one of the anchors for several Pacific Islands currencies, has swayed like a coconut palm caught in a violent tropical cyclone. It has been above parity with the US dollar one day and down the other.

The volatility in the financial markets are likely to last for more than just one year given that the indigestion from the large debt problems faced by several rich nations will take a long time to work its way through the system.

Here, I look at how the developments in the international economy are likely to affect someone from the islands.



Pensioners beware!

It is time to be prepared and not to panic. If you are formally retired or likely to do so in the next few years, then some caution with your finances are warranted.

Pension funds have historically delivered dividends upwards of six percent. These returns are unlikely to be delivered in 2012. Consequently, the payouts from your pension fund could be trimmed back. Particularly worrying are the cases of pension funds already in financial strife.

The case of the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) is instructive on this count. FNPF is slipping into insolvency (i.e. where the value of current liabilities exceeds the value of assets).

It needs an injection of around half a billion Fijian dollars to make it solvent. Finding this sum in the current uncertain environment will be costly.

FNPF is in the process of trimming down pension payments from the prevailing 15 percent of equity to 8.7 percent which is to take effect from March 1, 2012. This amounts to a drop in income of a retiree dependent on FNPF of 42 percent. It will hurt, particularly in a climate of high inflation and in a situation where there are no other sources of income.

The capacity to replenish income falls with age and when medical expenses are likely to rise. So pensioners, beware!

Watch PNG, politics, and public debt

Politics in PNG has been volatile the past month. Elections mid-year are likely to only make matters worse. Credit to several large resource projects, the economy remains buoyant and resilient. ExxonMobil is leading the way with an investment of \$15.7 billion in a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project which is due to commence production in 2014.

Rio Tinto has commenced discussions on the reopening of its mammoth (and mothballed) copper and gold Panguna mine on Bougainville.

Construction is planned to commence in 2016 and production to start three years later. Should these plans materialise, PNG will get a lot of wind in its sails to carry the nation through the rough waters of the global financial storm.

PNG will need a lot of workers in the construction phase of its many mines. As the largest Pacific islands economy, PNG is in a position to provide jobs for many Pacific Islanders.

Some fine-tuning of visa laws may be necessary to help ease the flow of workers from the region. The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) provides for visa-free entry into PNG from Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Why not extend this to other Pacific islanders and for their skilled people particularly?

PNG provides room for optimism but not the reason for complacency. Demand for exports from the region can slump due to problems in Europe and North America.

The Chinese economy continues to power ahead. This is a major reason for the healthy prices for commodities exported from both Australia and PNG.

What if China falters? The above is possible given that a significant proportion of the demand for Chinese manufactures originates from Europe and America.

A slowdown in the global economy will ripple through to the Pacific through dampened demand for commodities and a slowdown in the inflows of remittances and tourists.

Budget deficits and rising public debt in a number of the Pacific islands will force expenditure cuts. The case of Cook Islands is instructive on this count. Standard and Poor's, an international ratings agency, downgraded Cook Islands' bonds to B+ last month, placing it well below investment grade. Such downgrades will raise costs of borrowing.

The budgets of FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshalls and Tuvalu will feel the pinch as dividends from their trust funds fall. The Asian Development Bank reports that: "Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga are targeting smaller budget deficits in 2012, stepping back from higher deficits incurred due to fiscal stimulus or disaster recovery efforts". Others may have to tighten their fiscal belts too!

Final advice to rich world

The economic headwinds faced by much of the world originate from financial problems in the rich capitals. The best that the rich world can do is to sort out their financial mess. Doing it so quickly will help their own poor and the poor residing beyond their borders too.

In the meantime, the islanders would have to be prepared for the worst whilst hoping for the best.

12.01.2011

Source: Bloomberg Business Week

Copper May Rise as Much as 25% in Second Half, Mizuho Says

By Jae Hur and Ichiro Suzuki

Copper prices may gain as much as 25 percent in the second half of this year on steady demand from China, the world's top consumer, amid tight supplies, according to Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd.

Prices of the metal, used in pipes, tubes and wires, will climb to as high as \$9,500 a metric ton from last year's close of \$7,600, said Yuka Kageyama, a commodity derivatives analyst at the bank, a unit of Mizuho Financial Group Inc., Japan's second-largest bank by assets.

The London Metal Exchange LME Index of six primary metals including copper and aluminum, fell 22 percent last year, the first drop in three years, as Europe's debt crisis widened. Yields on two-year Greek debt surged to 152 percent last month, compared with 0.29 percent for Treasuries of a similar maturity. China's inflation cooled to a 15-month low and producer-price gains were the smallest in two years in December, leaving the government more room to support growth.

"The European debt-crisis issues will be the key for most commodities this year," Kageyama said in an interview yesterday. "We expect that China may ease its monetary policies in the first half and Europe's problems may recede later this year, paving the way for a rally among base metals as supplies will remain tight."

LME Stockpiles

Dwindling stockpiles at LME warehouses will also provide support for copper, she said. Prices may decline as low as \$6,500 a ton with an average price of \$7,950 for 2012, the bank said in a January note to clients.

Orders to draw copper from LME warehouses, or canceled warrants, gained 24 percent to 50,000 tons on an increase in New Orleans. Inventories of the metal slipped 0.3 percent to 364,250 tons, the lowest level since Dec. 22, 2010, according to exchange data yesterday.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange rose 0.6 percent to \$7,830 a ton at 3:43 p.m. Tokyo time. The metal declined 21 percent last year and averaged \$8,164.50.

China's central bank may reduce reserve ratios in the first half, Helen Zhu, a strategist at Goldman Sachs Group Inc., said yesterday. China's copper imports rose to a record last month as Lunar New Year stockpiling and financing needs spurred buying.

Copper will average \$7,750 a ton in 2012 and \$7,313 in 2013, Michael Widmer, head of metals research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said in a weekly note on Jan. 9. The metal will average \$3.83 a pound (\$8,444 a ton) in 2012 and \$4.08 in 2013, Mark Pervan, head of commodity research at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd., said in a note yesterday.

China Smelters

For aluminum, output cutbacks, concern over China's power supply and higher oil prices will lend support and may push the metal as much as 19 percent higher to \$2,400 a ton this year from the end of last year. Production costs for aluminum are estimated at between \$2,000 and \$2,200 a ton, she said.

Chinese aluminum smelters may idle their annual capacity by one-third, the most in three years, as energy costs soar and prices slump. The country may produce almost 20 million tons and its capacity may be as much as 30 million tons by the end of this year, said Luo Rongjin, a Beijing-based analyst with Bocom International Holdings Co. Monthly output from China, the world's biggest producer, fell 8.3 percent in November from a record 1.6 million tons in August.

Alcoa Inc., Rio Tinto Group and their global rivals are cutting production after prices dropped 19 percent last year, curbing profits. Alcoa, the largest U.S. producer that reported its first loss in two years this week, said China may use 70 percent of its capacity in 2012.

12.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

More to say yello!

More proud Papua New Guineans get to say yello to loved ones around the country and abroad with Telikom PNG extending its 3G wireless network coverage into Buin and Bakawari in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville last December.

Local communities in Buin and Bakawari on the Island of Pokpok are keen to switch on their Citifons to experience the affordable rates offered by Telikom with many welcoming the service that will be beneficial to their day to day way of life.

Telikom chief executive officer – Peter Loko, acknowledged the financial assistance from the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Member for South Bougainville, Hon Steven Kamma for the tower installed in Buin in mid December last year.

“I want to thank all these leaders and on this occasion Hon Steven Kamma that has assisted Telikom to rollout rural communication into remote areas where the people need to travel and costly distances into town to get services.

“We are now into 2012 and Telikom PNG is still driven with the vision and mission to have every Papua New Guinea have access to a phone by 2020,” Mr Loko added.

The 3G network installed in these two localities will offer fixed wireless telephony, Citifon mobile and data services at affordable with Telikom urging customers to take advantage of the rates and utilize the service in the best way possible to bring development to their communities.

12.01.2012

Source: The National

Citifon launches 3G service in Bougainville

MORE Papua New Guineans have been able to say “yello” to loved ones since Telikom PNG extended its 3G wireless network coverage to Buin and Bakawari in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville last December.

Communities in Buin and Bakawari on the Island of Pokpok have been keen to switch on their Citifons for the affordable rates offered by Telikom.

Telikom chief executive officer Peter Loko thanked Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Member for South Bougainville Steven Kamma for installing a transmission tower in Buin last month.

“I want to thank all the leaders and on this occasion Kamma who has assisted Telikom to rollout rural communication into remote areas to bring services to the people.

“We are now into 2012 and Telikom PNG is still driven with the vision and mission to have every Papua New Guinea get access to a phone by 2020,” Loko added.

The 3G network installed in these two localities will offer fixed wireless telephony, Citifon mobile and data services at affordable rates.

Telikom had urged customers to take advantage of the rates and use the service to bring development to their communities.

Schools, public institutions, business houses and residents can look forward to hooking up to the internet that can help students access online libraries while small business entrepreneurs can extend their business network and find suppliers, Loko said.

11.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG departmentalization program progresses

PREPARATION is underway to implement phase one of the ABG process to departmentalize its administrative divisions this year.

ABG Finance and Treasury Albert Punghau says two million has been appropriated to fund phase one this year.

Phase one starts with the advertisement of fifteen senior executive positions in the new departmentalization structure.

Following the completion of phase one, phase two would be to draw up departmental structures and advertise priority departments and senior positions.

Chief Executive Officer of ABG Human Resource division Shem Satoriri said the departmentalizing of the Bougainville Administration into fourteen departments will form the basis to establish the foundation of the Bougainville Public Service.

Satoriri said the main reason for this is to align the administrative structure with Bougainville's unique political arrangements under autonomy.

He added that the reason also is to enhance effective collaboration between ABG departments and the national government departments on the draw down of powers from the state to ABG.

11.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ketsimur calls on Japan assistance

ABG minister for Works, Transport and Civil Aviation Carolus Ketsimur is appealing to the government and people of Japan to further their assistance to Bougainville.

In thanking them for assisting to build fifteen bridges throughout the North and Central Bougainville, Ketsimur asked that Japan continue with a program to build bridges across all the rivers along Bougainville's main trunk roads from North to South Bougainville.

Ketsimur said in the past the Japanese came to Bougainville in war that resulted in a lot of damage and destruction and loss of life.

He added that by providing K90 million to build the fifteen bridges, the government and people of Japan had proven their spirit of goodwill and cooperation.

He said Japan had contributed immensely to the autonomous region's reconstruction and national development.

Ketsimur also thanked workers from Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia who were contracted under Japanese company [Kitano Construction Limited](#) to build the fifteen bridges.

These bridges will be officially launched next month.

11.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Landowners thanked

WAKUNAI landowners at Central Bougainville have been thanked for allowing work to commence on the Iraka bridge which was officially opened on December 30 last year.

Speaking at the official ceremony ABG Minister for works, transport and civil aviation Carolus Ketsimur said the landowners agreed for a bridge to be built over Iraka river for the benefit of the people of Bougainville.

Ketsimur said the Wakunai landowners were able to put their differences aside and make sacrifices to allow work to commence without obstruction.

He also congratulated the landowners in the other fourteen project sites of which bridges are being built under a K90 million fund by the government and people of Japan for the people of Bougainville.

The total of fifteen bridges built by contractor company [Kitano Construction Limited](#) will be officially handed over to the ABG by the government of Japan next month.

11.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Chief System review

ABG minister for Local Level Government (LLG), Traditional Authorities and Communication Joseph Nopei says the Autonomous Bougainville Government supports the village chief system. He said this is evident in their decision to empower traditional leadership structure below the Council of Elders (COE) and village assembly level.

He said the ABG will empower the chiefs so that they will effectively deal with issues at the village level.

He said as the Autonomous Region of Bougainville moves towards autonomy and referendum in 2015, the ABG would like to ensure that the lower level of government are fully functional and operating effectively before 2015.

Nopei added that this was going to be very challenging but assured that work would start this year in conjunction with the review of the COE system.

11.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COE Review

BOUGAINVILLE Executive Council has approved a document that recommends strategic changes needed made to the current structure of the Council of Elders (COE).

The document called a "White paper on COE review" highlights issues on law, constitution, administrative and operational difficulties faced by the COEs since their establishment in 1996.

Some key recommendations were made based on feasibility study of the existing structure of the COEs conducted last year.

ABG Minister for Local Level Government (LLG), Traditional Authorities and Communication Joseph Nopei said he was excited about the changes that would happen at the COE level.

He said the changes would improve operations of the COEs and make the COEs work effectively to serve the people of Bougainville.

Nopei appealed to the people, the chairman and the members of the COEs to support the changes that would happen.

11.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kamma gives K1m for Bana roads

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kamma has made a commitment to the people of Sipi, Osiage, Pagawabo and Bakoram 2 in the Bana district of South Bougainville that he will be funding K1 million towards the upgrading and maintenance of their road this year.

The South Bougainville MP made the commitment when he visited the area on New Year's Day to present a cheque of K103, 610.80 to the youths of Sipi.

This payment was made to the youths for the pre-hand road construction work carried out on the 8km long Pope-Sipi road in 2009.

The Sipi youths, led by their chiefs and former combatants had decided to construct this new road using whatever tools they can lay their hands on after their numerous pleas for the construction of this new road had always been neglected by the past elected leaders of South Bougainville.

And because they were determined and eager to complete this road project, they decided to work day and night, starting at Pope primary school all the way up to Sikunansi village in the East Lamane area in the Bolave constituency.

During the cheque presentation ceremony Mr Kamma was deeply moved when he learnt that four people from the area had already died while shouldering goods from the main road up to Sipi.

As a result he made the commitment to fund K1m towards the construction and maintenance of the road.

Before presenting the cheque, Mr Kamma said he was happy to have travelled on this new road.

"I am happy to see this road. Though this road was not my initiative, I still allocated funding for the tremendous job you have done on this road.

"I will fund K1m this year to fix this road. As soon as I return to Port Moresby I will meet with the Minister for Finance Don Polye so we can source funding for this road," Mr Kamma said, resulting in the people cheering and thanking him for his generous commitment.

To show their appreciation for the funding, the people presented Mr Kamma with a live pig.

Apart from this commitment, Mr Kamma has also allocated funding for other projects in the Bana district. These include; Pope primary school-K100, 000. 00, Sianeki sub-health centre-K99, 188. 86, Keriau health centre-K50, 000. 00, Sovele-Siandarua road-K61, 676. 93, Sirakatau-Panam road-K50, 000.



Mr Kamma (left) presenting the cheque to the chairman of the pre-hand road construction project Mark Utami. Beneath the cheque is the pig that was presented to Mr Kamma as a token of appreciation by the Sipi people.

10.01.2011

Source: Bloomberg News

Copper Imports by China at Record on Re-Stocking, Trade Financing Demand

Copper imports by China surged to a record in December, narrowing the first annual drop since 2008, as pre-holiday stockpiling and financing needs spurred buying amid low domestic inventories in the world's largest consumer.

Inbound shipments of the refined metal, copper alloy and products were 508,942 metric tons, gaining for the seventh straight month, according to data on the General Administration of Customs' website today. That was the highest level ever, according to Qu Yi, a Beijing-based analyst at CRU International Ltd.

Tight credit conditions after China raised bank reserve ratios six times in 2011 spurred metal imports as a means to secure trade financing. Unprofitable arbitrage between London and Shanghai in the first half caused a 29 percent drop in inventories as users ran down local stocks. The benchmark copper price in London tumbled 21 percent last year.

"December imports far exceeded the market expectation," Peng Qiang, an analyst at Cofco Futures Co., said by phone from Beijing. "The consensus was around level with November, or even slightly lower. This may be a combined result of actual demand and financing needs."

Arrivals of unwrought copper fell 24 percent in the first six months from a year earlier as the arbitrage window closed, spurring a rebound in the second half, paring the annual decline to a 5.1 percent drop. Arbitrage traders attempt to profit from prices variations for the same asset traded on different exchanges.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange gained as much as 1.5 percent today to \$7,609.50 a ton, before being traded at \$7,595 per ton at 2:48 p.m. Shanghai time.

Financing Demand

"Expectations of loosening money supply this year encouraged financing deals, as traders would deem such deals safer when overall cash flow isn't that tight," Peng said.

Trading companies receive a letter of credit for copper imports and then get a window of a few months of cheap loans. They can sell the metal and use the proceeds for higher-yielding investments, or submit a warehouse receipt or a warrant to use it as collateral for a discounted loan.

China cut reserve requirements in December by 50 basis points, the first reduction since 2008. The People's Bank of China may follow up last month's reduction with another cut this week, JPMorgan Chase & Co. said yesterday.

Improving demand ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday may also have boosted shipments, Peng said. The weeklong vacation starts on Jan. 23.

More Imports

Low stockpiles and tight financing conditions may support imports this year, said CRU's Qu. "If prices slide further, and if money supply loosens a tad, imports may pick up."

China's stocks rose, driving the benchmark index to its biggest three-day gain since October 2010, as slowing trade data boosted speculation the government may loosen monetary policy to spur economic growth.

China's copper consumption growth will slow to 6.4 percent this year, or 7.85 million tons, according to Beijing Antaika Information Development Co. This compares with 8.5 percent growth in 2011 to 7.38 million tons, and 11.5 percent to 6.8 million tons in 2010, Antaika's data show.

"For January, holidays and low utilization rates of producers will probably bring down imports from the record level in December," said Wang Mingyi, an analyst at Galaxy Futures Co.

Scrap copper imports totaled 450,000 tons in December, lifting the annual arrivals to 4.69 million tons, up 7.4 percent from 2010, according to customs.

Source: Post-Courier

Trawen confident of electoral roll

By JONATHAN TANNOS

PAPUA New Guinea's 2012 preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public scrutiny by the end of this month.

However, the latest will be February if unforeseen circumstances disrupt the current processing of the roll.

This is the undertaking from a confident Electoral Commissioner, Andrew Trawen, who yesterday announced staff specialised in data entry and scrutiny were currently working full time to finalise the roll before conduct of the general elections in June this year.

"As of today (yesterday) we have a total of 1,557,239 voters registered on the electoral roll out of approximately 4.3 million eligible voters for the 2012 general elections," Mr Trawen said.

Mr Trawen also revealed that electors with no status totalled 27,249 while those that were yet to be determined stood at 1,784,168.

But on the electoral data base there were currently 3.8 million eligible voters that have yet to be identified.

"This is why we are working around the clock to ensure the 2012 electoral roll is ready on time for polling which will commence on July 23, 2012," Mr Trawen said.

He said for Central and Northern Provinces in the Southern region, their preliminary rolls have been completed and were ready for public scrutiny and objection.

The rolls for the Gulf and Milne Bay provinces are yet to be printed.

In the New Guinea Islands the East and West New Britain plus New Ireland rolls are also ready to be publicly scrutinised and objected.

Manus was currently undergoing auditing while Bougainville was still in the data collecting process.

For the Momase region both the East and West Sepik province rolls were also ready for scrutiny and objection while data for Madang was yet to be sent to Port Moresby and data entry was in progress for the Morobe province.

In the Highlands field work results from Chimbu have been sent to Port Moresby for entry in the main data base while data entry was in progress for Eastern Highlands.

The same has been done also for Hela and Southern Highlands while final auditing results were yet to be received from Enga, Western Highlands and Jiwaka.

But Mr Trawen said he was confident of finalising all the necessary data well before the elections which will commence from the issuing of writs on Friday April 27, 2012 at 4pm.

Nominations will close on May 4, 2012 while **polling will commence on Saturday June 23, 2012 and close on Friday July 6, 2012.**

Return of writs will take place on Friday July 27, 2012.

The nominations period will take seven days (April 27 – May 4, 2012), campaign period eight weeks (May 4 – June 23, 2012) **polling period 14 days (June 23 – July 6, 2012) and counting 21 days (July 6 – July 27, 2012).**

Mr Trawen said all manner of transportation have been considered including helicopter, vehicle and PNG Defence Force patrol boat hires.

10.01.2011

Source: PNG Attitude / [EJOLT](#) (Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade)

ESBC: Another shining example for the ongoing of spreading lies. A malicious attempt to cause local unrest by left wing eco-anarchists of the so called University of Peace!

A gruelling story of double standards & injustice

IN 1969, DURING THE AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATION of Bougainville, Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia (CRA) opened a large copper and gold mine with forced community evictions.

In 1971, with pollution caused by the mine spreading, the issue of compensation went to the High Court of Australia. It ruled that the compensation was inadequate under Australian law but that, as an external territory, Papua New Guinea was not guaranteed the same standards that applied to mainland Australia.

That was just the start of a gruelling story of double standards and injustice.

Forty years after the first verdict, court battles go on. On 25 October 2011, Rio Tinto Group lost a bid to throw out genocide and war crimes claims in a lawsuit filed by PNG landowners.

A federal appeals court in San Francisco said claims of genocide and war crimes fall within the issues that can be considered under the Alien Tort Statute, a law of 1789 allowing non-citizens to sue in the United States for violations of international law.

In 1989 indigenous outrage over 20 years of exploitation and pollution had escalated to the point where the Bougainville Revolutionary Army blew up the mine's power pylons following the company's refusal to pay local landowners US\$5.4 billion compensation.

A 10-year war of secession followed between the PNG defence force and the BRA and other armed groups on the island. This resulted in the ruination of towns and villages and an estimated death toll of 20,000.

According to Michael Cornish, "Mismanagement of the relationship between the operation of the Panguna mine and the local people was a fundamental cause of the conflict in Bougainville." Forty years later, nothing has been done to compensate for the huge damage.

Watch here an authentic documentary film produced by TOROtv in 2000:

09.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K20,000 for mini cocoa mill

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



WHILE many cocoa farmers in the country are always complaining about the little earnings they receive from selling their cocoa beans, a clan in the Siwai district of South Bougainville has decided to try out another avenue which they believe will give them maximum returns from the harvest and sales of their cocoa beans.

The Akahu Family Cocoa Cluster of Kahuanka village has decided to start up a mini cocoa processing and crushing mill project. The idea behind this dream is for them to one day start

producing cocoa-made products like biscuits and chocolates to sell. Since this idea came about in the early 2000s, the clan have been rehabilitating and replanting their cocoa plantations so as to prefer them for this cocoa processing project. The Akahu Family Cocoa needs K800, 000 to kick-start this project. Last week the clan received a timely New Year present of K20,000 from the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP, Steven Pirika Kamma. Before

presenting the cheque Mr Kamma challenged the clan to use the money in its intended purpose, adding that they should also raise their own funds instead of relying too much on free hand-outs.

06.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Roll update slow in Bougainville

By ALEX MUNME

THE Common Roll Improvement Program for updating common rolls in the three regions of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is well behind schedule with the National Elections program to start on April 27.

According to Bougainville Electoral Manger Reitama Taravaru, this part of the preparations was scheduled for July of last year.

He said the updating of the common rolls was late due to the Autonomous Bougainville Governments by-elections for the Tonsu constituency.

He said that currently updating in South and Central Bougainville are underway and instructions were given to electoral officials engaged to return with their collected data for quality checks before they are sent to Port Moresby for auditing and entry into the new rolls for the National Elections this year.

Also the training for enrolment agents in North Bougainville is expected to next week in which potential agents will be identified to assist Village Assembly clerks.

Mr Taravaru said that the updating of common roll for North Bougainville is expected to be completed by the end of January.

During this process, he said the only hold up would be the shortage of blank bank cheques to pay

vital service providers but, this is being taken care of by Moore Printing Limited and is expected to soon be available.

06.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tanis goes for studies in Australia

By Fabian Gatana

FOMER Bougainville president, James Tanis, is off to Australia to commence his studies in Canberra.

Mr Tanis was farewelled yesterday in Buka by representatives from the Bougainville Administration and AusAID officials.

In Canberra he will be studying for his Masters in International Relations at the Australian National University under an AusAID education scholarship awarded to him by the Australian High Commission.

Mr Tanis said that the Masters program was designed for people who had little or no knowledge of International relations and affairs and is one that he thought seriously about during his term as president of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

He said that Bougainville needs leaders who are educated up to the current level of education and leaders who can steer Bougainville in the right direction.

He said that leadership was not purely political but it is a profession, prompting him to chose to return to school.

He said that this opportunity will also give him time to unwind and to do something different.

He also reassured the people of Bougainville that he was not running away, but for him to go and complete his masters in order to come back and contribute positively to the region.

06.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Eluh-Rebuild Bougainville

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE Police Chief, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Thomas Eluh has thanked Bougainvilleans for a festive season that was trouble free and the most peaceful in many years.

The attitude shown, he said, is the right way forward for prosperity in Bougainville and is good news not only for PNG, but the world and for potential investors who have interests in investing in Bougainville.

"I as the head of security in Bougainville am very delighted in the manner people went about their celebrations with common sense and these signs are very commendable," said Police Chief Eluh. He said that Bougainville had so much at stake considering the fact that the Autonomous Region had only three years before the referendum so he urged the peace loving people of Bougainville to continue this peaceful trend throughout the year and years to come.

He urged the people to forget the past and work hard at rebuilding Bougainville and prove that Bougainvilleans are law abiding people.

Meanwhile, the ACP also took time to sincerely thank all members of the Bougainville Police Service who worked effortlessly throughout the festive season to ensure the rule of law prevailed.

"I must commend you, my officers, for continuing to prove that the Bougainville Police Service is a highly professional and disciplined organisation."

"On behalf of my family and the Bougainville Police Service I wish all the people of Bougainville a be-lated and prosperous New Year."

05.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

K200,000 cash lost at lurun

AN increasing number of treasure hunters from all over Bougainville are camping along the lurun river at Tinputz district, in the hope of finding a black sports bag that is believed to contain more than two hundred thousand kina in cash.

Reports received from Tinputz say the black bag was lost at the river last week when its owner, a copra buyer based at Arawa, was swept out of the passenger vehicle he was travelling in, on his way to Buka.

The East Coast transport he was in along with ten other passengers, was caught in strong tide and dragged about five meters downstream when the lurun river flooded after a night of heavy rains last week.

No casualties was reported and passengers were able to retrieve most of their cargos except for the bag containing the cash which has not yet been found.

A ten thousand kina reward is being offered to the person who finds and safely return the cash to the owner.

05.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW GRAVEL RATES

LOCALS selling river gravel have reason to celebrate this year as the autonomous government of Bougainville has approved new buying rates for riverine materials especially gravel and limestone.

ABG minister for Works, Transport and Civil Aviation Carrolus Ketsimur at a recent presentation to ABG members announced that this year, river gravel will be bought at three kina per cubic meter.

This is an increase of two kina from last year's buying rate of one kina per cubic meter.

He also said limestone would now be bought at four kina per cubic meter compared to last year's buying rate of one kina fifty toea per cubic meter.

Ketsimur said this was good money easily earned from the natural resources owned by the coastal communities of Bougainville and urged that the landowners invest their money well.

He also urged that companies and landowners do fair business to avoid conflict and misunderstanding.

05.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BRADA MERGED

THE Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) has endorsed the merging of the Bougainville Restoration and Development Authority (BRADA) with the ABG division of Technical Services (TSD).

In its recent meeting, BEC acknowledged that the streamlining of the two agencies responsible for infrastructure development allows the ABG to enhance the capacity of only one entity instead of the two.

ABG minister for finance and treasury Albert Punghau said the decision was necessary to manage and coordinate high impact infrastructure projects irrespective of the funding sources.

He justified that the merging of BRADA into TSD would avoid duplication of roles, confusion, buck-passing and wastage of resources.

05.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TANIS DEPARTS BUKA

FORMER president of the Autonomous Bougainville Government James Tanis will travel to Canberra, Australia tomorrow to undertake an eighteen-month Master's course on International Affairs.



Tanis' study is funded by the Australian Government under its AusAID Development scholarship of which 170 Papua New Guineans including five Bougainvilleans would benefit from this year.

He thanked the government and people of Australia for giving him the opportunity to study.

He added that compared to Bougainville presidents the late Joseph Kabui and John Momis, he had no formal education in international relations but had a vast experience in international affairs.

Tanis said leadership is a profession and urged that to be a leader one must be well versed on the latest level of education and technology.

Tanis assured the people of Bougainville that he would return to add value to the countless efforts of the people and government of the Autonomous Bougainville in rebuilding peace and prosperity. He also urged the leaders of Bougainville to work hard to achieve a successful outcome on the weapons disposal program.

Tanis warned that Bougainville's sovereign partners are watching and he urged that for a continued good relations with development partners like Australia and New Zealand, Bougainville leaders must support all local partners in delivering on the weapons disposal program.

05.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Unique festive season in Bougainville

By ALEX MUNME

THE Acting Buka police station commander Sergeant Emmart Tsimes has praised and thanked Bougainvilleans for a quiet, peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

Mr Tsimes said unlike the past there has been no reports of car crashes, killings, no arrests and even no detainees during 2011 Christmas and New Year periods. The people really behaved well and enjoyed their celebrations responsibly.

While thanking the people he said he was very happy as the public became more responsible and observed the real meaning of Christmas.

He said police carried out its normal operations and it was very quiet and peaceful. Mr Tsimes said this is due to police and other agencies who contributed towards an open and general law and order awareness in the communities and on radio before the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

He said report from Tinputz was the same where there was no accidents or any form of violence . The road was free and quiet, describing it as very unique compared to the previous years. Mr Tsimes believes the situation was similar elsewhere throughout the Autonomous region of Bougainville except for maybe minor incidents which are common and settled immediately by those responsible.

He further urged the people to maintain law and order in their communities in order to pave way for prosperity in the coming 12 months of 2012.

05.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Wakunai bridge opens

By ALEX MUNME

ONE of the 15 bridges constructed by Japanese construction company Kitano was officially commissioned for use by the travelling public last week in Wakunai, Central Bougainville.

The Iaraka Bridge was officially opened by the ABG's minister for works Carolus Ketsimur and witnessed by fellow minister for Local Level Government Rev. Joseph Nopei, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and member for Terra constituency, Robin Wilson, the former member for Selau Joseph Watawi, Chief Administrator (Operations) Raymond Masono and Bougainville Administration staff.

Mr Ketsimur, speaking on behalf of the ABG President and Vice President, paid tribute to two of the former ABG Presidents the late Joseph Kabui and James Tanis for the opportunity given to Patrick Nisira who was then the works minister to negotiate funding for the construction of the 15 bridges.

He said that the construction of the bridges were the single most biggest impact project on Bougainville for the last 15 to 20 years worth K90 million involving a foreign contractor from Japan.

The Minister also thanked the Japanese Government through the construction company Kitano at the same time conveying his sympathy for the lives lost during the course of their duties on the construction of the bridges.

He said the people of Bougainville have great respect for Japan in this partnership program and look forward to a future cordial relations and friendship with the Government and its people who are very hardworking, respectable and sincere.

05.01.2012

Source: The National

Basil: Leave Grand Chief alone

By JEFFREY ELAPA

NATIONAL Planning Minister Sam Basil says members of parliament in the Somare faction should stop misleading Sir Michael Somare and allow him to rest.

Basil suggested that some MPs were using the Grand Chief for their personal gain and should stop to allow him to recover from his operations.

“Anderson Agiru, Sir Arnold Amet, Patrick Pruaitch and Arthur Somare have been forcing the old man,” he said.

“Leave him alone and allow him to rest so that he recovers well from his operation. It is about time we help him and not use him and put more pressure and stress on him.”

He said if the Grand Chief got more ill from the pressure, the MPs should be held responsible.

He said the country acknowledged the many contributions Sir Michael had made for the young nation and he should be left to rest.

He said Agiru and Sir Arnold needed to go back to their provinces and provide the leadership as their people needed them.

He said Madang and the Southern Highlands provinces needed good governors to provide leadership in their provinces and not stay in Port Moresby.

05.01.2012

Source: The National

K3.7 million Singapore ‘allowances’ probed

By JEFFREY ELAPA

AN investigation has been launched into the payment of K3.7 million in allowances to a group of people who visited Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare in a Singapore hospital.

The group consists of public servants serving in the Prime Minister’s office, officers from other government departments plus those who were not public servants.

Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc, when asked to comment yesterday, declined to say who was entitled to travelling allowances while accompanying the prime minister – who went on a medical leave.

But Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah said everyone who received the allowances would be investigated.

He pointed out that Sir Michael was on sick leave and not on official government business.

Namah also questioned why the entire Prime Minister’s Department had to make the trip to Singapore.

The government-appointed Task Force Sweep team had been directed to investigate why allowances were paid to non-public servants and officials from other government departments.

“Some of these people who benefited from the K3.7 million of public funds during the hospitalisation of Sir Michael will be arrested soon,” Namah said.

More than 30 people, including family members of the Grand Chief, received allowances on the pretext of visiting the sick leader. Namah termed it as “daylight robbery” and “corruption of the highest order”.

According to Namah, Sir Michael and Lady Veronica received almost K700,000 as allowances, daughter Betha Somare and son Sana’s wife each received almost K200,000 and Sir Michael’s brother Paul Somare received more than K76,000.

The others allegedly paid allowances were Paul Bengo K85,000, Seki Karingai K192,000, Rodney Kamus K105,000, police Const John Keai K108,000, Richard Gogo K143,000, police Snr Const Ekonia Puki K71,000, police Const Rodney Eminoni K88,000, Tambon Tara K77,000, Margaret Elias K23,000, Hudson Ramatlap K23,000, Insp Simon Dugumi K26,000, Ipai Edward K48,000, Michael Ikau K26,000, Nora Solien K45,000, police First Const Peter Wesley K22,000, police Const Simon Guvi K23,000, Joan Vanariu K19,000, Chris Haiveta K10,000, Anna Abal K4,000 – plus four others who received less than K3,000 each.

Betha Somare, daughter of Sir Michael, said as employees of the prime minister’s office at the time, the public servants were entitled to the travel allowances.

She declined to comment further and referred other queries to the secretary at the Prime Minister’s Department.

She called on leaders to stop politicising the allowance issue because some of the payments were genuine.

She did not say if non-public servants, who accompanied the Grand Chief, were entitled to allowances

04.01.2012

Source: Copper Investing News <http://copperinvestingnews.com>

Copper Drives Papua New Guinea Island's Independence Movement

By Shihoko Goto - Exclusive to Copper Investing News [1]



Shihoko Goto

Shihoko Goto is a Washington DC-based journalist who has spent the past decade writing about the international political economy, with a focus on financial markets. She has written for a number of publications over the years including United Press International, the National Journal Group, Dow Jones News Service, and the Wall Street Journal. Shihoko holds a BA in Modern History from the University of Oxford and an MA in Political Science from Tokyo’s Waseda University. Having been raised in Brussels, she is fluent in French as well as Japanese, and wishes she had more opportunities to improve her German.

[2]The existence of natural resources can make or break the financial future of a nation, and in Papua New Guinea, copper may determine whether a region can gain independence or not after decades of conflict. At stake is the possibility of the island of Bougainville breaking away from the southwestern Pacific Ocean state, which may be possible should islanders access the financial gains from the Panguna mine.

Owned by Bougainville Copper [3] (ASX:BOC [4]), the Panguna mine has produced copper concentrate from 1972 until guerillas of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army forced the company to suspend operations in 1989. The rebel forces had forced the mine to close as they believed the island deserved a greater share of the wealth in addition to greater protection from environmental exploitation, but with the recent surge in prices and the race to secure supply of the red metal heating up across the globe, Bougainville's political activists are hopeful that the time is ripe to reinvest in its resources as a means to gain independence.

The owners of the Panguna mine is itself 54.58 percent owned by Rio Tinto [5] (LSE:RIO [6]), while the government of Papua New Guinea has a 19.06 percent shareholding, and public shareholders hold the remaining 27.36 percent. At its height, the mine had provided nearly 20 percent of its annual income according to some estimates.

A referendum on whether or not the island should cede from Papua New Guinea is slated to be held between 2015 and 2020, and the possibility of economic self-sufficiency will play a critical role in swaying public opinion. As for the distribution of wealth from the mine, Bougainville Copper's Chairman Peter Taylor said in an interview with Radio Australia [7] last February that the company would "encourage the landowners and the Bougainville government to set the agenda. I would expect that there will be shared ownership in the mine... I think they need to have equity in the project so the fortunes of the mines are also the fortunes for them."

Yet trust in the company's goodwill may not come easily from some quarters, as the mine operators were accused by locals over two decades ago of siding with the government of Papua New Guinea against the rebels and supplying them with military equipment to keep the operation running.

Whatever the truth may be about the conflict between the Papua New Guinea government and rebels, what is clear is that getting the mine back in working condition will not be cheap. Taylor said at the company's latest annual general meeting in April that it would cost about \$3 billion to re-open the mine and the first step to getting it back into operation would be to conduct a pre-feasibility study. The company will also need to assess the write-offs needed, and Bougainville Copper states on its web site that "as access to the mine site has not been possible, the extent of the necessary write-downs is not capable of reliable measurement of estimation." The company adds that "it is clear that a major write-down of assets from their pre-closure levels will be required. To allow for this future write-down, the directors made a general provision in 1991 for deterioration, damage, and pilferage of 350 million kina," or over \$16 million.

Still, with copper reserves estimated to reach at least \$50 billion, the rewards could be substantive.

Despite the costs and considerable political risks, Bougainville Copper is far from alone in vying to get a foothold on Papua New Guinea's mineral wealth beyond Bougainville's shores. Mineral productions account for about a quarter of the nation's gross domestic product, with major mining groups including BHP Billiton [8] (ASX:BHP [9]), Harmony Gold [10] (NYSE:HMY [11]), and Newcrest Mining [12] (ASX:NCM [13]) as well as Rio Tinto being heavily invested in mines across the nation. Moreover, their involvement is expected only to increase as the race for mineral resources intensifies, and they are expected to seek out junior mining companies to partner with them moving forward.

I, Shihoko Goto, have no direct interests in the companies mentioned in this article.

04.01.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare challenges O'Neill to an early election

The battle of the two prime ministers continues in Papua New Guinea.

A leading member of the Somare camp says Sir Michael is prepared to face a vote of confidence in parliament if he is restored as Prime Minister.

That move would trigger an immediate early election, something that many politicians including the Peter O'Neill government would not want.

As a fall back position, the Attorney General in the Somare government, Sir Arnold Amet says they'll return to the Supreme Court to try to get a new ruling from the judiciary.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Sir Arnold Amet, Somare camp Attorney General

Listen here !

NANOL: In PNG politics, it's the unofficial start to campaigning for the 2012 National elections which really kick off in April when the election writs are expected to be issued.

The political impasse and constitutional crisis which occurred in December when the supreme court declared that the election of Peter O'Neil on August 2nd 2011 was unconstitutional and restored Sir Michael Somare as PM continues.

Sir Arnold Amet, who is the Attorney General on Sir Michael Somare's side says Sir Michael is the rightful Prime Minister and he is the rightful Attorney General giving the proper legal advice.

He says the parliament-endorsed Peter O'Neil's regime is continuously breaking laws and disregarding the rule of law.

AMET: They have purported to reappoint him after the Supreme Court ruled and restore Grand Chief Sir Michael by ruling that the positions of the Constitutions that they purported to declare the vacancy under, purported to disqualify on the 6th. September under were all wrong and the court said Sir Michael was wrongly removed, Peter O'Neil was wrongly appointed, Grand Chief is as prime minister. It couldn't be anymore explicit. Its ambiguous as Sir Michael is the legitimate prime minister and I am the legitimate attorney-general, giving the legal advice to the nation. So Peter O'Neil what possible legitimacy does he have to continue to hold government.

NANOL: Sir Arnold says the Somare's side will attend the January the 17th Session of Parliament, if the Speaker allocates Sir Michael his rightful place.

He says once that happens, then the O'Neil's side can move a no confidence against Sir Michael.

But Sir Arnold says a successful no confidence motion will automatically trigger early elections, as the law says it cannot be moved 12 months before a next election, which falls this year 2012.

AMET: Where would Sir Michael sit? He is the prime minister, court has restored him explicitly, and Peter O'Neil and Geoffrey Nape need to recognise it. But we are saying to them and I say so now on television with the full authority of Sir Michael and our Caucus. We are willing to go on the floor and you can move a motion of no confidence, but you must exceed the ruling of the Supreme Court judgement that Sir Michael is the prime minister, we are the executive government, then you have the numerical ability that still remains the same, remove the motion of no confidence. Peter O'Neil, do you have the guts to move that? I dare you. That's the power you have, but we will agree with you, because if we are numerically outnumbered, you have the ability to move it. But first you must move from Sir Michael's chair as prime minister. Now I think that's what

the nation wants. We are on the eve of election. People want the house to dissolved and establish nonsense and go to the polls. We are ready, are you ready? That will happen when Peter O'Neil vacates the prime ministerial seat, goes to the Opposition. We take our place which Sir Michael as the prime minister and if Peter O'Neil has the numerical strength, move the Section 145 motion of no confidence. The result is the house is dissolved, Sir Michael remains in executive control and we go to the polls and we can try to bring that forward, that's an administrative process, resource the Electoral Commission, give it all the financing necessary. It can count for. People want to put the rivalry later.

NANOL: Sir Arnold says the Somare camp will go back to the courts to seek further declaratory orders to have the O'Neil team relegated to the Opposition benches.

Parliament resumes in under two weeks at 2pm on January 17th, 2012.

Firmin Nanol-Port Moresby.

04.01.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Japanese-built bridge opens in Wakunai for use

By ALEX MUNME

ONE of the 15 bridges constructed by Japanese construction company Kitano was officially commissioned for use by the travelling public last week in Wakunai, Central Bougainville.

The Iaraka Bridge was officially opened by the ABG's Minister for Works Carolus Ketsimur and witnessed by fellow minister for Local Level Government Reverend Joseph Nopei, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and member for Terra constituency, Robin Wilson, the former member for Selau Joseph Watawi, Chief Administrator (Operations) Raymond Masono and Bougainville Administration staff. Mr Ketsimur, speaking on behalf of the ABG President and Vice President, paid tribute to two of the former ABG presidents the late Joseph Kabui and James Tanis for the opportunity given to Patrick Nisira, who was then the Works minister to negotiate funding for the construction of the 15 bridges. He said that the construction of the 15 bridges were the single most and biggest impact project on Bougainville for the last 15 to 20 years worth K90 million involving a foreign contractor from Japan. The Minister also thanked the Japanese Government through the construction company Kitano at the same time conveying his sympathy for the lives lost during the course of their duties on the construction of the bridges.

He said the people of Bougainville had great respect for Japan in this partnership program and looked forward to a future cordial relations and friendship with the Government and its people who were very hardworking, respectable and sincere.

Mr Ketsimur also thanked the landowners and the villagers and urged the chiefs to take the responsibility of looking after the bridges as they would serve their purposes in linking businesses, markets and any other activities that would bring peace building as well as other developments in the region.

03.01.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

Bougainville Copper a first class investment opportunity!

Dear Investor,

Like many other securities worldwide, the shares of Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) suffered a lot in 2011.

But only a few securities in the world represent such a brilliant perspective like Bougainville Copper for the near future. Therefore you should have a look to our homepage www.bougainville-copper.eu and find out more on an investment in BCL.

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) are proud to provide the most complete in-depth information on one of the biggest assets worldwide of copper, gold, silver, molybdenum and other dearly needed industrial metals.

Our homepage reflects Bougainville's problems in the past as it highlights future expectations as well. Unmasked!

You would be negligent if you would miss this unique possibility to inform yourself about one of the greatest 2012 investment opportunities.

Bougainville Copper's share price might double, even triple its actual value within the next few months. Independent experts estimate BCL's fair value between AUD30 to AUD50 per share! The ESBC are more modest: We expect the share price to soar from AUD0.70 to AUD3 only in a first step this year.

Please understand that we do not want to sell our shares to you, we only ask you to find out all facts on www.bougainville-copper.eu and to make up your mind. I believe you will be astonished to explore a sole homepage from investors for investors that provides a complete overview on an interesting investment.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year 2012 and a lot of investment decisions, full of wisdom!

Axel G. Sturm
President

03.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Somare's come under probe

Sir Michael Somare and Lady Veronica are among more than 30 public servants who are now under the Task Force Sweep Team investigations for money allegedly used in Singapore while the Grand Chief was undergoing medical treatment last year.

The investigation focuses on the use of almost K4 million when Grand Chief Sir Michael was bed ridden in a Singapore hospital for three months. Among them is Chris Haiveta, who is now an executive in the O'Neill-Namah Government.

National Planning Minister Sam Basil announced on the eve of the New Year that the Task Force sweep team has been handed the confidential list which details the millions of kina money used. He said those on the list will soon be called upon to be questioned in the New Year.

Details of the expenses, according to a report by the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council show that Grand Chief used about K400,000, Betha Somare, daughter of Sir Michael, incurred K192,583.14, while Ms Seke Ua Karingal, Sir Michael's personal assistant, spent K191,224.81. Next on the list was Lady Veronica Somare who spent K171,825.34, followed by Richard Gogo who spent K143,200.09 and Constable John Keai spent K107,594.91. Rodney Kamus spent K104,733.79 followed by brother of Sir Michael, Paul Somare with K76,350.60. A Mr Tambon Tara spent K76,268.01 while Const. Rodney Eminoni spent K87,081.42 to name a few.

"The list has been given to the Task Force sweep team and arrests will soon be made," Mr Basil said.

But the Somare-Agiru Government welcomed the investigations and said that those involved were ready to face the Task force Sweep team.

Ms Somare recently defended the allegations saying that Grand Chief Sir Michael was in a sick bed and had no input in all the funds used. She also said that the funds were entitlements as Sir Michael was the Prime Minister of the day at that time who was also entitled to allowances.

Timothy Bonga, the Internal Security Minister in the Somare-Agiru camp said that the Task Force Sweep Team should also look into all MPs that went as families including Don Polye, the Treasurer now in the O'Neill-Namah Government.

Rodney Kamus, personal aide to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday said: "I have nothing to hide and I welcome any investigation by Mr Basil as all funds used for my travel during Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's hospitalisation was my entitlements as duty travel in serving the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and all records are kept. I personally was with the Prime Minister for three months along with two body guards and a protocol officer.

"Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare is the Prime Minister and like every world leader, is entitled to body guards, personal aides, protocol and the list goes on whether he is in the jungles of Bulolo, Sahara Desert, New York City or in the hospital as is the case. Officers who are with him or her are given an allowance to look after themselves whilst doing their duties of serving the Prime Minister.

"I personally challenge Mr Sam Basil to come out publicly and state his entitlements as Member of Parliament for Bulolo and purportedly Minister for National Planning," Mr Kamus said.

03.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville to get funds

BOUGAINVILLE'S first K100 million from the promised K500 million allocated in the 2012 National Budget, may be given quarterly to avoid misuse, the Government of the O'Neill-Namah announced.

Plans and measures are now underway to help Bougainville use the first K100million from the K500million allocated in the 2012 Budget in a reputable manner, according to the National Planning and Finance offices.

Last month Chief Secretary to the National Government Manasupe Zurenuoc expressed concerns over the funds adding that he wanted the best for the people of Bougainville and urged the leaders of Bougainville to use the money as earmarked.

Zurenuoc said that the funds were earmarked for major infrastructure and impact projects specifically the roads on Bougainville.

He said it was the Government's responsibility to see that these funds were used in a way the bulk of Bougainville population benefited and that Government services rendered accordingly using these allocation. But last week, National Planning Minister Sam Basil sounded that the Government may firm up measures to disburse the first K25 million quarterly, and the next funds released upon acquittals.

The Government is aware of reports from Government auditors that records of multi-million kina funds earmarked for projects on Bougainville have not been used as per the requirements and that is why they wanted to make a change in the New Year to held Bougainville use that much money and develop the whole of Bougainville for the sake of the population and the children of the region.

03.01.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville farmers urged to aid recovery work

By STEPHANIE ELIZHA

COCOA and coconut smallholder farmers in Bougainville have been challenged to support the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in its economic recovery by working hard to develop other small scale industries.

The challenge was issued by Bougainville Acting President Patrick Nisira in a statement released last week for the official opening of Iraka Bridge, in Central Bougainville, today.

Iraka Bridge is part of a K90 million government of Japan funded project to build 15 bridges between North and Central Bougainville.

The project began last year by contracted road construction company Kitano, which was commended for working within the project deadline of two years as evident by seven of the 15 bridges now being used.

Nisira said with these bridges open, there was no excuse for individuals to expect free government help.

He said the bridges would boost the Bougainville culture of doing business by giving access to markets and developing Bougainvilleans to actively take part in peace-building, reconciliation and living in harmony.

“Do not wait for handouts as there may not be any and there is a risk that you will miss your opportunity by waiting and you can wait forever for handout that will not come your way,” Nisira said.

He urged local communities to take the opportunity to start slowly and progress in time to build their own business to generate income for their families.

“I humbly ask the community near these bridges to please look after the bridges well as it is a vital link for all the people of Bougainville.

“It must unite us as one people and make us be part of our society,” he said.

He said the ABG intended to continue with the bridge programme to South Bougainville and negotiate the sealing of the highway from Kokopau to Central and South Bougainville.

01.01.2012

Source: ESBC Research / ASX Sydney

ASX stockmarket is closed on January 2nd, 2012.

First trading in 2012: Tuesday January 3rd, 2012!

[Click here for trading calenders from Sydney and Frankfurt !](#)

01.01.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Year Quiet

by Aloysius Laukai

Buka police have reported a trouble-free New Year in Buka town.

New Dawn fm visited on duty policemen at the police station and they said thst Buka town was quiet despite the small bangings of objects by town residents at 12midnight last night

New Dawn Fm noted that at 12midnight there was heavy downpour which dispersed possible outdoor parties last night.

The downpour was seen by some as showers of blessings for the new year.

01.01.2012

Source: ESBC

Bougainville News Book 2011 online now ! [Click here !](#)

01.01.2012

Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Dawn upgrade

By Aloysius Laukai

Workmen ready to work on New Dawn FM upgrading on New Year 2012.

Listeners can get the stereo signals again around Buka island and northern tip of mainland Bougainville.



News 02.2012

**Today, Bougainville Copper securities
should have a realistic minimum value of
AUD 2.50 per share !**

[Find out more about the fair value of BOC shares!](#)

29.02.2012

Source: PNGindustrynews

Another Bougainville rumour spree

BOUGAINVILLE Copper shares surged on Monday on the back of rumours there could be a Papua New Guinea government “breakthrough” to help reopen the long-troubled Panguna copper-gold mine.

Panguna was the world’s fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989 and had produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

While memories of the civil war which gripped Bougainville Island become more distant, rising copper prices have underpinned the complex effort to possibly redevelop and reopen the giant open cut mine.

On Monday, Bougainville Copper shares closed up 17%, while they have since closed down 3% to 91c yesterday after the Rio Tinto subsidiary’s replies to an ASX price query revealed it had no clue why its shares soared.

Yet Andorra-based European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper president Axel Sturm had some possible answers.

He told PNGIndustryNews.net there were unconfirmed rumours that the next Joint Supervisory Board and National Executive Council (PNG cabinet) meeting will take place on March 23-25 in Bougainville.

“It may deliver a breakthrough in re-opening the mine,” Sturm said.

“I think that there is very positive development backstage.”

The ESBC is also advocating that shareholders place put options on their Bougainville Copper shares at a high price of \$A25-30 each for sale to help prevent “custody banks” from using them for “unauthorised lending to short sellers”.

The Frankfurt stock exchange has become the leading stock market for trading these shares and the preliminary Bougainville Copper annual report is expected next week.

A key and longstanding hurdle to reopening the Panguna mine is gathering the support of community landowners.

There were around 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine – providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

Rio Tinto owns around 54% of Bougainville Copper while the PNG government owns about 19%.

29.02.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Political impasse continues in PNG

Its dubbed "the land of the unexpected" and Papua New Guinea's politicians have certainly lived up to that reputation over the past few months.

Political impasse continues in PNG (Credit: ABC) Since December two men have claimed the Prime Minister's job, one with the support of parliament, the other initially backed by the courts.

Last month the division led to a brief military mutiny.

But still both Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare squabble over political power.

Presenter: Sean Dorney, Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent

Speaker: Belden Namah, PNG Deputy Prime Minister; Sir Michael Somare, Supreme Court Reinstated Prime Minister; Peter O'Neill, Parliament Elected Prime Minister; Jeffery Nape, Speaker December 14th 2011; Paul Barker, Director, PNG Institute of National Affairs; Dame Carol Kidu, PNG Opposition Leader; Sam Abal, PNG Deputy Opposition Leader; Ian Kemish, Australian High Commissioner to PNG

Listen here !

DORNEY: These were the guns used in the half day mutiny in Papua New Guinea in late January when disgruntled soldiers joined a retrenched Colonel in an abortive attempt to take control of the military and reinstate Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister.

Soldiers will as of today be given amnesty. Nobody will be dealt with by the law!

DORNEY: The Deputy Prime Minister in the Government elected by the Parliament, Belden Namah, is a former soldier. He spent two-and-a-half years in prison for mutiny in the aftermath of the military revolt in 1997 that terminated the proposed use of mercenaries from Africa to try to end the Bougainville conflict. He was later given a full pardon.

NAMAH: I told the soldiers of 1st Battalion and the soldiers who were involved in the recent mutiny that it's not easy. 'You must not listen to politicians. You must not listen to self-centred people who will lure you to committing that kind of offence because at the end of the day when you are charged for mutiny you'll be left on your own. Your families will be the ones to suffer the most.' And I continued to remind them that I am a living testimony of that kind of exercise that was done.

DORNEY: It was in August last year that Sir Michael Somare's nine year old Government fell apart when he was in hospital in Singapore for months undergoing a series of major heart operations. He was in a coma when his son, Arthur, also an MP, announced his father would retire.

SOMARE: Supreme Court Reinstated Prime Minister

Arthur was thinking that I was, I was very sick. And he said there could be a possibility of my retiring early.

DORNEY: I told Sir Michael that he was looking remarkably well considering how close to death everybody thought he had been.

SOMARE:

Yes, yes. It's a big operation, my friend. You know it! (Laughs)

DORNEY: The PNG Parliament elected Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister. But then in December the Supreme Court ruled in a split three-two decision that proper procedure had not been followed and Sir Michael remained Prime Minister. However, Prime Minister O'Neill has the overwhelming support of Parliament - a bigger majority, he says, than Australia's Prime Minister, Julia Gillard.

O'Neill: We don't have a majority of one. We have a majority of close to 50. If anyone doubts that kind of mandate all they have to do is come and visit our Parliament. So we are in charge of the executive government, we are in charge of the public service, we are in charge of the Treasuries and the Police Force and the security forces of our country. So our Government did not go out there and try to take control of government by barrel of gun. Now, Somare has done that.

DORNEY: The O'Neill Government used its numbers to dismiss Sir Michael from Parliament citing his absence from three consecutive sittings.

NAPE: Parliament having effectively removed the former Prime Minister. He is now an ordinary person.

SOMARE: Supreme Court Reinstated Prime Minister

And Mr O'Neill has a lot to answer for. He has to answer, 'Why are they doing this?' He has to answer to the people of East Sepik. First, people of East Sepik, he went and used the Parliament to put me out of the Member for East Sepik, duly elected. Nine consecutive Parliaments I have been elected to that seat. Nine Parliaments! Not one that I missed out on. Got re-elected. No. You know it! I came in '68 and I stayed put!

DORNEY: Amid rowdy scenes in Parliament, Sir Michael tried to serve the Speaker with the Supreme Court decision.

SOMARE: We are Members of Parliament. We are coming in!

NAMAH: A stranger. There is a stranger in the House. Stranger! Stranger! Stranger! (Yelling) He's a stranger. He's no longer a Member of Parliament!

SOMARE: Contempt of court. You are in contempt of court!

BARKER: The wider public support, you'd have to say, would be over the past months is with the Belden Namah/O'Neill team.

DORNEY: Paul Barker is the Director of the privately funded PNG Think-tank, the Institute of National Affairs.

BARKER: But there is a strong public sympathy for Somare and a feeling, 'Well, look, this is unfair of him, on him to be particularly removed as a Member of Parliament.' But the public doesn't want their sympathy or even their feeling that maybe he is even the rightful Prime

Minister, they don't want that to go as far as seeing soldiers coming out into the streets and risking public, public safety.

DORNEY: The attempted military mutiny disturbed former Somare supporters like his Community Affairs Minister who is now the Opposition Leader, Dame Carol Kidu.

KIDU: And I said, 'Look, I'm very uncomfortable with this. I don't want to be associated with it. I'm sorry but I'm going to distance myself.'

DORNEY: One of those who had been most loyal to Sir Michael - the man he left in charge as Acting Prime Minister when he went to Singapore, Sam Abal, has quit Sir Michael's National Alliance Party.

ABAL: The party, obviously, seems to be breaking up. My relationship with the Grand Chief and Sir Michael is OK. You know, I've a good working relationship with him. And it was a bit of a sad affair for me to inform him that I will have to be going on because I cannot work with the executives and other people there.

DORNEY: Not everything is going the way of Prime Minister O'Neill's Government. One of his Ministers has just been suspended and is facing a Leadership Tribunal on charges of alleged misconduct in office. Another Minister had his house raided and the police found hundreds of rounds of ammunition. On the other side, Arthur Somare, Sir Michael's son, is also been suspended from Parliament and he, too, is also facing a Leadership Tribunal for alleged misconduct in office.

DORNEY: Sir Michael, now 76, says he had intended to retire this year but he's so angry at what has happened he's reconsidering.

SOMARE: I was looking forward to 2012 but if people think that they can easily use the Parliament numbers to get rid of me that easily, I have a second thought. Because the East Sepik people would think similar. Already they're talking in terms of getting me back in Parliament. But, as I said, we're waiting for the Court decision to take its course and we'll wait.

DORNEY: The PNG Supreme Court is dealing with a dozen cases arising from the Constitutional crisis.

BARKER: The problem is they are all going back to the Constitution as if it's a sort of complete bible which spells out every possible scenario. And, of course, it doesn't. So they're left then with judges and Parliament itself trying to adjudicate or trying to read within the words when the words are not, cannot describe and prescribe everything. So, hence, clearly the difficulty that the judges had. And the difficulty that everyone else has had. And the field day that the lawyers have had.

DORNEY: Australia's High Commissioner, Ian Kemish, has been advising Canberra that any high profile attempt to broker a resolution could have unintended consequences.

KEMISH: I'd argue that while there have been some troubling developments over the last few months these developments have also underlined some positive things about the capacity of certain key Papua New Guinean institutions - and I mean particularly the PNG Defence Force and the PNG Police to manage themselves in a mature, responsible and non political way.

BARKER: Well, PNG must be one of the only places in the world where you can have, effectively, call it what you will, a mutiny, you can have had changes, battles within the courts, all kinds of scenarios that have been fairly rough and ready and yet, where the Kina has been going up. So even when Standard and Poors reduced the credit ratings agency, the ratings for the country the Kina went on going up. So the markets, especially the investors that have been long established in PNG tend to take account of a PNG factor: certain idiosyncrasies, yes, squabbling for power,

votes of no confidence. By and large, investors don't worry that much about changes of government so long as the policies don't change.

DORNEY: Papua New Guinea is due to go to the polls in the coming months for its eighth, uninterrupted democratic elections since Independence. The former Acting Prime Minister says he's expecting a record number of Independents to win.

ABAL: As you know it's more personalities than policies and so it's not really clear on how they will vote. I think there will be a lot more Independents coming out because of that confusion.

NAMAH: Sean, you have been in Papua New Guinea. How many times do the Australians, media say, 'There will be bloodshed. There will be trouble in Papua New Guinea during elections.' And how many times we have proven them wrong. And we will continue to prove them wrong.

DORNEY: For the Papua New Guinea public it seems the elections cannot come soon enough.

29.02.2012

Source: Australian Government

28.02.2012

Source: ESBC

Simply the best!

by Axel G. Sturm

As a subsidiary of Rio Tinto who themselves traditionally practice an extreme restrictive communications policy, Bougainville Copper Limited has always run the same way. Today, BCL's comments in the 2011 Preliminary Final Report have to be considered as sensational. Never ever BCL made such promising statements before. Please read here, this what they disclose:

"The past year has given Bougainville Copper more reason for optimism about the future of the company than any year out of the previous twenty.

There are several activities underway that can positively assist the company in making a return to profitable operations.

The most beneficial change has been the momentum developing from the Panguna landowners and other Bougainvilleans' focus on re-development agenda. The relationship between President John Momis, his government, and Bougainville Copper's board and management remains cordial and engaged, including the invitation for company representatives to make further visits.

The PNG National government has publicly acknowledged the company's ongoing rights under the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA). Bougainville Copper's major shareholder, Rio Tinto, has confirmed its commitment to exploration and investment in Papua New Guinea, a commitment to the development of PNG that has been ongoing for half a century.

Several studies have been initiated that will underpin both the re-negotiation of the Bougainville Copper Agreement, and the feasibility modeling planned by the company.”

These statements make easily forget the losses that were accumulated – well of course – due to the international financial crises. Nevertheless, Bougainville Copper Limited remains a company without any debts!

28.02.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

Preliminary Final Report 2011 Published!

BCL company secretary Paul Coleman published today the 2011 preliminary final report.

Please read here !

28.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Security firm denies receiving payment

By Fabian Gatana

A SECURITY manager in Buka has denied receiving money from Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp to free his ships.

Owner of Hasaka Security Services Gerry Sawa said allegations that he had received K300,000 from Sharp were not true.

The misinformation led to a confrontation between Sawa's guards and ex-combatants who are holding three ships owned by Sharp.

Mr Sawa, said his security firm was engaged to provide security for the manageress of Rabaul Shipping in Buka.

He also said that rumours that Mr Sharp had purchased a new vehicle for the firm were also not true.

Mr Sawa said that his firm was engaged by Rabaul Shipping Buka purely to provide security services when Buka Police personnel upon request could not provide adequate protection for the manageress.

He said that the incident that occurred on Friday was a direct result of these speculations .

He said he had been asked by the manageress to help retrieve the Rabaul Shipping vehicle which was also being held by those that had taken over the vessels.

He said initially, he had no intention of involving himself or his security firm with matters relating to the vessels being held at the Buka Wharf but acted only after Buka Police had trouble retrieving the vehicle.

He said his attempt to retrieve the company vehicle must have sent a wrong message to ex-combatants resulting in shots being fired on Friday afternoon.

Respecting the rule of law, Mr Sawa voluntarily handed over a high powered firearm which he had in his possession to Buka Police and said that it was now up to the ex-combatants guarding the vessels to give up theirs.

He said his security firm was there to provide safety and security to the people of Bougainville and were not involved in taking bribes to provide their services to the people.

28.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Women Today...

Nasioi women demand action

Under the blistering Bougainville sun, they quietly gathered outside the district local level government office.

First there was a handful, and then the numbers increased as more women took up their positions holding a large banner that read: "Mipela ol mama bilong North Nasioi Inter-Church i laikim tru bai Gavman i mekim hariap ol dispela samting: Primary School Teachers Institute, Secondary School Institute. Attention: Hon President, Hon Minister for Education."

Women from other regions of Bougainville also gathered with their sisters demanding a decent passenger vessel for Bougainville as another request besides the demand for ABG to establish learning institutions in Bougainville.

This was the scene last Friday as women staged a peaceful march, many dressed in black as a sign of mourning for the loss of Bougainvilleans on the recent MV Rabaul Queen ferry sinking.

They presented their petition to the local members and Ministers in the ABG. The march was organised by the North Nasioi Inter-Church Women's group who were concerned about the recent tragic sinking which claimed many lives of Bougainvillean students travelling to schools and colleges on mainland Papua New Guinea.

Among other things, the petition called for immediate establishment of teacher training institutes in Bougainville, one for primary school teachers and another one for secondary school teachers. The women also made a strong request for a university to set up in Bougainville so that students can complete their studies on the island.

The tearful mothers carried placards and chanted the "Patuai" a traditional farewell chant, and marched along the main streets of Arawa past the main market to the Marimari Church where they were received by the Minister for Primary Industry and Member for North Nasioi in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Nicholas Darku.

Other ABG Ministers and Members there were David Sisito, Veteran Affairs Minister and Mining Minister Michael Oni.

Evelyn Banas one of the speakers said: "I think it is time to call on God because he has a message for us and I believe the ABG has got that message."

She said there were many students who lost their lives in the tragedy. Some of these students are being orphaned as well.

She said most already orphaned here in ARB and coupled with financial problems often took the easy way out by taking the cheapest transport available to get to a place of study.

Mrs Banas also asked ABG to provide scholarship for the top students in the region.

Other women like Ludwina Dake, Mary Koren and Regina Nigu asked those who were still holding guns to get rid of them and called on the landowners to allow the government to establish schools and other institutions on the land for the good of everyone in Bougainville.

They also asked the government to immediately carryout a repatriation program for care centre residents who were initially settled by the government at Arawa.

This is so that the houses they were occupying could become available for government workers to move in once they were vacated.

Minister Darku welcomed the petition and told the women that these issues were not just for the leaders to look into.

These issues cover all of Bougainville and not just people of North Nasioi or Central Bougainville. He asked for support to deal with them.

He added that it was quite unfortunate that this tragedy happened but has opened our eyes.

The Minister accepted the petition from the women on behalf of the ABG.

27.02.2012

Source: ESBC Press Release

[ESBC press release 20120227_EN](#)

ESBC declare war on short selling!

“We want to stop fraudulent manipulation in BOC/BOU1 shares,” said the President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Axel G. Sturm, on Monday in Andorra. “Therefore we ask all shareholders of Bougainville Copper (BCL) to put their shares at a high price (AUD 25 to AUD 30) for sale! This will prevent custody banks from using these shares for un-authorized lending to short sellers!”

“Short selling generated huge losses in Bougainville Copper shares within the last year”, says Mr. Sturm, “As a result of short selling the share price plunged under AUD 1 since January 2011. This happened although all news flow from Bougainville had been very positive during that period. The green light for re-opening our Panguna mine is a question of a couple of months only.”

Bougainville Copper shares are supposed to have a fair value of AUD 30 to AUD 50. The exact price – of course – depends on the actual market prices of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum. On the other hand BCL is highly vulnerable to market manipulation: Less than 30 percent of BCL are in free float. (the international mining giant Rio Tinto owns 54 percent and the state of Papua New Guinea 19 percent <http://www.buysellsignals.net/BuySellSignals/report/Australia/Stock/Daily/Html/deskboard/368.html>).

[Please find out more about the European shareholder's \(ESBC\) claim in the text below:](#)

Stop Share Price Manipulation - now! Please support us! You've got the Power!

For several months now the share price of Bougainville Copper Limited (BOC/BOU1) has been pushed down heavily by short sellers: Since the beginning of 2011 it has been more than 60 percent after all! This is despite the fact that today's news flow from Bougainville is more promising than ever. The Australian Securities Exchange ASX has reacted to this by improving short selling rules. Since August 23rd, 2011 no more short selling in BOC shares was reported.

This “ban”, however, is undermined by U.S. and other traders and successfully circumvented. Background: A majority of the stocks held by private investors is deposited with custodian banks. They register those shares in the share register (under so-called custodian banks) who then lend on our shares for short sales against a fee without the owner's knowledge.

In this context even the ASX is powerless because this business is conducted in a semi-legal but grey area and therefore very difficult to prove. There are only two ways to prevent that our shares will be used for unauthorized short selling. The first is a nominated entry in the Bougainville Copper register. The second is a sell order that will block the shares for on- lending.

However, since the entry into the register of shareholders is boycotted by the overwhelming number of custodians in order to maintain this revenue stream, the last resort that remains is to

place a sell order with an extraordinary high limit. This limit should be as high as possible so that the probability of an actual sale is highly unlikely. However, should your shares get sold at a hype, because some short sellers are forced to cover themselves (unlimited), you would have made a sensational deal. For you, this action is entirely without risk. On the contrary, with a bit of luck you are set to make a very nice profit!

Please support us in our fight against such improper dealings of those banks! If possible put up all your shares for sale at a price **between AUD 25 and AUD 30** (which is currently the highest ASK in the Sydney order book!). For European investors (Frankfurt) sale prices should be **between EUR 20 and EUR 25!**

It is completely irrelevant whether you hold very few or a fair number of BOC shares! It is essential that no more BOC shares will be lent on and subsequently that particular market will dry up. This is all that counts!

Do not be put off by your broker or banker, arguing that the order could not be executed because the price is too far off the current actual price. This is nonsense! The ASK of AUD 29.90 and AUD 30 in Sydney are the best proof! In addition: As a stock owner, you can demand any price you would be prepared to sell at!

Please ensure that your sell order is valid for as long as possible and will be extended continuously! Please make absolutely sure that your shares will be put up as a **“limited sell order”!**

This does not commit you to anything! Should you wish to sell your shares for a lower price at a later date, you can always change your sell order accordingly!

[ESBC press release 20120227_GE](#)

ESBC: Kriegserklärung an Shortseller!

“Wir sind fest entschlossen, der Kursmanipulation bei Bougainville Copper (BCL) Aktien den Garaus zu machen,” erklärte der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre von Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Axel G. Sturm, am Montag in Andorra. **“Deshalb fordern wir alle BCL Aktionäre auf, ihre Aktien zu einem hohen Preis von AUD 25 bis AUD 30 (EUR 20 bis EUR 25) zum Verkauf zu stellen. Dies wird die Lagerstellen und die Custodian Banken davon abhalten, Aktien die ihnen nicht gehören unautorisiert an Shortseller zu verleihen!”**

“Leerverkäufe haben den Aktionären der Bougainville Copper Limited (Börsenkürzel BOC/BOU1) innerhalb der letzten 12 Monate massive Verluste eingefahren,” sagt Sturm, **“vor allem Shortseller waren dafür verantwortlich. Die Aktie stürzte von EUR 1.50 zeitweise auf unter EUR 0.60. Und das obwohl sich die Nachrichtenlage stets verbesserte und der Startschuss zur Wiedereröffnung der Panguanamine wohl innerhalb der nächsten Monate fallen wird.“**

Das Fairvalue von Bougainville Copper Aktien wird derzeit mit EUR 25 bis EUR 45 errechnet. Ein exakter Preis ist selbstverständlich abhängig von den jeweiligen Weltpreisen für Kupfer, Gold, Silber und Molybdän. Die Bougainville Copper Aktie ist wegen ihres geringen Freefloats (nur knapp 30%) sehr anfällig für Marktmanipulationen. Hauptaktionäre von Bougainville Copper Limited sind Rio Tinto (54%) und der Staat Papua Neuguinea 19% .

[Lesen Sie nachstehend den Aufruf der European Shareholders \(ESBC\) im Wortlaut:](#)

Stoppen Sie die Manipulation der Aktienkurse – jetzt!

Bitte helfen Sie uns! Sie haben die Macht!

Seit mehreren Monaten wurden die Kurse von Bougainville Copper Limited massiv von Leerverkäufern nach unten gedrückt: Seit Anfang 2011 immerhin um mehr als 60 Prozent! Und das obwohl die Nachrichten aus Bougainville heute besser sind, denn je sind. Die australische Börse ASX hat darauf reagiert, indem sie offensichtlich Leerverkäufe in BOC Aktien ab dem 23. August 2011 unterbunden hat.

Diese Regelung wird allerdings von U.S. amerikanischen und anderen Tradern unterlaufen und erfolgreich ausgehebelt. Hintergrund: Ein Großteil des Aktienbesitzes von Privatinvestoren liegt in Lagerstätten und erscheinen dann im Aktienregister unter sogenannten Custodian Banken und andere, von denen dann Ihre Aktien ohne Ihr Wissen gegen Gebühr für Leerverkäufe verliehen werden. Dagegen ist sogar die ASX machtlos, da dieses Geschäft in einer rechtlichen Grauzone abgewickelt wird und nur sehr schwer nachweisbar ist. Es gibt zwei Möglichkeiten, zu unterbinden, dass Ihr Aktienbesitz für unautorisierte Leerverkäufe genutzt wird. Die Erste ist ein namentlicher Eintrag in das Bougainville Copper Aktionärsregister. Die Zweite ist eine Verkaufsoorder, die automatisch die Aktien für den Verleih blockiert.

Da aber der Eintrag ins Aktionärsregister von der überwiegenden Anzahl der Lagerstätten und Banken boykottiert wird, um sich so eine zusätzliche Einnahmequelle zu sichern, bleibt nur noch eine hoch limitierte Verkaufsoorder als ultima ratio. Diese sollte möglichst so hoch limitiert sein, dass die Wahrscheinlichkeit eines Verkaufes des eigenen Aktienbesitzes eher unwahrscheinlich ist. Sollten allerdings Ihre Aktien dennoch bei einem Hype verkauft werden, weil einige Leerverkäufer gezwungen sind, sich unlimitiert einzudecken, haben Sie ein sensationelles Geschäft gemacht. Für Sie ist diese Aktion vollkommen risikolos. Im Gegenteil: Mit etwas Glück machen Sie sogar einen tollen Gewinn!

Bitte unterstützen Sie uns deshalb in unserem Kampf gegen unlautere Machenschaften solcher Banken ! Stellen Sie möglichst alle Ihre Aktien zu einem Preis **zwischen AUD 25 und AUD 30** (das ist das derzeit höchste ASK im Orderbuch in Sydney!!!) zum Verkauf. Für europäische Investoren in Frankfurt empfehlen wir Verkaufspreise **zwischen 20 EUR und 25 EUR!**

Dabei ist es vollkommen unerheblich, ob Sie nun sehr wenige oder aber sehr viele BOC Aktien besitzen! Wesentlich ist nur, dass keine BOC Aktien mehr verliehen werden können und dieser spezielle Verleihmarkt ausgetrocknet wird. Einzig das zählt!

Lassen Sie sich nicht von Ihrem Broker oder Bankberater mit dem Argument abspesen, die Order könne nicht eingestellt werden, weil sie zu weit vom derzeitig aktuellen Kurs entfernt sei. Das istbarer Unsinn! Das ASK von AUD 29.90 und AUD 30 in Sydney sind der beste Beweis! Zudem: Als Aktienbesitzer können Sie jeden Preis fordern, zu dem Sie verkaufen wollen!

Achten Sie bitte darauf, dass Ihre Verkaufsoorder so lange wie möglich gültig ist und gegebenenfalls stets verlängert wird! Achten Sie bitte peinlichst darauf, dass Ihre Aktien nur limitiert zum Verkauf gestellt werden!

Das verpflichtet Sie zu nichts! Sollten Sie Ihre Aktien zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt billiger verkaufen wollen, können Sie jederzeit Ihre Verkaufsoorder entsprechend abändern!

Source: ESBC Research

Surprise !

The share price of Bougainville Copper in Sydney soared 22.5 percent on Monday. This was shortly after ESBC President Axel G. Sturm announced an important price relevant press release for Monday evening.

Market Depth for **BOUGAINVILLE COPPER**

as at 1:18:06 PM Monday, February 27, 2012

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Last	Change	%	Volume	Trades	Open	High	Low
0.980	0.180 ↑	22.50	42,232	28	0.920	0.980	0.920
Last Traded 288 @ 0.98 - 12:46:17							

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers				BOC Sellers			
Level	Buy	Quantity	Price	Price	Quantity	Sell	Level
1	3	26,768	0.925	0.980	335	1	1
2	1	2,000	0.850	0.990	9,301	2	2
3	1	7,000	0.785	0.995	100,000	1	3
4	1	13,000	0.780	1.050	5,000	1	4
5	1	1,907	0.760	1.200	30,000	1	5
6	1	10,000	0.750	12.000	5,000	1	6
7	1	9,962	0.745	16.390	15,000	1	7
8	2	13,572	0.720	18.000	5,000	1	8
9	1	8,580	0.710	18.650	35,000	1	9
10	1	12,000	0.690	20.000	68,026	1	10
11	1	6,000	0.675	24.000	5,000	1	11
12	1	25,000	0.655	29.900	400,000	1	12
13	1	10,000	0.650	30.000	268,000	3	13
14	1	5,000	0.630				
15	1	1,666	0.600				
16	1	3,000	0.590				
17	1	10,000	0.525				

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

MA to depend independence for Bougainville

By PETERSON TSERAHA

BOUGAINVILLE MPS who win a ticket to the PNG parliament under Melanesian Alliance will demand nothing more than full independence from PNG.

Former Autonomous Region of Bougainville vice president Joe Watawi announced this at the weekend.

Mr Watawi is aiming to contest the Bougainville regional seat held by Fidelis Semoso.

Mr Watawi said the MA they are now forming will be a new MA with new goals and objectives.

“Since it is the first political party involving a lot of Bougainville politicians like the current president John Momis, we will have one ultimate goal and that is independence for Bougainville.”
“We will do it the professional way and get independence through politics,” Mr Watawi said.

Joining Watawi is former Bougainville education advisor Anthony Tsora for the North Bougainville seat.

Interim chairman and former PNG Shorncliffe boss Esebius Omi said MA is an original Bougainville Party and will surely have a lot of support.

In a meeting last Thursday, former members who registered showed up with their ID cards issued to them.

The membership cost K2.

Mr Tsora said the only member of MA in the National Parliament is Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu.

“The only existing member for MA is the Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu and I know for sure a lot of women will be supporting this party because it has now re-emerged and the whole of Bougainville feels that it is their party,” Mr Tsora said.

Melanesian Alliance through accurate research and observations by many political analysts will be the right party to enhance the relationship between Bougainville and Papua New Guinea, and it is the party that has involved a lot of indigenous Bougainvilleans and not only the rich and prominent ones who have money, MA is truly the grass roots party.

According to interim chairman Esebius Omi, fundraisings are already underway and the first meeting will be tomorrow.

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New health plan

BOUGAINVILLE has a new health plan that will focus on developing a strong and sustainable approach to community health care.

The Bougainville Healthy Communities Program (BHCP) is an initiative of the Health Division of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), which emphasises on preventive health care. It is funded by the New Zealand Government at more than K1.2 million through the Leprosy Mission New Zealand.

ABG First Secretary for health, Amato Sahoto said BHCP will strengthen the health care system on a broader perspective, and provide adequate and necessary health education for villages.

“This program is cheap, and people owned and will reach out to the villages. It will educate people to practice hygiene and prevent them from getting sick.” he said.

The program started in 2005, said Mr Sahoto.

It is now in its second phase and is well established in five key districts. It will move progressively into the remaining districts of Bougainville before it ends in 2014.

Moreover, the project supports Bougainville to develop sustainable village owned and run community health programs, so villagers take responsibility for their own health and well being.

Mr Sahoto said that the program will link the villages into the formal government health

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka locals query COE

THE people of Buka in Bougainville have raised concerns why the second arm of the Autonomous Bougainville Government - the Council of Elders (COE) has remained dormant. These concerns were raised following the council's failure to deliver services and implement projects in the six constituencies of Buka district.

According to Chairman of the Buka District Chairman Conference Romeo Tohiana, he said that there are insufficient funds that should assist the work of the Council of Elders.

He said COE has an annual budget of K40, 500 from the Local Level Government, however these funds still is not enough.

“With the funding we receive each year, it still cannot cater for the many established projects.

This year we have requested ABG to increase the funding because we want to carry out these projects.” he said.

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Gunshots exchanged over alleged payment

REPEATED gunshots were exchanged in Buka town following disagreements over an alleged cash payment made by Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp for the release of his vessels held in captive by ex-combatants.

Ex-combatants last Friday exchanged gunshots in a heated argument with a security firm owner (named) and his employees.

The ex-combatants have been holding three Queen ships, MV Solomon Queen, Kopra 1 and Kopra 2, all owned by Rabaul Shipping since the Feb 2 sinking of the Rabaul Queen with loss of lives off the coast of Finschhafen in Morobe.

Shots were fired because the combatants were angry about unconfirmed reports that Mr Sharp had allegedly paid a local security firm about K300,000 (K100,000 each ship) to secure the release of the three vessels.

While Buka police confirmed the shooting incident, they were unable to confirm if Mr Sharp had delivered the money to free his ships and crew.

However, police said the incident happened and advised that reconciliation was set for Tuesday for these two groups. Police said that the ex-combatants had demanded K350,000 from Rabaul Shipping to compensate for their grieving relatives who survived the ill-fated Rabaul Queen ordeal, many of whom are still missing.

The gunfire alarmed the population of Buka town and nearby Ieta villagers including those residing in Sohano and Kokopau vicinity and specifically the business houses.

The police confiscated a gun but it is believed more guns are being held by both parties, which is threatening the UN imposed ceasefire and peace agreements. Mr Sharp could not be reached for comments.

The gunshots have now raised a possible breach of the peace agreements signed in 2001 to stop all gunfights.

On the same day, as early as 8am, in far central Bougainville, North Nasioi women quietly gathered outside the district local level government office to petition the Government over the ferry issue and that the Autonomous Bougainville Government should seriously take the ill-fated voyage into account.

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

2012 election queried

PAPUA New Guinea's 2012 election faces a deferral if the government has its way because of the controversial figures of the Electoral Roll.

But according to the Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, Papua New Guinea needs to prepare for Royal Visit by Prince Charles and his wife Lady Carmila.

The royal couple are expected in PNG visiting in the middle of the June Elections.

Mr Namah told Parliament last Friday that PNG does not want to be internationally embarrassed to receive the future King in the middle of the June Elections, therefore the visit warrants the deferral of the elections.

Parliamentarians have also raised the prospect of delaying the June 2012 elections, this is in addition to the government questioning the figures in the electoral commissioner's report, tabled in parliament last Friday by Leader of Government Business Moses Maladina on behalf of Minister assisting Prime Minister Waka Goi.

The report by Electoral commissioner Andrew Trawen on poll preparations has stated that the electoral roll was about 60 percent complete, which also detailed that 40 percent of the roll was yet to be completed.

This meant that only 2.4 million of PNG's four million eligible voters are registered.

"Preparations to date include the registration of 2.4 million eligible voters on the Preliminary Electoral Roll out of anticipated four (4) million eligible voters.

"This means the Roll is approximately 60 percent complete and covers most of the open electorates in the southern, New Guinea islands and the Mamose regions," Mr Maladina said.

"I have since received independent reports that this is not correct," Mr Maladina said. He said that the electoral commissioner admitted that there were some "pockets" within (the Southern, New Guinea Islands and Mamose) regions, which were still incomplete.

He also said that he had received independent reports that electoral rolls for the nation's 89 open electorates had not been returned to many electorates.

In his report Mr Maladina read out the need for more police funding, a K25 million shortfall that police are currently seeking from the Government.

These are additional funds from the K105 million already dispatched to police for their security operations.

This also include K35 million for PNGDF, K9.6 million for Correctional Services and an additional K16 million from donors to add to the K180 million given to the Electoral Commission to prepare for the elections bringing the total of K330.5 million altogether for this whole 2012 national General Elections.

Electoral Commissioner Trawen last night maintained he would be ready to go to polls come April 27, 2012 when writs would be issued.

27.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Unitech to open centre in Arawa

By PETERSON TSERAHA

ARAWA High School, one of the oldest schools on Bougainville, is now a secondary school and it will also be the branch for the University of Technology's distance education program.

A memorandum of understanding between Unitech and Arawa secondary school authorities for Department of Distance Learning to be set up was signed last Wednesday.

It coincided with the official opening of the 'four-in-one' AusAID funded classroom.

Present at the ceremony were Chief Executive Officer for Education on Bougainville Bruno Babato; DODL director Dr Wilson Tovirika; Arawa Secondary school Principal Paul Lapun; George Mantaku, board chairman; Central Region Education director Anita Salas; Member for Central Bougainville, chiefs and other dignitaries.

Mr Mantaku said they had been asking for a long time for Arawa High to be turned into a secondary school and it now became a reality.

“A lot of developments in terms of infrastructure will still be taking place and this school will be growing, with Unitech's input now we will be a big school.” Mr. Mantaku said.

Mr Mantaku further appealed to landowners, especially in the Arawa town vicinity to make available land so developments such as school buildings can be built on the land.

Mr Babato thanked AusAID for funding the construction of the ‘four-in-one’ classroom.

He also thanked the contractor Earth Works Limited for completing the building on time and for using the money allocated for the job wisely.

“We can really thank AusAID now for what they have done for us here in Arawa, funding a much needed asset for us, a school classroom.” Mr Babato said.

“The most important thing is that we have a really trusted contractor now I would like to thank Michael Tukaku and his company Earth works Limited for a job well done. A lot of projects on Bougainville are incomplete, luckily for Arawa high school it is a job well done.” Mr Babato said.

Unitech's Mr Tovirika said the set up in Arawa was one of the best in the country and parents and students should take ownership of it.

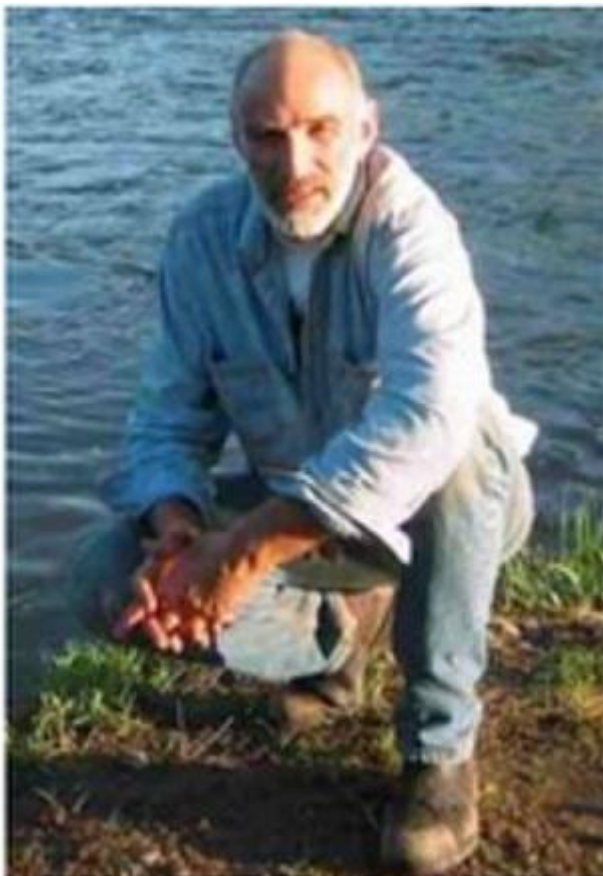
School's Mr Lapun said more than 100 hundred students had so far enrolled for DODL in Arawa.

Since Mr Lapun became the head of the school, Arawa high had moved into new heights with a lot of parents and students saying it is much more convenient and easier now for them to attend school in their own area than going to Buka.

27.02.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

My first PNG posting – struggle on Bougainville



In this second part of his PNG memoirs from the 1970s, ANDREW LESLIE PHILLIPS, now a radio station manager in the USA, recounts his first experience of being a patrol officer in Bougainville.

Read here !

25.02.2012

Source: PNGexposed

Gunshots fired as factions dispute detention of Peter Sharp boats

via Facebook

Reports are emerging from Buka that gunshots have been fired between two factions, one from mainland Bougainville and the other from small Buka.

The commotion is taking place on Buka wharf where the faction from the mainland are still holding on 2 or 3 Peter Sharp's vessels. There is disagreement from the faction from small Buka about the demands being made of Peter Sharp by the other faction.

One small group want Peter Sharp's ships in Buka to be released while the majority want the ships to remain in Buka until those that lost their lives in the recent tragedy are compensated and the results of the official investigations are made known to the public.

24.02.2012

Source: ESBC

The "Bougainville Kina"

Find out more by clicking on one of the three headlines:

- [The Counterfeiter](#)
- [Der Falschmünzer](#)
- [Le faux-monnayeur](#)

24.02.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Turn-around ?

BOC shares soared 8 percent on Friday. This is rather unusual as the turn-over in Bougainville Copper shares used to be rather lame on Fridays in general!

Market Depth for **BOUGAINVILLE COPPER**

as at 2:14:41 PM Friday, February 24, 2012

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Last	Change	%	Volume	Trades	Open	High	Low
0.810	0.060 ▲	8.00	20,608	4	0.770	0.810	0.770

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers				BOC Sellers			
Level	Buy	Quantity	Price	Price	Quantity	Sell	Level
1	2	18,327	0.810	0.875	13,269	2	1
2	2	7,773	0.800	0.880	20,606	1	2
3	1	10,000	0.750	0.900	270	1	3
4	1	9,962	0.745	0.925	6,700	1	4
5	1	6,944	0.720	0.995	100,000	1	5
6	1	8,580	0.710	12.000	5,000	1	6
7	1	12,000	0.690	16.390	15,000	1	7
8	1	6,000	0.675	18.000	5,000	1	8
9	1	10,000	0.650	18.650	35,000	1	9
10	1	5,000	0.630	20.000	68,026	1	10
11	1	1,666	0.600	24.000	5,000	1	11
12	1	3,000	0.590	29.900	400,000	1	12
13	1	10,000	0.525	30.000	268,000	3	13

24.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rare diamond found in Australia

Mining giant **Rio Tinto** said it has unearthed a “remarkable” 12.76 carat pink diamond in Australia, the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in the resources-rich nation.

Named the Argyle Pink Jubilee, the huge rough stone was found at Rio’s pink diamond operations in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and would take 10 days to cut and polish, the miner said on Wednesday.

“This rare diamond is generating incredible excitement. A diamond of this calibre is unprecedented - it has taken 26 years of Argyle production to unearth this stone and we may never see one like this again,” said Josephine Johnson from Rio’s Argyle Pink Diamonds division.

“The individual who gets to wear this remarkable pink diamond will be incredibly lucky indeed.”

The light pink Argyle Jubilee is a similar colour to the 24-carat Williamson Pink given to Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II as a wedding gift which was later set into a Cartier brooch for her coronation.

The Williamson was discovered in Tanzania in 1947 and is ranked among the finest pink diamonds in existence.

Rio produces more than 90 percent of the world’s pink diamonds from the Argyle mine, and said large stones like the Jubilee typically went to museums, were gifted to royalty or end up at prestigious auction houses like Christie’s.

Christie’s had only auctioned 18 polished pink diamonds larger than 10 carats in its 244-year history, Rio said.

When the Jubilee diamond has been cut and polished it will be graded by international experts and showcased globally before being sold by invitation-only tender later this year.

24.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K100 billion for you!

By PETER KORUGL

The Government anticipates that a staggering K100 billion will be initially deposited into the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF).

“We are talking in excess of some US\$30 billion, at current exchange rate, that works out to about K100 billion. That is a lot of money,” Prime Minister Peter O’Neill explained in an exclusive interview with the Post-Courier yesterday.

Mr O’Neill said that the money was from just one LNG project but when the revenue from the second LNG project as well as the other resource projects were channelled into that fund, the amount would be astronomical.

“This is 10 times the size of our economy. This is going to be a very important fund and we have to manage it properly. It can only get bigger if we manage it properly.

“Off course, there are other Sovereign Wealth Funds around that world that have got trillions of dollars but ours is just starting. As we progress, this will increase and we will draw down on the fund to stabilise our economy when it slows down,” Mr O’Neill said.

Mr O’Neill said the decision by the Government to establish the SWF was to ensure that revenue from the resource developments were not squandered but used properly to improve the standard of lives of the people.

He said PNG did not want to go down the track that was taken by many African countries. “We have the symptoms already. PNG has a high population, a high unemployed population, a high illiterate population and high youth population with very little opportunities. “These are recipes for disaster if we do not manage them properly, we can destroy the stability of the country. We can deal with these issues by educating our people and managing our SWF well,” Mr O’Neill said.

Mr O’Neill explained the role of the SWF a day after Parliament passed the Bill to establish the SWF for Papua New Guinea unopposed.

The first vote on the bill presented by Mr O’Neill was 80-nil while the second result was 78-nil, surpassing the absolute majority vote of 73 votes.

Mr O’Neill thanked Members of Parliament for passing the bill to establish the sovereign wealth fund.

“The establishment of the fund is very important for our nation’s development. The fund gives us the opportunity to protect and grow surplus wealth from the export of our mineral resources, and our oil and gas,” Mr O’Neill said.

“So much revenue has flowed to the government from **Bougainville Copper mine**, Ok Tedi, Misima Mine, and Porgera in the past. But if you look around you, what is there in the country to show for this massive wealth generated from these projects? Virtually nothing.”

24.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mining Act to be reviewed

The Mining Act will be reviewed with the view to increase landowner participation in mining projects in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah has promised.

Speaking at a meeting in Parliament on Wednesday in which Department of Mining officials made presentations to highlight impediments the industry would face if the Boka Konda Bill became a law, Mr Namah led a chorus of calls from MPs and other participants at the meeting for increased landowner participation.

Mr Namah said he would support the bill and called on proponents and critics of the bill to work together so the final form that goes to Parliament is acceptable to all the players.

“A review of the Mining Act is long overdue.

“Landowners should not be mere rent and royalty takers. They should be a major partner in the extraction of resources from their land. This can be achieved through the production sharing arrangement that is working well in many countries,” Mr Namah said.

Mr Namah said the notion that the Bill would scare away investors was nonsense.

He gave Trinidad as an example, where oil giant BP protested the introduction of production sharing arrangement and left, warning no investors would go to invest there under that regime.

The Chinese and French moved in, and the country is now enjoying the benefits of the production sharing arrangement.

“People say the bill would scare away investors. Those who want to leave can leave. There will be others lining up at the door to replace them,” Mr Namah said.

He urged MP Boka Konda to look at 49/51 production sharing arrangement, with landowners taking up 49 per cent with the support of the Government.

He said the issue of exploration and sunk costs should not be considered impediments, as that would be shared by all partners.

Mr Namah, who is Minister for Forest and Climate Change, said similar change to increase landowner participation would be brought to the forest industry.

Mr Kondra has three bills on the Notice Paper. They are the Mining (amendment bill) Act, the Land (amendment) Bill 2012, and the Oil and Gas Amendment Bill 2012.

24.02.2012

Source: The National

Namah wants laws on mining reviewed

THE Mining Act will be reviewed to increase landowner participation in mining projects, Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah said.

He was speaking at a meeting in parliament on Wednesday where Mining Department officials highlighted impediments the industry would face if the Boka Kondra Bill became law.

Namah and MPs called for increased landowner participation.

He said he would support the bill and called on proponents and critics of the bill to work together so that the final form was acceptable to all.

“A review of the Mining Act is long

overdue. Landowners should not be mere rent and royalty takers.

“They should be a major partner in the extraction of resources from their land.

“This can be achieved through the production sharing arrangement that is working well in many countries.”

Namah urged Kondra to look at a 49/51 production sharing arrangement, with landowners taking up 49% with the support of the government.

He said the issue of exploration and sunk costs should not be considered impediments, as that would be shared by all partners.

Namah, who is minister for forest and climate change, said similar change to increase landowner participation would be brought to the forest industry.

23.02.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville MP suspended

By JACOB POK

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso has been suspended to allow a leadership tribunal to hear misconduct allegations against him.

Semoso's suspension became automatic under the Organic Law after state prosecutors presented the references containing 14 allegations and a statement of reason to the tribunal.

The state prosecutor on Tuesday read the allegations contained in the references to the tribunal bench headed by national court judge Justice Salatial Lenalia, and consisting of senior magistrates Ignatious Kurie and Nerrie Eliakim.

The 14 allegations are in relation to the misappropriation of K2.7 million for the South Bougainville feeder road project funds which were allegedly used without proper tender process.

He is also alleged to have misappropriated a K470,000, plus another K1 million from the feeder road project.

He is also alleged to have failed in carrying out his obligations under the constitution and the Organic Law.

Semoso's lawyer Charles Mende told the tribunal that his client would need time to look through the allegations. He asked the tribunal for a three week adjournment to prepare his responses.

By then, he said the tribunal could conduct a trial on those allegations that his client denied.

The tribunal members adjourned the matter to March 1.

23.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Parliament passes Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill

PARLIAMENT yesterday passed the Bill to establish the Sovereign Wealth Fund for Papua New Guinea unopposed.

The first vote on the Bill presented by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was 80-0 while the second result was 78-0, surpassing the absolute majority vote of 73.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill thanked Members of Parliament for passing the bill to establish the sovereign wealth fund.

"The establishment of the fund is very important for our nation's development. The fund gives us the opportunity to protect and grow surplus wealth from the export of our mineral resources, and our oil and gas," Mr O'Neill said.

"So much revenue has flowed to the government from Bougainville Copper mine, Ok Tedi, Misima Mine, and Porgera in the past. But if you look around you, what is there in the country to show for this massive wealth generated from these projects? Virtually nothing.

"We have squandered our wealth. Most of our infrastructure is in poor shape because we have failed to invest in areas that will grow the economy. We have to change those bad ways, and the sovereign wealth fund will help shape our development path to a better future for our children," Mr O'Neill said.

The Prime Minister commended members in the house for passing the bill yesterday.

23.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG MP grieves over victims

By PETERSON TSERAHA

Member for Central Bougainville in the Autonomous Bougainville Government Joan Jerome has conveyed her sincere heartfelt condolences on behalf of Bougainvillean mothers, to all those who have perished and lost their loved ones in the ill-fated ferry MV Rabaul Queen.

"I as a mother has grieved with you for the last three weeks since the 2nd February incident for the ones who lost their lives, and for those who have survived, our students professionals and their families." "This is a great loss to our human resource on Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as a whole." Mrs Jerome said.

Mrs Jerome said Bougainville did not expect to lose so many lives in the MV Rabaul Queen disaster. "I strongly condemn that man-made disaster being encountered because of disobeying the rule of law for natural disasters," she said.

"As the President John Momis has quoted, "This is a wake-up call for us leaders on Bougainville both the four National members of the National Parliament and those of the ABG. Let's put aside our differences and let us use DSIP funds and other sources of funding to bring development and impact infrastructure funds to be used wisely." Mrs Jerome said.

"For so many years we have lost many Bougainvilleans attending colleges and universities outside of Bougainville." "I call upon all Bougainville MPs to put your funds into one basket in the provincial treasury to rebuild Bougainville with colleges and universities," she said. "Respect and unity must prevail in Bougainville in order for goods and services to be used wisely for our future Bougainville leaders." Mrs Jerome said.

She added that Bougainville would only survive when its people stand together to uproot the evils preventing its progress, including the systems that divide the people and corruption.

23.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Academic challenges students

By PETERSON TSERAHA

A renowned Papua New Guinean academic from the University of Technology in Lae, has boldly challenged the Bougainville student population and the leadership regarding education for the future of Bougainville.

DrWilson Tovirika Director of DODL, speaking at the launching of the DODL branch in Arawa last week Wednesday challenged leaders to talk and help students.

According to Dr Tovirika a Bougainvillean said the Arawa set up funded by AusAID, which was a four in one classroom for the Arawa secondary school is one of the best in the country.

"One thing for sure and is happening right now, if students don't get places in tertiary institutions we will have intelligent and professional criminals on the streets," Dr Tovirika said.

"Distance mode is the way to go study at your own pace but you must be disciplined, if you want to enrol with DODL,"he said.

"Don't enrol until you know where you want to go, you mustn't be undecided, and it will be frustrating and very costly," Dr Tovirika said.

"Knowledge is an asset that will never be taken away from you, you can have a house a car or anything, a house can get burnt and you may not have a house again, but your knowledge will be in you with until you die you will be buried with it,"

"It will never be removed or taken away from you, and to acquire knowledge work hard for it,"Dr Tovirika said.

Dr Tovirika further stated that knowledge is power and a government and a country can only be powerful is knowledgeable people run it.

"So the government now has to really invest heavily in knowledge and education in order to have a powerful government to look after our affairs and run and govern Bougainville," he said.

23.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Student caught with drugs

By PETERSON TSERAHA

A 19 -year-old grade seven student has been arrested and charged by Buka police for having in his possession eight mega bundles of Marijuana weighting up to 1540 kg.

He is now locked up in the Buka police station cells.

The youth identified was arrested at 2pm on Tuesday after police received a tip off from some locals.

Gordon Magoga, from the Buka police station, said the youth was a well-known drug trafficker, but he was never arrested and had always escaped and had always pretended in the presence of police in and around Buka town.

The youth actually had already boarded a PMV truck and was heading home to Tegese village, but police quickly chased after the truck and arrested the youth at Hangan village just outside Buka town.

“He bought the eight bundles for K300 which is usually the bulk price, and he says he would then put them into small rolls and sell them for K5 and would make K5000 to K6000 in one week if he sold all eight bundles out,” Constable Magoga said.

Mr Magoga stated that despite a lot of awareness campaigns against drug abuse in the Haku area and in Buka Island marijuana is flowing in abundance on the island.

Police in Buka have confirmed that all these drugs were being harvested and cultivated in Aita Central Bougainville, and it is now suspected buyers from both PNG and abroad are interested, and also businessmen are involved.

“On Bougainville both male and female youths are smoking marijuana and that is a big threat to the society and the future of Bougainville,” Mr Magoga said.

22.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Somare, Semoso case adjourned

By TODAGIA KELOLA

THE Leadership Tribunal hearing allegations of misconduct on two leaders, Arthur Somare and Fidelis Semoso have both been adjourned for two and three weeks respectively.

For Somare’s matter it was mentioned yesterday before the three members Justice Salatiel Lenalia and senior Magistrates Orim Karapo and Rosie Johnson after being thrown back by the Supreme Court on Monday, when it dismissed a stay application and summarily dismissed his substantive appeal.

Yesterday his lawyer Goiye Gileng asked for an adjournment arguing that his client needs time to consider the decision of the Supreme Court in summarily dismissing his matter because the issue was not before the court and no submissions were made on that particular issue.

“My client feels substantially prejudiced and if I may request the Tribunal to adjourn for two weeks in which my client can consider whether to reopen the supreme Court appeal or proceed on with the Tribunal”

State Prosecutor Kathwa Umpake in response urged the Tribunal to proceed because there is no longer a lawful order preventing it from carrying out its function.

After a short adjournment the Tribunal granted the adjournment for the matter to return on March 6

Meanwhile Bougainville Regional member Fidelis Semoso has been suspended from office pending the outcome of the Leadership Tribunal hearing.

22.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Aussie Army choppers for PNG National Elections

By Gorethy Kenneth

THE Australian Defence Force is assisting the 2012 National Election operations with two commercially-leased helicopters.

This is because the Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen has admitted that PNGEC was late in securing helicopters to meet its air transport requirements as the police have already secured available choppers for its election security operations from Helifix.

This was revealed by the Assistant Secretary for Pacific Region with the Australian Defence Department Tyson Sara in a short visit to PNG last week.

During their visit, Mr Sara and his team met with the Royal PNG Constabulary, PNG Defence Force, Correctional Services, National Intelligence Organization and PNG Electoral Commission.

He said the two choppers that would be in operation for two years will be fully funded by the Australian Government and are expected to be in service here in May to support PNGDF's air transport wing.

Mr Sara said the two choppers will be based in Mt. Hagen in the whole duration of the election operations in the seven Highlands provinces.

Helifix is the only chopper company in PNG that is not contracted to any of the resource companies in the country.

The PNGDF Arava and CASA aircrafts may not be operational, according to ADF, and the Commission has been advised to secure aircrafts from a third-level airline company (possibly Airlines PNG) to compliment the choppers in order to meet its air transport requirements in airlifting ballot papers, ballot boxes, other election materials as well as election security personnel.

The four PNGDF navy patrol boats, however, are operational and will be available for use by the PNGEC in the Maritime Provinces.

For elections in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Electoral Commissioner Trawen revealed that PNGEC has asked New Zealand to assist with sea transport there as Bougainville is "no go zone" for the PNGDF under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

He said the initial response from New Zealand is positive but final confirmation will come from Wellington.

Commissioner Trawen thanked Mr Sara and his delegation saying that their visit was timely as PNGEC was preparing and finalizing its transportation, election security and polling schedules as well as election logistics for the 2012 elections.

Meanwhile, Australian High Commissioner in Port Moresby Ian Kemish has confirmed this support package which would include two choppers and 30 computers already purchased for elector data

22.02.2012

Source: Eureka Street

Feminism in Bougainville

by ELLENA SAVAGE

[Read here !](#)

21.02.2012

L'équipe du radio Francophone de l'ABC fait le point...

Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée: le patron de la Rabaul Shipping affirme ne pas être responsable

Deux semaines après le naufrage du Rabaul Queen, les rescapés commencent à rentrer chez eux.

Parti de Buka, la capitale de l'île de Bougainville, le ferry a coulé le 2 février au large de Lae sur la côte est du pays. Au moins 183 passagers sont portés disparus, même si ce chiffre est controversé, car on ne sait pas exactement combien de passagers transportait le Rabaul Queen.

Quant aux 246 rescapés, ils ont été habillés, nourris, logés grâce aux donations des habitants et des commerçants de Lae, le tout orchestré par la Chambre de Commerce de la ville. On écoute son président, Alan McClay, au micro de Campbell Cooney sur Radio Australia:

«Les centres d'accueil d'urgence sont opérationnels, les centres de soin toujours ouverts et les gouvernements des provinces de la Nouvelle-Bretagne Est et Ouest ainsi que celui de Bougainville ont envoyé des fonds et des représentants pour prêter main forte aux équipes de Lae et aider les victimes. Jeudi des charters ont été affrétés pour ramener chez eux les rescapés originaires de la Nouvelle-Bretagne Est. Donc les choses commencent à s'organiser, oui. Le gouverneur de la Nouvelle-Bretagne Est m'a annoncé qu'il avait mis sur pied une cellule de soutien psychologique sur place, et c'est mieux ainsi, comme ça les rescapés seront aussi entourés de leurs parents et amis, et avec l'aide des professionnels, ils devraient se remettre plus facilement de cette tragédie.»

Il y a une semaine, le Premier ministre papou a chargé Bureau Australien de la Sécurité des Transports, de mener l'enquête sur les circonstances du naufrage. C'est un ancien juge australien, Warwick Andrews, qui préside la commission d'enquête. Il est entre autres chargé de vérifier l'état de navigabilité du ferry et de déterminer s'il était surchargé.

Du côté des familles des victimes, l'affaire est entendue, le naufrage n'est pas du à des causes naturelles, mais bien à l'irresponsabilité de la compagnie maritime, la Rabaul Shipping.

Peu après le naufrage, 50 anciens combattants indépendantistes de Bougainville, ont pris position, armes à la main, sur les trois autres ferries de la Rabaul Shipping, stationnés dans le port de Buka, la capitale de l'île.

Ils affirment qu'ils se retireront lorsque la compagnie aura dûment dédommagé les familles des victimes. Au début de la semaine dernière, leur discours a évolué. Ces gardiens improvisés veulent être payés par la Rabaul Shipping pour avoir protégé ces trois navires de la colère des parents des passagers.

Vendredi, les trois ferries étaient toujours dans le port de Buka, surveillés par ces anciens combattants indépendantistes. Le Président de la province autonome de Bougainville, John Momis, essaie de résoudre l'impasse. On écoute le récit de John Agamata, l'un de ces anciens combattants:

«Le Président a fait le déplacement suite à la publication d'un communiqué de presse dans lequel Peter Sharp, le patron de Rabaul Shipping, affirmait ne pas être responsable du sort des portés disparus du Rabaul Queen. Ça a beaucoup fâché les familles des victimes, elles s'apprêtaient à aller couler les trois autres bateaux de la compagnie, quand nous sommes intervenus, nous avons réussi à les raisonner jusqu'à ce que le Président arrive.»

Les avocats du Bureau Australien de la Sécurité des Transports interrogent les témoins et les rescapés du naufrage depuis la semaine dernière. Ils se rendront prochainement en Nouvelle-Bretagne Est et Ouest ainsi qu'à Bougainville, pour y rencontrer les parents des victimes.

Bougainville: un groupe armé occupe toujours les trois ferries de la Rabaul Shipping

C'est dans le port de Buka, la capitale de cette province autonome de Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, que se trouvent les trois navires de la compagnie propriétaire du Rabaul Queen, qui a fait naufrage le 2 février dernier.

Bilan: 183 disparus. Ayant pris possession des trois ferries au lendemain de la tragédie, ces hommes, des anciens combattants pour l'indépendance de Bougainville, assuraient qu'ils ne quitteraient les trois ferries que lorsque le PDG de la Rabaul Shipping, Peter Sharp, aurait dédommagé les familles des victimes.

Depuis, leurs demandes ont évolué. Ils réclament désormais des compensations pour eux-mêmes et leur travail de gardiennage: 150 000 dollars pour avoir assuré la protection des navires, que des parents des victimes voulaient saborder il y a trois semaines.

Le gouvernement de la province autonome de Bougainville tente une médiation entre les deux parties, sans succès pour l'instant. Sur Radio Australie, Campbell Cooney a joint Lawrence Disin, l'administrateur en chef de ce gouvernement:

«J'ai parlé à Peter Sharp et aux hommes qui ont pris possession des ferries, mais ni les uns ni les autres ne veulent céder. Notre message à la Rabaul Shipping est clair: dès que vous aurez payé, vos ferries vous seront rendus. Les hommes sont prêts à quitter les navires depuis lundi de la semaine dernière.»

Lawrence Disin, administrateur en chef du gouvernement autonome de Bougainville. Les premiers rescapés originaires de Bougainville devraient arriver ce jeudi sur leur île natale après trois semaines passées en centre d'hébergement d'urgence à Lae.

21.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rio Tinto's automated trains set for WA

RIO Tinto, the majority shareholder of the now defunct Panguna Copper Mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will invest \$US518 million (over K1 billion) in autonomous trains for Pilbara iron ore rail network in Western Australia

According to a statement yesterday, Rio Tinto will run the world's first automated long-distance heavy-haul rail network, with a \$US518 million (over K1 billion) investment in driverless trains.

The first driverless train will be launched in 2014, with the AutoHaul automated train programme scheduled for completion a year later.

AutoHaul is being pioneered as part of the automation component of Rio Tinto's Mine of the Future initiative that also includes driverless trucks and autonomous drills.

On its 1500-km rail network, Rio Tinto currently runs 41 trains from mines to ports, comprising 148 locomotives and 9,400 iron ore cars.

Automating train operations allows Rio Tinto to expand Pilbara in (Western Australia) production capacity without needing to make a substantial investment in additional trains.

Rio Tinto said it will also drive productivity improvements, with greater flexibility in train scheduling and the removal of driver changeover times creating extra capacity in the rail network.

Other benefits include more efficient fuel use, resulting in lower energy costs and a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions for each tonne of iron ore produced.

Rio Tinto chief executive Australia and Iron Ore Sam Walsh said "Rio Tinto is leading the way in large-scale use of automation, with plans to deploy 150 driverless trucks and our plans for AutoHaul.

"Expanding Pilbara iron ore production is a high-return and low-risk investment for Rio Tinto that will enhance shareholder value.

"Automation will help us meet our expansion targets in a safe, more efficient and cost-effective way. "Automation also helps us address the significant skills shortage facing the industry, providing a valuable opportunity to improve productivity.

"However, as we expand our business we will see an overall increase in job numbers and this will provide new opportunities in the rail division and elsewhere.

As always, we will engage directly with those affected as we gradually make the transition to automation over the next three years," he added.

AutoHaul and the overall expansion of rail operations are subject to a number of State Government and other approvals, the company indicated.

21.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa High School status raised

By PETERSON TSERAHA

ARAWA high school which has existed for 30 years is now recognised as a secondary school and will be a branch for the University of Technology's DODL (Department of Distance Learning) .

Last Wednesday, two events took place, the official opening of the four-in-one AusAID funded classroom and the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the University of Technology (Unitech), and Arawa secondary school authorities.

Present at the ceremony were CEO for Education Bruno Babato DODL director Dr.Wilson Tovirika, Arawa secondary school, Principal Paul Lapun, George Mantaku, Arawa secondary school Board chairman, Central region education director Anita Salas, chiefs and other dignitaries, the member for central Bougainville and minister for communications Jimmy Miringtoro could not attend due to other commitments.

Board chairman George Mantaku in his speech said they have always been asking, begging and crying and now Arawa is a secondary school.

"A lot of developments in terms of infrastructure will still be taking place and this school will be growing, with Unitech's input now we will be a big school now." Mr Mantaku said. He appealed to landowners especially in the Arawa town vicinity to make available land so developments, especially school buildings can be built on the land. Education CEO on Bougainville Bruno Babato thanked the donor AusAID for funding the four in one classroom, and he also thanked the contractor Earth Works limited for completing the building on time and for using the contract money wisely. "We can really thank AusAID now for what they have done for us here in Arawa, funding a much needed asset for us, a school classroom." Mr Babato said.

"The most important thing is that we have a really trusted contractor now I would like to thank Michael Tukaku and his company Earth works limited for a job well done, a lot of projects on Bougainville are incomplete luckily for Arawa high school it is a job well done." Mr Babato said.

DODL director Dr Wilson Tovirika said the set up in Arawa is one of the best in the country and parents and students should take ownership off it.

21.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG misses out on rentals

By Joseph Morokana

The Bougainville administration and the Housing Allocation Committee (HAC) in Buka should urgently come up with proper housing procedures to effectively tackle the existing problems regarding public servants housing tenure, terms and conditions.

This has been highlighted in a recent Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Inquiry report which concluded with other issues – that officers have not been following the ABAs, policy on Government housing, retired and retrenched officers still occupying houses, officers double dipping in Government housing, officers occupying two houses and renting out Government housing to individuals, officers not meeting any portion of the rentals in private and Government housing, public servants complaining at the unfair salary disparity between National Government officers and the officers of ABG, poor housing conditions, shortage of Government housing and abuse of the contract and tendering process.

"My committee is especially alarmed that no rentals are paid by public servants since 2005 for Government and private accommodation in Buka town." Chairman of PAC Mr Cosmas Sohia said in his report.

He said that ABG was missing out on hundreds of thousands of kina each year due to officers not contributing their rentals.

'This money could have been used on building new houses so that more Public Servants can be duly accommodated.' Mr Sohia stated in the report.

These Government housings are in Hutjena, Kubu, Katsinkuri and the Sohano Island.

At present, there are a total of 171 Government houses.

The HAC has no control over few institutional houses located at the Buka Hospital Area and some on Sohano Island.

The report also said that it was unfair to those Public Servants who commute to work every day and had to meet their own transport costs while public servants in town have been enjoying the rental freedom.

The current rate of housing rental is K7 for officers on salary grade 10, K6 for officers on salary grade 7 - 9, K1.30 for officers on salary grade 7.

Comments in the PAC Report made by the former chairman of the PAC, Mr Patrick Koles imply that some specific issues like rentals were still undertaken by the National Governments' Finance Department in Port Moresby and not with the HAC in Buka.

20.02.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Standoff continues in Bougainville over seized ships

In Bougainville, a group of men is maintaining control of three ships belonging to the owner of the sunken ferry, MV Rabaul Queen.

The ships were seized soon after the ferry sank three weeks ago claiming at least one hundred and 50 lives.

Most of the victims were students travelling to Lae to begin the school year.

The men say they're holding the boats to ensure Rabaul Shipping and its boss Peter Sharp provide compensation to families who had lost loved ones.

Now the men say they will release them, but only after they are paid around 350 thousand Kina for providing security.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has been trying to negotiate with both sides, but with little success.

Presenter: Pacific Correspondent, Campbell Cooney

Speaker: Lawrence Disin, Chief Administrator of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

[Listen here !](#)

17.02.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville plans to buy new ferry

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville is in the process of getting a modern inter-island passenger ferry.

Two weeks ago, the mv Rabaul Queen sank off Morobe, with dozens of Bougainvilleans, many of them students, among the estimated 183 who died.

The shipping company involved had been criticised for overloading.

A major inquiry is to be conducted but Bougainville President John Momis said the provincial and national governments needed to take some responsibility.

“It is time that we took measures to listen to the people and do something in accordance with the priorities of the people,” he said.

“In fact, before the ship sank, when I became president I already made moves to get a new boat – a good, modern passenger boat – and we are now in the process of getting one.”

17.02.2012

Source: The National

Somare: I will contest

By JEFFREY ELAPA

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare plans to return to parliament to prove to his political rivals that he still enjoys the support of his East Sepik electorate.

While he has reached retirement age as prime minister, he would consider coming back to parliament to prove to the government of Peter O’Neill that the people of East Sepik still respected him.

He said he did not want to return but the manner in which parliament, particularly the O’Neill-led government, had been treating him forced him to reconsider his decision to retire.

“I have reached my retirement (age) but I have a second thought when the parliament decided to remove me as the member of East Sepik,” he said.

“I want to retire but I want to prove them wrong.”

He said he was retained by the people of East Sepik in the past nine elections and won by big margins.

He is confident of coming back in the same manner.

Somare admitted that he was ousted from parliament and was waiting for the Supreme Court ruling.

Meanwhile, Ambunti-Dreikikir MP Tony Aimo has called on the government to move a motion to rescind their decision to oust Sir Michael.

“We hope they rescind the decision of parliament,” he said.

17.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG’s Somare camp hit out at action of corruption squad

One of the two men claiming to be prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare, says his rival is blatantly using public servants to execute his political agenda.

Sir Michael says he is angry and disappointed at the way the O’Neill administration’s Political Sweep Team acted in his native East Sepik Province on Wednesday.

The team has been set up to combat corruption.

Sir Michael says a heavily armed police squad swept unannounced into the East Sepik government’s offices to carry out an investigation.

Sir Michael says if there are concerns about the actions of the provincial government the normal process would be to first suspend it or send in officials to provide assistance.

He says it is inappropriate for Mr O'Neill to send in police and a vigilante squad to arrest and confiscate documents to make a case against the East Sepik government.

ESBC comments: Who else if not the PNG government is able to carry out investigations and to combat corruption? The ESBC are very satisfied that Peter O'Neill's government continues and intensifies its fight against corruption. Finally this may bring light into allegations that Sir Michael Somare, his son Arthur and other persons of the Somare entourage might be heavily involved in misappropriating public funds over many years. The ESBC wonder of the outcome of Arthur Somare's court case for misconduct in office. Until August 2011 he served as Minister for Public Enterprises.

16.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Telikom instals tower in Kieta

THE People of Bakawari Island and neighbouring areas of Kieta District now have access to mobile phone and other communication networks.



This is thanks to Telikom PNG who have installed a communications tower to beam the network to villages in the area. On Friday the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Jimmy Miringtoro (picture) officially launch the Citifon service at Bakawari Island.

Present at the launching also were Peter Loko Telikom CEO and the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Steven Pirika.

Both Minister Pirika and the Telikom CEO appealed strongly to the people to look after communications tower and associated equipment because they cost money. "If you have a problem talk about it and find ways to deal with the problem and don't go around destroying equipment that provides services to the people in the community," Mr Loko said.

The launching program ended with entertainment from the pokpok island women who swayed to the rhythm of the bamboo band.

16.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Information vital for progress

Radio programs are to focus on the development work of the ABG, informing people of what is happening with the government.

By FABIAN HAKALITS

INFORMATION communication is a vital tool towards Bougainville's development, a visiting expert from the Philippines, Paul Fernandez has said.

In an interview with Post-Courier, Mr Fernandez spoke of how radio broadcast is important and said that the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) should establish more radio transmitters, throughout the autonomous region.

"Radio is free, cheap and accessible in remote place. I strongly appeal to the ABG to extend radio signals to allow the listeners to tune in." he said.

He said: "For Bougainville being in this referendum period, it is important people have to be aware of the work, progress and changes that are happening in the government regime."

“Radio programs are to focus on the development work of the ABG, informing people of what is happening with the government. It will also give the people feedback, how they could co-ordinate with the government.” said Mr Fernandez.

He said, if such programs are designed, it will keep people informed and that they would like to switch on their radio’s daily.

To date, there is no exclusive radio signal coverage in Bougainville, as the radio signals only facilitate some areas.

Meanwhile, Mr Fernandez said that for Bougainville to achieve independence, leaders have to work together and make collective decisions for the best interests of Bougainville.

He said that referendum is the decider for independence which helps determine the work of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and improve on work of good governance.

“Referendum is important because it will recommend to leaders how to make collective decisions that are of significance to the future of Bougainville.” he said.

16.02.2012

Source: The National

PM: Election on as scheduled

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill, who has repeatedly assured the nation that the general election will be held as scheduled, is under pressure from his own caucus to delay the polls for up to six months.

However, he told parliament yesterday he had advised his caucus that the government had no plans to delay the election.

“We have no desire to delay the election. I told the government caucus that I would prefer an election today rather than delay to resolve some of the political impasse we have today,” O’Neill said.

“Election will be held on time to let the people make the choice of who represents them in parliament.”

O’Neill admitted that the common roll was not ready, saying there were some wards and areas of the country where the population had increased by up to 400%.

“Some Papua New Guineans have not been sleeping but making population,” O’Neill joked.

“As I have stated already, there is no desire for this government to delay the election.

“We can only be guided by the Electoral Commission and the electoral commissioner who have been advised to prepare a report for cabinet.”

O’Neill said the report would determine the 2012 election.

Concerns raised from within the government ranks were mainly over the common roll updates that were not ready and some early campaigning by candidates in breach of the laws.

16.02.2012

Source: The National

Dame Carol is new opposition leader

By JEFFREY ELAPA

RETIRING woman politician Dame Carol Kidu (picture) was yesterday announced as the new opposition leader.

She will occupy the position – which has been vacant for six months – until the general election in June. She is not seeking re-election for her Moresby South seat.



Speaker Jeffery Nape yesterday formally recognised Dame Carol, the only female who had been championing the proposed law to boost women representation in parliament.

She told parliament she was prepared to lead an opposition but appealed to other MPs in the middle bench to join her, adding that an effective opposition was too big a task for just one person.

MPs from both sides of parliament congratulated her.

Later, Dame Carol told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat that her first task was to restore credibility and confidence in the Office of the Leader of Opposition and bring back parliamentary debate on the floor of parliament.

"I am retiring from politics, I'm not going to be out campaigning," she said.

"I have four months until August when I will still be on payroll for Papua New Guinea, I can really focus on looking at how we can strengthen the functioning of the opposition in PNG," Dame Carol said.

"Because we know that to have a vibrant democracy, it's not just about having elections.

"We've got to have those back checks and balances on the floor, and I think the opposition needs to be strengthened."

Dame Carol, who entered politics in 2002, leads the Melanesian Alliance party, one of the oldest political parties moulded together by leaders such as Bernard Narokobi and Bougainville President John Momis.

She was a minister for the past nine years under the National Alliance-led coalition until Sir Michael Somare was voted out of office last Aug 2.

With no effective opposition as a result of the ongoing political impasse, Dame Carol decided late last month to seek the speaker's approval to become opposition leader.

When parliament met on Tuesday, she took the opposition leader's seat but Nape asked her to vacate it until he sought further clarification.

Nape ruled yesterday that after seeking advice, he was satisfied that Dame Carol could become leader of the opposition.

However, sources said the idea of Dame Carol taking the opposition leader's chair was put to her last year during the budget session.

16.02.2012

Source: The National

Three of four defectors join T.H.E Party

FOUR parliamentarians in the Sir Michael Somare faction have joined the government side.

Speaker Jeffery Nape yesterday declared that Laiagam-Porgera MP Philip Kikala and Miki Kaeok of the National Alliance party had joined Treasurer Don Polye's Triumph Heritage Empowerment (T.H.E) Party.

Nape said Kikala had sent a notice that he was joining the government after consultation with his electorate.

Nape had instructed parliamentary staff to allocate a seat for Kikala in the government bench.

Middle Ramu MP Ben Sembri had also joined the government coalition ranks.

Sembri, a member of the People's Action Party, will join his party leader and Maprik MP Gabriel Kapris in the government benches.

It leaves Tony Aimo as the only MP from the Somare camp sitting in the middle bench.

People's Party man and Wewak MP Dr Moses Manwau had also jumped ship to Polye's T.H.E Party.

It is slowly building up the strength of the government side to pass some of the important laws before parliament.

16.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Governors to retain seats

By Gorethy Kenneth and Caldron Laepa

PARLIAMENT yesterday voted 77-0 for the Provincial Seats to remain. This means that all provincial governors of Papua New Guinea can contest the June elections which starts in 10 weeks time when writs will be officially issued.

In 2006, Parliament passed an amendment that would have removed provincial electorates, however, yesterday, Parliament voted and resolved to retain the provincial seats through the passage of the Membership (Amendment of Section 101) and the Constitutional Amendment No. 30 (Provincial Electorates) Law.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill presented the Law before 79 MPs present in Parliament. The Somare regime MPs were also present to help vote for the Bill to keep the Provincial Seats and they included Nipa Kutubu MP Philemon Embel, Middle Ramu MP Ben Semri, Kairuku Hiri MP Paru Aihi, Nawa MP Timothy Bonga, Pomio MP Paul Tiensten, Ambunti/Drekirki MP Tony Aimo, Tari/Pori MP James Marape, Laigap MP Philip Kikala (who has joined Government as of 2pm yesterday) Madang Provincial MP Sir Arnold Amet, Enga Governor Peter Ipatas.

Speaker Jeffery Nape read out that the repeal of the amendment would not affect any right, privilege or obligation or liability acquired and accrued or incurred by the person this section applied to and any legal proceeding brought forthwith.

After Parliament made alterations to the amendment that would have removed provincial electorates in Parliament yesterday, all provincial governors present gave a sigh of relief.

The Provincial Governors that were present in Parliament yesterday included Luther Wenge (Morobe), Peter Ipatas (Enga), Havila Kavo (Gulf), Alphonse Moroi (Central), Michael Sapau (Manus), Mal Kela Smith (EHP), Sir Julius Chan (New Ireland), Peter Humphreys (WNB), Simon Solo (WSP), Governor Powes Parkop (NCD), Leo Dion (ENB), Anderson Agiru (Southern Highlands) and Simbu governor Fr Robert Garia.

Those not present included Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso, (ESP) Peter Wararu Waranaka, WHP Tom Olga, Bob Danaya (Western Province), Milne bay –John Luke Critin, Oro Pastor Suckling Tamanabae), Madang Governor –John Gau.

Prime Minister O'Neill was the first to congratulate the MPs that voted for the Bill to be repealed and amended. He said his presentation was done in the best interest of the people of PNG because provincial governments play an important role; they provide the majority of services to the village people.

The Election 2012 Program is as follows:

- * 27th April — Issue of Writs (4pm)
- * May 4 — Close of Nominations (4pm)
- * Polling Starts — June 23
- * Polling Ends — July 6
- * Return of Writs on or before July 27.

On the retention of Provincial Electorates — the Commission has planned for the 22 provinces and election will be carried out as planned.

15.02.2012

Source: The National

Semoso fails to attend tribunal

By ANGELINE KARIUS

BOUGAINVILLE regional MP Fidelis Semoso (picture) has failed, for the second time, to turn at a tribunal looking into allegations of misconduct against him.



Tribunal chairman Justice Salatiel Lenalia expressed disappointment over Semoso's failure to attend the tribunal.

Lenalia told Semoso's lawyer, Charles Mende, to advise his client to attend the tribunal tomorrow "or other consequences pertaining to his absence may be applied".

He said the court would not make anymore allowances by adjourning the hearing. Semoso did not also turn up on Monday.

State prosecuting lawyer Anthony Kupmein maintained that the hearing should not be further delayed.

Lenalia said the tribunal would not approve another adjournment and that Semoso should be present for the hearing on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Mende told the court that he was aware of the consequential circumstances involved but it was unfortunate that his client was not available.

The matter is before Lenalia and senior magistrates Ignatious Kurie and Nerrie Eliakim.

Semoso was referred on allegations of the misappropriation of K2.7 million for the South Bougainville feeder road project.

He was also alleged to have misappropriated K470,000 awarded to the Millennium Waters Company from the K2.7 million.

Another K1 million from the project was also allegedly misused.

The tribunal would hear the matter tomorrow, including that of Kikori MP Mark Maipakai.

15.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

MV Solomon Queen crew at locals' mercy

By Fabian Gatana

CREW members of the MV Solomon Queen, currently grounded at Buka Wharf, are frustrated over the inhumane treatment being given to them by their management and the boss of Rabaul Shipping.

In an interview with the Post-Courier yesterday, they said that since their vessel was grounded last Thursday by ex-combatants they had been left to fend for themselves and had been totally neglected.

The crew which includes two foreigners said that they were now relying on donations being given to them by business houses in Bougainville. A crew member, who wished to remain anonymous in case his comments have repercussions on his job, said that since last Thursday they have had no word from the Rabaul Shipping management inquiring about their situation or informing them of their next course of action.



MV Solomon Queen grounded at Buka wharf

He said that even the management of the Rabaul Shipping branch in Buka had not gone and visited them and enquired about their situation or listened to their concerns. He said that they felt that the company had disowned them as it did not “want anything to do with them”.

Another crew member said that the vessels owner, Peter Sharp, was more concerned with making money for himself then looking at the well-being of the crew of all three ships grounded at Buka Wharf.

He said that the treatment being given to them by the ex-combatants was far better than what they were getting from their employer and company owner Mr Sharp.

The crew, however, assured Mr Sharp that all three vessels were being taken care of, in accordance with the guarantee given by the ex-combatants.

15.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Telikom — always there for Pok pok islanders

By PORENI UMAU

IT'S not village fon, it's Citifon and they are “Always there”.

Telikom PNG's Citifon service keeps going places and reaching out to connect remote communities in the country to the rest of the world.

Take a walk down the sandy beach, swaying tropical palms and shady fruit trees, extending their reassuring cool gestures to that protect the friendly community of Bakawari in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

It seems so far by description but Telikom PNG's Citifon services for voice and data access made sure that the community is just a 2 toea call away from the rest of the country.



Pokpok Island (picture) woke up to the breezy touches of the Solomon Sea as beating bamboos welcome the arrival of modern technology communication to the remote island home.

Visitors to the occasion of the launch of Citifon's services included Information and Communications Minister Jimmy Miringtoro, Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika, PNG Power chief executive office Tony Koiri and Telikom PNG chief executive officer Peter Loko and his officers.

At the launch Mr Miringtoro urged the people to respect and protect the facilities.

"This infrastructure is here to benefit every one of us while it plays a vital role in various developments with its core function to link us to the rest of the country and the world," he said.

He encouraged the people to keep up with the changes in technology, being enjoyed by others in the country in the urban centres.

He also praised Telikom PNG for ensuring that the service was affordable for locals to have access.

Residents in Bakawari can now enjoy the most affordable rates of 2 toea call rate from Citifon to Citifon and 39 toea to call other networks all day and all night.

And while restoring infrastructure is progressing in and around the region, the village council of chiefs Bava Pirung spoke highly of the affordable rates on offer saying such occasion truly marked an achievement in terms of infrastructure development.

Telikom PNG CEO Peter Loko said the Citifon and internet service is not new in the region as coverage has been available in Buka and Arawa since 2010 while the recent installation on Pokpok Island will increase coverage for communities in and around Arawa.

15.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rio Tinto approves \$US1.4 bill investment

Rio Tinto, the 53.83% owner of defunct Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) has approved a \$US1.4 billion investment in Escondida copper projects in Chili in the South America.

Rio Tinto in a statement said the funds are for two projects to support higher production at the Escondida copper mine in Chile which Rio Tinto holds a 30 per cent interest in Escondida.

The news has come about just few days after the UK based diversified natural resources company expressed its interest to return to Papua New Guinea to develop some of its vast natural resources.

The company also announced a recorded an underlying earnings of \$15.5 billion - net earnings reduced by impairment charge last week.

In a statement yesterday, Rio Tinto said the the Organic Growth 1 Project (OGP 1) replaces the Los Colorados concentrator with a new 152,000 tonnes per day plant which then also allows access to the high grade ore located underneath the existing facilities.

The Rio Tinto logo, consisting of the words "Rio Tinto" in white, sans-serif font, oriented vertically on a red rectangular background.

“Construction of the new plant will be complete within three years. The project will cost US\$3.8 billion (Rio Tinto share US\$1.2 billion),” the statement said.

Rio Tinto said the Escondida Oxide Leach Area Project (OLAP) involves the construction of a new dynamic leaching pad and a mineral handling system.

The project will maintain processing capacity at current levels following the completion of the current heap leach in 2014.

The company said the OLAP will cost \$US721 million (Rio Tinto share \$US216 million) with construction expected to complete in July 2014.

Rio Tinto’s investment is expected to be funded through the company’s share of Escondida’s cash flows.

15.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Big juicy Siwai pineapples



This huge pineapples were harvested at Siwai in South Bougainville. The pineapple weighed about 10kg and was brought by Danny Sovirei and Philip Kiha. The pineapple when it was prepared for dinner was sour less and very juicy.

Words and Picture: FABIAN HAKALITS

15.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville to get modern ferry after PNG shipping disaster

The autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is in the process of getting a modern inter-island passenger ferry.

Two weeks ago, the Rabaul Queen sank off Morobe, with dozens of Bougainvilleans, many of them students, among the estimated that 183 died.

The shipping company involved has been criticised for overloading a vessel that was inappropriate for the use being made of it.

A major inquiry is to be conducted but the president, John Momis, says the provincial and national governments also need to take some responsibility.

Mr Momis says the disaster is a wake-up call.

“It’s time that we took measures to listen to the people and do something in accordance with the priorities of the people. I say this in all honesty we have to start listening to the people to build co-educational institutions, to improve our shipping. In fact before the ship sank, when I became President I already made moves to get a new boat - a good, modern passenger boat - and we are now in the process of getting one.”: Bougainville President John Momis.

15.02.2012

Source: SunLive

New lease of life found in PNG

By Letitia Atkinson

The head of road policing in the Western Bay of Plenty is glad to be back on home soil after spending six months in Papua New Guinea.

Senior Sergeant Ian Campion embarked on his second deployment to the country in June and returned to New Zealand on December 23, just in time to spend Christmas with his family.



Ian Campion is pleased to be back working at Greerton Police Station.

“I have been fortunate enough to have two deployments in Bougainville,” says Ian.

“So the first of those was between August and December in 2010, and then last year I was in Bougainville.

“My role on my second visit was as an advisor to the Northern Regional Commander of the Bougainville Police Service.”

Ian says part of his work was around capacity building and training, but also coaching, mentoring, advising and general police work, in addition to administrative processes and policies.

“I enjoyed both deployments; the work that I did (on my first deployment) was very different to the position I held the second time in that I was advising the Northern Regional Commander, as opposed to my first posting there, which was capacity building and training with the traffic units in the three main centres.

“It was quite different, but I really enjoyed every minute of the deployment.

“Some of my highlights were visits to schools way up in the rural sectors.

“There was one particular school that from the end of the road we walked another two hours up into the mountains – that was probably one of the most memorable occasions.



Ian Campion in Bougainville.

“The kids are just like sponges, they’re so keen to learn.

“They want to hear about other parts of the world and they are very interested in what we’re doing there.”

He says the reason for visiting schools was to deliver messages about keeping safe, not only near roads, but also in the village environment.

“Building confidence and that the police are there to help.”

Despite enjoying his time in Papua New Guinea, Ian says he is glad to be home.

“To be fair, I am really enjoying civilisation.

“I’m enjoying getting back into the company of friends and family and I’m enjoying the work here.

“Having deployments like that makes you appreciate being in New Zealand and appreciate the resources that the New Zealand Police have, as well as the infrastructure and IT systems we enjoy.”

14.02.2012

Source: Inter Press Service (IPS)

Papua New Guinea’s New Dawn With Community Radio

By Catherine Wilson*

It was the decade-long civil war in the autonomous Bougainville region that inspired the founding of New Dawn FM, a community radio station recognised for contributing to the rebirth of civil society and development.

NEW DAWN ON BOUGAINVILLE

New Dawn FM 95.3 - Strengthening Bougainville autonomy through radio broadcasting to provide to Generation II community development.

In 2001, a peace agreement ended a devastating conflict triggered by the destructive legacy of the foreign-operated Panguna copper mine. All radio broadcasting infrastructure on the island was destroyed during the war, which claimed 20,000 lives.

After Bougainville was granted autonomy in 2005, former broadcasting journalists overcame logistical hurdles to launch PNG’s first community radio station.



"Our biggest challenge starting New Dawn FM was actually finance, as we were just coming out of the crisis and we had no money," recounted Aloysius Laukai (picture), manager of the station. "But we received some assistance through UNESCO and the German government and we started the radio."

The international funding paid for studio equipment and a transmitter.

According to the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, AMARC, 'community radio is not about doing something for the community, but about the community doing something for itself.' For many provincial communities separated by mountains and dense rainforest in Papua New Guinea (PNG), self-sufficiency is a necessity.

This is reflected in PNG's strong community radio sector which dominates commercial radio services across the country. The National Information and Communications Technology Authority confirms that nationwide there are 62 licensed commercial radio stations and 133 community radio stations.

Today Bougainville has a population of approximately 300,000. New Dawn broadcasts in English and 'Tok Pisin', the lingua franca, to nearly 50,000 listeners across northern Bougainville and has plans to expand coverage to the central town of Arawa.

PNG's National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) operates in the autonomous region as well.

"New Dawn broadcasts during the day 18 hours, while NBC broadcasts just about 12 hours per day," Laukai said, explaining the differences.



Radio New Dawn Building in Buka

New Dawn also has a news blog accessible where there is mobile network coverage in Central and South Bougainville. This is a significant communication service to rural areas lacking basic public services.

The station prioritises community empowerment, local current affairs and supports reconciliation. It uses live broadcasts of reconciliation ceremonies and landmark events taking place in different parts of the province to build inter-community trust where once there was bitter division.

"We cover a lot of activities the government is doing for peace and reconciliation," Laukai explained. "If there is a happening, like an inauguration in Arawa, we broadcast from there to our listeners on Buka Island. Because our aim is to make sure they are in tune; North Bougainville is in tune with what is happening in South Bougainville."

Another challenge is addressing the generation that missed out on education during the conflict and many ex-combatants who feel excluded from mainstream society.

"We are working with World Vision (an evangelical relief and development umbrella organisation) now on an education project of adult learning programmes," Laukai said. The station will begin broadcasting to adult learners throughout Central Bougainville this year.

Following ten years of peace, development is the next priority, especially for 97 percent of Bougainville's population that lives in rural areas. New Dawn encourages farmers to seek and share knowledge via the airwaves.

"We have had problems with cocoa pod borer in the last year," recounted Laukai, "Many (farmers) cut off their trees and planted new ones. But one farmer did his own experiment in removing shade trees, chasing the insects away with sunlight." The story helped recover production.

In other areas of social development, the community broadcaster has been drawing on the power of international collaboration.



< Aloysius Laukai with former Minister of Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso

In 2010, it initiated a programme design workshop with the Commonwealth of Learning - an intergovernmental organisation tasked with increasing access to education in developing Commonwealth countries - Bougainville's ministry of community affairs and non-government organisations (NGOs).

An important outcome of the workshop was 'Bougainville Women Today', a community-based learning programme addressing women's health issues such as teenage

pregnancies as well as malaria.

To actively involve the community, "we have established listeners' clubs, like women's groups," Laukai elaborated. "They come and we design the programmes. Every time we broadcast a programme, we put it on a CD and we send it out to these listeners' clubs. Then they listen to them at their own location and at their own timing."

The pioneering broadcaster has faced challenges, although lack of media freedom is not one.

"Since we started, we haven't encountered any problems, even from the government or from the members," Laukai stated. "We feel like we are free to do what we are doing, but we must be responsible reporters."

The media in PNG operate in a self-regulatory environment. The 1989 censorship act sets general standards of broadcasting, but media laws are enabling and follows national policy that states: "All people have the right to be dynamically involved in the processes of their own development and should have the opportunity to participate in communication processes at all levels."

The main challenge was financial. "Since we started, we were really struggling to run the station," Laukai admitted. "In 2008, we got some funding after we covered the funeral service of the late president and the local government gave us Kina 50,000 (24,125 dollars). Last year, they gave us a grant of another 24,125 dollars. But we are building our own capacity."

Some revenue is generated by broadcasting parliament sessions and giving members time on air for questions.

According to Helen, a listener who works with a local development NGO, "the government programme is very helpful. We learn what the President and his government are doing. Many people we work with want to know what the government is doing on the island, so we can tell them."

Word of New Dawn's achievements spread and, in 2009, it received the Communication and Social Change Award from the University of Queensland, Australia.

This year the station is set to make a significant contribution in the national election. At a recent meeting between the electoral commission and national media, the station put forward a proposal to use frontline short messaging service or SMS technology, which it has used in operations since 2011, as a tool in preventing election fraud.

"We really introduced a good network which the whole of PNG can use to monitor the election," Laukai proudly claimed.

*This story was produced with the support of UNESCO.

14.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG ferry disaster prompts Aropa runway opening

There is agreement on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville to re-open the Aropa runway to receive the bodies of locals who died in the ferry sinking off Morobe.

The Post Courier reports this was decided by dissident armed groups and those that own and who man the runway.

It says this will make it easier for the relatives to come and receive the bodies of their children and relatives who died when the MV Rabaul Queen sank.

There have been suggestions that had the airport at Aropa had been open and in operation, lives of innocent Bougainvilleans would have been saved because they would not have had to take the ferry.

Before the civil war, Aropa was the island's main airport.

13.02.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to resume healthcare projects in South-Bougainville!

Please make a donation to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) !

Find out more: http://msf.org/msf/donations/donations_home.cfm

13.02.2012

Source:Post-Courier

Aropa airport re-opens to help Bougainvilleans



AROPA airport (picture), once Bougainville's gateway to the world, will be open to the outside world soon.

The Me'ekamui soldiers, former hardliners and landowners of the Aropa airport have agreed to open up the runway to receive the dead bodies of central and south Bougainvilleans who died on the ill-fated MV Rabaul Queen voyage who will be flown direct to the mainland.

This is to make it easier for the relatives to come and receive the bodies of their children and relatives who died when the ship sank near the Lae waters.

Communications Minister and Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringoro said in Port Moresby yesterday that this is an agreement reached with the once rebel hardliners of the region and those that own and who man the runway.

Mr Miringoro said that the Me'ekamui soldiers in Central Bougainville including the landowners of Aropa have agreed that they are partly responsible for what had happened, specifically the death of Bougainvilleans from the tragic sinking.

"You see, the Me'ekamui have said they are partly to be blamed for the loss of lives of specifically mainland Bougainvilleans who use the Sharp ferries more often to travel abroad in search of further education.

These are the parents whose children have suffered and mostly affected by the 10-year Bougainville Crisis and most of them come from Kieta, Siwai and Buin," Mr Miringoro said.

"They have agreed to open up Aropa airport. The bodies of those in Central and South Bougainville will be flown by air and the plane will land at the Aropa airport to make it easier for the relatives of those that have lost their loved ones," Mr Miringoro said.

The bodies will come directly to Aropa airport once the Government or the authorities on the ground complete and are ready to release the bodies of those found dead in the sinking ship."

He said that those in authority of the Aropa Airport had said that if it was open and in operation lives of the innocent Bougainvilleans would have been saved.

“By sending them via the ship was basically the easier means of travelling out of Buka, given the limited flights and seats with the only airline that services the air route to Bougainville through Buka Island.

“This will now change,” Mr Miringoro said.

13.02.2012

Source:Post-Courier

Rio Tinto, BHP make way to return to PNG

By PETER KORUGL

Two prominent global diversified natural resource companies are heading back to Papua New Guinea.

They are the London based Rio Tinto Group and Melbourne based BHP Billiton. The two global multinational exploration, development, production and processing corporations are making their bid to hunt for riches in PNG's natural resources and the approvals for their entry is only a formality.



Peter O'Neill



William Duma

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Minister for Petroleum and Energy William Duma confirmed yesterday that the big diversified natural resource corporations have lodged applications for exploration licenses in the country.

“I do not see any problems in the companies getting their approvals. Papua New Guinea needs them and their interest in PNG reflects the trust and confidence they have in the country and Government,” Mr O'Neill said.

Mr Duma added: “The re-entry of BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto is a demonstration of the trust and confidence multi-nationals around the globe have for PNG and the Government and the leaders in the mining, petroleum and hydrocarbon sectors.

“We, as a country, stand to gain more and we can't go wrong.”

Rio Tinto Group is based in London, United Kingdom. The company was founded in 1873, and has since grown through a long series of mergers and acquisitions to place itself among the world leaders in the production of many commodities, including aluminium, iron ore, copper, uranium, coal, and diamonds. As of March 2009, Rio Tinto is the fourth largest publicly listed mining company in the world and was listed in Fortune magazine's 2008 Global 500 ranking of largest worldwide companies by revenue at number 263. In 2007, the company was valued at \$US147 billion.

Rio Tinto owns 53.83 percent share in the now defunct Panguna Copper mine, which commenced operation in 1972 and ended in 1989 due to the crisis.

BHP Billiton is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, and with a major management office in London, United Kingdom. It is the world's largest mining company measured by revenue and as of February 2011 was the world's third-largest company measured by market capitalisation.

BHP Billiton was created in 2001 through the merger of the Australian Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited (BHP) and the Anglo-Dutch Billiton plc. It had a market capitalisation of about £39.6 billion as of December 23 2011, making it the 9th largest company on the London Stock Exchange.

BHP Billiton owned 52 percent shares in the Ok Tedi copper mine and after 20 years of operating the mine, the company pulled out in 2002 due to heightened concerns on the destruction to the environment from the mine.

Mr O'Neill said the interest by BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto showed that PNG remained an attraction for many global players. Few days ago, Royal Dutch Shell, the world's number one energy company reopened its office in PNG.

"Our tax regimes are conducive. This is why we are getting this renewed interest from these global players. This government does not only see the value of inviting internationally recognised exploration and development companies into PNG but also recognises the importance of proactive measures in ensuring that our petroleum, gas and mineral regimes are conducive to facilitating and strengthening the commercial interests of the players in the industries," Mr Duma said.

13.02.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Confused!

Self-appointed Bougainville fashion columnist Antony Loewenstein hits back!

Find out here:

13.02.2012

Source: Antony Loewenstein's Blog

<http://antonyloewenstein.com/2012/02/13/disaster-capitalists-in-bougainville-just-want-to-another-shot-at-ruining-the-place/>

Disaster capitalists in Bougainville just want another shot at ruining the place.

A foreign company destroys Bougainville in Papua New Guinea and leaves a trail of ecological destruction. Years after, the same company wants to re-open the same mine by whispering sweet nothings about its intentions. Dont believe a word.

Following my Crikey investigation last week, today sees an unintentionally funny response. Yes, vulture capitalists are crying poor and demanding a fair go. Having seen with my own eyes what they did last time in Bougainville, they quite simply can't be trusted now:

Axel G. Sturm, Bougainville Copper, writes: Re. "How the 'resource curse' eats at the heart of Bougainville" (Friday, item 8).

Unfortunately Antony Loewenstein missed a good chance to unmask the situation in Bougainville's central region.

Unfortunately he seems to be more interested in describing people's clothing than analysing their real problems: No word about the money paid in the past by BCL that vanished in the pockets of dubious PNG businessmen and greedy politicians. No word about multiple criminal groups that — until today — try to enrich themselves and kill even children for that.

Only a few days ago PNG attitude published an article on that.

Our company, Bougainville Copper Limited, has been more or less a victim of local greed and brutality. But Loewenstein pretends to be an "independent journalist". But in reality his work is superficial and extremely poor — unfortunately! His allegations that China could be a better adviser in independence than Australia is absolute nonsense.

I know very well that it is not easy to get a good overview on the complex situation on the ground. Therefore the European shareholders of Bougainville Copper provide the world's biggest source for research on Bougainville www.bougainville-copper.eu .

13.02.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville combatants demand payment before releasing ships

The armed group who have taken control of three ships owned by the company which also owned the sunken passenger ferry MV Rabaul Queen, say they will release the ships once they receive payment for providing security for them.

The ships were seized almost immediately after the sinking of the Rabaul Queen 11 days ago, while enroute from Kimbe in West New Britain Province to the city of Lae on the mainland.

Most passengers were students from the island provinces of PNG, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The disaster has left families shocked and grieving, with many still trying to find out if their loved ones were survivors or not, and demanding an answer to just what happened.

Over the weekend it was announced there will be a probe into what happened.

Presenter: Campbell Cooney

Speaker: John Angamata, spokesman for the former Bougainville combatants who seized three ships in Buka

[Listen here !](#)

13.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Leaders urged to respect PNG laws

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso has strongly called on all government leaders to respect the rule of law and the Constitution.

Speaking yesterday during the opening of the Legal Year in Bougainville, Mr Semoso said: "Leaders have been breaching the Constitution and not maintaining democracy."

He said the Constitution had the underlying laws that hold the very fabric of democracy and democratic institutions of both PNG and Bougainville.

"Leaders please comply, by the rule of law and stand firm to support the Constitution," he said.

Mr Semoso said that the political impasse was not about Somare, Peter O'Neill, John Momis, or himself but about the laws, that have to be followed.

He added that leaders had trampled over the laws of the country and this showed that there was no respect for the judiciary.

"There is a dangerous trend of breaches, if we do not respect the judiciary.

"If we continue to trample on our laws, what law we will turn into to argue our rights?" he questioned.

Furthermore, Mr Semoso called on all members of the law enforcing agencies to uphold and enforce the laws and maintain good law and order.

He said that there was a need for a vibrant and strong judiciary to maintain the integrity of the rule of law and the Constitution.

“We have to work together to develop and maintain our judiciary system.

“It is about time, we leaders do the right thing for the best interest of the people of this great nation and follow the rule of law and the Constitution.”

In the meantime, Mr Semoso said a country without law and order had no development taking place and never achieved its dreams.

13.02.2012

Source:Post-Courier

MP urged to honour promise to police

POLICE in Central Bougainville are calling on the Member for Central Bougainville Jimmy Miringoro to “immediately act upon the long-awaited” promise he made to them in 2007.

According to the Arawa police station commander senior sergeant Herman Birengka, Mr Miringoro had promised after his election victory that he would be funding three new police vehicles.

Mr Birengka said police were already fed up with waiting for Mr Miringoro to fulfil his promise and had challenged him to immediately honour his commitment.

“I am now calling on Mr Miringoro to honour his promise. It is now over four years since he made the promise and we are still waiting,” Mr Birengka said.

He said logistical problems had greatly affected police from effectively carrying out their duties.

“At the moment police cannot attend to all the cases reported to us because of logistical problem. There are many outstanding rape, attempted murder and murder cases which police have yet to act upon. If our member had honoured his promise we would have been able to attend to these cases,” Mr Birengka said.

He added that since it was nearly election time lack of vehicles would greatly affect his men from carrying out their election duties.

He said if other Bougainville MPs can help police in their electorates why can't Mr Miringoro do the same.

13.02.2012

Source:Post-Courier

Bougainville told to build house for own judge

By FABIAN HAKALITS

Bougainville leaders were challenged to ensure they have their own judge on the ground at the official opening of the Legal Year yesterday.

Lawyers' representative Thomas Tamusio issued the challenge, asking the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Judiciary System to facilitate for this to become a reality.

In response, visiting judge Justice John Kawi said a judge can be permanent in Bougainville if the regional government builds a house for the justice.

Yesterday's ceremony was held at the Bougainville Diocese Headquarters at Hahela in Buka after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which was led by the Shepherd of the Diocese, Bishop Bernard Unabali.

After the church service, the guests were taken to the stage, by the traditional singsing group from Pokpok Island of Kieta, Central Bougainville.

They included visiting Judge Justice John Kawi and Acting Judge David Maliku, ABG President John Momis, Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso, Members of the Bougainville House of

Representatives and Bougainville Administrations, lawyers, magistrates and heads of law agents including the Bougainville Police Service, and Correctional Service Institute.

A six-men delegation from the Philippines that were in the region to hold business talks with ABG also had the privilege to attend the opening.

Mr Semoso said in his address that every citizen including the government of the day should respect judiciary, the rule of law and the Constitution.

Mr Semoso says judiciary should continue to exist to strengthen the law and order in the country.

Lawyer's representative Thomas Tamusio said judges, lawyers, magistrates, lawyers, police officers and correctional officers were agents of laws and should work to protect judiciary.

He said as the custodian of the laws, they had a noble profession to carry out their work with diligence and care.

"You have to work to protect the judiciary. The work you do confines to the State, family and community." Mr Tamusio said.

He also challenged the ABG, and the PNG judiciary system to facilitate for Bougainville to have a resident judge to attend to outstanding cases.

"A judge could be sent to Bougainville tomorrow, only if there is a house for the judge.

"I am strongly appealing to the ABG if you are seriously thinking about this, what are you waiting for?" Justice Kawi questioned.

13.02.2012

Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville to get PNG tertiary institutions

The president of Bougainville, John Momis, says a number of key tertiary institutions are to set up in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province.

Bougainville has no tertiary facilities, forcing students to travel to the mainland.

Mr Momis says agreements have been reached to set up local campuses of three key PNG universities in the province.

"We have taken steps now to bring the Divine Word University campus, to set up a campus in Bougainville, the University of Technology to set a campus in Bougainville and the University of Papua New Guinea. So that we can alleviate the problem that parents and students have of finding money for themselves to travel right across Papua New Guinea because of the lack of educational opportunities in Bougainville." : Bougainville President John Momis.

Dozens of young Bougainvilleans, many of them students, were on the Rabaul Queen which sank off Morobe 11 days ago - about 44 are believed to have drowned.

12.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Legal year opened

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville region joined the rest of the country in launching the 2012 legal year at Hahela catholic parish on Bukai island.

The ceremony started with the legal fraternity marching from the ABG offices in Kubu to the HAHELA CHURCH where the Bishop of Bougainville, Bishop Benard Unabali.

Two national court judges, Justice John Kawi and acting judge David Maliku witnessed the ceremony.

Speakers included the Bishop who talked on the church's Justice and peace initiative on Bougainville.

Bougainville regional member whos choir sang at the mass,ABG LLG minister,Joe Nopei, lawyer's representative,Thomas Tamusio, ABG President,JOHN MOMIS And Justice John Kawi.



Pictured are the members of the legal fraternity marching to church this morning.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai



Justice John Kawi and acting judge David Maliku marching with police and CIS officers this morning.
AL



Pictures of warders from the new Bekut jail at the parade this morning
AL

12.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sample desert

Test Desert

By Aloysius Laukai

Philippinos currently visiting Bougainville managed to show some recepies to some Bougainvilleans in Buka today :



Pictured is chief Joe Pais being served the menu.
AL

12.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG ferry disaster survivors reeling, says Momis

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says the survivors of the sinking of the Rabaul Queen are reeling from the injustice of the disaster.

About 44 Bougainvilleans, many of them students, are thought to be among the about 100 who lost their lives.

This week President John Momis spent time in Lae in Morobe with the several dozen Bougainvilleans who survived the ordeal.

He says they feel they don't know what hit them and this coupled with the deaths of mates and the notoriety of a shipping company which ignored advice not to sail has added to the sense of distress and loss.

Mr Momis gave the survivors some financial support from his government to cover school fees and pocket money for immediate needs.

"And also helping to repatriate any one of them who may wish to withdraw from their studies due to trauma, and also repatriating the relatives who came, not too many, but we do have some family members who went to Lae when they heard their loved ones were lost at sea."

10.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

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10.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville presidents says PNG ferry disaster caused anger

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says there is so much public anger over the Rabaul Queen sinking that he's confident the government will act to improve the country's shipping services.

The vessel sank just over a week ago off Morobe with current official estimates of about 100 people losing their lives, but other reports suggest much higher figures.

The Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, met survivors in Lae this week and promised a comprehensive inquiry into the disaster.

Dozens of the victims were from Bougainville and its President, John Momis, says the inquiry will not only focus on the shipping company but also look at apparent corruption within the relevant government agencies.

He says he believes Mr O'Neill will act on the findings.

10.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

More than 300 people now feared to have died in PNG ferry sinking

It's now feared that more than 300 people lost their lives in last week's ferry sinking in Papua New Guinea.

The MV Rabaul Queen sank in rough seas near the end of a 20-hour journey from Kimbe to PNG's second largest city, Lae.

Charlie Masange of the Morobe Provincial Disaster Management Office says the number of people rescued has been recalculated as 237.

He says new information from relatives of those onboard puts the number of people missing at 321.

“And we found that about 179 could be unaccounted for meaning they did not purchase those tickets properly or in a right way, they might have just given the money to the ticket person, they just got on board the ship at Kimbe.”

Charlie Masange says it was up to the ship's captain to restrict the number of passengers to the 310 it was licenced to carry.

10.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Team Arrive

By Aloysius Laukai

The philiphine team arrived on Buka this morning but were unable to travel to Arawa due to bad weather.

It has been raining for a week and the rivers are flooded between Buka and Arawa.



Pictured is team leader RAYMUND B. PUYAT talking to Protocol officer Philip Kiha at the Buka airport.

10.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Philippines investors visit Bougainville

AN investment delegation from Philippines will arrive in Buka on Friday to explore direct investment, trade and commercial ties with Bougainville.

Bougainville president John Momis said the group's interest covers potential investment in agriculture, banking, shipping, tourism, fisheries and mining.

He said the group comprising eight business executives and leading politicians will have the opportunity to develop direct trade links with the Bougainville government and business community.

Momis said their visit is another positive indicator that Bougainville is well on the road to political and broad based economic recovery.

He assured that Bougainville is open for creditable business and investment opportunities.

The delegation will start with a full day briefing by the president and ABG officials followed by a trip to Arawa, Aropa airport, Kieta Wharf and Lolohe sites in Central Bougainville.

Momis said some of the investors will travel to Siwai, Kangu and Tonolei in South Bougainville to explore investment opportunities particularly in pineapple production.

He added that the private sector business groups in Bougainville will have the opportunity to have one on one dialogue with potential business partners.

Momis urged that it is now up to the people of Bougainville to demonstrate maturity and embrace the opportunities that will come their way.

10.02.2012

Source: Crickey

ESBC comments: Unfortunately Antony Loewenstein missed a good chance to unmask the situation in Bougainville's central region. Unfortunately he seems to be more interested in describing people's clothing than analyzing their real problems: No word about the money paid in the past by BCL and that vanished in the pockets of dubious PNG businessmen and greedy politicians. No word about multiple criminal groups that - until today - try to enrich themselves and kill for that.

Please read Mr. Loewenstein's article here:

How the 'resource curse' eats at the heart of Bougainville

by Antony Loewenstein

The rusted air vent is deafening and a whoosh echoes around the pit. Copper-polluted water sits in a pool nearby and trees are starting to take over the graded hillside. Rocky, uneven ground is where locals pan for gold, hoping to find a few grams to make some money for families living in nearby villages. Seven kilometres wide at its broadest point, the Rio Tinto-controlled Bougainville copper mine in Papua New Guinea hasn't been in operation for nearly 25 years, yet still dominates the local landscape.

Dozens of massive trucks lie inoperable. Oil drips from their engines and runs downstream. A loud, machine-like sound is heard in the pit. The vent is sucking air directly into a pipe that takes water outside the mine itself. It is this device that allows the mine not to fill up completely with water when it rains constantly during the rainy season. It has been making this booming sound 24 hours a day for the past two decades.

The island's brutal war from 1989 to 1997 caused the death of many thousands, maimed countless others and involved Australia arming, training and funding Port Moresby to oppose the rebellion. Former PNG leader Michael Somare accuses Rio Tinto of violently suppressing rebels opposed to the mine during the "crisis".

Bougainvilleans may have won the war but the peace has left years of inertia, and a province desperately in need of rehabilitation.

The town closest to Panguna mine, Awara, feels stuck in time, old buildings are devoured by lush jungle, Shell and Mobil service stations decay on the side of the road. The locals are used to the poor infrastructure and housing and there are few active services for the dwindling population.

"The mine was never really closed," says Josephine, manager of the Arawa Women's Training Centre. "Workers and the company just fled."

Rio Tinto refuses to properly clean up its mess. Kilometres of tailings — waste dumped by mine operators — have caused a once clear river and land to be turned into desert.

"I remember when this used to be all green back in the 1960s," says Willy, in faded polo shirt, grey shorts and bare feet, a former leader in the Bougainville Revolutionary Army who accompanies me to the area. "We used to tell the mine owners for years that they were polluting everything but they ignored us. We had no choice but to fight for our rights over the land."

The local community is divided over whether to try and reopen the mine as a healthy source of income before a planned independence referendum in the next year or develop adventure tourism and sustainable farming.

The owner of the mine, Bougainville Copper Limited, has a website that claims its future is bright. Peter Taylor, chairman and managing director of Bougainville Copper, told Radio Australia in 2011 that he was ready to reopen the mine but he made no comment about cleaning up the ecological disaster his company created last time. He blamed some “small but strong [local] pockets of opposition” to his firm’s re-entry.

The only person I meet who adamantly opposes any kind of mining is the man who protects a checkpoint that every Westerner has to pass to enter the mining area. I visit “Commander Alex” the day before my visit to explain the purpose of my trip and obtain permission. A \$100 fee is paid, and an invoice issued, to prove I am there for the right reasons. He says he will stay at the checkpoint until compensation is fully paid to all those who deserve it. He lives at the checkpoint 24 hours a day.

Willy’s fears reflect many people’s that I hear. He worries about further ecological catastrophe if Panguna re-establishes itself but is torn between dual desires; supporting a young population who are currently experiencing a baby boom while also providing adequate compensation for the former fighters and families who suffered during the “crisis” (the only word I hear used to describe the bloodshed).

Nobody has faith in politicians in either Bougainville or Port Moresby and Willy knows Canberra talks about avoiding “failed states” on its doorstep. For this reason, he worries Australia will not support independence for the province. But perhaps China will, he suggests, and exert influence as they are currently doing in East Timor, Mongolia and beyond.

A man in his early 60s who lives in a decaying weatherboard house on the outskirts of Awara, Willy told me he hasn’t seen his young grandchildren for five years because they live in an inaccessible area near town and he can’t afford to hire a truck to get there.

Individuals in Bougainville acknowledge the economic weakness of their position if they want independence. They need investment, trust and foreign capital. One of the former leaders of the Bougainville revolution, Samuel Kauona, is upbeat, however.

He tells me about his vision for the island, namely independence and sustainable mining. He talks about the 500-year history of foreign powers, including Australia, not allowing Bougainville to exercise autonomy. For him, keeping the massive mineral wealth in local hands is essential: “This is why we fought the war.”

Samuel is shortly to present to the Bougainville Autonomous Government the first mining exploration since the end of the “crisis”, a desire to examine land that he believes contains gold and silver (conservative estimates I hear claim that billions of dollars worth of gold, copper and silver remain undiscovered in the province). Only then will overseas companies be allowed to assist locals in exploiting the resources but Bougainville landowners will be the primary driver of the projects.

He explains how his insurgency beat the PNG army, its patron, the Australian government and Rio Tinto in the “crisis”. His men knew the terrain and opponents were no match for their guerilla tactics. Kauona says that the Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan faced the same adversary but arrogantly believed they could win with counter-insurgency tactics.

Perhaps Samuel’s most provocative suggestion is to cut Australia’s aid budget to PNG (Canberra currently gives close to \$500 million annually). “I would stop all the aid tomorrow,” he says. “It’s not making people self-sufficient.” He has little time for the influx of old men in parliament in Moresby and Bougainville. “We need young people to lead [a not too subtle dig at Michael Somare, a man for whom I find no support on the island].”

Samuel would not be pleased with a view I heard in Port Moresby from some local NGO employees who say they hope and pray Australia reclaims control over PNG and teaches them to properly manage the nation. I respond by saying I can’t think of any other example globally where the formerly colonised request the coloniser to control them again. “Things are desperate here,” one responds tartly.

These sentiments are not universal. Bougainville hotel manager Josephine, a strong figure in her ’50s with fuzzy black and blonde hair and blue-and-red dress, explains that her vision is for Western tourists to come and hike around Bougainville and a robust agricultural sector flourishing in the fertile ground. The record of Panguna mine is so bad, she says, that it is almost unimaginable for it to return.

**Antony Loewenstein is an independent journalist currently writing a book about vulture capitalism*

10.02.2012

Source: The National

Filipino trade delegation in Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A TRADE delegation from the Philippines arrives in Buka Island, Bougainville, today to explore direct investment, trade and commercial ties with locals.

Bougainville president John Momis said the group's interest covered potential investment in agriculture, banking, shipping, tourism, fishing and mining.

He said the group comprising 31 business executives and politicians would have the opportunity to direct trade links with the Bougainville government and business community.

"This visit is yet another positive indicator that Bougainville is well on the road to political and broad based economic recovery," Momis said.

"Bougainville is open for creditable business and investment opportunities."

The delegation will be briefed by Momis and ABG officials before going on a trip to Arawa, Aropa airport, Kieta wharf and Loloho sites in Central Bougainville.

"Stressing the potential investment in the agriculture sector, particularly in pineapple production, some members of the group will travel to Siwai, Kangu and Tonolei in South Bougainville," Momis said.

"Private sector business groups in Bougainville will have the opportunity to have one-on-one dialogue with potential business partners."

Momis said it was now up to the people of Bougainville to show maturity and embrace the opportunities coming their way.

10.02.2012

Source: The National

Royals send condolences



QUEEN Elizabeth II and Prince Charles have conveyed their condolences and sympathy to the relatives and families of those lost their lives in the mv Rabaul Queen tragedy.

She also conveyed her gratitude to the emergency services and the rescue people who worked hard to rescue survivors and retrieve dead bodies.

The Queen's message, sent through her representative the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio read: "I was shocked to learn of the sinking of the ferry mv Rabaul Queen off PNG yesterday.

"Please convey my deepest sympathy to all those who have been affected, especially those who are awaiting news of missing family and friends.

"Please, also extend my sincere thanks and admiration to the emergency services and everyone on the rescue in difficult conditions.

"My thought and prayers are with you all at this distressing time."

Prince Charles, who is to visit PNG to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign this year, said: "I just wanted you to know how deeply distressed my wife and I were by news of the sinking of mv Rabaul Queen. I have heard of the remarkable work of the emergency services and have been so relieved that this has led to the safe recovery of so many passengers.

"Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those unaccounted for, as you wait anxiously for further news. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time."

10.02.2012

Source: The National

Aussies fast to help in sinking ship

AUSTRALIA responded within minutes of the sinking of the mv Rabaul Queen, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd told federal parliament on its first day of sitting Tuesday.

While offering condolence and sympathy for those dead or missing, Rudd said Australia played a key role in coordinating search and rescue facilities. While he did not express it explicitly, it is believed Australia's role and quick response was largely responsible for the rescue of the majority of passengers.

Within minutes of the incident, Australian maritime safety authority passed on the distress signal to transiting ships which resulted in five foreign vessels responding and moving into the area.

Within a few hours, two AMSA rescue aircraft were deployed – one from Cairns and the other from Darwin, Rudd said.



"The aircraft from Cairns was able to drop life rafts into the sea to assist survivors while they waited to be rescued by merchant vessels," Rudd said.

"They were joined in the search on the first day by a Royal Australian Air Force P3 Orion aircraft. An Australian Border Command Dash 8 also contributed to the search and rescue operation. AMSA also engaged three helicopters and two civilian aircraft in the search, including a Queensland Careflight jet.

"Australians were shocked to learn of the terrible loss of lives that occurred on Feb 2 with the sinking of the ship. As might be expected of a close friend and neighbour, Australia has been heavily involved in support for the PNG-led response to this disaster.

“Australians can justifiably be proud of our rapid and effective response.”

AMSA also deployed several Australian rescue and recovery personnel to Lae to assist.

The Australian high commission in Port Moresby deployed a naval officer to the PNG Maritime Safety Authority. Another Defence member of the High Commission staff, based in Lae coordinated with local agencies there, and arranged refuelling of the search and rescue aircraft.

10.02.2012

Source: Business Insider

Business analysis of PNG's political situation

ALTHOUGH IT ENDED PEACEFULLY, the attempted coup marked a dangerous escalation in the long-running battle for power between Somare and O'Neill, and a worrying sign of political instability for investors, resulting in Standard and Poor's downgrading PNG's credit rating from B+ to B-.

However, it is unlikely to have any short-term adverse effects on any of the major extractive projects currently underway, and the regulatory environment for foreign investment will stay stable in the run-up to the 2012 elections.

As Somare's supporters have boycotted parliament, the current government has struggled to push forward its planned reform program ahead of the June 2012 elections.

The government had hoped to consolidate its rule through a populist program, which included a new supplementary budget worth US\$353 million, which will fund free education for all children up to Grade 10, as well as improving health services and infrastructure.

In addition, an independent anti-corruption body has been established. However, the political crisis has diverted attention away from the reforms and hampered O'Neill's ability to concentrate on effective governance.

The competition for power is expected to intensify with PNG's patronage politics set to be transformed by the huge financial rewards of the major resource projects underway, such as the US\$15 billion ExxonMobil PNG LNG project.

As such, the investment climate will stay positive for foreign firms, as such investments provide significant leverage for PNG politicians. O'Neill leads a coalition government, and as no single party has won enough seats to govern alone since independence it is likely that a coalition government will rule after the 2012 elections.

The current government represents a shift in power from the northern supporters of Somare, who are generally from the political generation which saw PNG's independence, to O'Neill's highland and southern support base, who tend to be from a second generation of post-independence politicians.

Furthermore, even at the best of times, PNG remains prone to political tensions during electoral campaigns and it is likely that localised violence, possibly between O'Neill and Somare supporters, will impact upon 2012 parliamentary elections. Widespread chaos and violence arose between supporters of rival candidates during the 2002 and 2007 elections.

The proliferation of guns, particularly in the central Highlands area that witnessed most of the electoral violence in 2007, is likely to pose a serious challenge to the conduct of free and fair elections in 2012.

Although there has so far been no violence between supporters of the rival O'Neill and Somare camps, the attempted coup raises the possibility of splits within the security forces and further heightens tensions.

Forecast

There is no question of the crisis jeopardizing current investments, and any future PNG government is likely to maintain a regulatory environment which is exceptionally welcoming to foreign investment.

In addition, there has been no decline in security conditions at any of the major extractive project sites, and no labour disputes or strikes. However, as a result of the coup, Standard and Poor's downgraded PNG's credit rating from B+ to B-, noting that the incident was likely to lead to a loss of donor support and to deter investment.

However, although PNG is known for its volatile politics, the main danger of the crisis could be the damage done to the legitimacy of the constitution and the courts, which are now being used as tools for political advantage.

The constitution and courts had long been the mainstay of PNG's democratic system, and the fear that their standing is being eroded by the conflict between Somare and O'Neill calls into question PNG as a country under the rule of law.

In addition, the current crisis may set an unfortunate precedent, as politicians may be more likely to turn to the military, or ignore court or parliamentary decisions, in future.

Spotter: Peter Kranz

<http://www.businessinsider.com/a-map-of-emerging-global-risks-from-the-past-two-weeks-2012-2>

09.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG police in talks with militants blocking ships in Buka

Police in the autonomous Papua New Guinea region of Bougainville say they're trying to ensure that a protest over the Rabaul Queen ferry disaster doesn't get out of hand.

More than 50 armed ex-militants are occupying three vessels in Buka harbour that belong to the Rabaul Shipping Company which operated the ship that sank last week off Morobe.

About 100 people are believed to have drowned - many of them students from Bougainville returning to their university studies on the mainland.

Police spokesperson Graham Binin says they are limited in what they can do but they've asked the ex-militants not to damage the vessels during what he says is a protest action.

"I think it is a natural expression of anger about so many lives lost during the shipping mishap, so I think they just want to make their claims to the company and that sort of thing, but as I said before police are keeping an eye on things so that they don't get out of hand."

09.02.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

No doubt that sunken PNG ferry was overloaded

Papua New Guinea's National Maritime Safety Authority says regardless of debate over the number of people aboard the sunken MV Rabaul Queen, it was hugely overloaded.

Two-hundred and 46 people were rescued after the ferry sank in rough seas last Thursday near the end of a 20-hour journey between Kimbe and PNG's second largest city, Lae.

About 100 people are believed to have lost their lives but only four bodies have been recovered.

The authority's executive manager operations, Captain Nurur Rahman, says the ship's owners have confirmed it was carrying three-hundred-and-50 passengers and 12 crew.

"Which makes it 362. Whereas the vessel was only licensed to carry 310. So in any case with the admission of the owners she was grossly overloaded."

Captain Nurur Rahman says there are rumours the MV Rabaul Queen's captain didn't want to leave Kimbe but was ordered to by the shipping company.

09.02.2012

Source: PNG Industry News Net

Payback at Buka

RELATIVES of victims in the MV Rabaul Queen disaster last week have reportedly seized three of Star Ships' vessels at the wharf of Papua New Guinea's Buka Island and are demanding compensation.

According to The National, the people behind the retaliation have promised not to harm the MV Solomon Queen, MV Kopra 2 and MV Kopra 4 vessels or their crew.

But they reportedly want Star Ship owner Peter Sharp to pay compensation for the Bougainvillean survivors of the MV Rabaul Queen disaster and to recover bodies back to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Bougainville President John Momis reportedly called for calm and wants those involved to respect a PNG government inquiry.

The MV Rabaul Queen sank off the coast of Finschhafen in PNG's Morobe province while travelling from Kimbe to Lae.

Attorney General Dr Allan Marat wants an independent investigation team to determine the cause and his comments in Rabaul over the weekend revealed he did not trust the Department of Transport.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority estimated 246 passengers were rescued, while there were estimates the ferry had 350 people on board.

However, there are other claims the ferry in fact had far more people on board and those who boarded from Buka were not on the passenger list.

Bad weather, an overcrowded vessel and mechanical issues have all been raised as possible factors behind the maritime tragedy.

The ferry is believed to have capsized and there are claims it was licenced to carry 310 passengers.

Star Ships did not respond to enquiries from PNGIndustryNews.net last week.

09.02.1012

Source: The National

Buka council swears in board

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Buka Urban Council has sworn in its new board members for the next five years.

The board, representing Buka Urban wards, business houses, youth and Buka town traditional landowner clans, was sworn in by Buka District Court senior magistrate Patrick Toliken this week.

The board members are Timothy Gaemate, who represents Hutjena ward, representative of Kubu-Hahela ward Silvester Niu, Willie Rema for Buka town ward, Raka Benson for Sohano, Hillary Tsunono for Kokopau, Ieta-Naboen clan representative Aloysius Sohaga and Leta Nakaripa clan representative Donatus Kokopau, Ieta-Naboen clan representative Donatus Ganiu.

Other members include employee representative Julius Longa, chairman and business representative John Angamata and youth representative Chris Wayen.

The board is yet to fill the vacant seats for women and church representative.

Re-elected chairman Angamata said they expected another challenging year as they settled into their role.

He said they had major plans to develop Buka town, which was the central business hub of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG).

He called on the ABG to help with funding to ensure the council implemented its plans.

Angamata said such plans included building of three public toilets, sealing of the Buka town road, building the town's water and sewerage system and initiating the Buka town expansion programme.

He said the major issue facing the town council was the availability of vacant land as 97% of land in Buka town "is customary and owned by the leta clans in Buka".

He hopes that with continuous dialogue and awareness, the landowners will agree to release a portion of land for the establishment of industrial and residential zones.

ABG minister for local level government, traditional authority and communications Joseph Nopei reminded the board of ABG's 2012 budget allocation of K2 million to the council for the sealing of town roads.

Nopei urged the board members to use the money wisely for the benefit of the people of Bougainville.

Buka Urban Council town manageress Brenda Tohiana said the council would work in close consultation with its recently elected board members and ABG politicians.

She said the council needed leaders who would push development.

She urged the 10 elected board members to take their roles and responsibilities seriously.

Tohiana urged the board to take pride in their role and help keep Buka town safe, clean and hospitable for residents and visitors.

09.02.1012

Source: The National

Bougainville relatives called on to submit names

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

RELATIVES of Bougainville passengers who travelled on the ill-fated mv Rabaul Queen have been asked to submit the names of their family members they knew were on the ferry's trip from Kimbe to Lae.

Bougainville disaster and emergency coordinator Franklyn Lacey requested for the names because of the inaccuracy of the manifest supplied by the shipping company.

"Please make this effort so that we have information on all our citizens," Lacey said.

He said as of yesterday, his officers had confirmed 64 Bougainville survivors at the care centre in Lae.

He urged relatives to contact the Buka information centre at the local level government building on telephone 973 9953 or 727 73778 or visit the office to register the passengers.

Lacey appealed to survivors from the mv Rabaul Queen, who had left Lae for other provinces after being rescued, to contact his office to register.

09.02.1012

Source: Post-Courier

'No proper data base'

By FABIAN HAKALITS

INACCURACY of the passengers manifest is the result of no proper data base system in place, a young Bougainvillian man has said.

Cyril Ratsi, an information systems graduand of Divine Word University, said many media reports on this unfolding event of the sinking MV Rabaul Queen, have stated that there is still uncertainty, on the exact number of passengers who were onboard from Buka, Rabaul and Kimbe.

With these reports, he said it is clear enough that Rabaul Shipping Limited might not have a proper data base system, which could provide accurate, consistent and reliable information.

Moreover, in case of emergencies or disasters, the system would provide well managed information, relevant for the general public in a timely manner.

“Rabaul Shipping Company is a big company, and should have an established data bases system. The system should be set up to link up the ports which the company serves.

“With the data base system, it could keep records of passengers’ names and the exact figures, on board. So if any problem is encountered, it is easy to manage the information,” he said.

He said the passengers’ manifest that was shown on Monday’s paper, was a hand written document, and can be damaged or go missing anytime.

He said PNG being in the computer era should use information communication technology database, as it helps to preserve information, fast and reliable.

“Hand written manifest is unreliable. With a database system, Rabaul Shipping would have easily managed to retrieve the accurate passengers’ manifest from the server.” he said.

Mr Ratsi called on Rabaul Shipping boss Peter Sharp, to set up a data base system to avoid the problem in future..

We want information ...



Some of the families prompted up at the Bougainville Disaster Information Centre to seek information and support speaking with Bougainville Disaster Coordinator Franklyn Lacey. Picture: FABIAN HAKALITS

09.02.1012

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill delivers K8 million

By FRANK RAI

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill yesterday announced a massive K8 million for the victims and survivors of the ill-fated MV Rabaul Queen mishap that claimed hundreds of lives last week.

The Prime Minister presented K3 million to the Morobe provincial disaster and emergency services yesterday and vowed that the balance of K5 million will be delivered next Monday.

The disaster committee will use the funds to facilitate immediate rehabilitation programs that will comfort families and relatives of the other missing passengers and console the remaining survivors of the incident. Mr O'Neill presented the cheque to the chairman of the disaster committee Patalias Gamato in front of a packed crowd including relatives and family members of the missing passengers and survivors at the St Paul primary school in Lae yesterday.

Other political leaders present were Governors Luther Wenge, Peter Humphries, Leo Dion and ABG President John Momis, Finance and Treasury Minister Don Polye and Police Minister John Boito.



Mr O'Neill said the funds would be used to help console the survivors and the grieving family members of those who had lost their loved ones in the unfortunate sea disaster of the era. He took a moment to pass his condolences to the victims on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea and vowed that the government will stay behind the victims until everything returned to normalcy.

"This government government is for the people of Papua New Guinea and is committed to serve the people in any way possible, especially at such times of disaster," Mr O'Neill said. He added that the mishap was the doing of the successive governments who had failed to set up proper regulations for sea transportation.

Mr O'Neill said the accident was an 'eye opener' for the government and its agencies for the air, road and sea transportations to strictly regulate public safety.

He also announced that he had already called an Independent Inquiry into the accident, adding the inquiring will pave way for the next cause of action by the government.

09.02.1012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG pledges financial support for survivors

By EVAH KUAMIN

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has pledged financial assistance to the survivors of the MV Rabaul Queen disaster.

President John Momis arrived in Lae yesterday with the region's Minister for Mining Michael Oni, medical doctor Dr Tommy Wotsia and met with the survivors and the Bougainville Community.

Mr Momis handed K82,000 in cash, giving K1500 to each student; K1000 to each adult and K500 to each child.

He gave a further K160,000 to pay for school fees of students who survived the disaster.

Mr Momis, when making the presentation, said his government would do its utmost best to assist survivors in terms of personal effects lost during the disaster and also for rehabilitation.

He said the shipping disaster was one of the worst ever traumatising experiences to be undergone by any human being.

He mentioned that the disaster has now sent a wake-up call to leaders in the province to consider opening and establishing more educational centres.

The president said all leaders in ABG should have the political will to prioritise their projects from the lesson that had been learnt through the disaster.

He said the ABG must see and recognise the felt need and aspirations of the people.

He assured the survivors who met at the Catholic Diocesan Hall in Lae, that he would speak to all Bougainvillean MPs to assist in whatever way they can with the situation.

He encouraged the survivors to make themselves available and seek counseling to help them through this traumatic time.

Mr Momis has also given his assurance that his government would assist the survivors who would like to return to the province.

"The loss of people's lives in the disaster was great and my government shares the sorrow and grief of those who lost their loved ones," Mr Momis said.

He said the government had learnt that most of the Bougainvilleans who survived were students and had sent a very clear message to them.

He affirmed that his government would do everything in its capacity to empower and educate the people so that the human resources remained in the province.

The President has also supported Prime Minister O'Neill's call for a full investigation into the shipping disaster.

09.02.1012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville mourn loved ones

By FABIAN HAKALITS

VICE President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Patrick Nisira has joined families, mourning their loved ones who perished on the ill-fated MV Rabaul Queen.

Mr Nisira expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the mourning families, saying the incident had caused great distress to people.

"It is really heartbreaking, unimaginable and shocking to us. Therefore I take this opportunity to convey my most sincere condolences to families who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy. We share with you the great loss and all Bougainvilleans are with you in this period of grief," he said.

Mr Nisira said that the disaster came at a time when Bougainville was struggling to recover from the effects of the Bougainville Crisis.

"We do not want to get through another period of suffering again," he said.

The loss of Bougainvilleans' lives is a great loss to Bougainville's human resources who travelled in search in for educational opportunities.

09.02.1012

Source: Post-Courier

Buin voters plan to boycott polls

By Joseph Morokana

More than 10,000 legible voters in the Makis constituency of Buin in South Bougainville are planning to boycott the national election this year due to failures by their MP to deliver vital services.

A concerned paramount chief from Kokopo village in Buin, Luke Kangkana, said former MPs, both provincial and national, have failed miserably to improve vital road networks in their constituency.

Makis constituency covers 18 villages, five vital road links and about 40,00 hectares of cocoa and coconut plantations that need access to roads.

The five kilometre feeder road that runs from Yamamoto Memorial Primary School to Morula Primary School was overgrown with tall grass and used as a garden track by villages.

“Former Members since the 1980s have turned a blind eye to our peoples’ pleadings for improve feeder roads in our areas,” said Mr Kangkana.

“Our people are frustrated that all our provincial members and national parliamentarians have done nothing to improve our feeder roads. The situation has gone from bad to worse resulting in vital road links not useable anymore.”

09.02.2012

Source: PNG Attitude - BACKGROUND

Bougainville warlords seek to divide, rule & prosper

BY KEITH JACKSON

WARLORDS ON BOUGAINVILLE - former elements of the rebel armies that conducted a murderous and destructive campaign through the island in the 1990s - still control territory, arms and, increasingly, significant parts of the local economy.

PNG Attitude contributor Leonard Roka, who writes regularly on Bougainville affairs and whose father – a non-Bougainvillean - was murdered in the civil war, has exposed who the warlords are, how they operate and how they threaten the delicate revival of what is now the Autonomous Province of Bougainville.

With the peace process gaining momentum and economic activity increasing, Roka writes, these warlords have the Autonomous Government and the Police Service rattled.

“Though with legal authority to intervene into crime situations,” says Roka, “[the Police] absolutely avoid anything to do with the ‘ironmen’. So, if the law wants to apprehend an offender, it must befriend an ironman to bring the perpetrator to justice.”

The warlords seized their opportunity to add commerce to their military efforts after the peace process bedded down in 2000. “Economic activities rapidly increased in Central Bougainville,” writes Roka, “gold and cocoa taking the upper-hand followed by scrap metal.”

He says that people were surprised when Bougainville’s ironmen deserted politics to move “deep into the economic arena”. Not that the guns were laid to rest. “On the Christmas Eve of 2011, Toroama’s men and Uma’s men had a gunfight over security rights of a scrap stockpile at Loloho. Nobody was killed but Uma escaped in an outboard motor after burning a truck.”

“These little warlords are establishing a dangerous trend to the future of Bougainville,” Roka writes. “By protecting these tyrants, we make Bougainville a safe haven for global terrorist networks and financial scam operators.”

“In Bougainville we died for civil liberty, not tyranny and this ‘ironman’ environment.... If these illicit actions continue, what is the future like for our ‘Republic of Bougainville’?

“The sacrifices we made during the bloody Bougainville conflict would be just a waste of effort and time.”

Read Leonard Roka’s full article below...

09.02.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

We don’t want Bougainville as a land of warlords

BY LEONARD FONG ROKA



WARLORDS ARE MILITARY PEOPLE with great political and economic power over a particular region. In Bougainville since 1990, the definition fits well.

When the founder of the Bougainville armed conflict, the late Francis Ona, lost control of the leadership in 1990, his men turned to form their own tiny spheres of influence that resulted to the loss of 20000-plus Bougainvilleans.

Even in the years after the dawn of active-peace in 1997, a few men have continued fighting for their prestige and power as ordinary Bougainvilleans watch in distaste.

Between 1988 and 1990, a certain number of the then Bougainville secessionist militants (later the Bougainville Revolutionary Army) stood out as the best fighters.

During the establishment period of the then Bougainville Interim Government in mid-1990, the Bozaar Brothers of Kongara, who were the first to attack and capture RPNGC (Police) weapons in Koromira, were popular for their tactics as were Ishmael Toroama, ex-MP of ABG Parliament (2005-2010 House), Glen Tovirika and Chris Uma. All collectively came out of North Nasioi and Kongara areas, whilst we in Panguna had none.

All these great military men of Bougainville - although at first fighting to get rid of Bougainville Copper Limited, Papua New Guinea and its Redskins - went off-track in mid-1990.

This divide was created by the late Francis Ona’s inability to administer and control his men and therefore to control Bougainville.

Fighters forgot our cause of freedom and went for war-gains. Think about Ishmael Toroama’s words in the video documentary Coconut Revolution: ‘When I fought everything got into hands...’

Did we fight for personal property or peoples’ freedom? Often, at gun point personal property was removed from owners or guardians; Bougainvillean women were raped, innocent persons were killed....

In this striving for property and power; the Bozaar Brothers were ruthlessly murdered at their base, the Pineapple House building at Camp 5 on the port-mine access road.

A family of nine hardcore Bougainville Revolutionary Army brothers perished not for the good of Bougainville but because of a certain BRA man’s self-interest for control over ex-BCL, government and other property.

As a result, the gap between the BRA’s greats widened. Ishmael Toroama settled at Aropa (today he is one of the impediments to reopening Aropa international airport), Glen Tovirika had his men stationed at Arawa’s Section 17 and Chris Uma was based at the former Bougainville Copper Limited’s camp and PNGDF post of Kobuan.

My innocent redskin father was killed by the BRA on March 1993 outside Arawa by Ishmael Toroama's followers and, soon after this episode, Commander Glen Tovirika attempted peace talks with his former men turned pro-PNG resistance fighters of Pavaire village.

It was a success, and from the refugee camps and villages of Pooma, Kupe, Topinang and Pomaua, BRA soldiers and people visited the Pavaire PNGDF and resistance post at will in late 1993. However, Ishmael Toroama's men threaten to kill Glen Tovirika's followers and the peace process failed.

Glen Tovirika's 1993 peace attempts did not go unnoticed. In early 1994, Chris Uma gestured for a peace deal with Glen Tovirika's former BRA men of Pavaire but at the initial peace meeting venue on the southern edge of this big Seventh Day Adventist village he and his men faced a gun battle and fled for their lives. The talks failed.

This drama shows clearly that we are slowly dividing Bougainville as was once attempted in Lebanon by Lebanese warlords in 1983. They gathered in Lausanne, Switzerland to divide the country amongst them. Do we need a united island?

Seeing all this happening around us, my family walked for freedom into Arawa in late 1994 just a few weeks before the 1994 recapture of the Panguna mine by the resistance forces and the PNGDF.

After a short stay in Panguna, the PNGDF withdrew and the October 1994 Arawa Peace Conference followed with the coming of the South Pacific Peace Keeping Force. This time, Ishmael Toroama grabbed the opportunity. I watched him talk peace at the Arawa High School conference venue. Glen Tovirika and Chris Uma, however, were not present.

Seeing the success of the neutral Transitional Government led by late Premier Theodore Miriung as a result of the 1994 Arawa Peace Conference, and the sharp political rift in the BRA backed Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) between the President, Francis Ona (against peace), and vice president, Joseph Kabui (for peace), Chris Uma joined Francis Ona and they reignited the dormant Meekamui beliefs to resist peace whilst Glen Tovirika supported the peace process.

It was between 1994 and 1996, that Francis Ona scrapped the BIG and installed his Meekamui Government. He promoted the notorious Moses Pipiro as the General Commander of the Meekamui Defence Force (MDF). Chris Uma remained powerless but grabbed the General Commander position when an extra-marital affair was alleged between the First Lady and Moses Pipiro.

Chris Uma was at work. Firstly he moved the No-Go-Zone checkpoint to Morgan Junction. Then he publicised names of people were not permitted entry into Panguna—all pro-peace leaders.

This prohibition resulted in the death of two of his men who were killed by Ishmael Toroama's men and friction with Moses Pipiro, who worked to create a good reputation for himself by keeping his Meekamui loyalty and opening his arms to pro-peace leaders although he had been formally kicked out by Meekamui.

Glen Tovirika withdrew from the stage and remained faithful to the peace process. But pro-peace Toroama and Uma kept up the rivalry, joined by an artless Moses Pipiro. The three 'iron men' were joined in by a formerly Toroama's man, James Nabeung.

Nabeung was not very political but inclined to doing business with a gun at his side. In the late 1990s, his network was said to have been responsible for the robbery of Elutu Trading in Buka and the daytime murder of an Agmark employee on the Buka Passage while transporting cash between 2005 and 2007. Nabeung also did work as the price controller for cocoa buyers in Arawa.

With the peace process gaining momentum and economic activity increasing in Bougainville, Toroama, Uma, Nabeung and to a lesser extent Pipiro now possess the political and economic field of Central Bougainville as the civil authority of the Autonomous Government only keeps a 'very careful' gait.

The Bougainville Police Service, though with legal authority to intervene into crime situations, absolutely avoids anything to do with the 'ironmen' of Bougainville. So, if the law wants to apprehend an offender, it must befriend an ironman to bring the perpetrator to justice.

In the public service delivery mechanism, success is also often determined by the 'ironmen'. In 2007, for the Bougainville Administration to rehabilitate the Morgan Junction-Panguna-Jaba road, K30,000 cash and foodstuff and pigs were offered to Chris Uma. The rehabilitation succeeded to the benefit of the South Bougainville and the Panguna District people. But the concern is that, by doing this, what precedent are we setting for the future?

After 2000 economic activities rapidly increased in Central Bougainville; gold and cocoa taking the upper-hand followed by scrap metal.

To the surprise of Kieta, Bougainville's ironmen deserted the political front and are now submerged deep in the economic arena. On the Christmas Eve of 2011, Toroama's men and Uma's men had a gunfight over security rights of a scrap stockpile at Lolohe.

Nobody was killed but Uma escaped in an outboard motor after burning a truck. Before this in 2010, Nabeung's men killed Toroama's cousin and the two exchanged gunshots throughout Arawa. Does Bougainville need these men?

Finally, these little warlords are establishing a dangerous trend to the future of Bougainville. By protecting these tyrants, we make Bougainville a safe haven for global terrorist networks and financial scam operators.

In Bougainville we died for civil liberty and not tyranny and this 'ironman' environment. It is a right and duty of the Autonomous Government to govern within the Bougainville Constitution. If these illicit actions continue, what is the future like for our 'Republic of Bougainville'?

The future is that all these men will attempt to cut themselves a district or two to govern for their own benefit.

The sacrifices we made during the bloody Bougainville conflict would be just a waste of effort and time.

James Nabeung died in January 2012 after this article was written.

08.02.2012

Source: The National

BCL share price up 11% on 'good news' outlook

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd share prices spiked by 11% yesterday to A\$0.80, its highest level in two months, following suggestions from European shareholders that a forthcoming cabinet visit to Arawa, near the Panguna mine site, could result in "good news".

Bougainville Copper, listed as BOC on the Australian Stock Exchange, hit a high of A\$1.20 in mid-September last year after speculation that positive decisions could be made on the mine, which was shut down in mid-1989 as a result of the Bougainville crisis.

As hopes for an early decision faded, the BOC share price took a steep plunge to A\$0.80 by the end of last September.

It remained in a range of A\$0.75 to A\$0.90 from last October to mid-December and fell to a low of A\$0.62 early last month before making a sharp rebound.

The share price rose by 13.64% to A\$0.75 on Feb 2 and eased slightly to A\$0.72 by Feb 6 before yesterday's sharp rebound to A\$0.80.

Optimism in the stock was generated in the early part of last year when Bougainville Copper's chairman, Peter Taylor, told shareholders of the parent company, mining giant Rio Tinto Ltd, which had applied for exploration leases within PNG for the first time since the 1990s.

However, progress on discussions between the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Panguna landowners and other interested parties had been slow and shareholder enthusiasm faded in the meantime.

There was also some uncertainty whether the mining powers held by the National Government will be transferred to the Autonomous Bougainville Government prior to any decision on a possible opening of the mine, leading to further likely delays in decision making.

Industry sources said a high level of assurance on sovereign risk issues, including support of landowners and factions of the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army, would be necessary prior to any green light for development in view of the huge development costs estimated at around US\$4 billion.

These deals, they said, would need to be in place even before the start of a pre-feasibility study which in itself could cost hundred million dollars.

The key differences anticipated from any new agreement, in contrast to the one initially negotiated by the former colonial government prior to independence, would be the flow of all royalties to the Panguna landowners with additional revenues flows targeted for the provincial and local governments.

08.02.2012

Source: The National

Momis visits, provides financial aid

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

AUTONOMOUS Region of Bougainville President John Momis was in Lae on Monday to provide financial and moral support to Bougainvilleans who survived the mv Rabaul Queen disaster.

The survivors are camped at the Morobe Catholic diocese care centre.

Momis said the ABG was prepared to help its people who were involved in the maritime disaster last Thursday.

"We are in close consultation with our people in Lae. We will assist our people, many of whom were students, with their immediate financial needs, including money for their studies," Momis said.

He said the Bougainville administration had been directed to have funds readily available to meet some of the expanses of repatriating the bodies of the deceased Bougainvilleans as soon as the rescue operations had ended and the passengers identified.

"Star Shipping will have to bear the cost based on the outcome of the investigation but ABG, as a government, has the responsibility to treat with respect our dead and bring them home," Momis said.

He thanked all parties involved in the search and rescue operations, including the Australian Maritime Safety team and the international merchant ship from China that responded immediately to the distress call sent out by the mv Rabaul Queen.

"The people of Bougainville pray for those still lost at sea, we pray for the deceased and we hope and pray that more survivors will be rescued," Momis said.

He cautioned all people to take care when travelling, saying the sinking of the mv Rabaul Queen was a lesson for everyone on maritime safety.

"Before travelling, make sure to check the weather, do safety checks on the transport you will be using and let us seriously take on the culture to not overload the vehicles, the ships or the banana boats we are travelling in," Momis said.

08.02.2012

Source: The National

O'Neill to visit survivors in Lae

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill will visit survivors and families of people still missing of the MV Rabaul Queen ferry disaster today in Lae, Morobe province.

Rescuers have put the number of missing at about 180 with 243 survivors brought to Lae.

He will be accompanied by East and West New Britain governors Leo Dion and Peter Humphreys, whose people were mostly affected by the tragedy.

Rescue operations are continuing in and around Morobe waters and will continue for as long as funds are available.

Morobe's acting provincial administrator and disaster chairman Patillas Gamato, when briefing **leaders from Autonomous Region of Bougainville** and East New Britain yesterday,

suggested the bad weather and overloading could have contributed to the sinking of ill-fated passenger vessel.

He also did not rule out possible negligence on the part of the captain and crew. He said they should have anchored at one of the islands along the way to wait out the strong winds and high seas.

Gamato said doors at the bottom deck of the three-decked vessel were reportedly locked which could have resulted in many passengers being unable to exit as the ship tilted twice and sank.

Currently estimated to be sitting 1,600m below, specialist divers and equipment are required to safely reach it.

Morobe provincial disaster office is seeking assistance from naval officers from Australia and the United States to help salvage the sunken mv Rabaul Queen.

Detectives have obtained statements from the captain and crew and are continuing interviews with 243 survivors.

"I am deeply saddened by this shipping tragedy which claimed hundreds of lives last Thursday. I convey my sincere condolences to the families of those lost at sea," O'Neill said.

"We hope and pray for the families affected and especially the ones still missing.

"I am grateful for the quick assistance from the six international ships following a distress call sent out by the sinking ship. "

He thanked the Australian government, the Morobe provincial government, the national disaster office and the Morobe disaster centre for ensuring that survivors were taken care of at the centre.

He also thanked volunteers and locals involved in the search and rescue mission.

O'Neill said the government would be conducting an investigation to ascertain the cause of the disaster near Finschhafen about nine nautical miles from Lae.

08.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

AIDS patients increase in Bougainville

By JOSEPH MOROKANA

THE number of HIV AIDS patients on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) in Bougainville has risen to 20 in the last 12 months.

This was revealed by the Bougainville Diocese Aids VCT centre and the Buka Hospital.

"We are treating about 20 patients on ART. Most of the patients are mothers who are at child bearing age," a VCT officer said.

At the Hahela VCT centre on Buka, there were another 20 clients who were been treated with ART. However, the exact number of the PLWHAs in Bougainville was uncertain due to lack of co-ordination between the major stake holders.

"About two thirds of all recorded infections lack information about the modes of transmissions. The actual number PLWHA is not known because a lot of people have not been coming for testing," Sr Stella Morokana and Sr Cecilia Naguo, two officers overseeing the Catholic VCT centre at Hahela.

The officers said that there was a need to improve better co-ordination of the PLWHA on ART in Bougainville so that their networking partners would know what the progress is in the other organisations.

The Health Officers at the Buka Hospital have also said that they cannot give the total figures of PLWHA clients on ART in ARB.

They needed to crosscheck their figures with the other stakeholders before they come up with the total number of AIDS related ART clients in ARB.

The Diocese of Bougainville as the key stakeholder in addressing the AIDS epidemic has set up VCT centres in the Region to boost up its services to their clients.

Similar initiative has been taken by the Bougainville Aids Council (BACs) in planning to build its office complexes that would cater for counselling and testing clinic services.

Coordinator Ray Himata said the buildings would also accommodate other Church agencies aids clinic services.

“A total of K300,000 has been secured and construction work would soon get started by a local building constructor,” said Mr Himata.

Currently the National Aids Council (NAC) has estimated that the trend of epidemic in PNG has seen a rapid increase in HIV infections in the rural areas.

More women, 56 percent are on ART while 44 percent are men.

HIV AIDS statistics from NAC shows the worsening national prevalence of 1.6 percent in the country.

The urban prevalence in PNG is about 1.38 percent while the rural prevalence is about 1.65 percent.

The infection rate of HIV since 2007 had been increased from 14,638 in 2007 to 20,000 in 2011.

The AIDS related cases rose to 7,000 in the last couple of years.

08.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Diarrhoea hits Mortlock Island

By FABIAN HAKALITS

ANOTHER case of diarrhoea outbreak has been detected on Mortlock Island, the provincial health office has revealed.

When Post-Courier contacted Bougainville’s health boss Doctor Anthony Pumpara yesterday afternoon, he confirmed that the diarrhoea outbreak has hit Mortlock Island.

“Diarrhoea has now spread to Mortlock islands and so far we have one recorded death,” Dr Pumpara has confirmed.

He said that the Bougainville Provincial Health Office was on high alert after receiving information about the islander’s death.

Dr Pumpara said that four officers from the provincial health office will travel to Mortlock today to conduct inspection and monitoring over the outbreak.

“We will provide treatment and provide monitoring assistance to the islanders.

“Our main aim is to track down the contaminated disease in two days,” Dr Pumpara said.

Meanwhile the diarrhoea outbreak in neighbouring Tasman is under control.

Dr Pumpara said the situation is under control because the islanders are responsive to advice that are provided by the health authorities.

He said practicing better hygienic standards is the only measure that can lower the risk of the disease spreading.

“By practicing good hygiene, we will live a healthy life in a healthy community,” said Bougainville’s health boss.

08.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Solomon Queen

Three ship

Three sister ships of the now sunken MV RABAUL QUEEN are still berthed at Buka wharf whilst talks between Rabaul Shipping continues for the release of these vessels.

Yesterday, NEW DAWN FM managed to talk to spokesmen for the grieving relatives of those who perished and Excombatant leader, John Angamata assured us that they would releade the boats as soon as everything is sorted out between the shipping company.

He said they were on board the ships to provide security for the crews and the ships.

He said because of the tense situation the last thing they want to see is for some opportunists to use this situation to damage the ships.

Mr.Angamata said that they would meet again this morning to discuss the next course of action.



07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna's European shareholders upbeat

THE European shareholders of the Bougainville copper mine (ESBC) are predicting a high level share price this year despite "volatile markets".

ESBC head Axel Sturm said yesterday in a statement this is because Bougainville and the PNG Government expect positive developments and good investment strategies all through the year.

"The real value of the Bougainville Copper share price can certainly be assessed in a more realistic way. This means that at the first sign of good news the stock will possibly hit the high levels from last year, or even surpass them," Mr Sturm said.

"Since January 2011 the share price of Bougainville copper has gone downhill.

"Up until today the stock has lost about 75 percent of its worth and is currently quoted at a level not seen since the discontinuation of the ADR (American Deposit Receipt) programme. Australians were hit particularly hard.

"Europeans, Americans and owners of Singapore Dollars were less affected because of the increasing strength of the Aussie dollar. The so-called euro crisis and the announcement of the huge debt burden of the United States have shaken the financial centers of the world to the bone.

Contradictory messages about the future demand of copper in China and home-made political power plays in PNG have added to further volatile markets.

“The 2012 has started with all imaginable negative factors already priced in; however, investors should not forget to include all positive developments of the recent months into their investment strategies.

He said the upcoming joint supervisory board meeting in Buka and the subsequent National Executive Council meeting in Arawa will also help to give additional attention to Bougainville.

ABG President Momis has announced the impending visit to Panguna of a high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Peter O’Neill.

This also suggests that additional steps towards the reopening of the Panguna mine will be discussed and decided, Mr Sturm said.

“Presumably, in this context, the first official visit of John Momis to Panguna will also take place,” Mr Sturm said. “It can further be assumed that this will also mark the beginning of the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement, as was announced by ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira a few weeks ago. After years of deliberations, the Panguna landowners have drafted a ‘new deal’, one that is likely to accelerate the reopening of the mine.

“Thereafter, representatives of Bougainville Copper probably make first visits in order to take stock of Panguna. Consequently, the opening of a Bougainville Copper representative office at Arawa would be on top of the agenda. As a logical conclusion from the above hard facts, the following can be summarised, the real value of the Bougainville share price can certainly be assessed in a more realistic way.

“This means that at the first sign of good news the stock will possibly hit the high levels from last year, or even surpass them.

From today’s perspective (AUD 0.74 on 02.03.2012) it appears that a doubling of the current price is a sure shot and a scenario of tripling or even quadrupling is not unrealistic.”

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville hardliners to stand by O’Neill on his trip to Aropa

FORMER BOUGAINVILLE hardliners want Prime Minister Peter O’Neill to be the first PNG leader to land at the Aropa Airport after its closure in 1989.

Mr O’Neill and his full Cabinet are expected in Arawa at the end of this month to convene the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting followed by the Cabinet (NEC) meeting. Solomon Islands Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo is also expected to attend this first time ever high level meeting in Arawa with the PNG counterparts.

Sam Kauona, former renowned rebel commander and now businessman, has assured PNG Government, specifically Mr O’Neill and his deputy Belden Namah that security at the meeting would be 100 percent provided and that more than 100 former commanders of central and south stand ready to receive the Cabinet at the Aropa Airport later this month.

Prime Minister O’Neill yesterday welcomed the announcement by Mr Kauona and thanked the leaders of Bougainville for a possible way forward in the re-opening of the Aropa Airport.

Mr O’Neill yesterday said that Prime Minister of Solomon Islands was also expected to attend the meeting.

He said that preparations for the meeting was already underway and the Government was ready to travel to Bougainville to further show his government’s commitment for the region.

Mr O’Neill said that despite the country now going through disasters Bougainville still stands as one of the major agendas for his government.

ABG president John Momis could not be reached for comment as he is in Lae.

07.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Power outage

By Aloysius Laukai

Load shedding by Png power has been very unfair in the last two days and is getting worse.

Yesterday power was switched off at 2pm and did not come on until after midnight.

And again power went off after 12midday and is still off whilst power on other areas are on.

The continuous power fluctuations have in the past damaged many of our broadcast equipments and the continuous outages are killing business.

We are in the process of seeking legal advice in suing PNG POWER for providing unreliable power service.

Otherwise some good and reliable power supplier can be established in the region.

Its better to operate a reliable service then clinging on to an unreliable and fluctuating energy.

After all we are so called AUTONOMOUS.

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa lights up

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

AFTER 22 years of living in darkness without having a decent power supply, people in Arawa town in Central Bougainville will now have access to 24 hours of electricity supply.

This follows the official launching and hand over of the power plant to PNG Power Ltd last Friday, with all credits going to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and PNG Power Ltd for their tireless efforts in restoring power supply in the former provincial capital.

The last time there was constant power supply in the area was in December 1989 when the PNG Electricity Commission, as it was then known, decided to switch off the power due to the Bougainville Crisis.

Leaders present during the launching include the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kama, ABG Ministers Nicholas Daku (primary industry) and Carolus Ketsimur (works and transport), PNG Power CEO Tony Koiri and his officers, the Arawa district office and business representatives from the area.

Mr Kama, who spoke on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, challenged the people of Arawa to look after the property.

He said the restoring of power supply now means that more tangible developments would take place in the area.

"We should be happy with the achievement of the ABG and PNG Power in trying to provide 24 hours of power supply in Arawa. This is one of the big impact projects we have in Bougainville.

"Big challenge for us is look after the power station.

"If we damage the power station we will not get another power station that is why we must respect the property given to us by the government."

Mr Kama also acknowledged the tireless efforts of both the ABG and PNG Power Ltd for re-installing the power supply in Arawa.

He also took the opportunity to brief the people about the recent developments taking place between the National Government and the ABG.

"More developments will take place because of the good working relationship between the O'Neill Namah government and ABG.

“The only way to bring developments is partnership and we must trust each other.

“If we do not trust each other and work in partnership the people will suffer.”

Meanwhile, business community representative Chris Damana said business houses in the area would greatly benefit from the restoration of power supply.

He however warned the management team to properly manage the power plant, adding that if there is poor management the business houses will suffer and eventually the local people will also suffer.

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

More students enrol at Hutjena

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE'S largest secondary learning institution, Hutjena Secondary School has recorded an increase in this year's enrolment.

School Principal Martin Takali revealed this yesterday, however there is an urgent need for more classrooms and dormitories to be built to cater for the increase yearly enrolment.

He said that the total student's intake for this academic year from grades nine to twelve is 802. To date there are 225 grade nines respectively.

“Compared to the previous years, this has been a big increase. We need more classrooms and dormitories because the current facilities cannot cater for the increased enrolment each year.

“Yet we still have piles of letters from parents from and abroad Bougainville, asking of any space at Hutjena Secondary,” he said.

The school has 18 classrooms to house five classes of grades nine, 10 and 12, and four grade 11 classes that will be facilitated by 33 teachers.

The Post-Courier was given a tour around the campus to inspect the buildings.

Mr Takali said that because of the increased enrolment this year, one room used for practical skills lessons has been converted into a classroom for the grade nines to use.

“We need more classroom and dormitories to make learning conducive for students so that students can excel in their academic work and studies to attain better results.” he said.

Mr Takali said that there is an urgent need for immediate maintenance to be carried out on the current dormitories and classrooms being used by students.

“Immediate maintenance has to be done.” he said.

Meanwhile Mr Takali said that because of the decrease of school fees this year, parents should not have reasons for not paying the fees on time.

“Free education does not mean, parents should be relaxing but have to make sure to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations. “Afford your children's necessities and encourage them to work hard in school,” he said.

Mr Takali has called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the Bougainville Administration and the Bougainville Education Division, to look into the matter and come up with better solutions to address this issue.

Hutjena Secondary School is the longest serving school in Bougainville, which has produced some of the regions prominent leaders and intellectuals.

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rabaul Shipping vessels grounded

By PETERSON TSERAHA

BOUGAINVILLEANS are very frustrated and at the same time saddened by the loss of their loved ones on the ill fated sea ferry, MV Rabaul Queen, last Thursday.

As a result, three of Rabaul Shipping vessels, Solomon Queen, Kopra and Kopra Four, have been grounded by grieving relatives.

The three vessels will be used as negotiation tool against Rabaul Shipping, to meet demands to be presented to shipping boss Peter Sharp.

It is still unclear how many passengers were on board when the ship went down in rough weather off the Morobe coastal port of Finschhafen.

Angry relatives yesterday told the Post-Courier, that Rabaul Shipping and its Managing Director, Peter Sharp has to answer to the incident.

"Firstly, if the captain had recommended that the ship had to overnight in Kimbe, then why was he forced to move the ship out? And why was the ship overloaded?" the frustrated relatives questioned.

Mainly excombatants are now manning the ships at the Buka wharf, and when asked they said, "We will use the three ships as a negotiation tool, mainly to protect the vessels from opportunists."

Meanwhile, Bougainville President John Momis, yesterday also flew out of the region to meet with the survivors in Lae.

In a press conference held this morning, Bougainville Regional Disaster Coordinator Franklyn Lacey said that 41 survivors from Bougainville are being housed at the Catholic Diocesan Office Centre, Seventh Street in Lae.

However when the Catholic Diocesan Office Centre when contacted yesterday afternoon at 330pm, the number has increased.

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Safety for Rabaul Shipping vessels

By FABIAN GATANA

GAURANTEE has been given to Rabaul Shipping that three of their vessels docked at Buka Wharf will not be tampered with and no harm will come to their crew.

Aggrieved parents and relatives of those who were on board the MV Rabaul Queen have assured the management of Rabaul Shipping that they will be keeping the vessels under close observation until such time their demands have been met and also to stop opportunist who might like to take matters into their own hands. They also said the vessels are being held pending the investigation into the shipping mishap.

The parents and relatives are seeking for Rabaul Shipping to provide for food, clothing and other necessities to those that have survived also they are fly seven of the parents to Lae and help pay for the students school fees.

For compensation, the parents and relatives have agreed to follow the legal channel and let the courts decide on compensation matters.

Their grievances were presented to the Bougainville Chief Administrator and ABG President John Momis last week.

Meanwhile, the Disaster office in Bougainville has announced that it is the official information centre for matters relating to the shipping incident. They are calling on parents and relatives to visit them at the LLG office in Buka for information on the survivors or submit names of those still missing so the Disaster office can assist in locating them.

Disaster Coordinator Franklyn Lacey said that they were working closely with the National Disaster office in Lae to gather information of Bougainvilleans who either survived or are still unaccounted for.

Mr Lacey also said that the MV Bougainville Atolls will be doing a charter run for students who are stranded because of the MV Solomon Queen being grounded at Buka Wharf.

The vessel will depart Buka today and travel to Rabaul and then onto Lae.

07.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Stop family violence

By ALEX MUNME

FAMILY violence is an escalating issue that needs to be addressed, says Bougainville's Senior Presiding Magistrate Peter Toliken.

Speaking at the closing ceremony for the weeklong family violence workshop last Friday in Buka, Mr Toliken told the 27 participants to reach out to the communities and establish safe homes for the victims.

The workshop enabled all participants to learn to competently assist victims of family violence, including the drafting of the relevant forms for an interim protection order.

"Family violence is everyone's responsibility and not only the victims who suffer from family violence.

"We have to work together to eradicate the problem," Magistrate Toliken told the participants.

He said family violence attacks the very foundation of our societies and families and as trained officers; they will work towards implementing a peace family in affected homes.

"Therefore as humans we may not eradicate, but help share the knowledge gained to help each other to minimise the problem," he said.

Mr Toliken said family violence is not tolerated by the law and such behaviour may also result in criminal charges being laid.

"Furthermore those who chose to disobey the conditions of either an interim protection order are liable to be imprisoned or a period of six months," he said.

Also speaking at the closing ceremony was Bougainville Police Service (BPS) prosecutions officer Errol Gibson.

He said family and sexual violence was a priority for the BPS and with the partnership of AusAID, more training will be conducted to help minimise the problem.

He further added that female police officers will also attend an investigators course, after Easter in Buka.

The workshop was attended by BPS female police officers NGO's, Catholic Church and Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation.

07.02.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville to have 14 departments

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is in the process of establishing the foundation of the Bougainville public service, with K2 million appropriated from this year's ABG budget for it.

ABG human resource division chief executive officer Shem Satoriri said the process would involve the Bougainville administration being broken into 14 departments.

He said that was to align the Bougainville administrative structure with the region's unique political arrangements under autonomy.

Satoriri said the restructure would enhance effective collaboration between ABG departments and national government departments on the draw-down of powers from the state to ABG.

"It will enhance the capacity of the Bougainville public service to implement autonomy by attracting experienced and qualified personnel from outside Bougainville to work in the autonomous region," Satoriri said.

He said the restructuring exercise would be implemented in phases this year.

“Phase one starts with the advertisement of 15 senior executive positions in the new departmentalisation structure.

“Following the completion of phase one, phase two will be to draw up departmental structures and advertise priority departments and senior position.”

He said a formal request on the transfer of public service powers and functions from the national government to ABG would be made at the joint supervisory board meeting planned for this month.

“Bougainville wants a public service that is effective.

“There has to be a change in order to develop this region,” Satoriri said.

“The Public Service Management Act clearly outlines from the beginning to the end what powers are available for us to request for transfer,” he said.

Public service powers and functions that have been delegated to all provincial administrations and the ABG include creation and abolition of offices, creation so temporary offices, selection and recruitment, temporary employment, contract management, training disciplinary matters, minor disciplinary matters, serious disciplinary matters, resignation to contest the national election, age retirement and retirement on medical grounds.

Satoriri said other important functions to be transferred included public service commission and appointments of departmental heads.

“It is up to us to decide and prioritise what powers should be transferred, while being mindful of the capacity issues that confront us,” Satoriri said.

07.02.2012

Source: The National

Not all Buka passengers on manifest

By ELLEN TIAMU

THE passenger list handed out by the owners of the ill-fated mv Rabaul Queen does not contain the names of the majority of passengers who boarded it from Buka.

There were only six passengers listed as travelling from Buka, in North Solomons, although survivors confirmed that there were a lot more Bougainvilleans who boarded the vessel there because it was first port of call.

The ship sank last Thursday in heavy seas off Finschhafen, Morobe province. So far, 246 survivors had been brought to Lae by rescue teams.

Attempts to get the exact number of people from the shipping company who might have been on board have not been successful.

The company had closed its offices in Buka, Kokopo, Kimbe and Lae. It has refused to answer queries from distraught relatives, friends, survivors and journalists.

The manifest was released by the company last Saturday but did not have listing of people who got on the ship at Buka, the first port of call.

Only those who were travelling from the other two ports of call in Rabaul and Kimbe were on the list. The listing had 230 people travelling from Rabaul which was the second port of call, while 145 boarded the vessel at Kimbe. All these passengers totalling 375 were listed as bound for Lae.

The vessel was licensed to carry only 310 passengers.

Seasoned travellers who frequently use the inter-island shipping services said many passengers got on the boats at the last minute without purchasing tickets at the port of departure. But they pay at the port of disembarkation. Many who were on the boat could not have had their names on the shipping company's official manifest.

This meant that many who are still missing would not have had their names on the shipping company's official documentation and might not be accounted for unless they had alerted relatives, friends or guardians to expect them in Lae.

Adult passengers travelling from Buka to Lae pay K440. Those from Rabaul pay K350 while travellers from Kimbe pay K210 for the trip to Lae.

The provincial disaster office in Lae confirmed that the mv Rabaul Queen began its trip from Buka. The six people on the manifest included four adults and two children. It would have brought the “official” total number of passengers travelling last Thursday to 381.

Search in the provincial waters of Morobe is still continuing with teams stretching their area to the southernmost parts of Oro (Northern) and Milne Bay.

Four bodies retrieved so far – three adult females and a five-year-old boy – were found towards Milne Bay waters.

This has prompted search and rescue operations to also move into the area with two boats and a plane involved in the search.

07.02.2012

Source: The National

Buka sets up info centre

THE Bougainville Local Level Government headquarters on Buka Island has been identified as the autonomous region’s information centre to help families and relatives of Bougainvilleans involved in the mv Rabaul Queen disaster, LLG chief executive officer Herbert Kimai said yesterday.

He said relatives needing information on their loved ones can visit the centre, which also houses the Bougainville Disaster and Emergency Services.

Kimai said they had sent an officer to Lae to collate details of Bougainville people rescued and those missing.

He said they had identified 41 Bougainville survivors recovering at the Morobe Catholic diocese and Angau Memorial Hospital.

07.02.2012

Source: The National

Three vessels seized in Buka

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THREE of Star Shipping Ltd vessels and their crew have been prevented from leaving their berths at Buka wharf in the wake of last week’s ferry tragedy when the mv Rabaul Queen sank.

The mv Solomon Queen, mv Kopra 2 and mv Kopra 4 have been instructed to remain anchored until Star Shipping had compensated all Bougainvillean passengers who travelled from Kimbe to Lae on the ill-fated vessel last Thursday.

Relatives of the passengers had assured the company they would not damage the ships or harm the crew.

But they wanted Star Shipping owner Peter Sharp to meet all expenses for displaced survivors and the repatriation of the deceased to Bougainville.

Local level government chief executive officer Herbert Kimai confirmed that a meeting with relatives was held last Sunday where they assured the local authorities, including the Bougainville police service, of the safety of the vessels.

“The relatives have agreed that they will not damage the ships,” Kimai said.

“They recognise that Bougainville is moving forward in terms of peace and will not go back to the days of fighting and destruction of property.”

Bougainville President John Momis had called for calm and appealed to those involved to respect the inquiry taking place.

06.02.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Positive Outlook !

Bougainville Copper Limited

New super-hype ahead?

Since January 2011 the share price of Bougainville Copper has gone downhill. Up until today the stock has lost almost 75 percent of its worth and is currently quoted at a level not seen since the discontinuation of the ADR (American Deposit Receipt) programme. Australians were hit particularly hard. Europeans, Americans and owners of Singapore Dollars were less affected because of the increasing strength of the Aussie Dollar.

The so-called Euro-crisis and the announcement of the huge debt burden of the United States have shaken the financial centers of the world to the bone. Contradictory messages about the future demand of copper in China and home-made political power plays in Papua New Guinea have added to further volatile markets.

2012 has started with all imaginable negative factors already priced in. However, investors should not forget to include all positive developments of the recent months into their investment strategies.

Here is a preview of what to expect in the coming weeks:

1. Once the hysteria over the situation of the Euro-crisis countries will have slowly subsided because initial sensational reports are no longer of any interest to the population. The stock markets once again will reflect more of a scenario shaped by reality rather than horror stories.
2. The price of copper as well as the gold price will continue to rise slowly.
3. The Australian Dollar will also continue to rise, since it is the safe haven for holders of U.S. Dollars, UK Pounds and Euros.
4. The political situation in Papua New Guinea will surely settle down after the upcoming emotional parliamentary elections in the summer. The current Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has a good chance to be elected prime minister after approaching popular topics such as combating corruption, eliminating school fees and a comprehensive free health care programme. In addition, the population seems to have tired of the selfish policy of his predecessor, Sir Michael Somare and his clan. While Somare was considered a friend of China, it is said that O'Neill stands closer to Australia.
5. The soon to be held joint supervisory board meeting (JSB) in Buka and the subsequent National Executive Council meeting in Arawa will also help to give additional attention to Bougainville. Furthermore, ABG President Momis has announced the impending visit to Panguna of a high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. This also suggests that additional steps towards the reopening of the Panguna mine will be discussed and decided. Presumably, in this context, the first official visit of John Momis to Panguna will also take place. It

can further be assumed that this will also mark the beginning of the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement, as was announced by ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira a few weeks ago.

6. After years of deliberations, the Panguna Landowner have drafted a "New Deal", one that is likely to accelerate the reopening of the mine.

7. Thereafter, representatives of Bougainville Copper probably make first visits in order to take stock of Panguna.

8. Consequently, the opening of a Bougainville Copper representative office at Arawa would be on top of the agenda.

As a logical conclusion from the above hard facts, the following can be summarised: The real value of the Bougainville share price can certainly be assessed in a more realistic way. This means that at the first sign of good news the stock will possibly hit the high levels from last year, or even surpass them. From today's perspective (AUD 0.74 on 02.03.2012) it appears that a doubling of the current price is a sure shot and a scenario of tripling or even quadrupling is not unrealistic!

Bougainville Copper Limited

Neuer Super-Hype ante portas?

Seit Januar 2011 ging's mit den Börsenkursen von Bougainville Copper bergab. Knapp 75 Prozent verloren die Papiere seither und notieren heute fast auf einem Niveau, das seit der Einstellung des ADR (American Deposit Receipt) Programms nicht gesehen wurde. Betroffen waren insbesondere Australier. Europäer, Amerikaner und Besitzer von Singapur Dollar waren weniger betroffen, da der Austral Dollar zunehmend fester tendierte.

Nachdem die sogenannte Eurokrise und die gigantische Verschuldung der U.S.A. die Finanzplätze der Welt erschütterte, verunsicherten widersprüchliche Nachrichten über den zukünftigen Kupferbedarf Chinas sowie hausgemachte Machtspiele in Papua Neuguinea zusätzlich die Märkte.

Zu Jahresbeginn 2012 scheinen nun alle erdenklich negativen Faktoren eingepreist und Investoren sollten daran denken, alle positiven Entwicklungen der letzten Monate in ihr Kalkül einzubeziehen.

Hier nun eine Vorschau auf das, was in den kommenden Wochen zu erwarten ist:

1. Nachdem die Hysterie über die Situation der Schuldenstaaten langsam abklingen wird, da reißerische Berichte nicht mehr das Interesse der Bevölkerung finden, werden die Aktienmärkte wieder mehr von Realitäten als von Horrorszenarien geprägt sein.

2. Die Kupferpreise sowie auch die Goldpreise werden weiter langsam ansteigen.

3. Der Austral-Dollar wird ebenfalls weiter steigen, da er sich als stabile Fluchtwährung aus US-Dollar, Pfund und Euro empfiehlt.

4. Die politische Lage in Papua Neuguinea wird sich spätestens nach emotionsreichen Parlamentswahlen im Sommer beruhigen. Der derzeitige Premierminister Peter O'Neill hat gute Chancen wieder Premierminister zu werden, da er populäre Themen wie die Bekämpfung der Korruption, den Wegfall von Schulgeldern und eine flächendeckende kostenlose Gesundheitsversorgung auf seine Fahnen geschrieben hat. Zudem scheint die Bevölkerung genug zu haben von der egoistischen Sippenpolitik seines Vorgängers Sir Michael Somare und

dessen Clan. Während Somare als Freund Chinas galt, sagt man O'Neill nach, Australien näher zu stehen.

5. Das Joint Supervisory Board Meeting (JSB) in Buka und die daran anschließende National Executive Council Sitzung in Arawa werden zudem in Kürze den Fokus auf Bougainville lenken. Der von ABG Präsident Momis angekündigte Besuch einer hochrangigen Delegation unter Leitung von PNG Premierminister Peter O'Neill in Panguna lässt darüber hinaus vermuten, dass weitere Schritte zur Wiedereröffnung der Panguna Mine erörtert und beschlossen werden. Vermutlich wird in diesem Zusammenhang auch der erste offizielle Besuch von John Momis in Panguna stattfinden. Es ist ferner davon auszugehen, dass dabei auch der Beginn der Überarbeitung des Bougainville Copper Agreements vereinbart wird so, wie vor einigen Wochen von ABG Vizepräsident Patrick Nisira angekündigt.

6. Nach jahrelangen Beratungen haben die Panguna Landeigner einen Entwurf für einen „New Deal“ entwickelt, der geeignet ist, die Wiedereröffnung der Mine zu beschleunigen.

7. Danach werden vermutlich Vertreter von Bougainville Copper erste Besuche in Panguna zwecks einer Bestandsaufnahme machen.

8. Folglich stünde dann auch die Eröffnung einer Bougainville Copper Repräsentanz, eines Kontaktbüros in Arawa ganz oben auf der Agenda.

Als logische Schlussfolgerung aus den oben genannten harten Fakten ergibt sich folgendes Bild: Der Wert der Bougainville-Aktie wird mit Sicherheit zunehmend realistischer eingeschätzt werden. D.h.: Die Aktie wird vermutlich schon bei Veröffentlichung erster „guter“ Nachrichten wieder versuchen, Ihr Hoch aus dem vergangenen Jahr zu testen bzw. sogar zu übertreffen. Aus heutiger Sicht (AUD 0,74 am 3.2.2012) erscheint eine Verdoppelung des derzeitigen Preises sicher, eine Verdreifachung wahrscheinlich und sogar eine Vervierfachung nicht utopisch!

06.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Germany helps schools

By FABIAN HAKALITS

FORTY schools in Bougainville are the first proud recipients of new portable solar equipment invented by Denver Electronics, in Germany.

The solar equipment consisting of a lamp, radio and panel were donated by the German Embassy in Canberra, Australia, through the Bougainville Diocese Development Office of the Catholic Education at a cost of K30,000.

According to Andi Siedersleben, who is the Diocesan Development Officer, the equipment will be of great use to schools in remote places where there is no rural electrification power supply available.

“We carried out the first test at Caterets Island and found out that the solar equipment are very powerful and useful to rural places. The solar produced lights from three to four hours while the TWR-803 radio, is a world receiver, receiving signals globally,” he said.

He said teachers would use the lights to do their work and the radio to listen to school broadcasts, news and community announcements from local radio stations.

“It will not make big differences but small differences, ” he said.

Last Friday, the solar equipment were officially launched and handed over to the Minister for Education in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), John Tabinaman by Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville, Bernard Unabali.

Bishop Unabali, while officiating in the hand-over take-over, blessed the equipment, and said they would help with the formation of teachers to facilitate lessons and make learning conducive for students.

Bishop Unabali added it would also enhance teachers in their professions.

Meanwhile, Mr Tabinaman applauded the German Government for its donation towards the future leaders of Bougainville.

"I thank the German Government for their investment in the education development for the future leaders of Bougainville. Though a small gesture, but it will always be remembered by recipients," he said.



Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville Bernard Unabali launches the solar panel, light and radio equipment for the 40 schools in Bougainville.

06.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Not all is right with hardship allowances for Bougainville: PEA Officer

By FABIAN HAKALITS

THERE is a lot of wrong information on the hardship allowances payment to be made in Bougainville, Secretary of the Public Employees Association (PEA) branch in Bougainville, Herbert Kimai, has said.

And he blames the public servants themselves, who are eligible for the funds, for disseminating the wrong information.

"I have heard a lot of false statements being made, regarding the hardship allowance payout, and not happy at all. I do not blame anyone but the public servants themselves," the frustrated Mr Kimai said.

He said the public servants should have patience and wait for the appropriate time when the payments were to be made.

"It would be more convenient, if correct information is received from relevant authorities, rather than misinforming the public. These are not entitlements that you public servants should be making a lot of noise about, these are allowances and please, have patience," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Kimai said the hardship allowances would only cater for public servants who worked in the Bougainville restoration program, from 1992 to 1994.

He said PEA was closely working with the Bougainville Public Service Union (BPSU), the Bougainville Administration and the Department of Personnel Management (DPM) to sort out the issue.

Mr Kimai assured that the funds are ready, however, he said DPM needed to finalise all the documents before the payouts were made.

The hardship allowance of K17 million, he said, would be paid to public servants, starting the payments off with the first K10 million.

The Post-Courier understands that the payouts should have been done last year but was delayed because Bougainville Administration, as facilitator of the payments, was unable to bring the officers into the autonomous region, because the Government's accounts were closed at that time.

Mr Kimai said these were arrangements made between the Bougainville Administration (BA) and DPM.

"The Bougainville administration is responsible to meet the travel and accommodation costs," he said.

Mr Kimai said this was now a matter before the BA and PEA with BPSU not in a position to say anything but was only awaiting response from the two organisations.

He added that the payout of the hardship allowance was a decision made by the National Executive Council, and it was an honour for them to facilitate the payout.

Post-Courier made numerous attempts to the Chief Bougainville Administrator's office, but no one from this office wanted to comment.

When DPM was contacted, one of the officers speaking from Port Moresby, said: "Funds were still with the Treasury Department, waiting to be transferred to DPM's accounts."

The office of the Acting Industrial Relations manager was also contacted to clear the air on the issue, however, the officer refused to comment.

06.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Philippine delegation to visit

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE will play host to a high level business and investment delegation from the Philippines this week.

The ABG, led by President John Momis, members of the Bougainville Executive Council and the business sector will host the delegation upon their arrival on Wednesday. The delegation comprises of 31 business executives and entrepreneurs from various business interests in the Philippines and government representatives. Their interests in Bougainville covers potential investments in agriculture, banking, shipping, tourism, fisheries and mining, among other areas. They will also explore opportunities in direct investment, trade and commercial ties with Bougainville.

"This visit is yet another positive indicator that Bougainville is well on the road to political and broad based economic recovery and that the situation on the ground is such that it has shown the world that Bougainville is open or (has) creditable business and investment opportunities," said Mr Momis.

06.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

300 passengers believed to have perished in the ill-fated Rabaul Queen

MORE than 300 passengers were believed to have perished in the disastrous sinking of the Rabaul Queen during the early hours of Thursday last week.

And the ship is believed to have completely submerged with no sight from where it went down nine nautical miles off Finschaffien.

Reports reaching the Post-Courier have stated that the vessel was overloaded allegedly carrying more than 700 passengers on board, (400 when it left Buka, more than 100 got on in Rabaul and about 360 from Kavieng and Kimbe) not the initial 350 that had been repeatedly quoted by the media.

Chief Executive Officer of National Maritime and Safety Authority (NMSA), Captain Nurur Rahman, had indicated the ship was overloaded adding that its certificate allowed for only 310 passengers. Rabaul Shipping initially advised there were 350 passengers and 12 crew members on board but survivors are now testifying that there were hundreds more on board that fateful voyage.

NMSA has also advised the total number of passengers is sketchy because there was no proper manifest from Buka, Rabaul and Kimbe apart from the list they have and besides many passengers especially in Buka and other centres bought their tickets at the wharf.

Many survivors rescued and recovering in Lae have confirmed this and were also denying both local and foreign media reports that there were about 350 passengers' destined for Lae before it sank last Thursday.

The Post-Courier confirmed that unlike passengers travelling on aeroplanes, certainly there will be no passenger manifest released to confirm the right number of passengers on board the vessel, including survivors and the ones missing.

More and more survivors are pasting on social media groups and facebook and from survivors interviewed, the vessel was obviously overloaded.

This is another story published on facebook by a relative of a survivor. "From my younger brother, who was on board MV Rabaul Queen when disaster struck.

"There were actually 780 passengers on board - 420 from Rabaul/Kavieng /Buka and 360 from Kimbe.

"Mostly young children, mothers and students. There weren't any emergency procedures or demonstrations when they got on the ship and the shipping agency didn't limit passenger intakes," he said.

05.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG DISSASSOCIATES

by Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has disassociated itself from activities of ex combatants and relatives of Mv Rabaul Queen passengers now holding 3 ships owned by Peter Sharp in Buka.

Chief ABG legal officer,CHRIS SIRIOSI told a meeting of relatives and ex combatants in Buka that the ABG was not involved in the holding of ships.

He said that the action was by relatives and ex combatants who are demanding to see PETER SHARP in Buka.

Chris Siriosi said that the ABG was interested in helping Bougainvilleans who were affected by the accident.

Meanwhile the Bougainville Disaster office is operating 24 hours to give information on the accident.

05.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Students Register

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville students who did not travel by MV Solomon Queen due to the boat accident last week are urgently requested to register at the Bougainville Disaster office

This is for the ABG to work out if a ship is required to move these students to Rabaul.

Bougainville's chief administrator. Lawrence Dising made this announcement in Buka this morning.

He was responding to calls by ex combatants in Buka for the ABG to charter another boat to ferry these stranded students out of Buka.

Mr. Dising said that the ABG through the registration can now decide to engage MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLLS to Rabaul and possibly other centres.

Meanwhile until 5pm this afternoon only eleven students have put in their names.



Pictured are some students putting their names at the disaster office.

05.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG MOVES FAST

by Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is sending some officers to assist Bougainvilleans who survived from the Rabaul Queen accident, last Thursday.

The officers, one already arrived in Lae this morning and communicate with officials on Bougainville with information about survivors and also dead bodies from the accident.

Bougainville chief administrator, Lawrence Dising made these comments when announcing that the ABG PRESIDENT, Chief John Momis would be personally travelling to Lae tomorrow to visit the survivors.

Mr. Dising told a fourth meeting with parents and relatives of passengers lost at sea that the ABG was doing all it can to assist those

who have been affected by the accident.

FOR students who did not travel last Monday to give in names so that the ABG can organize another boat to Rabaul.

Meanwhile excombatants holding on to three ships owned by Peter Sharp will not release them until all the fate of Bougainville passengers are released to them.

They told the meeting with Bougainville chief administrator this morning that they were not happy with the communication breakdown between the shipping company and the families of those who lost their lives.

04.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis wants enquiry

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG president chief John Momis this afternoon called for a full inquiry into the boat accident that has claimed so many lives of Bougainvilleans and other fellow Papua New Guineans.

He made these comment when sending his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives at this drastic accident.

Mr. Momis said that the probe into this disaster would determine the cause of this accident and those found guilty should face the full force of the law.

ABG President said that he fully supported the call by Prime Minister Peter Oniel to set up an inquiry into the boat accident.

He said the ABG plans to start up education institutions on Bougainville so that Bougainvillean students can study on Bougainville instead of taking risks looking for education institutions in other provinces.

Mr. Momis said that the ABG has plans to purchase its own passenger boat to serve its own people.

New Dawn FM understands that the President wants the administrator to allow some funds to assist families trying to locate their relatives.

Bougainville disaster office has released that 46 passengers from Bougainville were on this boat between Kimbe and Lae.

03.02.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Search for survivors continues

03.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Build up capacity in Bougainville

By FABIAN HAKALITS

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Chief John Momis says capacity building is essential for the growth and development of Bougainville.

At a recent gathering in Buka, President Momis said that Bougainville leaders need to work together, to make Bougainville's dream of achieving independence come true.

The calling for a regional-wide referendum he said, have the people decide their political future set for 2015, as the date of the ultimatum decision. "Leaders have to be ethically empowered and work together to implement the policies set in place by the ABG." he said

The President said that good governance is the only way that will pave the way for a new Bougainville.

He said that ABG as the legitimate government have roles to play, and that is to mend a lot of loop holes.

All these have to be addressed to maintain the political arrangements set in the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

"Bougainville is a newly established autonomous region, and is optimistic to gaining independence in five years time. We still have a long way to go however by implementing the BPA, we will certainly will win, the prize, we have been fighting for, and that is independence." he said.

Meanwhile Momis has urged all bureaucrats in the region to seriously deal with issues, more over the human resource and capacity building.

"Let us move with time and create changes for our mother land Bougainville." he said.

03.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Parents seek information on children

By FABIAN GATANA

PARENTS of Bougainvillean students that travelled to Lae this week aboard one of Rabaul Shippings vessels are seeking information on the wellbeing of their children after reports that the vessel they were travelling in capsized off the waters of West New Britain.

As of yesterday morning, concerned parents and relatives of those who were on board the vessel bound for Lae have been calling the Rabaul Shipping office in Buka seeking confirmation on the incident and any information on the fate of their loved ones.

News of the incident spread like wildfire through the streets of Buka Town yesterday as many were asking questions on the situation of the passengers on board while others waited anxiously to receive official confirmation from the Rabaul Shipping.

A large number of passengers travelling on the ill-fated vessel were students travelling back to school for commencement of classes next week.

The Rabaul Shipping office in Buka was closed yesterday as the management themselves had not received confirmation of the incident from Rabaul and could not answer the overwhelming flood of questions.

Attempts to receive confirmation from Rabaul Shipping headquarters on the incident were also unsuccessful as phones were left unattended to.

With the high increase in airfares from Bougainville to other centres in PNG, more Bougainvilleans are opting to travel by ship to cut costs.

03.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ship down!

Coastal ferry MV Rabaul Queen capsizes with 350 onboard
By STAFF REPORTERS



Rescue operations continue in heavy seas off the coast of Finschhafen, Morobe Province last night for 120 people still missing in a ferry disaster that has sent shockwaves throughout the Islands region.

Passengers that were on the ill-fated boat were mainly students who were returning to Lae from holiday in their homes in East and West New Britain and the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville**. Eight merchant vessels, supported by officials from the Australian and PNG Marine Safety Authorities remained at the scene and by 8 pm, reported that 230 passengers out of the 350 people on the vessel, MV Rabaul Queen, was carrying have been rescued.

Last night, Lae City readied itself to receive the survivors that were put on a boat which was expected to arrive between 11 and 12 pm.

"We have sent the relatives home and told them to come back by 10pm. Angau Memorial Hospital is getting ready to take in any one that needs medical care. Additional staff is on standby to provide all the help needed," a spokesman said.

There were no reports of any bodies recovered but shocked and worried relatives of those on board were yesterday fronting up at the offices of Rabaul Shipping, the owner of MV Rabaul Queen, for explanation.

Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp would not provide any other details to the grieving relatives except to confirm the disaster, when confronted at his office. His brother, Hamish Sharp is the Chairman of the National Maritime Safety Authority. MV Rabaul Queen left Buka, with 300 passengers. When it docked at Rabaul, 110 disembarked and they were replaced by 135 passengers. At Kimbe, 105 people got off the vessel and 130 people from Kimbe and proceeded to Lae, when it capsized about nine nautical miles off Finschhafen at 5am yesterday.

And Australian Navy ship nearby picked up the distress signal from MV Rabaul Queen and directed merchants ships

in the area to head for the site of the crippled boat and started rescuing the passengers.

"Australian authorities last night diverted four merchant ships to the scene quickly to help with the rescue. I have not seen the manifest as yet but it is likely around 300 passengers," PNG's National Maritime Safety Authority boss Captain Nurur Rahman said last night.

The PNG National Weather Service said it has sent out a strong warning hours earlier of strong winds and rough seas and warned all vessels not to take to the sea.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has expressed grief over the incident and ordered an immediate investigation into the disaster.

"We need to bring some safety measures back into this industry. We cannot continue to lose lives at sea. We have a lot of people living on the islands. We will be guided by reports that we get," Mr O'Neill said.

"Our sympathies go out to the families and the persons who have been affected by this disaster," he added.

Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said Australia stood ready to help in any way it could. "I spoke to my counterpart, PNG Foreign Minister Ano Pala, earlier today (yesterday) to inform him that Australia stands ready to offer all necessary assistance," Mr Rudd said in a statement.

03.02.2012

Source: The National

Mining projects key to development

By BOSORINA ROBBY

PAPUA New Guinea has the potential to become a well-developed nation if its mining projects are managed well and benefits from them distributed widely.

Mining minister Byron Chan told a two-day stakeholder workshop in Port Moresby that this would happen if there was a government-private partnership to ensure that development reached the grassroots people in the village.

The workshop was to push the government and stakeholders to take up the challenge of good governance in the spending of benefits received from the extractive industry in a transparent manner.

It is called the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI).

Its aim is to strengthen good governance by improving transparency and accountability.

It is a global standard that promotes revenue transparency with a robust, yet flexible methodology for monitoring and reconciling company payments and government revenues at the country level.

Its successful implementation would lead to benefits for the government, the companies, civil societies and for energy security.

Chan said government was willing to participate in this initiative where it would become a vital part of PNG's development and progress into the future.

He said his ministry wanted to adopt some of EITI's principles by inserting the relevant provision within the revised mining policy and mining act.

"The revised mining act has expanded on section 161 Information of the Mining Act 1992 by revising the heading to Reporting and Information.

"Under this provision, tenement holders are required to submit all information to the authority and shall not be made available to anyone outside of the authority, unless otherwise authorised to do so," he said.

Chan said the revised act called for audits to be conducted once ever fiscal year for compliance and regulation of the mining industry.

It would look at the performance of the MRA and its agents or subsidiaries and of all companies licensed under the Act to ensure all policies, laws and regulations are complied with.

03.02.2012

Source: The National

Mekamui head: Vote in quality leaders

PRESIDENT of the Mekamui political group Philip Miriori has appealed to Bougainvilleans to carefully choose and vote for the right leaders in this year's general election.

"We must be careful in choosing the right people with quality leadership who can speak for Bougainville and represent the people in parliament for the next five years," Miriori said.

He said the next lot of leaders chosen must be prepared to work closely with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in implementing the autonomy arrangement under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

"They must coordinate their efforts and support ABG.

"There should be no reservations, otherwise, the peace agreement will face difficulties in being implemented," Miriori said.

He said Bougainville was at the cross-road and only leaders with quality leadership would take it through the next five years and successfully march towards referendum and independence for Bougainville.

"The people of Panguna will not to repeat the mistakes of the past by voting in the wrong people who did not even help us address our own landowner issues and those of Bougainville at large, including the most pressing issue of compensation and speedy economic recovery of Bougainville," Miriori said.

"We are now planning to put in our own candidate who understands our issues, someone who is highly respected for his professional standing and reputation with vast experience, is matured and boasts good moral principles and family values

and is widely known

not only on Bougainville."

Miriori appealed to voters in Panguna district, particularly women and youth, to ensure their names were registered in the common roll to guarantee a seat for Panguna's own candidate in the national parliament.

02.02.2012

Source: The National

United in grief

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare yesterday shook hands and stood united in grief – at the funeral of a parliamentary colleague.

Political differences were put aside as MPs from both sides of the warring factions farewelled the late Patrick Tammur (picture) in Port Moresby. The Kokopo MP died last week after a long battle with diabetes.



late Patrick O. Tammur

MPs paid their tribute and viewed his body at the Grand Hall of Parliament. It was followed by a memorial service at the St Joseph Church in East Boroko.

O'Neill shook hands with Sir Michael and his son, Angoram MP Arthur Somare in a "funeral reconciliation".



O'Neill was accompanied by his deputy Belden Namah, cabinet ministers, Speaker Jeffery Nape and deputy speaker Francis Marus.

Sir Michael and Arthur arrived with Ambunti-Dreikikir MP Tony Aimo, Southern Highlands Governor Anderson Agiru, Madang regional MP Sir Arnold Amet and Pomio MP Paul Tiensten.

The two factions sat side by side again at the funeral service at the St Joseph Catholic church in East Boroko.

Tammur's body will be flown to Kokopo this morning where a traditional Tolai welcome with the Tumbuan-Dukduk ceremony is expected at the Tokua airport.

Tammur is survived by wife Salome and three children Oscar, Sophia and Theresa.

O'Neill joined Sir Michael and other leaders in paying tribute to the late MP.

"When he defeated Sir Rabbie Namaliu in the 2007 general election, he knew the challenges that lay ahead of him and the expectations of his people, were great," O'Neill said.

"Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare recognised his pedigree and his potential and appointed him to

his Cabinet in the former government.

"And the young man did not disappoint. He presided over a number of key policy changes in the information and communication technology arena, which now guide development in the industry.

"It is indeed a huge loss that this illness has cut short the life of this promising young leader.

"For his time of public service, however short, I thank his family and the people of Kokopo.

Sir Michael also conveyed his condolences to the family and the people of Kokopo.

02.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Vote for quality leaders - Miriori

The President of Mekamui Government of Unity, Mr Philip Miriori is appealing to Bougainvilleans to choose very carefully and vote for the right leaders in this year's coming National General Election.

"We must be very careful in choosing the right people with quality leadership who can speak for Bougainville and represent the people in PNG National Parliament for the next 5 years," Mr Miriori said.

Mr Miriori emphasised that the next lot of leaders elected must be prepared to work closely with ABG in implementing the Autonomy arrangement under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

"They must coordinate their efforts and support ABG without any reservations otherwise the Bougainville Peace Agreement will have difficulties in having it fully implemented before the referendum," Mr Miriori said.

Mr Miriori said that Bougainville is now at an important cross-road that is critical indeed, and only leaders with the right kind of quality leadership can take us through the next five years and successfully march towards referendum and independence for Bougainville.

“As for our people in Panguna, we are already determined not to repeat the same old mistakes again this time as we have done so in the past by voting for the wrong people who could not even help us to address our own landowner issues and also those of Bougainville at large, including the most pressing issue of compensation and speedy economic recovery of Bougainville.

“We are now planning to put in our own candidate who understands our issues, someone who is highly respected for his professional standing and reputation, vast experience, maturity, moral principles and family values, and widely known not only on Bougainville and PNG but also internationally as well,” Mr Miriori said.

“The President for Mekamui Government of Unity said that through the current Panguna Unification Process consisting of the Panguna Landowners Association, Mekamui Government of Unity, Original Mekamui faction, Ex-combatants and other interest groups such as churches, COEs, women groups, youth etc we want to choose our own leader whose stand on the issue of independence for Bougainville is without any doubt whatsoever and unquestionable. He must also be a person who has played a key role during the Bougainville Crisis, especially the Bougainville peace process,” Mr Miriori said.

02.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka buai - big and cheap!



ONLY Buka buai is big and cheap and still the best! Bougainville is Blessed with the big, green and juicy betel nut. And while prices of buai have increased in other parts of the country, Buka buai has remained unchanged ranging from 20t to 50t and a bundle of mustard costs 50t and K1.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PNC MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

Parents and Citizens of students that would be attending HUTJENA SECONDARY SCHOOL are asked to attend a urgent meeting for the PNC next Monday February 6th,2012 at the school hall. Chairman for the PNC association, JOHN KOMARIN when making this announcement wants all parents and citizens to attend this important meeting before the 2012 school year begins. He said that the meeting would begin at ten o'clock on Monday morning.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LOAD SHEDDINGS

By Aloysius Laukai

PNG Power Limited Buka Office is again advising its clients that they are currently facing mechanical problems with their Generators at the KUBU POWER House.

In a memo dated 26th January 2012, PPL management has been appealing to Business Houses to switch on their stand by sets to ease the situation PPL is facing at the moment.

This is to allow workmen to repair the problems with their three Generators.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Landowners thanked

WAKUNAI landowners at Central Bougainville have been thanked for allowing work to commence on the Iraka bridge which was officially opened on December 30 last year.

Speaking at the official ceremony ABG Minister for works, transport and civil aviation Carolus Ketsimur said the landowners agreed for a bridge to be built over Iraka river for the benefit of the people of Bougainville.

Ketsimur said the Wakunai landowners were able to put their differences aside and make sacrifices to allow work to commence without obstruction.

He also congratulated the landowners in the other fourteen project sites of which bridges are being built under a K90 million fund by the government and people of Japan for the people of Bougainville.

The total of fifteen bridges built by contractor company Kitano Construction Limited will be officially handed over to the ABG by the government of Japan next month.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Chief System review

ABG minister for Local Level Government (LLG), Traditional Authorities and Communication Joseph Nopei says the Autonomous Bougainville Government supports the village chief system.

He said this is evident in their decision to empower traditional leadership structure below the Council of Elders (COE) and village assembly level.

He said the ABG will empower the chiefs so that they will effectively deal with issues at the village level.

He said as the Autonomous Region of Bougainville moves towards autonomy and referendum in 2015, the ABG would like to ensure that the lower level of government are fully functional and operating effectively before 2015.

Nopei added that this was going to be very challenging but assured that work would start this year in conjunction with the review of the COE system.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BRADA MERGED

THE Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) has endorsed the merging of the Bougainville Restoration and Development Authority (BRADA) with the ABG division of Technical Services (TSD).

In its recent meeting, BEC acknowledged that the streamlining of the two agencies responsible for infrastructure development allows the ABG to enhance the capacity of only one entity instead of the two.

ABG minister for finance and treasury Albert Punghau said the decision was necessary to manage and coordinate high impact infrastructure projects irrespective of the funding sources.

He justified that the merging of BRADA into TSD would avoid duplication of roles, confusion, buck-passing and wastage of resources.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW GRAVEL RATES

LOCALS selling river gravel have reason to celebrate this year as the autonomous government of Bougainville has approved new buying rates for riverine materials especially gravel and limestone.

ABG minister for Works, Transport and Civil Aviation Carolus Ketsimur at a recent presentation to ABG members announced that this year, river gravel will be bought at three kina per cubic meter.

This is an increase of two kina from last year's buying rate of one kina per cubic meter.

He also said limestone would now be bought at four kina per cubic meter compared to last year's buying rate of one kina fifty toea per cubic meter.

Ketsimur said this was good money easily earned from the natural resources owned by the coastal communities of Bougainville and urged that the landowners invest their money well.

He also urged that companies and landowners do fair business to avoid conflict and misunderstanding.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DATA SYSTEMS DOWN

By New Dawn Media

Telekom PNG Data systems network to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has been out for three weeks and clients in Bougainville are frustrated at the prolonged inconvenience caused.

Teachers, public servants and the general public needing postal, loan banking and png power services on Buka Island have urged that Telikom PNG quickly address the issue and have its data services restored.

Users of Telikom's Virtual Private Network (VPN) including Post PNG, Teacher's Savings and Loans, Nationwide Micro Bank and PNG Power have been the main service providers impacted by the disruption.

Most had to turn away customers needing their services since the problem began because the companies could not access organizational data bases from their network.

Telikom Bougainville branch confirmed that VPN users in Alotau, Mendi and Goroka have also been affected by the outage.

The branch assured that they are working in close consultation with colleagues in Port Moresby to restore the data link as soon as possible.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville prepares for 2012 elections

BOUGAINVILLE Electoral Commissioner Raitama Taravaru said they are confident they will complete all quality checks of the Bougainville electoral roll before the writs for the national elections is released on April 27.

Taravaru said the quality check for South Bougainville has been completed with updated data sent to Port Moresby last week.

The electoral office began work on updated rolls for Central Bougainville last Saturday and is expected to dispatch the data to Port Moresby by Friday.

The PNG Electoral Commissioner had set the end of this month as the deadline for all quality check exercises to allow for a period for objections.

Taravaru added that work on updated rolls for North Bougainville is yet to be undertaken due to delay in the printing of blank cheques by Moore Printing in Port Moresby.

He said as soon as the blank cheques are received, they would raise payments for enrolment agents, transport hire and related costs of the preparation exercise.

Meantime, he is urging all eligible voters not yet enrolled to register their names with village clerks in their respective village assemblies.

Taravaru said that there should not be any excuses for voters not having their names listed on the electoral roll when the village clerks who eat and sleep in the villages have made every chance available to the villagers to enroll.

He echoed PNG electoral commissioner Andrew Trawen's caution against early campaign and warned that any intending candidates caught campaigning in the region before the writs are issued would be prosecuted.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW HANDS FOR BGH

By Tapo Tovilu

Buka General Hospital has three new hands to help out with their health care delivery in the region.

The three new Resident Medical Officers flew into Buka last month for their two year residency at Buka General Hospital.

Dr Mathias Tovilu acting Director of Medical Services and head of Paediatrics in Buka Hospital said that the three will be rotating throughout different sections in the hospital.

He says this month two of the RMO's will start in the paediatrics section and will be involved all medical work in the section.

The RMO's are expected to complete a rotational residency by the end of the October.

The program will end at the end of a two year period and will consist of all medical and operational fields.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FREE HEALTHCARE A DREAM

By Tapo Tovilu

The new move by the National Government to introduce free medical healthcare has been brushed aside as being a dream.

Buka General Hospital, following directions from the national health division has been ordered to carry on operations as usual.

Acting Director of Medical Services Dr Mathias Tovilu told New Dawn FM that Buka General Hospital will not be providing free medical care until it is directed to.

He says that for many of the government run hospitals in the country have a lot of problems in healthcare service provision.

Dr Tovilu says that if healthcare is to be free the government must seriously look into fixing all existing problems facing hospitals around the country.

With the Hospital currently facing the shortage of drugs the implementation of the free medical care will be a blow to the hospitals current state.

He announced that the hospital will continue to charge patients' for medical services provided as the fees charged will help in purchasing medical drugs.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UPNG STUDENTS COMPLETE AWARENESS

By Tapo Tovilu

A group made up of University of Papua New Guinea Bougainville students has just completed a two week long awareness program in south and central Bougainville.

The high power group lead by team leader, Israel Pais a third year Political Science student carried out awareness on the structure roles and responsibilities of the ABG and its branches.

The awareness was mainly targeted at the people of South and Central Bougainville mainly in the areas where fighting between combatant groups are still ongoing.

Israel says that due to the lack of sufficient knowledge on the newly adapted system of government in place for Bougainville, groups like the Mekamui and Liberation forces are still fighting.

He says his team visited the fighting zones and carried out awareness on the government structure to combatants and villagers.

Many of the chiefs and people in the areas they visited were pleased with the awareness and the information which they had received.

The awareness was funded by the ABG and an official report will be released at the end of the month.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BGH DENIES REPORT

By Tapo Tovilu

Buka General Hospital is denying reports that blood bags have been discarded due to power outages.

The report released in one of the daily newspapers speculated that due to the constant power outages in Buka town Buka Hospital had to discard blood bags.

Acting DMS Dr Mathias Tovilu says that the hospital is fully equipped with a standby generator and storage UPS to cater for the changeover.

He says the hospital at the moment would not throw away any blood bags as they are currently short on blood.

He says the hospital is operating as usual and has assured the people of Bougainville that the hospital will serve them well.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BORA THREATENING WISAI

By Tapo Tovilu

The cocoa pod bora is threatening cocoa farmers of Wisai in South Bougainville.

The destructive pest which has destroyed many coca farms around Bougainville is now threatening many parts of South Bougainville.

Noah Tapo a youth observing the pest in Wisai has warned that the pest may soon reach Wisai.

He says cocoa seeds which are being brought into Wisai from Koromira and other parts of Central Bougainville may be a way in for the pests.

He is calling on farmers and the people of Wisai to be aware of the risks of transporting seedlings and cocoa shoots into the area.

Mr Tapo has called on agriculture department to assist in providing information on avenues which can be taken to safeguard their farms.

Attempts made by New Dawn FM to get comments from CCI were unsuccessful.

02.02.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHIEFS CHALLENGED

By Tapo Tovilu

Chiefs in the Kunua District have been challenged to help in law and order in their respective communities.

The challenge was issued by the Minister for Local Level Government, Traditional Authorities and Communication Joseph Nopei.

He made the comments at the official handing over of a new police vehicle to Kuna police on Tuesday.

He thanked the Bougainville Police Service for giving regular police officers who now are working alongside the district caps.

Nopei called on chiefs and village leaders to work with police to ensure law and order in the district.

He added that police officers were also to work in collaboration with the local authorities for better community relations.

02.02.2012

Source: PNG Attitude / ABC Radio Australia

Papua New Guinea - forever on the brink



BY SEAN DORNEY

Radio Australia / Australia Network News

TO OUTSIDERS PAPUA NEW GUINEA must always seem to be on the brink of catastrophe - but it never quite happens.

The almost farcical attempt last week by a retrenched Colonel to take over as the military Commander led to immediate speculation here in Australia that PNG was having a military coup. Even Colonel Yaura Sasa ruled that out when he held his one and only news conference. But while denying he was staging a coup he did threaten to take "necessary action" if Sir Michael Somare was not reinstated as Prime Minister.

That amused me because one of the worst novels ever written about PNG was called Take Necessary Action. It was written by two sisters, Australians, who had been in the Highlands of PNG prior to Independence and it was about how rapidly PNG would descend into catastrophe because Australia under a socialist Labor Government would pull out and let the Chinese take over.

One of the most appalling lines in that dreadful book was a quote from one of the white Australian male heroes who, when marvelling at the beauty of the Highlands, remarked that, "This would be a great county if it was not for Oli."

'Oli' was the derogatory term some expatriates used for Papua New Guineans and it comes from the first two words in any Melanesian Pidgin sentence referring to any action by a number of people. 'Ol' is 'All' and 'i' is part of the verb - "Ol i kam": "They come" - "Ol i go": "They go".

So the white hero of Take Necessary Action believed PNG would be a wonderful place if only there were no Papua New Guineans in it!

There are close to seven million of them now and it seems that there is no great enthusiasm amongst many in the population for Sir Michael Somare to resume office as the legitimate Prime Minister.

Colonel Sasa could not arouse the support of any more than a handful of soldiers to reinstate Somare and his attempted takeover of the army lasted about half a day.

He did claim to be trying to uphold the law and obey the Supreme Court ruling that last year's vote in the Parliament which installed Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister was not done in a constitutionally proper way.

But that ruling is not so clear cut. Two of the five Supreme Court Judges who heard the case did not come down on the side of Sir Michael. Peter O'Neill has the support of a majority of the Members of Parliament and that has been demonstrated again and again since last August.

Perhaps the most worrying aspect of all this is that public respect for the courts and their rulings is probably being undermined.

The independence of the courts and public acceptance of their impartiality has been for a long time now regarded as one of the Papua New Guinea's great strengths.

Back in 1979, just four years after PNG's Independence, the Full Bench of the Supreme Court jailed the then Justice Minister, Nahau Rooney, for eight months for contempt of court after she had written to the Chief Justice berating him over an earlier ruling.

Somare, Prime Minister then too, made himself Acting Justice Minister and set Ms Rooney free after just one day pending an appeal to the non-judicial Mercy Committee. Five judges including

the Chief Justice and the Deputy Chief Justice resigned. More than one thousand prisoners then broke out of jail from prisons all around PNG arguing that if it was good enough for the Justice Minister to go free it was good enough for them.

The PNG courts have been called upon to make rulings about parliamentary procedure before. Prime Ministers in PNG get a certain period of freedom from Votes of No Confidence after being elected. Originally it was six months but later that was extended to 18 months.

Paias Wingti tried to gain an extra 18 months during one political crisis in PNG by resigning in secret to the Governor General, springing that news on a startled Parliament the next morning and then getting himself re-elected PM while his main challenger at the time, the then Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, was overseas and the Opposition was confused.

The Supreme Court ruled Mr Wingti's snap resignation and re-election was not in accord with the spirit of law, that MPs should be able to make a considered judgement. The court annulled the vote. Mr Wingti knew he could not win a considered vote and resigned.

What makes the current situation so complicated is that Mr O'Neill, at this stage anyway, still enjoys majority support in the Parliament.

One of the more astonishing statements to come from the Somare camp in recent days has been made by Somare's Police Minister, Timothy Bonga.

In the wake of the failure of Colonel Sasa's mutiny, Mr Bonga called on the disciplined forces to back the Somare side.

"We are becoming a police state," Mr Bonga claimed, "where absolute power is now vested in the Parliament ... We cannot continue to call ourselves a democracy if this trend continues."

That, I think, sums up the current confusion in Papua New Guinea.

Elections will be held. They are due mid-year but could come earlier. And Australia does not have to fear an imminent catastrophe unfolding in its former colony and nearest neighbour.

Sean Dorney was the ABC's Correspondent in Papua New Guinea from 1979-1984 and from 1987-1998, and is currently Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent

01.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Somare group ready to talk

By PORENI UMAU

THE Somare faction has indicated that it is ready for a round table talk with the O'Neill regime regarding the ongoing political wrangling since December 12, 2011.

This was revealed by Nuku MP Andrew Kumbakor at a press conference yesterday.

But, Mr Kumbakor said that they will not compromise on the subject of constitution.

He said that the Somare side is prepared to go to negotiations but a proposition remains and that is to allow them to comply as per the Supreme Court Order on December 12, last year.

Mr Kumbakor's call comes after the PNG Council of Churches called on the two political parties to take their grudges to a round table discussion and sort the political mess and lay everything to rest.

Last week the members of the PNGCC, under the chairmanship of Moderator Samson Lowa have offered to facilitate a forum for a dialogue between both leaders Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and Parliament elect Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to solve the issues amicably.

"We are ready to arrange the place and the facilitators for this dialogue if both agree," the PNGCC members said.

The PNGCC said that it spoke on behalf of the people of PNG raising concerns over the issue of the prime minister and the police commissioner, citing both matters have not been solved yet.

Also former PNG Defence Force Commander Major General Jerry Singirok Retired made the same call after the eight hour reign of retrenched Brigadier General Yaura Sasa who moved in

with soldiers from the Taurama Barracks and held Defence Commander Francis Agwi and two other senior officers under house arrest.

Maj Gen retired, Singirok called for parliament to convene swiftly and resolve the issue of legitimacy of political leadership once and for all.

He said that the change must be done as soon as practical.

Wabag MP and former deputy prime minister Sam Abal also raised similar sentiments last week after the soldiers under the command of Mr Sasa moved in took control of Murray Barracks.

Mr Abal said that the churches call for a dialogue to begin where both sides can come together to resolve what is a political issue and not allow policemen and soldiers to solve it for them.

Both men said that there is an urgent need for both Sir Michael and Mr O'Neill to come together and resolve the current situation where the military has stepped in.

Maj Gen Singirok said that the mutiny was a result of the political impasse between the O'Neill and Somare camps which has taken its ultimate toll.

Mr Abal said that he gave up the Deputy Prime Ministers post to allow for such a deal to be made. The dialogue must start and not allow situation to go under," said Mr Abal.

"The people of this country cannot allow or accept the impasse to continue. We have always had a Melanesian way of solving the most difficult conflicts such as Bougainville or internal situations and this can be done if both leaders agree to come to the table," Mr Abal said.

"Situations such as this must quickly be brought under control and I call on our leaders to make a move for the nation.

"On one side it is felt that the Constitution is supreme and it has been broken continuously while on the other side they feel Parliament is supreme. "Looking at our system it may be that it is time after 36 years to review things. We need to reconcile and device a way through this but both sides have to humble ourselves and to come to the table. We must give and take," Mr Abal said.

Mr Singirok added that the situation is totally out of control and has to be resolved politically within 24 hours or else we lose the nation as all the signs of a failed state are evident.

He said that the whole situation would not occur if both parties had exercised restraint and taken political ownership of aspects of good governance and used due processes of relevant legislation.

01.02.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Contempt case unlikely to resolve PNG leadership crisis

The battle for the prime ministership in PNG has been dragging on since early December.

But now Sir Michael Somare's faction has moved to try to bring it to an end.

They've filed contempt proceedings against the other contender, Peter O'Neill and his Deputy Belden Namah.

The O'Neill faction claims their numbers in parliament trump the previous Supreme Court ruling - so will another court ruling bring an end to the PNG political crisis?

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Dr Ron May, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

01.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

COE is a first of its kind

By FABIAN GATANA

THE recent Council of Elders (COE) Elections have been described as the 'first of its kind' to be used to elect council members and it will be the last.

Returning Officer Sione Nash said that council representatives for each COE were appointed by their village assemblies or clans according to each respective COE constitution which is different from the normal electoral process of nominating and voting for a representative. He said that talks are underway to standardise the system of electing council representatives.

Mr Nash said that the only problem encountered with this method was the disorganisation in some communities to nominate a representative because of individual power struggle by certain candidates. Other than that elections for all 34 COE's and the two urban councils are complete.

He said that electoral officials were only there to verify appointed representatives and to provide assistance to COE's whose constitutions require formal voting to take place.

Mr Sione added that he would like to see that COE's become more democratic and include people from all facets of the community.

He said that the Council of Elders were an important arm of the Autonomous Bougainville Government "they are the Government on the ground and their authority should be recognised."

The writs for each respective COE were returned yesterday.

01.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

More awareness on healthy living important

By FABIAN HAKALITS

RAISING more awareness on healthy living standards is essential and the way forward for the delivery of better health services.

And the Catholic Health Services of the Bougainville Catholic Diocese in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has a key role to play, in making sure that more awareness will be carried out, in the rural villagers.

This has been one of the plans set in place, by the organisation, to improve health service delivery mechanisms.

Newly appointed Catholic Health Secretary Michaeline Pau, 33 of Kokopo, East New Britain is the new appointee to this post; however has said with her effort, she will continue the good works, left by former secretary Clarice Harepa.

Since appointed on October 13 last year, she is confident with her new job and says the implementation of these set plans to improve health is a joint effort by stakeholders.

These plans she said will come under the microscope of the theme, "Prevention is better than cure" and every health centres operated by the Catholic Health Services in the autonomous region, will see the theme as their corner stone.

"Practicing healthy standards of living will minimise the growing health problems currently faced in the country. This includes infant mortality, maternal mortality, death mortality and also many referrals." the new secretary said.

She said after supervisory visits will be completed, then reports will be finalised to look at how best, the services will be delivered.

Highlighting some of the problems including, staff movements, clinical performance and facilities management, she said her office will work closely with the health centres, to monitor and control the routine of health workers. This will enable a better health care of life.

She added if health workers practice these routines, it will help them to improve the quality of services.

“Our aim for this year is to improve moral well being of the staff.” said Pau.

She said the Catholic Health Services office will try its best to address problems faced by the 121 staff working in 13 health centres throughout the region.

These problems she said have affected staff over the last years resulting in weak performances.

This includes: FUNDING for health infrastructures STAFF housing ADEQUATE medicine supply and LOGISTICAL support

She assured that her office will try to uplift the standard of staff first, before moving further out with plans proposed for the community.

01.02.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka hospital needs board

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE'S referral base - Buka General Hospital (BGH) urgently needs a hospital board, a hospital staff said.

The staff, one of the longest serving member of the hospital, requested anonymity and said that since 1997, when the hospital commenced its operations, there has been no existing board in place.

“We need a board and that is very important. A board that would oversee the operations of the hospital, implement and control development plans, and scrutinised the spending level and submit management reports to the National Department of Health.” he said.

The staff also claimed that BGH has been run only by the hospitals management.

“Over the past year's, the hospital has been run only by the management. It is best we have a board to control and regulate activities within the hospital.” he said.

With an existing board, he said, collective decisions shall be made, that would maintain the integrity of the hospitals management, and for the smooth operation of the hospital.

He said at once, they tried to set up a board, however this did not eventuate.

“We tried to form a board but failed because there was lack of strategic approach.” he said.

When Post-Courier approached the Office of the Health Ministry of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), they also were aware of the issue and confirmed that Buka hospital also has no board.

“There is an urgent need for a governing body for such big key establishment areas like a hospital to exist. The board will manage the day to day conduct and affairs of the hospital.” The ABG Health Ministry office said.

Numerous attempts to contact the National Health Department also failed.

Meanwhile according to the Public Hospitals Act 1994, under section six — part two Administrations-Division One of Management Boards, “There should an established, management board for each public hospital.”

In relation to the public hospital, the objects of a board are to make the hospital accountable to the local community, provide appropriate and acceptable services and encourage the local community to participate in planning and in the decision-making process.

Subject to the National Health Administration Act 1997, a board has functions to:

- Administer and maintain the public hospital and its facilities for the care and treatment of the local people;
- Engage and assist local authorities in the provision of community health education and public health information services;

- Provide or assist in the provision of facilities for, or in connection with, education, instruction or practical training of its professional staff and other employees;
- Disseminate information and knowledge in the field of public health for the benefit of the public;
- Provide facilities for teaching, instruction, research or post-graduate studies in medicine, dentistry, obstetrics, paediatrics, surgery, ophthalmology, pathology, psychiatry and oncology.

01.02.2012

Source: The National

'Arrest us'

SIR Michael Somare and his politician son Arthur Somare have offered themselves to be arrested – if police have any criminal evidence against them.

Both father and son, caught in a seemingly immovable political tug-of-war with Peter O'Neill over which side has legitimate government, made the offer following rumours that both were being implicated in the failed military mutiny last week.



Other MPs in their camp were also being sought by police to explain their roles in last Thursday's short-lived attempt by a retrenched colonel and a group of renegade soldiers to take over the command of the PNG Defence Force.

Sir Michael, who claims his legitimacy from the Dec 12 Supreme Court decision, called on the O'Neill-led regime to "drop the charade and uphold the Constitution" – or make arrests if police held evidence of a criminal nature against them.

Arthur Somare fronted up at the police headquarters in Konedobu yesterday morning and waited a full hour to see Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga to offer himself for questioning and possible arrest.

In response, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said there was a normal police investigation under way to identify collaborators in the botched take-over attempt.

O'Neill claimed his legitimacy to government was from having been elected unchallenged by parliament after the Supreme Court decision.

He enjoys a three-quarter majority support of MPs in parliament and the avowed support of the public service heads including the police and defense forces.

Said O'Neill in a statement: "The crime (what happened at Murray Barracks) is serious in nature and police will get to the bottom of it. If there is evidence that Sir Michael Somare, or Arthur Somare, or Andrew Kumbakor was involved, they will be subjected to the full force of the law.

"Let me reiterate here that no one is above the law. The rule of law applies to everyone, regardless of your status in society.

"It is utter nonsense for Somare to suggest that myself, or Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah is pushing and intimidating police to arrest him. We respect the police and the work they do.

"Unlike Somare and his camp, we do not intimidate, interfere with, or lure members of the disciplined forces to go outside their line of duty, or break the law."

But Sir Michael said in his statement: "I am prepared to go to jail for what I know is the right thing to do for this country. This reign of terror and hunt for members of parliament by the regime must stop immediately.

"If the pressure is still on for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to go ahead with these arrests, I call on O'Neill and Namah to do it themselves. Come to my residence and hand me the arrest warrant."

Sir Michael wanted to know if the police were taking orders from their commissioner or from O'Neill and Namah.

"It would be in the public's interest to know if O'Neill's purported Police Minister John Boito, or his deputy Belden Namah is pressuring police to carry out illegal arrests," he said.

“People of Papua New Guinea should not be frightened into submission by rogue members of parliament who do not know the meaning of democracy or the processes of governance. This scare-mongering has gone on for far too long.

“I have taken enough insult from an insolent character and first time Member of Parliament - Belden Namah.

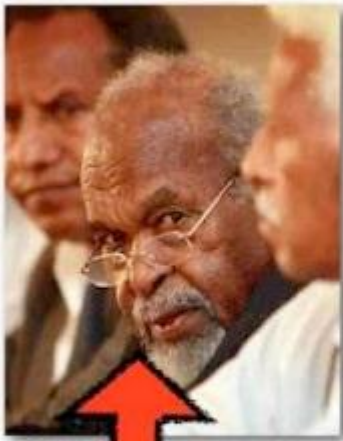
“Papua New Guinea can see the true nature of Belden Namah so I only need to say that for many people his behavior is both an embarrassment and frightful.

“Belden Namah wants to be the dictator of Papua New Guinea and Peter O’Neill is helping him. O’Neill cannot distance himself by remaining silent.”

01.02.2012

Source: PNG exposed

Who is it that really wants power?



Him?



...or them?

News 03.2012

30.03.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited



Peter R. Taylor

Chairman's statement and our year in review – 2011

I can confidently say that 2011 has given me more reason for optimism about the future of this company than any year out of the previous two decades.

There are activities underway in several areas that can positively assist Bougainville Copper in making a return to profitable mining. Some of these are within our control, others less so.

The most beneficial change has been the focus of Panguna landowners and other Bougainvilleans on redevelopment agenda and the momentum that is beginning to build from their initiatives.

I will address these positive developments shortly, after a report on items of importance to the company and its shareholders that are recurrent, year on year.

Results

For the year ended 31 December 2011, a loss of K3.7 million has been recorded, compared to a planned loss of K7.3 million. Overall, income and costs were generally within budget, administration and exchange losses being

over budget, offset by a similar amount under budget for the Bougainville Copper Agreement renegotiation. Interest of K2.2 million earned on Supreme Court held bank deposits has been brought to account this year.

Dividend policy

Due to the loss recorded and the need to preserve cash for future development the company will not pay a dividend.

Investment strategy

Bougainville Copper's liquid assets continue to be cash and Australian equities. The Australian equity market has performed disappointingly compared with the previous reporting period resulting in lower returns on investments. We intend to continue with the current investment strategy, for as long as the Investment committee deems this to be the best option, or until such time as equities need to be sold to fund mine planning and development. It is expected that income for 2012 should improve in terms of percentage returns but the size of the investment portfolio continues to be reduced as a result of the tax dispute discussed below and ongoing project development activities.

The company has sufficient funds to cover its recurrent expenditure under the 2012 plan, and also to carry through to a pre-feasibility study in the medium term. The market has been kept aware of the company's

intention to raise development funds as and when the need arises.

Tax dispute mediation

As reported in previous years, the company has lodged formal objections to a reassessment by the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) of Bougainville Copper's claims for losses due to the suspension of mining operations in 1989, and for depreciation of its remaining mine assets. The case is ongoing in the National Court of Papua New Guinea.

The company paid approximately K13 million to the IRC during 2007, which is close to the claimed unpaid primary tax. A further K48.8 million was paid to the IRC during 2010 under the terms of a court-sanctioned

arrangement to place the IRC in possession of funds sufficient to pay all outstanding assessments, penalties and interest claimed by the IRC. This arrangement also ensures that those funds are available for return to Bougainville Copper in the event that the company's challenges to the assessments are ultimately upheld by the courts. This money is invested and is bearing interest. The principal and interest will be returned to the company should it prevail in the substantive tax appeal.

In December 2011, Bougainville Copper and the IRC participated in a court initiated mediation, which brought the parties much closer to an agreed settlement of the disputed amounts, but ultimately failed to bridge the gap.

The company's appeal has completed discovery and we are waiting on a trial date.

Litigation in the United States

For a decade now, I have been reporting on litigation involving a small group of Bougainville plaintiffs in the US Federal Court. The matter involves allegations over the way the mine was operated and matters that occurred on Bougainville after operations were suspended. Bougainville Copper is not a party to the litigation but the subject matter relates to its activities and the litigation has the potential to impede redevelopment. The process of allowing a foreign court to decide local matters sends a negative message about Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Bougainville and it is not helpful in attracting investors. Most recently the Appeal Court, in a split decision, held that a limited number of the claims could proceed. Rio Tinto has asked the Supreme Court to hear the case.

Corporate governance

Bougainville Copper has governance reporting obligations to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and internally to Rio Tinto Limited. A statement on Bougainville Copper's compliance with the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations is contained in this report. In addition Bougainville Copper responds to the Rio Tinto Limited Internal Control Questionnaire which incorporates Rio Tinto's comprehensive range of policies including safety, environment, financial management and many other risk management matters.

Risk management

The full board of Bougainville Copper participates in facilitated risk analysis. The aim of these exercises is to identify risks and opportunities for the company and allocate responsibility for each to a member of the management team. The company has also undergone a number of audits to ensure compliance with its own policies and those of Rio Tinto.

Safety

Rio Tinto has safety as a core value and has in place a comprehensive set of safety standards to ensure that it provides a safe working environment and that its employees and contractors comply with best practice safety procedures. Bougainville Copper complies with the requirements of the Rio Tinto Safety policy.

Bougainville Copper Agreement

Several new developments have occurred which should help facilitate the re-negotiation of the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA), which is necessary due to changed circumstances.

The Bougainville Copper Agreement is an act of the PNG National Parliament, and as such can only be modified or repealed by the Parliament. However, it is recognised by all stakeholders, including Bougainville Copper, that the Agreement was ratified in very different times and circumstances. In order to move forward, significant changes will need to be made to accommodate the views, rights and aspirations of all stakeholders including the landowners and the people of Bougainville.

There is widespread agreement today that Bougainville's economic future needs mining in order to fund services for the people from its own resources, as well as address

future questions of increased autonomy. The commencement of mining at Panguna cannot take place unless all parties – landowners, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the National Government of PNG and Bougainville Copper – act in close accord, now and into the future.

Funding and sovereign risk assurance for the project will

require a united effort. There will need to be a fair and stable mining regime that gives investors the confidence needed to commit to a project that could cost approximately US\$3 billion.

I am pleased to note that landowners in the six areas most closely affected by the mine's operations, including Panguna, the tailings areas, Arawa, and the road and port leases, have all but completed the formation of legally-based associations capable of providing genuine representation to the process of reviewing the Bougainville Copper Agreement. The process of incorporation, which involves both legal and customary commitments, is most welcome, and should bring us closer to the capacity required to review the BCA to the benefit of all stakeholders. It is a process conducted by the landowners with the support of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and President Momis, and without the participation of Bougainville Copper.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has confirmed in the Parliament that Bougainville Copper has, by right of the BCA, permits to operate at Panguna for a further 21 years from 2011. There are also encouraging indications that funding for Bougainville and the drawing down of powers to the ABG, including the power to license and regulate mining, will be invigorated under the O'Neill government.

Bougainville

There were many positive developments from the Autonomous Bougainville Region during 2011. The relationship between President John Momis, his government, and the Bougainville Copper's board and management remains cordial and engaged, including the invitation for company representatives to make further visits to the island. President Momis has stated his support for the re-opening of the mine. The momentum has produced landowner elections and increased focus on the re-start agenda is significantly due to the efforts of President Momis and his cabinet.

The World Bank initiative aimed at helping Bougainville develop its mining sector continues to be productive. It is directed towards increasing community benefits from all forms of mining, increasing the technical capacity to regulate mining activity, and thereby help facilitate the transfer of mining powers to Bougainville. This will be an

important step because regulatory certainty is needed before a decision to mine can be made. Ideally the Bougainville mining regime will not be radically different to the current system; therefore a smooth transition from the old regime to the new should be possible. It should be noted the ABG Department of Mining is currently recruiting new technical staff.

The combined landowner groupings at Panguna have formed and activated the Panguna Management and Consultative Committee. One of its first achievements was endorsing an invitation to President Momis to visit Panguna, followed by an invitation to Bougainville Copper senior management to visit. Another positive development is the Committee's work on an agenda of issues to bring to the table when negotiations for future operations begin.

Increasing global demand for minerals continues to drive the company's largest shareholder, Rio Tinto Limited, into a new growth phase. Rio Tinto Exploration has applied for exploration licences in PNG, the first such applications since the mid 1990s. This is a good indicator that Rio Tinto plans to be an active participant in PNG's future mineral development. Rio Tinto continues to assist Bougainville Copper with world class technical expertise and management.

The Australian Government continues to be supportive of Bougainville, and has provided senior advisors to President Momis and the ABG. The Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council is active in maintaining a good relationship between Australia and the people of Bougainville. I am currently the president of that Business Council.

Increasingly, Bougainville has its place on the global map of resource development opportunities.

The year ahead

In addition to the rolling plan that currently guides the operation of your company, the board has conducted two new planning exercises that give as much certainty as possible to decision-making on the path to a resumption of mining.

As we meet today, considerable work is already underway in updating the Order of Magnitude Study

which I discussed in 2009. Such a study will evaluate the potential of restarting operations and would form the basis of a pre-feasibility study. These studies will be extensive and undertaken in close partnership with Rio Tinto.

Our assets will receive a rigorous and important reevaluation, exposing our potential operation to the matrix of current prices and costs.

We will keep landowners well informed of the company's intentions and planned activities. I want to stress that we want our host community to be involved at every step of the process, and this means providing them with all relevant information.

It is possible that further remediation work and other base line studies will be carried out on site with the cooperation of landowners and the ABG, to make areas safe whether mining proceeds or not. President Momis has been proactive in assisting the company carry out safety work. This work will be undertaken with the cooperation of the landowners, who will be informed and involved as appropriate.

The next phase of technical work, a pre-feasibility study on reopening the mine, will be very expensive so certainty is needed that a workable mining regime and conditions will be put in place before funding is committed. There will be some ongoing studies to provide information for the renegotiation of the BCA, and some of those studies will also be relevant to mine redevelopment. The vision to return to active exploration and profitable mining remains due to the active support from previously mentioned local stakeholders.

Bougainville Copper continues to support the work of the Bougainville Copper Foundation. This is an independent, not for profit organisation that has been funded by the company since its inception in 1971. This year, as in previous years, the Foundation has funded scholarships for more than 100 Bougainvillean students. It also undertakes special projects on a needs basis with the emphasis being on education, peace and good governance. The Foundation is proud of its achievements and those of its former scholars who are contributing to the development of Bougainville. The company is also sponsoring the Don Vernon post graduate scholarship to Queensland University. The scholarship honours Don

Vernon, past chairman of Bougainville Copper and founder of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council. The scholarship should add to the considerable weight of knowledge currently possessed within the ranks of Papua New Guinea mining professionals, and we are proud of the initiative.

We face the coming year with enthusiasm for the tasks ahead, and anticipate good progress toward the vision of reopening the mine. We have many initiatives in place, believe we are ready to go, are engaged with the ABG and landowners, and recognise to a large extent, the timetable rests in their good hands.

Peter R Taylor

Chairman & Managing Director.

28 February 2012

30.03.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited, Port Moresby

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) are proud to present these documents below to you:

[**2011 Annual Report**](#)

[**Invitation and Proxy Form
for the 2012 Annual General Meeting**](#)

30.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville's President Momis says total peace not possible

The President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, John Momis says there's no such thing as total peace in any society. Mr Momis said this in response to comments by the leader of the Mekamui group, Philip Miriori, who said disarmament, referendum and complete independence on Bougainville cannot be achieved until there is lasting peace.

But President Momis says Bougainville's issues and problems are complex.

Presenter: Sajithra Nithi

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville

[Listen here !](#)

30.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville president unaware of shipping suspension

Armed men reportedly burned three Rabaul ships off the coast of Bougainville in March.

Bougainville President John Monis speaks to Sajithra Nithi

[Listen here !](#)

The president of Bougainville says he was unaware his government had suspended the operations of a controversial shipping company, Rabaul Shipping.

More than 200 people died when one of the company's ferries, the Rabaul Queen, sank earlier this year.

In a letter, the Transport Minister advised the company the suspension was effective as of March 21.

President John Momis, who has been attending meetings in Port Moresby, told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat he did not know about the suspension of the shipping service.

"I haven't heard it myself, I must confess, it must have been announced today," he said.

Mr Momis says he is not surprised by the action, as the company has ignored demands to pay compensation to the victims' families after the sinking of the Rabaul Queen.

"I'm not surprised, because the people are not happy with Rabaul Shipping."

The suspension follows the burning of three ships belonging to Rabaul Shipping this month.

Armed men reportedly set the ships alight off the coast of Bougainville, demanding the company pay compensation to the victims' relatives.

30.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Lack of beds at Buka hospital

By PORENI UMAU

THE Buka General Hospital has reported a continuous problem of overcrowding over the years. And the situation is getting worse with the population increase.

This was revealed by the Director of Medical Services Dr Barnabas Matanu yesterday afternoon.

Dr Matanu said that the hospital was initially built as a small district hospital with 84 beds.

However, he said with the increasing number of people seeking medical help at the hospital, this health facility had struggled for years accommodate the sick.

He said that toilet and mess facilities could not cater for the increased number of patients admitted and the hospital had also been struggling financially every year to support the increased number of patients.

Dr Matanu said that overcrowding had caused a lot of discomfort for the patients.

Unlike some urban centres, this is the only hospital in town. Patients also go there because it has doctors.

He said that there were about 14 beds only per ward and on many occasions the wards were taking 20 to 30 patients and the extra patients had to be accommodated somewhere, including floor.

He said that the maternity ward was the main one hit with this problem and always runs out of beds to accommodate the increasing number of pregnant mothers coming to deliver their babies at the hospital.

Dr Matanu said the story had not changed for years, the overcrowding had become a norm to the staff at the hospital but a discomfort to patients and guardians.

But he said that the hospital had also embarked on health awareness by visiting rural areas, including Arawa to conduct treatments and would visit South Bougainville hopefully next week.

30.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Release of population figures set

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea's preliminary population figure will be released next Tuesday. This is the 2011 National Population and Housing Census provisional figures which will be officially announced by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill at the Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby.

National Statistician, Joseph Aka, said yesterday that all 22 provinces, including the two newly created provinces of Jiwaka and Hela will have their provisional figures released.

The provisional figures will include the country's total, provincial, district and local level governments.

The general public is invited to witness the launching which will also feature traditional dances from all over PNG.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville after 30 years had the full census coverage in the 2011 National Population and housing Census. The last full coverage was in 1980.

The National Statistical Office, the government's central statistical agency, has stood firm against public criticism to finally release the Census figures.

The final and detailed census report on the population for the village census unit and other demographic and socio-economic indicators will be released next year.

NSO conformed to international statistical standards and methods in planning and execution of census data collection.

Also the census forms that have arrived from the provinces have gone through three phases of checks.

Aka said the first check was for the census unit reconciliation in the country and that was to identify all Census forms that have arrived from the provinces by workload enumeration areas against the 2010 Census unit register.

He said the second phase was for labelling, using bar codes of all the identified workloads of enumeration areas.

The final check, he said, was to enter the census pad cover information of all identified enumeration areas from phase one and two.

The output from these checks is population by broad age groups and sex.

Mr Aka further said the final check gives the total persons for each enumerated local level government, district, province and the country.

He said included also will be the number of households that have been enumerated for each local level government, district and province.

29.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Storm brewing over Solomon Islands

The Meteorological Service in Solomon Islands says there is a moderate chance of the current storm becoming a tropical cyclone by the weekend.

Director David Hirasia says currently there is rain across the whole country and winds are picking up.

He says the depression over the Solomons is combining with another system over Fiji to create a trough.

He says both a flood advisory and a strong marine wind warning have been issued for most of the Solomons.

“We’re just basically monitoring the depression and from the information we’re getting now there is a moderate chance for the system to develop into a tropical cyclone probably by Saturday.”

David Hirasia says the system is moving south and gale force winds may develop near Vanuatu.

29.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville’s future at stake

BOUGAINVILLE’S referendum and independence is now at stake because of the political impasse! Important issues pertaining to Bougainville have not been addressed by the two Governments and this is already worrying Bougainville leaders.

The Government has not come up with any Ministerial Statement in the last five years on Bougainville and the implications of the failure on this is the continuous postponement of the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting which National Government and ABG meet to discuss issues and make decisions on Bougainville.

New Melanesian Alliance “stalwart” and former deputy prime minister of PNG Sam Akoitai who will be contesting his former seat – Central Bougainville – is now adamant the MA Party will also have Bougainville as one major priority. MA is endorsing former Bougainville Education Secretary Tony Tsora for North Bougainville, Timothy Masiu for South and former Speaker of the National Parliament Simon Pentanu for the Regional Seat.

“As a leader for Bougainville, I am concerned that the Constitution of PNG, a Constitution that accommodates Bougainville. If the Constitution is destroyed by our leaders that Constitution doesn’t exist anymore,” Mr Akoitai said.

The current sitting MPs do not deserve to be in Parliament because they have been part of the team that has threatened to put the Constitution and Bougainville at risk.

“The past and present Government – in the five years – there has been no ministerial statement on Bougainville – the last one I can remember was from Sir Peter Barter when he was Minister for Bougainville Affairs. And to do it in this Parliament sitting that’s coming up is too late. The implications on this are the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting, which is an avenue to address issues that are critical about Bougainville.”

Akoitai spoke about the recent JSB and the technical meeting that was cancelled in Kokopo because the National Government failed to turn up. He was also particular about the National Government not giving much attention to the issue of Bougainville.

“The National Government is not ready! Bougainville is ready. President Momis has been saying he has been ready all along,” Mr Akoitai said.

I call on the people of Bougainville to support the four of us because we stand to move Bougainville a mile further.”

29.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso denies 13 allegations

By TODAGIA KELOLA

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso has denied 13 of the 14 allegations of misconduct charges put to him by the Public Prosecutors office.

Yesterday, his lawyer Charles Mende from Kelly Narru Law Firm submitted that his client denies allegations one to twelve and fourteen but agrees partially on charges thirteen.

The parties return next Tuesday for the substantive hearing to be conducted despite few hiccups on the availability of the leader's lawyer who is also a lawyer in the two Supreme Court References that is to commence next Monday.

Meanwhile, the Leadership Tribunal hearing against member for Kikori, Mark Maipakai, is schedule to begin tomorrow.

According to the Public Prosecutor Pondros Kaluwin, Maipakai's matter is a straight forward matter similar to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's case and they will prosecute it in a short period of time.

Mr Maipakai's allegations are all to do with late annual returns and incomplete returns which does not require many witnesses to be called.

For Arthur Somare's case, the matter will return this morning for mention and the Tribunal will hear submissions on whether they will adjourn to allow the leader to seek a review of a Supreme Court decision that has thrown out an appeal by him in relation to a Judicial review on a decision by the Tribunal to accept the charges signed by a State prosecutor instead of the Public Prosecutor.

29.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Copra company not affected by burning of vessels

By PORENI UMAU

COPRA Products Limited (CPL), the biggest copra oil producer in the Niugini Islands region said it is not affected in any way with the burning of both Rabaul Shipping vessels Kopra 03 and 04.

This was revealed by CPL's Administration Manager Prakash Nair at the Toboi site copra oil mill along Malaguna Road in Rabaul, East New Britain.

He said the demise of both vessels including the MV Solomon will not hurt business for CPL in the Niugini Islands region.

Mr Nair said that this was because they have their own vessels in the shipping division through their sister company WR Carpenters that travel to Bougainville to load copra products from Kokopau and Buka where 2,000 tonnes of copra per month is produced.

He said besides the WR Carpenters vessels they also transport copra from the region through NGIP Agmark vessels citing that the burning of the Sharp vessels on Madehas Island, off the coast of Buka town does not affect their operations, unless there is a social unrest on the island province.

“We are not really affected because we have our own shipping vessels and also some of the copra is transported by Agmark vessels,” Mr Nair said.

He said that Bougainville is one major supplier of copra and the unfortunate burning of both Kopra 03 and Kopra 04 recently still does not affect CPL's operations.

But he also said that CPL is still served by other Rabaul Shipping vessels in bringing copra from other island areas including Kavieng and Namatanai.

29.03.2012

Source: The National

Rabaul Shipping services to Bougainville suspended

By LESLIE OMARO

RABAUL Shipping's services to Buka and other ports in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been suspended indefinitely.

In a letter to Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp, Transport Minister Francis Awesa advised him the suspension was effective as of March 21.

"Due to the regrettable seizure and subsequent burning of your ships in the port of Buka, the Department of Transport wishes to advise you that your shipping services have been suspended until further notice," Awesa said.

"The turn of events on March 17's burning of your three vessels by ex-combatants is outrageous and the department totally condemns this action."

On Feb 2, the mv Rabaul Queen, one of Sharp's vessels, sank off the coast of Finschhafen, Morobe province, with 229 people listed as missing.

Frustrated rebel elements burned the vessels mv Solomon Queen, Kopra 3 and Kopra 4 after Sharp failed to meet demands for compensation for the victims.

The three ships were impounded at Buka, since the sinking of the mv Rabaul Queen, and were towed to a nearby reef and set alight.

Since then Rabaul Shipping has closed its office in Buka.

Awesa said the Bougainville government, with the endorsement of the national government, had instituted an investigation into the matter.

"In order to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident and to protect lives and property it is vital that you refrain from operating to Bougainville.

"The situation is very tense.

"And your presence in the area may incite further escalation of unlawful activities that could affect maritime shipping," Awesa said.

He said the department was aware of the conditions of Rabaul Shipping's coastal trade licence to trade unrestricted in PNG waters.

"However, in the view of the recent events, all shipping in ABG by Rabaul Shipping is hereby suspended," Awesa said.

PNG Ports will be responding to the suspension today after the company was asked, via email, if it received a copy of the suspension letter from the transport minister on Rabaul Shipping services to Buka Port been suspended.

Attempts to contact Rabaul Shipping office, Sharp or his lawyer Jaclyn Maribu to comment were unsuccessful.

29.03.2012

Source: The National

Namaliu welcomes huge interest from election candidates

THE launching of numerous political parties demonstrates the huge interest in supporting the foundation of democracy and having a successful national election in June, Sir Rabbie Namaliu said.

He told the launching of the United Resource Party in Kokopo last Saturday that he noted with interest the launching of political parties in East New Britain.

Parties that have launched and endorsed their candidates were Powes Parkop's Social Democratic Movement Party, Don Poyle's Triumphant Heritage Empowerment party, Dr Allan Marat's Melanesian Liberal Party, plus Paul Tiensten and Anderson's Agiru's People's United Assembly

Sir Rabbie said elections were important as party leaders and candidates announced their respective party policies to form the government.

He said he had worked with party leader William Duma in 2003 to 2007 and the party believed in development of the country's resources.

He acknowledged URP for choosing Ronnie Illam, the outgoing director for the Kokopo Open campus, to stand for the Kokopo electorate under URP.

Illam is Namaliu's first cousin.

29.03.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville school gets new classroom

ST Joseph Bairima Primary School is the proud recipient of a new double classroom. The school is the first in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to benefit from the Digicel PNG Foundation's nationwide rollout of double classroom structures.

The all-steel kit structure primary double classroom, 40 desks, a water tank, kit showers and VIP kit toilets cost K90,000 and was officially launched last Friday. The school was established in the 1940s and was moved in 1996 and rebuilt by the community at the site it now occupies. The school serves the five main villages of Donsiro, Pomaua, Siroai, Arawa and Bairima of North Nasioi LLG, a population of about 3,000. Aside from the education department's annual school subsidies and a donation of roofing iron from Caritas in 2004, St Joseph Bairima's biggest contributor has been their own community.

Digicel Foundation chief executive officer Marina van der Vliessaid: "When communities come together to invest in the education of their children, such efforts must be applauded and supported.

"Our investment in the St Joseph Bairima Primary School is in recognition of this amazing community's will and commitment to rebuild after the Bougainville crisis."

28.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader sees promise in historical tourism after Japanese ambassador's visit

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says it can exploit its unique history to attract tourists.

This follows a trip to south Bougainville last week by the Japanese Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Hiroharu Iwasaki, to visit the remains of the wreckage of the plane in which Japan's World War Two hero Admiral Yamamoto died.

President John Momis says Bougainville was one of the main theatres in World War Two.

He says historical tourism has real potential rather than the province relying solely on the re-opening of the Panguna mine.

“But that means the people changing their mindset to accept outsiders and being friendly to them. Before the crisis Bougainvilleans were very friendly. It is amazing what the crisis has done to us. We have to work hard to try to regain the old spirit and the old positive attitude of friendship and mutual commitment to help one another.”

28.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CALLS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GOOD LEADERS

By Tapo Tovilu

The upcoming elections must bare good fruit with visionary and committed leaders to the country and the region of Bougainville.

These were the words of Bob Kebaja who is part of a team of four who are touring provinces in the country giving awareness on good governance and better leadership for the country.

The team from the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship from the University of Technology in Lae are here in Bougainville for the awareness on selecting good leaders in the upcoming elections.

Mr Kebaja told New Dawn FM that they were here on the invitation and sponsorship of Bougainville electoral commissioner Raytama Taravaru.

He says that the country currently is facing an leadership country and the people now have the upcoming elections to change the future.

He says that visionary and God fearing leaders must be elected for the leadership of the nation into prosperity.

The team left for Rabaul this afternoon and their full awareness program can be heard on New Dawn FM Bougainville Tedei Program tomorrow.

28.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LIQUOR LICENCES ISSUED

By Tapo Tovilu

The liquor licencing committee today issued a total of more than 32 licences to liquor shop and tavern owners in Bougainville.

Their meet porously was also for discussing the outcomes of the current unpaid liquor bills of the two major liquor distributors in the region.

Liquor commissioners from both South and Central were also present to issue the licenses.

A businessman who was present to collect his licence called on the government to look into the liquor taxations imposed in the region.

He says that Bougainville is taxed higher than other provinces in the country with the imposing tax for a can of beer being at 75t per can.

He also added that this has caused the current outstanding taxation bills to the ABG from the two major liquor distributors.

In support a representative of one of the companies under scrutiny says that due to the high tax imposed the company is slowly paying in parts.

He also criticized the liquor commission for not collecting tax from other distributors who bring in liquor from Rabaul illegally.

He says that taxation is for all and must not be taken only from them because in the end the people will suffer the most.

28.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

MA supports call for repeal of new Act

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Melanesian Alliance is the first Political Party to rally behind the tertiary students calling for the repeal of the Judicial Conduct Bill 2012.

The party, which has Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu as its leader, is proud to come into this year's elections as the alternate Government has come out for the first time speaking on the Constitution of Papua New Guinea.

Further, the party now in support of the students call for the repeal of the Judicial Conduct Bill, has given a warning that they would not accept any sitting MPs under their banner – they want to come in with new MPs.



Former Deputy Prime Minister and Central Bougainville MP Sam Akoitai (picture) with his team yesterday came out strongly that the party was very concerned about the Constitution of this country which was now being threatened.

Mr Akoitai, flanked by the party's candidates from all over PNG, said in Port Moresby yesterday that the founding fathers of the party were architects of the Constitution and that they were very concerned that this Constitution was now at risk and needed to be restored and the country saved.

"The Constitution exists before the Parliament, there are no two minds about that," Mr Akoitai said. "When there is a Constitution, the country exists.

The Constitution is Supreme and above all the three arms of Government. I totally disagree with the views that Parliament is supreme – this is wrong.

"So, based on that under Melanesian Alliance as a party, has now decided to endorse candidates in 2012 to protect the Constitution of this country,"

Mr Akoitai said. "It is sad to see that our Constitution is put at risk... we also believe that all new Acts and Amendments since August 02, 2011, are not legislations or amendments that serve the interest of PNG, these legislations we are going through were only done for two people - Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia and on the expense of the people of PNG paying the bills in court and while sitting in Parliament.

"The time has come to put a stop to all these, Elections must go ahead and leaders voted to restore the Constitution and PNG," he said.

Mr Akoitai, who is so adamant at forming the Government in June with coalition partners, told the Post-Courier yesterday that MA was coming into elections to restore the Government and specifically the Constitution that was now at risk.

He boasts having endorsed 50 candidates throughout the country and at a silent pace.

"But we want to tell the people of Papua New Guinea that this party does not have the money but we have the heart for this country.

We have the wisdom to lead this country. Money will come later. We just want to make it clear from the beginning," he said. We will not accept current sitting MPs. Yes, we stand to uphold the Constitution and make sure the rule of law is upheld."

Read about the party's stand on Bougainville tomorrow.

28.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Buka raining

By Aloysius Laukai

BUKA town is now heavy downpour starting last night and due to drainage of the streets most buildings would be underwater by today if the rain does not stop. Just outside NEW DAWN FM office the road was washed away and water all the street water is currently collecting at our office premises.

The street upgrading made last time for 600thousand kina is gone now due to no drainage on Buka town.

Our ground floor would get all the water this morning if this rain does not stop.

Lucky power is still on and we are still on air...



Pic of New Dawn FMstaff SAM SAWA getting off a PMV outside the office.

27.03.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville thanks Japan for 15 bridges

THE people of Panguna and the Mekamui government have expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government for building 15 bridges for Bougainville.

The Japanese last week officially handed over the 15 bridges built under the first phase of the Japanese bridge project.

Panguna Landowners Association interim chairman Michael Pariu and Mekamui Government of Unity president, Philip Miriori said they were grateful.

Pariu said the people of Panguna felt a special connection with the project because it was initiated and directly negotiated by one of their very own most prominent and highly respected leaders, the late Joseph Kabui.

“The people of Panguna are very proud because this is a historic achievement by one of our own leaders, we can closely associate with this very important project,” Pariu said.

“Such an achievement we feel should clearly demonstrate what the leadership of Panguna can really offer to change the course of history and open a new chapter for Bougainville in terms of its post conflict infrastructure development and economic recovery,” he said.

Miriori said they hoped the bridge project could be seen as start of more good things to come to the people of Bougainville from the government of Japanese Government.

“After completing all other bridges in south and west coast Bougainville under Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project, the people of Panguna would like to call on the Japanese Government to seriously consider upgrading and sealing all our main trunk roads throughout the region because for far too long we have been tricked and given so much lip service by other more traditional donors in the region whose policy is to simply maintain the roads year after year so that we can keep going back to them and be heavily dependent on their foreign aid with their so-called advisors who eventually end up being the main beneficiaries of such aid.

“It is hoped that the recent meeting that our President Chief John Momis with the Japanese ambassador may pave the way for the rehabilitating of the Kokopau-Arawa-Buin highway, which should then be named Yamamoto Highway,” the Panguna leaders said.

27.03.2012

Source: Post Courier

Momis not happy with Sharp

By Fabian Gatana

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville President John Momis has given his assurance that the incident involving the burning of three of Rabaul Shipping's vessels in Buka would be fully investigated.

He said that a small task force involving community leaders from both within and outside of Bougainville and the Bougainville Police Service has been appointed to thoroughly investigate the matter and report back upon

which appropriate action will be taken. He said that intelligence reports received by him indicate that action against the three vessels were “specifically targeted and there is no threat or danger to any other shipping lines operating in Bougainville.”

He said that as a result of the burning incident commercial shipping into Bougainville may be curtailed for a period of time. This, he said will create temporary hardships for Bougainvilleans travelling by sea and for the importation of goods and commodities.

“We have therefore immediately sent representatives to discuss the situation with PNG Ports and other shipping lines regarding the resumption of regular services as soon as practicable.

“I can confirm that the port in Buka has not been closed and is in fact open for regular shipping movement,” he said.

Meanwhile, President Momis also expressed his disappointment at the attitude of Mr Peter Sharp the owner of the Rabaul Shipping Line. “Throughout this tragedy he has remained mostly silent. His attitude, in no small way, has contributed to the unfortunate unfolding of events.

“He has not displayed the characteristics of a good corporate citizen of Bougainville or PNG,” he said.

He appealed to all Bougainvilleans to remain calm as there was no sense for alarm and assured them that it was all business as usual.

27.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WAKUNAI WOMEN CELEBRATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Women from Wakunai district yesterday converged into their District centre to commemorate National women's day.

The women representing their Wards and church groups presented items like choirs and dances as part of their celebrations.

They started the program with all participants marching in front of the small crowd that also attended the celebration.

The President of the Wakunai District Women's Federation, ZIPORAH HILA told the gathering that the women of Wakunai were organized through their newly established organization.

She said that this was their first gathering since they established their association last year.

She said that they would be organizing similar gatherings in future.

27.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMENS DAY CELEBRATIONS FOR WAKUNAI

By Tapo Tovilu

The women of Wakunai and the surrounding areas celebrated their International Women's Day celebrations today in Wakunai.

Keynote speaker Member for North Bougainville representing women Joan Jerome challenged women to be productive in their respective levels no matter their situation.

The member was pleased with the six village councils for the event which she says was the first women's day celebrations of its kind in the area.

She also called for the community to rid the Wakunai area of firearms so that life would be normal again.

She appealed that the guns were to fight for freedom and when giving them up not call for money from the ABG.

She also gave a minute silence in commemoration for the women who lost their lives during the crisis and also for the women who lost their lives in the MV Rabaul Queen disaster.

27.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Wakunai women celebrate

By Aloysius Laukai

Wakunai women are today celebrating national women's day today.

The celebration has started with a march by different groups

Pictured are women leaders, Theresa Jaintong, member for Central Joane Jerom and with Ziporah Hilia the President of Wakunai women's federation.





26.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville transport enhanced with 15 bridges built with Japanese help

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville estimates that the time it takes to travel between Buka and Arawa has been practically cut in half with 15 new bridges now in place.

Up till now the trip has involved the fording of the rivers.

The Japanese Government had funded the construction of the bridges and the ambassador, Hiroharu Iwasaki, was in the province to open them last week.

President John Momis says the completion of the bridges is a reflection of the landowners and government working together successfully.

"That is something the people really appreciated. It is a success story of collaboration with the landowners, because, as you know in Bougainville the land where the bridges is owned by the landowners, not by the government, so it is a difficult thing to negotiate. So in this instance the landowners agreed to have the land contributed for the public purpose."

John Momis says all that is required now is for the road to be sealed and some causeways to be mended.

26.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA THANKS LANDOWNERS

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA last night thanked the people of Bougainville, especially landowners in which these bridges have been built for allowing their land for development that will benefit the people of Bougainville.

Speaking at the official welcome dinner for the Japanese ambassador, MR.NISIRA said that he would like to commend these particular citizens of Bougainville for setting a shining example for all Bougainvilleans to follow.

He said that they have shown that the people of Bougainville are ready and willing to ensure that development progresses unhindered for the benefit of the future of the region.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT said that the completion of the bridges has taken the peace process to a next level.

He said that the Bougainville Peace Agreement calls for Bougainvilleans to aspire great things like goal to build own economy towards fiscal self reliance in preparations for Referendum.

26.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DSIP QUESTIONED

By Tapo Tovilu

The work of the District services improvement program has been called on to be publicized for transparency.

A concerned member of the public has called for the outcomes of the last DSIP meeting held in Buin last week Friday to be made known to the public.

He says that these are public moneys which all people are entitled to know how it is being used.

From the meeting all submissions for projects in South Bougainville will be paid for by the Member for South Bougainville Steven Pirika.

He also call for the government to help the people especially those living in the villages as they were the majority and needed more basic services.

He called strongly for all decisions made to be made public for the people to know and benefit from.

26.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEOPLE CALL FOR PEACE

By Tapo Tovilu

The AutonomousRegion of Bougainville must have peace and unity and must be free of killings from the guns still in the communities.

Steven Marukore a leader from Central Bougainville has condemned the killing of a man at the Morgan junction last Wednesday.

He says with guns still out there in the communities more killings and incidents like this will happen.

He called on the parties involved to respect the rule of law and not to take the law into their own hands.

The killings he says paints a negative picture for the region and such incidents must be stopped.

He also thanked the police for their efforts in calming the situation after the incident and called for their continual support.

26.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

URP a truly PNG Party - Duma

The United Resources Party (URP) was only registered in 2001 but in the last 11 years, it been a major player in Government since 2002, Party Leader William Duma (picture) said.



Mr Duma said that after the 2007 National Election, URP became the second biggest coalition partner in the Somare Government but it broke ranks, when he as leader was sacked.

Today the Party has the backing of the current Government and playing a significant role in resource developments in the country, Mr Duma said.

“As the country draws closure to the elections, URP is making its move to capture the votes from the people and this time round, it wants to pick up a member of Parliament from all the provinces in the country.

The party launched its 2012 election strategy in East New Britain Province and at Kokopo electorate, an electorate that produced one of PNG’s outstanding prime ministers in Sir Rabbie Namaliu. “It’s an historic occasion for the party to come and launch here. Election is a big thing, political parties and candidates must tell the people how they want to run the Government so the people understand and, make judgements and cast their votes,” Sir Rabbie told a packed Ralum Club on Saturday evening.

Party leader William Duma said URP chose East New Britain and Kokopo because this was where a lot of good leaders were produced and it was where he was elected as the party leader after the 2007 elections.

“URP gave PNG the LNG project. I said no to selling wet gas to Australia and was in the forefront of the PNG LNG project. We have our track record on our contributions to the resource development in the country,” Mr Duma said.

He said by 2014, PNG’s economy would double and it was very important that good leaders were voted into Parliament in the coming elections.

“When we go to elections, we must vote in good, honest, dedicated and tough leaders,” Mr Duma said.

Mr Duma said URP was truly a PNG party, which has delivered in its short history and wants to play a leading role in the next government.

“You are suffering now because of poor leadership in the last 36 years. PNG need good leaders to move forward. PNG is in your hands, you vote in good leaders, you harvest the benefits,” another URP man and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Kama said.

Another URP strongman and Eastern Highlands Governor, Malcolm Kela Smith pointed out that between K1 billion to K3 billion was stolen from Waigani every year and the country was doing nothing about it.

“A big part of this problem is the public service. There are a lot of weaknesses in the public service that allows the money to be stolen. We need to reform the public service and make it work,” Mr Kela Smith said.

On Friday, the party officials visited two villages where they were accepted into the electorate by the community. At Nauk village, the leaders said the launch of the party in the community was a first for Kokopo and this was the way to go for the majority of the people in PNG lived in the rural areas.

“You are right, I think this is the way for URP. We will take the party to the villages where 85 per cent of our people live,” another URP man and minister for Civil Aviation Puri Ruing told the villagers who had put on a rousing welcome for his and the URP delegates.

URP is endorsing a former academic from the University of PNG, Ronnie Ilam, a cousin of Sir Rabbie for the Kokopo Open seat.

26.03.2012

Source: Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)

[Download PRESIDENT MEDIA STATEMENT-BURNING OF THE THREE SHIPS](#)

26.03.2012

Source: The National

Miriori: Lasting peace must come first to Bougainville

DISARMAMENT, referendum and independence on Bougainville are not possible until lasting peace is established in the autonomous region, a leader said.

Lasting peace will not be established until all factions involved – women, youths, churches, chiefs, ex-combatants and the self-styled Mekamui government – reconciled, president of the Mekamui government of unity Philip Miriori said.

The groups met in Buka last week.

Disarmament, the second pillar of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and the reopening of the Bougainville copper mine, which is vital to spurring economic recovery and growth in the autonomous region, are equally dependent on this process.

They will all have to wait, it would seem from the Panguna landowners' and Mekamui government perspective, for a further five years.

That is the time-frame given for the completion of the reconciliation and peace building effort.

Panguna Landowners Association deputy chairman, Michael Pariu told The National: "We have many factions – landowners, ex-combatants, youths, churches, Mekamui defence forces, women and chiefs.

"Each has its own leader, its own concerns, its own hurt from the crisis.

"We want to unite these groups to create peace and unity.

"Only through this process will we pave the way to create lasting peace. This programme has a time frame of five years.

"Everything else will have to wait until this programme is completed.

"Ours is a model that will be extended to other districts of the region.

"The crisis started in Panguna. Now peace must have its beginning in Panguna. We are taking ownership of what happened in Panguna.

"We must put our people in the right frame of mind because economic recovery and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are dependent on the Panguna mine reopening."

The group is conscious that peace on its own will not be lasting.

"Peace on its own will not work," Miriori said.

"There are the issues of compensation. There is the issue of referendum and independence. There are the development issues of health, education and transport infrastructure.

"All of these will issues not work if the mine does not re-open. And the mine will not reopen unless we unite the factions."

This process all requires resources, which is presently unavailable to the Panguna management consultative committee, the entity created by the various groups to advance the effort.

The group is calling on the ABG, donor agencies and PNG government to take a deep interest in this process.

26.03.2012

Source: The National

PNG Ports threatens to close Buka port

By FRANK SENGE KOLMA

PNG Ports has threatened to close the port of Buka to all shipping vessels following the burning of three ships belonging to Star Shipping.

Militant elements sympathetic to relatives of Bougainvilleans who perished in the sinking of mv Rabaul Queen off the Finschhafen coast, Morobe, on February 2, severed the moorings of the mv Solomon Queen, the Kopra 3 and Kopra 4 on the evening of March 16 and set all three on fire. The hulled out boats now rest in a mangrove a few kilometres off Buka Island under constant armed guard by the militant elements.

Acting chief executive officer of PNG Ports Corporation, Stanley Alphonse wrote to commissioner and chief executive officer, Dr Billy Manoka, on March 20 outlining the potential closure of the port of Buka should there be any escalation in tension associated with the burning of the ships.

“An important consideration for the continued operation of our ports are the safety and security of not only our own staff but all our stakeholders who do business within the port and particularly consideration in light of the recent turn of events with the burning of the Rabaul Shipping vessels have been received with serious concerns over the continued operation of our port of Buka.”

The militant elements and families of disaster victims met on March 20 and resolved to tow out the three boats and sell them off to the flourishing scrap metal business in the autonomous region and retain the proceeds as partial compensation for lives lost.

Whether this resolution is viewed as an “escalation in tension” by PNG Ports remains to be determined. But the same meeting of relatives has given assurances to all other shippers that their anger is directed at Star Shipping (Rabaul Shipping and owner Peter Sharp) and that other shipping lines can carry on business in ports of Bougainville.

If the PNG Port threat is carried out it will severely affect the people and economy of Buka and the rest of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as shipping is its life line. Buka is the seat of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

President of ABG, John Momis has unequivocally condemned the burning of the ships and announced the setting up of a task force to bring the militant elements to justice.

“One wrong does not justify another,” Momis said, voicing his own displeasure at the circumstances leading to the ferry disaster.

“Commercial shipping may very well be curtailed for a period of time,” he said.

This will create some temporary hardships to the travel of Bougainvilleans.

Buka port is not closed and is open to regular shipping movement.

26.03.2012

Source: The National

Momis slams Sharp's comments

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has expressed dismay and outrage at the “contemptuous” response to victims of the mv Rabaul Queen disaster by Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp.

“Throughout this tragedy, he (Sharp) has remained mostly silent and when issuing any comments it would appear as if these were contemptuous of the effect of the incident on the families and those involved in the tragedy.

“His attitude, in no small way, has contributed to the unfortunate unfolding of events.”

“He has not displayed the characteristics of a good corporate citizen of Bougainville or Papua New Guinea.”

While careful to separate the burning of Sharp's three ships in Buka as the work of criminals and condemning it unequivocally, Momis said Sharp's own attitude in the affair could unwittingly have spurred the unfortunate turn of events.

"The ABG respects the tradition of the rule of law and respects the rights of private ownership.

"The ABG respects the tradition of the rule of law and respect for the rights of others.

"We do not share in the belief that one wrong action justifies another, no matter how tragic the circumstances," Momis said.

Militant elements responsible for the burning of the ships and relatives of those who perished with the Rabaul Queen on Feb 2 went further than the president in their meeting of March 20 at Kokopau.

Along with two ABG House of Representative members, the group resolved to ban all Rabaul Shipping activities in Bougainville.

Among others, the resolutions call for:

- * Peter Sharp not to be allowed to operate in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville in future due to the situation experienced;

- * veterans and families of those who lost their lives in MV Rabaul Queen to be allowed to pick up the remaining copra in the ships storage to be resold to recover cost of those providing security of the boats;

- * the three hulled out boats to be towed out and sold as scrap metal and the proceeds be retained by families and veterans providing guard; and,

- * No threats to be issued to any other shipping companies and that they are welcome and free to operate into Bougainville waters.

26.03.2012

Source: The National

Japan hands over K95mil bridges to Bougainville people

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

JAPANESE Ambassador Hiroharu Iwasaki has handed over 15 bridges built at a cost of K95 million to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

After handing over the bridges in North Bougainville, Iwasaki travelled to Buin in South Bougainville to visit the site where Japanese World War II hero Admiral Isoku Yamamoto died after being shot down by American fighter planes.

Iwasaki arrived in Buka last Monday, handed over the bridges at Rawa River on Tuesday before travelling to Buin.

He said Japan was committed to supporting the ABG and that the handover ceremony did not in any way mean the country was cutting off its partnership with Bougainville.

Bougainville President John Momis thanked the government and people of Japan for the 15 bridges across rivers between Kokopau in North Bougainville and Arawa in Central Bougainville.

Momis commended the contractors for completing the job 21 months ahead of schedule.

The bridges project was planned for completion by Dec 31 next year.

Momis said the Japanese took a risk in building the bridges at a time when many people looked at Bougainville as a very unstable place.

He said these bridges were aligned with the ABG path towards economic prosperity.

Admiral Yamamoto was commander-in-chief of the combined Japanese naval fleet when he was killed.

25.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Vice comments

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira last week said that the Japanese bridge project was the first and biggest impact project ever attempted on Bougainville in the 20 years.

He was speaking at the welcome dinner hosted by the ABG for the Japanese ambassador at the Kuri village resort on Buka island

The vice President said the bridge project had been achieved in record time and was reflective of the commitment and generosity of the government and the people of Japan.

He said that these bridges would stand as a monumental symbol that binds and will continue to strengthen relationship between the people of Bougainville and Japan.

MR.NISIRA said that the bridge project was completed at a cost of THREE BILLION ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FOUR MILLION JAPANESE YEN which was about NINETY FIVE MILLION PNG KINA.

23.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Unarmed police mean Bougainville government can't impose law and order - President

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, says his government lacks the means to impose law and order.

Mr Momis has condemned the destruction last weekend of three ships that had been commandeered a month earlier in Buka harbour.

The vessels were taken over by armed ex-militants and the grieving relatives of Bougainvilleans who drowned in the Rabaul Queen ferry disaster on February the 2nd off the coast of Morobe.

Mr Momis says there was little the government could do to get the people to leave the vessels, because the police, who do not carry guns, are not adequately enabled to do their work.

"So it's a difficult situation. The only thing we had was to persuade them by talking sense to them and that only works when you're responding in the right fashion, you know, there has to be a mutuality of understanding and a certain level of critical awareness between the parties, but that didn't happen because the ex-combatants didn't want to listen."

23.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader says ship owner ignorant in not meeting compensation demand

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says the owner of the three ships destroyed in Buka harbour last weekend behaved ignorantly by refusing to pay compensation.

Peter Sharp also owns the Rabaul Queen which sank off Morobe on February the 2nd with huge loss of life, including many from Bougainville.

Grieving relatives and ex-combatants had commandeered the ships and called on Mr Sharp to pay compensation.

Mr Sharp says those involved were criminals and he attributes the loss of the ships to government inaction but the president John Momis says Mr Sharp's failure to pay compensation showed an ignorance of custom.

“When somebody dies like that the first thing you do is to pay some money up front to put the relatives at peace and to allow the processes to take place, which Peter Sharp failed to do.”

23.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Government policies slow: Bougainville

By PETERSON TSERAHA

RESOURCE owners in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are already tired of government policies that are taking long to be passed so they have decided to go on with exploration on their own land.

Isina Holdings Limited will be getting their exploration licenses in a weeks' time because they had given the Autonomous Bougainville Government two weeks and one week has already passed and had one more week to go.

Nine other resources companies will register with the mining department and all chairmen of those companies are paramount chiefs of their respective areas.

All chairmen have also stated that Panguna is a non issue to them and that they will leave it alone because for a long time the BCA agreement had not been reviewed, and at the same time policies were taking too long to be passed.

Resource owners say they will not wait until the cows come home but will proceed with exploration and geologists will soon be arriving on Bougainville to carry out pre exploration.

The government process on mining is too slow, they said.

23.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Cell moni popular

DIGICEL's cell moni is now gaining popularity in Bougainville with an agent already on the ground, a latest innovation with technology in the region.

Konea Trading is now the agent on the ground, and services like Cell Moni, Mobile SMK, and Phone to phone top up (EVD) are now available as well as the electronic banking system.

Company management said in Buka that they were now set up in Arawa and would move to Buka and eventually down to Buin in South Bougainville.

Customers simply deposit and cash out, a system useful in places without banks like in Arawa and Buin which is helpful for working class people like teachers and health workers.

These people will be using their mobile phones to get cash and goods through the Cell Moni and SMK banking. The days of spending a hundred Kina to come to Buka will now be over because a much more needed and useful service is right at their doorsteps.

As long as they are registered with the mobile SMK they have no problem.

23.03.2012

Source: The National

Semoso: Women can win without reserved seats

By FRANK KOLMA

ONE of the first women to have contested and won an exclusive women's seat in a representative assembly in the country says the reality is far from the negative debate emerging.



Francisca Semoso (picture), who has the unique experience of having contested both a reserved seat and an ordinary open seat, said the pressure, the hardships and the joys of the campaign trail were no different.

Semoso won the North Bougainville reserved seat in the first Autonomous Region of Bougainville election in 2005. After a term, she contested in an open seat and lost.

Bougainville has, grafted onto its 2004 Constitution, three seats reserved for women for North, Central and South regions. In 2005 the seats were won by Semoso (North), Magdalene Toroansi (Central) and Laura Amba (South).

"The argument that women will vote for women is not true," Semoso said. "More men than women voted for me.

"The argument that colleagues will treat women who win reserved seats with less respect is wrong. When we went to the elections, we walked, talked, cried and sang like every other candidate. It cost us money. We went through the same hard times.

"We campaigned in the same way as all other candidates. When they see that they respect you, they know you are as good as them."

Semoso went on to win the deputy speaker's post in the assembly – again with the majority support from male representatives.

"Never in my five years did I get any disrespect because I was a reserved seat contestant. I was voted deputy speaker of the House of Representatives of 40.

"Reserved seats made a big difference.

"Women are honest when it comes to things that we know will destroy people's lives.

"Honestly speaking the PNG parliament needs the presence of women MPs. Political parties should support women candidates."

She told aspiring women candidates: "Reserved seats or no reserved seats, you can still win an election if you

know your strengths. You can never be a man. You have to go the people as a woman and a leader."

That is what the people are looking for. Let them say all the good things about you, the bad things about you. Then they will know you can weather the storm as well as any man."

22.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WAKUNAI TO CELEBRATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Women from Wakunai district in Central Bougainville will be celebrating their deferred International Women's Day celebrations next Tuesday, March 27th 2012.

This was revealed today by the member for TERRA constituency and Deputy ABG Speaker, Robin Wilson.

MR. WILSON in his invitation note to New Dawn FM said that the celebration will take place at the Wakunai District centre.

22.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NAME MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Aku in Buin, South Bougainville in which the Japanese Admiral Yamamoto's plane crashed on their land during the second world war decided to change the name of their AKU Primary School two years ago to honour the Japanese hero of war.

This was revealed to the visiting Japanese ambassador, HIROHARU IWASAKI at the school grounds yesterday.

School's Parents and Citizen's committee chairman, Thomas Kalopo in his welcome speech told that visiting ambassador that the change of the name was to honour the memory of Japanese Hero, ISOROKU YAMAMOTO whose plane crashed six kilometres from the school during the second world war.

He said by this the School and its surrounding communities wished to sustain a harmonious relationship with the people of Japan.

The Ambassador and ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS were put on a platform and carried several meters from the school as a sign of respect for chiefs in the Buin custom.

22.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ACCEPTS GIFTS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, Chief John Momis has thanked the government and people of Japan for the biggest gift to the people of Bougainville in the form of the FIFTEEN Bridges across Bougainville's rivers between Kokopau in North Bougainville and Arawa in Central Bougainville.

He made these comments at RAWA river at the official handover of these bridges by the Japanese Ambassador to PNG HE HIROHARU IWASAKI on Tuesday this week.

President commended the contractors for completing the job one year nine months earlier than anticipated.

The Bridge Project was planned for completion by December 31st,2013.

MR. MOMIS said that the Japanese risked all odds to built these bridges when many see Bougainville as a very unstable place.

He added that their gift of the 15 bridges to the people of Bougainville was aligned with the ABG path towards economic prosperity.

22.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG condemns burning of vessels

By FABIAN GATANA

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President Chief John Momis has strongly condemned the burning of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels by former combatant groups in Buka last Saturday.

President Momis said that the action taken by this group will have serious long term repercussions on Bougainville's peace and stability and the economic recovery effort and investment opportunities that his government has been promoting.

“Bougainville has lost 46 innocent lives in the MV Rabaul Queen disaster and I share the pains of those families who have lost their loved ones, but Bougainvilleans should not take advantage of this loss to take the law into their own hands.

“Bougainville Police, the Bougainville Administration and leaders of the ABG had been mediating and negotiating with former combatant groups and the owner of Rabaul Shipping, Mr Peter Sharp, of a possible payment of ‘belkol’ monies for the victims of the MV Rabaul Queen disaster and there was no need at all for those involved in setting fire to the ships,” said the President.

He urged all Bougainvilleans to be patient and wait for the outcome of the inquiry established by the National Government into the sinking of the vessel.

He also added that the use of weapons by former combatants to show their frustration was a clear breach of the Bougainville Peace Agreement of which they are parties to.

He also called on members of the Bougainville House of Representatives, chairmen of Bougainville Council of Elders and traditional chiefs to work closely with former combatants to uphold the rule of law at all times.

22.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Burnt ships to be sold as scrap metal

THE three Rabaul Shipping vessels that were burnt last Saturday in Buka are to be salvaged and sold as scrap metal to overseas buyers.

In a meeting on Tuesday it was decided that what remains of the three vessels, MV Solomon Queen, MV Copra 3 and MV Copra 4, will be sold to cover loss of lives from the MV Rabaul Queen incident and other costs and security purposes.

The meeting, which was also attended by member for Torokina. Steven Suako, ex-combatants, members of the Veterans Affairs Division, local chiefs and relatives of those who lost loved ones in the shipping tragedy, also decided that Peter Sharp and his shipping company Rabaul Shipping were no longer welcomed to operate in Bougainville. They also called for Rabaul Shipping to be banned from operating in PNG waters.

It was also decided that veterans and aggrieved relatives will be allowed to gather and re-sell remaining copra from the ships storage to cover security costs for those who provided security for the three vessels during the time of the compensation demand.

They also resolved that shipping services operating in PNG and Bougainville should not be deterred by this incident as assurance has been given by veterans and aggrieved relatives that their commitment in providing quality shipping services to Bougainville is recognized and their security is guaranteed.

The meeting fully elaborated on the prolonged demand for compensation which had led to the safety of the vessels being compromised and burnt.

MV Bougainville Atolls has been assigned to tow the burnt vessels to a safe area where they will be dismantled ready to be sold. No other vessels, not even the owner, will be allowed to tow the vessels.

Furthermore, a stern warning has been issued for persons not to tamper with the ships as this may lead to an oil spill from the vessels causing environmental damage to the reef and marine life.

22.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PNG ranks poorly

By PATRICK TALU

PAPUA New Guinea has been ranked the worst country for mining projects with political risk out of 25 countries, according to Denver-based mining business consultants, Behre Dolbear.

Behre Dolbear also ranked the United States as the worst nation in terms of mining permitting delays, while South Africa mining projects may encounter more corruption and social risk factors. Ironically, according a copy of the survey which the Post Courier sighted yesterday, Behre Dolbear found that the U.S. tied with PNG for the country with the most numerous permitting delays.

The countries having the fewest permitting delays are Australia, Mexico, and Tanzania.

In its annual ranking of countries in terms of political risks for mining investment, Behre Dolbear, has ranked Australia, Canada, Chile, Brazil and Mexico as the top five nations in which to locate mining projects.

The five lowest-scoring nations were Russia, Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kazakhstan with PNG bringing up the rear as the worst in terms of political risk for mining projects.

The 25 nations considered in this year's survey were ranked on seven criteria: economic system, political system, degree of social issues affecting mining, delays in receiving permits, degree of corruption, stability of the country's currency, and the competitiveness of the nation's tax policy.

Each criterion was rated on a qualitative scale from 1 (worst) to 10 (best) with a maximum attainable score of 70 points.

For PNG, it was ranked 22 out of 70 for the total points from 2010 through to 2012.

In this report, Behre Dolbear advised clients to exercise notable caution when considering investments in these countries.

In terms of corruption, Australia and Canada continue to rate at 10, the highest rating in Behre Dolbear survey in this criterion.

The countries with least corruption are Australia, Canada and the United States.

Those with the greatest incidence of corruption are Kazakhstan, Russia, DRC, South Africa and PNG.

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The countries with least corruption are Australia, Canada and the United States.

Those with the greatest incidence of corruption are Kazakhstan, Russia, DRC, South Africa and PNG.

Also, the countries ranked most effective at managing social issues are Australia, Chile and Columbia, while Bolivia, PNG, India and South Africa were ranked the least effective in the survey.

A phone call and an email sent to PNG Chambers of Mines and Petroleum for comments particularly on the mining investment risk did not get any feedback.

22.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Judiciary Bill puts judges on notice

PARLIAMENT yesterday passed a controversial law that will now give it the ability to suspend senior Supreme and National Court judges who are perceived to be biased.

The Judicial Conduct Bill 2012, introduced by Attorney-General Dr Allan Marat, is designed to deal with ethical behaviour of judges by giving Parliament power to deal directly with the judicial arm. The bill was passed 63 - 7 with minimal debate.

But the Somare regime yesterday afternoon announced they will file appropriate proceedings to challenge the constitutionality of the Act today.

Dr Marat introduced the Bill in Parliament amidst strong opposition from the Government back bench and specifically from the Somare-Agiru regime who unanimously tried to have the Bill stalled.

This law would now give the parliament the power to refer a judge to the Governor-General, who in turn must appoint a tribunal to investigate the judge, who would be suspended from duty - while that happens the judge cannot hear cases.

Dr Marat when presenting the Bill told Parliament that this law would help judges uphold the integrity of the judicial system. He said that the law would “promote the integrity of our legal system based on the principle that an independent, fair and competent judiciary shall interpret and apply the laws that govern us.

It lays out a set of nine ‘impartiality’ rules judges must obey, the breaching of which will allow Parliament to make a referral to the Governor General.

But Madang Regional MP Sir Arnold Amet yesterday in a press conference said that they will make sure to challenge the validity of this Bill adding that there was absolutely no need for such a law because the legal system processes of objections and applications for disqualifications of judges and review and appeal procedures have adequately dealt with these kinds of issues over centuries in democracies that had adopted these precedents and system.

“The most important substantive provision which must raise alarm bells in all law abiding citizens, the legal and judicial fraternity all over the commonwealth of nations, the democratic nations of the world who share the same system of governments that respect the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and separation of powers of the three principal arms of government is Section 5 (2) which reads: if it appears to Parliament that a judge has failed to disqualify himself...or has influenced a proceeding by Parliament by way of a motion may refer the Judge concerned to the Head of State to appoint a tribunal to investigate the breach and provide a report to Parliament,” Sir Arnold said.

“I can assure the nation and our development partners of the international community that this most dangerous challenge to our fragile democracy will not be allowed to go without the most vigorous legal challenge.”

In Parliament, Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu was the first to object to the Bill as she described it as a blatant attack on the judiciary, an institution which a lot of Papua New Guineans regard as the last fortress of hope in a country crippled by corruption and lawlessness.

“The Bill directly undermines the basis of the separation of powers as enshrined in our constitution and puts a higher scrutiny threshold for judges than for parliamentarians,” she said.

Nuku Open MP Andrew Kumbakor yesterday expressed outrage over the passage of the bill on the conduct of the judiciary today in parliament.

Mr Kumbakor said, “Without knowing the full implication of this bill I feel compelled to recommend that parliament should also apply this type of law across the board to all members of parliament whose conduct and behavior come into question.

“It is ridiculous that an independent arm of government should be singled out in this instance while public servants and members of parliament do not have an act of parliament as such to scrutinize their behavior and conduct in public office that forces them to stand down from their duties.

“Until the full implications of this bill are understood and proper public debate takes place I will be seeking further legal advice and will ensure a stay order on the implementation of the Bill is in place until we assess the constitutionality of the bill’s passage,” said Mr Kumbakor.

While defending the enactment of Act, Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah said yesterday that the move was to restore integrity and confidence into the judiciary amidst mounting concern over the amount of court orders being issued by judges.

The bill will take effect retrospective to November 1, 2011, which coincidentally was the time the O’Neill Namah Government tried unsuccessfully to remove the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia.

All PNG judges are already subject to the PNG Leadership Code – like other constitutional office holders – but this bill, now enacted, would enable the legislature and the executive to act above the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership and refer judges when and how it sees fit. The bill’s introduction comes three weeks after armed policemen, believed to be acting on the orders of the O’Neill government, entered the court precinct and arrested and charged Sir Salamo for allegedly perverting the course of justice.

A number of judges suspended their cases in response to the arrest and charging of their superior, with the National Court later ruling that the charges were an abuse of process and issuing a permanent stay on the proceedings. The seven MPs that voted against the Bill included Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu, Aitape Lumi MP Patrick Pruaitch, Middle Ramu MP Ben

Semri, Enga Governor Peter Ipatas, West Sepik Governor Simon Solo, Southern Highlands Governor Anderson Agiru and Tambul -Nebilyer MP Benjamin Poponawa.

22.03.2012

Source: The National

House passes judicial bill

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE government yesterday muscled the Judicial Conduct Bill through parliament, drawing an outcry of criticism from opposition politicians, church leaders and a non-governmental organisation (see page 3 for details).

The law, introduced on Tuesday and passed three times by a vote of 63-7 yesterday, gave parliament the power to refer a judge to the governor-general who, in turn, must appoint a tribunal to investigate the judge who would be suspended from duty.

The government said the law would “promote the integrity of our legal system based on the principle that an independent, fair and competent judiciary shall interpret and apply the laws that govern us”.

It gave a set of nine “impartiality” rules judges must obey, the breaching of which will allow parliament to make a referral to the governor-general.

The speed at which the bill was passed drew a mixed reaction from MPs mindful of the several political and judicial tests over the past eight months.

The only parliamentarians who voted against the bill were Enga Governor Peter Ipatas, Middle Ramu MP Ben Sembri, Aitape-Lumi MP Patrick Pruiatch, West Sepik Governor Simon Solo, opposition leader Dame Carol Kidu, Southern Highlands Governor Anderson Agiru and Tambul-Nebliyer MP Benjamin Poponawa.

Tari-Pori MP James Marape did not to take part in the voting.

The clerk then had to come back and ask him whether he would vote for or against the bill and he said that since majority had voted for the bill he would also vote for it.

The law is retrospective to last Nov 1.

During debate, Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah said the Constitution had not been tested and it was about time it was tested to suit present day requirements.

He said under section 284, parliament had wider powers and could make laws to control and safeguard the judiciary.

He said judges were issuing permanent restraining orders like hot cakes and alleged that many of them were collaborating with politicians to obtain restraining orders.

He claimed there was systematic judicial corruption and by passing the law, the country will have a transparent judiciary.

Hagen MP William Duma said one or two judges were dragging the judiciary down and the law was needed to safeguard and promote the integrity of the legal system.

Dame Carol said: “We are taking a wrong way. We are breaking the fabric of the Constitution and I am really worried for the future of PNG.”

The government’s move is being interpreted as a broadside against the nation’s chief justice, Sir Salamo Injia, following the leaking of court documents and the quashing of an investigation into his financial dealings.

Dame Carol told journalists she was in little doubt the government would move quickly to oust Sir Salamo.

“I think that will happen very quickly.”

She said it removed vital checks and balances and placed total power in one arm of government.

“If checks and balances are not working, we are in an executive dictatorship,” she said.

“It is not in the interests of PNG remaining a truly democratic country.

“We will have judges afraid to toe the line.”

22.03.2012

Source: The National

No plans on rising sea level, says minister

THE government does not have mitigation plans to address the needs or relocate islanders in PNG currently affected by the rising sea level.

Environment and Conservation Minister Thompson Harokaqveh said although there were no plans, the issue would be part of the national protective system which aims to preserve the environment.

Harokaqveh was responding to concerns raised in parliament by Hela Transitional Authority chairman James Marape yesterday.

Marape said small islands and atolls such as the Cartarets and Mortlock groups were sinking and this was affecting the lives of traditional inhabitants.

He said a recent documentary had indicated that the islands were sinking and action was needed to prepare and plan for the worst.

Marape said he was moved when he saw how the lives of the island people were being threatened by the rising sea level due to climate change.

There are several voluntary arrangements in place for the people to relocate to Bougainville but the government had yet to develop a relocation and resettlement plan for the people.

22.03.2012

Source: Island Business

Reopening of Bougainville mine will pay off shareholders

Papua New Guinea must change into a "land of the expected" European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) president Axel Sturm said yesterday.

BUKA, PNG Papua New Guinea must change into a "land of the expected" European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) president Axel Sturm said yesterday. And he unsurprisingly believes significant government investment into reopening the Panguna mine will pay off. While there has been uncertainty over whether the Panguna mine will ever reopen since it closed down in 1989 before the subsequent civil war, ESBC is concerned that BCL shares are becoming prey to short sellers due to the recent political instability in PNG. "It has a new Prime Minister (Peter O'Neill) elected by an overwhelming majority in Parliament while an old stubborn prime minister [Sir Michael Somare] cannot accept having been ousted," Sturm said.

"Unfortunately, the new prime minister's Deputy (Belden Namah) contributes to this situation by making irritating statements from time to time. "This fires foreign investors' confusion." PNG's parliament has passed the long-heralded sovereign wealth fund designed to safely manage windfall government revenues from the PNG LNG project, especially through offshore investments to avoid causing even more local inflation. But Sturm said that Sovereign Wealth Fund investment into PNG industries would be a great signal to investors worldwide. In what would also lift his own share portfolio, Mr Sturm would like to see the PNG government increase its stake in BCL (about 19%) and even buy more shares to give the Autonomous Bougainville government its first stake. "I imagine if PNG/ABG hold up to 25 % or even more in BCL, both would be keen to increase their stake's value by fast-tracking the reopening [of] the Panguna mine," Mr Sturm said. "A strong investment in BCL shares by PNG would be understood by investors as PNG's commitment to a better economic future. "Investors are watching out for security of their investment – uncertainty is poison. "Certainty is strongly needed now," he added. The Frankfurt Stock Exchange has become the leading stock market for trading BCL shares which are also Australian Securities Exchange-listed. A key and longstanding hurdle to reopening

the Panguna mine is gathering the support of community landowners. There were around 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine, providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion. Panguna was the world's fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989 and had produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972. Rio Tinto owns around 54% of BCL.

22.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Judges being challenged

There are concerns in Papua New Guinea a new law giving parliament new powers to suspend senior judges will erode democracy in the country.

The government says the law will strengthen the judiciary, but critics say it's just another attack on the country's top judge.

Presenter: PNG correspondent Liam Fox

Speakers: Dr Allan Marat, PNG's Attorney General; John Nongorr, PNG constitutional lawyer, Sir Arnold Amet, a former PNG Chief Justice and Attorney General; Julie Bishop, Australia's opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman

[Listen here !](#)

22.03.2012

Source: Island Business

Ex-combatants blame ABG for lack of leadership

The Autonomous Bougainville Government should also be blamed for the burning down of the three "Peter Sharp" vessels in Buka over the weekend.

BUKA, PNG The Autonomous Bougainville Government should also be blamed for the burning down of the three "Peter Sharp" vessels in Buka over the weekend. But one of the ex-combatants involved (named) said yesterday that they specifically burnt the vessels because of two things – that none of the ABG leaders were listening and attending to their demands and that they were also upset with a response from vessel owner Peter Sharp claiming that "the sinking of Rabaul Queen was not his doing but God's doing!" Concerned ex-combatants who did not take part in the burning incident, however, told the Post Courier that they understood there were two options put before the ABG to avoid what transpired over the weekend. "One option was for the ABG to settle the K350, 000 (US\$163,000) demands for the ex-combatants and immediately take the vessels under police custody ... and later negotiate with Peter Sharp on the reimbursement of their monies," the ex-combatants said. "The other option was for the ABG to help negotiate with Sharp for the release of two vessels while they could take ownership of one to service Bougainville under their leadership, specifically for the people of the region." They said Autonomous Bougainville Government could have saved the ships if they took advice on these two options given them but also pointed out the ignorance in the part of Peter Sharp refusing to talk to the ABG. "I think ABG should have taken the leadership and feel with the people instead of ignoring them," they said. "They should represent the people and seek justice whether Sharp is responsible or whoever was. I think people felt neglected. Then I think our colleagues (the ex-combatants) as usual took it on themselves and filled the vacuum of leadership. The ABG should

also acknowledge their availability to support the relatives. “Just respect for human life and property will be gone again. It will be just a time of chaos. If the churches, the civil society, women’s groups, media and Bougainville elites all act now we can avoid it. What we need is an aggressive police force to crack down on law and order.” Meanwhile, ABG last night advised they were doing everything they could to address the situation and the issue together with police. They said a team of investigators are working around the clock to compile a report with its recommendations.

21.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Crash site

By Aloysius Laukai

Japanese ambassador to PNG HE HIROHARU IWASAKI pose for this AL picture with Deputy Director of National Planning at the YAMAMOTO crash site today.





21.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Reopening of mine will pay off shareholders

PAPUA New Guinea must change into a “land of the expected” European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) president Axel Sturm said yesterday.

And he unsurprisingly believes significant government investment into reopening the Panguna mine will pay off.

While there has been uncertainty over whether the Panguna mine will ever reopen since it closed down in 1989 before the subsequent civil war, ESBC is concerned that BCL shares are becoming prey to short sellers due to the recent political instability in PNG.

“It has a new Prime Minister (Peter O’Neill) elected by an overwhelming majority in Parliament while an old stubborn prime minister [Sir Michael Somare] cannot accept having been ousted,” Sturm said.

“Unfortunately, the new prime minister’s Deputy (Belden Namah) contributes to this situation by making irritating statements from time to time.

“This fires foreign investors’ confusion.”

PNG’s parliament has passed the long-heralded sovereign wealth fund designed to safely manage windfall government revenues from the PNG LNG project, especially through offshore investments to avoid causing even more local inflation.

But Sturm said that Sovereign Wealth Fund investment into PNG industries would be a great signal to investors worldwide.

In what would also lift his own share portfolio, Mr Sturm would like to see the PNG government increase its stake in BCL (about 19%) and even buy more shares to give the Autonomous Bougainville government its first stake.

“I imagine if PNG/ABG hold up to 25 % or even more in BCL, both would be keen to increase their stake’s value by fast-tracking the reopening [of] the Panguna mine,” Mr Sturm said.

“A strong investment in BCL shares by PNG would be understood by investors as PNG’s commitment to a better economic future.

“Investors are watching out for security of their investment – uncertainty is poison.

“Certainty is strongly needed now,” he added.

The Frankfurt Stock Exchange has become the leading stock market for trading BCL shares which are also Australian Securities Exchange-listed.

A key and longstanding hurdle to reopening the Panguna mine is gathering the support of community landowners.

There were around 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine, providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

Panguna was the world’s fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989 and had produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

Rio Tinto owns around 54% of BCL.

21.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville must strengthen tourism

By Tapo Tovilu

Tourism in Bougainville has potential and will grow.

These were the words of president of the ABG John Momis today as he visited the Yamamoto crash site for the first time.

President Momis says that due to Bougainville's involvement in the second world war the region is full of war relicts.

He says that tourism has a potential to be a economic steppingstone for the region.

He made a call to all Bougainvilleans to look after World War II war sites and relicts as they would benefit from them for tourism.

21.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Japan government visits Makis

By Tapo Tovilu

A high power delegation including Japanese ambassador to PNG visited the Yamamoto plane crash site in the Makis constituency of Buin.

The visit was the first ever Japanese government representatives visit to the crash site.

The ambassador says that Bougainville plays a major part in the history of Japan because of the crash site.

He added that other Japanese historic sites in Bougainville will be visited and improved and will encourage more Japanese tourists.

The ambassador stressed that Japan will continue to support Bougainville and strengthen ties between the ABG and Japan further more.

20.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Owner of destroyed PNG ships blames Bougainville government

The owner of one of the three ships destroyed in Buka on Sunday has blamed the government of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville.

Peter Sharp, whose company also owned the Rabaul Queen, which sank six weeks ago off Morobe, says the provincial government is terrified of the armed militants alleged to be behind the incident.

Don Wiseman has more:

“Soon after the Rabaul Queen disaster, which included several dozen Bougainvilleans among its victims, Mr Sharp’s Solomon Queen and two vessels belonging to Star Shipping, Kopra 03 and Kopra 04, were seized. Police said members of grieving families, aided by ex-combatants, had taken over the vessels in Buka port. But Mr Sharp says it was only ever ex-combatants involved. He says police couldn’t do anything because they have been emasculated by the government, which appears to side with the ex-combatants. Mr Sharp says they’re just criminals who’d demanded compensation, had committed not to destroy the ships and had promised they’d be released last Saturday. The Bougainville government has condemned the destruction of the vessels and set up a team to address the issue, but it says the situation is very sensitive and tense and will make no other comment.”

20.02.2012

Source: ESBC



Radio New Dawn on Bougainville
needs YOU !

[click here !](#)

20.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Vocational training - a tool for peace on Bougainville

Vocational training may have a bigger role to play in building the peace on Bougainville than originally thought.

A study of young men of the crisis generation, those too young to have been combatants, show many find it hard to find a role for themselves.

These are the young men who missed out on formal education, who as young children witnessed violence, and who now even as they reach the age of 30 are not yet old enough to take their place in traditional leadership roles.

With no money and no way of gaining the respect of their community many have turned to marijuana and become the perpetrators of domestic violence and other assaults within their communities.

Stuart Kent, from the University of Melbourne, interviewed community leaders and 60 young men from the crisis generation.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Stuart Kent, PhD student, Department of Land and Environment, Melbourne University

[Listen here !](#)

20.03.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Bougainville JSB and NEC postponed!

The **Joint Supervisory Board (JSB)** and the **National Executive Council (NEC)** meeting, both scheduled to be held in Buka and Arawa from March 23rd to March 25th, have been postponed. A new date has not been communicated yet.

20.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Japan hands over bridges

By Aloysius Laukai

Japanese Ambassador has committed to continue to support Bougainville with other developmental projects on the region.

He made these comments when officialy handing 15 bridges to the ABG at Rawa today.

He also said that he would consider other requests made by communities during the ceremony at Rawa today



20.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Rawa Bridge handover

By Aloysius Laukai

The ceremony to handover 15 japanese built bridges has started...



The new Rawa bridge



Rawa Tsigul Group

20.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Japanese envoy visits Bougainville

By ALEX MUNME

THE JAPANESE Ambassador to Papua New Guinea is currently in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Mr Hiriharu Hashi Iwasaki was accompanied by members of JICA or Japanese International Cooperation Agency and PNG National Government Representatives.

During his first three-day official visit, the ambassador will be the guest of honour at the official grand opening of the 15 bridges funded by the Japanese government through JICA.

The ambassador, on his arrival yesterday, was met at the Buka airport by Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice President Patrick Nisira, Chief Administrator Lawrence Dising and members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. Mr Nisira, on behalf of the ABG, officially welcomed the ambassador and his delegation and wished him an enjoyable stay. The ambassador in response, said Bougainville is in the hearts of all Japanese because it is historically special.

He said Japanese students study their history in all schools and know Bougainville, adding he waited a long time to come to Bougainville and finally did today. His official tour will take him to pay a courtesy call on the President of Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis. He will later visit the Japanese war memorial site on Sohano Island.

20.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Sharp silent!

ABG sorry, appoints team to probe burning of vessels.

By PORENI UMAU

The owner of the ill-fated MV Rabaul Queen continues to maintain his silence, even after one of his vessels was torched along with Star Shipping vessels Kopra 03 and Kopra 04.

Mr Peter Sharp known for his "silence" again refused to comment when contacted yesterday regarding the burning of the vessels Kopra 03, Kopra 04 and MV Solomon Queen last night.

He said he would not give any comments.

He said he would remain silent over the matter. In an interesting turn of events, police last night advised that an investigation into the burning of the three Star Shipping vessels, Kopra 03, Kopra 04 and MV Solomon Queen has been set up.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has appointed a team of leaders, police and council of chiefs and ex-combatants to seriously address the 'Peter Sharp Vessel' issue. Police, however, said the situation is very sensitive and tense, therefore no further details could be released on the matter.

But ABG officials last night said that the situation was very unfortunate and that they were doing everything to address the demise of the three vessels.

A team of investigators and negotiators is been put together to look into the unfotunate incident which are now skeletal structures near Madehas Island, off the coast of Buka town. The three vessels were impounded at the Buka wharf by aggrieved ex combatants after the sinking of the MV Rabaul Queen on February 02, 2012, between the seas of West New Britain and Morobe.

The shipping incident has claimed more than 300 lives mostly traveling students. Some of those lost in this disaster were passengers from Bougainville which angered the ex combatants.

19.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONSA ON SHIPS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's image as one of the peaceful places on earth has been tarnished by the burning of Starships ships at the weekend according to Buka businessman, Henry ONSA.



MR. HENRY ONSA (picture) told New Dawn FM today that he was not happy with the people who burnt the ships at the weekend.

He said that the burning of the ships would now have negative impact on the supply of goods to the region as the two ships were the main carriers of Fuel and Gas to the region as well as other store goods.

MR. ONSA said that he was not happy in the way the negotiations for the release of these ships were made resulting in the burning of these ships.

He also blamed the ABG and the administration for not assisting in the negotiations that could have

avoided what has happened.

19.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HANDOVER BRIDGES

By Aloysius Laukai

The government of Japan will tomorrow handover the 15 bridges between Kokopau and Arawa built under Japanese bridges program worth more than NINETY MILLION KINA.

Japanese Ambassador to Png HE Hiroharu Iwasaki arrived this morning to represent his government and hand-in the bridges.

He will then continue to Buin to see the Admiral Yamamoto crash site, with president John Momis.

Ambassador and his delegation return to Port Moresby this Thursday.

Pictured are Sorom cultural group who welcomed the delegation in Buka this morning.



19.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG set for 2012 elections

Defence Force not need for polls

By PORENI UMAU

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) will not need any extra outside manpower or security assistance for the upcoming 2012 General Elections.

This was revealed by ABG's very own top cop, Assistant Commissioner of Police Thomas Eluh, over the weekend.



Commander Eluh (picture) said that already police in the province have prepared and are ready for the major operations and will not need extra manpower from anywhere outside the province.

However, he said that the police will only need a funding support of K350 000 from the government to carry out security duties during the elections.

Commander Eluh said that already a proposal has been sent to the ABG regarding the funding for the operations and is waiting for a feedback.

He said that already 340 auxiliary and 179 regular policemen have been drilled with plans already in place to be dispatched to all strategic locations throughout the province during the election period. He expressed confidence in his men saying that there was no need for any outside help for manpower or security purposes saying that his men have already prepared to carry out their tasks as required of them during the 2012 Elections.

Commander Eluh said that the New Zealand Government will also assist with logistics support only during such time.

He also emphasised that the PNG Defence Force will not enter the province during the election period to provide manpower or security support.

19.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Three ships go up in flames off Buka island

By GORETHY KENNETH

RABAUL shipping has lost more than K20 million worth of three vessels set alight by Bougainville ex-combatants early hours of Saturday in Buka.

The vessels, MV Kopra I, Kopra II and Solomon Queen, were impounded by angry ex-combatants a month ago after the ill-fated sister ship Rabaul Queen sank off Finscahaffen waters in Morobe Province.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in Bougainville Thomas Eluh who returns to Bougainville today said yesterday that he was briefed on the matter and confirmed the three vessels were set alight between 1:30 am and 5 am Saturday.

They are now anchored at Madehas Island off Sohano, Buka Island.

Eye witnesses in Buka who were at the wharf on at 2 am told the Post-Courier that the Solomon Queen was set on fire then the two other vessels and by nine in the morning on Saturday the Kopra I and Kopra II were still in flames.

Those involved refused to comment on the issue as they claimed they were still upset with the manner in which the issue was handled – the fact that the owner and its office in Buka had no proper response to demands from those involved. All they sent to the Post-Courier when asked for response was “the ships are now burning by peaceful means”.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders remained tight-lipped on the matter. When asked in Rabaul and in Buka over the weekend they leaders said that the matter was unfortunate but needed to be handled sensitively.

But as of last night the ABG advised that a week ago, Regional MP for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso, in one of the meetings specifically recommended the ABG and or the three Open MPs settle the demand by the ex-combatants, take the vessels into custody and negotiate with the owners for reimbursement.

They also said the problem was also that of the owner-Peter Sharp for not responding in a timely manner and quickly to the demands.

More than 200 Bougainvilleans are still reported missing in the ill-fated Rabaul Queen journey to Lae six weeks ago.

19.03.2012

Source: The National

Rebels set ships on fire

REBEL elements on Buka Island torched three Rabaul Shipping vessels – mv Solomon Queen, Kopra 3 and Kopra 4 – on Saturday.

The vessels were towed from the wharf towards Sohano Island through the Buka passage, grounded on a reef and set alight.

No lives were lost, police said, but some bags of copra aboard the vessels went up in flames.

Armed men in banana boats formed a cordon to make sure no-one tried to board the ships to put the fires out.

The vessels had been stranded at the wharf since Feb 2 after they were seized by people seeking compensation for the victims of the mv Rabaul Queen, also owned by Rabaul Shipping. The ship sank in heavy seas off Finschhafen on Feb 2 claiming the lives of more than 200 passengers while 237 were rescued.

According to eyewitnesses, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, a number of armed men were seen arriving from Central and South Bougainville late last Friday night.

They boarded the ships and early the next morning, the three vessels were seen being towed to the outskirts of Buka passage where they were set alight.

At 10am on Saturday, people on Buka could see the ships burning outside the harbour.

Bougainville police on Buka said their officers were not equipped to confront the armed men. But they were monitoring the situation and trying to resolve the matter peacefully.

The Bougainville peace agreement bans law enforcers from using weapons.

Bougainville President John Momis condemned the actions of the men, saying the rule of law must be respected.

Rabaul Shipping, or its owner Peter Sharp, had not issued any statement.

Thick smoke was still coming from the ships yesterday.

About 10 banana boats with armed men on board could be seen from the shore guarding the burning ships.

Government officials and police were still trying to figure out what provoked the men to burn the ships.

An ex-combatant who asked not to be identified denied that the Mekamui defence force was involved in the burning which he believed could threaten the peace and stability of Bougainville.

He said the situation in Buka and Kokopau towns was tense as more than 100 armed men were moving freely across the Buka passage, selling loot, particularly fuel, from the three ships.

He said the men involved were mainly renegades operating individually and did not represent ex-combatants of Bougainville.

“The hijacking of the three ships started out as a means to get Sharp to pay compensation for the Bougainville lives lost in the Rabaul Queen tragedy,” he said.

“But it turned out differently when opportunists joined the cause, pretending to support our genuine interest when really they were serving their own.”

After seizing the ships, they had asked for K50,000 to “provide security”. Later, their demand increased to K350,000.

Rabaul Shipping had come back with an offer of K100,000 provided the ships were released first.

The company closed its office in Buka earlier this month and managed to evacuate the 15 crew members on board.

19.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR VISITS BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

Japanese Ambassador to PNG, HIROHARU IWASAKI arrived in Buka this morning for the opening of the 90million bridges tomorrow at Rawa bridge.

He was welcomed by the ABG leaders headed by the ABG vice president. PATRICK NISIRA.

Pictured is the ambassador at Buka airport this morning.



17.03.2012

Source: PNG exposed

MV Solomon Queen on fire at Buka wharf

Reports from Buka say that the Mv Solomon Queen has been set on fire and two other two Rabaul Shipping copra vessels have been cut loose and are now drifting out into the open sea.

The three vessels had been held under guard by local groups since the sinking of the Rabaul Queen on February 2nd. The groups said the ships would not be released until Rabaul Shipping owner Peter Sharp settled for the lives of the many Bougainvillians lost in the disaster and the recommendations of an official inquiry were published.

The PNG government is still stalling over the funding for the promised Commission of Inquiry.



17.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STARSHIP SHIPS ON FIRE

By Aloysius Laukai



3 Starship's ships owned by Peter Sharp, Solomon Queen, Kopra 1 and Kopra 4 have been set on fire on the early hours of this morning.

Fire was lit on the Solomon Queen which was tied to the two other ships and then were released from mooring at the Buka wharf.

Three ships then drifted with the tide towards Sohano island.

This occurred at about 1am and up to 9am this morning fire had gone to the two ships.

And due to the current change the three burning boats could return towards Buka town posing a risky situation in town.

It is believed those people who have been holding on to the ships burnt the over frustrations because Peter Sharp did not meet their demands to compensate relatives of those who perished in the Mv Rabaul Queen Disaster in the Morobe waters on 2nd February.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has since disassociated itself from involving in this problem. Its lawyer Chris Siriosi had earlier said that this was the work of relatives of those who died on the Mv Rabaul Queen.

16.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEACHAM HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

A world war 2 veteran who fought along American soldiers at Torokina was one of the tourists who visited Bougainville today.

CHARLES H. MEACHAM aged 86 served at Torokina at the age of 18.

He told a welcome gathering in Buka this morning that he was happy to see the place he was able to defend during the war and that he was happy Bougainvilleans were living in peace because of their struggles during the war.

MR. MEACHAM was accompanied by his wife who is also 86 years of age.

He said that he was also happy to see that development was slowly moving back into Bougainville after the civil uprising that has further crippled the region.

16.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

45 VISIT

By Aloysius Laukai

45 tourists aboard Australia's vessel Oceanic Explorer briefly visited Buka town and surrounding tourist sites before continuing with the journey to Rabaul in East New Britain Province.

The 45 people included two veterans who have served on Bougainville one during the war in Torokina and one as a Captain of a ship that used to bring cargoes to Bougainville in the late 1950's.

The tourists were greeted by traditional groups from Sorom and Pororan island.

They had the chance to visit the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives and talked to the Speaker and members of the ABG before seen other sites at Hahela and Hutjena.

They also had the chance to buy some souvenirs from the market before boarding their ship just after 1pm this afternoon.

16.03.2012

Source: The National

Team to review PNG, Bougainville powers

TECHNICAL teams from the national government and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville government will meet to review the powers and functions between the governments.

The Bougainville government will focus on the progress of a memorandum of understanding on the transfer of fisheries, police, works and community development functions and powers.

The meeting will look at updating the implementation of MoUs on education, health, agriculture, lands, technical services and symbolic powers and functions.

Team leader and deputy administrator policy for Bougainville Raymond Masono said the meeting would elaborate on the implementation of stages 2 and 3 of the strategic framework on the transfer of mining functions and powers.

He said two new submissions – the notice of intention to transfer the public service function and powers from the national government to the ABG and issues related to the framework for negotiation of reopening the Panguna mine – would be submitted.

Masono said the meeting would be tabling recommendations on steps forward on the review of the autonomy arrangement and preparations for referendum on the future political status of Bougainville.

The meeting will discuss the joint ABG/national government reconciliation and weapons disposal programme.

The ABG team had arrived in Kokopo while members of the PNG team were expected to arrive today.

16.03.2012

Source: The National

Panguna keen to align with Parkop

PANGUNA leaders in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville want to form an alliance with Powes Parkop and his Social Democratic Party to contest the general election.

The leaders have invited the SDP to set up an office in Bougainville. They are represented by Panguna Landowners Association deputy chairman Michael Pariu, MGU president Philip Miriori and women leader Patricia Tapakau representing the women in the mine areas.

They want to pick a strong candidate from Panguna to contest the 2012 election on a Social Democratic Party ticket.

“He is one of the very few national leaders with a good reputation and clean record and who supported us during the Bougainville Crisis, especially in the international community while campaigning with us on the serious violation of human rights issues against the general population of Bougainville.

“We share common values and principles on a wide range of issues in this regard, including the stamping out of corruption, which has now become a very hot issue today.

“We know (National Capital District) Governor Parkop played an important role with other leaders like Jerry Singirok and Belden Namah in forcing Sandline mercenaries to leave the shores of PNG.

“That is why we can trust him to support our cause in parliament by working closely with our candidate for the Central Bougainville seat,” their statement said.

“One other reason why the people of Panguna want to link up and establish a close working relationship with Parkop’s political party is that we can learn a lot from his achievements in transforming Port Moresby city into a safer, organised and cleaner city.

“We can certainly learn from his examples to bring about some drastic changes, first and foremost to the Panguna district, then to the rest of Central Bougainville and finally Bougainville at large.

“He has done wonders for NCD, and our people in Panguna would want to benefit from his connections and vast experience.”

16.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

Australia and PNG agree to 'move on'

There is concern in Papua New Guinea over a call by Australia's Foreign Minister to consider sanctions if the country's elections are postponed.



Less than a week into the job as Foreign Minister, Bob Carr (picture) has raised the possibility of imposing sanctions on PNG if the mid-year elections are delayed.

He says Australia would be placed in a position where it had no alternative but to organise the world to condemn and isolate Papua New Guinea if the electoral cycle is broken.

PNG Foreign Minister Ano Pala spoke to Senator Carr after calling in Australia's Acting High Commissioner for an explanation of the comments.

Before their conversation, Mr Pala said he requested that if the statement was true, that it be withdrawn and a public apology be made.

But after speaking to his Australian counterpart, Mr Pala said he accepted Senator Carr was speaking hypothetically and they had both agreed to move on.

Speaking later on Thursday, Senator Carr said he was quietly confident PNG would hold elections on time.

"It was clear from my statement that I was identifying a hypothetical situation," he said.

"I am confident that you won't see PNG do otherwise than adhere to the constitution which requires an election every five years."

Overly dramatic

Henry Okole from the National Research Institute says Senator Carr's earlier comments are overly dramatic.

"The majority of the people here are against a postponement, so I think there is really no need for him to say that," he said.

Dr Okole says it would have been better for Senator Carr to visit PNG before commenting on the elections.

'Gross overreaction'

The Australian Opposition says Senator Carr's threat is a "gross overreaction" and could jeopardise relations between the two countries.

Opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Julie Bishop says the comments will create tension and Senator Carr should have met with PNG leaders before grandstanding in the media.

"It's the sort of megaphone diplomacy that I'd hoped he wouldn't engage in," she told Pacific Beat.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has said the elections will not be delayed but others in his government have called for them to be postponed.

15.03.2012

Source: mekamui

Arawa accommodation:

SUNRISE GUESTHOUSE ARAWA

The owner and managing director of Sunrise Guesthouse in Arawa told me that he offers the best rate for his Guesthouse which is affordable for anyone who comes to visit Arawa or passes by to go to Buin, Siwai or even from Solomon and vice versa.



One thing that stuck me most is, the kitchen provides and cooks local food like taro, yam, potato, banana and vegetables. Many locals who come late in the night from working outside of Arawa, when they don't want to start up a fire and don't want to eat rice, they go to Sunrise Guesthouse kitchen for dinner. It is also very cheap.



Mr Nathan Miringoro told me that before the war he never thought about running the Guesthouse but when the peace came about he then changed what he run as a store to a guesthouse because he saw the need for accommodation in Arawa when rebuilding Bougainville.



He personally doesn't want mining, he mentioned that the government should make the agriculture sector a first priority and put more money towards it, as all works of life will be employed, not like in the mining industry. He stated that after the war there were more widows and they can't work at the mine, they work at the subsistence farming.



He further commented that tourism is the best as we will save our land and preserve our culture. It is the best gold and copper so the government should put more into tourism as well. With tourism there will be no bloodshed as in gold and copper.

He welcomes any visitors to Arawa to come and try out his guesthouse and the local food. On the security side, he says, this is not Port Moresby, this is Arawa people are friendly and it is safe for anyone.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS RESPONDS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says that the Autonomous Bougainville Government as a responsible government must follow proper procedures to draw down mining powers so that policies can be made by the ABG Parliament to address issues affecting landowners.

He was responding to requests by the ISINA resource owners for the ABG to fast track the process and give them their exploration license.

MR. MOMIS said although he was disappointed at the slow progress of the process it was better to properly address issues instead of rushing the process and realizing later that this was not the best option.

He promised to set up a committee between the resource owners and officers of the mining division to work out a process that can be practicable for all parties.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW DAWN RECEIVES DONATION

By Tapo Tovilu

New Dawn FM has received a donation from the **European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper** for its work in the region.

New Dawn FM has been recognized worldwide as a private community based radio station which continues to serve the people of Bougainville since its inception in 2007.

The donation of 400 Euro which is equivalent to K1000 will be used in the running of New Dawn FM.

The donation was made possible through its website where all news and current happenings are updated and seen throughout the world.

New Dawn FM Manager Aloysius Laukai was pleased with the donation and says it is the first for New Dawn FM and thanked the European Share Holders of BCL for their contribution.

New Dawn FM continues to operate because of assistance it gets from the small business houses in Buka, donations from the ABG and friends from abroad who believe in the dissemination of information from the region.

Mr. Laukai says this is the first donation since New Dawn FM created its donation page on the site last year.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RISK ALLOWANCE

By Aloysius Laukai

Only 950 workers will be paid first under the process of paying Risk Allowance for government workers who worked during the Bougainville Crisis.

The Minister for Finance and Planning, ALBERT PUNGHAU revealed this during question time in parliament this afternoon.

MR. PUNGHAU was responding to calls by the member for TOROKINA STEVEN SUAKO who wanted to know when the public servants would be paid.

The finance Minister said that payment of the 950 personal was not made in December due to none payment of tickets and accommodation for the staff from Port Moresby who would implement the payment.

He said that these tickets have been paid for and the first 950 people would be paid as soon as the team from Port Moresby arrive in Buka.

Minister Pungchau also said that the public servants also included persons employed on the Interim Authorities.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville POLICE READY

By Tapo Tovilu

Bougainville Police are fully prepared for the 2012 National Elections in Bougainville in June.

This was revealed by Buka police today as they start election preparation exercises within the region.

Operations including security during polling and transportation of ballot boxes in and out of polling areas were among their operations.

The Police operations Chief and PBC Inspector Cletus Tsian says that the operations have commenced and all police personal are gearing up for June.

He added that Bougainville police have also confirmed that they have sufficient man power to cover the region during the election period.

Bougainville police have called on the people of Bougainville to be respectful and show the Bougainville ways during the elections.

Bougainville police have assured the people of Bougainville that this year's elections will be trouble free and will run smoothly.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CALLS TO HELP SAVE HISTORIC SIGHT

By Tapo Tovilu

Chief of Makis Constituency Steven Taraisi is calling on the ABG and Japanese government to help in the survival of the historic Yamomoto crash site in Buin.

The Japanese Supreme Commanders plane was shot down over Buin and crashed in the now Makis constituency in 1945 during the Second World War.

Mr Taraisi says that local landowners have been engaged in the safe keeping and cleaning of both the site and the plane but now want the government to assist them.

He explained that as it is an historic sight not for Bougainville but for Japan funds should be made available for a proper road to be built and the proper care of the plane.

He has called for both the Japanese and ABG to assist in any way possible for the site and its significance in history to remain.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Uncertainty is poison: Sturm

by Blair Price

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

EUROPEAN Shareholders of Bougainville Copper president Axel Sturm says Papua New Guinea must change into a "land of the expected" and unsurprisingly, he believes significant government investment into reopening the Panguna mine will pay off.

While there has been uncertainty over whether the Panguna mine will ever reopen since it closed down in 1989 before the subsequent civil war, ESBC is concerned that Bougainville Copper shares are becoming prey to short sellers due to the recent political instability in PNG.

"It has a new Prime Minister [Peter O'Neill] elected by an overwhelming majority in Parliament while an old stubborn prime minister [Sir Michael Somare] cannot accept having been ousted," Sturm said.

"Unfortunately, the new prime minister's Deputy [Belden Namah] contributes to this situation by making irritating statements from time to time.

"This fires foreign investors' confusion."

PNG's parliament has passed the long-heralded sovereign wealth fund designed to safely manage windfall government revenues from the PNG LNG project – especially through offshore investments to avoid causing even more local inflation.

But Sturm told PNGIndustryNews.net that SWF investment into PNG industries would be a great signal to investors worldwide.

In what would also lift his own share portfolio, Sturm would like to see the PNG government increase its stake in Bougainville Copper (about 19%) and even buy more shares to give the Autonomous Bougainville government its first stake.

"I imagine if PNG/ABG hold up to 25 per cent or even more in Bougainville Copper, both would be keen to increase their stake's value by fast-tracking the reopening [of] the Panguna mine," Sturm said.

"A strong investment in Bougainville Copper shares by PNG would be understood by investors as PNG's commitment to a better economic future.

"Investors are watching out for security of their investment – uncertainty is poison.

"Certainty is strongly needed now."

The Frankfurt Stock Exchange has become the leading stock market for trading Bougainville Copper shares which are also Australian Securities Exchange-listed.

A key and longstanding hurdle to reopening the Panguna mine is gathering the support of community landowners.

There were around 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine – providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

Panguna was the world's fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989 and had produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

Rio Tinto owns around 54% of Bougainville Copper.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA READY FOR TOURIST BOAT

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka town is ready again to welcome a Tourist boat that would arrive in Buka tomorrow morning.



The vessel Oceanic Explorer would be visiting Buka for the fourth time tomorrow.

The Oceanic Explorer arrived on Bougainville this morning and was cleared by Customs Officials at Torokina this morning.

The 45 passengers mostly war veterans and their children visited World war 2 relics and other historical sites in Torokina today.

They will be in Buka for six hours before departing for Rabaul.

New Dawn FM understands Craftsmen and women would

be selling their artifacts to the tourists tomorrow.

15.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

Calls for PNG deputy leader to step down

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TINPUTZ HIGH SCHOOL :

TINPUTZ PREPARE

By Aloysius Laukai

Tired of waiting for Education authorities to make the first move, the people of Tinputz have gone their way by contributing their cash and labour towards establishing the Tinputz High School at Tearuouki mission grounds.

In making this known, the chairman of the board of the new school, and Bougainville actor and playwright, ALBERT TORO (TUKANA) told New Dawn Fm that even primary schools in the area were contributing One thousand five hundred kina each towards the project

He said that the people of Tinputz were also cutting timber for the classroom and teachers houses.

Mr. Toro said that they expect to take in the first 120 students on 2013.

He said that it has taken more than fifteen years for Tinputz to have one high school for the district.

Pictured is Headmaster for the Tinputz Primary School handing his school's contribution of K1600.



15.03.2012

Source: The National

Chan says mining meet an eye-opener

MINING Minister Byron Chan (picture) said the mining resource convention in Toronto last week was an “eye-opener” for him.



Chan said he now had a clearer picture of how the business of mining started from the initial stages, where companies and governments made initial contacts that resulted in the creation of mining projects.

He said he realised how countries around the world were competing to attract mining companies into their countries.

Meanwhile, members of the PNG mining industry had again reiterated their stand on the issue of mineral ownership in Papua New Guinea.

President and chief executive officer of Vangold Dal Brynelsen said the Boka Kondra bill that sought to transfer ownership from state to landowners was “a business risk”, as there would not be any guarantee that the tenure of exploration and mining licences would not be secure.

Executive director of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum Greg Anderson shared similar views, adding that he met with Chan and expressed the industry’s concern about the proposed bill.

Similar concerns were also raised by other mining companies.

More than 50,000 people participated in the convention including mining companies, industry suppliers and financial houses.

15.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG deputy PM allegations "embarrassing"

Allegations that Papua New Guinea's deputy prime minister sexually harassed a male casino employee in Australia are less important than claims he was gambling with 800 thousand Australian dollars.

PNG deputy PM allegations "embarrassing" That's according to Transparency PNG Chairman Lawrence Stephens.

Mr Namah's lawyers have denied the allegations, which first appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

Lawrence Stephens says the allegations will deeply embarrass PNG.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Lawrence Stephens, chairman, Transparency PNG

[Listen here !](#)

15.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill says Namah "unorthodox"

The Papua New Guinea government has had nothing to say about the Namah scandal today despite repeated attempts by our Port Moresby correspondents.

O'Neill says Namah "unorthodox" But Prime Minister Peter O'Neill told Australia Television's Pacific correspondent, Sean Dorney last month that it would take time for the people of PNG to warm to Mr Namah, a former Australian trained military officer who has unorthodox methods.

Speaker: Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister

[Listen here !](#)

15.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

Australia issues election warning to PNG

Australia's new Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, has threatened sanctions against Papua New Guinea if elections are delayed.

Senator Carr told Sky News it was "absolutely vital" PNG stick to the five-year election cycle.

"Prime Minister [Peter] O'Neill must commit unequivocally to this election," he said, in reference to the planned June elections.

"Without it, you've got a shocking model of misgovernance that is there planted in the Pacific."

Senator Carr said Australia would have "no alternative" but to urge the world to introduce sanctions if the election timetable was not adhered to.

"We'd be in a position of having to consider sanctions."

Yesterday, Senator Carr said he discussed the elections with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"She was cautiously pleased with ... the suggestion out of [Papua] New Guinea that they will adhere to that five-year election cycle," he said.

"In other words, there will be elections as expected by the middle of the year."

Senator Carr said Mrs Clinton recognised Australia's leading role in the South Pacific and pointed to America's investment in the region.

PNG Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen has indicated the elections will go ahead as planned.

15.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ISINA LANDOWNERS:

ISINA WANTS EXPLORATION

By Aloysius Laukai

Isina resource owners near the now abandoned Aropa airport, led by former BRA General, SAM KAUNA fronted up at the ABG House of representatives in Buka and presented their petition to the ABG.

They also presented gifts to the ABG PRESIDENT and the minister for natural resources, Michael Oni.

ISINA resources owners among other things wanted the ABG to fast-track the drawdown of mining powers so that the ABG can make policies to support resource owners who want to go into exploration of minerals in their areas.

They said that whilst the Panguna landowners continue to drag on the reopening of Panguna mine, at least those areas not in the BCL LEASE can start making money for the land owners as well as their government.

The Isina resource owners gave 2 weeks to the ABG to provide necessary documents so that they can get their exploration licence.

Pictured is Josephine Kauona presenting their exploration licence application documents to Minister Michael Oni.





14.03.2012

Source: PNGindustrynews

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by Blair Price

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

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European
Shareholders of
Bougainville Copper

While there has been uncertainty over whether the Panguna mine will ever reopen since it closed down in 1989 before the subsequent civil war, ESBC is concerned that Bougainville Copper shares are becoming prey to short sellers due to the recent political instability in PNG.

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14.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Grieving relatives continue to hold up ships in PNG's Bougainville

Three ships are still being occupied in the Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville by grieving relatives of those who died in the sinking of the Rabaul Queen nearly six weeks ago. Inspector Cletus Tsien says most people have gone home, but there are still about 20 people stopping the vessels leaving, which belong to the owners of the Rabaul Queen.

The Buka police commander says the families wanted 300,000 kina from the owners as compensation but the company came up with an offer of 100,000.

Mr Tsien says the occupation is starting to affect some businesses.

"The harbour's board people threatened to close down the wharf. Also the services that are rendered to the business people in Buka like one of the ships is specialised in ferrying fuel from Rabaul to Bougainville so the committee is negotiating with these people to maybe let this ship go."

Cletus Tsien says Bougainville MP Cosmas Sohia is leading negotiations with the ship occupiers.

14.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

Charge against PNG chief justice suspended

PNG's National Court has permanently stayed a charge against the chief justice, describing the police action as an "abuse of process".

The court urged the police force not to become an instrument of persecution, revenge and unnecessary prosecution.

On Monday Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner defended the force after criticism from the judiciary.

Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga said officers were just doing their duty when they arrested the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia last week.

Sir Salamo was marched from his chambers by armed policemen and later charged with perverting the course of justice.

Police alleged he circumvented a National Court order relating to the execution of a late judge's will.

Other judges described the arrest as threatening and disrespectful and said Sir Salamo should have been able to present himself to police.

But Commissioner Tom Kulunga said that would not have worked because Sir Salamo had issued a restraining order against their investigation in the past.

Liam Fox reports:

14.03.2012

Model Zero - live in Buka

13.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Manetai limestone project set to roll

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Manetai limestone project is now set to roll, and will be the first ever project wholly owned by the Autonomous Bougainville Government after its inauguration in 2005.

It will be the first successful project and will be physically seen by naked eyes since other projects are still lagging behind.

The main clan which owns the land where the limestone deposit is located, the Awora clan in the Eivo-Torau constituency have reaffirmed and re-committed themselves both individually and collectively as clan members of the Emai Commitment signed on November 3, 2011 at Birempa camp five, Panguna District. On February 29 at Bove village in Manetai the Awora clan also signed a declaration to develop a unified clan system.

And as principal landowners of the designated Manetai limestone they have further acknowledged other respective clans that share the border with them namely: Maran, Bakera Kuro and Baris clans.

They have further committed themselves as members of the Awora clan that the project will surely get off the ground as soon as all necessary requirements are met to fulfil all the satisfactions of all stakeholders involved.

The limestone project committee has already been put in place.

The signing of the declaration was attended and witnessed by Eivo-Torau ABG member Melchior Dare, Mekamui Unity Government president Philip Miriori, Panguna executive manager Otto Noruka and chief Albert Tosia.

Mr Dare said the project is the first of its kind after the crisis, and he thanked all those in his constituency for co-operating.

"This is going to be a very successful project and we will prove to the governments of the ABG and the National Government that we Eivo — Torau can be leaders in development," Mr Dare said. "Others were leaders in peace and weapons we will be for development." He said.

The landowners have also stated that all dealings will be done and shall be vested within the circles of the Awora Resource Owners Association, headed by Simon Akapitus.

When the project gets off the ground lime will be exported locally for a start to places like Lihir Goldmine for example.

Lihir spends millions importing lime from overseas.

Meanwhile Panguna District executive manager Otto Noruka said the limestone project is really moving ahead and Panguna will need some help from the limestone people.

"I really admire the way Awora clan is going about and if Panguna could be like this it will be tremendous." Mr Noruka said.

13.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

National Party attracts locals

By PETERSON TSERAHA

ONE of PNG's highly reputable political party's, The National Party has now stamped its foot on Bougainville attracting enormous support from locals.

The National Party was officially launched at the Wakunai station in Central Bougainville last week Friday attracting an enormous crowd.

Flying in all the way from Mt Hagen the party head office were David Yak, Party president and Reverend Stephen Yara chairman of Peace and Goodwill in the Western Highlands Province, who officiated during the launching.

Speaking to the Post-Courier in Buka Mr Yak said they have already secured four candidates for the four seats on Bougainville, North Bougainville open, Central, South and the regional seat.

“The National Party itself has contributed a lot to PNG’s development with reputable no nonsense leaders in the likes of the late Sir Iambakey Okuk, Paul Pora and in the current government we lost our one and only member the late Joe Mek Teine,” Mr Yak said.

He added that they were requested by the people of Bougainville to come to the launching and that woman and children have requested that if they get into government they have to look after women children and citizens of Bougainville.

“If it is a request from the women and children of Bougainville and they must not be denied their rights, as citizens of our lovely nation Papua New Guinea,” Mr Yak said.

The National Party with its Motto “We serve, You prosper” has already attracted a huge following and a lot of Bougainvilleans say the party is here to stay. Mr Yak who is vying for the Regional seat in Western Highlands Province has encouraged people, especially Bougainvilleans to support the party since strengthening peace is one of the party’s priorities.

That is the whole reason why he is the chairman of peace and good order committee in the Western Highlands.



National Party leader David Yak (second left) with supporters on Bougainville.

13.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA CAMPERS

ABG Parliament petition

By Aloysius Laukai

The first sitting of the Autonomous Bougainville House of Representatives is starting this morning but since last night resource owners from Central Bougainville came and set 27 tents outside the parliament to present a paper on how they see the ABG should work with the resource owners to engage in exploration work for minerals in their areas. Their presentation would be made during lunch today.

Pictured are the campers tents at the Kubu parliament house.



13.03.2012

Source: The National

Semoso case put off to next week

THE case before the leadership tribunal alleging misconduct against Bougainville regional MP, Fidelis Semoso was further adjourned to early next week

The tribunal bench, headed by National Court judge, Justice Salatial Lenalia, senior magistrates Ignatious Kurie and Nerrie Eliakim, could not preside over the case yesterday and adjourned the matter.

Semoso was slapped with 14 allegations in relation to misappropriation of K2.7 million for the South Bougainville feeder road project funds.

It was alleged that Semoso used the funds without proper tender process. He was also alleged to have misappropriated a K470,000 and another K1 million from the feeder road project.

He was further alleged of misconduct in office and failure to carryout his obligations under the Constitution and the organic law.

Semoso is defended by lawyer Charles Mende of Kelly Naru Lawyers.

13.03.2012

Source: The National

Chinese govt gives ABG 160 transistor radios ,laptop

THE Chinese government has donated much needed equipment to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The presentation of 160 transistor radios, nine laptop and six desktop computers took place last Friday at the Chinese Embassy in Waigani, Port Moresby, by Ambassador Qiu Bohua.

ABG minister for Finance Planning and Monitoring Albert Punghau received the items on behalf of President John Momis and the ABG.

Presenting the items, Qiu reiterated the need for Bougainvilleans to work hard to make the region conducive for foreign investors.

He said the people of Bougainville were hard working and he believed they would gradually see the benefit of their hard work.

On behalf of Momis, the ABG and people of Bougainville, Punghau thanked Qiu and the Chinese government for the donation.

He said Bougainville wholeheartedly welcomed the donation.

Punghau emphasised the appreciation and recognition given to the ABG by the Chinese government.

He said the ABG was working hard to build its capacity and the donation would achieve its objectives.

ABG chief executive officer for commerce, trade and industry Albert Kinani witnessed the donation.

13.03.2012

Source: The National

PNG will be major player in world, says ambassador Qiu

By JEFFREY ELAPA

PAPUA New Guinea will become a major player in the world economy within 20 years if there is good stable leadership in the country, ambassador of the People's Republic of China said.

Ambassador Qiu Bohua said with all the rich natural resources and the booming minerals and petroleum projects, PNG would become a major economic player in the world.

But a lot would depend on good stable leadership, he added.

Qiu said during the Mendi-Kandep highway launching in Mendi last week that PNG needed to be prudent in the management of its resources and revenues.

He pointed out that for any country to develop, infrastructure should be a priority.

The government must invest a lot in proper infrastructure, particularly good roads, before any development could take place, he said.

"China invested a lot in good roads before development and that is how it has developed significantly."

Qiu thanked the government for choosing a Chinese company to build the K485 million road project.

He said the PNG government had made a good choice by choosing Covec PNG Ltd, a Chinese company, to build the road.

"This is a sign of token of appreciation and relationship .

"And that will further strengthen the relationship between the two countries," he said.

13.03.2012

Source: The National

BSP to give mess facilities to Hutjena Secondary

HUTJENA Secondary School in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, will receive new dining tables and a new boiler for the student's mess from Bank South Pacific.

The school is one of the oldest on the island and the BSP Buka branch has identified it as part of its community project this year.

BSP Buka branch manager Julie Warren said the project would see the replacement of old and depleted dining tables and a new boiler for cooking food.

"By doing so, we help create a clean and conducive environment for students to eat so they can concentrate on their studies," she said.

She said her team would work in partnership with students and staff to deliver the project.

"This project is truly a community partnership and we are proud to be lending a helping hand to make a difference," Warren said.

School head Matin Takali thanked BSP, saying the project was not just for the school but for the local communities because after students got an education, they would return to their communities to make a change.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA HOSPITAL EMPTY

By Aloysius Laukai

It has been a month since the sinking of the MV RABAUL QUEEN in Morobe waters.

And because the three STAR SHIP'S Vessels are still grounded in Buka, the Autonomous region is now feeling the effects.

GOODS in stores are slowly running out, fuel is also running low and a life threatening problem is that the only referral hospital is low on drugs, no life supporting oxygens at the wards.

Aloysius Laukai visited the outpatients department at 3 am just to find out that the place is almost empty.

And persons needing help should use local village clinics or seek herbal doctors for help.



Pictured is the outpatients section which is normally busy with no patient.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PHILIPPINE STUDY REAL

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for Peace and Reconciliation, NICK PENIAI says that the program to send 200 Bougainvilleans to University in the Philippines is the best for Bougainville.

He made these remarks this morning whilst explaining the criteria in which students would be selected.

MR. PENIAI said that since the ABG President JOHN MOMIS assigned his division to work on this project it has taken him four weeks to carry out awareness in Bougainville.

MR. PENIAI was addressing over a thousand parents and possible students at the BEL ISI PARK in Buka town this morning.

He said that out of the TWO THOUSAND APPLICATIONS distributed over TWO HUNDRED have been filled and returned.

MR. PENIAI said that the first batch of Bougainville students would leave for the Philippines in May this year as classes would start in June.

He said that the cost of individual students to study in Philippines would be TEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED KINA and this should cover Tuition and Lodging fees, Passport fees and weekly allowances for the students.

MR. PENIAI said that the second batch of another 200 students would go to Philippines in November.

A member of the CEBU STUDY from the Philippines, MR. JENSEN GO CHOW was also there to answer to queries by parents at today's gathering.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ARMS DISPOSAL

By Aloysius Laukai

The women of Siwai want the issue of Arms to be addressed as soon as possible.

Their call is included in a petition that they presented to the Acting Executive Manager for Siwai last week.

In their petition the women wanted the ABG to immediately address the issue of arms as it was creating fear amongst many of their communities in South Bougainville.

In response the former member for KOPI, Michael Komoiki who is the chairman of the Siwai Veretarns Association, called on the women to present their case in April when the Siwai district will have its own ARMS SUMMIT to address these issues.

The petition would be presented to the President of the ABG, Chief John Momis in Buka this week.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMEN COMPLAIN

By Aloysius Laukai

The women of Siwai have called on their local leaders to work with them in making Siwai a safe place to live in.

The President of the Siwai Women's Federation, RUTH HAGOPO issued this challenge in Siwai last week.

She was speaking at the International Women's Day celebration in Siwai.

MRS. HAGOPO made these comments after the ABG members invited did not attend their celebration.

She said that women are the first to feel the consequences for men's actions and that it was important for the leaders to address their issues.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

By Aloysius Laukai

Work is already underway to present a Policy submission to the ABG to support the new move to educate Bougainvilleans in the Philippines.

This was revealed today by the CEO for Peace and Reconciliation, MR. NICK PENIAI.

He was responding to calls made by a former member for the ABG, THOMAS KERIRI who wanted to know if the ABG would be subsidizing the cost of the fees for Bougainvilleans that would study in Philippines Universities.

MR. KERIRI said if the ABG does not assist then this would create only the wealthy sending their kids whilst the rest of Bougainvillean parents who would not afford this TEN THOUSAND KINA staying back.

In response, MR. PENIAI said that this was ABG President, JOHN MOMIS'S project and it was now up to the administration to quickly response and organize funds to assist.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Siwai women celebrate

The women of Siwai district last week united to celebrate the International Women's Day at AMIO District office in Siwai.

The women last year set up their District Women Federation to promote their activities and this International Women's Day was their first gathering since they set up their organization.

Over FIVE THOUSAND WOMEN came in groups from the COE areas and commemorated the day with spiritual and cultural activities.

The President of the Siwai women's federation, RUTH AGOPO in her speech call on the ABG and National government leadership to work with the women to move Bougainville forward.

She said that the women of Bougainville have a big potential in which the leaders can utilize and work as equal partners with their men counterparts.



Siwai women marching at Ameu last week

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COMBATANTS RECONCILE

By Tapo Tovilu

Relatives and ex combatants looking after the three star shipping ships today reconciled in a ceremony held at the Buka wharf.

The two fractions including combatants from both North and South and Central Bougainville reconciled after an incident last Friday between them which resulted in the exchange of gun fire.

Chiefs and leaders from both sides commended members from both sides for agreeing to reconcile and encouraged them to keep peace amongst themselves.

Kosmas Sahoto Member for Tsitalato in his speech thanked all parties involved and commended them for the commitment.

He made it clear that the reconciliation was for last Friday's incident and for the movement of the ship into the passage and was not for the release of the ships.

He also called for all ex combatants to recognise the peace agreement and to rid guns from both Buka town and Kokopau.

He says that North is where the economy of the region is at and there must be peace and unity for development to commence.

The reconciliation ceremony also saw the exchanged of pigs, the braking of spears and the exchange of the chewing of betel nut.

12.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RELATIVES TO MOVE STAR SHIPPING SHIPS

By Tapo Tovilu

Relatives of the victims of the Rabaul Queen disaster currently holding the three star Shipping vessels will be moving the ships into the passage.

A spokesperson told New Dawn FM today that they will be moving the ships into the passage to make way for ships wishing to dock into Buka wharf.

He says this will also serve as a warning to Peter Sharp that the relatives demand to be met or the ships will be sunk.

The spokesman says that they will not release the ships until all demands are met by Star Shipping.

12.03.2012

Source: Mekamui News

SAM KAUONA RECONCILIATION

by mekamui



On the 28th of February I made an arrangement to go to Dantani to film the Damako Genesis School or actually I was there last year but the students were out on Holidays so for the film to look better the students must be in the class. Therefore, Clytus the head of the school arranged the transport to pick me up in Arawa. When we arrived at the school there were a lot more people than I expected, the men were sitting in a small building and the women were busy preparing food.





I thought Mmh this is something special but to do what I was there for I took out my camera and told Clytus that I wanted to film the students and started filming. After I had taken enough footage I saw Josephine Kauona the wife of former BRA Commander and asked her what was happening? She told me that she and her husband were making reconciliation or some kind of ceremony to the BRAs and the people of that area to say thank you for looking after them during the war.



It was an emotional one because after the peace was signed Sam and Josi had been far away from the BRAs and the people they had been so close to and who were like family members to them during the war. Most of the BRAs or bodyguards for Sam were young in those days but now they are in their 40s and 50s.



The ceremony started with speeches from Sam Kaouna, the chiefs, BRAs and the women than it ended up with Kare kara or eating betel nuts and finally sharing of food and pigs. Another life has begun, the BRAs and the people were happy that Sam and his wife came up with the idea of making this small ceremony and the BRAs and the people will have stories to tell their kids when they are getting old.

12.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna landowners warn ABG

PANGUNA landowners have warned the Autonomous Bougainville Government and international and donor agencies not to use the Panguna Mine issue to make money.

The interim deputy chairman of Panguna Landowners Association Michael Pariu expressed his deepest concern over the way in which ABG and some of the international and donor agencies and their consultants are using the Panguna issue to drive the hidden agenda of their respective governments on Bougainville, especially in respect to mining and making money out of it.

Mr Pariu has decided to issue this statement following a one day meeting of the Panguna Management Consultative Committee (PMCC) which is the body responsible for overseeing the current Panguna Unification Process at Tunuru Catholic Mission recently.

Mr Pariu said that the Committee held extensive discussions at the way in which some of the donor agencies and their consultants are treating the Panguna issue to make their money on the sufferings and the blood of the people.

“During our meeting at Tunuru the members of the committee expressed very strong views and sentiments over the kind of attitude which certain foreign interest groups have been going about conducting their business.

They have been doing this with almost complete disregard for the people who have survived by attending to issues through their customary practices,” he said.

“Our people are completely disgusted by this type of colonial attitude from foreigners who simply want to make their money on the blood of our people,” Mr Pariu said.

“We are sick and tired of this type of so called experts and advisors who not only are being used as agents and spies by their governments, but they also personally benefited immensely over the years from the Bougainville situation.”

“We simply don’t want to see so called experts who also act as double agents acting for their governments while under the pretext of rendering their services as neutral advisors to the people.

“These agencies cannot continue to wave their dollars in front of our people so that we can easily submit to their hidden motives because of the colour of their monies”.

Our people have gone through so much suffering and pain already, and foreigners should not therefore come back again to continue exploiting us” Mr Pariu said.

12.03.2012

Source: The National

Locals slam Mirringtoro’s media remarks

PANGUNA Landowners Association deputy chairman Michael Pariu and Mekamui government of unity president Philip Miriori have hit back at statements by Communications minister Jimmy Mirringtoro.

In a joint statement from Panguna, the two leaders described the comments by Mirringtoro, the Member for Central Bougainville in the media on March 6, as “hollow and lacking substance”.

They said his comments “certainly sounded very positive but unfortunately it was too little too late”.

“Where was the minister in the past five years when he should have come out with this kind of comments and fight for the rights of the people, instead of keeping silent in Parliament all this time over Panguna related issues?” they said

“Why did he not fight for these things for the people and now all of a sudden just before the election he wants to pretend and speak for the people?”

They accused Mirringtoro of being too naive and not being genuine enough with the people of Central Bougainville since he was elected into Parliament.

They said Mirringtoro had lost touch with and hardly did anything to help the people.

They accused Mirringtoro of wasting his time in Parliament.

They said Mirringtoro had made promises he could not even keep and people are still waiting.

“So how can we trust the man next time when he failed the people by not putting his money where his mouth was in the past five years?” they asked.

“During the past five years, the people of Central Bougainville have proven that the minister is not the kind of political leader they can really trust to walk the talk.” they said.

“His comments can be seen as too little too late.”

12.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kamma helps Mongai Primary

STUDENTS of Mongai primary school in the Buin District of South Bougainville can now look forward to the completion of their 6 in 1 double classroom. Thanks to the South Bougainville MP



Steven Pirika Kamma for injecting funds to complete the building. The building which was constructed in 2009 is an initiative of the parents and citizens of Mongai but lack of funding has resulted in the building not being completed. However, once completed, the students will then start with their academic calendar for this year. At the moment the students are still at the village following a decision by the Bougainville Education Division to suspend the school for an indefinite period due to lack of good buildings for both students and teachers to use. The main reason behind the continuous deterioration of the school's buildings over the last three years is because it is located in one of the areas which have seen a lot of fighting and killings between the Me'ekamui Defence Force and other factions in the area. As a result parents and citizens of

the school did not want to risk their lives working in the school. Mr Kamma, who is also the Minister for Bougainville Affairs has engaged local building contractor, Kakai Builders to complete the building. picture shows construction work on the school building which Mr Kamma has given money to complete. Words and Picture: WINTERFORD TOREAS

11.03.2012

Source: VSA - Voluteer Service Abroad (New Zealand)

Melanesia: Rebuilding Bougainville

(Published on 16th February 2012)

Former journalist from Timaru, Murray Benbow spent two years working as a VSA Country Programme Manager in Bougainville between 2001-2002 directly following the end of a bitter civil war that divided communities and destroyed all but the most basic of infrastructure. He returned to take up the role again in 2010. Now, as he nears the end of his current two year tenure he looks back over a period of great change for the people of Bougainville.



Murray during his first time a Country Programme Manager in 2001-2002

When people in New Zealand ask me what Bougainvilleans are like I tend to say 'fiercely independent'. That is not to say they are not gracious and generous, which they are. Nationhood is a relatively new concept here, but Bougainvilleans seem to have a natural affinity with the idea.

Beginnings

When I first came to Bougainville in 2001 it was a place where trust and respect was almost non-existent. The civil war had destroyed the basics on which safe human interaction depends. Criminal types were still terrorising Arawa, where VSA's programme was taking root in the form of the Arawa carpentry project, a metalwork training scheme and the Arawa Women's Training Centre for young women to learn the hospitality business.

My wife Terry and I experienced some frightening times during 2001-02 and coming back 10 years later it took 2-3 months before I was able to act 'normally', having slowly desensitised myself to all those previous cues that put me on alert.

But during the past two years there have been no threats. In 2001-2002 it was scary driving the Buka-Arawa coastal highway with every vehicle a potential threat. Now they wave and toot as we pass. 'Normal life' is back on track, although there is much work ahead as Bougainvilleans reconcile the terrible events of the conflict and learn to get their village-based lifestyles back.

The rebuilding process might seem slow at times, but from where I'm looking, there has been huge progress, especially emotionally and psychologically. It is not always easy to forgive and the crisis generation will never forget. I have huge admiration for the dedication that these people have shown in their determination to return to the way of peace.

Looking forward

Bougainville now has its own Autonomous Bougainville Government and its people will vote for or against full independence from PNG sometime before 2020. Whichever way the vote goes, Bougainville will retain its status of autonomy. Anything less would not be acceptable, I'm sure.

The current government is led by John Momis, a careful visionary who is incorruptible in the face of pressures from both PNG and internationally. He seems determined to develop Bougainville according to the will of its people, rather than bow those who are casting greedy eyes on the bountiful resources here: copper, gold, silver, gas and maybe even oil..

Seeds of the rebuild

Local business is thriving, especially in Buka which became the ad hoc centre of government after Arawa was all but destroyed during the crisis. The increase in shipping at Buka and Kieta ports is obvious. Copra and cocoa prices have firmed with exports and imports growing quickly. It truly is amazing to see the pre-crisis trucks loaded high with sacks of copra, grinding their way along the road to the buyers sheds.

The Japanese government has financed the building of 15 bridges along the Buka-Arawa coastal highway. They should all be completed by mid 2012. Travel along this road has been a risky business for years, with flooding causing delays and vehicles damaged or lost down raging rivers on a regular basis. Myself and other VSA field reps have tangled with these rivers since 1998, sometimes coming close to disaster.



VSA vehicle attempting to cross one of the many Bougainville rivers

Town power (24hr) turned on in Arawa in December 2011. This is likely to be the beginning of great changes over the next decade. The BSP Bank is looking at opening an Arawa branch this year. Cellphone coverage is on the increase with data to computers via the same networks.

The Division of education together with the Flexible and Open Distance Education institution is making it possible for those who missed out on an education during the crisis to catch up. There is still only one major health facility, Buka Hospital. But moves are afoot to improve the network of health centres island-wide. I have no doubt that Bougainville will slowly but surely catch up with the rest of Papua New Guinea and it won't surprise me if it pulls ahead in the not too distant future.

Bougainville is rebuilding its way into the 21st Century.

VSA is playing a significant role in the strengthening of governance, an essential ingredient in the mix that will shape the future for Bougainville. It is also active in health, education and economic development. VSA assignments place highly skilled volunteers in assignments which aim to strengthen local skills and processes. As a non donor organisation with a people-oriented approach to development, Bougainvilleans hugely appreciate the way Kiwis form and build relationships and put people first, ahead of success in the workplace.

When a Bougainvillean finds out you are a New Zealander they'll tell you how much they appreciated the help from New Zealand during the peace process. "Kiwis respect our culture. You understand our desire for self government."

09.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls for more students

By Tapo Tovilu

The Ceo for Peace and reconciliation, Nick Penia says that a total of 150 applications have been received from more than 2000 forms distributed to interested students from Bougainville wishing to study on philippines universities.

He said only 200 students would be selected to go to philippines from the 2000 applications.

He said that due date for the applications has been moved from 8th March to 14th March.

Mr Penia said that the President of Cebu studies and representative of three universities, Jensen Gochow will meet parents in Buka on Monday to explain on details of the progamme.

09.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Strong winds warning

By by Tapo Tovilu

PNG POWER LIMITED has issued a warning to all residents living near power lines and transformer stations to be aware of the strong winds tha Buka has been experiencing in the last few days.

In the issue residents have been asked to keep clear of power lines and to report any fallen power lines or any debris that might be caught on lines.

Reports of ast month's wet weather conditions have escalated with stong winds with the people of Buka warned to take exta precautions when outside.

PNG POWER will be attending to any emergncy calls and is on standby to assist anyoe who has power problems.

09.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT

Buka town continues to change

By Aloysius Laukai

BUKA town continues to change its appearance with new developments, however nobody cares about the street roads and its drainage.

Pictured are heavy equipments running on the deteorirating street road in front of New Dawn Fm office in Buka back filling one of the last vacant blocks in Buka town.

The development is good however the town council and ABG should not turn a blind eye on the drainage of Buka town streets as it is a concern as during heavy rains water from the roads continue to flood houses on both sides of these streets.

Attempts by us to get some comments from authorities were unsuccesful.



09.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Big drop in PNG stock market this week

Papua New Guinea's stock market has taken a plunge of 5 per cent this week but that's expected to recover again today.

New Britain Palm Oil has been one of the main winners so far this week and Bank South Pacific has also recovered well.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Syd Yates, chief executive of PNG Kina Securities

YATES: Yes the main index, the KSI, Kina Securities Index was down five per cent for the week or 335 points to five-thousand-900. It's been doing very well this year but it's probably the first time it's dropped below six-thousand in about three to four weeks. The market was pretty much because of what was happening, a bit of profit taking because the markets have been having a good run for the last three weeks, and also back on there was a little bit of uncertainty about Greece earlier in the week, and I think that's been resolved overnight. So I was just reading the report this morning, so we probably expect the market will be up again today.

COUTTS: And the New Britain Palm Oil led the gainers?

YATES: Yeah New Britain Palm Oil, they were up a kina, and they've been travelling fairly well at the moment with their new oil refinery that they've built over there. They've been very volatile up till now and we're not really sure why, but they're back up another kina to 25 kina 50.

COUTTS: Ok and the banks, South Pacific has recovered to close higher at the close?

YATES: Yes that's our local banking stock, Bank South Pacific, they're up four toea. Look their results are due to be announced this week and it's either today or tomorrow it'll be announced for their annual results last year, and they're probably expected to be up. So it's probably a bit of speculation about what's coming in the announcement.

COUTTS: And Kina Asset Management also up?

YATES: Yes that's our local listed investment company in Papua New Guinea and they were up two toea from 96 toea. All the companies, it's reporting season here at the moment Geraldine so over the next couple of weeks you'll find that most of the companies will be making the announcements on their results of 2011.

COUTTS: A surprising result for Oil Search this week?

YATES: Yeah Oil Search was down 40 toea, and it's a little bit unexplainable, they had a very good profit announcement recently, they had about 202 million US dollars, and they've also had to pay out oil prices and even last night they closed up higher, I think on the Australian market they were up over 7 dollars again. So they're looking to have a good year.

COUTTS: And Newcrest Mining not doing so well either?

YATES: Yeah Newcrest fell off and I think there was a report of a near halt operation in one of their main mines on the island of Lihir. So any event like that happens it sort of sends a little bit of a scare to the investors and they probably jumped in and just took the price off a little bit.

COUTTS: And so that's a look at the Stock Ex, no other changes?

YATES: No that's about it Geraldine.

COUTTS: Now you are the Chef de Mission, and I'm always tempted to say what's your favourite dish because I think it's a strange title, but you are for the PNG team for London. What's happening there, how are they progressing?

YATES: Look there's a lot of exciting things happening about our preparations for London. Look the most exciting news recently was our women's football team, they've just won the Oceania football qualifiers, and now they have the right to play against New Zealand later on in the month, and to qualify to go to London Olympics. And that'll be a hard task, but if we can get through that then it'll be the first time we've had a football team away at the Olympics. But here's hoping it works out. We've got a couple of our athletes, Mowen Boino has been running the 400 metres hurdles in the circuit in Australia and he's been doing very well, he's a veteran, I think this is his fourth Olympics if he makes it, and this has been his second best time just recently. And Toea Wisil, our sprinter, has been running behind Sally Pearson and finishing in second or third, so she's been doing extremely well too. All our other athletes have been offshore and getting ready for events to help them qualify in preparation as well.

COUTTS: Well how many do you think will actually qualify? We've been excited in the past with the number that might qualify and they've fallen short. Are there any guarantees that you'll have a significant team to take to London?

YATES: Look we're expecting to have at least six with qualifications so far. We've had taekwondo and it looks like we've got judo qualified now as well as two swimmers and two athletes. We're

hoping that we've got a couple of boxers and our two weightlifters. So we could have either six or 40. So it's somewhere in between and we probably won't know till about May.

COUTTS: Alright moving on to the PNG 2015 Games now, how's that progressing?

YATES: Look we were stalled for a little while with legislation and those sorts of things, so it seems to all be on track that the legislation got passed through a couple of weeks ago, and it's all moving very quickly now. So the O'Neill government's got things moving, they've appointed a minister for the games now, that's Bart Philemon, and he's a former chairman of the previous games that were held here in Port Moresby in 1991. So everything's sort of gearing up and I think there's been more achieved in the last six weeks or so than there had in the last 18 months.

09.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Siwai women dissatisfied

By PORENI UMAU

MORE than 2000 women in the Siwai, South Bougainville have expressed disappointment at their constituency members.

This includes the South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika for not attending to their petition.

The women came up with a petition for Mr Pirika and the Siwai district administration to build tertiary institutions.

This includes other colleges in their area for their children to attend.

They come up with such a demand after the fateful journey of the MV Rabaul Queen which sank off the shores of Finschhafen in Morobe province after it succumbing to rough seas while on its way to Lae from Kimbe.

Among those that perished were mostly students from and 10 of those missing were from the Siwai area.

The women from the three constituencies Ramu, Kopii and Motunahiono, all dressed in their best, armed with banners and placards marched to the Aemeu district office with a petition only to be met by a ghost district administration, almost half deserted.

A very frustrated Francesca Peter from Mobinai village told the Post-Courier yesterday evening that they waited from 8 am to 2 pm yesterday for any of the district officers or at least one of the members from the three constituencies to come forward and accept their petition... but no one turned up.

She said the women, all disappointed by the non attendance of their local MP and even the local leaders gave their petition to one of the officers present at the district office.

Mr Peter said that the women will still follow up on their petition saying they have suffered long enough.

A return trip to Buka was K200.

They also demanded that the administration provide them better health services.

09.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

BSP helps Hutjena

Hutjena Secondary School in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will get new dining tables and boiler from the Bank South Pacific.

The school is one of the oldest on the island and the BSP Buka branch has identified the school as part of its community projects for 2012.



BSP Buka branch manager Julie Warren said the project would see the replacement of old and depleted dining tables and a new boiler installed for cooking food.

“By doing so, we help create a clean and conducive environment for students to eat so they can concentrate on their studies,” she said.

She added that the significance of this project was that her team would work in partnership with

the students and staff to deliver the projects.

“This project is truly a community partnership and we are proud to be lending a helping hand to make a difference,” Ms Warren added.

School head Martin Takali thanked BSP for the kind act, and added that the project was not just for the school but for the community at large, because after the students get an education, they would return to communities to make a difference.

08.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women's Day

By Aloysius Laukai

About a thousand women met at Buka's premier resort, Kuri village for a two-hour luncheon to commemorate this year's International Women's Day this morning.

The women's day luncheon was organized by Leitana Women's Development Agency.

The two-hour luncheon started at TEN AM and ended at about 1pm.



Pictured are two women leaders, ELIZABETH BURAIN and HELEN HAKENA.

08.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Napi backs Miringtoro's call for serious mine talk

A former employee and fleet truck contractor to BCL has come out strongly in support of the Minister for Communications and Member for Central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringtoro on his call for Panguna landowners to seriously negotiate with appropriate bodies to reopen the closed down copper and gold mine.

Mr Kandaso Napi, who spent nearly 20 years on the island of Bougainville working for BCL and later contracted to provide trucking services to the mine, blames the government at that time for not taking heed of the calls by landowners to review the mine agreement to discuss and accommodate their grievances.

He said instead of sending in a high level negotiating team, the government sent in police and the army to intimidate and terrorise the landowners.

He also reckons the mining company, BCL or Rio Tinto for that matter, merely worked under the guidelines of the Mining Laws at that time and it was really up to the National Government to provide direction and leadership.

He said PNG benefited immensely from that single mine at that time and many Papua New Guineans owe it to BCL for providing quality training for their future benefits.

Many former employees of BCL and others who have worked for or were associated with BCL in one way or another, would agree that the level of service and training offered by BCL may still be remembered as the best in the mining industry in the country.

Mr Napi, who was bestowed an MBE medal by the Queen last year for his continued services to business and community, is now calling on the good people of Bougainville, particularly the Panguna landowners to seek reconciliation and negotiate vigorously with the National Government and BCL with the view to reopening the mine for their benefit.

08.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Almost 100 new British companies interested in investing in the Pacific

A two-week investment roadshow in Britain, showcasing opportunities in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji has sparked significant interest.

Almost 100 new British companies interested in investing in the Pacific (Credit: ABC) The British High Commissioner to PNG, Jackie Barson (picture), led the roadshow and held talks with almost 100 British companies.

Ms Barson says business and diplomatic links between the UK and the region are strong.



Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Jackie Barson, British High Commissioner to PNG

[Listen here !](#)

BARSON: The Pacific is strategically important to the UK because of its great commonwealth links and of course the number of UN votes that it can garner.

GARRETT: But in terms of business. What sort of bus interests does Britain have in the region?

BARSON: Well, business, interests! I think people will find it quite surprising that there is already quite a visible UK footprint here in Papua New Guinea. I mean, we have Swires, who are here in the form of Steamship Company, British American Tobacco, **Rio Tinto**, G4S and the Corps which are two security companies and, of course, the Intercontinental Hotel group. That is the major business players but I am hoping that will now increase since my roadshow. And also, as listeners may have picked up, Shell also opened an office in the Petromin building a couple of weeks ago, as part of their strategic alliance with Petromin so that is also very, very positive news.

GARRETT: As you mentioned, you have just finished a roadshow in Britain. What interest did you get and in what sectors of the economy in Papua New Guinea , Solomon Islands and Fiji?

BARSON: I covered the economies of all 3 countries and then I've concentrated on 5 key sectors, which are oil, gas and **mining**, green technology and renewables, agriculture, fisheries and tourism and so it was on those 5 sectors that I concentrated. But, I think, the main thrust of my presentations was solely on Papua New Guinea as I see PNG as the major driver of growth in the Pacific Island countries, and there was greater interest in oil, gas mining and renewables. But, I think also, those that I talked to were surprised at the diversity of the economy here. You know, when I started to talk about other commodities and agriculture and world class tea and coffee and palm oil and vanilla, for example. So I think people were surprised at the breadth and the resourcefulness of the economy here.

GARRETT: So what concrete interest did you get from companies there in Britain.

BARSON: concrete interest ..it's hard to gauge. People were very open to hearing from me and, as I said, a lot of the companies hadn't really thought about Papua New Guinea and were interested to hear about the strengths of the economy and what the country has to offer. Obviously, the major contracts for oil and gas have already gone to the big players, like ExxonMobil, but all these industries need support. And, I suppose I was saying infrastructure, for example, and support for these big industries..there are so many contracts that fall out of the major contracts that I had the since that the UK, or UK plc (publicly isted companies) were missing out on the strength of the market here and what PNG has to offer. So it was a very diverse audience that I was speaking to across those 5 sectors.

GARRETT: So what sort of size of companies, were the main ones that were interested?

BARSON: Again, it was from all forms of big players and there were popel looking at investment, small and medium-sized enterprises. People who wanted to build roads, people who wanted to get into education, and then at the other end of the angle, offers of tendering to help build ports or help airstrips or whatever. So, it was across the whole spectrum of services that support the main oil and gas and mining sectors.

GARRETT: The British economy is going through some very tough times at the moment. Is that making it harder to interest companies in coming all the way to the Pacific or, is the fact that places like Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have very strong economic growth, making the Pacific more attractive?

BARSON: No, I think it works both ways. As you quite rightly say, while the UK and the rest of Europe is going through difficult economic times at the moment, I think it is a good reason to look further afield, and especially as a lot of international companies have subsidiaries in Asia and in Australia, it is not that far anymore. And, I think with the opening up of air links in this part of the world, Papua New Guinea is not really that far away and, I think, it is time for the UK and others to look further afield and diversify and maybe not look at traditional partners, if you like.

08.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DRUG SHORTAGE

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka general Hospital Bougainville's only referal centre this week closed down only to attend Emergencies due to severe shortage of drugs.

In an interview with New Dawn Fm, Medical services director of the hospital, DR.BARNABAS MATANU said that this would be temporary until drugs arrive from the area medical store in Rabaul.

He called on patients to utilize health facilities in their districts as they still have drugs.

New Dawn fm understands Bougainville will still have shortage in other goods as three cargo ships are still stuck in Buka following the recent sea disaster involving a Starship boat, the MV RABAU QUEEN.

07.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BAKANOBIBRIDGE OPEN

By Aloysius Laukai

The BAKANOBIBRIDGE which is the first bridge coming from Arawa to Buka has been officially opened on March 2nd.

This river has been one of the most dangerous wet crossings during floods and using the bridge starting Friday is a great relief for highway motorists.

The BAKANOBIBRIDGE is one of the fifteen Bridges that are being built by KITANO CONSTRUCTION under the JAPANESE Bridge projects on Bougainville.

According to the program, the opening ceremony was made at the site whilst other activities were held in Arawa on Friday night.

New Dawn FM UNDERSTANDS all the FIFTEEN bridges would be completed before the official handover ceremony by the government of Japan on March 20th this year.

The handover ceremony would be held at the RAWA river near Buka.

07.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna landowners caution foreign donors

PANGUNA landowners have given a warning to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and international and donor agencies not to use the Panguna Mine issue to make money.



The interim deputy chairman of Panguna Landowners Association Michael Pariu (picture) has expressed his concern over the way in which ABG and some of the international and donor agencies and their consultants are using the Panguna issue to drive the hidden agenda of their respective governments on Bougainville, especially in respect to mining and making money out of it.

Mr Pariu has decided to issue this statement following a one day meeting of the Panguna Management Consultative Committee (PMCC) which is the body responsible for overseeing the current Panguna Unification Process at Tunuru Catholic Mission recently.

Mr Pariu said that the Committee held extensive discussions at the way in which some of the donor agencies and their consultants are treating the Panguna issue to make their money on the sufferings and the blood of the people.

“During our meeting at Tunuru the members of the Committee expressed very strong views and sentiments over the kind of attitude which certain foreign interest groups have been going about

conducting their business with almost complete disregard for the people who have survived by attending to issues through their customary practices from time immemorial” he said.

“Our people are completely disgusted by this type of colonial attitude from foreigners who simply want to make their money on the blood of our people, ” Mr Pariu said.

“We are sick and tired of this type of so called experts and advisors who not only are being used as agents and spies by their governments, but they also personally benefited immensely over the years from the Bougainville situation.”

“We simply don’t want to see so called experts who also act as double agents acting for their governments while under the pretext of rendering their services as neutral advisors to the people.

“These agencies cannot continue to wave their dollars in front of our people so that we can easily submit to their hidden motives because of the colour of their monies”.

Our people have gone through so much suffering and pain already, and foreigners should not therefore come back again to continue exploiting us” Mr Pariu said.

Mr Pariu said that if they want to come, they must come with a clean and genuine heart to help Bougainvilleans. “Help us with your money and let us use our customary systems and processes to solve our problems,” Mr Pariu said.

07.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville culture shown on film in France

By CARMEL PILOTTI

A film made in Bougainville in the 1930’s has found its way from France all the way to its origin, Papua New Guinea.

The film ‘Bougainville’ was made between 1934 and 1935 by a priest named Patrick O’Reilly who precisely documents the Bougainville people and their culture, and is the oldest film ever made on the island.

O’Reilly was able to capture two pottery methods and four important rituals; bonito (a type of fish) capture in Kieta Bay, cremation in the Telei area and wedding and cremation in two other areas.

It has little or no influence by the western world and is quite simply, PNG culture on film.

The invaluable film was brought to PNG by Nicolas Garnier, the Director of Melanesian and Pacific Studies and senior lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Papua New Guinea; after a trip to his home country France.

Mr Garnier has since shown the film in 15 different locations in Bougainville including the Tinputz and Wakunai areas and Arawa and Kieta, leaving the people very much impressed. He also has plans to translate the film, which is currently in French to English and Pidgin so he may distribute it for educational purposes only, around to schools and communities. He will first have to obtain copyright permission from the owners of the film, a small institution in France, Musée du Quay Branly.

07.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ROAD UPGRADING

by Aloysius Laukai

Upgrading of the main road Buka to Arawa has started.

And this would end with the sealing of the first 20 km from Kokopau to Siara.

Second phase is from Siara to Tsunptez until the whole 210km is completed.



Pictured is a woman controlling the flow of traffic as workmen continue with the upgrading.

07.03.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Site on

By Aloysius Laukai



Our site came live again thanks to the European Shareholders of BCL who assisted us with the payment of our accounts.

The management and staff of New Dawn Fm on Bougainville do appreciate your contribution when we can not do it from Bougainville due to technical difficulties.

We will update this site again.

Our viewers have been asking why the has not been updated for some time now.

Thanks to Axel Sturm

06.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG chief justice charged with perverting course of justice

Papua New Guinea's Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia is expected to appear in court tomorrow after being charged with trying to obstruct a police investigation into his management of the courts.

Sir Salamo was arrested in Port Moresby today and later released on his own recognisance.

Don Wiseman has more details:

"The police spokesperson, Superintendent Dominic Kakas, says Sir Salamo has been charged with obstructing a police investigation into his intervention in the handling of a dead judge's estate. Police allege the chief justice personally intervened in the handling of the late Justice Timothy Hinchliffe's estate and illegally redirected a cheque of about 100 thousand US dollars, meant for the former judge's son, into court coffers. Mr Kakas says police allege Sir Salamo intervened and ordered the cheque be recalled and had a new cheque made to the court's staff services. In December, Sir Salamo presided over the Supreme Court decision which found Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his supporters did not follow due constitutional process when they

dumped former prime minister Sir Michael Somare from the top job. The Government had suspended him ahead of that decision but after an outcry withdrew it. A second suspension in February was allowed to stand.”

06.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

Papua New Guinea's top judge arrested

06.03.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Chief Justice arrested

Police in Papua New Guinea arrested the country's top judge, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Indjia.

PNG Chief Justice arrested The ABC's PNG Correspondent Liam Fox gave an update to Pacific Beat.

Presenter: Brian Abbott

PNG Correspondent Liam Fox

[Listen here !](#)

FOX: Today, another extraordinary day in PNG began with the arrest of Sir Salamo inside the Supreme Court complex in Port Moresby. He was arrested by a group of heavily armed policemen and some photos on social media show there were a lot of police there and they've blocked off the entrance to the court complex. From there, he was taken to police headquarters, where he was questioned for several hours. Then he was taken to the Boroko Police Station and formally charged with perverting the course of justice. A short time after that, he was released on bail and declined to make any comment as he was driven away from the police station.

ABBOTT: Do we know any details of what this perverting the course of justice applies to?

FOX: No we don't. Police so far haven't released any of the details surrounding this charge, where it's come from, why it's been laid. We've been told several times that a police statement will be coming out shortly, that hasn't yet happened. I think what we can say is that it's likely, likely but not confirmed that this is related to ongoing attempts by the government of Peter O'Neill to remove Sir Salamo from office. It has tried several times since November, last year, to suspend him from office over what it says are allegations of official misconduct. But the Supreme Court has so far stayed those suspension attempts and now we have what has happened today.

ABBOTT: Do we know how this fractures relationship between Peter O'Neill's government and Sir Salamo developed?

FOX: How it developed, sorry?

ABBOTT: Yes, how it developed in the first place?

FOX: No look, all I can say to you is outline the course of events. These suspension attempts began in November last year in the run up to the decision in December by the Supreme Court as to who was the legitimate prime minister, whether it was Peter O'Neill or Sir Michael Somare. The first attempt was made just before that, as was the second attempt, and as we know that Supreme Court decision was handed down and that found Sir Michael Somare to be the legal prime minister of Papua New Guinea and as we know, Peter O'Neill has continued to be the effective prime minister with the support of the majority of members of parliament, the police force, the army, and the bureaucracy.

ABBOTT: Has anyone from the PNG government said anything today or are they keeping their heads low?

FOX: Eh, they're keeping their heads low. Peter O'Neill is due to hold a press conference around this time, but we've been told he'll be speaking on landowner issues related to the massive liquefied natural gas project here, not the Chief Justice issue. The Internal Security Minister, John Boito, who's responsible for police was seen walking into police headquarters while Sir Salamo was being questioned, but he hasn't released any comments, and as I said before, police themselves are yet to release any comments, any details of how this charge came about.

ABBOTT: Sir Salamo has been released on bail. When is he likely to be back in court?

FOX: He's due to appear in court tomorrow morning.

06.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna Mine issue vital

By PETERSON TSERAHA

CENTRAL Bougainville MP and Minister for Communications in the National Government, Jimmy Miringoro (picture) says Panguna Mine issues are still important and landowners must be prepared to take negotiations to the next level.



Panguna Mine issues has always become a topic of interest for the international community, the media, and the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Bougainville have been encouraged and assured by the MP, that negotiations have to change tactics now so that, Bougainvilleans would benefit from the mines spin-offs .

“The Panguna Mine alone contributed a lot in the development of PNG as a whole, and the revenue from the mine built bridges schools airports and roads.” Mr Miringoro said.

“It even contributed in building the parliament house in Waigani.” he said.

He said leaders in that time were quite ignorant of the mining impacts to the environment, and if they were cautious enough the Bougainville crisis could not have eventuated.

“PNG is on a brink of coming to a standstill, because we have a lot of mines now but we are not feeling an impact, and no major development is taking place, to prove that these mines are making profit and revenue they are not even improving the standard of living for us Papua New Guineans. Mr Miringoro said.

“Panguna was forced to close because leaders that time and the company (BCL) were not able to listen to peoples grievances and that are a lesson to us all both leaders and people that we need to listen to each other.” Mr Miringoro said.

Mr Miringtoro said Panguna land owners and National Government must critically talk and consider everyone's opinion if they are thinking of reopening the mine.

"People in Panguna were not given good water supply housing and health facilities but their land was taken out forcefully from them." Mr Miringtoro said.

"When the NEC comes to Arawa next month for the meeting that will be an opportunity for landowners to talk face to face with the National government." he said.

06.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PNG attracts attention at mining conference

By KENNETH AVIRA in Toronto

The annual global mining investment conference "Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada", being held in Toronto Canada, kicked off on a high note on Sunday.

The Papua New Guinea government delegation to the conference is led by the Minister for Mining Byron Chan (picture).



Mr Chan is expected to meet with the PNG Mining industry representatives to discuss issues affecting the industry.

The delegation includes the Secretary of the Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM) Nellie James and senior officers of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) The PNG Mining industry is represented by the PNG Chamber of Mines & Petroleum

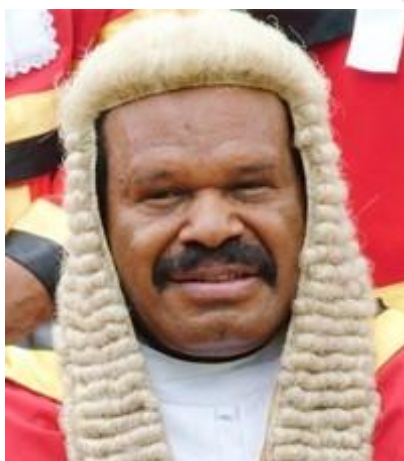
Members of the industry in attendance include Papuan Precious Metals Corporation (PPM), Marengo, Katana Iron and Frontier Resources.

About 50,000 delegates are in attendance at the event according to organisers and the interest at the PNG booth is gaining momentum. Visitors are enquiring about geological information about the country, process of applying for exploration licences and what mining policies and regulation are.

06.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Chief Justice taken in for questioning



Papua New Guinea's Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia has been taken in by police for questioning.

The police spokesman Superintendent Dominic Kakas says Sir Salamo is being interviewed by police investigators at police headquarters in Port Moresby.

He says he is waiting for details and will issue a statement shortly.

The government of Peter O'Neill in early February suspended the chief justice pending an investigation into alleged mishandling of court funds.

Sir Salamo also presided over last year's leadership Supreme Court case and found Mr O'Neill was unconstitutionally elevated to the prime minister's office over long time incumbent Sir Michael Somare.

05.03.2012

Source: The National

Government plans to stop cash payments

THE government plans to stop cash payments for landowner benefits accruing from resource developments.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill also said if any payments were to be made, they must be done in each licenced area – and not in Port Moresby.

These will be among stringent guidelines contained in a major policy on the issue to be announced this week following final consultations between O'Neill and landowners tomorrow.

O'Neill said the policy would streamline, simplify and specify payment procedures for all benefits accruing under resource development agreements and in particular the LNG project's umbrella benefits sharing agreement (UBSA) and the licence-based benefits sharing agreements (LBBSA).

"We are going to simplify it and do it in accordance with the law," he said.

"There will be absolutely no cash handouts.

"We will agree to a way forward and that should resolve many of the landowner issues.

"After cabinet has made a decision on Wednesday on the proposed structure and a way of dealing with the issue, any disruption of government assets or government services (by landowners) will become a law and order issue.

"Both the landowners and the government must respect any agreement that they signed.

"Any issue of landowner benefits must be in accordance with the law and the agreement."

The policy will also cover the role and functions of the expenditure implementation committee which oversees much of the payment process.

05.03.2012

Source: Blacktown Sun

History project

The Australian National University is seeking the peacekeepers who served in East Timor, Solomon Islands and Bougainville as part of a history research project.

Details: +61 410 136 330 or kimberley.doyle@anu.edu.au

05.03.2012

Source. ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says he wants the national election to go ahead as scheduled in June.

There had been talk of delaying the election because of problems updating the electoral roll and a call by deputy prime minister Beldan Namah to delay the vote to allow more time for the introduction of all the government's policies.

With both the election commissioner Andrew Trawen and now the prime minister saying the election should go ahead in June is that should be the end of the matter.

Presenter: Brian Abbott

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

03.03.2012

Source: Bloomberg

Copper Has Longest Bull Streak Since October

By Nicholas Larkin

[Read here !](#)

02.03.2012

Source: ESBC

Black & White

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[Click here please !](#)

02.03.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Compensation offer in bid to end Bougainville ship detention over ferry disaster

Bougainvilleans who have stopped three ships from leaving the autonomous Papua New Guinea province since the sinking of the Rabaul Queen four weeks ago are expected to leave the ships today.

Dozens of Bougainvilleans lost their lives in the disaster and grieving relatives wanting compensation have occupied the vessels, which belong to the owners of the Rabaul Queen.

The Buka police commander, Cletus Tsien, says the victims will leave the vessels but will be replaced by the port's security, who will continue to stop the vessels leaving.

He says armed former militants, who have also been on the ships, are also demanding compensation for ensuring the vessels were not destroyed.

Commander Tsien says there are reasons police have not taken action.

“These people are armed and the whole of Bougainville is behind what they are doing. The ships have not been damaged. They are just looking after the ships. And Peter Sharp [principal of the Rabaul Shipping Company] has come up with an offer. They were claiming 350 thousand [kina] and he has come up with 100 thousand.”

02.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville set for elections

BOUGAINVILLE will have its own special election logistic arrangement with a vessel sponsored by the New Zealand Government.

This is because as per the ceasefire agreement, the PNG Defence Force logistics cannot travel past Bougainville waters or in the region - PNGDF a no go zone in the region- a Waka Goi statement on election said in Parliament last Friday, read out by Leader of Government Business Moses Maladina.

“...we have also received some assistance from our development partners. The New Zealand Government will supply a long ship in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. This is necessary in light of the standing no go zone agreement for PNG disciplinary forces,” Mr Maladina said.

The Australian Government has agreed to provide two helicopters and two personnel to provide logistics and security support. These two people are were already on the ground, he said.

Meanwhile, PNGDF is now expecting NEC to advise the Head of State to make an official callout to cover the election period, including counting. During this time defence force personnel will have full arrest powers. Also, the PNGDF and Police are working closely to ensure that all eligible voters, both men and women, can cast their votes freely in a safe environment. The PNGDF will be providing additional capacity to support police. About 546 personnel will be deployed to the Highlands regions between May 31-June 2012.

02.03.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Shortsellers: Are you already getting nervous?

Market Depth for BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

as at 12:42:42 PM Friday, March 2, 2012

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Indicative Open Price	0.980	Volume Surplus	0				
Last	Change	%	Volume	Trades	Open	High	Low
0.980	0.020	↑ 2.08	13,100	8	0.980	0.980	0.970
Last Traded 543 @ 0.98 - 12:01:22							

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers				BOC Sellers			
Level	Buy	Quantity	Price	Price	Quantity	Sell	Level
1	1	2,500	0.900	0.980	14,457	2	1

2	1	3,000	0.860	0.990	4,350	2	2
3	2	11,000	0.850	0.995	10,000	1	3
4	1	10,000	0.845	1.070	2,291	1	4
5	1	3,000	0.835	1.080	30,000	1	5
6	1	5,000	0.805	1.085	10,000	1	6
7	1	5,000	0.800	1.140	5,550	1	7
8	2	13,572	0.720	1.160	10,000	1	8
9	1	12,000	0.690	1.170	8,500	1	9
10	1	6,000	0.675	1.200	15,000	2	10
11	1	10,000	0.525	1.250	10,000	1	11
				1.310	10,000	1	12
				12.000	105,000	2	13
				12.990	230,000	1	14
				14.990	150,000	1	15
				16.390	15,000	1	16
				16.960	30,000	1	17
				18.000	5,000	1	18
				18.650	35,000	1	19
				20.000	68,026	1	20
				24.000	5,000	1	21
				29.900	405,300	2	22
				30.000	271,500	4	23

01.03.2012

Source: Post-Courier

European BCL shareholders to stop short-selling of shares

THE European shareholders of the Bougainville Copper (ESBC) have sent out a warning to declare war on short selling of shares in the Bougainville Copper Limited.

President of the ESBC, Axel Sturm, sent out the warning from Andorra yesterday.

"We want to stop fraudulent manipulation in BOC/BOU1 shares," Sturm said.

Bougainville Copper shares are supposed to have a fair value of A\$30 to A\$50 (K66.83 to K111.38). The exact price, of course depends on the actual market prices of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum.

"On the other hand BCL is highly vulnerable to market manipulation: less than 30 per cent of BCL are in free float (the international mining giant Rio Tinto owns 54 per cent and the state of Papua New Guinea 19 per cent).

For several months now the share price of BCL (BOC/BOU1) has been pushed down heavily by short sellers," Mr Sturm said.

"Since the beginning of 2011 it has been more than 60 per cent after all"

He said this is despite the fact that today's news flow from Bougainville is more promising than ever.

The Australian Securities Exchange ASX has reacted to this by improving short selling rules. Since August 23rd, 2011 no more short selling in BOC shares was reported.

"Therefore we ask all shareholders BCL to put their shares at a high price (A\$25 to A\$30) for sale," he said.

"This will prevent custody banks from using these shares for un-authorized lending to short sellers.

“Short selling generated huge losses in Bougainville Copper shares within the last year.

“As a result of short selling the share price plunged under A\$ 1 since January 2011.

“This happened although all news flow from Bougainville had been very positive during that period.

“The green light for re-opening our Panguna mine is a question of a couple of months only.”

He said that this “ban”, however, is undermined by U.S. and other traders and successfully circumvented.

Giving its background, Mr. Sturm said a majority of the stocks held by private investors is deposited with custodian banks.

They register those shares in the share register (under so-called custodian banks) who then lend on our shares for short sales against a fee without the owner’s knowledge.

“In this context even the Australian Stock Exchange is powerless because this business is conducted in a semi-legal but grey area and therefore very difficult to prove,” he said.

“There are only two ways to prevent that our shares will be used for unauthorized short selling.

“The first is a nominated entry in the Bougainville Copper register.

“The second is a sell order that will block the shares for on- lending.

“However, since the entry into the register of shareholders is boycotted by the overwhelming number of custodians in order to maintain this revenue stream, the last resort that remains is to place a sell order with an extraordinary high limit.

“This limit should be as high as possible so that the probability of an actual sale is highly unlikely.”

01.03.2012

Source: ESBC

New Home for BCL's Annual General Meeting!

Until now the Annual General Meeting took place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel (picture) in Port Moresby. It was considered as the best place to stay in the PNG capital.



Since end of 2011 a brandnew and elegant Hotel opened its doors: The [Grand Papua Hotel](#). It's only a few steps away from Bougainville Copper's Head Quarter The ESBC welcome our management's decision to hold the 2012 AGM

on May 1st, for the first time not in the Crowne Plaza. This Hotel - with the years - it had become a bit shabby. The new one, the Grand Papua Hotel, looks rather nice. Expect round about AUD 400 (EUR 350) for the cheapest room per night. But don't expect the same service level such as in Singapore's Raffles Hotel or in the Ritz in Paris! Hopefully the new Hotel will mark a new, prosperous epoch for Bougainville Copper for its shareholders! In this case we could afford such crazy pricing!

Here are some pictures of the Grand Papua Hotel:





01.03.2012

Source: The National

BCL queried on share price lift

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd was queried by the Australian Stock Exchange on Tuesday after its share price surged from A\$0.735 to A\$0.94 between Feb 21 and Feb 27, easing back to A\$0.91 on Tuesday.

Bougainville's company secretary Paul Coleman told the ASX the company was not aware of any information that could have given rise to the big surge in the company's share price and that it was in compliance with the ASX listing rules.

The company had been subject of bouts of speculation involving overseas shareholders who were optimistic about an early opening of the copper-gold mine, which was shut down in May 1989 following civil unrest in Bougainville.

Its share price hit A\$1.20 in September last year but has since slid to a low of around A\$0.65 at the end of January before the recent price increase.

01.03.2012

Source: The National

BCL landowners slam 'state ownership' stance

By MALUM NALU

PANGUNA Landowners' Association – comprising traditional landowners of the Bougainville copper mine – have hit back at the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum for supporting state ownership of resources in the country.

Association secretary Lawrence Daveona said in Tuesday's article in The National detailed "very shallow reasons to justify its support for state ownership as opposed to landowners having full or controlling ownership of resources in their respective regions of PNG".

"This is a very narrow view that the Chamber of Mines and Petroleum has been sounding out to illiterate Papua New Guineans, government bureaucrats and more so us the landowners," he said.

"PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum has to state all these as it is funded or supported in many ways by most of the foreign investors operating in this country.

“We the people of Panguna mine have suffered under the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) and we have, over the past 23-odd years, researched the whole arrangement that has cost us many lives.

“In our view, many of the agreements from Panguna mine to date are flawed,” Daveona said.

He said the association, in its review of Bougainville copper agreements and others in PNG, had noted that:

- > Mining operators had consistently underreported measured and indicated resources at the time of negotiating agreements with the national government, provincial governments, landowners and local level governments, resulting in reductions or waivers of economic interest and royalties;
- > Mining operators had, in each instance, separated benefits derived from asset sales, economic benefits from financial instruments, and the trading value of public equities on international stock exchanges from the legal corporate shell company set up to enter into agreements (including royalty and equity agreements) with provincial and landowner interests;
- > Provincial governments and landowners had been universally excluded from any benefit on the speculative appreciation of equity value derived from public market announcements of measured and indicated reserves on their lands by having no exposure to benefit from public market stock trading; and
- > Economic benefit agreements had been focused on percentage of employment and percentage of contracting in number (a percentage of employees rather than a percentage of gross compensation), rather than in gross economic value (total percentage of all corporate payroll; procurement.;
- > No use of trade credit offsets had been leveraged for the companies supplying mining supplies or heavy equipment meaning that over 30% of international par equivalents were being lost for the economic benefit of the provinces or the national economy;
- > Visibility on the corporate activities surrounding the mines and land use promoted to international investors had, in no instance, matched the statements made to PNG interests and no mechanism for such discrepancy resolution has been put in place; and,
- > No adequate controls had been in place to insure that royalties, taxes, environmental law compliance, human rights, and international standards on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (particularly in the undersea mining technologies) were held to a standard commensurate with the rest of the world.

Daveona said revisions to the Mining Act of 1992 must take into account each of the deficiencies listed below and should not be forwarded for consideration until they are all explicitly addressed.

01.03.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

European shareholders war on BCL short selling

THE EUROPEAN SHAREHOLDERS of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) have asked all shareholders in Bougainville Copper (BCL) to pitch their shares at a high price (\$25-30) to prevent custody banks from using them for unauthorised lending to short sellers.

“We want to stop fraudulent manipulation in [Bougainville Copper] shares,” says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm.

“Short selling generated huge losses in Bougainville Copper shares within the last year”, he said.

“As a result the share price plunged under \$1 since January 2011. This happened although all news flowing from Bougainville had been very positive during that period.

“The green light for re-opening our Panguna mine is a question of a couple of months only,” he stated optimistically.

According to Mr Sturm, who is based in Andorra, Bougainville Copper shares are supposed to have a fair value of \$30-50.

“The exact price – of course – depends on the actual market prices of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum,” he said.

“On the other hand BCL is highly vulnerable to market manipulation: less than 30 percent is in free float (the international mining giant Rio Tinto owns 54% and the state of Papua New Guinea 19%).”

News 04.2012

30.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna Metals still in business

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE management of Panguna Metals have explained their side of the story, after their equipments worth around three million kina were torched by a frustrated mob.

Two excavators, a hundred tonne crane truck and a Mack truck (Semi-trailer) were burnt in what the management calls a criminal act and the Law will be involved in this case now.

According to Manager Jeffery Clayson, Panguna Metals is a registered Company with the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) and has complied with Government regulations as well as pays tax to the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC).

“We are a well organised Company. There was an internal matter and we (PML), were given four days to sort it out. We were about to sort out the matter when they burnt the equipment on the very first day, when things are in process.” Mr. Clayson said. The situation will be resolved after a meeting with senior excombatants in Arawa. The management says the company will not seize operations.

Mr. Clayson further stated that those responsible shouldn't have just taken arsonist action and burnt the equipment but they should have come to the management, sit down and talk on a round table and sorted the issue out.

“We have a benefit package that is fair and suites every stakeholder where a percentage goes to landowners, to the ex combatants and to everybody involved it is fair.” Mr. Clayson said.

Meanwhile the management further reiterated that they are still going to work with the people responsible for burning their equipment, because the partners say they still want to work with Panguna Metals.

“With the incident it doesn't mean we are going to work without ex combatants, no. We still want to work with them only on one condition that they must not sabotage our equipment again.” Mr Clayson said.

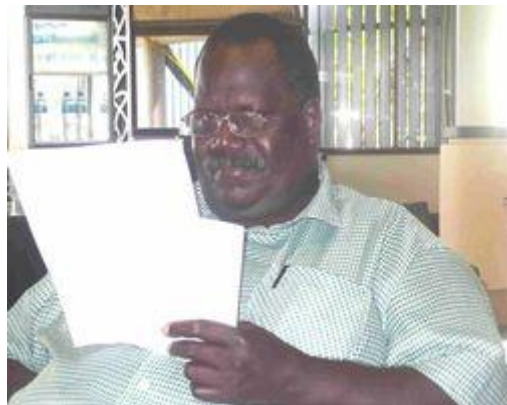
Panguna Metals since the the beginning have been lending a helping hand to everybody, by employing unemployed youths walking around the streets of Arawa to funding sporting and other recreational activities. The company's marketing strategy simply outlines their work in helping the community with t-shirts and caps with the name Panguna Metals on it shows transparency without any hidden motive or agenda. “Things will be sorted out once we sit down and talk about it. It is just another misunderstanding gone out of control. We are still going to continue with our business and operations.” Mr Clayson said.

30.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

We'll 'fast track' Panguna says new chairman

ESBC RESEARCH



THE LANDOWNERS OF THE PANGUNA Special Mining Lease Association have elected their new board of directors.

And in his first statement, new chairman Chris Damana [pictured] affirmed that the Association will 'fast-track' the re-opening of the Panguna copper and gold mine. Only two landowner associations are still to elect their leadership.

Once these elections are held, Panguna landowners are expected to vote for a mutual association which will be an umbrella body representing all Panguna landowners. This group will conduct negotiations on the new Bougainville Copper Agreement. The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper understands that this will take place within the next weeks.

Chris Damana is one of the most shining personalities in Panguna and will also run for a seat in the national parliament in the upcoming June elections.

ESBC president Axel G Sturm congratulated Mr Damana and his colleagues Jo Avero, Denis Nasia and William Basiku and wished them wisdom and good luck in their ambitious task.

29.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LODGE9

By Aloysius Laukai in Port Moresby

Pictured is a family from Bougainville who are running a lodge at Nine mile in Port Moresby. The new lodge named as Lodge9 is taking clients after it opened its doors to clients at the beginning of this year.



The lodge currently has 14 standard rooms which are available at K100 per night.

Toilet and Shower rooms are shared facilities..

If you are looking for a cheaper and safe accommodation in Port Moresby you can call them on 71810566 or 76845039 or wireless phone 3413519 or you can also email them on lodge9png@gmail.com

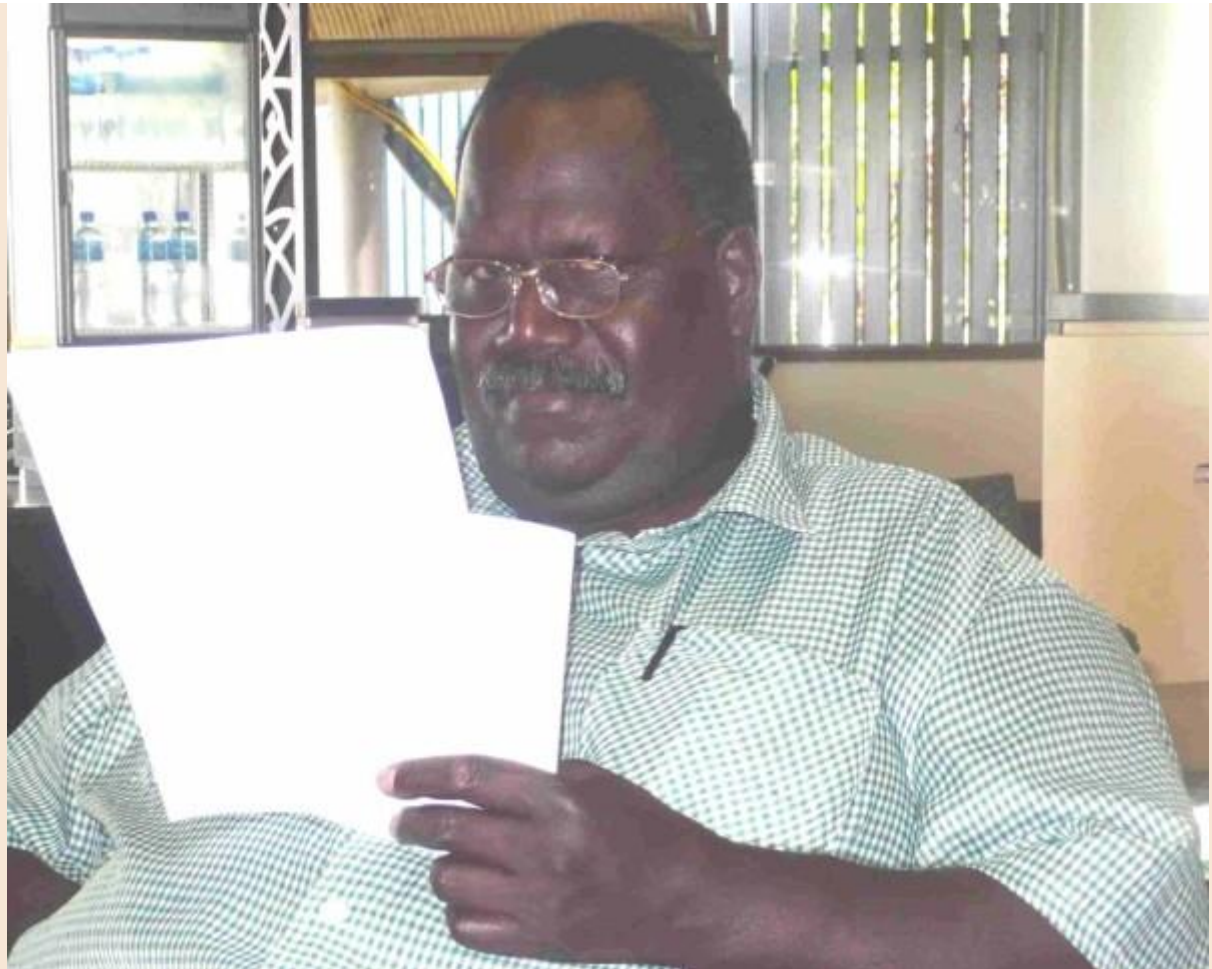
Transport to and from the airports are provided for free...

New Dawn will do a separate coverage for this lodge shortly.

27.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Chris Damana elected!



Today, the landowners of the Panguna Special Mining Lease Association elected their new board of directors:

Chairman: **Mr. Chris Damana**

Vice-Chairman: **Mr. Jo Avero**

Secretary: **Mr. Denis Nasia**

Treasurer: **Mr. William Basiku**

Mr. Lawrence Daveona who, until now, had served as an interim secretary has not been reelected.

In a first statement, Mr. Damana confirmed that his organization will fast-track to re-open the Panguna Mine as soon as possible.

Only two landowner associations are still to elect their body. Once these elections will be hold, the Panguna lanowners are supposed to vote for a mutual association called the "umbrella body". This organisation will then represent all Panguna landowners in the negotiations on the new Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA).The ESBC understands that this will take place within the next weeks.

Chris Damana who is one of the most shining personalities in Panguna, will also run for a seat in the national parliament in the upcoming elections in June 2012.The ESBC president Axel G. Sturm congratulated Mr. Damana and his colleagues and wished them wisdom and good luck in their ambitious tasks.

27.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Scrap metal war flares up

Heavy equipment belonging to Panguna Metals, a sub-contractor to Komeri Limited, a firm dealing with scrap metal from the abandoned Panguna mine were set alight on Tuesday afternoon by disgruntled former combatants who had been promised a share in the affluent scrap metal trade.



war that had its origins at Panguna and the mine there.

According to spokesperson for the former combatants, James Onaarto, the burning of the equipment is a lesson to everyone both here and abroad that anything associated with the Panguna mine is for the benefit of all and not just a few landowners or certain former combatant commanders. He claimed that according to local custom everyone in Bougainville from North to South is now a landowner because they had all suffered, died and shed blood in a

Mr Onartoo said that the latest incident occurred because Panguna Metals had failed to keep their word by not paying former BRA members of "A", "B", "C" and "D" companies of Central Bougainville, proceeds from the electric shovel buckets as they had promised during a series of six meetings between Panguna Metals and the former combatants.

"We know that most of the equipment such as the ball mills is not scrap and we are aware that BCL and CRA are involved in the Operations of Komeri because it allows for BCL to get its hands on the equipment that it left behind and much of it good as new and not scrap metal. BCL has a lot to answer for in Bougainville and it should compensate the lives lost in the crisis before it even talks about re-opening the mine."

"We are also aware that directors of Komeri are the controversial old Panguna landowners whose dealings with BCL marginalised certain families of the landowning clans causing a rift that resulted in Francis Ona taking up arms. We don't want to see the repeat of what happened in the past."

Mr Onartoo added that the Autonomous Bougainville Government had failed miserably in dealing with the scrap metal issue when it did not declare all the equipment and material left behind by BCL state property. He further claimed that sales invoices by the scrap metal firm were falsified to mislead the customs so that only a small duty was paid for the shipments.

The scrap metal trade, since its establishment had been under a lot of criticisms from the people, especially the way it was set up to benefit only a few people. The general feeling is that the proceeds from the scrap metal could be used to support basic services such as health and education and other areas where everyone could benefit and not just a few people. According to certain



leaders the issue of scrap metal is a cause of disunity and ill-feelings amongst the people and could well disrupt peace-building efforts.

According to a former Resistance Forces commander, he and his colleagues from the BRA were asked to sign an agreement by Panguna Metals to allow the scrap metal from the mine site to be sold overseas. "We were promised employment and other benefits if we signed those papers but to date we have not heard from them and it is no surprise to me that their equipment has been destroyed," he said.

"Much of the metal from Loloho and Panguna had already been sold out to overseas buyers. A fair bit of this equipment had been sold intact to mine operations around the world. Building structured walk ways, steel beams that were ideal for building Government offices, classrooms, and halls were among other useful things that were cut up and sold as scrap overseas."

27.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso opposes Bill on women's seats

By PHILP KEPSON

FORMER Speaker of Bougainville Autonomous Government Assembly Francesca Semoso said she would continue to fight for gender fairness in other aspects of life but not reserved seats for women in Parliament.

"I will fight for gender justice in terms of equal participation in other aspects of life. However, I strongly oppose the idea of having reserved seats for women," she said.

Ms Semoso told hundreds of supporters at the launching of the Peoples Party National Convention in Enga Province last Friday that the idea of allocating special seats for women was a system to undermine women's potential to fight for their rights to contest in elections in the same manner as men and she did not like the idea of vying for specially reserved seats.

"I am a strong fighter for equal rights. However, the idea of reserving seats for women in Parliament is a dreadful idea. If we adopt the system, it would mean that women are naturally not fit to do some of the work that only men can do, which is not true. Therefore, both men and women must face the challenge of getting out there and convincing the voters to vote for them. We have to move on with life instead of going backward by promoting ancient mentalities," she said.

On her intention to join Enga Governor and party leader Peter Ipatas, Ms Semoso said she had confidence in his leadership and to help her and Bougainvilleans in realising their dream of seeing the region becoming an independent state following the referendum which was scheduled to be held in 2015.

She said the current leadership and past governments had given the autonomous region of Bougainville lip-service which had resulted in zero expansion of programs that were initiated towards independence.

Ms Semoso said she also wanted to be part of a team that was led by a leader who had experience in delivering basic service and development with limited resources to the people.

"I think Mr Ipatas is the only Governor who has a track record in delivering development projects and services to his people. The successful administration of his education policy under which he introduced free education and later quality education are sufficient enough to convince me to be part of his party. What's the use of being with leaders who don't know how to deliver, I don't have time to waste and pretend to do something for my people if I am given the opportunity," she said.

Ms Semoso resigned last year as speaker to contest in the North Bougainville Open by-election. The seat was left vacant by incumbent Michael Ogio when he had opted to take up the Governor-General's position.

Ms Semoso said she was confidently waiting for the issue of Writs for this year's election before she announces her intention to contest the seat.

27.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ICT HONIARA WORKSHOP ENDS

by Aloysius Laukai in Honiara

The two week Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Training for trainers workshop in Honiara ended today with participants receiving their certificates.

The workshop was able to empower the twenty participants mainly community radio workers and NGOs on tools they can use in training others using ICT.

The workshop was funded by the Commonwealth of Learning supported by Unesco UNDP and other partners.

On the Fm radio operators from Isabel Province, they now have learned proper ways of using their equipments at their 8 stations as practical use of equipments and latest tools available to them like the frontline sms were demonstrated and practised at this training.

A team from Solomon islands and New Dawn Fm would be developing a proposal to the Isabel Provincial Government on possible ways they can fully utilize the network established under UNDP as sustaining these radios has been the problem in the past.

Aloysius added a beautiful picture of sunrise (new dawn) in Honiara taken from Chester Rest house overlooking the wharf:



27.04.2012

Source: ESBC

Click here to find out more about [The Lasslett Dispute](#) !

26.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG's deputy PM says party ready for mid-year poll

by Firmin Nanol, Port Moresby and staff

Papua New Guinea's Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah (pictured) says his party is ready to go ahead with the country's 2012 national polls in June.



PNG's parliament recently voted to defer the mid-year vote for six months, but the Electoral Commissioner, Andrew Trawen, is sticking to the mid-year time table.

Mr Namah says MPs and candidates from the PNG Party will nominate on May 18, the date set by the PNG Electoral Commissioner.

But he says, while the national elections will go ahead on time, he plans to sue the Electoral Commission to defer polls in his own electorate of Vanimo-Green electorate.

"I want to make sure that my electoral roll is properly done," he said.

"If it is not properly done then I will ask for the deferral for elections for my Vanimo-Green electorate, because I want every eligible citizen to vote in the elections.

"Whether they vote for me or another candidate it does not matter."

Despite assurances from Prime Minister Peter O'Neill that the mid-year vote will proceed, there have been public protests opposing any delay.

There has also been speculation of another delay, after the PNG Government announced an investigation into the legality of the Mr Trawen's appointment.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said there was an "illegality" because Commissioner Andrew Trawen had reached the retirement age of 55.

Australia's Defence Minister, Stephen Smith, who is visiting Port Moresby for Anzac Day services, says Australia wants to see the polls held on schedule in June.

"In these areas it's always most important to take it step-by-step, and I welcome very much the reports I've seen today, (Australia's) prime minister welcomed very much indications from Prime Minister Peter O'Neill that the election would be held on the constitutional timetable, with writs issuing in May and election in June, July," he said.

"But we also acknowledge that it's a very big logistical exercise - getting the roll right, getting the ballots to remote locations. The conduct of the exercise is a big and difficult logistical exercise.

"We want an election to take place in accordance with Papua New Guinea's processes, and we're confident that it will."

26.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

B'ville uncertainty: today's politics or history's legacy?

BY KEITH JACKSON



A PUBLIC DISPUTE HAS ERUPTED between Kris Lasslett [left], an academic specialising in the social and political impacts of mining, and Axel Sturm [right], the president of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC).

It all began when Lasslett wrote of Sturm that he "needs reminding the greatest threat to BCL's [Bougainville Copper Ltd] future remains its unacknowledged past", contradicting Sturm's view that the big problem is PNG's current political uncertainty.

Now Dr Kris Lasslett is a bright, highly qualified and interesting bloke. He graduated from the University of Technology Sydney in 2004 with a first-class honours degree in law and a BA in communications. He went on to complete a PhD at the University of Westminster in the UK.

Dr Lasslett lectures in criminology at the University of Ulster and his research focuses on the political economy of state crime and civil conflict. He has conducted extensive field work on the Bougainville crisis in Papua New Guinea, and is researching mining, conflict and civil society.

In his article, Lasslett wrote:

Despite revelations aired on SBS last year, which evidenced BCL's complicity in the brutal security force operations on Bougainville, BCL and the ESBC continue to play down the company's instrumental role in the conflict.

If the ESBC wish to restore the integrity of BCL, then they should forward the following demands to BCL's Chairman and Managing Director Peter Taylor:

- BCL must publicly apologise for its evidenced role in the Bougainville conflict.
- In an act of goodwill BCL should publicly disclose the depth of its involvement in the security force operations on Bougainville. This public disclosure should document the logistical support BCL supplied to the government's security forces between December 1988 and March 1990. It should also reveal the relevant conversations that took place between the BCL management and senior state officials during this period.
- BCL should demand that Rio Tinto – its parent company – cease contesting litigation taken by Bougainvillean landowners in the US, and fully compensate those victimised by the security forces using BCL property/facilities.

-- BCL should immediately remove from its Board of Directors, Sir Rabbie Namaliu who was appointed in March 2011. Sir Rabbie Namaliu was the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea during 1988-1992. Under his Prime Ministership the Papua New Guinea security forces – in an effort to reopen the mine – executed and tortured civilians, systematically destroyed villages, and imposed a blockade on Bougainville, which included the denial of humanitarian aid. It is astonishing, in light of these facts, BCL would appoint Sir Rabbie Namaliu to the Board of Directors, and that the ESBC would support this decision.

As the last ten years has proven, Bougainvilleans are a forgiving people. But they will not suffer corporate intransigence lightly. If BCL comes to the table and publicly acknowledges its role on the Bougainville war, perhaps the healing process can begin. Only then will BCL shareholders find the certainty they demand.

Axel Sturm was outraged. In a public letter to Lasslett his opening salvo of "your disgraceful lampoon is remarkable" was quickly followed by:

It's really shameful if an expert in criminology completely ignores facts and reality. Your naive adoption of statements and claims from rebel groups on the ground disqualify you as an honest scientist. In all your text there is no single word on competing criminal gangs on the ground. You don't refer on intimidation or blackmail. You don't expose neither robbery nor murder committed by these groups. A comparison to mafia or triads structures would be more appropriate.

You even do not hesitate to refer to the infamous California court case that has been initiated by a small group of greedy PNG citizens to raise money from Rio Tinto. No word about the doubtful involvement of former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare in all this as well. All information on this was made public and is accessible thanks to some leaked documents in the past.

If you ignore facts, you do not deserve to be called a scientist. I suppose that your work in Ulster, a region well known for rebellion and organised crime, troubled your vision.

Your text unmasks you as a naive and fanatic anti-mining activist. Unfortunately you are also allowed to spread your ideas amongst young students. You shall not use your academic position as a platform for indoctrination and agitation.

Freedom of research and science does not mean promoting untruth!

I will not further comment on your ideas in future. It's not worth it.

Powerful stuff, and it seems it's an argument that is likely to rage for a while yet.

26.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Leonard Kania turned music video turned at Aropa Airport near Arawa.

25.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Trawen sticks to election program

By GORETHY KENNETH

ELECTIONS will go ahead as planned with the issue of Writes scheduled for May 18 and the polls to be held in June, Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen has announced.

Mr Trawen said last night that the revised program for the 2012 National General Elections which was approved by the Governor General would go ahead as planned and had reassured the people of Papua New Guinea, investors and the international community on the PNGEC's stand.

Mr Trawen's reassurance follows Prime Minister Peter O'Neill's reassurance, also in the media yesterday, that the elections would still be held on the dates set by the Electoral Commissioner and Electoral Commission.

"Despite doubts on PNGEC's preparedness for the elections I can confidently say that our preparations are on target. I have not wavered in my stance for the elections to commence on 18th May with the issue of writs," Mr Trawen said.

"Electoral Rolls for all the 89 Open electorates will be ready and delivered on time for polling to start on 23rd June," he said.

In the meantime, he said, preliminary Electoral Rolls from New Guinea Islands, Momase and Southern regions are now being returned to Port Moresby to be finalised while preliminary Rolls for most of the Highlands provinces have been dispatched last week for public viewing and inspection. Preliminary Electoral Rolls for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are still at Tokua airport for the past few days awaiting transportation to Buka by Air Niugini.

Mr Trawen said preliminary rolls for those Highlands provinces dispatched last week for public viewing and inspection included Eastern and Southern Highlands provinces, Enga, Hela and Jiwaka while preliminary rolls for Western Highlands and Chimbu were being dispatched this week.

"Let me place on record that Obura, Lamari and Yelia LLGs in Obura-Wonenara Open electorate and parts of Kainantu and Okapa Open electorates are also being printed and will be dispatched this week.

“Even the latest material to get out for public inspection would still give more than three weeks for the public to check the data to make sure it is accurate, before the rolls close with the Issue of Writs on 18th May, 2012,” he said.

“As such, I remain confident as I have always been that PNG Electoral Commission can produce a good roll for the public when we go to the polls with certified Ward Rolls in June.

25.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Morumbi Resources raises \$US1.2mil

MORUMBI Resources (Morumbi), a Canadian diversified exploration company having interest in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, had raised approximately \$US1.2 million through the exercise of 3 Million Warrants to fund general working capital and to pursue oil and gas and mineral opportunities in PNG.

According to a market release yesterday posted at the Toronto Stock Exchange, Morimbi announced that the company has received total proceeds of US\$1,165,188 from the exercise of 2,713,320 common share purchase warrants and 326,640 finder's warrants expiring on April 19, 2012.

Bougainville Basin Oil, Gas Ltd. (BBOG) a PNG subsidiary of Morumbi, has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bougainville Basin Exploration Company (BBEC), a landowner company which was formed by the Babanna and Rabasti clans with the support and endorsement of the Chiefs in Bana District of Bougainville.

The market release stated that the terms of the MoU contemplate that BBOG will submit, on behalf of the company and its landowner company partner, an Application for a Prospecting Petroleum License over much of the Bougainville Basin which is one of five oil and gas basins located in PNG.

The Bougainville Basin is largely unexplored with the only activity to date occurring in the early 1970s when Shell shot 1,800 kilometres of offshore 2D seismic and drilled one exploration to a depth of 1,682 meters after which it was plugged and abandoned.

25.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville school gets financial help

PARENTS and citizens of Malabita Primary School in the Buin District of South Bougainville can now look forward to the construction of a new classroom in their school. And this is all thanks to the South Bougainville MP and Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kamma for allocating K50, 000 towards the construction of the classroom. According to the Council of Elders' (COE) member for Malanku COE in the Baubake constituency in Buin, James Wape, it was the first time for them to receive such funding from any elected leader, and thanked Mr Kamma for the money. The K50, 000 cheque was officially handed over to the school last Friday.



Pictured is Mr Kamma (left) presenting the cheque to a representative of the school.
Words and Picture: WINTERFORD TOREAS

24.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

**TOMORROW, April 25th, 2012: [ANZAC Day](#)
SYDNEY SECURITIES EXCHANGE (ASX) CLOSED !**

**MORGEN, 25. April 2012: [ANZAC Day](#)
BÖRSE SYDNEY (ASX) GESCHLOSSEN !**

24.04.2012

Source: The National

Semoso fails to drop charges

By JUNIOR UKAHA

AN attempt by Bougainville MP Fidelis Semoso (pictured) to have charges against him dismissed was refused by a leadership tribunal yesterday.



The three-man tribunal comprised Justice Salatiel Lenalia, Magistrate Ignatius Kurei and Senior Magistrate Nerrie Eliakim.

Their refusal was on the grounds that strict rules of evidence needed to be complied with in the matter as Semoso had already responded to the charges against him.

Lawyer Charles Mende representing Semoso said his client would still file an application after the substantive hearing.

Mende said it was a normal court procedure.

Semoso is seeking to dismiss various charges against him which he claimed were “improperly drafted and are not sufficiently stated so as to give a fair opportunity to the leader to understand the specific requirements and to respond”.

Semoso was not in court for the hearing. The tribunal and state prosecutor were concerned as it was the second time he had been absent.

State prosecutor Anthony Kupmain said it was “not good enough” for Semoso to be absent.

Lenalia asked Mende if his client was in town. The lawyer said Semoso was in Bougainville.

Lenalia told Mende that delaying court proceedings was not in the best interest of justice and matters should be fast-tracked.

24.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Is the Supreme Court a threat to democracy?

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS in Papua New Guinea has been created by certain members of the Supreme Court, not by Peter O'Neill or by Michael Somare.



So argues lawyer and human rights advocate **Tiffany Twivey-Nonggorr** [pictured] in a carefully reasoned paper which we publish in PNG Attitude today [\[SEE DOWNLOAD HERE!\]](#).

The paper argues that the crisis has been triggered by unconstitutional and undemocratic orders made by the Supreme Court, the refusal of Chief Justice to recognise the constitutional powers of cabinet, placing himself above the law, and the refusal of certain judges to recognise the unlimited constitutional power of parliament to legislate.

“By refusing to recognise the decisions and powers of parliament,” Ms Twivey argues, “certain Judges are destroying democracy and rewriting the Constitution.”

She also claims they are “breaching the oath to uphold the Constitution that they swore to observe on their appointments as judges.”

The paper says that “certain judges have exercised powers that according to the Constitution they do not have and have never been claimed or exercised by any judge in PNG or anywhere else.

“These certain members of the Supreme Court gave orders in December 2011 and now again in April 2012 over Parliament, the type of which have never, ever been made, not only in the history of PNG, but in the history of any Westminster system of democracy, not since the theory of the divine right of kings was abandoned in 1688 and the first Bill of Rights of Parliament was enacted.”

Ms Twivey concludes: “Since Independence Papua New Guinea has every reason to be extremely proud of its hard working judiciary. The present actions have created a crisis.”

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Highway drivers warned

By Tapo Tovilu

The Highway from Kokopau in Buka to Buin in South Bougainville has seen an increase in accidents in the past 2 years.

This has prompted Joe Mitore from Arawa to come out openly on the issue of dangerous driving. He says that many Bougainvilliean highway drivers are well known for their aggressive driving and are highly respected in that area.

But he says if they are not careful accidents may occur on this long stretch of road linking our communities.

He has called on drivers to be considerate of their driving and also of others who use the road.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DPI plans more impact

By Tapo Tovilu

The Department of Primary Industries in Bougainville has planned for more impact projects to be implemented this year.

Planning Officer from DPI Sam Rangai says that these projects will be in line with their five year impact projects plan.

The plan initially planned after the lack of proper DPI projects in Communities in the region is nearing its completion.

The Department plans to be given support by the ABG with the implementation phase of this five year plan for Bougainville.

This Plan will be aimed at improving Agriculture and the Primary industries in the region to push forward development in the region.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ATM lines causing frustration

By Tapo Tovilu

The current state of Bougainville's banking systems is a nightmare for some who sweat it out for hours standing in line just to use the ATM's in Buka.

A senior public figure in Buka town says that this which has been happening for too long must be improved.

He says the lines are a delay to work which many Bougainvilleans come to do when here in Buka town.

He added that it is very hard to believe that only three ATM machines service the whole of Bougainville.

The figure says that if the banking system is improved the flow of development in the middle classes can be improved.

New Dawn FM understands that an ATM is currently being built in Arawa to service the people of South and Central Bougainville.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police loose comrade

By Tapo Tovilu

Bougainville Police service has lost one of its pioneer female policing officers who was present since Bougainville became Autonomous in 2005.

Police woman constable Genevieve Kepino in her thirties from Wakoya Village in Siwai South Bougainville passed away on Sunday after a long illness.

The late Constable Kepino was one of the first eight police women to be recruited in 2004 out of 92 male counter parts to form the Bougainville Police Service.

She served in Bougainville first at Buka Police Station than Arawa Wakunai up to her passing.

Wakunai Police station commander Sgt Oscar Tugein described late PWC Kepino as a very promising young police investigator who dealt with such cases as rape, armed robbery and homicide while attached with the Wakunai Police Station.

Her Body was escorted to her home village for burial on Wednesday and she is survived by her husband First Constable Steven Kamou and their child.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Parents and students warned

By Tapo Tovilu

Students who are attending Hahela Primary School have been warned to be extra cautious when crossing the roads.

A concerned member of the public issued the warning following an accident involving a student over the weekend.

The accident just outside the Callan Services Center at Hahela has sparked concern from members of the public.

Because it is part of the Buka Highway many parents have been advised to take care of their children during peak hours when traffic is busy.

A call has been made to drivers to slow down when entering the Hahela area as it is a school area.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kunua District plans ahead

By Tapo Tovilu

The Kunua District officers will be, this Friday launching a district impact project implementation plan for the next 5 years.

The plan which will be launched is aimed at strengthening the impact projects to be issued in the coming months.

The Spokes person from the Kunua District say that more projects for the Kunua district are planned for this year.

They say this is because Kunua being one of the least developed areas in Bougainville must have more pumped in for more development.

The program will be held at the Kunua District office on Friday this week and will be attended by ABG ministers and other stake holders.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Teachers not happy

By Tapo Tovilu

Many teachers who were present during 1994 to 2003 in the region are frustrated that their names were not on the RA payout list.

Many retired teachers from Central and South Bougainville who travelled to Buka are frustrated that their names have been missed.

One long time serving teacher from South Bougainville who traveled to Buka last week says that the system which they are using is biased and unfair.

He says that a lot of the serving teachers who had been working tirelessly during this time have not been included.

He made a call to those who had not received any payments to wait patiently as the list was to be updated for the next payouts in June.

New Dawn FM understands that many public servants from all departments have also been missed out in these RA payouts.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Delays becoming a concern

By Tapo Tovilu

The constant delay of flights into Buka has caused frustration for many people in Buka wishing to travel to other parts of the country.

A resident in Buka says that in the past three weeks flight delays and cancelations have become common for the traveling public.

He says that a lot of this has caused inconvenience for many who travel on Air Niugini into and out of Buka.

He has called on relevant authorities to see to it that something is done to improve the service calling on other airline companies to also consider extending their roots to Buka.

New Dawn FM understands that Travel Air will soon be operating into and out of the region.

23.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Siriosi praises women

By Tapo Tovilu

Chris Siriosi CEO for Law and Justice in Bougainville has praised women from North Bougainville for speaking out on current issues in the region.

This follows some major issues which in the past weeks have threatened the peace and harmony in the region.

Siriosi says that many women in the region are doing the right thing by speaking out on these issues which are affecting the region.

He says that this has shown that the women of Bougainville have a heart for the region and for it to move and develop peacefully.

He also stressed that Bougainville is going through a time of transition and needs to be very cautious on what steps it would take.

Siriosi congratulated the women for the forum adding that they were playing a major part in educating and building the region.

23.04.2012

Source: ESBC

Open letter to Dr. Kris Lasslett

Dr. Lasslett,

Your disgraceful lampoon is remarkable.

It's really shameful if an expert in criminology completely ignores facts and reality. Your naive adoption of statements and claims from rebel groups on the ground disqualify you as an honest scientist. In all your text there is no single word on competing criminal gangs on the ground. You don't refer on intimidation or blackmail. You don't expose neither robbery nor murder committed by these groups. A comparison to mafia or triads structures would be more appropriate.

You even do not hesitate to refer to the infamous California court case that has been initiated by a small group of greedy PNG citizens to raise money from Rio Tinto. No word about the doubtful involvement of former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare in all this as well. All information on this was made public and is accessible thanks to some leaked documents in the past.

If you ignore facts, you do not deserve to be called a scientist. I suppose that your work in Ulster, a region well known for rebellion and organised crime, troubled your vision. Your text unmasks you as a naive and fanatic anti-mining activist. Unfortunately you are also allowed to spread your ideas amongst young students. You shall not use your academic position as a platform for indoctrination and agitation.

Freedom of research and science does not mean promoting untruth!

I will not further comment on your ideas in future. It's not worth it.

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 23.04.2012

23.04.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

The greatest threat to Bougainville Copper's future is it's hidden past

By Dr. Kris Lasslett (picture), via ACT NOW!



Last month the President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) Axel Sturm publicly raised concerns over the volatility of BCL's share prices. In an interview with PNG Industry News, he blamed political uncertainty in Papua New Guinea for BCL's current woes.

However, perhaps the ESBC's President needs reminding, the greatest threat to BCL's future remains its unacknowledged past. Despite revelations aired on SBS last year, which evidenced BCL's complicity in the brutal security force operations on Bougainville, BCL and the ESBC continue to play down the company's instrumental role in the conflict.

If the ESBC wish to restore the integrity of BCL, then they should forward the following demands to BCL's Chairman and Managing Director Peter Taylor:

1. BCL must publicly apologise for its evidenced role in the Bougainville conflict.
2. In an act of goodwill BCL should publicly disclose the depth of its involvement in the security force operations on Bougainville. This public disclosure should document the logistical support BCL supplied to the government's security forces between December 1988 and March 1990. It should also reveal the relevant conversations that took place between the BCL management and senior state officials during this period.
3. BCL should demand that Rio Tinto – its parent company – cease contesting litigation taken by Bougainvillean landowners in the US, and fully compensate those victimised by the security forces using BCL property/facilities.
4. BCL should immediately remove from its Board of Directors, Sir Rabbie Namaliu who was appointed in March 2011. Sir Rabbie Namaliu was the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea during 1988-1992. Under his Prime Ministership the Papua New Guinea security forces – in an effort to reopen the mine – executed and tortured civilians, systematically destroyed villages, and imposed a blockade on Bougainville, which included the denial of humanitarian aid. It is astonishing, in light of these facts, BCL would appoint Sir Rabbie Namaliu to the Board of Directors, and that the ESBC would support this decision.

As the last ten years has proven, Bougainvilleans are a forgiving people. But they will not suffer corporate intransigence lightly. If BCL comes to the table and publicly acknowledges its role on the Bougainville war, perhaps the healing process can begin. Only then will BCL shareholders find the certainty they demand.

22.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

new

EXPOSED :

- Invincible Resources Corp. , Vancouver / Canada

- Ord River Ltd. , Sydney / Australia

- Morumbi Inc. , Calgary / Canada

[CLICK HERE](#)

21.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

PNG mourns passing of novelist Regis Stella

ON THE EVE of the launch of his third book, *Unfolding Petals: Readings in Modern PNG Literature*, senior lecturer in Literature and English at the University of Papua New Guinea, Dr Regis Stella (picture), died on Wednesday.



Dr Stella, born in Bougainville, held a PhD from the University of New South Wales and had been teaching at UPNG since 1988. His thesis on PNG literature was later published as a book that is now a recommended text in universities.

Dr Stella had been a deputy dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and was formerly the director of the Melanesian Institute of Arts and Communications.

Colleague and fellow writer Dr Steven Winduo described him as a reserved, intelligent and hard working man.

PNG Attitude contributor Peter Kranz said Dr Stella was "a private and talented man and a great writer".

Dr Stella's first novel in 1999 *Gutsini Posa* ('rough seas' in the Banoni language) was centred around the Bougainville crisis and experiences of that conflict.

Steven Winduo later wrote: "Far from its existential value, *Gutsini Posa* is a novel that [was] an important literary representation of the struggle of the Bougainville people to come to terms with the crisis that had completely devastated their moral and physical strength.

"Regis Stella's place in the literary culture of PNG is secure."

20.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Newmont executives visit Bougainville, hold talks

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

THE world's second largest gold producing company, Newmont Mining (Newmont) had three of its top executives on Bougainville this week at the request of Isina Resources Holdings (IRH), a partner to Morumbi Resources of Canada.

The executives comprising Chris Clode (Director of Global Exploration/Business development), Linda Daley (director-Exploration Australia), Dave Dehlin (Director International Land) were on a fact finding mission to see firsthand how Bougainville is progressing in terms of exploration and mining after the Peace agreement signing in 2001, and the progress of the new Government in terms of its policies in mining, lands and resource ownership.

They met with IRH Chairman and Vice Chairman David Dapong and former Bougainville Revolutionary Army general Sam Kauona respectively and three other resource owners company chairmen and chiefs, from the Eivo Torau Constituency.

The three chiefs who are also chairmen of their respective landowner companies are, Michael Aite, Avaipa Resources Limited – Mainoki, Jacob Betopa, Pakasiapan Resources – Kopani, Richard Birikos, Baunapa Resources – Atamo.

The landowner company chiefs and executives explained to Newmont executives that the Bougainville Constitution section 23 gives Mineral Rights back to the people.

By exercising this right, "we the resource owners will have to come forward and free our land for exploration." Sam Kauona said.

"We fought for this very reason and we the resource owners will register our activity called exploration with our Government, (ABG) for its tax purposes".

The former BRA general said Bougainville is working on its own mining policies and legislation and it will be a home grown thing to the best interest for its people and their partners abroad.

The Newmont team also met with key Panguna land owners and were taken for visit to the mine pit at Panguna once operated by Rio Tinto in the early 60s and 70s and was shut down in 1989 which sparked up the Bougainville crisis.

The team also met with the Chairman of the Central Bougainville Parliamentary Committee and member for Eivo Torau, Melchior Dare, who represented and welcomed the team on behalf of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

Mr Dare said he was happy to see former general Sam Kauona and the Paramount Chiefs, for coming forward and freeing their land for exploration which went hand in hand with social programmes by Morumbi Resources of Canada.

20.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

exposed now:
Invincible Resources
and Lindsay Semple !
(click here !)

20.04.2012

Source: ESBC

Questions to the board of directors published !

[**Click here !**](#)

19.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

ESBC starts to unmask backdoor players ! First to be exposed is ORD River Ltd.!

[\(click here !\)](#)

19.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG needs K2m to run elections

By PORENI UMAU

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville will need K2 million to conduct the elections.

This was revealed by the election manager Reitama Tarauaru yesterday.

Mr Tarauaru said that initially, his office submitted a budget proposal of K2.4 million but last month the Electoral Commission cut 17 per cent of the required budget as it would meet all transport costs.

He said that K600,000 would be used for preparations and also to facilitate training for all electoral officials and had requested that the balance of K1.4 million be released by headquarters in the coming quarter to meet polling and counting costs.

He said that Bougainville alone had 181 polling teams which was twice the number of other New Guinea Island provinces and comprised of 965 officials, including carriers who would assist polling officials in remote areas.

Mr Tarauaru said that his office had not secured the assistance of a helicopter and all airstrips in the region remain closed. He said that they would need 139 vehicles with 35 in North Bougainville, 31 in Central Bougainville and 73 in South Bougainville.

He said that in order to reach the atolls including Motlock, Tasman and Cartarets, he had already approached the Border Development Authority (BDA) to use their vessel, the MV Bougainville Atolls where two teams of electoral officials would also be dispatched.

He said it was exactly seven weeks from now before the deployment of officials. Furthermore, he said he was also aware of the New Zealand Government's help in the region especially with a sea transport and would contact the headquarters about it.

Mr Tarauaru added that in order to reach coastal communities, his office would need 43 motorised banana boats with 33 dinghies for North Bougainville; one for Arawa, Central Bougainville, and nine for South Bougainville.

19.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Voters urged to be wise

By PETERSON TSERAHA

BEING wise voters in an election will result in people having good leaders, says intending candidate for Central Bougainville Open Justine Borger.

Mr Borger told this reporter in an interview that Bougainvilleans had always been lured by money and the free handout mentality.

"I would like to call upon Bougainvilleans both living in and outside of Bougainville to vote wisely, and not be fooled by free beer and money which is happening right now." Mr Borger said.

"I call upon Bougainvilleans to vote for leaders that are concerned about Bougainville issues, like weapons disposal, the status of the Panguna mine and leaders who are concerned about youths and the unemployed."

"We want to see a candidate who is with the people, who can make Bougainville move and a National leader who is willing to work harmoniously alongside our ABG members."

Mr Borger said the most important thing on Bougainville was the outstanding issues like the Panguna mine, and weapons disposal which were really lagging.

He also urged people to choose their leaders wisely.

"Another important thing is for you to vote someone who is transparent and God-fearing."

He said it was good for leaders to provide services like water tanks, ambulances, but once these were sorted out they had to move to outstanding issues such as the referendum and independence.

Mr Borger also said on Bougainville a lot of people both male and female were now power hungry, and they would play with a lot of money to lure voters. He said some candidates were standing just to split votes so a current member could lose his seat.

"Bougainville is now an Autonomous Region and we have to prove it to the National Government and the international community that we can stand on our own," Mr Borger said. "And it means we must have good leaders in the National Government to handle our affairs."

Meanwhile, Mr Borger has invited the Task Force Sweep Team to come to Bougainville and investigate Bougainville's overnight millionaires and expose them, some of whom are corrupt and people need to know so they do not get elected if they are contesting in the elections.

19.04.2012

Source: The National

Trawen: Common roll will be ready before May 18

ELECTORAL Commissioner Andrew Trawen (picture) has assured members of parliament that 93% of the common roll is processed.



The rest will be completed before the writs for the general election are issued on May 18.

Trawen told an audience at the state function room in parliament including unionists, police, defence force and members of the media that work had been completed for all the wards in Southern Highlands, Hela and Jiwaka provinces.

He said the preliminary rolls had been despatched last Monday to returning officers for public inspection.

He confirmed that preliminary rolls for the majority of wards in Western Highlands, Chimbu and Enga had also been despatched.

He said further processing this week would see all those wards

completed and sent by early next week.

Trawen said Eastern Highlands was the focus of attention now and he was pleased that fieldwork data from 34 wards in East and West Okapa LLGs were sent to Port Moresby for data processing.

He was confident the remainder would follow shortly and that the preliminary rolls for the highlands provinces would

be available for public inspection by the end of next week.

“Even the latest material to get out for public inspection would still give

more than three weeks for the public to check the data to make sure it is accurate, before the rolls close with the issue of writs on May 18,” he said.

He said in summary, of the total 2,142 wards in the highlands, 1,723 had now had their preliminary rolls printed for public inspection and processing for only 419 wards remained.

“I want to repeat that this roll improvement programme is on target.”

The other three regions – New Guinea Islands, Southern and Momase – have already displayed their preliminary rolls for public viewing and inspection.

The updates are as follows:

INGI – of the 796 wards, 136 wards have returned their feed-back information to Port Moresby for final processing, while 804 wards have yet to return their data:

ISouthern – of the 1,214 wards, 410 have returned their feed-back data for final processing, while 804 wards have yet to; and

IMomase – of the 2,012 wards, 312 wards have returned their feedback data, while 1,710 have yet to do so.

“In summary, for the nation, data for 5,745 wards has been received and processed out of the 6,164 wards in PNG.

“The commission is continuing to work 24 hours a day to complete data entry and printing for the remaining 419 wards,” Trawen said.

“In percentage terms, 93% of all preliminary rolls for the country has been completed, just 7% of the wards remain and the electoral commission wishes to assure the public that the roll improvement programme will be completed before the elections.”

19.04.2012

Source: The National

MP backs drive to restore Arawa town

By KEVIN TEME

ARAWA, in Central Bougainville, is implementing its restoration programme.

The restoration roll-out programme is the brain child of Minister for Information and Communication, Jimmy Miringoro (picture).



Miringoro said the programme started in 1998 when the late Bill Skate was the prime minister. He wanted to continue it to re-establish Arawa town to where it was after the Bougainville crisis.

“Most of the kids who have grown up during the crisis period have one way or another gone to school and we have set up a committee to raise funds to re-establish the town to where it once was,” Miringoro said.

He pledged K5 million towards the fundraising drive but said K15 million would be needed to fully upgrade the township.

Part of that restoration roll-out programme has seen Arawa High School turned into a secondary school this year, with its first Grade 11 intake.

"This will see most children who faced hardship because of the impact of the crisis will benefit and learn to be good citizens.

"I am proud to say that most of the people's lives will change and I am making sure that we raise enough funds for the roll-out restoration programme," he said.

Miringtoto, the MP for Central Bougainville, said with the K100 million given to Bougainville by the government, he would make sure K5 million was allocated to this work in his electorate.

He challenged his people to change their attitude to restore the island.

"We can only make things work for ourselves if we have the right attitude and this is part of the roll-out programme."

We will be doing. Making fundraising to help develop our place," Miringtoto said.

Miringtoto said his hands were open to other electorates but he needed to do best for his Central Bougainville and later he could go into other electorates.

19.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Network News

Supreme Court

Papua New Guinea's parliament is in the process of passing another controversial law, this time to restrict the powers of the Supreme Court.



Liam Fox on the judicial battle The Supreme Court (Amendment) Bill is the government's response to an order by the Supreme Court last week.

The court stayed a controversial law giving parliament the power to suspend senior judges, until a legal challenge to the law's constitutionality is heard.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Belden Namah, says the amendment will prevent the court from interfering with parliament's law-making powers.

Duty bound

"The courts are duty bound to accept and implement the laws made by the majority members in this parliament," he said.

Mr Namah says the amendment will prevent the court from halting laws until after constitutional challenges are heard.

Civil society groups in PNG have expressed shock at the controversial new bill.

A spokeswoman for the PNG Social Networking partners, Cybele Druma, told Radio Australia the government is ignoring the concerns of the public.

"It's fallen on deaf ears and the very fact that they're now attempting to pass four very controversial bills now is definitely a shock and a surprise to us. We would never have imagined that this is the way it was all going to head."

Once passed, parliament will again have the power to suspend judges it deems of being biased.

18.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier - **AN INTERESTING FLASH BACK !**

New government makes date with destiny

By EPHATA SAMUEL

After the 1997 national elections, (late) Sir Bill Skate was elected Prime Minister. After two years in the job, he resigned when the country's economy was at its lowest and inflation and cost of living was at an all time high. The exchange rate against the US dollar went as low as 18 US cents to K1.00.

On July 14, 1999 Sir Mekere Morauta (picture) was overwhelmingly elected 99-5 as PNG's sixth Prime Minister and the following is the speech he delivered to Parliament after his election.



"MR Speaker, fellow Members of Parliament, people of Papua New Guinea.

Our country has a new government. Today, 14th July, 1999, we have made a date with destiny.

We have chosen order over chaos. We have chosen hope over despair. We have chosen pride in our young country over mindless pursuit of narrow interests. We have chosen to give our children the chance of a decent life in their own country, in the place of fearful descent into poverty, poor health, and disorder.

I do not pretend to you that the choice our nation has made will immediately put right all that has gone wrong in our country. The road back will not be easy. I do not pretend that our date with destiny will be followed soon by ease and prosperity.

In all honesty, the path to order, hope and pride will start with some steep hills. But with today's change of Government, there will be purpose and reason in the load that we will have to carry as we work our way over the hills.

I need not remind any of you of the depths of our country's problems. I need not remind any of you of the low incomes and low employment, the high prices, the deterioration in health and education, or the high interest rates and costs that have stopped the expansion of business.

The sad truth is that the reality is even worse than it seems.

The hunger is worse than it seems because past governments have been eating the seed that is necessary for future crops.

The Government that was removed today, on Papua New Guinea's date with destiny tried to stem the devastating fall in the kina's value by eating what is left of our foreign exchange reserves.

The Government that was removed today tried to prop up its own spending with huge borrowing, that must be repaid with interest in future.

The government that was removed today increased any burdens on business to give it fast money to consume immediately. These burdens have stopped the investment that is needed for us to have incomes in future.

The Government that was removed today raided our national financial institutions to get fast money. In doing this, it weakened them for future.

Worst of all, the Government that was removed today, Papua New Guinea's date with destiny, was eating our future by seeking political advantage through weakening the central institutions of state, and bypassing and discouraging the talented Papua New Guineans who continue to offer themselves for high public service.

Today, 14th July, we have formed a Government of national reconstruction and development.

From today's date with destiny, the Government will work relentlessly to achieve five results.

The first objective is to restore integrity to our great institutions of state, the very institutions that are necessary for our personal security and for our prosperity.

The new Government will respect our great institutions of state, seek advice from them, and listen to their cautions. The new Government will encourage the return to public service of talented Papua New Guineans who have been discouraged and cast aside. We will ensure that when we need and seek advice from outside our own people, we obtain that advice in ways that encourage and strengthen our Papua New Guinean talent and institutions.

The second objective is to stabilise the kina, to earn again its respect in the international community, and to keep the rapid increase in prices that has hurt us now for too many years. We cannot turn back an unhappy recent history, and return the kina to its old value or prices to their old levels.

This kina will settle at a realistic level, and we will run the monetary fiscal policies that will stop it falling lower. These same policies will support a return to kina convertibility. Papua New Guinea has maintained financial stability before, and the new Government will do it again.

Nothing can stop the price rises that have followed the fall in the kina in recent months. Price rises that have followed the fall in the kina in recent months. Prices will continue to rise for some months yet. But under the new Government's policies, this will be the last year of high inflation.

To support financial stabilisation, the new Government will immediately take the initiative in re-establishing productive relations with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Australian Government.

We value the money on good terms and the consultation that will come with return to normal relations with our traditional sources of development finance.

When I join Prime Minister Howard, President Clinton, China's President Jiang Zemin, Japan's Prime Minister Obuchi, Canada's Prime Minister Chretien, Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir, Korea's President Kim Dae Jung, the President of Indonesia and other leaders of our region in Auckland in September at the annual APEC Leaders' Meeting, I will explain our new purpose, and invite their co-operation in Papua New Guinea's reconstruction and development.

The third objective of our Government is to restore stability to our national budget, to stop eating the seed, and to sow the seeds for future development. Recent governments have dissipated money and their administrative capacity by trying to do many things, and doing all of them badly. We will identify the most fertile seedbeds, make sure that they are well sown and that the plants are nurtured.

Successive governments have claimed that expenditures on education, health and transport were their priority. But we have not seen tangible positive results of the proclaimed policy emphasis. Our Government will be different, and will put words into action. We must and will address the problems of declining standards of our social services. We must and will maintain our public assets and economic infrastructure.

The new Government will leave to the private sector all services that can be well provided by the private sector. If the Government sells government businesses, it will do this in a way that yields a maximum of funds for reduction of government debt and reduction of future interest payments.

The new government will ensure that basic services, essential of development, that it continues to provide itself, are provided efficiently and well. The fourth objective is to remove obstacles to investment and growth. There is a lot of energy in our people, which yields income and wealth when it is given a chance. We will give Papua New Guineans their chance by removing the many barriers to small scale business through more effective government through privatisation. We will ensure that security; electricity, telecommunications, water, finance, foreign exchange and transport are provided competitively. We will review the tax system to ensure that it is the least possible obstacle to growth.

Economic projects vital to the future health of the economy, such as the gas project, will be given top priority. New investment in agriculture, in both export and food crops, must and will be a key focus of our Government. Every government has also said this before, but we are determined to make it a reality.

Our fifth, but not least important objective is to continue the Bougainville peace process. We acknowledge our predecessors' achievement and affirm our commitment to a progressive political settlement in Bougainville – without threat or use of force and based on the rule of law. We call on the other parties, including Francis Ona and his supporters, to co-operate in making sure that the peace process keeps gathering strength and moving ahead. The new Government will immediately take stock of where the peace process is

now – with a view to identifying any problems and possible answers, and working with the other parties to maintain momentum and produce practical results. In doing so, we must be mindful of the need for bipartisanship at the national level if we are to give agreements reached with the Bougainvillean parties a firm legal basis.

I pledge the new Government to achievement of these five objectives. We do not pretend that the path ahead is easy.

We know that we need the support of all of our people in our nation's reconstruction and development. We know that we need the energy and talent of millions of Papua New Guineans. The new Government pledges its commitment to national reconstruction and development, and invites your participation with us in this great task."

Sir Mekere was re-elected into Parliament as member for Moresby North West in the 2002 national elections but unfortunately did not muster enough numbers to form Government.

ESBC: What changed since?

18.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Siwai school games hailed

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Siwai district schools sports carnival held last week in South Bougainville was hailed a success.

The "Unification through sports" carnival was held last Friday and Saturday.

Three schools clusters from the district converged on the Hurai Primary School for the games.

Schools that took part during the carnival were Iruh, Sininnai, Haisi (cluster 1), Harinai, Hurai, Konga (cluster 3), and Maisua and Katukuh (cluster 4).

According to the chairman of the Siwai school headmasters' forum, Robert Kebau, despite funding constraints they were still positive with their preparations and arrangements resulting in the successful staging of the carnival.

Kebau thanked the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma for the donation of K2000, saying that the money helped offset some of the expenses incurred during the carnival.

Sports that were played during the games were athletics for the juniors, intermediate and senior students, minor ball games for the juniors, soccer for both intermediate and seniors and volleyball which was played only by the senior students.

In athletics, cluster three schools proved that they were the fastest and top runners in the district by taking out the title with 94 points, followed by cluster 4 with 93 points while cluster one could only settle for 81 points.

In the minor ball games, cluster 4 came out victors with 128 points, followed by cluster 1 (103 points) and cluster 3 with 93 points.

The volleyball title was won by both the senior boys and girls from cluster three.

The completion of the two days carnival saw cluster four taking out the title of the champion cluster school in the district with 277 points, followed by cluster three with 250 points and cluster one with 236 points.

18.04.2012

Source: The National

Significance of Bougainville

THE range of complex issues surrounding Papua New Guinea's national election have been widely commented on by Australian media and politicians – some more helpful and diplomatic than others.

In the week before Easter, I visited PNG – my second extended visit to the country in the past nine months – accompanied by Queensland federal colleagues senator Ian McDonald and MPs Jane Prentice and Ewen Jones.

We held discussions with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, senior members of his cabinet, the leader of the opposition, the chief of the PNG Defence Force, the police commissioner and the PNG election commissioner, among others, on the many and varied challenges associated with the election.

Papua New Guinea is a democracy and as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations is committed to regular parliamentary elections and strong democratic institutions, yet recent political events have been challenging.

Current indications are that the election will be held mid-year with hopefully many of the constitutional issues surrounding the composition of the government and a dispute with the judiciary being resolved by PNG voters at the ballot box.

What is less well known is that there is another vote that will take place in the coming years in Bougainville, an autonomous region of PNG, that is potentially of far greater significance to PNG and the broader region than the general election this year.

The Bougainville peace agreement, signed in 2001 between the PNG government and the leaders of Bougainville, brought a formal end to a civil war that had cost many lives in Bougainville over decades.

Bitter conflicts over land rights, the closure of the mainstay of the local economy in the Panguna mine in the late 1980s and a nascent secession movement has meant that Bougainville has presented a challenge to the fragile nature of PNG nationhood and its politics since PNG independence in 1975.

However, part of the 2001 agreement, which was brokered in part by the Howard government, provides for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020 on the question of Bougainville's independence from PNG.

Various conditions must be met prior to the referendum, notably the disposal of weapons currently held in Bougainville and an acceptable standard of governance achieved by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

Put simply, this vote will determine whether Bougainville pushes ahead for full independence or chooses to remain an autonomous region of PNG.

Yet, the complexity of the issues in Bougainville, and as between the ABG and PNG, means that as the referendum date draws nearer, Bougainville will again inevitably feature prominently in Australia's foreign policy considerations.

The process of negotiation between the ABG and PNG is fraught with difficulties as there appear to be deeply entrenched differences over the future of Bougainville, the possibility of reopening the Panguna mine and the direction of economic and social development.

As Anthony Regan, a leading expert on Bougainville, has stated, the starkly different views that are held by Bougainville leaders and the PNG government, gives rise "to possibilities of conflict over the referendum outcome".

Aware of the challenges facing Bougainville and the importance of engaging with all relevant parties at the earliest opportunity, our trip to PNG included a number of days in Bougainville to gain a deeper understanding of the complex web of cultural, social, economic and political issues that lie at the heart of the referendum question.

During our stay in Buka, we met with leaders of the ABG including President John Momis and Vice-President Patrick Nisira to discuss progress of the peace process, weapons disposal and economic development.

While the 2001 agreement resulted in the destruction of many weapons used in the civil war, there are fears that a significant number of weapons are still held in the community.

Further, the military ordnance left in southern Bougainville by the United States during World War II in the Pacific is an ever present danger.

We made a seven-hour round journey by boat and four-wheel drive to Arawa, the pre-civil war capital of Bougainville, to meet with people involved in the reconciliation process including

members of the ABG Regional Administration and a representative from the Mekamui people, a tribe who had not taken part in the 2001 agreement.

The reality of the civil war and the bridges that have to be crossed before the referendum can take place were brought home to me in our meeting with former members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Sam Kauona and Ishmael Toroama.

Kauona, a Bougainvillean but also an Australian army trained former PNGDF lieutenant and explosives expert, who became one of the most-feared guerrilla fighters in the civil war, told me that he had been "rehabilitated" and that he was now committed to peace and reconciliation.

However, he was also deeply committed to an independent Bougainville and he is not alone in his views.

We saw the work funded by Australia's foreign aid programme to improve basic infrastructure across the islands, as well as improving governance, education and health standards.

However, the massive challenge of achieving an independent Bougainville should not be underestimated.

Whether the preconditions for the referendum will be met within the timeframe remains to be seen, but this will be a crucial test for the people of Bougainville and the PNG government.

Australia must be, and be seen to be, deeply committed to the peace and reconciliation process in the lead up to 2015 and beyond.

18.04.2012

Source: The National

Revised laws to benefit customary landowners

CUSTOMARY landowners will better benefit from their land with two amended legislations on land passed by parliament in 2009, an official says.

Constitutional and law reform commission deputy secretary Isaiah Chillion said the revised incorporated land groups and new voluntary customary land registration system paved the way for landowners to directly benefit from the land.

He said this at a three-day workshop hosted by the Lands Department in Mt Hagen on Land Groups Incorporation (amended) Act 2009 and Customary Land Registration (amended) Act 2009.

More than 60 participants from the seven highlands provinces including district administrators, deputy provincial administrators, provincial administrators, land officers and surveyors attended the training.

During the registration and induction on Monday, workshop programme manager Chillion said they were now trying to implement the amendments.

Chillion said the training was very important for the participants to fully understand the two important laws before implementing them in their districts.

He said the land problem was affecting development in the country.

He said the two amended laws would help address most of these land issues and at the same time help customary landowners to benefit more from their land.

Chimbu provincial administrator Joe Kunda Naur commended the commission and the Lands Department for taking a step in the right direction to address land issues.

Kunda said in the past injustice had been done to the people during the acquisition of their customary land.

He said now it's a win-win situation.

He called on the Lands Department to have land officers, surveyors and other officers in every province in the highlands to successfully implement the laws and help the people to register their land.

18.04.2012

Source: The National

Landowners urged to register land

By JAMES APA GUMUNO

LANDOWNERS have been encouraged to form incorporated land groups (ILGs) to register their land and benefit from the resource boom in the country.

This important issue was pointed out at the second regional national lands development programme (NLDP) workshop for the highlands region in Mt Hagen, Western Highlands, on Monday.

NLDP programme manager Esekia Warvi said the resource boom triggered by rapid globalisation, industrialisation and investments placed landowners in a situation where they had to form ILGs and register their land.

He said landowners of registered land “will maintain ownership with titles over them and can easily lease them to developers and reap maximum benefits for generations”.

Warvi said multi-billion kina projects like the liquefied natural gas, petroleum, oil and agriculture developments including the rapid rural-urban migrations had placed immense pressure on land space.

He said the complexity with the customary land issues and ownership, coupled with land disputes had forced the government to establish a national lands development task force in 2005.

After many consultations, forums, investigations, research and a national lands summit in Lae, recommendations were made to the government.

Director of legal and policy with the Lands and Physical Planning Department Sheila Sukwianomb took a session on legal frameworks of the two new amended acts.

“The primary objective is to empower landowners to use their customary land for development fairly, equitably and in a convenient manner.”

Sukwianomb said.

18.04.2012

Source: Solomon Star / Radio New Zealand International

PNG's Police Commissioner says politicians are splitting police force

Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner says politicians are splitting the force for their own ends, after policemen were attacked by colleagues in Port Moresby.

Commander Tom Kulunga (picture) made the comments yesterday after spending most of the day in crisis talks with officers in Port Moresby.



On Monday, six members of the Central Highway patrol were reportedly attacked by as many as 70 other police officers in a seemingly politically motivated attack.

Mr Kulunga says he has deep concerns about the direct involvement of politicians in dividing the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary for their own ends.

He says it is no secret that certain politicians are providing funding and hire

vehicles for certain elements of the police force who are operating outside of my command and control.

The attacking officers were allegedly members of four police divisions flown from Mount Hagen to Port Moresby during the recent failed coup attempt in January.

The attack has also been condemned by the PNG Trade Union Congress.

Its general secretary, John Paska, the attack was completely unacceptable, inexcusable and intolerable.

18.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ICT TRAINING

by Aloysius Laukai in Honiara (Solomon Islands)



The Secretariate of the Pacific Community(SPC) with collaboration of under donor partners, Commonwealth of Learning,Unesco and Small Grants Scheme of the UNDP are running a two week Training of Trainers workshop in Honiara .

The workshop commenced this Monday at the UNDP Conference room in Honiara and will end on Friday 27th of April, 2012.

The aim of the training is to train staff and management team from Community Radios NGO and government organizations to know how they can further collaborate and work as partners.

People who are attending the workshop include four staff from the Isabel province's Buala FM a staff from the Solomon islands Broadcasting Corporation a staff from the Prime Minister's office, and other members of local NGO groups around Solomon islands.

New Dawn FM which has been supporting the Isabel Province's Radio network since last year is also represented at this training.

18.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Upe Initiation

By Aloysius Laukai

On Wednesday, 12 April 2012, a big cultural day celebration took place in Raiovi Village Assembly in the Wakunai district, where about 200 people from the community attended to witness youths taken into "Upe" house for

the life long seclusion for 1-3 years. According to chief Mark Eric, the period of seclusion is often more than 10 years, but in the recent years reduced to 1-2 years, as boys have to attend formal education

The event also witnessed the passing out of young girls from their seclusion to their families after being kept through special rituals and initiation which is a special event, such like the Upe initiation.

The event was officially opened by the Hon. Joan Jerome, Women's Member for Central

, and presented at the big day was chief Mark Eric representing the minister for Tourism Hon. Joe Egillio who was sick, a long time united nations representative on Bougainville Justin Borgia and Dominic Diuka, and other prominent local chiefs.

Mr. Borgia stated that cultural is our way of life used to make peace through marriage and exchange of tokens, earn an income when tourist pay when visiting sites, and directs our daily lives through songs and stories. Justin challenged the chiefs to use culture and customs to resolved outstanding recociliation issues which is more impactive on people rather than waiting for money. He also pointed that it was his first time to see the Upe house.

Member Joan Jerome, pointed that culture must be nurtured for the future generations and donated K1500 to the events organizers of the Upe and girls initiation, as a token of appreciation.

The event attracted many people from as far as Steamas, Red river, Rotokas, and Upper Aita including youths, children and women to participate in the event through dances and the special ceremonies

17.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

From now the ESBC provides more information on PNG's biggest problem:

Corruption

Please click above to find out more!

16.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Donors urged to do more

By PORENI UMAU

OUTSPOKEN Bougainvillean woman leader Francesca Semoso has saluted the efforts of foreign donors in trying to conduct workshops for women candidates in PNG to help them into Parliament.

However, Ms Semoso said that the donors who were conducting workshops for all women candidates in the three regions including Southern, Highlands and Momase in Port Moresby and also another in Lae should come out and state clearly if they would be there for the intending women candidates during campaign and polling periods.

She said that it was one thing to come and empower women in PNG to try and help them to get into Parliament by conducting workshops, but they should know that the women candidates were still hampered by two issues.

She said that these issues include d lack of funding support for women candidates during campaigns and lack of interest from political parties in endorsing them.

Ms Semoso said that the efforts to empower the intending women candidates through workshops was welcoming but queried if the donors were going to help fund each of these women candidates for their campaigns and also help find political parties for them to be endorsed.

She said that empowerment was good, but queried the next step after the workshop.

“You cannot just come and empower me with the workshops and leave me like you came,” she said.

16.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Aust worry relates to Bougainville election

By GORETHY KENNETH

ONE reason why Australia has been concerned about elections held on time in Papua New Guinea is because in three years time another important election will be held in Bougainville.

There are concerns now raised that the political impasse in PNG is already affecting the way forward for Bougainville, especially in implementing fully, the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed in 2001.

Australia’s deputy Opposition Leader Julia Bishop visited Bougainville when she came to PNG early this month. She said that the range of complex issues surrounding PNG’s national election had been widely commented on by Australian media and politicians – some more helpful and diplomatic than others. Ms Bishop held discussions with Prime Minister Peter O’Neill, senior members of his Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief of the PNG Defence Force, the Police Commissioner and the PNG Election Commissioner, amongst others, on the many and varied challenges associated with the election. And Bougainville was also another agenda.

“...Bougainville is an autonomous region of PNG, that is potentially of far greater significance to PNG and the broader region than the general election this year,” Ms Bishop said.

“The complexity of the issues in Bougainville, and as between the ABG and PNG, means that as the referendum date draws nearer, Bougainville will again inevitably feature prominently in Australia’s foreign policy considerations,” she said.

“Papua New Guinea is a democracy and as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations is committed to regular parliamentary elections and strong democratic institutions, yet recent political events have been challenging. Current indications are that the election will be held mid year with hopefully many of the constitutional issues surrounding the composition of the Government and a dispute with the judiciary being resolved by PNG voters at the ballot box.

“What is less well-known is that there is another vote that will take place in the coming years in Bougainville, an autonomous region of PNG, that is potentially of far greater significance to PNG and the broader region than the General Election this year.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement signed in 2001 between the PNG Government and the leaders of Bougainville brought a formal end to a civil war that had cost many lives in Bougainville over decades.

Bitter conflicts over land rights, the closure of the mainstay of the local economy in the Panguna mine in the late 1980s and a nascent secession movement has meant that Bougainville has presented a challenge to the fragile nature of PNG nationhood and its politics since PNG independence in 1975.

However, part of the 2001 Agreement, which was brokered in part by the Howard Government, provides for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020 on the question of Bougainville’s independence from PNG

Various conditions must be met prior to the referendum, notably the disposal of weapons currently held in Bougainville and an acceptable standard of governance achieved by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

Put simply, this vote will determine whether Bougainville pushes ahead for full independence or chooses to remain an autonomous region of PNG.”

16.04.2012

Source: The National

Unable to shut up: Somare condemns threat by prime minister

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill’s threat of further action by parliament against the judiciary has been condemned by Angoram MP Arthur Somare.

Somare said in a statement: “O’Neill and his cohorts are so imbued by their self-importance that they even suggest that the judiciary is denying them natural justice.

“Such conceit can only be summed up as laughable. This regime thrives on these kinds of confounding tactics.

“Both sides have taken matters before the courts and are waiting for the results.”

O’Neill’s side had spent K18 million on the court case and a further K8million from the public purse, Somare said.

“O’Neill must know that nine months of his regime is enough and PNG is now wary of his empty assurances and promises,” Somare said.

“It is unbecoming of leaders to say one thing today and act differently the very next day.

“The sad fact is that we have more educated members of parliament than any time in our history but the use of their education and intelligence does not appear to be in the best interest of the people of Papua New Guinea.”

“To maintain their questionable hold of government this regime has no choice but to behave in this reckless self preserving manner that threatens stability and good governance in the country.

“The [Somare government](#) will continue to fight this scourge that is upon us.”

13.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Six still lost at sea

By GORETHY KENNETH

SIX people are still missing between Solomon Islands and Bougainville since their departure a month ago.

The six, Central Bougainville businessmen, took to Solomon Islands through the sea border at Sirovai, to purchase goods for their shops in Gizo have not returned since March 16, 2012.

One of the young and upcoming small business holders is one of Post Courier’s former photographer George Corbett.

The Solomon Islands rescue team based in Gizo yesterday advised that authorities for both Governments have been advised and initial search attempts had not been successful due to bad weather.

The Bougainville Disaster office has also been made aware but told the Post Courier that they are financially cash trapped and cannot do much.

Peter Corbett, father of George confirmed with the paper that he has not spoken to his son for the last one month and it was very unusual.

“Normally George would call and he always calls where ever he goes or whatever he does,” he said.

Corbett could not further comment as he was in a shock state. “But I’m hoping him and the other five are safe somewhere in the waters of PNG where they could have drifted.”

He said the National Maritime Safety Authority has also been approached to help.

13.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa school gets computers

By KOLOPU WAIMA

Arawa secondary, one of the oldest schools in the central Bougainville will be the proud recipient of five brand new computers from Telikom PNG.

Telikom PNG in quick respond to the minister for information and communication Mr Jimmy Miringtoro’s letter requesting five computers to present to Arawa secondary in his electorate as a fundraising to build human resource and to build school infrastructure.

Acting chief executive officer Charles Litau in presenting the five flat screen desk top computers at its head quarters at Waigani yesterday said that it is not a waste to these computers as it will be used by the future leaders of this country.

He said that they responded to the requested made by the minister for information and communication and we are happy to have this to the students “as it is our gesture to our students.”

Meanwhile the minister and MP for central Bougainville Jimmy Miringtoro in thanking Telikom PNG said that Arawa secondary school was one of the top 10 schools before in his electorate and the region.

Mr Miringtoro said that the school was established in 1971, three years before the emergency of Panguna copper mine.

He said these donations comes soon after he gave fifteen computers to the Kudjip school o nursing in the Western Highlands province and commending NICTA and National Broadcasting Corporation for distributing directly to the education of our education. Mr Miringtoro said Arawa High school is playing a pivotal role in-post crisis Bougainville by educating many children adversely affected by the crisis.

However, Mr Miringtoro said that he will continue to help Arawa High School and others as long as he remains Member of Parliament.

He appealed to the school to appreciate and look after the computers because they are the fortunate ones to receive such assistances.

13.04.2012

Source: ON LINE opinion - Australia's e-journal of social and political debate

Australia's support essential for Bougainville referendum

By Julie Bishop



**Julie Bishop is the Federal Member for Curtin,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.**

The range of complex issues surrounding Papua New Guinea's national election have been widely commented on by Australian media and politicians – some more helpful and diplomatic than others.

In the week before Easter I visited PNG - my second extended visit to the country in the past 9 months – accompanied by Queensland federal colleagues Senator Ian McDonald, Jane Prentice MP and Ewen Jones MP.

We held discussions with Prime Minister O'Neill, senior members of his Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief of the PNG Defence Force, the Police Commissioner and the PNG Election Commissioner, amongst others, on the many and varied challenges associated with the election.

Papua New Guinea is a democracy and as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations is committed to regular parliamentary elections and strong democratic institutions, yet recent political events have been challenging.

Current indications are that the election will be held mid year with hopefully many of the constitutional issues surrounding the composition of the government and a dispute with the judiciary being resolved by PNG voters at the ballot box.

What is less well known is that there is another vote that will take place in the coming years in Bougainville, an autonomous region of PNG, that is potentially of far greater significance to PNG and the broader region than the general election this year.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement signed in 2001 between the PNG Government and the leaders of Bougainville brought a formal end to a civil war that had cost many lives in Bougainville over decades.

Bitter conflicts over land rights, the closure of the mainstay of the local economy in the Panguna mine in the late 1980s and a nascent secession movement has meant that Bougainville has presented a challenge to the fragile nature of PNG nationhood and its politics since PNG independence in 1975.

However, part of the 2001 Agreement, which was brokered in part by the Howard Government, provides for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020 on the question of Bougainville's independence from PNG.

Various conditions must be met prior to the referendum, notably the disposal of weapons currently held in Bougainville and an acceptable standard of governance achieved by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

Put simply, this vote will determine whether Bougainville pushes ahead for full independence or chooses to remain an autonomous region of PNG.

Yet the complexity of the issues in Bougainville, and as between the ABG and PNG, means that as the referendum date draws nearer, Bougainville will again inevitably feature prominently in Australia's foreign policy considerations.

The process of negotiation between the ABG and PNG is fraught with difficulties as there appear to be deeply entrenched differences over the future of Bougainville, the possibility of reopening the Panguna mine and the direction of economic and social development.

As Anthony Regan, a leading expert on Bougainville, has stated, the starkly different views that are held by Bougainville leaders and the PNG Government, gives rise "to possibilities of conflict over the referendum outcome".

Aware of the challenges facing Bougainville and the importance of engaging with all relevant parties at the earliest opportunity, our trip to Papua New Guinea included a number of days in Bougainville to gain a deeper understanding of the complex web of cultural, social, economic and political issues that lie at the heart of the referendum question.

During our stay in Buka, we met with leaders of the ABG including President John Momis and Vice-President Patrick Nisira to discuss progress of the peace process, weapons disposal and economic development.

While the 2001 Agreement resulted in the destruction of many weapons used in the civil war, there are fears that a significant number of weapons are still held in the community.

Further, the military ordnance left in southern Bougainville by the United States during the Second World War in the Pacific is an ever present danger.

We made a seven hour round journey by boat and four-wheel drive to Arawa, the pre-civil war capital of Bougainville, to meet with people involved in the reconciliation process including members of the ABG Regional Administration and a representative from the Me'ekamui people, a tribe who had not taken part in the 2001 Agreement.

The reality of the civil war and the bridges that have to be crossed before the referendum can take place were brought home to me in our meeting with former members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Sam Kauona and Ishmael Toroama.

Sam Kauona, a Bougainvillean but also an Australian Army trained former PNG Defence force lieutenant and explosives expert, who became one of the most feared guerrilla fighters in the civil war, told me that he had been "rehabilitated" and that he was now committed to peace and reconciliation.

However he was also deeply committed to an independent Bougainville and he is not alone in his views.

We saw the work funded by Australia's foreign aid program to improve basic infrastructure across the islands, as well as improving governance, education and health standards. However, the massive challenge of achieving an independent Bougainville should not be underestimated.

Whether the preconditions for the referendum will be met within the timeframe remains to be seen, but this will be a crucial test for the people of Bougainville and the PNG Government.

Australia must be, and be seen to be, deeply committed to the peace and reconciliation process in the lead up to 2015 and beyond.

13.04.2012

Source: The Age

Chinese get tough on foreign projects

by Peter Cai

CHINESE authorities are cracking down on foreign investment after a string of troubled projects that have run up tens of billions of dollars in losses, including two big resources deals in Australia.

In a decision that will have implications for Australia's booming resources sector, China's State Assets Supervision and Administration Commission has published new rules that will hold state-owned enterprises and their executives accountable for bad overseas investment decisions.

The commission's move follows two disastrous investments in Australia's resources sector.

The largest Chinese investment project in Australia, the \$7 billion CITIC Pacific Sino Iron project, conceived by the magnate Clive Palmer, has been dogged by huge cost blowouts and delay. The budget for the project has almost tripled from the initial \$2.5 billion estimate.

A second big investment project, the \$2 billion Sinosteel Midwest project, was shelved last year after a string of difficulties. The head of Sinosteel, Huang Tianwen, reportedly lost his job because of investments that had gone awry in Western Australia.

The commission has demanded more due diligence and risk management on all overseas investment deals by state-owned companies. No penalties have been announced but executives will be held "accountable" for foreign investments that result in significant losses for the state.

Since the start of China's "going out" initiative in 2003, which encouraged Chinese companies to invest overseas, Australia has been a favourite hunting ground for them.

The Labor government is believed to have approved more than \$70 billion worth of investments from Chinese companies since it was elected in 2007.

That growing investment in Australia will be affected by the commission's new regulations.

"Failed Chinese investors are likely to point their fingers at Australia and there is the potential for the ill-judged investments to become part of the tone of the bilateral relationship," the former president of BHP Billiton China, Clinton Dines (picture), said.



But he said there should be a long-term benefit. "That the Chinese government is putting some filters and hurdles in place to ensure that more proper due diligence is done is a good thing.

"A lot of prospective Chinese investors don't know much about owning, operating and investing in the resources industry. If there were to be too many bad Chinese investments in Australia, these difficulties would inevitably bleed across into the government sphere and that cannot be good for the bilateral relationship."

Mr Dines, who is now the executive chairman (Asia) of the private equity firm Caledonia, said the introduction of the new rules was "consistent with the evolution of policy thinking in Beijing" as the government reassessed resources security.

"The Chinese government has learnt two important lessons since the advent of the 'going out' initiative," he said. "Firstly, that Chinese companies are not always equipped to be successful buyers, owners and operators of overseas projects.

"Secondly, Chinese government thinking is gradually evolving towards the conclusion that security of supply does not necessarily require ownership of these assets."

While a number of projects in Australia have cost the Chinese government billions, one is held up as a model of how to invest abroad successfully.

That company is Minerals and Metals Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of China Minmetals that emerged from the purchase of key assets from OZ Minerals in 2009.

MMG's chief executive, Andrew Michelmore, said all his dealings with the state-owned parent company had been positive.

"All my experience with Minmetals has been about the return on investments, profitability and shareholder values," he said.

12.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women's forum

By Tapo Tovilu

The Leitana Nehan Women's Agency will be carrying out an open forum tomorrow to address women's issues in the region.

The forum which is designed to help women come out more openly about issues affecting them is aimed at helping and strengthening women.

The forum will include a panel of women leaders in the region who will be answering questions and addressing the current issues affecting women.

New Dawn FM understands that the forum will begin at 10am tomorrow at the Bel-Isi Park purposely for the public to get involved and witness the occasion.

12.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls made to stop corruption

By Tapo Tovilu

A call has been made by a senior public servant to be more aware of the corrupt practices being carried out by public servants in Bougainville.

He says even though this fact is denied by many the truth remains that corruption is present in the public service sector.

He also says that the more the people are aware of what happens behind closed doors the better they can identify corruption.

He has called for the ABG to set up a anti-corruption taskforce to carry out investigations into these allegations.

He says each year millions of kina go missing in the public sector and added that something must be done to improve the current situation.

12.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO FUNDS FOR BY ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS said that the ABG would be having a By-Election for the LULE seat to replace the late PAUL MITU who passed away last Saturday when funds are available.

He said with the passing of the late PAUL MITU, having a by-election for the vacant LULE seat was inevitable as per the Bougainville constitution.

The ABG President made these comments when sending his condolences to the family and relatives of the late member for LULE.

New Dawn FM understands that several more by-elections would take place this year as some current sitting ABG Members would be contesting the coming National Government Elections in June.

12.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis condolence

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS today sent his condolence for the Bougainville House of Representative member for LULE Constituency, the late PAUL MITU.

On behalf of the people of Bougainville, the ABG and his family, Chief Momis sent his deepest sympathy to the family, relatives and constituents of the late member for Lule PAUL MITU who passed away on Easter Saturday after a long illness.

Chief MOMIS said that the late Paul Mitu was an outstanding leader and true son of Bougainville who contributed immensely to the economic development of Bougainville.

ABG President who had the opportunity to spend time with the family and relatives at his home in Pamoito village was deeply humbled by the story of the man who was recently a leader in the Momis government.

He said that the late PAUL MITU was a suffering servant who continued to deliver services to his people even when he was ill.

Chief Momis said that the late Paul Mitu truly incarnated the value of Christ's kingdom, because he lived a life of goodwill, of forgiveness, of respect for others and caring for his people.

He said this was exemplified in all the pivotal roles that he played in the economic recovery of Bougainville including his tenure as a former Assistant Secretary to Commerce in the old Provincial Government days and deputy chairman of the parliamentary select committee on economic development.

As a member of the current ABG Government the late PAUL MITU managed to secure government assistance to fund the feeder road to his village of Pamoito when he passed away.

President Momis assured the constituents of LULE that his hard work will not be forgotten as the ASBG was in a process of prioritizing all economic feeder roads in Bougainville.

12.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLEANS NEED TO VOTE TALKING MPS

By Aloysius Laukai

A senior Bougainvillean Lawyer, JOEL MINISIPI NAVA says that Bougainvilleans need to vote talking leaders this round.

He says that with the coming national elections to be held in June this year, our people in Bougainville will again be allowed their democratic rights to choose leaders who will lead Bougainville in the future.

We Bougainvilleans need to understand that the coming national election is a very special one for us in Bougainville because we will be voting for 4 National MPs (Bougainville Regional, North, Central, and South Bougainville) who will exert some influence at the National political level. These 4 MPs that we will vote for in the 2012 elections will play a major part for the Bougainville Referendum, weapons disposal, implementation of transfer of powers to Bougainville and Bougainville's political future.

Therefore we need to vote for leaders who, apart from being knowledgeable in the above political issues, are also talkers particularly during National Parliament sessions.

Since 2005 up till now when Bougainville gained autonomy from PNG, the only Bougainville leaders who talked openly on Bougainville issues during national parliament sessions include the current President, Mr. John Momis and the current Governor General Sir. Michael Ogio.

National Leaders that we had thereafter, seemed to have been very silent in all Parliaments sessions though we had more on Bougainville issues and concerns to convey to PNG Government.

Although one or two of our current leaders may be seen as service deliverers, within their own electorates, that is not enough. Great Leaders are talkers and it is only through talking that they achieve something for their own people.

When a leader does not talk particularly when he is sitting among other leaders, other leaders may think that the people he represents are always satisfied and do not need anything. Also the general public will think that the leader is too shallow and does not understand the issues being discussed. Also people who do not talk are generally viewed as having low self-esteem and lack confidence in themselves.

There are National leaders in Bougainville who cannot even campaign for themselves because they cannot talk in front of the public. These leaders openly give public monies to people and institutions especially when election times are near. These are the leaders we need to avoid in Bougainville.

We, in Bougainville have so many issues (relating to Bougainville) to talk about during national Parliament sessions and if our leaders cannot talk openly, we will not achieve much on the issues of implementation of transfer of powers, referendum, weapons disposal.

The future of Bougainville is in our hands. We need to get good, talking leaders to Parliament. Let's choose leaders who can talk.

12.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PNG investors eye Far North Queensland

PAPUA New Guinea residents are the largest foreign investors in the Far North of Australian (Cairns), according to the latest figures from the Registrar of Titles.

The Cairns Post reported yesterday that Papua New Guineans bought commercial, residential and other property worth \$4.5 million (K9.58 million) out of \$16 million (K34.09 million) of foreign purchases in the last financial year.

CBRE Cairns managing director Danny Betros said there had not been many large sales to PNG investors in recent times.

He said the last large sale was the \$19 million three-storey office building at 120 Bunda St to a PNG consortium in July 2010. The building was bought by Mineral Resources Lihir Capital Ltd, a company that receives royalties from the \$1 billion gold project on Lihir Island, and invests in property and other concerns on behalf of the community.

In May last year, a PNG family's first foray into the Far North's commercial property market was expected to be the start of further investments.

The newspaper said one Honale family bought the home of Channel 7 local news in Mulgrave Rd, Parramatta Park, for \$3.2 million. Mr Betros said there were about 12 groups representing PNG investors active in the Far North. He said the mining boom was sparking interest by PNG investors in the Far North as well as because of its close proximity. It is understood a PNG consortium is also eyeing off one of the Cairns Central Business District's largest office blocks, the Corporate Tower. Greg Wood of Knight Frank Cairns reportedly said interest in property in Cairns had dropped off following the political stability in PNG.

Mr Wood said he expected the number of Australians and others working in the PNG resources sector to start buying mainly residential properties in Cairns for their families.

The Far North's lifestyle, attractive property prices and the resource boom is drawing investors from PNG as well as Western Australia and Darwin who are snapping up prestige waterfront homes and land in the elite Bluewater estate.

In February, investors from PNG called FNQ Hot Property Principal Nathan Shingles at 9am one day, inspected the Bluewater property and by 4pm had signed a contract.

Next on the list was the UK (\$3.5 million), NZ (\$2 million) and Japan (\$1.9 million).

Other notable buyers were from the Czech Republic (\$680,000), Greece (\$530,000), Hong King (\$491,470), Argentina (\$490,000) and Malaysia (\$394,300).

Hong Kong residents own the largest amount of land (1116ha) followed by Belgium (492ha), the UK (352ha), Japan (278ha) and China (91ha) while UK investors own the largest number of land parcels (257) followed by Japan (214), NZ (212) and PNG (101).

12.04.2012

Source: The National

Telikom gives five computers to Bougainville school

ONE of the oldest schools in Central Bougainville electorate, Arawa Secondary School, will be the proud recipient of five new computers from Telikom PNG.

The company quickly responded to Minister for Information and Communication Jimmy Miringtoro's letter seeking to start a major fundraising drive for his electorate in Central Bougainville.

At the Telikom headquarters yesterday, Miringtoro took possession of five new personal computers that will be donated to the new Arawa secondary as part of the roll-out programme for the redevelopment of Arawa town.

He thanked Telikom PNG, saying Arawa Secondary was the oldest school in Central Bougainville.

It was established in 1971, three years before the emergence of the Panguna Copper Mine.

Miringtoro said the people of Central Bougainville electorate were on a major fundraising drive to raise money to develop the area and it was good to see Telikom PNG being the first to help students there.

"Arawa was regarded as one of the top 10 schools in the country before but due to the crisis it had fallen apart and we are trying to build its reputation again," he said.

"I was in fact very surprised by the quick response by Telikom and I thank them for the support."

Telikom acting chief executive officer Charles Litau said they hoped the students at Arawa Secondary School would use the computers wisely.

Meanwhile, from the K100 million given to Bougainville, Miringtoro will allocate K5 million to the fundraising drive and he is hoping to raise K10 million to fully cover all the infrastructure development plans in Central Bougainville.

"All this has been planned for and we will need K15 million to fund all these projects," he said.

12.04.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville chiefs call for respect

CHIEFS and other leaders in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have told ex-combatants that the region will not develop unless they show respect for law and order.

Armed former militants have caused havoc in and around the main town of Buka in recent weeks. This included the destruction of three ships belonging to the owner of the mv Rabaul Queen inter-island ferry.

The vessel sank two months ago off Morobe.

Chiefs and local government personnel met leaders of the ex-combatants and called on them to behave.

The chair of the chief's council, Robert Tohia Tabuta, said these people had to realise they were holding back the development of the province.

"(In) the absence of law and order here in our region, there is no development," he said..

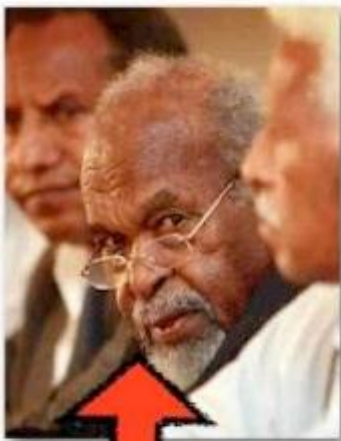
"So the chiefs, the leaders, of Buka Island, Bougainville Island are concerned that if our ex-combatants do not abide by the law it negates development." – Radio New Zealand International

12.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Somare family behind public unrest?

Who is it that really wants power?



Him?



...or them?

from: PNG exposed

Read here the today's report of Radio New Zealand International:

PNG activist says Somare supporters hijacked rally

A Papua New Guinea NGO activist has accused groups loyal to the former Somare government of hijacking Tuesday's large public rally against the deferral of elections and the Judicial Conduct law.

A mass gathering of between five and ten thousand people, including University students, NGOs and union groups, converged on Sir John Guise stadium in Port Moresby to present petitions to the government.

Noel Anjo of PNG's Coalition of Civil Society Organisations says he had originally planned the rally to be on Thursday but that the plan got hijacked by groups with a political agenda.

"The coalition partner NGOs were not allowed to have a look at the content of the petition and we were not even allowed to sign on the petition. The few people who signed on the petition (included) the Trade Union Congress Secretary General, the President and groups that are aligned to the former regime."

"Meanwhile, Noel Anjo says he is satisfied that the government is not going to defer elections." He remains against the Judicial Conduct Law even though he believes that the current Chief Justice should be removed from office for abuse of office.

Conspirational meeting on Easter morning 11 a.m.: Former Minister of PNG Public Enterprises, **Arthur Somare (right)** with PNG Trade Union Secretary General **John Paska (left)**. Did they plan the rally against the O'Neill government?



11.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Sir J opposes poll deferral

By PORENI UMAU

THE deferral of the 2012 Elections for another six months may have serious repercussions against the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.



Also New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan (picture), who opposed such move, said that, "I lead a province steadfast on attaining the maximum form of autonomy and will not allow failures to hinder the process of people's government. If some provinces are not ready, people should blame their leaders and allow elections to proceed elsewhere. Paul Sampai from Siwai, South Bougainville said that the government's decision to defer the elections was a violation of the democratic rights of the people of PNG and Bougainvilleans.

He said that the Constitution has stated it clearly that elections must be held every five years citing that Bougainville has a special case, especially the referendum on gaining independence during the peace agreement signing where Bougainville should be fully independent in 10-15 years time.

Mr Sampai who was speaking with support from ex-combatants said that the deferral will surely hurt Bougainville's work towards achieving independence as agreed by the PNG Government and the Bougainvillean leaders. "The deferral will delay momentum towards achieving what was promised to us," he said.

He queried the current leadership citing 'I see a weak leadership in this current government'.

He also urged South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma to speak out for such cause and not be quiet.

Also the deferral of elections has attracted the ire of New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan.

Sir Julius condemned the decision of deferring the national elections by another six months saying this was a blatant denial that has robbed the people of their right to pronounce judgment on their leaders in the June polls. Speaking from his village at Huris in the New Ireland Province, Sir Julius said usurping the people's right from the ballot box for no justifiable reason is only prolonging the questions about the legality of the divided house. He repeated his disappointment issued previously and confirmed that the deferral was unconstitutional as were many recent passages of various laws to the Constitution.

11.04.2012

Source: The National

Election on schedule

THE national election will be held as scheduled with only a slight change. The writs will be issued on May 18 instead of April 27 as previously gazetted.



In a day of public demonstration and protest, it was the official line from Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen, who Prime Minister Peter O'Neill admitted yesterday, alone had the power to defer the dates of the election.

The decision will not affect date for polling which falls on June 23 and for the return of writs on or before July 27.

Also yesterday:

- Hundreds gathered at the Sir John Guise Stadium to protest the deferral of the election and passage of the Judicial Conduct Law;
- Schools and many business houses in Port Moresby were closed as fears spread that the demonstration might turn violent;
- Demonstrators earlier stoned cars and damaged a shop in

Koki;

- Hundreds converged at the Eriku oval in Lae to protest the deferral, led by the University of Technology students; and

Madang, demonstrators said they were ready to go to the poll.

10.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network News

Thousands protest against PNG election delay

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ACTIVES MISSED

By Tapo Tovilu

Radio Bougainville's duo who covered mainland Bougainville during the Bougainville conflict have not been included in the payroll of staffs of NBC that were paid today by officers from the Department of Personal management.

Former Radio Bougainville's senior Officers, Timothy Masiu and Aloysius Laukai's name were not on the list of former NBC staff who served during the Bougainville conflict.

Timothy Masiu was covering the conflict mostly travelling with PNGDF troops whilst Aloysius Laukai was held up by the BRA and put in house arrest in Buin in 1991 and also held up by security forces in Buka on his return trip from the South Bougainville.

When asked why some names were not on the list, the officers said that it was the NBC office who gave them the list.

At least two other workers, Lawrence Banae who served also during the conflict and Phliph Bakatau were not listed for payment.

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

First batch get paid

By Tapo Tovilu

The first batch of public servants entitled to the controversial risk allowance payments received their payments today.

The National Department of Works, National Broadcasting Cooperation and MV Sankamap were among the first departments to receive the payments.

Officers on the ground say that public servants with surnames starting from A to L were to be paid with the next lot in June.

But not all were happy as many were turned away at the police station because their names were not on the list.

Some frustrated public servants whose names weren't on the list say that the list should have been checked well.

New Dawn FM understands that this is not the final list of names with the list to be cross referenced again for the next payments in June.

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Increasing number of cars a concern

By Tapo Tovilu

The increasing number of motor vehicles in Buka town is a growing concern due to the limited road space.

Buka Town resident James Putsion says that with the increasing number of cars in the town area the roads are becoming overcrowded with people and vehicles.

He says that this is most common on any working day in Buka town and many people find it challenging just to cross the road.

Mr Putsion has called on authorities to look more into the possibility of redesigning the road systems into, out of and in Buka town.

He has also called for the general public to be careful when in town especially during the busy times of day.

He comments follow an incident last week Thursday when a man was nearly over run in front of the police station.

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Public Servants Meeting



Public servants waiting outside the fence for their names to be called



Public servants at a meeting with DPM at Hutjena Secondary School this morning
Pictures by Tapo Tovilu

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG PM assures protestors over elections but keeps Judicial Conduct Act

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has assured several thousand protestors in Port Moresby that national elections this year will go ahead as originally scheduled.

Mr O'Neill addressed the crowd of an estimated five to ten thousand protestors at the capital's Sir John Guise Stadium.

He and some members of his cabinet received petitions from civil society, student and union groups demanding elections be not deferred by six months as parliament voted last week.

They also voiced concerns over a controversial new law enabling government to suspend judges.

Our correspondent, Titi Gabi, says many were dissatisfied with Mr O'Neill's response, particularly on calls for his government to repeal the Judicial Conduct Act.

"The election is on course. That undertaking was made by the Attorney General Allan Marat. As for the Judicial bill, Peter O'Neill has said that the Chief Justice would have to resign first and then they (the government) can withdraw the bill. So there's still a lot of dissatisfied protestors out there, unhappy with the outcome of today."

Titi Gabi says the Trade Union Congress remains unhappy with the government's response and will meet to decide on its next protest action.

10.04.2012

Source: The National

Momis: Poll deferral sets bad precedent

ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

THE postponement of the general election sets a precedent, Bougainville President John Momis said.

The chief architect of the Papua New Guinea constitution said leaders could now find any excuse to delay the election and deprive the constituents and citizens of their rights to vote for their candidates.

Momis said although past elections were not perfect, previous governments had not used the unpreparedness of the electoral commission or the public service to delay elections.

He said this was a very bad precedent and he hoped "this does not become a habit".

Momis said leaders must be subjected to scrutiny and election time was the opportunity for the people to use their knowledge and experience to make proper choices.

He said the delay would cause many unnecessary delays in Bougainville in respect of other important engagements they had with the national government.

"We cannot go on procrastinating. The JSB has been put off for so long, the national government has not given us the budgeted K100 million and this is quite a concern to us," he said.

Another Bougainville leader Sylvester Niu called on the PNG parliament not to play with the lives of six million people by deferring the general election.

Niu said in Buka the election must go ahead as planned. e said the decision by parliament was illegal and not in the best interest of PNG.

10.04.2012

Source. ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Electoral Commission adamant elections set for June

The PNG Electoral Commission says it will proceed with conducting the 2012 National General Elections as scheduled despite Parliament's decision to defer the polls.

Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen gave this assurance yesterday following last Thursday's parliament decision to delay the elections by six months.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was one of the members who voted in support of the motion.

He's now saying that motion was tabled without his authorisation and that it's going ahead in June as scheduled.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: ABC's reporter in Port Moresby, Firmin Nanol

[Listen here !](#)

10.04.2012

Source: The National

Woman jailed for bid to kill husband

A 34-YEAR-old woman in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has been jailed for eight years for conspiring with another person to kill her husband.

The National Court in Buka heard that Melba Posara, from Mamaguta village, Siwai district, was married to Benjamin Posara and that some time before April, 2011, she started an extra-marital relationship with her husband's younger brother, Max Kariha.

In April, 2011, Kariha approached Posara and suggested a plan to kill her husband, to which she agreed.

On April 8, 2011, while his brother was asleep, Kariha slashed his face twice with a knife and thought he had killed him.

The State alleged that Melba conspired with Kariha to kill Posara.

Acting judge, Justice David Maliku said this was a serious matter because there was a conspiracy between two persons to take another person's life.

"The fact that death did not take place makes this matter fall short of the worst category of cases.

"At the time of the commission of the offence, Melpa was the wife of the victim.

"She conspired with another person to kill her own husband. She was unfaithful and indeed betrayed her husband," he said.

Although Melba's lawyer claimed there was no evidence to show she had helped in the conspiracy, Maliku said she had given permission to kill her husband.

Maliku told Melba that nobody, including her and Kariha, had the right to kill or conspire to kill another person.

10.04.2012

Source: The National

Judge: Using knives to harm increasing

CASES of grievous bodily harm and causing wounding are on the rise in many parts of Papua New Guinea, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, a National Court judge says.

Speaking in Buka recently, acting judge Justice David Maliku, said dangerous weapons such as knives had been frequently used to inflict serious and often permanent injuries.

He sentenced Julius Minsipi, from Tugiu village, Buin district, Bougainville, to five years in jail on one count each of causing grievous bodily harm and wounding.

The court heard that between 3pm and 5pm on April 25, 2009, the victims James Minsipi and Aloysius Kumunu were returning from Piaringo village when they stopped at Okurai, Numukei village, to look for tobacco.

While they were waiting to be served, a drunk Minsipi approached them with a grass knife and attacked them.

Both victims bled heavily and were taken to Buin health centre for treatment.

James Minsipi was referred to Buka General Hospital where it was discovered that his right hand had to be amputated.

“Although this matter does not fall in the worst category of cases, it is still serious because of the extent of injuries suffered by the victims.

“It is the duty of the court to impose sentences that will deter the accused from recommitting and others from committing similar offences in the future and to ensure that the public is safe,” he said.

On the second count, he was sentenced to 18 months in jail, with the term to be served concurrently.

10.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Aust leader visits Arawa

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Australian Government Deputy Opposition Leader Julie Bishop went all the way to Arawa on her official visit to Bougainville.

Ms Bishop and her delegation were accompanied by Autonomous Bougainville Government Mining Minister and Member for Ioro Michael Oni, Member for Eivo Torau Melchior Dare and National Coordinating office of Bougainville Affairs Director Ellison Towollom.

The delegation met with the Executive Manager for Panguna District Otto Noruka and the Mekamui Government of Unity Administrator Robin Tekapu.

Both officers briefed the delegation of the current situation on arms, peace process and the state of the Panguna mine discussions.

The discussions paid particular attention on the unification process since the signing of the Panguna Communiqué in 2007, and the need for more funds to support the ongoing process.

“The Panguna process still has got outstanding issues to tackle and outstanding reconciliation. And in order for those things to be over, we direly need support, and if it’s from Australia that would be so nice cause you’re partly responsible,” Mr Tekapu said during the meeting.

The delegation then met with former BRA leaders Ishmael Toroama and Sam Kaona, a very important meeting and heavy discussions concerning the ongoing peace and reconciliation process on Bougainville.

Mr Kaona briefed the delegation on stolen rights of indigenous Bougainvilleans, and that Australia despite spending billions of dollars gets very little appreciation.

“We look to Australia to do the right thing and support Bougainville in its difficult journey.

“I think those Australians, if they knew of the stolen rights of Bougainville 250 years ago they would support and give us a fair go,” Mr Kauona said.

He added that Bougainville hoped Australia would remain its ally after independence.

10.04.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Former Bougainville militants urged to respects PNG laws

Chiefs and other leaders in Papua New Guinea’s Bougainville have told ex-combatants that the autonomous province won’t develop unless they show respect for law and order.

Armed former militants have caused havoc in and around the main town Buka in recent weeks, including the destruction of three ships belonging to the owner of the Rabaul Queen inter island ferry which sank two months ago off Morobe.

Chiefs and local government personnel met leaders of the ex-combatants and called on them to behave.

The chair of the chief’s council, Robert Tohia Tabuta, says these people have to realise they are holding back the development of the province.

“[In] the absence of law and order here in our region, there is no development. So the chiefs, the leaders, of Buka Island, Bougainville Island are concerned that if our ex-combatants do not abide by the law it negates development.”

08.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

All participate

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG president chief JOHN MOMIS has called on the people of Bougainville to contribute meaningfully to the development of Bougainville

He says that Bougainville can change if every men women and children of Bougainville can do their part in whatever area of field they are working on.

Chief Momis said that Bougainville is a small area and if all Bougainvilleans are committed to peace and development we can achieve easily.

He called on all Bougainvilleans to unite, forget their differences and work for total peace and development in the region.

The ABG President made these comments in his Easter message to the people of Bougainville broadcasted on New Dawn Fm last night.

07.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG backtracks on election delay

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has called for early elections, just days after parliament voted to delay the June polls by up to six months.

In a statement released on Saturday, Mr O'Neill said parliament was not properly briefed on election preparations and that the motion was tabled without his authorisation.

"The Electoral Commissioner's brief to me dated April 2 did not recommend deferral of elections. All effort must be made to assure security and integrity of the elections," he said.

Mr O'Neill was one of 63 MPs who on Thursday voted to defer national elections by six months after hearing a report that preparations were inadequate.

Before the vote, the MP assisting Mr O'Neill on electoral matters briefed parliamentary ministers on a report from PNG's electoral commission.

He told them electoral rolls were not complete and police were not ready to provide security.

But Mr O'Neill now says the electoral commission did not recommend that the elections be deferred and the minister in question did not have clearance to suggest the delay to parliament.

Mr O'Neill has yet to give a clear indication of when elections will be held, but says all efforts must be made to ensure their integrity and security.

Cabinet is expected to meet on Monday to review election preparations ahead of Tuesday's sitting of parliament, where the decision to defer elections is likely to be reversed.

07.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG backflips on stalling national elections

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has called for early elections, just days after parliament voted to delay the June polls by up to six months.

In a statement released on Saturday, Mr O'Neill said parliament was not fully briefed on election preparations and did not have his authorisation.

"The Electoral Commissioner's brief to me dated April 2 did not recommend deferral of elections. All effort must be made to assure security and integrity of the elections," he said.

PNG's parliament voted 63-11 on Thursday to defer the mid-year elections for six months after hearing a report that preparations were inadequate.

Cabinet is expected to meet on Monday to review election preparations ahead of Tuesday's sitting of parliament, where the decision to defer elections is likely to be reversed.

On Friday, Papua New Guinea warned other countries, particularly Australia, not to interfere in its internal affairs.

Perhaps in anticipation of an international backlash, deputy prime minister Belden Namah warned other countries not to interfere.

He singled out Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr who floated, then later retracted, the idea of imposing sanctions on Papua New Guinea if elections were delayed.

"Whatever Mr Bob Carr says about sanctions, I want to say this: do not threaten the independence of this country," Mr Namah said.

Mr Carr says Australia is disappointed about the election delay, but is not considering sanctions at the moment.

He says Australia and New Zealand have already agreed to provide substantial support for the poll.

"In my view it would not be productive to be talking about sanctions at this time," he said.

"Questions are being raised in Papua New Guinea about the constitutionality of this decision, those questions will need to be resolved by the country itself.

"We respect Papua New Guinea's sovereignty and we'd like to see this decision reviewed."

In a statement, Prime Minister Julia Gillard made no mention of sanctions but maintained Australia believed the elections should be held on time.

"While we respect Papua New Guinea's sovereignty, as a strong supporter and long-time friend of Papua New Guinea, Australia believes the elections should be held on time, in accordance with the constitution," she said.

"Papua New Guinea's democracy has to date had a good record of holding elections on time."

06.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President and Papua New Guinea's constitution architect chief John Momis says that the announcement by the Government to postpone the 2012 general elections sets a dangerous trend in the history of Papua New Guinea.

He says this is because leaders will find any excuse to delay elections and deprive the constituents and citizens of their rights to cast their votes for their choice candidates.

President Momis said that although past elections were not perfect but previous governments did not use the un-preparedness of the Electoral Commission or the public service to delay elections.

He said that this was a very bad precedent and just hoped this does not become a habit.

The ABG President said that leaders must be subjected to scrutiny and election time was the opportune time that enables the people to screen and use their Knowledge and Experiences to make proper choices.

President Momis said that the delay will cause a lot of unnecessary delays in Bougainville in respect to other important engagements we have with the National Government.

MR. MOMIS said AND I QUOTE "We cannot go on procrastinating, the JSB has been put off for so long, National Government has not given us the budgeted ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA and this is causing quite a concern to us" end of quote.

06.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CATHOLICS CARRY THE CROSS

By Aloysius Laukai

Catholics from the Hahela parish on Buka island joined Christians throughout the world to carry the Cross and process to remember the pains Jesus had to go through to redeem the world 2000 years ago.

Hahela parishioners processed from Kenny's Hall all in Buka town all the way to the Church at Hahela.

They braved the heat of the sun and started their walk from Kenny's Hall just after 1pm uphill to the Hahela Mission where they had the normal GOOD FRIDAY

06.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

A two-day meeting by leaders of South Bougainville and Ex-combatants involved in the burning of the Rabaul Shipping ships ended today with resolutions to hold several meetings between leaders from Tiniput, Wakunai and Central Bougainville before meeting the chiefs of North Bougainville.

Spokesperson for the meeting and Buka businessman, GABRIEL PANGTEI told New Dawn FM this afternoon that the meeting has ironed out differences that have existed between the Ex-combatants and the Bougainville leaders.

MR. PANGTEI however said that the resolutions will not be made public until other stakeholders have been given the opportunity to study the resolutions.

MR. PANGTEI said that the South Bougainville leaders had to call the meeting in response to calls by Buka Council of Elders for the Ex-combatants involved in the burning of ships to return to their respective homes.

He assured the people of Buka that the South Bougainville leaders would call for a meeting with them as soon as they have consultative meetings with all stakeholders on Bougainville.

05.04.2012

Source: Australian Network News

PNG enters uncharted waters

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE NOT HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville leader, SYLVESTER NIU this afternoon called on the Papua New Guinea Parliament not to play with the lives of Six Million people of Papua New Guinea by deferring the National Elections by six months.

Mr. Niu told New Dawn FM tonight that this was not on the election must be allowed to continue on time.

Mr. Niu said the actions of the members was illegal and was not in the best interest of Papua New Guinea.

He said the current members must not use parliament to promote their selfish interests.

MR. NIU said that because Papua New Guinea had two Prime Ministers, two deputies, to Police Commissioners etc etc the only way to stop these was by way of the General election now deferred.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COMBATANTS CALLED TO MOVE OUT OF BUKA

BY TAPO TOVILU

Former combatants from Tinputz in North Bougainville, Wakunai in Central Bougainville and Buin in South Bougainville who were involved in the burning of the Rabaul Shippings have been given 24 hours to move out of Buka and return to their respective villages.

The agreement was reached from the combined conference of the North Bougainville Council of Elders held in Buka yesterday.

This was after countless reports by the people of Buka that they were fed up with the attitude of a few former combatants who continue to carry and discharge firearms threatening the people.

In a press statement released they said that the combatant's actions are disrupting peace and stability which many had fought and died for.

The actions of the few have also affected the price of copra causing it to drop dramatically and have put fear into shipping companies operating within the region.

Chairman of the Buka Conference of chiefs, Romeo Tohiana and his council have assured shipping companies and investors that their investments will be protected.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pictures of the Mortlock Islanders camp under water from the recent heavy rains



05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SCHOOLS VISIT NEW DAWN

By Aloysius Laukai

Four Grade nine students from Hutjena Secondary school and three Grade Twelve students from Bishop Wade Secondary school visited New Dawn FM this afternoon.

The Grade nine students were doing a project on types of Programs and how they are prepared before they are aired to the public.

Whilst the Grade twelve students were on a project that looks at the Biography of a role model and in this case they talked to the Manager of New Dawn FM, Aloysius Laukai.

The students were surprised to see the level of Professionalism especially with the daily operation of a media organization.

This was the first time for students from Bougainville to have an interest in a local media although New Dawn FM has been providing an avenue for Bougainville students from the Divine Word University to do their practical since 2009.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UNITE WOMEN

By Aloysius Laukai

The World Bank's Inclusive Development Programme in Post Conflict Bougainville will certainly unite the women of Bougainville according to the Minister for Community Development, ROSE PIHEI.

MRS. PIHEI was speaking at the launch of the program at the Kuri Village Resort this morning. The program which is funded by the WORLD BANK's SIX MILLION KINA Grant would assist Bougainville's women groups to build their capacity to participate in development projects throughout the region.

The Minister said that if the women can forget their differences and work as one voice they can make big impact on Bougainville.

She said Bougainville women represent 50 percent of the population and can even vote their own women representative to parliament if they can put their acts together.

The Minister officially launched the project which will end in March 2014.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMEN WILL BENEFIT

By Aloysius Laukai

All women organizations will benefit from the World Bank funded Inclusive Development Project launched today in Buka.

CEO for Community Development, MANA KAKAROUTS made these remarks at the project launching in Buka this morning.

MRS. KAKAROUTS was responding to questions of which organizations would benefit from the project.

She said that the project will assist all women's organizations and not just the Bougainville women's federation.

The CEO said that only applications from organized women's groups would be entertained as the project is not for individual women.

On the question of which projects would be funded, she said that it was up to the groups to decide which project would work in their areas.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BISHOP TOURS BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Deputy Opposition leader for Australia, JULIE BISHOP and her delegation arrived in Buka this morning for a three-day visit to the Autonomous Region.

Her delegation included two other members of parliament.

The delegation was welcomed by students from the Kamarau International school and a Bamboo band from Malasang village on Buka island.

In her welcome message at the Buka airport ABG Minister for community development, ROSE PIHEI thanked the people of Australia for their continued support towards the peace process on Bougainville.

She said that Bougainville was happy with the visit by the Australia Deputy Opposition leader and her delegation to the region.

The team made a curtesy call to the ABG Chief Administrator, LAWRENCE DISIN and the President of Bougainville Business Association, ROBERT ATSIR before travelling to the NAZARETH REHABILITATION CENTRE at Chabai.

The team will have several meetings with various groups in Arawa tomorrow before returning to Port Moresby on Friday.

New Dawn FM understands that the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS is currently in Port Moresby and would meet the team on Thursday when they return from Arawa.

Meanwhile, The Deputy Opposition leader for Australia, JULIE BISHOP says Australia will continue to assist Bougainville through its aid organization AUSAID to continue with its programs towards peace process in the region.

She was speaking to reporters at the Buka airport this morning.

The deputy Opposition leader said that AUSTRALIA has been Bougainville's best friend since world war 2 and would continue to support the region through many of its programs in the region.

She said that her trip to Bougainville was to see how projects under Aus Aid have been received in the region and also to look at new areas that need to be looked at.

On the question if AUSTRALIA would support with the weapons disposal, Member BISHOP said that Australia was committed to work with the ABG on how best the issue can be addressed.

She said that by the end of the trip she would be in a better position to know how Australia can further assist the region.

05.04.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG parliament defers election by six months

The parliament of Papua New Guinea has voted to postpone the national elections for six months.

The vote passed the house 63 to 11 following a 90-minute debate.

This comes after a recommendation by the minister assisting the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on electoral issues, Waka Goi.

Mr Goi said the budget shortfall for the election was about 30 million US dollars and the electoral rolls were not ready for public inspection.

He also said security planning was not in order yet.

Mr O'Neill has previously stated he wants a full, free, fair and on-time election.

The electoral commissioner Andrew Trawen says the government does not have the power to suspend elections because the constitution lays out a strict five-year parliamentary timetable.

05.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Namah's triumph - PNG votes to defer elections

IN A SIGNAL VICTORY for deputy prime minister Belden Namah – the wild man of PNG politics - Papua New Guinea's parliament today voted to postpone the national elections for six months.

The vote passed 63-11 following a short debate and represents a significant loss – and loss of face – for prime minister Peter O'Neill, whose days in office must now be numbered.

Speaking in parliament, Namah warned against foreign intervention in the decision.

"Whatever Bob Carr says about sanctions, I want to say ... do not threaten the independent state of PNG," Namah said.

"You must respect our wishes. You must not intrude into our election process."

Namah said the polls must be delayed to allow for proper security to be implemented in the volatile Southern Highlands.

Electoral commissioner Andrew Trawen has repeatedly said that the election will go ahead as scheduled

05.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG elections deferred

PNG correspondent Liam Fox

Papua New Guinea's Parliament has voted overwhelmingly in favour of delaying upcoming elections by six months.

The motion was passed 63 votes to 11.

Before the vote the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on election matters, Waka Goi delivered an update on electoral preparedness.

He said there was a fundamental shortfall of around 30 million dollars, electoral rolls were not ready, and police were also not ready to provide security. During the debate most MP's supported the moves, others said the delay should be two not six months.

Voting was due to begin at the end of June and the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has repeatedly assured Papua New Guineans and the international community that the elections would proceed as scheduled.

The date of PNG's next election is a sensitive political topic.

Two days after being sworn in as Australia's Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, threatened PNG with sanctions if it delayed elections.

The threat angered the PNG Government, but Mr Carr has since apologised for the incident and said he was 'misunderstood.'

PNG's government told Australia's Parliamentary Secretary on Pacific Affairs, Richard Marles, in early March, the election would happen on time.

The elections are seen as important to PNG's democracy because it has two men claiming to be the legitimate prime minister.

Peter O'Neill has the support of Parliament after taking over from an ill Sir Michael Somare.

But Sir Michael, since returning to political life, has the support of the courts.

Opposition Leader Dame Carol Kidu supports a delay but says it should only be for two months.

But he and O'Neill were not counting on the persuasive powers of Belden Namah.

05.04.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Breaking News !

Sydney: Huge demand in Bougainville Copper shares...

...but unfortunately at a limited price of AUD 0.81 per share !

Market Depth for BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

as at 10:18:10 AM Thursday, April 5, 2012

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Last Change % Volume Trades Open High Low
0.810 0.000 0.00 2,500 2 0.810 0.810 0.810
Last Traded 500 @ 0.81 - 09:59:45

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers

Level Buy Quantity Price

1	2	509,079	0.810
2	1	20,000	0.800
3	1	900	0.760
4	1	3,981	0.755
5	1	40,000	0.750
6	1	12,000	0.720
7	2	73,871	0.700
8	1	2,000	0.670
9	2	11,800	0.650
10	1	200	0.600

BOC Sellers

Price Quantity Sell Level

0.855	2,000	1	1
0.860	5,000	1	2
0.900	53,468	2	3
0.920	10,000	1	4
0.940	6,000	1	5
0.945	4,000	1	6
0.950	3,871	1	7
0.960	4,450	1	8
0.990	10,800	2	9
0.995	10,000	1	10
1.085	10,000	1	11
1.160	10,000	1	12
1.200	10,000	1	13
1.250	10,000	1	14
1.310	10,000	1	15
1.700	660	1	16
12.000	5,000	1	17
12.990	230,000	1	18
14.990	150,000	1	19
16.960	30,000	1	20
18.000	5,000	1	21
18.780	50,000	1	22
19.230	40,000	1	23
19.810	25,000	1	24
20.000	88,026	1	25

24.000 5,000 1 26
29.900 5,300 1 27
30.000 48,000 2 28
31.250 10,000 1 29

05.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arsonists told to leave Buka

FORMER combatants who were involved in the burning of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels have been given 24 hours to move out of Buka and return to their respective areas.

In a combined conference of North Bougainville Council of Elders' (COE) chairmen held on Tuesday it was decided that these factions return to their respective villages and take part in the region's weapons disposal plan for each district and leave the people of North Bougainville alone.

Chairman of the Buka conference of Chiefs Romeo Tohiana told the meeting that the people of Buka were fed up with the attitude of a few former combatants who continue to carry and discharge firearms and threaten and intimidate those in authority.

"The use of threat and intimidation of Buka leaders and officers of the Government and threat to destroy Government institutions like the Buka Court House, the ABG Finance office, the Bougainville Police Service buildings and Bougainville's Parliament Building is a threat to our peace, our women and children, our development and livelihood, a threat to the ABG's unification efforts of all Bougainvilleans, and we will not sit back and watch our peace

and good order destroyed overnight by criminals who have no respect for rule of law, good governance and the people's Agreement, a roadmap for our future destiny," Mr Tohiana said.

He said that most former combatants who were actively involved in the Bougainville war were strongly in support of Buka and North Bougainville leaders and have called on their comrades to return to their villages and

help build Bougainville as a nation.

The conference was also told that the action by this minority group has already affected the price of copra in the region where it has dropped by K500 which has greatly affected local farmers.

Mr Tohiana said that their actions were criminal in nature and disturbed the peace and stability of Bougainville and were also in clear breach of the Bougainville Peace Agreement .

The meeting was also attended by the ABG Vice President Patrick Nisira, Members and Ministers of the ABG and senior officers from the Bougainville administration.

05.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville landowners want equity on resources

By PETERSON TSERAHA

VILLAGE chiefs and resource owners from Leulo and Tonolei in Buin south Bougainville have called on the member for North Fly Boka Kondra to amend his proposed Mining, oil and gas bills before presenting to the Parliament.

Resource owners' representative Chris Bengko said landowners are happy with the proposed bills but section 6A and 6B need more discussion from all stakeholders in PNG before any proposed benefit sharing can be legislated.

Sections 6A and 6B outline how profits generated from the project under production sharing contract shall be distributed between various stake holders as follows: Investor 51%, resource owner 44% Provincial government 4% LLG 1%. But Leulo and Tonolei landowners say a more equitable distribution would be: Investor 40%, Resource owner 25%, Provincial Government 20%, LLGs in the province 10%, churches in the province 5%.

They further noted that Christian Charity and Social justice demands that wealth in this country is equitably distributed among all citizens of this country and paying 44% to a minority of resource owners is not justified and promotes selfish, sectoral minority interests.

"Trillions of Kina have been expropriated out of this country, just because of unjust and draconian mineral and other resource legislations operating in this country, and we must put a stop to this nonsense." Mr. Bengko said.

"No wonder all major investors are coming into PNG because all other mineral rich countries all over the world are now under production sharing contracts and PNG is an exception because of the current foreign introduced mineral legislations which do not recognise land owner rights." He said.

The resource owners further stated that all major projects such as in minerals, fishing, logging, agriculture sectors should all be under production sharing contracts where landowners, provincial governments LLGs and churches should share in the profits generated and not to be exploited and marginalised like they are now by mainly foreign multinational corporations in Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Bengko further stated that the people of this Country owe the Bougainville people; Peter Donigi and Simon Ekanda from the Mama Papa graun party and Boka Kondra member for North fly great admiration for exposing this great injustice, by foreign countries and developers to our people and resources.

"It seems our politicians and some of our very senior public servants, may have been bribed by those multinational corporations and that is why they never introduce new mineral rights and legislations to safe guard the collective interests of resource owners and people of this great country hugely blessed by God." "We have a lot of resources but we don't feel an inch of development and benefits from resources exported out." Mr. Bengko said.

05.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Step aside, PM told

MELANESIAN Alliance is calling on Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to step aside for lying to the nation about the Judicial Conduct Bill.

And they are also calling on the PM to apologise to the people for misleading the country on this Act.

In a show of strength in Port Moresby yesterday, the MA "engine room" made up of businessmen, leaders and elites including intending MPs for the 2012 National Elections, strongly backed Parliamentary Leader Dame Carol Kidu saying that the country is now "under siege" especially when one of the three arms of government has "crossed the operations of another government".

Former deputy prime minister and central Bougainville MP Sam Akoitai, said last night that the country must be put back in order and the Constitution restored by the leaders of this nation.

"The country is at risk if anything...when the Bill was being tabled in Parliament, the PM of this country assured the nation that the Bill was going to be referred to the Constitutional Law Reform Commission for a wider consultation," Akoitai said. "The PM has lied outright to the people of PNG and evidence of his lies is now exposed by the fact that Parliament has now referred the

Chief Justice and his fellow Judge to the Head of State to face the tribunal.” “The PM should now own up and apologise to the people of PNG and he should step aside to protect the office.” But Prime Minister Peter O’Neill’s office last night said that everyone had the right to make comments even asking for his resignation as PM. He defended that the Bill was done in the best interest of this nation and its people. He said last night that the move by Parliament to suspend the two judges was a result of the two of them refusing to step aside. He said that it was not Parliament’s intention for the move to be pushed. The Judges were biased in their proceedings on Somare and it was Parliament’s duty to protect the integrity of this government and country.

05.04.2012

Source: The National

Bishop commits Aust to Bougainville

by ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUSTRALIA has been Bougainville’s best friend since World War II and will continue to support the region, Australian deputy opposition leader Julie Bishop said.

She said in Buka on her three-day visit there that Australia would continue to help Bougainville through AusAID.

Her trip to Bougainville yesterday was to see how AusAID had been received and areas that needed to be looked at.

Bishop is on a short official visit to the country.

She also said Australia was committed to working with the Autonomous Bougainville Government on how best to address the disposal of weapons.

She returns to Port Moresby tomorrow.

Her delegation, which included two other members of parliament, was welcomed by students from the Kamarau International School and a bamboo band from Malasang village on Buka Island.

ABG Minister for Community Development Rose Pihei thanked the people of Australia for their continued support for the peace process on Bougainville.

Bishop and her delegation paid a courtesy call on ABG chief administrator Lawrence Disin and Bougainville Business Association president Robert Astir before travelling to the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre at Chabai.

The team will have meetings with groups in Arawa today.

It is believed ABG President John Momis, who is in Port Moresby, will meet the team on its return from Arawa.

05.04.2012

Source: Solomon Star

Man claimed to sell fake gold bar failed to turn up

By ASSUMPTA BUCHANAN

A man who allegedly sold a fake gold bar for \$30,000* has failed to turn up for his case at the Honiara Magistrate’s Court yesterday.

Jack Ure, 28, of Malaita province faces one count of false pretence.

It was alleged that on September 26, 2011 he sold a fake gold bar for \$30,000 to his former employer who was also his neighbour at Feraladoa, behind East Kola Ridge, Central Honiara.

The fake gold bar was believed to have been produced out from battery Lead melted into a gold bar form and painted.

He allegedly told the complainant that he has a friend named David from Guadalcanal who sells gold bars and a buyer, Brian from Bougainville.

It was further alleged that he took the complainant to see his Guadalcanal friend and Bougainville man claimed to be the buyer.

The claimed buyer from Bougainville calculated the price of the gold bar and estimated it would cost \$80 million in the world market.

The accused then told the claimed buyer (Bougainville man) that he would only be selling the gold bar for only \$40 million to him.

Upon hearing this, the complainant and his wife bought the fake gold bar for only \$30,000.

Jack had earlier told the complainant that he will help pay another \$20,000 to reach cost (\$50,000) cost of the gold bar.

The next day, after the complainant discovered the fake gold bar has tried contacting the accused but was unsuccessful.

Ure was arrested and released on a principal bail of \$1,000.

Chief Magistrate Leonard Maina yesterday adjourned the matter to May 2 and a warrant of arrest lay on his file.

Ure was represented by the Public Solicitor's Office and his case was prosecuted by the Police Prosecution Service.

* **1 Solomon Dollar = 0,10 Euro = AUD 0.13**

05.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville: outlaws must be brought to justice

BY AXEL G. STURM

KEITH JACKSON'S REPORT in PNG Attitude on his experiences in Bougainville impressed me.

In 2004 I started to invest in Bougainville Copper because an old friend of mine told me about this investment opportunity.

A couple of years later we founded the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), a group of independent investors who intend to be some kind of catalysts in the complicated situation on the ground.

Since the beginning I've been the ESBC's president. To be honest: I did not expect the huge challenge that became over the years. In so far it was some kind of "unexpected"!

I created our homepage www.bougainville-copper.eu that has grown to nearly 700 pages. Our homepage is supposed to be the best in-depth source on Bougainville, a way to promote the island and a platform to create better understanding amongst people.

Sometimes it is also a warning to dubious people who feel attracted by the island's rich resources.

Although we want to earn money with our investment on the international stockmarkets in Sydney and Frankfurt, most of us are highly motivated to support Bougainville's resurrection from the

ashes after the crises. That sounds easier than it is in reality. The wounds seem to be healed today, but unfortunately there are still competing groups who are terrorising people.

Bougainvilleans who I met in Port Moresby told me that there were 1,200 left dead due to violence. Other figures as yours of 20,000 result from people who died from insufficient medical care because of the blockade and normal death. It is not easy for me to analyse what is the truth. That does not matter because even a single death related to our mine operations is one victim too much.

My today's concern is the security on the island that is still threatened by some criminal gangs who pretend to be "honourable" former combatants. Believe me: I spent plenty of hours to find out what they are fighting for. The answer was always the same: personal greed.

I found documents such as reports on voluntary killings committed by former combatants ... killings that were absolutely not linked to our company at all.

There were also rumours that representatives of the US American Pritzker Group were in Bougainville in the late 1980s and that they influenced and paid Francis Ona to create unrest on the island.

The Pritzker Group at that time was strongly interested in taking over BCL. If all this should be true, it was not BCL that caused the Bougainville crisis. Unfortunately we cannot prove this suspicion. Perhaps somebody knows more.

Today we see re-appear dubious businessmen in Bougainville who interfere – together with criminals. This is some kind of déjà-vu.

My personal view is that Bougainville will not be a peaceful place until peace is imposed by a strong and respected police squad. Quite obviously former rebels turned to become some kind of Mafia today. All these outlaws have to be brought to justice. If not it might happen that there will be growing criminal groups one day who act like in Central Africa...with all consequences!

Bougainville Copper is ready to resume mining on Bougainville under fair conditions. I can assure to you that the ESBC will keep an eye on this. We want Bougainville to become a pearl of the Pacific region.

We would appreciate if PNG Attitude will support our struggle for a better Bougainville.

First Comment on PNG Attitude:

Sturm - Thanks for this. Your positive views on my people will be realised. Only time and patience is needed.

As a Bougainvillean, I assure you our current problems should be viewed in a positive light. Many whom we had fought against are turning to see their mistakes. Thus Bougainville's future is brilliant.

To this slow process, I condemn the unrealistic and biased terms of the referendum. It does not recognise the situation on the ground.

Anything to do with Panguna must have the locals having the upper hand, not aliens.

Thus, as I see it, PNG must be out of the equation and subjected to pay reparation that ought to come out of a backdating process since the mine came into operation.

Any settlement of conflicts must be approached through customary laws. That is, Bougainville must limit using western laws that are real nightmare for us since they lack the Melanesian world view and its norms that existed since time immemorial.

Besides, we believe in BCL, for it is worth 'dealing with a devil we know rather than a devil we don't know'.

Posted by: Leonard Roka | 05 April 2012 at 06:42 AM

04.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Opposition to assess Australia's aid program in Bougainville

The Australian Opposition's foreign affairs spokesperson, Julie Bishop, is visiting the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.



She is meeting a number of key officials and plans to meet Bougainville's President John Momis on Thursday.

Ms Bishop (picture) told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat that part of her trip will be assessing if the levels of financial aid to the region from Australia are adequate.

"I want to understand far better the challenges facing the people of Bougainville and that's why we're spending nearly three days here," she said. "So that we can meet people here that are recipients of aid, understand whether it's having the desired impact."

04.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Re-opening of the Panguna mine on Ms Bishop's agenda !

Bishop says F.M. Carr must focus on Australia's near neighbours

The Australian Opposition's deputy leader and foreign affairs spokesperson, Julie Bishop is visiting the Autonomous region of Bougainville.

Bishop says F.M. Carr must focus on Australia's near neighbours (Credit: ABC) It's part of the third trip to the region in the past few months by Ms Bishop.

It's not just a lightning visit as she'll stay overnight and hopes to meet Bougainville president, John Momis in the morning.

Presenter: Helene Hofman

Speaker: Julie Bishop, Australian Opposition Foreign Affairs spokeswoman

Listen here !

JULIE BISHOP It is my first visit to Bougainville but it is part of a trip to Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, and I have brought a number of my parliamentary colleagues with me. And we arrived in Buka in Bougainville this morning. We have met with the Vice President and with the Chief Administrator and a number of senior officials. We will be staying overnight this evening and then going to Arawa tomorrow, we will spend another night in Bougainville on Thursday and then return to Papua New Guinea on Friday.

HELENE HOFMAN Did anything arise from the meetings that you had this morning?

JULIE BISHOP They have been very significant meetings because I have been given an update about the post conflict challenges in Bougainville. One issue that keeps being raised with me is the weapons disposal programs and the challenges ahead for the autonomous government to try and get the weapons containment under control.

Your listeners will be aware that there is a proposed referendum on independence to be held as part of the Bougainville peace process sometime before 2020, between 2015 and 2020, and one of the issues that must be confronted before the referendum can be held is the weapons disposal. And that is an issue that is really exercised in the minds of those in leadership positions here.

HELENE HOFMAN And you're due to meet with President Momis tomorrow, is that something you'll bring up with him or do you have other issues that are on the agenda?

JULIE BISHOP I will be meeting with President Momis in the morning. As well as the issue of weapons disposal we will be talking about peace and reconciliation post conflict. I also want to discuss the effectiveness of Australia's aid program into PNG and Bougainville. I propose discussing with him some of the challenges that Bougainville faces in terms of its budget and the revenues that Bougainville is able to derive, and also **some opportunities for opening the Panguna mine again** and other mining and resource projects that are being considered here. And we will also talk about other ways to expand the economy and ways that Australia can assist through AusAID and other means.

HELENE HOFMAN President Momis has repeatedly said he would like to see more Australian aid for Bougainville, what is your stance on that?

JULIE BISHOP Well that is one of the reasons that I have come here in my capacity as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, I want to understand far better the challenges facing the people of Bougainville. And that is why we are spending two and a half, nearly three days here so that we can meet people who are recipients of aid, understand whether it is having the desired impact.

We have met with the Catholic Bishop today, we are now meeting with one of the Sisters, Sister Lorraine's organisation out here in Chabai, and trying to understand from them what more is needed in terms of support for health, education, as well as infrastructure.

HELENE HOFMAN Have you had to field any questions about why the Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr hasn't yet visited the region?

JULIE BISHOP I have certainly had to field questions in Port Moresby about Senator Carr's recent comments concerning sanctions on PNG should an election not be held and I have been reassured on many occasions by every level of government in PNG that the national elections will go ahead as constitutionally required.

And so it is unfortunate that Senator Carr made those comments but he has admitted that they were wrong and I would encourage him to visit PNG and Bougainville as soon as he is able.

There is no substitute for actually spending time here. In the last eight months I have spent a week in PNG, I have spent time on the Solomon Islands and now another week in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

And so I believe that this region should be Australia's highest foreign policy priority and that is why I am spending as much time as I am able to do making contact, engaging with people, listening to them and talking about issues of concern.

04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Julie Bishop: Warm welcome on flooded Buka airport

Australian Deputy Opposition Leader JULIE BISHOP and her delegation arrived in Buka this morning for a three-day visit to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Picture of her being welcomed at the Buka airport this morning by a student from the Kamarau International School



04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police calling for lawfulness

By Tapo Tovilu

The Bougainville police service is calling for the people of Bougainville uphold the law during the election period in the region.

They have called for the people to respect the rule of law and to respect law enforcers in whatever duties they will be caring out.

A spokesman says that the Bougainville police service is ready for the upcoming elections and will be covering the elections throughout the region.

They have assured the public that this year's elections will run smoothly without any hiccups and have assured the safe running of the elections.

04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Heavy rains causing damage to roads

By Tapo Tovilu

Continues heavy rains which are being felt all around the region at the moment are affecting many road systems in Buka.

The recently upgraded roads in the Buka town area are deteriorating due to the constant heavy rains.

This wet spell which was predicted in the beginning of the year by the national weather service is still expected in the coming months.

A public figure in Buka town says that many of the roads in the town area are starting to have holes again because of the rains.

He says there is no proper drainage and the water sitting on the roads are damaging the surface of the roads.

He has called for the authorities to look into the matter and address it before the conditions worsen.

This is the eight day since the rain started and Buka Town roads are at their worst conditions in years

04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ombudsman winds up awareness

By Tapo Tovilu

The ombudsmen commission of Papua New Guinea today completed a awareness on the corrupt practices currently occurring in the country.

The awareness took place at the bel Isi Park today and was witnessed by the commuting public.

The awareness which mainly emphasized on the corrupt practises and the laws which govern the conduct of leader was welcomed by many who were present.

A member of the awareness team says that it was very important that the public know what their responsibilities are and what they could do to fight corruption.

He says that at the moment there is a major black spot in the leadership of this nation and corruption was fuelling this spot.

He says that any member of the public who wishes to report any corrupt practise should contact the anti-corruption hot line or report the matter to the police.

The team will continue their awareness campaign throughout the New Guinea Islands region before the upcoming elections.

04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA CALLS FOR ALL TO PARTICIPATE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA (picture) today called on all Bougainville women between the age of 15 and 45 and all children aged up to 3 years to go to the nearest Health facility to be vaccinated under the Supplementary Immunization Activity launched throughout Papua New Guinea and Bougainville between April second and May 15 2012.



The Vice President's message was read to the public by the Minister for Community Development, ROSE PIHEI (picture below) during the official launching of the Supplementary Immunization Activity in Buka this morning.

MR. NISIRA said that before vaccination was introduced in this country many people were dying of preventable diseases like, Polio, Measles, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

The ABG Vice President who is also the ABG minister for Health said that all we need to do is to take our children to the nearest clinic throughout the region.

He said that the ABG was committed to support initiatives undertaken to improve access as well as the quality of Health Services in Bougainville.

The Health Minister also announced that the Health sector on Bougainville was in a process towards restructuring in line with the draw-down of Health powers to Bougainville.

He said a master plan which will accommodate a number of major developments in the Health sector.

MR. NISIRA also acknowledged development partners, AUSAID, UNICEF and the World Health Organization for their meaningful contributions to improve the status of Health in Bougainville.

The Minister also commended the commitment of Health Workers throughout the region for their continued support and wished them a successful Supplementary Immunization Activity throughout Bougainville.



04.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Voters urged to choose carefully

By PORENI UMAU

WITH roughly about a month left before the election fever hits PNG, a woman leader has urged PNG voters to choose their leaders carefully.

Bougainville woman leader Francesca Semoso last night said that if PNG voters wanted to change the tide for a better government, they would have to choose carefully.

She said that voters had the power in their hands and must vote a leadership that was honest, accountable, loving, caring and had the people at heart.

Ms Semoso said that people should not vote leaders who were proud of themselves.

She said that if voters wanted to see change at the national level then the people themselves had to change.

“It’s your vote, your 1, your 2, your 3 that will decide the type of leader you want. Do not vote them if they are your friends, or if they give you K100,” she said.

She said that the amount of money given just to win votes would not last you for the rest of the five years that the leader was in office.

Ms Semoso said that people should really think carefully before voting a leader, citing that it was not the wealth they had, or the quality of education or how much money they dished out or cargo during elections.

She said that people should really know someone who would think of them as a leader and would serve them as his or her people.

04.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso urges women to contest 2012 polls

By PORENI UMAU

BOUGAINVILLE’S outspoken woman leader Francesca Semoso (picture) has urged intending women candidates in the upcoming elections to stand up and be counted.

She said that the failure by parliament to pass the Womens Bill should be a challenge for women in this coming election to join hands and contest the elections.



“Reserve seats or no reserve seats, go and stand and be counted,” Ms Semoso said.

She said that parliament’s failure to pass the 22 Reserve Seats Bill should not be seen as a hindrance and instead women should go out and campaign just like their male colleagues in the elections.

She also said that women candidates should not fear or worry about anything, instead take up the challenge.

She urged woman not to fear anything and instead believe in themselves, citing that fear was their number one enemy.

Ms Semoso also said that women candidates had two obstacles which were financial difficulties and political parties not endorsing them.

For this cause, she also called on political parties who know women candidates to endorse them and help them financially especially logistical support for them to campaign in the elections.

She urged women citing that they do not have to be highly educated to be politicians.

“Politics is all about common sense. What is right and what is wrong. Women do not fight among each other,” she said.

04.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Operations normal in Buka

By PORENI UMAU

THE burning of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels in Buka does not affect business and hospital operations on the island.

However, the traveling public out and into Bougainville, in search of a cheaper means of transport will feel the pinch of it. Airfares have skyrocketed and the MV Bougainville Atolls does not have a proper schedule to serve Bougainville and the outlying islands of Fead, Tasman and Motlock.

Director of Medical Services at the Buka General Hospital Dr Barnabas Matanu said last night that transportation of hospital supplies to the island has not been hampered.

He said that are fortunate that their supplies are shipped through the Consort Shipping Lines and also ships belonging to Agmark Shipping.

He said that about 20 per cent of the availability of medicines is affected but they do get their supplies from Rabaul or Lae and have them airlifted to Buka.

Many businesses including supermarkets said that they have not been affected at all citing similar transportation means.

They said that they do not load their cargoes on the Rabaul Shipping vessels. Meanwhile, Tropicana, a major wholesale in Rabaul and Kokopo that supplies Bougainvillean, Lae, Madang, Kundiawa, Tabubil and Mendi businesses said that the number of clients that it receives after the demise of the three ships in Buka has decreased.

The wholesaler refused to give how much it has decreased in client number but stated that it was sympathetic towards the little businesses on the island that cannot even afford a plane ticket to Kokopo to do business.

Owner of the Tropicana Sandra Lau said that those who can afford a plane ticket were now flying into Kokopo to order their goods and fly back to Buka.

Meanwhile, Bougainville's outspoken leader Francesca Semoso said that it was true that the businesses will not fill the pinch of it. However, she said that Rabaul Shipping provided a weekly service to the people of Buka and the unfortunate event would now affect the general public.

She said that there is the Bougainville Atolls managed by the Border Development Authority but it does not operate on a constant schedule, citing that currently it was in Port Moresby, leaving Buka two weeks before the incident.

Ms Semoso said that there was word that one of the vessels burnt carries fuel for local businesses in Bougainville but this is yet to be confirmed.

She said that it was not the onus of the Autonomous Bougainville Government to find a cheaper means of transport to serve the people on a regular basis.

She said that what was done was already done, saying that she was not against anyone but she said that the little people will be tremendously affected.

"We cannot deny the fact that this was our cheapest means of travel," she said.

She said that it was time to move on and the authorities must provide a transport for the public.

"We will definitely feel the pinch of lack of a cheaper means of travel," Ms Semoso said.

04.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Population of PNG is more than 7 million

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea has now 7,059,653 people in the country, the Government announced yesterday.

This is an increase of 1,868,867 persons compared with the 2000 figures of 5,190, 786 people recorded 10 years ago. This represents an increase of 36 per cent in PNG's population count since 2000. But the National Statistical Office yesterday advised these were only preliminary figures and the 2011 final figures may encounter slight changes in which a further increase is expected.

The National Planning Minister Sam Basil yesterday officially announced this in Port Moresby. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill could not officially announce the figures to the nation as he was scheduled to do the honours, because he had other commitments.

But a proud Minister Basil said yesterday that the Government was now at ease to know the population of the country because the figures would be used to plan the 2013 National Budget and in the coming weeks the National Executive Council would be tasked to re-activate the K20 per head tax using these figures. Mr Basil also announced that in the coming weeks Papua New Guinea will know the population of persons 18 years and above – they will release the figures upon comparison with the PNG Electoral Commission office.

"There were lots of criticisms on the conduct of the 2011 National Population and Housing Census, however, I am now happy and convinced that the National Statistical Office has delivered this project successfully," Mr Basil said.

"On behalf of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, I am delighted to formally announce to the nation that the preliminary figures for the population of Papua New Guinea now stands at 366,324 males and 339,6404 females with the grand total of 7, 059, 653 persons," Mr Basil read out.

"This official data is very important to any country around the world. Poor delivery of public service is a good demonstration of lack of data in key statistical areas that can help authorities to measure and understand the risk as well as navigate the delivery of basic services to its people."

National Statistician Joe Aka proudly announced yesterday that the report also presented the 2011 housing census, apart from the population and that the figures in this report showed where people were counted at the time of the census adding that the visitors were also included.

Mr Aka said that the information was presented at the provincial, district and LLG levels and that the final figures and other reports were expected to be released by 2013.

"The preliminary results are the first set of figures of the 2011 Population and Housing Census. The next sets of results will be the Final Figures Report that will include a complete narrative analysis of the country's population, demography, economic and social conditions of the country," he said. "I also wish to inform the users that the information contained in this preliminary result will only be applicable until the final figures are released."

Meanwhile, the breakup of the total population of PNG stands at -PNG male population was recorded at 3,663,249 (million) and female 3,396,404 (million). The Highlands Region recorded the highest record population of 3,001,598 (million), Momase 1,795,474 (million), Southern Region recorded 1,302,887 (million) and NGI 959,694 persons.

The top five provinces that have the highest record of population stands as: Morobe - 646,876, Eastern highlands - 582,159, Southern Highlands - 515,511, Madang - 487,460, Enga - 452,596 and NCD is at the 11th position with 318,128 while Manus has the lowest population of 50,321 and Gulf the second lowest of 121,128 population.

Bougainville had the first full census conducted in 20 years after the Bougainville Crisis and it now records 234,280 persons with 120,187 males and 114,093 females.

The rest of the country has Western with 180,455, Central -237,016, Milne Bay- 269,954, Northern -176,206, Hela-352, 698, Western Highlands-352,934, Jiwaka-341,928, Chimbu-403,772, East Sepik - 433, 481, West Sepik -227, 657, New Ireland-161, 165, East New Britain - 271, 250 and West New Britain - 242,676 persons.

04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Water level at the New Dawn FM studios in Buka

This is the eight day since the rains began.

The water from the road is all coming to us...nobody cares what is happening....



04.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Students visit Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture of Students from Bishop Wade Secondary School.

They are pictured at the New Dawn FM studio with Manager, Aloysius Laukai.

They were doing some lessons concerning New Dawn FM and its activities on Bougainville



04.04.2012

Source: The National

PM urges Sir Salamo, Kirriwom to step down

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has urged Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia and Justice Nicholas Kirriwom to step down in the interest of stability in the country.

He said the two judges had declared "war on the executive government".

O'Neill said government lawyers were preparing advice to parliament to remove the judges through a motion if they failed to step down from office.

He said parliament was the last resort as government lawyers would exhaust the court system first, including appealing against the decision in the higher courts.

"And to stop all this madness, the elections will go ahead on schedule whether or not the electoral commission is prepared," he said.

O'Neill said judges were not above the law.

"In the best interest of the country, judges need to make decisions to provide stability. There are decisions in the past that have split the disciplinary forces, the citizens and the communities.

"We are seeking legal advice from our lawyers whether we address that through parliament or through the higher courts in appeal. That court process is still there."

O'Neill said the judicial conduct law was to clarify for them to step aside in a conflict of interest situation.

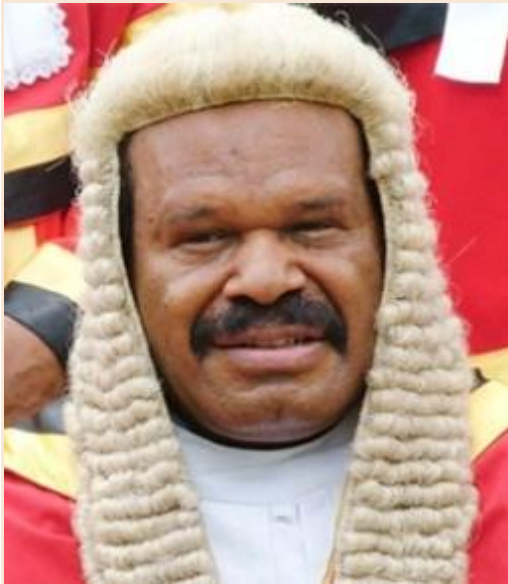
He said the only way to end all this madness was for the country to go into the election in June.

“We are going to elections to put all this madness behind us. The madness of judiciary, the madness of power-hungry politicians and madness of a few people who want to rip this country apart,” he said.

He said the electoral commission was still updating the common roll but it would be ready to conduct the election.

SUSPENDED !

The two judges who declared war on the executive government!



Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia



Judge Nicholas Kirriwom

04.04.2012

Source: The National

PNG fractured by corruption, says Kidu

By SHIRLYN BELDEN



PAPUA New Guinea is being fractured by corruption and everyone must fight the scourge, Opposition leader Dame Carol Kidu (picture) said.

She yesterday launched the sixth annual Sir Anthony Siaguru “walk against corruption” scheduled for May 27. She is its patron.

She emphasised the importance of choosing a good and responsible leader – one who has vision and strong principles to lead.

Dame Carol said good leadership was about having a vision and leading with good standards and transparent governance.

"I believe there is an opportunity for change. When we choose our leaders we must look at leadership qualities of the candidate and not money," she said.

Dame Carol said the country was fractured by corruption in many ways and needed all communities, organisations and people to stand up and fight against this scourge of society by joining the walk and blowing the whistle on corrupt practices.

The walk is facilitated by Transparency International (PNG) and is themed "It's time to wake up PNG".

At the launching were coalition partners, Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek, civil society organisations plus students from Badihagwa Secondary, St Joseph International and Paradise High School.

The walk commemorates the work of the late Sir Anthony Siaguru who was instrumental in opposing corrupt practices.

Dame Carol will lead the walk in Port Moresby as simultaneous walks are held in Lae, Alotau, Kimbe, Madang, Kokopo and Kavieng, which is the latest centre to join the event.

Transparency International said Goroka had been showing interest and could be the first Highlands province to join the campaign.

The walk provides citizens an opportunity to peacefully express their opposition to corruption.

"Reducing and stopping corruption depends on greater and sustained progress in widespread public engagement and pressure," the watchdog group said in a statement.

It encouraged teams from corporate houses, civil society organisations and schools to register for the walk.

So far 25 organisations and 10 schools have registered, with nine businesses showing support through pledges.

Money raised from the walk will support the operations of Transparency International locally through the Siaguru Endowment Fund.

04.04.2012

Source: Solomon Star

Boat missing

A SEARCH is still on for the missing boat at the country's border in the Western Solomons.

The boat went missing since last Wednesday after leaving Gizo township to Kieta, Bougainville.

Unconfirmed reports claimed the passengers were from Bougainville.

A Search and Rescue officer in Honiara, Mark Wauo said there was still no response from Gizo police and Buka on whether the boat has been located.

"We are still waiting to get clear instruction before going out to carry out search and rescue for the boat," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Wauo said there were no casualties or deaths during the bad weather that hit the country in recent days.

He said only one boat got lost between Gela and Honiara after it ran out of petrol.

However he said strong current managed to take it safely to Foxwood point in North Guadalcanal.

04.04.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

An introduction to the power of broadcasting

BY KEITH JACKSON



Keith Jackson

Yesterday I gave a talk to the Rotary Club of Mosman in Sydney. It was about public relations, but I began with this anecdote from my Papua New Guinea years....

I WANT TO TAKE YOU far north of Mosman, over the sparkling, turbulent Coral Sea and then further west through Milne Bay and across the Solomon Sea, and its atolls of love.

I want to take you to the magnificent island of Bougainville, a once peaceful place except for occasional rumblings from Bagana volcano. Bougainville - whose jet-black people find themselves - very reluctantly – citizens of Papua New Guinea.

The year was 1970, I was 25 and had just been assigned to manage my first radio station: Radio Bougainville – Voice of the sunrise or, in Pidgin, Maus bilong sanikamap.

In Bougainville, a massive copper and gold project was getting underway and a lot of Bougainvilleans were not happy about it. Their land had been seized and they believed their culture and lives had been compromised.

Later this angst would translate into a shocking civil war which, in the 1990s, cost the lives of 20% of Bougainville's population of 100,000.

But as I arrived in the main town of Kieta -- where the radio station was situated beside a tranquil harbour -- politics was the last thing on my mind. Full of the excitement of running my own show, I organised a quick tour around my new domain.

The transmitters, the huge radio masts, the bunker-like studios, the record library, the offices - and the storeroom.

As I opened the storeroom door, I baulked. The room was full, floor to ceiling, with mouldering boxes of transistor radios. Perhaps 300 in all.

In those days, when radio listening was relatively new to the villages of PNG, we broadcasters would go on patrol: gathering news, recording music and stories, securing interviews - and handing out free radios, the only sure way to gather an audience.

In the storeroom I asked a staff member why the radios had not been handed out, and I was told this could be a very dangerous pursuit.

The village people were so unhappy with the radio station broadcasting what was seen as pro-mining propoganda, that they set the radios on fire, broke them with axes and even attacked the people trying to give them away.

And so it was, on my first day as manager of Radio Bougainville, I realised that the only radio station on the island was hated by its audience.

03.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

2000 resign to contest polls

ABOUT 2000 public servants throughout the country have resigned in the last five years and six months to contest the elections.

Department of Personnel Management office advised the Post Courier yesterday that the figures will have to be finalized but preliminary records detailed that close to 2000 public servants throughout the nation had handed in their resignation five years ago, four years ago, three years and even two years ago including six months ago to contest the upcoming elections.

Some of the top public servants like former Foreign Affairs Secretary Gabriel Pepson, former Ambassador to Japan and later Foreign Affairs Secretary Ambassador Michael Mawe had resigned to contest this year's elections in their respective provinces.

Other prominent leaders like former Education secretary for Bougainville who was later promoted to the New Guinea Islands Regional head of the Public Service Commission Tony Tsora also resigned to contest in Bougainville.

DPM office announced that many teachers, provincial executives, office workers and some instrumental leaders also resigned several years ago to prepare themselves from the upcoming general elections.

The PNGEC will release before the issue of writs the number of candidates contesting throughout the country.

03.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Health program launched

By ALEX MUNME

THE Health Department in Bougainville has officially launched and began one of its very vital programs in Buka for the whole region yesterday.

The Supplementary Immunization Activity or SIA was officially launched by Minister for Women's Affairs and Community Development in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Rose Pihei on behalf of Vice President and Minister for Health Patrick Nisira.

The program which has started yesterday and aims at 100 percent coverage will be carried out till May 15, 2012, and targets children three years and less, pregnant mothers and women between the ages of 15 and 45.

Speaking on behalf of the Health Minister and vice president, Mrs Pihei challenged everyone to take responsibility to make sure they are immunized.

Mrs Pihei, while conveying the Health Ministers keynote address, urged everyone at the launching to work as a team to successfully implement the immunization activity which will help to achieve 100 percent coverage.

She said while there are committed partners to support the program, which will benefit our mothers and children, it will only be fair if we also compliment our partners' efforts by demonstrating the same level of commitment. The minister encouraged all persons in the target group to get vaccinated.

She also stressed that prior to the introduction of vaccines to vaccinate mothers and children, many children were dying from vaccine preventable diseases including measles, whooping cough and tetanus.

She said all we need to do is take our children to the clinics, and health centres and let them be vaccinated.

Mrs Pihei said at the political level ABG remains committed and will support a number of initiatives to improve access to as well as the quality of Health services in Bougainville.

The launching yesterday was witnessed by representatives from the Education Division, who will also be a major partner in carrying out awareness, hospital staff who immediately after the launching vaccinated a few mothers and babies, NGO representatives, stakeholders and the general public.



02.04.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Australia's deputy opposition leader visits PNG and Bougainville

The deputy leader of Australia's federal opposition Julie Bishop (picture) is spending several days in Papua New Guinea and the autonomous region of Bougainville.



While in the country she plans to meet with PNG prime minister Peter O'Neill and Bougainville president, John Momis.

Ms Bishop has recently visited PNG, but this time she's taking in Bougainville as well. While there she will also hear from PNG sporting officials pushing for a rugby league team to play in the Australian competition.

Ms Bishop who is the conservative opposition's spokeswoman on Foreign Affairs, has been critical of the Australian Labor government's handling of the Pacific, including PNG.

Presenter: Michael Cavanagh

Speaker: Julie Bishop, deputy leader of Australia's federal opposition

Listen here !

02.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

MA leader lashes out

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE O'Neill-Namah Government should not preach about the failure by the Somare Government to implement and effectively deliver services to rural areas over the last nine years when they were in power.

And the current Government should not blame the leaders on the Somare faction for the alleged misappropriation of millions of kina in projects and funds.

Most of the Ministers now in the O'Neill Namah Government were part and partial of the Somare led Government, he said.

Melanesian Alliance party leader Sam Akoitai lashed out at the O'Neill Namah Government for putting blame on the Somare led Government.

Akoitai, who is adamant he will come back in June to form the Government with its coalition said that the Melanesian Alliance with a host of potential new MPs will form Government for a better PNG.

He is adamant they will come home to form the Government with a totally new team so that they would effectively look into all the matters now being raised by the current government.

With a major policy of decentralisation, Akoitai said his Party is ready to transform PNG.

In an interview, Akoitai last Friday said that the O'Neill-Namah Government was no different to the Somare Government because almost all of the Cabinet Ministers on his regime were also part of the Somare-led Government

"They were ministers in the Somare-led Government so they must not make accusations and point fingers to one side only.

Somare did what he did because of the Ministers that are now in the O'Neill Namah Government. So they should stop talking, pointing fingers and do what is required of a Government of the day," Akoitai said.

Akoitai is contesting his former seat – the Central Bougainville Open Seat – under the New Melanesian Alliance Party banner. Announcement of all the party candidates would be done sometimes this month.

02.04.2012

Source. Radio New Dawn of Bougainville

SIA ON

By Aloysous Laukai

The Health Division on Bougainville is this morning launching its immunization program in Buka.



Pictured is part of the float this morning. Its called Supplementary Immunization Activity.



Pictured is a mother being immunized as part of the SIA launching on Buka today.

02.04.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Telco rollout in Bougainville

St Joseph's Bairima Primary School, one of the oldest schools in the province, has become the first school in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to benefit from the Digicel PNG Foundation's rollout of double classroom structures throughout the country.

The all steel kit structure primary double classroom which includes 40 desks, a water tank, kit showers and VIP Kit toilets was constructed at a total cost of K90,000 and officially launched last week Friday (March 23).

The school was established in the 1940s. After the Bougainville Crisis, the school was moved in 1996 from its original location and rebuilt by the community at the current site. The school serves the five main villages of Donsiro, Pomaua, Siroai, Arawa, and Bairima of North Nasioi LLG, a total population of around 3000.

Aside from the Department of Education's annual school subsidies; and a donation of roofing iron from Caritas in 2004, St Joseph's Bairima's biggest contributor has been their own community.

Marina van der Vlies, CEO of the Digicel Foundation said; "When communities come together to invest in the education of their children, such efforts must be applauded and supported. Our investment in the St Joseph's Bairima Primary School is in recognition of this amazing community's will and commitment to rebuild after the Bougainville crisis."

The CEO added; "This is Digicel Foundation's first project in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and we look forward to working with marginalized communities in the region to invest in their children's education."

"This is the first partnership between Digicel Foundation and the Education Division in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and it is one which we are very proud of and grateful for," said the board chairman of St Joseph's Bairima Primary School, Mr Kevin Buruau. Mr Buruau said such partnerships are hard to come by and he encouraged the students and the community to look after Digicel Foundations investment with care for future generations to come.

To date the Digicel Foundation has funded 138 community based projects covering 22 provinces in PNG and put K11 million back into marginalized PNG communities which has directly impacted more than 100,000 people. The Digicel Foundation plans to continue the funding of community projects in the area of basic education and health aiming to support communities as they become more self-reliant in the future.

01.04.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

THERESA ON WOMEN

By Aloysius Laukai

A woman leader from Bougainville and secretary of the National Women's Council, THERESA JAINGTON has praised the women of Wakunai for celebrating the National Women's Day this week.

She was speaking at the Wakunai celebration this week.

MRS. JAINTONG said that the women of Bougainville should be happy their position in politics is guaranteed by the Autonomous Bougainville Government's Constitution unlike the National Parliament which is still to approve the Women's seats in Parliament.

She said that Bougainville during the Provincial Government days also had nominated seats for women which was lower than the elected representatives today.

MRS. JANTONG said that the women of Wakunai had reasons to celebrate and called on them to continue to support their newly established Wakunai Women's Federation.

She said that the Bougainville Women's Federation would eventually cover all women throughout the region.

New Dawn FM understands Bougainville still operates under two women's organizations, the Bougainville Women's Council from the Provincial Government days and the Bougainville Women's Federation under the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Women in Arawa are still with the Bougainville Council of Women whilst other areas have already established branches of the Bougainville Women's Federation.

News 05.2012.2

31.05.2012

Source: The Jakarta Post

Mongolia: Caught between democratization and Rio Tinto

by Ratih Hardjono, Jakarta

Not much is heard about Mongolia, a country north of Indonesia, so far north that when I was a child I thought it was the closest place on earth to the abode of the heavenly Gods and a place where nomadic herdsman rode on horses at lightning speed conquering the vast empty steppes.

Mongolians have recently evoked the spirit of their founder, Genghis Khan, who built the Mongolian empire in 1206. Everywhere you go, he is omnipresent, and for good reason. Having had to face giants such as the Soviet Union and China in the last few hundred years, Mongolia is now embarking on a new journey and taking on one of the world's mining giants, Rio Tinto.

Mongolia is now reinforcing its economic sovereignty by developing its mining industry. The vast Gobi desert in the southern part of Mongolia is home to some of the most valuable minerals in the world, but has only recently begun to be developed as the harsh environmental conditions had deterred many before. The Oyu Tolgoi copper mine is only 80 kilometers from the border of China, and when it begins production in 2013 it will become one of the largest copper mines in the world.

It is said that even during Genghis Khan's time, the outcropping rocks in Oyu Tolgoi, or Turquoise Hill, were smelted for copper. The mine was originally explored by Canadian company Ivanhoe and is now being developed by Rio Tinto. The Mongolian Government owns 34 percent of the mine and once in operation it is estimated that the mine will account for more than 30 percent of Mongolia's GDP.

When the Soviet Union left in 1991 after occupying the country for 70 years, all critical mining exploration data on the country was taken back to Moscow. The Russians refused to share any of this mineral mapping data with the Mongolians.

One senior Mongolian official jokingly said, "You know how these mining investors started investing here? One of our bureaucrats who knew the mineral mapping data by heart said to the investor, just dig here and trust me, I know the stomach of Mongolia by heart and there is good stuff in the ground."

Mongolia is a land of dramatic beauty. It also has one of the most dramatic histories, which is unknown to many. It won its independence in 1921 with Soviet backing and a communist regime was installed in 1924. When the Soviet Union left in 1991, the door to democratization was flung wide open, but poverty and deep economic depression also set in. The Soviet Union's assistance at its height amounted to one third of Mongolia's GDP, but suddenly disappeared over night.

The current President of Mongolia, Elbegdorj Tsakhia, who has a Harvard education, was a young man when the Russians left and led the first demonstrations for democracy and reforms in Mongolia. He told the story of how he was visited by the Polish Solidarity leaders and taught how to manage an effective demonstration, give rousing orations and write banners against the local ruling elites hanging on to Communism when the Russians left.

President Elbegdorj is a cheerful man with one of those faces which emanates eternal youth and optimism. The struggles he has been through over the last 22 years, which include being thrown out as prime minister of Mongolia twice, is reflected in his wiry old hands.

In a closed meeting with people who had come to Mongolia to share their experiences in democratic education, the passion for freedom and human rights was palpable in his being. He summarized the essence of his struggle when he said "This is my freedom; Mongolian freedom, not Western freedom and I will defend it with my life."

The multinational mining corporation Rio Tinto operates in more than 50 countries and can be likened to a state of its own. It is a commercial company, but in many ways it operates like a state, with a well-thought out public affairs policy for different countries. If anything, it is perhaps run much better than many states in the world. It has no option because it has to deliver profit to its shareholders.

The good news is that Rio Tinto, like Mongolia, has also had a long journey in democratization, which began with its Bougainville mine in Papua New Guinea in the late 1980s. It is still facing legal challenges, with a US federal appeals court reviving a lawsuit in 2011, seeking to hold Rio Tinto responsible for human rights violations and the thousands of deaths linked to the Bougainville copper and gold mine it once ran. Rio Tinto today has a global code of business conduct, where human rights and doing business democratically is its center piece. The company has learned its lesson.

Today, many in Mongolia feel that life was better under communism than it is under capitalism. There are high economic growth rates, but Mongolians note that this is not being translated into prosperity.

Poverty is at 30 percent and the disparity of income is already causing social problems. Yet there are more brand new Hummers and Mercedes Benz four wheel drives found in Ulaanbaatar than in Jakarta. President Elbegdorj is worried about this and asked "Is this economic development a blessing or a curse?"

Democratization in Rio Tinto has helped sustain profits. There may be many weaknesses in Rio Tinto, but it is in Mongolia's interest to ensure that like Rio Tinto, Mongolia can also produce profit while adhering to human rights, business integrity and accountability — all of which are pillars of democracy. This will ensure that democracy delivers and economic development can be enjoyed by all Mongolians.

Ghenghis Khan, meaning Universal Ruler, once guided Mongolia to prosperity and victory. May his spirit descend on the leaders of Mongolia today and guide them through this next challenge facing yet another giant in order that welfare is delivered to all the people of Mongolia.

The writer, a former journalist, is secretary-general of the Indonesian Community for Democracy (KID). She was a recipient of the Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University in the class of 1994.

31.05.2012

Source: The National

It is O'Neil and it's official

IT is official. It is legal. It is unanimous. And it conforms with the established traditions and practices of national parliament.

lalibu-Pangia MP, Peter O'Neill, is the prime minister of Papua New Guinea.

Even the question of whether or not the recall of parliament is legal has been resolved. We have now been advised that before Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio left for England, he signed papers authorising the recall of parliament.

Parliament acting Speaker Francis Marus on Tuesday declared a vacancy in the office of the prime minister following the decision of the Supreme Court invalidating the election of O'Neill on Dec 12 last year and restoring Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as prime minister.

Marus had declared that Sir Michael was ineligible to hold the post as he had been absent from more than three consecutive sittings of parliament since January this year.

By law, any MP who has missed three consecutive sittings of parliament without leave of absence automatically loses his seat.

As the office of the prime minister is the exclusive preserve of members of parliament, loss of membership to the house also meant the person cannot hold the post.

The Supreme Court, in its recent split decision, had restored Sir Michael to both his East Sepik seat and as prime minister but that seems to be negated by this new ruling from the speaker.

After declaring a vacancy in the office of the prime minister on Tuesday, parliament adjourned to yesterday – the next sitting day – for nominations and the vote for a new prime minister. This is the practice, as established in the Supreme Court in the case of the snap resignation and election of Pias Wingti in 1994 (Haiveta vs Wingti).

It being parliament, there can always be something unexpected to turn up, and this was when Marus stunned parliament by declaring that both Somare and O'Neill were ineligible to offer themselves for election as they were both instigators of the political impasse. He was very quickly disabused of the notion by Vanimo-Green MP Belden Namah through a dissent motion. Although the motion was seconded by Kandep MP and Treasurer Don Polye, we cannot remember the motion being voted on.

It quickly became obvious who was the person behind the attempt to disqualify. Speaker Jeffery Nape was in his office in parliament moments before the vote and not in the offices of the governor-general where he is acting governor-general as he should have been.

He later kept the newly-elected prime minister waiting allegedly while he (Nape) studied the papers instead of signing him in.

Another group whose actions must be called into question is the Somare faction which was absent from parliament yesterday.

Ever since the political coup of Aug 2, and the subsequent actions and decisions, it has been disappointing to see that the Somare faction has hardly gone into parliament.

Even if they do not have the numbers, parliament is the only place where a member of parliament ought to be. Every MP has an office in Parliament House and there is a fully parliamentary service staff there at the member's beck and call.

There are restaurants, function rooms, a library and postal services. There are plumbers and carpenters if you care for them.

You can hardly want for more.

Yet, the Somare group has consistently operated outside of parliament, mostly out of the Ela Beach Hotel, ever since the August 2011 debacle. Whatever their reasons, this can be taken as disrespect for the workings of parliament.

Even an opposition with no great majority has always chosen to respect parliament, to abide by its rulings and to be present when it is in session.

Laws have been flouted a great number of times in the recent past and within the walls of Parliament House itself, but the only place to correct them or to even raise an opposition to them is within parliament.

Absenting themselves in parliament repeatedly while raising protests on the run from outside parliament does not speak well of Sir Michael and his group.

Now the question of the prime minister is resolved, it is hoped we can get down to the business of running a free, fair and peaceful general election.

31.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Somare urges new PNG leaders to stop mocking parliament

A former Papua New Guinea prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, has called on the new prime minister, Peter O'Neill, to stop making PNG the laughing stock of the Pacific and the Commonwealth.

This follows yesterday's election of Mr O'Neill who was elected prime minister for a third time after the deputy speaker conceded that Mr O'Neill's accession to power last year was not legal.

Sir Michael has accused him and his supporters of demeaning parliament with continued irreverent and illegal behaviour and warned that they were setting a dangerous precedent for future MPs.

He says if they cannot take parliament seriously and continue to abuse their power, they are not fit to continue in future positions of leadership in PNG.

Sir Michael says nowhere in the Commonwealth an MP orders police to pursue a chief justice in the manner in which Belden Namah pursued Sir Salamo Injia.

He says intending candidates should return to their electorates and start campaigning instead of making a mockery of parliament.

ESBC: Once again, ousted Prime Minister Michael Somare proved his intellectual inability to rule a country: Why did he and his faction not show up in the parliament? Finally that old Black PapuanSnake has lost its venemous fangs now ! But his daughter Betha Somare and her corrupt brother Arthur are still desperately struggling for power and funds! Quite obviously the Marcos family in the Philippines is their shining example. PNG needs restore its reputation by bringing these people to justice for sedition!



Highly poisonous Black Papuan Snake and highly ambitious Betha Somare

31.05.2012

Source: ABC Australian Network News

Peter O'Neill again sworn in as PNG Prime Minister

30.05.2012

Source: THE JET online

Land Bank impresses Bougainville Delegation

The introduction of a land bank system in Fiji has impressed a visiting delegation from the Autonomous Government of Bougainville.

The delegation is in the country to study Fiji's structure of land lease and other economic related movement.

Delegation head and Minister for Information for the AGB region Joseph Nope says they will try to implement a similar system back in their region.

"We are really impressed with the land bank system that has been introduced by the Fijian Government," he said.

The delegation has been visiting government departments and agencies to learn from Fiji before they return home.

Prime Minister and Minister for Lands, Voreqe Bainimarama said the setting up of the land bank was to ensure proper use of land in generating economic activity.

The land bank has been set up so native owners can allow Government to use their property for development purposes and lease it at market rates.

Potential investors and farmers can sub-lease or lease land from the State for a period of up to 99 years from the land bank which was established under the Land Use Decree 2010.

The unit will only use land that has been designated by native titled landowners, from whom consent will have to be obtained.

The long processes and the delay to finalise leases frustrates applicants and therefore reduces the development of the economy in general.

Mr Nope said the Bougainville region had a lot of land, however they do not have a robust strategy such as the land bank.

30.05.2012

Source: THE JET online

Fijian Tourism in the Right Direction

With 600,000 visitor arrivals annually and a robust approach adopted by the Fijian Government, the tourism industry in Fiji is now placed on solid footings.

Those are the sentiments of the Minister for Traditional Authority, Information and Communication Joseph Nope of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville (AGB), which is in the country.

Mr Nope says they hope to learn from Fiji to better the AGB region in the tourism sector once they return home.

"Fiji's tourism sector is just magnificent. We have seen the Fijian hospitality and hope to learn as much from the Fijians," he said.

The delegation witnessed Fijian hospitality and how Fijians approached tourists in town and cities and how this has benefited the Fijian economy via the tourism industry.

Culturally, Fijians are known to the world as the friendliest people on earth with the reknowned Bula spirit, topped up with traditional programs that are evident in all hotels and resorts around the country.

"The Fijian fire walking is one such case, there are trips for visitors to the highlands, river safari and traditional Fijian cooking (lovo) which are now known everywhere," Mr Nope said.

"Back in the AGB region we are also very cultural and hope to increase tourist activity there by working closely with the Fijian concepts.

"We have a lot of beautiful islands and beaches too and we hope to finalise something soon with the Fijian Government."

When asked if Fijians could be given opportunities to work in Bougainville to help the region's tourism growth, Mr Nope said this was something they were seriously considering and he was optimistic that things would materialise soon.

30.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG parliament elects O'Neill as PM

The Papua New Guinea parliament has elected Peter O'Neill as prime minister in an extraordinary sitting in Port Moresby.

Mr O'Neill stood unopposed and won 56 votes.

The election was called after the deputy speaker accepted last week's Supreme Court ruling upholding an earlier judgment that Sir Michael Somare was illegally removed as the country's prime minister last August.

The speaker also disqualified Sir Michael as a member of parliament for missing three consecutive sittings this year.

Sir Michael had taken court action last year after parliament controversially declared the prime ministership vacant and chose Mr O'Neill as head of government.

The judges who ruled that Sir Michael's prime ministership was still valid have in the past week been charged with sedition.

It is not immediately clear if the charges will be upheld as Mr O'Neill and his supporters have now accepted the court ruling that they were an illegal government.

Observers say the legality of today's election may be subject to a challenge because the sitting to choose Mr O'Neill was called after parliament had risen for next month's election.

30.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Four Bougainville women to stand in PNG election

As Papua New Guinea is gearing up for elections next month, four women candidates have come forward in the autonomous region of Bougainville to contest seats against 65 men.

Magdeline Toroansi is vying for the Bougainville regional seat.

Rachael Konaka and Francesca Semoso are endorsed by the People Party for the North Bougainville seat.

Theresa Jaintong is the People Party candidate for the Central Bougainville seat.

Ms Jaintong, from Arawa, is a paramount chief of five clans.

The PNG parliament has had only one woman MP in its last term.

Efforts to set up 22 reserved seats for women in the next parliament have been unsuccessful.

30.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Peter O'Neill has been re-elected prime minister of Papua New Guinea 56-0. He was unopposed. Nou Vada, Tavurvur and the ABC's Liam Fox have all been tweeting from parliament house. Nou got his message out first, seconds ahead of Tavurvur.

30.05.2012

Source: Fiji Times

ABG officials in Fiji

Timoci Vula

A GROUP of senior officials from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) are in the country to study the iTaukei traditional governance structures and systems.

A government statement released yesterday confirmed that the group would visit the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and its affiliated statutory bodies this week.

The statement said the group aimed to develop a governance system that best met the cultures of the people of Bougainville.

The group will look at Fiji's system of land ownership and scrutinise how Fiji kept its records of traditional communal land and fishing rights, iTaukei Affairs permanent secretary Savenaca Kaunisela said in the statement.

They are also interested in knowing the different roles played by the provincial and district (tikina) councils in the affairs of the iTaukei, and at the same time try and understand the functions played by the iTaukei Lands & Fisheries Commission and iTaukei Lands Appeal Tribunal, Mr Kaunisela said.

The ABG is the government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, which was established in 2000 following a peace agreement between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

30.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG parliament to elect new PM today in ongoing political turmoil

Papua New Guinea's parliament is due to sit again today to elect a Prime Minister after the position was declared vacant yesterday.

The acting Speaker has acknowledged last week's Supreme Court ruling that Sir Michael Somare was illegally removed as the country's prime minister in August last year.

He then immediately disqualified Sir Michael as a member of parliament for missing three consecutive sessions since January this year.

Our correspondent Titi Gabi reports that this current special sitting, called by the rival administration of Peter O'Neill, comes two weeks after parliament was officially dissolved ahead of general elections next month.

“And they adjourned. Then O’Neill wasn’t in parliament but shortly after they adjourned he turned up and they had a caucus and the latest we hear is that they will put him up as a candidate when they resume (parliament) at 10AM.”

29.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Rapidly changing events in PNG politics

It's been a day of rapidly changing and dramatic events in Papua New Guinea.

From the country with two prime ministers PNG now does not have a prime minister.

In the latest bizarre twist Sir Michael Somare was today declared the Prime Minister before almost immediately the position was declared vacant and a prime ministerial election set down for tomorrow.

Radio Australia's PNG Correspondent Liam Fox has just returned from a media conference with now former prime minister, Peter O'Neill.

Presenter: Brian Abbott

Speaker: Liam Fox

Listen here !

29.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tsora for North Bougainville

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

BOUGAIVILLE'S former Education advisor Anthony Tsora has put his hands up to race for the North Bougainville open seat against incumbent member Louta Atoi.

A trained teacher by profession and a former curriculum advisor for the department of Education, his

main aim is to talk about Bougainville's issues on the floor of parliament.

Mr Tsora nominated on Monday at the Kokopau District office and was witnessed by village chiefs, electoral officials and supporters.

“My nomination fee was sponsored by ordinary village people in a fundraising here in Kokopau across the Buka passage.” Mr Tsora said.

“Our past members have forgotten to address the Bougainville situation, and have forgotten to fight for the independence of Bougainville.” he said.

“I am going to be pro Bougainville when I happen to get into power.” Mr Tsora said.

Mr. Tsora was the man behind Bougainville's education recovery after the crisis when he was called by the education department from the Gulf province.

Because of his aggressiveness and commitment, as an educationist he was the right man recommended by the Education department for Bougainville when the crisis was at its very crucial stage.

His education restoration began in 1993 and ended in 2006 in which he was also Chief Executive Officer of the Education division on Bougainville.

29.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

'Make intelligent choice', Pentanu

By Alex Munme and Peterson Tseraha

THREE Women have so far nominated for the Central Bougainville Open, the North Bougainville Open and the Bougainville regional seat respectively.

Also PNG's former Clerk of the National Parliament and former Ombudsman Commissioner Simon Pentanu (pictured) nominated on Saturday after the issue of writs, to contest Bougainville's regional seat with former ABG member Magdeline Toroansi.



The two female candidates vying for the two open seats are Rachael Opeti Konaka, who is contesting the North Bougainville seat for the second time after being the runner-up to standing member Lautu Atoi in the by-election last year, and Theresa Jaintong who will be contesting against the Communication Minister Jimmy Miringtoro for the Central Bougainville seat.

"My personal appeal to all candidates including me is to be truthful and realistic in what we say and tell the people of Bougainville, about what we can do to deliver and develop Bougainville as leaders." Mr Pentanu said.

"My message to the Bougainville people is to make a careful, considered and intelligent choice at the ballot," he said.

He further stated that an elected leader is a trustee, the people are the beneficiaries. This requires a life of service where the leader's role is essentially as a servant of the people. I urge every voter in Bougainville to cast his or her vote with a lot of thought, expectation, and anticipation when they cast their three votes. Voters must always ask simple and pertinent questions in assessing the suitability of candidates vying for public office," he said. Bougainville Electoral Manager Reitama Taravaru said that since the Issue of Writs last week the situation in Bougainville has been relatively quiet and he is appealing to all Bougainvilleans to keep the same quiet atmosphere right through this election period.

The other contestants nominated since last Friday are Joe Lera for the Regional seat, Donald Hamao Tato and businessman William Nakin for North Bougainville.

29.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Choose the right leader

By Fabian Gatana



BOUGAINVILLE Police Chief ACP Thomas Eluh (pictured) has called on all eligible voters in Bougainville to be prepared for the upcoming 2012 National Elections and not lose sight of their main objective of choosing the right leader

He also challenged candidates to be honest and abide by the laws of the land when contesting.

He said that by this time voters should have already decided on who to vote for, which he said should make them (voters) invulnerable to corrupt practices during election time.

“Choose a leader who has the people of Bougainville at heart,” he said.

Meanwhile, he has praised Bougainvilleans for proving to the world that democracy still prevails in the autonomous region.

“Democracy is well and truly alive in Bougainville. We don’t need the huge numbers of security/military personnel during elections.

That’s because the people of Bougainville always take ownership of their elections. I want the same sort of peaceful attitude to be on display again during the 2012 National Elections,” he said.

Mr Eluh also appealed to the Meekamui factions in Central and South Bougainville to cooperate with police and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to achieve their goal of Referendum and independence.

Mr Eluh also apologized to members of the Bougainville Police Service for his period of absence from the region.

He said he was called up to sort out important legal issues affecting the Constabulary.

Moreover, he challenged Bougainville Police Service members to be highly disciplined at all times.

29.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier - Reader's letter

Keep quiet Somares

I would personally like to appeal to Arthur Somare and Betha Somare to keep their mouths shut, if they have any respect for their father Sir M.T.Somare.

These two have created a lot of problems for their father. My late uncle Sir Pita Simogun and my late father have assisted the young Michael Thomas Somare in his career as a politician in removing the late Frank Martin, who is also a great friend of my late uncle and my late father.

We have been sitting quietly and watching all the events that have transpired and saw how this great Charismatic leader, whom our late fathers and elder brothers and also our people have assisted in whatever way possible so that he (Sir Michael) can archive his political ambition of being the first Chief Minister and then Prime Minister of this great country.

Sir Michael would not have been treated the way he had been treated by those young man in parliament if some family members have used their heads.

When I was a young man in my teens working for TAA (Trans Australian Airlines)with a best friend of mine who is still in Wewak today Mr Jacob Ginau. I remembered an incident which happened in Wewak Hotel in the night of 1973 nearly 39 years ago. At that time Wewak Hotel had two separate drinking bars, one with a black dog painting on it at the door and had these words also written on it “NO DOGS ALLOWED”. Jacob and I worked with TAA so we decided to go into the bar where only Europeans were allowed. We were refused service at the bar.

We refused to leave and Jacob Ginau was very angry and told the European hotel manager and owner at that time, “ I will tell the Chief Minister and you will fold your blanket and go back to Australia.”

At that incident in the night a European man came and said to us “...you have a very good Chief Minister in PNG. I wish we could have a Prime Minister in Australia like him.”

In the morning next day when we both returned from dispatching the aircraft at Boram airport to TAA/ Air Niugini office in town we were surprised when the Chief Minister’s officer Mr Joseph Ulaipo came and told Mr Fraser our boss that the Chief Minister wanted to see us. We were both shocked and very nervous, yet we went with Mr Ulaipo and appeared before the Chief Minister Mr Michael Thomas Somare. Mr Somare looked at us and told us to sit on the two chairs in his office, where Tang Mow’s Home Centre is located today.

The Chief Minister then asked Jacob and I “ Tell me, does the country have enough doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers, engineers,etc., etc.” We both replied “No Sir.”

“ Why did you tell the manager of Wewak Hotel to fold his blanket and go back to Australia?” We replied that we were very sorry and would not allow that to happen again and he let us go.

I would like to put this question to the Karau people of Murik Lakes, especially the Somare clan to tell the people of Papua New Guinea and also we the But, Boiken, and Dagua people where did their original ancestors come from who went and settled at the mouth of Sepik River and also into parts of Madang Province?

I would also like to thank the Post- Courier.

Sincerely,

Peter Devis Sorulen.

Dagua Market

P.O.Box 89

WEWAK, ESP.

28.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Second senior PNG judge to face sedition charge

Papua New Guinea police have confirmed that they arrested Supreme Court judge, Justice Nicholas Kirriwom (pictured), and charged him with sedition.



Justice Kirriwom was one of three judges who last week stood by an earlier ruling that Sir Michael Somare had been illegally removed from office by the rival Peter O'Neill faction last August.

Last Thursday, the Deputy Prime Minister in the O'Neill Government, Belden Namah, marched into the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia's court room with a squad of police and soldiers and tried to arrest him on sedition charges.

A standoff ensued with Sir Salamo barricaded in his chambers within the court building.

But he was later arrested and has been charged with sedition.

His case has been adjourned until July.

Police say they asked Justice Kirriwom to make himself available for interview today.

They say he did so and was very co-operative with an interview lasting less than an hour.

He has been released on his own recognisance.

28.05.2012

Source: The National

Dame Carol: Be wary of corruption

DAME Carol Kidu (pictured) has urged all Papua New Guineans to be wary of the impacts of corruption and to lead an honest life.

The opposition leader is also patron of the Sir Anthony Siaguru walk-against-corruption.

She told a crowd that PNG needed vibrant and good ethical leaders who were people-oriented so that they could

deliver important services.

She also said the annual event yesterday was strategic as this was the election campaign period and it was vital for the walk to be held.

“The significance is that we raise awareness on the issue of corruption and how we can minimise, and possibly eradicate it.

“Corruption denies the right to basic services like health and education and does not promote development,” she said.

Dame Carol stressed the importance of raising children in a nation of social justice and fairness.

She said children were the future of PNG and it was important that they understood the message of fighting corruption.

More than 50 corporate houses, schools and civil society organisations took part in the event.

The walk started at 6.30am from the Jack Pidik Park, then to East Boroko, up to 4-Mile and back to the park.

It was organised by Transparency International PNG.

The funds raised from the walk will support the work of TIPNG in curbing corruption in the country.

Prizes were awarded to schools and organisations for the best banner, best dress, best message and best corporate team.



28.05.2012

Source: Jet Newspaper (Fiji)

ABG Delegation here to Study Fijian Structure

A delegation from the Autonomous Government of Bougainville is in the country to study the Fijian Government and the land lease structure of the Fijian administration.

Members of the delegation met with the Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama (pictured) this morning where they presented their sevusevu requesting permission to learn how the Fijian Government has been successful in running its affairs without outside influence.



Led by the AGB Minister for Information and LLG, the visit is to study the traditional governance structures and systems of the two countries with a view to develop an informal governance system that best meets the cultures of the people of Bougainville.

The delegation also hopes to learn how Fiji has been dealing with soldiers who are returning home from peace keeping missions abroad.

In welcoming the delegation the Prime Minister thanked the Government of Bougainville for sending a team over.

Fiji's women's groups also will be under study, especially with the role they play in the development of Fiji through women's group, Non - Governmental Organisations and government departments.

"We are here also to learn from Fiji's participation in commercial business involving natural resources like coconut products and others," team leader Joseph Nope said.

"We also are looking at visiting village based eco-tourism projects and learn how they contribute to help improve the livelihood of the people and contribute to the economy."

The team is looking at meeting up with government agencies to learn about its system of land ownership and how they keep records of traditional communal land and fishing rights.

"We want to explore the possibility of an exchange scheme where Bougainville can learn from Fiji to help develop its eco-tourism, cottage industries, sports and recreation and other important programs.

28.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Caritas PNG Awareness

by TTovilu

Caritas PNG in Bougainville last Friday carried out awareness on electing and choosing good leaders in this year's elections.

The awareness program which involved floats and spot awareness in the main areas of Buka town was welcomed by the public.

The main message was for voters to choose carefully as the future of Bougainville was in the hands of the voters.

A speaker told the people of Bougainville to put their future first and forget about bribes and other corrupt practise during this election period.

28.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EU-GCCA MEET

By Aloysius Laukai in Honiara

Participants of the Five Day Community Workshop on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation for Melanesian Region pose this AL Picture.

The Five-Day Learning Intensive Workshop conducted by the Pacific Centre For Environment and Sustainable Development based at the University of South Pacific started this morning in Honiara.



Due to the Public Holiday in Solomon Islands the workshop started with field trip to a Naro village Marine Conservation Area in West Guadalcanal.

The program is part of the AusAid funded Future Climate Leaders project and aims to interact and share information with melanesian communities on understanding, reducing (mitigation) and adapting to climate change.

Participants are from Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

PNG is represented by Jason Alonk the In country Coordinator for the EU-GCCA project in PNG and Rebecca Asigau Forest Campaigner with Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc, Friends of the Earth and Aloysius Laukai the Chairman of Tulele Peisa inc the NGO group resettling Carterets Islanders to mainland Bougainville.

28.05.2012

Bougainville's first President Joseph Kabui, seen through the biased eyes of his nephew Leonard Fong Roka. A quite personal, but not really an objective recognition of Kabui's merits:



Leonard Fong Roka



late Joseph Kabui

28.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Joseph Kabui & his leadership of Bougainville

BY LEONARD FONG ROKA

THE LATE JOSEPH CANNISIUS KABUI was the last premier of the North Solomons Province in 1990 when the Bougainville crisis erupted and the first President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in 2005 as the result of the Bougainville Peace Process that slowly began in 2004.

Joseph Kabui was born around 1954 in Sipuru Village (new Paruparu in the Evo-Torau constituency). His mother, Agatha Sipura (my great grandmother), was a widower and hails from the Tumpusiong Valley of Panguna. She had my two grandmothers with her first husband and remarried into Evo (our neighbouring constituency) and had the next three that are from the elders, Martin Miriori, Joseph Kabui and a woman.

He was educated at Pirurari, Sipatako village schools, Tunuru, Saint Joseph's Rigu mission schools and Ulapia (Channel College) in PNG. He took sometimes with the BCL civil works as a spotter handling the stop-go sign in the work places. From here, late Henry Moses (then head of BCL workers' union) had him in the Panguna mining workers' union and from here he spent a year or two at the University of PNG and back in BCL again. After sometime, the union had him in the United States in a program on labour laws.

After returning, he was into politics. He was with the community government for a while in the early 1980s and contested the provincial election in the mid-1980s and began the premier of North Solomons in 1987 to 1989 when the crisis came about to splash out the PNG people and government.

Has many, for example his NSP government secretary, late Peter Tsiamalili left the island he after being threatened by the BRA, he remained back and faced the consequences. Despite being harassed by the order less and unorganized BRA personnel of the 1990s, he remained steadfast a Bougainvillean leader.

In 1990, the late Francis Ona after shutting the mine and getting rid of non-Bougainvilleans had not much interest in the former NSP premier but, it was Ona's military strategist, Sam Kauona, who actually invited Mr. Joseph Kabui in the BRA politics of that era. In one of the late months of 1990, Sam Kauona ordered his faction of the BRA to bring Mr Joseph Kabui and his elder brother, Mr Martin Miriori to his village in Tororei; there he officially asked them, especially Kabui to help the BRA in its political manoeuvring.

From here, the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) was born. Some peace efforts like the Endeavour Accord, a trip to the UN Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples hearing in Geneva, and the declaration of independence in 1991 (UDI). Also, there was this establishment of the Radio Free Bougainville that broadcasted from Arawa that drove a lot of BIG propaganda to the population.

In the years of BRA's internal chaos and the Australia-backed PNG blockade (to the PNG government this is falsely said to be a selective embargo of goods and services) on the Solomon Island of Bougainville, Mr Kabui led faithfully. So keen he was, in giving words of encouragement to people to carry on.

Amidst this anarchy, the BIG leadership acted and talked as if all was fine. But in fact, the BRA was operating in the island at its own terms creating division on the island and the BIG played its own game of covering up and pointing fingers on external forces. Kabui, as the vice president was the captain and the president, Francis Ona was never seen in public where a leader ought to be, but he was in the safety of his cocoon doing nothing.

From this we pick out the qualities, my relative Joseph Kabui had. Despite being harassed by the BRA, still he carried on 'finding the way out' for the people. Without the help of Francis Ona (who lacked any political will to lead), he struggled forward often under fire from Francis Ona and who only was giving orders 'do this and do that' in 1990 to 1992. Often, from his tours he always returned to our hamlet Kavarongnau, exhausted to the core.

This, for me, shows four broad characteristics of my brother; Joseph Kabui had the 'heart of love', he 'lacked the ability to say no and affect his relationship with others' and had the nature of 'silently and bravely pursuing his visions'; of all, he was a visionary for our relegated island.

His 'love' created the catch-phrase 'peace by peaceful means' for the Bougainville Peace Process. That is, finding normalcy for Bougainville through reconciliation and not retributive justice. In heart he thought God was the way since he was religious. But, in reality, the power play was not in favour of a solution through 'peace' because authority was still not recognized; everybody, as long as he had gun, lost a property or relative in the crisis, was 'authority'.

But, what that made my relative thinking that his strategies were working is the 'pouring money for peace' from donors that captivated combatants to make peace everywhere.

His desire 'for maintenance of cordial relationship with others' brought upon his leadership the 'Invincible Resources' nightmare of in his political career. Then, the Bougainville Peoples' Congress was cash strap and galloping with doubt towards the 2005 Autonomous Bougainville Government first general election. One of his cronies was responsible to tabling to Joseph Kabui the plate of gold!

The controversial Bougainville Resources Development Cooperation (BRDC) was created and the initiator of the Invincible Resources-ABG arrangement which is bad because it was a state-to-an-individual affair; when it should have being a state-to-state affairs, had no dirty stain to this very day in the public domain.

Joseph Kabui shouldered the burden of his 'not being so sceptical' to his death in 2008.

In his 'bravery to pursue' nature, he attained the Bougainville Peace Process. In 1992, I began hearing the words 'round table' solution to the conflict in my kindred's tongue. Against, Francis Ona's hardline stand to fight on; he pursued his will for peace.

Around 1994, there was already a line of division between Francis Ona and Joseph Kabui. Ona in that period was going public in his verbal attack on Kabui's gestures for peace. He even left the safety of his Guava village and began to tour other villages in Kieta in Central Bougainville spreading his anti-peace messages. But, Kabui silently moved on with the people gaining majority support with him.

Across the Bougainville Strait he took the risk to find and talk for a peaceful solution to the crisis. In late 1997, he set his foot in the streets of Arawa and dwelled in my family's Section 17 abode to talk peace in the areas where the PNGDF was in control of.

And his will and Bougainvilleans' desire for a peaceful settlement was gained but the addressing of our cry for freedom is yet to be reached.

Great was he has a visionary. In our hamlet of Kavarongnau in the Panguna District, I was keen as a kid in 1992 (the peak years of the crisis) listening to his discourses. He would look up into the Onove Mountains (to our west) and the Deumori Boulder and suggest: 'when we gain independence, we will have a cable-car operating in between'. Of course, Wikipedia notes that Joseph Kabui wanted to see Bougainville as the 'Kuwait of the Pacific'.

Lest I forget my brother

Note: In the Kieta kinship system, my grandmother's brother is my brother and my grandmother is my sister

ESBC: During his administration from 2005 until 2008 Bougainville President Joseph Kabui did not even once visit South-Bougainville (Buin, Siwai etc.) !

27.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FACTFINDING MISSION PACIFIC

By Aloysius Laukai in Port Moresby

ABG delegation of eight people are traveling to Fiji and Tonga for a fact finding mission on customary governing systems of the two Pacific countries.

The Minister for Local Level Government and communications in the ABG, JOE NOPE said the team will study the chief system in Fiji and the Monarchy in Tonga.

He explained the this was part of reviewing the current COE system on Bougainville.

Minister Nope says that Bougainville will then carry similar awareness in all districts to gauge the view of all Bougainvilleans on what type of system Bougainville would like to adopt.

The team consists of Minister JOE NOPE, Deputy administrator Raymond Masono, IIG officer Herbert Kimai chief Reuben Tokome and others.

They will return to Buka in two weeks time

26.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

69 NOMINATE IN BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

(pictured candidates **bold**)

A total of Sixty nine candidates have nominated to contest Bougainville seats in the 2012 PNG General Elections.

After close of nominations yesterday, 13 candidates nominated for the Bougainville Regional seat currently held by FIDELIS SEMOSO.

For the South Bougainville seat currently held by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Stephen Pirika Kamma 14 candidates have nominated.

For the North Bougainville open, 20 candidates nominated to contest the seat currently held by MR. LOUTA ATOI.

And Central Bougainville Open seat which is currently held by the Communication Minister Jimmy Miringtoro would be contested by 22 candidates.

In the Regional seat candidates are JOE LERA the former Commissioner for South Bougainville Region in the Bougainville administration, woman candidate and former ABG member for Central Bougainville representing Central Bougainville women, MAGDALENE TOROANSI, another unknown woman candidate, LYNNETTE ONA, Former ABG Lawyer KAPEATU PUARIA, former clerk of PNG National Parliament, SIMON PENTANU, SAM CAROL, JIMMIE MOSE, ALBERT MAGOI, former ABG Vice President in the Kabui led government, JOSEPH WATAWI, Former BRA Commander, ISHMAEL TOROAMA and Buka Air-condition man, **HENRY ONSA**, Bougainville Musician and former ABG Member representing Ex-combatants in North Bougainville, MARCHELIN GETSI and including the sitting member **FIDELIS SEMOSO**.

The Central Bougainville Open seat will be contested by mostly heavy weights in the Central Bougainville Region.

Eight of sixty nine candidates



Sam Akoitai



Chris Damana



Stephen Pirika Kama



Jimmy Miringtoro



Martin Miriori



Henry Onsa



Fidelis Semoso



Francesca Semoso

They include the sitting member and Communication Minister, **JIMMY MIRINGTORO** Lawyer THOMAS TAMUSIO, Strong women advocator and woman leader THERESA JAINGTONG, Former Central Bougainville Member **SAM AKOITAI**, **MARTIN MIRIORI**, WESLY THOMAS, Former UNDP Boss for Central Region JUSTIN BORGIA, former ABG member for KOKODA,

RODNEY OSIOCO, former ABG member for Rao, LEO REIVASI, Chairman of the Panguna Landowners Association, **CHRIS DAMANA**, CHRISANTO KOROKORO, Arawa Businessman SIMON BARANANKO, the current ABG member for Kongara who resigned to contest the National seat, DOMINIC ITTA, LAURIE PATRICK and WILLIAM REINHART. CLARENCE DENCY, DOMINIC DIUKA, JOE TARUNA, LOHIAL BUAIA NUAU, Meekamui strongman CHRIS BAO, MATHEW KUSA and JOSEPH SIPU.

For South Bougainville the fight would be between two heavy weights the current Sitting member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, **STEPHEN KAMA PIRIKA** and former member for South Bougainville MICHAEL LAIMO the others are PETER MANUKA, TIMOTHY MASIU the media director for the East New Britain Governor, Businessman, PETER BANA, JOSEPH MOIKUI, DAVID KAUA, JOSEPH PARUM, THADEUS KAILE, former Local Level Government Officer PATRICK HEROMATE, RAYMOND KAKAPONI, GABRIEL PANGTEI, MICHAEL ANUGU, PETER CHANEL TENGKA.

For the North Bougainville seat, The current sitting member, LOUTA ATOI is being challenged by many new and aspiring leaders starting with ISAAC HEKEN THOMPSON, DONALD HAMAU TATO, RACHAEL OPETI KONAKA, Buka businessman WILLIAM NAKIN, NOEL SAREI, HILLARY TSUNNO, Bougainville's Movie star, ALBERT TORO, the current ABG sitting member for Hagogohe who resigned to contest this seat, ROBERT HAMAL SAWA, DOMINIC TOAPALA TUMARR, JOHN SISIASI, former ABG member for Atolls, TAEHU KEALI PAIS, GERARD MASA, SYLVESTER NIU, JOHN BITI BULE, DAMIAN KORA, MICHAEL HAMOUN ROSS and the former ABG member for Peit and Bougainville Tourism promoter, LAWRENCE BELLEH, former Education Boss, TONY TSORA, former ABG Deputy Speaker, **FRANCESCA RIANNA SEMOSO**.

Campaigning throughout Bougainville has been quite with candidates and the supporters slowly gearing up for aggressive campaigns towards the end of Campaigns.

25.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

States of emergency declared in Papua New Guinea

The Papua New Guinea parliament has passed legislation to allow for states of emergency in the National Capital District, which encompasses Port Moresby and the two troubled Highlands provinces of Hela and Enga.

The measure will allow the caretaker government of Peter O'Neill to mobilise the army in those areas but details of what action will be taken are yet to be made public.

It follows another week of political turbulence in PNG in which two factions claiming to be the rightful government have re-asserted their legitimacy.

In March the government announced a lesser call out order for the Highlands provinces where landowner disputes have disrupted key construction work in Hela's Hides area for the major liquefied natural gas project, while Enga's Porgera gold mine has ongoing problems with illegal miners.

25.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG parliament blockade lifted

Reports from Papua New Guinea's capital say that a group of about 20 police who blocked the entry to parliament since early this morning has ended its blockade.

The group said it would not allow access for any MPs trying to attend today's special sitting of parliament called by the Peter O'Neill group which claims to be the caretaker government.

However, a larger group of police understood to be taking orders from the O'Neill administration arrived and briefly set up a staging area around the corner from parliament.

The caretaker prime minister Peter O'Neill says the special sitting of parliament scheduled for today must proceed.

Mr O'Neill says parliament cannot be prevented from sitting by a group of rogue police or any individuals.

He says the main reason for calling the sitting is to address Monday's Supreme Court ruling which upheld the court decision last December that his government is illegal.

"Authority of government, that needs to be re-established before we go to the polls. It's only necessary for government to take necessary actions to maintain the integrity of our public service machinery and government structures."

Meanwhile Peter O'Neill has described as 'unfortunate' the standoff at the Supreme Court yesterday in which his deputy Belden Namah directed police to arrest the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia for sedition.

Mr O'Neill says Mr Namah happened to be present at the premises because he was ordered to appear at that time before the Chief Justice.

Sir Salamo later agreed to be taken in for questioning by police and has attended court this morning when his case was adjourned until July.

25.05.2012

Source: Australia Network News

PNG's hope for new faces in parliament: blogger

25.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

68 to run for four parliament seats

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOUGAINVILLE SEATS

Here is the list of candidates Contesting the four seats in Bougainville - 68 altogether.

REGIONAL: 12 candidates:

1. Joe Lera (United Resource),
2. Magdalene Toroansi (Independent),
3. Simon Pentanu (Melanesian Alliance),
4. Joe Watawi,
5. Sam Carol,
6. Lynette Ona (PNG National),
7. Marceline Getsi Laris (PNG),
8. Kapiatu Puarea (Independent),
9. Ismael Toarama,
10. Albert Magoi,
11. Fidelis Semoso
12. Henry Onsa Senior.

NORTH: 20 candidates:

1. Donald Hamau Tato (Independent),
2. Rachel Opeti Konaka (Independent),
3. William Nakin (National Alliance),
4. Louta Atoi (Peoples National Congress),
5. Robert Hamal Sawa (THE),
6. Noel Sarei (Independent),
7. Albert Toro,
8. Dominic Toapala Tumarr (Pangu),
9. Hilary Tsuno (Independent),
10. John Sisiesi (New Dawn Transformation),
11. Taihu Kiali Pias (Independent),
12. Lawrence Bele (Mama Papa Graun),
13. Gerard Masa (Peoples United Assembly),
14. Anthony Tsora (Melanesian Alliance),
15. Niue Sylvester (Independent),
16. Issac Heken Thompson (Independent),
17. Michael Hamon Ross,
18. John Biti Bule (PNG),
19. Francesca Rianna Semoso,
20. Damien Kora (PDM).

CENTRAL: 22 candidates:

1. Theresa Raina Niniku Jaintong (Independent),
2. Simon Baranangko (Independent),
3. Clarence Bensi (Independent),
4. Chris Korokoro (Our Development),
5. Chris Damana (United Resource),
6. Jimmy Miringtoro (Peoples National Congress),
7. Leo Reivasi (PNG National),
8. William Reinharot (Independent),
9. Dominic Itta (Peoples Movement),
10. Laurie Patrick (Independent),
11. Justin Borgia (Mama Papa Graun),
12. Rodney Osioco (Independent),
13. Sam Akoitai (Melanesian Alliance),
14. Thomas Tamusio (Independent),
15. Martin Miriori (Independent),
16. Wesley Thomas (Independent),
17. Dominic Diuka,
18. Lohial Buaia Nuau,
19. Joe Taruna,
20. Chris Bao,
21. Matthew Kusa
22. Joseph Sipu.

SOUTH: 14 candidates:

1. Michael Laimo (National Alliance),
2. Peter Manuka (Independent),
3. Steven Pirika Kama (United Resource)
4. Timothy Masiu (National Alliance),
5. David Kawa,
6. Joseph Parum,
7. Thaddeus Kaile,
8. Patrick Heromate,
9. Michael Anugu,
10. Raymond Kakaponi,
11. Gabriel Pantei,
12. Peter Channel Tengka,
13. Joseph Moikui
14. Peter Bana.

25.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

UNDP succeeds to open office in South Bougainville

Papua New Guinea's country director for the United Nations Development Programme says reconciliation in the south of Bougainville's main island has allowed it to open an office in Buin.

Much of the south of Bougainville has for years been under the control of former militants tied to the Me-ekamui group, making it difficult for the government, its agencies and other bodies to establish a presence.

The UNDP's PNG country director, David McLachlan-Karr, says they have been maintaining a small sub-office in Siwai, but he says the environment's improved due to reconciliation efforts, and this has allowed the move to Buin.

"In a big ceremony on Tuesday we had singing groups and we opened up a new office inside the district administration and the president [John Momis] himself, who was there, gave the UNDP a grant of land right opposite the district offices where we will eventually establish a purpose built UN office but at the moment for us it is a very satisfactory and a very positive sign that things are actually getting back on track in the south."

25.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Police block access to PNG's parliament

A group of about 20 police has blocked the entry to Papua New Guinea's parliament since early this morning.



The group is not allowing access for any MPs trying to attend today's special sitting of parliament announced by the Peter O'Neill group claiming to be caretaker government.

The senior police officer who was appointed Police Commissioner by the rival Somare caretaker government, Fred Yakasa (pictured below), denies that he has directed the police to block parliament.

However he confirms that men who work with him are conducting the blockade.

"They are actually securing the place and that intention to recall parliament should not be allowed so that is why they are over there."



Somare's friend: Fred Yakasa

Meanwhile, AAP quotes one of the policemen at parliament as saying no sittings of parliament will be allowed until after the election which begins next month.

The officer says the group is unarmed.

25.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Call to probe PNG police over media harrassment

The regional media watchdog body, the Pacific Freedom Forum, says Papua New Guinea police and soldiers who obstructed journalists on Thursday at the Supreme Court in Port Moresby must be investigated.

The caretaker deputy prime minister, Belden Namah, stormed into the court with a team of police and soldiers with the intention of arresting the Chief Justice.

He ordered journalists out of the court room and at least one photographer was told to delete images he had taken.

The Pacific co-ordinator for the International Federation of Journalists, and founding member of the Pacific Freedom Forum, Lisa Williams Lahari, says shutting out the media raises very key issues about governance.

She says the organisations will back any journalists who want to lay a police complaint.

“The problem is though that they are well aware that given the state of affairs at the moment it can be quite tricky as a journalist going to the very people that you are making the complaint against and asking them to pursue their own colleagues in terms of an investigation. So it is super sensitive and it’s already a strong concern for many journalists especially female ones who have been the brunt of harassments over the phone and by email.”

25.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Chief Justice arrested on sedition charges

Just days after three Supreme Court judges ruled again that Sir Michael Somare is the legitimate Prime Minister of PNG, yesterday the country's Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, led a group of police and soldiers to the Court, to arrest Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia (pictured).

PNG Chief Justice arrested on sedition charges (Credit: ABC) At first Sir Salamo locked himself in his chambers, before negotiating with police, and then being charged with sedition.

The events in PNG are ringing alarm bells in Australia, who wants the government to ensure this will not halt the current election process.

Presenters: Geraldine Coutts, Liam Fox, ABC Port Moresby. Jim Middleton, ABC Australian Network Newline.

Segment Producer: Campbell Cooney.



Other Talent: Belden Namah. PNG Deputy Prime Minister. Sir Salamo Injia, PNG Chief Justice, Liam Fox, ABC PNG Correspondent. Bob Carr, Australian Foreign Minister

Listen here !

25.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Namah takes CJ down

By TODAGIA KELOLA

AN EXTRAORDINARY scene unfolded at the Waigani Supreme Court yesterday when Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah burst into a Supreme Court session presided over by Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia and demanded he be arrested for treason and sedition.

Mr Namah was flanked by senior ministers in the O'Neill/Namah cabinet, along with members of the Police and Defence Forces.

The Chief Justice was presiding over two contempt matters, one involving lawyer Tiffany Twivey and Mr Namah's matter, when the session was interrupted.

Earlier, a warrant of arrest was issued by Sir Salamo for Mr Namah to appear in court at 1.30pm to answer contempt charges.

At approximately 1.45 pm Mr Namah and his entourage walked into courtroom three and shouted at the Chief Justice: "Enough is enough" and "I warned you, you are the most corrupt person in this country".

The Chief Justice lifted his hands up to calm the situation but upon seeing police advancing towards him quickly made his way out through the judge's entrance into his chambers.

His associate Allan Dian tried to follow him and prevent police from entering but was manhandled.

Mr Namah and his group then left the courtroom. When asked if he had set a bad precedent he replied, "I gave him 24 hours. Time has run out. That is it."

In a statement Mr Namah said, "The Chief Justice has ignored the proper exercise by the National Executive Council and the Governor-General of their Constitutional powers for his suspension, and avoided the suspension by issuing a permanent Order to stay his own suspension. He even presided over his own case.

"Now, after the Supreme Court has held that all decisions to date of Prime Minister O'Neill and his Cabinet are valid and cannot be subject to challenge. Instead of accepting his suspension and submitting to due process, he remained on the Supreme Court bench after his brother Judges exposed his lack of integrity and judicial bias, preferring to issue orders for contempt against me for exercising not only my right of freedom of speech, but also the proper exercise of my representative functions as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Defence, Minister for Forest and Climate Change and Member for Vanimo/Green.

Mr Namah continued: "The Chief Justice is a threat to National Security. He is not an elected leader. He has on many occasions given permanent stay orders to prevent police exercising their constitutional functions. His decisions encroach into Parliament's powers – he has usurped the powers of the Legislature, Executive and the Governor-General. His judgments have been vindictive and he has not been behaving like a Chief Justice but rather a tyrant, drunk with power.

"He has brought into disrepute and seriously compromised the integrity of the judiciary. The Chief Justice has caused confusion amongst the population with the decision he made declaring Somare as Prime Minister when the country is concentrating on elections knowing very well that he as Chief Justice has no powers to elect or appoint a Prime Minister, which is the sole prerogative of the Parliament," Mr Namah declared.

After several hours, Sir Salamo eventually agreed to be interviewed at the Court premises after fearing for his safety if he left the area.

25.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Japan to fund sewerage project

By Gorethy Kenneth in Japan

JAPAN will fund a \$US100 million sewerage system in Papua New Guinea's nation's capital-Port Moresby, the single biggest project for the country since its establishment.

Japan Government has just completed a \$US90 million project in Bougainville through 15-high tech bridges.

And Japan through its JICA program has spent more than \$US290million so far in Papua New Guinea – \$US10 million a year since its establishment in 1983.

This is added onto other multi-million kina projects and funding assistance that Japan has been giving to the Government of PNG as “gift in kind”.

The Japanese Government through their JICA program is now going through a tender process for companies to bid for the project that will be a multi-million kina project to transform the sewerage system in the city over the next few years.

JICA senior adviser to director-general for the South East Asia and Pacific Mimura Satora told the Post-Courier in Japan that this is a “soft loan project” which the Government of Japan had willingly approved to help PNG as a big friend of Japan. He said this was bigger than the \$US90 million funded-bridges for Bougainville, which also features as a very successful impact project from Japan to Papua New Guinea, under the JICA program. He said that the 15-high tech bridges built in mainland Bougainville was one of Japan's major and successful projects which is now beginning to help transform the lives of Bougainvilleans and PNG as a whole. “For the sewerage project, the process has started and our office in Port Moresby with the Government of Papua New Guinea are now in agreement to finalise the necessary arrangements, Mr Satora said.

“Japan, as a development partner on an equal footing has been working together with PNG in their nation building. We cannot deny that Japan is still faced with enormous challenges including reconstruction from the disaster. But we hope we can work hand in hand together as friends.”

25.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Citifon to celebrate first anniversary

By KONOPA KANA

CITIFON Telikom PNG product is celebrating its first anniversary this Sunday with amazing promotions on offer to only Citifon customers that do top ups on Citifon handsets, and fixed wireless phones.

Telikom PNG Acting Chief Commercial Officer Kone Kula said that to mark this significant birthday celebration, all Citifon customers will be receiving K1 free credit.

Mr Kula said that Citifon customers will also have their chance to win one year free credits when making calls from the 23-31, May 2012 with three lucky winners to receive K100 per month.

“Our Citifon brand since its entrance into the mobile telephone market has become a tag of pride for youngster particularly with its lively advertising jingles and our creative advertising and different execution has made Citifon our flagship brand. It's encouraging to see our customer base grow with a good rate of new acquisitions each month for the past 12 months and we hope to keep it growing going forward,” Mr Kula said.

He said that Buin in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Palmalmal in Pomio district, East New Britain, are two recent sites where the Citifon network coverage has been installed.

According to Mr Kula, Citifon recently launched the EasiPay top-up with Bank South Pacific (BSP) where Citifon customers banking with BSP can top up their EasiPay meter at the convenience of using their Citifon rather than purchasing the voucher from a supermarket.

Meanwhile, all top ups on Citifon, Fixed Wireless Phone and Data will go to the May draw for the Dream Car Promotion.

Mr Kula urged all Citifon customers to be alert on Sunday and answer with 'yello' to grab K1000 as part of Citifon first birthday celebrations on FM 100 radio station as there will be 10 winners for the day.

Citifon users are also able to top-up their credits by sending a blank text to 1256 then wait for the balance feedback and to recharge your Citifon voice account text V* (star) followed by voucher number and send to 1257.

25.05.2012

Source: The National

Citifon pushes network growth

By GYNNIE KERO

TELIKOM PNG's mobile brand, Citifon, has seen an expansion in its network coverage and customer base growth in the last 12 months, according to acting chief commercial officer Kone Kula.

He said customer base was growing monthly and Citifon's coverage was reaching most towns and cities.

He also said they would cover the Highlands region after installing network coverage in two sites at Buin in Bougainville and Palmalmal in East New Britain.

"Citifon has recently launched the EasiPay top-up with BSP, where customers doing transaction with the bank can top up their EasiPay meter in the convenience of their house," Kula said,

"Citifon users are also able to top- up their credits by sending a blank text to 1256 then wait for the balance feedback.

"Since its entrance into the mobile telephony market, Citifon brand has become a tag of pride for youngsters.

"It's encouraging to see our customer base grow with a good rate of new acquisitions each month and we hope to keep it going forward."

To mark its anniversary on Sunday, Citifon customers will be given the opportunity to benefit from a bouquet of promotions including free credits, car and K1, 000 cash call.

Citifon marketing manager Moin Qadri said Citifon was focused on bringing more communication to Papua New Guineans.

"Citifon offers the lowest price for its handsets and products, however, it's up to the customers," he said.

25.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Manager: Move illegal

By NELLIE SETEPANO

THE MASS HIV testing roll out program launched in Bougainville is illegal and has been discouraged by the health department.

HIV Programs Manager Dr Nick Dala said mass testing is totally against the HIV prevention and management or HAMP Act that protects confidentiality.

The Bougainville AIDS Committee Secretariat has announced this week its plans for a mass roll out in the four districts of Buka Island targeting more people to get HIV testing and support. He said the mass testing is impossible as there are not enough testing and counseling sites as well. If people were to be tested, plans must be linked up with counseling and then treatment and Bougainville does not have that. Dr Dala encouraged awareness programs and is in contact with provincial AIDS secretariat.

Despite the discouragement the testing has gone ahead.

24.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mass HIV testing underway in Bougainville

By Joseph Morokana

HIV/AIDS workers in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have launched a Mass HIV Testing Rollout Program this week covering 4 Districts of Buka Island.

The HIV Testing Rollout Program which would cover Tsitalato, Hagogohe, Peit and Tonsu Constituencies has involved HIV Counsellors from various HIV Clinic facilities in the Region, Prevention teams and Media officers and is intended to target more people to get HIV testing and support.

Bougainville HIV Response Coordinator Mr Ray Himata said that HIV testing in the each of the Constituency would take 7 days starting with the Hagogohe Area this week and ending with the other Constituencies until the 15th of June.

“The HIV Testings in Hagogohe is from 23rd to 26th May, then Peit Area from 28th to 31st May, Tonsu 1st June to 7th of June and finally Tsitalato on 8th June to 15th of June.” he said. Testing venues in Hagogohe will be at Malis, Tsintsin, Hoko, Pepes, Suhin Elementary, Paposoko Chapel and Losei village.

In Peit Constituency testing venues will be at Koheno, Bekut Primary School, Gagan Primary School, Hapan Primary School, Yagit village, Pororan Island, Hitou and Burunotui Vocational School.

Testing sites in Tonsu will be at Petats Housewin, Pali Sal, Hetas Haus Lotu, Poka Hauswin, Tung Hauswin, Kahule Hauswin, Topen hauswin, Navunek hauswin, Noharando hauswin and Nokia Elementary.

In the Tsitalato Constituency, testing venues will be at Lonahan Piraku, Kababele Malasang, Malasang Aidpost, Bibinam, Bubuil Elementary, Hangan Elementary, Hutjena stage field, Kubu University open campus, Motmoto, Dampsite (Airport), New Camp, Bel Isi Park and Sohano Primary School.

Mr Himata said that the Mass Testing was very important for the people to participate in by making them available for tests as it would identify those that needed care and support.

“The total tests in 2011 were 4826 and out of that there were 588 reactives. Then from the total reactives there were 94 confirmed positive HIV cases.” he said.

Figures from the Bougainville AIDS Committee of the current known people living with the HIV & AIDS (PLWHA) since 2004 have shown most of the PLWHAs were in the 30s to 49 age group, then 25 to 29 years, next 20 to 24 years and less than 4 years old.

The Bougainville AIDS Committee Secretariat has given the following telephone numbers for people trying to find out more on the Mass HIV Testing Rollout Program. They should contact HIV Office on 9739191, or email – rayhimata@yahoo.com or contact Media Liaison Officer, Joseph Morokana on Digicel Mobile – 72405680

24.05.2012

Source: The National

Chief: Call me prime minister

THE Somare camp has warned media organisations that failure to address Sir Michael Somare as prime minister could be in contempt of court.

Sir Michael's lawyer, Posman Kua Aisi wrote to The National to advise that the Supreme Court had ruled by a majority on Monday that Sir Michael "has and continues to be the prime minister since and from Aug 2, 2011".

"Conversely, it rules by a majority that Peter O'Neill's appointment as the prime minister was unconstitutional and, therefore, invalid and of no effect," the letter said.

"The impact and effect of this decision is that Sir Michael Somare will continue to act in his capacity as prime minister and perform such functions and duties that are accorded to him by virtue of this office until the return of the writs.

"No one else, including O'Neill, is to perform such functions and duties.

"Failure to comply with these orders could potentially bring upon you contempt proceedings which could result in your imprisonment."

**The ESBC says: Sir Michael makes a fool of himself! Poor thing!
His family and friends: Don't they feel pity for the senile old man?**

23.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arms summit starts

By Aloysius Laukai in Siwai

CEO for Siwai ,JOE ALBERT NORO says that the three days arms summit aims to get the people of goodwill to talk on ways of addressing the Arms issue affecting Bougainville today.

Mr.Noro made these comment when welcoming participants at the opening of the Siwai District Arms summit.

He said that issues highlighted and shouted by the general public at this meeting would be compiled to build the overall resolutions at the end of this summit.

At the end of the summit the team leading this summit will adopt set of resolutions on ways this issue can be addressed in future.

And maybe used as model by other areas in Bougainville.

Mr.Noro said that it was not the crowd that matters for many are called and few a chosen so these few presenters would make an impact on the issue of weapons on Bougainville.

23.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Peace ceremony - PNG's equitable code of justice

BY FRANCIS NII

THE TRADITIONAL CODE OF CONFLICT SOLUTION known as the peace ceremony is PNG's most equitable and timeless alternative justice system.

In peace ceremonies, the aggrieved parties come together in a public gathering to a neutral location with money and goods like animals, food stuffs etc. The money and goods are exchanged between the aggrieved parties precluded by heart-moving words of remorse,

forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration and friendship from the chiefs and leaders of both sides witnessed by church and community leaders including officials of the law and justice.

The amount they give each other is dependent on the degree of damage or suffering one incurs or endures as a result of the conflict. Naturally the party that suffers the most or incurs the worse damage is given more and vice versa.

The peace agreement is profoundly binding and lasting because the amount of money and goods that are exchanged hands are have being negotiated and mutually agreed on by both parties in peace mediation. Negotiations continue if and when there is a disagreement until a final agreement is reached. Then the peace ceremony is equitably and amicably executed.

The money and the goods add substance and value to the whole peace making. Without either a peace agreement would deem vain and unbinding vulnerable to collapse sooner or later.

Tears and/or hugs are instant signs of total remorse, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, friendship, peace and harmony. They are the first indicators of a true and lasting peace.

Moreover, there is no loser in a peace ceremony. Both parties are winners.

In contrast, in a modern court of law, there is only one winner and it is either the complainant or the defendant depending on how one convinces the court with his or her evidence regardless of the veracity of the affidavits. The worst villain can bluff his or her way out making the innocent unjustifiably bear the brunt of the law.

On many occasions the victims of such legal blunders take the law into their own hands because they lose faith in the modern legal justice system. They seek justice themselves.

For this and other reasons, many Papua New Guineans prefer peace ceremony than a court of law to solve their conflicts even in this advancing modern society.

A classic example is the recent peace ceremony that was held between the Highlands Police Mobile Squads 05, 06 and 07 and their colleagues in the National Capital District on Friday 11 May, 2012 at the McGregor Police Barracks in Port Moresby.

The brief background information is that three groups of highlands based police mobile squads were flown into the National Capital District under the direction of the O'Neill-Namah regime at the height of the political impasse between Somare and O'Neill and the related divisions in the public service and the armed forces.

In April this year, in a spill-over incident, the highlands based mobile squads bashed up the members of the National Capital District highway patrol unit and their OIC Sgt Paul Simon alleging they were carrying out private escorts. The incident escalated the enmity among the already divided PNG Royal Constabulary particularly in the national capital.

Reconciliation and peace amongst the two factions were hardly anticipated at least in the foreseeable future.

Fear of the conflict being blown into anarchy was rife. Nonetheless the undreamt peace had reigned sooner than expected thanks to the peace ceremony system and the peace initiators.

The peace ceremony as reported on page 4 of the National Newspaper of May 14, 2012, the HMSs gave 8 pigs and K10,000 cash to their NCD colleagues. The NCD police in return gave four pigs, one beast and 80 cartons of soft drinks to the members of the HMSs.

Giving credence to the peace making were the emotional words of remorse, apology, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace and unity from both sides.

National Capital District metropolitan commander Peter Guinness described the nature of the conflict and how peace could possibly be achieved after all as; "In my experience I have never seen anything like this."

"It's a dead issue and we must unite and operate as one police. We are sorry for what had happened." Group Sgt Major Kelly Sombe of the HMSs remorsefully apologised. "If you come to the highlands, we promise to give you the best treatment." Sombe promised referring to the 300 NCD police that would be deployed in the highlands for the 2012 national elections security operations.

"We are all brothers. We will be brothers and friends forever," Sgt Paul Simon of NCD said in response. "From the bottom of our hearts we forgive you" he added.

And so the conflict was resolved and peace had prevailed there and then.

The PNG traditional code of conflict solution may have not been designed to handle serious and complex conflicts involving the police force, the army, the judges or the politicians and so forth.

However, time and again when the concept is tested it is always proven to be superior, equitable and timeless. The above case is another example and milestone. It proves that peace ceremony is the most equitable and timeless alternative mode of conflict solution in PNG.

23.05.2012

Source: Australia Network News

PNG: Land of two prime ministers

22.05.2012

ESBC comments:

PNG PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW TO BE CONTINUED:

22.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Papua New Guinea's former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare has been turned away from Government House by police this afternoon.

Sir Michael's supporters were at Government House where they were hoping he would be sworn-in as Prime Minister, after the Supreme Court yesterday ruled him the country's rightful leader. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has already indicated he will not respect the court decision which he has labelled as evidence of judicial corruption.

Our PNG Correspondent was at Government House in Port Moresby and he's confirmed that Sir Michael has not been sworn-in as some expected.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: PNG Correspondent, Liam Fox

HILL: Liam has Sir Michael turned up and has he been reinstated?

FOX: He did turn up and no he hasn't been reinstated. Him and several of his supporters and members of what used to be his cabinet turned up here saying that they expected to be let in to Government House and they expected to be received by the Governor General and that they were going to be sworn in as PNG's caretaker government to take the country through the elections. That didn't happen, there are around 30 or so policemen out the front of Government House and they politely but firmly told them that they wouldn't be allowed in. We also had been told by someone inside Government House that they were thinking of holding a swearing-in ceremony, but now it might be held tomorrow because of tensions between the two camps. Sir Michael and his supporters say they're now going to, what they say follow protocol and advice in writing the Governor General their request for a reception and to be sworn in and attached to that will be the Supreme Court's decision of yesterday. So they think that they'll go away, send off this written request, and that things might happen very soon. Of course very few things happen quickly in PNG, and everyone except the police has now left Government House.

HILL: So they're actually expecting a swearing-in tomorrow?

FOX: They don't really know, they are expecting it to happen possibly this afternoon, but from the look of things around here and from that message I got from someone inside the Governor General's office, that looks unlikely.

HILL: Look sometimes these scenes outside Government House and parliament can lead to a bit of tension. Was it all reasonably good natured, did people follow protocol or was anyone getting a bit excited about it?

FOX: It was all reasonably good natured, the Governor of the Southern Highlands Anderson Agiru had a little bit of a go at the police saying that they should be following the Supreme Court's orders, and the order has been to reinstate Sir Michael Somare. But look there's none of the tension that was evidenced following the Supreme Court's first order back in December last year. There was a lot of tension. We might remember the scenes of Peter O'Neill barging through the police cordon to get to Government House last year. There's none of that this time around, there's none of that intensity. I think the stakes are a lot lower now, all they're fighting over is the caretaker government, it's not like the winning side can get their hands on the levers of government for a good period of time. We're talking about the next month or two until the results of the election come in. So as I said there's none of that intensity and there's not as much at stake as there was in December last year.

HILL: Well to deal with this situation which the Supreme Court has apparently reinstated Sir Michael Somare as prime minister, the actual Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has decided he's going to call parliament back again. This is despite the fact that parliament was formally dissolved when the writs for the elections was issued. Can he recall parliament if it's been dissolved?

FOX: Look there's some people saying that that can't happen, but then we were talking to Sir Arnold Amet out the front of Government House just a short time ago and he said there are special circumstances in which parliament can be recalled, both in natural disasters and at times

of war and during what he said were extraordinary circumstances. That's unclear. But as I said to someone else, to date I think we've seen in the last year and previous years that what's legal and illegal and what's constitutional and unconstitutional doesn't really matter to many politicians. They simply do what they can until someone hauls them about it, be that the Supreme Court or be that public dissatisfaction, that's the way politics operates in PNG. They do what they can until they're hauled up for it.

HILL: Well what's led to this? I mean the writs have been issued, the election campaign was officially underway, why are we now apparently doing a re-run of events that happened a few months ago when there were two rival prime ministers?

FOX: Well that's the Supreme Court's doing, the Supreme Court's decision on the follow-up challenge to the O'Neill government's legitimacy has been pending for some months, and they've decided to hand down the decision on the Monday after the writs had been issued. The timing of this is all up to, the fact that this has all happened is all thanks to the Supreme Court. And there's been some backlash on social media sites saying that they should have just waited until after the election altogether to hand down their decision, what good could have come and now has come from them doing it on Monday?

HILL: Well what about the position of Sir Michael Somare himself? He now claims to have the backing of the Supreme Court, they say he's the legitimate prime minister. There was some toing and froing as to whether he would actually be standing in the election, which is underway now. Has he really clarified now that he will be running again now that the Supreme Court says he's the prime minister, or will he not contest his seat again? Has that been made clear?

FOX: Look all I can tell you is what we were told by his daughter and spokesperson Betha Somare when we were trying to get in contact with him earlier today. She said that he was heading back to nominate to run again in the election. That decision has been both spurned on by popular support back at home, and by the Supreme Court's orders to have him reinstated. Now whether that actually happens or not we have to wait and see. As we know Sir Michael has flip-flopped on this issue both recently and in years before, so I guess we have to actually wait for a formal announcement or to see his name on the ballot paper.

HILL: And Liam just before we go briefly, has this current mess I think we can use that word, going to affect the election campaign? Is it going to affect people's perceptions of Sir Michael Somare or Peter O'Neill in any way?

FOX: We can only go on what both parties have said, both Sir Michael in a statement and Peter O'Neill at a press conference last night have said that they do not want this to affect the elections, that the elections will go ahead as scheduled. So if we take them at their word that seems to be the case. As to affecting their perceptions, I'm not too sure about that, I think the general mood of people now is that they've had enough of this ongoing leadership drama, they just want to get to the elections and take the power of choosing the country's leader into their own hands and out of the Supreme Court.

[Listen here !](#)

22.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis inspects police in Buin



22.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN Opens New Peace-building Office on Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai

Buin, 22 May 2012: In a public ceremony presided over by ABG President John Momis and the UN Resident Coordinator, David McLachlan-Karr, a new UNDP office for South Bougainville was officially inaugurated on 22 May.

The move of the UN Office from Siwai to the regional capital at Buin marks a new phase in the UN's engagement with the district administration in the Southern Region. M'ee kamui and other key factions were present at the ceremonies demonstrating their solidarity with peace-building work brokered by the ABG and the UN.

In welcoming the establishment of the new office, President Momis highlighted the importance of continued UN engagement and its role in confidence building and support to good governance in Bougainville.

The President also presented title to a block of land near the District Administrative office where the UN would eventually construct a new UN Haus.

In reply, the UN Resident Coordinator thanked the government for its generous grant of land to the UN and said that it was the UN's intention to remain engaged on Bougainville for the long-term and diversify UN support into development initiatives that would promote economic stimulation, youth skills training programmes and employment initiatives to integrate ex-combatants and women into a new ABG economy.

A tour was made to the Buin Secondary School, Buin Specialized Training Centre, Buin District hospital and the local Police Headquarters.

As a gesture of support to the successful conclusion of the peace games promoted by the UN office at Buka and the ABG in November 2011, UNDP presented a quantity of sports equipment

to the district authorities. Two trophies were also donated for the winning men's and women's soccer teams in what will become an annual UN-sponsored ABG Southern Region football competition.



UN delegation visited Kangu Wharf before leaving for Siwai

22.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG election on track despite new twist in political impasse

Peter O'Neill and his supporters insist they are Papua New Guinea's caretaker government in the lead-up to next month's general election despite his administration being declared illegal by the Supreme Court yesterday.

The ruling, reiterating the court's December decision that Sir Michael Somare was the country's legitimate Prime Minister, has thrown new uncertainty over the country's lingering political impasse.

While the Somare group's attempt to be sworn in as caretaker government at Government House has so far been unsuccessful, Peter O'Neill's group is attempting to have a special sitting of parliament.

Sir Michael has been forming his administration to see the country through to the June election.

His son, the Angoram MP Arthur Somare says the ruling has restored the integrity of the constitution after Peter O'Neill's coalition controversially removed Sir Michael in August last year, sparking a constitutional crisis.

Arthur Somare says he hopes there are no further attempts to delay next month's polling as Mr O'Neill has been facing significant pressure from within his coalition to do so.

However with the writs for PNG's election signed last week by the Governor-General, the election process is formally underway and Mr Somare says it's important that politicians seek the people's backing.

"This is all about the constitution, it is not necessarily about Sir Michael the person, but the integrity of the constitution has been restored now as a consequence of this court decision, and the correct place to assert that you have the mandate of the people is through a general election."

A member of Sir Michael Somare's government, Sir Arnold Amet, says its new caretaker administration is unlikely to change controversial legislation brought in by the Peter O'Neill government.

"It is really a caretaker regime, just to keep the country stable and manage the elections that have begun - the process having begun. So any major decisions really have to wait the new house being elected and the new government being formed."

Two of the five judges abstained from making a ruling, with Justice Bernard Sakora saying that to participate would contradict his oath as a judge.

Peter O'Neill says the fact that two senior judges abstained on the ruling, means that a new bench should have been established for the hearing.

He describes the court ruling as mischievous, coming from a bench which he says is tainted by corrupt practices.

Sir Arnold Amet says Peter O'Neill's response is not what is expected of leaders.

"To simply describe our judiciary as being corrupt because a judgement hasn't gone his way is really most inappropriate for a person who holds himself up as a leader and a Prime Minister, our leader."

However, the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia has been repeatedly called on by the O'Neill coalition to resign over allegations of misconduct and claims of bias in the hearings into the legality of Mr O'Neill's election last August.

Peter O'Neill says Sir Salamo has stubbornly refused to stand down, bringing the Supreme Court into collision with parliament.

"And as a result we now have a ruling that is tainted, biased and not enforceable by law. Therefore we are ignoring that and all agencies of government are ignoring that particular order. And therefore the government is now in caretaker mode until the return of writs."

Meanwhile, signs that police will not let the Somare group into Government House to be sworn in have followed reports that police factions supporting the rival political groups have had a standoff in the capital.

But both sides appear in agreement that the national election must go ahead as scheduled next month.

22.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Buin Hospital

By Aloysius Laukai

The UN delegation visiting Buin South Bougainville this morning visited the Buin Secondary School, the Buin District Hospital and the Buin vocational school before launching the BUIN UN desk at the Buin District office.

ABG President who is accompanying the delegation told the students of Buin Secondary school ABG's commitment to education in the past today and into the future



Picture of the ABG President with a staff of the hospital

22.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN TEAM visiting Buin secondary school



22.05.2012

Source: The National

Ex-Arawa student drives fund-raiser

By AGNES FIFI UKI

FORMER students of Arawa High School in Central Bougainville have been urged to pool their resources together and raise funds to help the school. Fund-raising organiser John Susuve, from Gulf province, is trying to form a committee to drive the fundraising. Susuve said Arawa was one of the pioneer high schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and had produced many educated people now holding key positions in the country. He completed Grade 10 in 1980. He came up with the fund-raising idea after learning that Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro was raising funds to help the school. The communications minister had also donated some computers to the school. Susuve said he was happy to see leaders taking up such initiatives. "Now is time for the people who have benefitted from the school to give something back to it," Susuve said. He said the school had produced leaders such as North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi.

Funds raised will be used to renovate classrooms, buy library books and science lab materials, computers and other necessary items for the school. Susuve is appealing to the business houses in Arawa and the country to support the school in cash or kind. Those willing to support the fundraising should get in touch with him on 7682 5643 or 325 7855. They can email him on barnabasjohn2012@gmail.com.

22.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Two judges step aside

By TODAGIA KELOLA

IN A RARE and unprecedented move, two of the five most senior judges of the Supreme and National Court presiding over the question of who is the legitimate Government have openly criticized their fellow brother judges on the bench, of perceived bias and dragging the Judiciary's integrity in to the mud.

The two, Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika and Justice Bernard Sakora, made these observations after voluntarily abstaining from making a decision on whether the O'Neil/ Namah or the Somare /Agiru faction were the legitimate Government. The three who were majority of the bench, Chief Justice Sir Salamo and Justices Nicholas Kirriwom and Les Gavera Nanu ruled that the Oneil/Namah regime were unconstitutional (see separate story on page 2). Chief Somare says O'Neill is only an MP. Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika in his decision to abstain and in his ruling on two preliminary applications, one to defer the handing down of the decision and the other a disqualification application for a member of the bench , said "Issues of the integrity of Judges has never been raised like it is now before. If we were to save the judiciary from been further dragged in to the mud ...then leave must be granted to the disqualification application..I am worried about the integrity of the judiciary"

Justice Sakora was more direct when deciding to abstain by stating that " a Judge should not be a judge in his own court"

He further stated that the country and the Judiciary is bigger and more important than any individual and that he doesn't want to be a part of this court after going through all these perceived bias to be a part will bring dishonesty to his private and personal integrity.

22.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill calls new ruling judicial corruption

There's a new crisis in Papua New Guinea with the Supreme Court again ruling that Sir Michael Somare should be reinstated as prime minister.

O'Neill calls new ruling judicial corruption (Credit: ABC) But the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says he will not respect the decision which he has labelled as evidence of judicial corruption.

Mr O'Neill has recalled parliament for a special sitting today despite it being dissolved last week ahead of next month's elections.

The full bench of the Supreme Court split three - two in the ruling which re-inforces last December's interim decision to reinstate Sir Michael.

That sparked a major battle between the court and parliament which many hoped would be all over with the calling of the election last week.

Mr O'Neill has again called on the police to investigate the chief justice, Sir Salamo Injia for possible corruption.

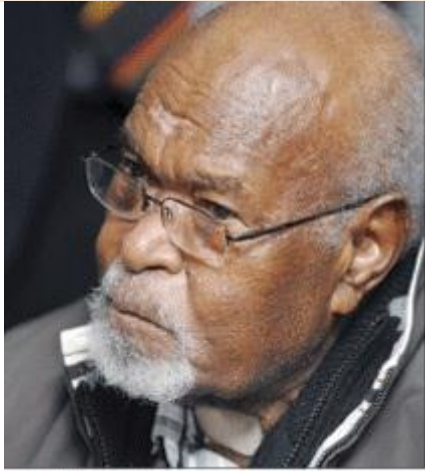
Speaker: Peter O'Neill, PNG prime minister

[Listen here !](#)

21.05.2012

Source: ESBC comments

A major suspect got re-instated!



It's pretty sad and disappointing that - once again - the PNG Supreme Court ignores the will of the parliament's majority and re-instates Michael Somare (pictured) as Prime Minister. Do these judges believe that they are GOD? How can they dare to pretend taking care of democratic rules?

Luckily the national polling is on the way and Somare, his greedy family and friends, will not have the possibility to continue their scandalous work practised over years. PNG has to unmask all fraudulent activities of this gang and their compliant judges in the past and to charge them with high-treason!

21.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG court rules Somare should be reinstated

By PNG correspondent Liam Fox

The Supreme Court in Papua New Guinea has once again found Peter O'Neill's appointment as prime minister was illegal.



In a split three to two ruling the court upheld its decision of last December that Mr O'Neill's replacement of Sir Michael Somare as prime minister was illegal.

Chief justice Sir Salamo Injia said the order to reinstate Sir Michael still stands and is binding.

But two judges refused to take part in the ruling after an internal court email was leaked to the media.

In it, one of the presiding judges, justice Nicholas Kirriwom, refers to the O'Neill government as an "illegal regime".

Deputy chief justice Gibbs Salika said he would not deliver a decision because it could be compromised.

Justice Bernard Sakora disqualified himself and said he would be disregarding his judicial oath if he proceeded.

Mr O'Neill says he will not respect the court's decision.

He says the country's judiciary is biased and has ordered police to investigate Sir Salamo Injia.

21.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Picture of the Bank South Pacific



Picture of the Bank South Pacific office in Arawa by Aloysius Laukai

21.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

UN ESTABLISH IN BUIN

By Aloysius Laukai in Buin

UNDP office in South Bougainville which is currently in Panakei mini town in Siwai, South west Bougainville will officially move to Buin town the headquarter of South Bougainville.

A ceremony to start the relocation exercise will be held in Buin town tomorrow morning

According to the official program, the UN office will start with a UN desk at the BUIN DISTRICT OFFICE until the move is finalized.

ABG President chief John Momis who is already in Buin tonight for the launching will also officiate at the ground breaking ceremony.

PNG UN Country resident representative, DAVID Mac'halan Karr based in Port Moresby arrived this afternoon for tomorrow's ceremony.

NEW DAWN FM will carry live speeches through its network in Buka and also would post pictures and stories to its website from Buin, South Bougainville.

21.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

SOUTH NOMINATE

By Aloysius Laukai in Buin.

Three candidates nominated in Buin, South Bougainville for the South Bougainville Open seat currently held by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Stephen Pirika.

The three candidates included the Minister himself who arrived early this morning accompanied by supporters in a convoy of more than fifty vehicles.

The others were the former member for South Bougainville, Michael Laimo and another National Alliance strongman, PETER MANUKA.

More than 20 candidates are expected to run for the South Bougainville open seat at the close of nomination this Thursday.

Nominated:

Stephen Pirika

Michael Laimo

Peter Manuka

21.05.2012

Source: The National

Miringtoro thanks media for role as development partner

By CALDRON LAEPA

SOUTH Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro has thanked the media for its role as a development partner in the country.

Miringtoro, the communication minister, said this when paying EMTV K46,000 as outstanding payments for the Arawa district.

The payments were back-dated to 2005.

He said after the crisis, EMTV's programmes had positively influenced the minds of youths and given them a better perspective through educational programmes and sports.

"EMTV and media in general have been helping in the peace-building process on the island. I am very grateful to support the media," Miringtoro said.

He said the people had seen positive changes through watching TV programmes, especially sports.

It influenced them to take an active part in sports.

Miringtoro said as well as disseminating information, the media must provide proper information to get the correct message to the people.

He said misinformation led to anxiety.

EMTV general manager Tukaha Mua said EMTV was glad to support the development of the country.

He said television provided an information source in which people could hear and see for themselves.

20.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Cocoa still good

By Aloysius Laukai

Whilst a lot of cocoa farmers are worrying about Cocoa Pod Borer and its effect on the cocoa industry, Bougainville's biggest revenue earner one family in Buin has the answer.

COSMAS LONGKAI from Piano in the Makis COE says that the trick is not to leave any shades. He told New Dawn Fm that cleaning your block would make it difficult for the insect to live in the area.

Pictured is one tree at his plantation



20.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

The Shanghai Connection

The ESBC is highly alerted by increasing activities to promote the fake currency "Bougainville Kina" on international financial markets.

On May 20th, 2012 we found this text below on the homepage: <http://de.gbp.cer24.com/eur/?q=bougainville%20kina%20currency%20forex> .

Convert bougainville kina currency forex GBP EUR | British Pound Euro

☆☆☆☆☆ (88 votes)

Convert bougainville kina currency forex British Pound Euro, (GBP EUR) with the latest currency exchange rates is to use the currency pair known as GBP/EUR in the forex market for converting bougainville kina currency forex from GBP to EUR and converting from bougainville kina currency forex British Pound to Euro with our conversion calculator. In order to view the GBP to EUR rates, GBP to EUR chart, GBP in EUR graph and how much is bougainville kina currency forex British Pound in Euro rather than how much is bougainville kina currency forex GBP in EUR, please look for the links marked as GBP EUR Rate, GBP EUR Konverter, GBP EUR Chart And GBP EUR Geschichte in the calculator sections below. On top of that, tools for Selling GBP / Buying EUR and Selling British Pound / Buying Euro are also provided for you along with converting GBP to

dollars, euros, pounds, rupees, yen and rmb. Are you looking for how much is bougainville kina currency forex Euro in British Pound (bougainville kina currency forex EUR in GBP)? Check out EUR GBP.

The ESBC consider this information as fraudulent. We confirm our WARNING not to get in contact to these people.!

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18.05.2012

Source: blog.vukane.net

Bougainville: Bagana mit Lavastrom 40 kilometers North/West of Panguna: Vulcano Mount Bagana active again since 2009



Der Vulkan Bagana auf der zu PNG gehörenden Insel Bougainville ist ausgebrochen. Satellitenfotos der NASA zeigen eine Dampfwolke, die vom Krater aufsteigt und einen frischen Lavastrom (ober rechts) auf der Nordost-Flanke des Vulkans. Seit wann genau der Vulkanausbruch andauert ist unbekannt.



Mount Bagana



Der 1750 m hohe Bagana zählt zu den aktivsten Vulkanen Melanesiens und brach zuletzt 2009 aus. Er fördert andesitische Lava und kann pyroklastische Ströme generieren.

Mount Bagana:
rote Markierung

Panguna:
blaue Markierung

A new NASA satellite image reveals a fresh lava flow on Bagana volcano's eastern flank. It is unknown when the eruption started, but comparison with older images implies that it must

have begun some time between March 2011 and February 2012.

Bagana is one of the most active volcanoes in Papua New Guinea, but extremely remote and there is no ground-based monitoring, which is why satellites provide the most reliable and timely means of monitoring.



Mount Bagana with plume and lava flow on the right

18.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

new

[24 Bougainville maps updated!](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

18.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOMINATION OPEN

By Aloysius Laukai

First to nominate for the Bougainville Regional seat was the former Commissioner for South Bougainville, JOE LERA who nominated to the Provincial returning officer, and electoral commissioner for Bougainville, REITAMA TARAVARU after 4pm this afternoon in Buka.

Immediately following that the former member for women on central Bougainville on the ABG and women candidate, Magdalene Toroansi also nominated for the Bougainville regional seat.

The first to nominate for North Bougainville seat was the former resistance commander, DONALD HAMAU.

And the runner up in the last by-election and woman candidate, RACHAEL KONAKA OPETI. Nominations for the Central and South Bougainville seats were not available as of 5pm today. of nominations on Thursday next week

18.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bishop supports visa policy

PAPUA New Guinea business travellers to Australia, as well as other visitors, should find their visas easier to obtain if the Coalition parties win the next Australian election, as polls predict they will.

The commitment was made by Shadow Foreign Minister Julie Bishop to Australia PNG Business Council President Peter Taylor in Brisbane this week.

Ms Bishop said that if we form the next government in Australia our first commitment will be ensuring to free up the visa arrangements between Australian business people and PNG business people in particular to create a conducive environment in doing business.

She said that it is simply unacceptable for there to be so many bureaucratic hurdles in the way of trade and investment and doing business across the Coral Sea.

"It should be as easy to do business between Australia and Papua New Guinea as it is between Australia and New Zealand," Ms Bishop said.

Australia and PNG Business Council (APNGBC) President Peter Taylor said that the most controversial issue in the bilateral business relationship concerned the movement of people for both business and personal reasons.

He said that although Papua New Guinea is the only independent state which is a former Australia colony, the visa processes for citizens of PNG to enter Australia were the same as for all other countries except New Zealand.

"These processes not only cause costs to business, but also cause angst within the community because of the intrusive nature of the Australian visa application process, including the requirement of extensive evidence of financial capacity or support, including for business people with a record over many years of regular visits to Australia, and for members of families of senior respected business people."

Mr Taylor said the inability of business people as well as ordinary Papua New Guineans to apply for visas online, in the same way as applicants in many other countries can, adds to the concern about the difficult process which Papua New Guinea visa applicants must undergo.

18.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis concerned at instability

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis has raised concerns over the political instability as it would also affect Bougainville's road to referendum.

Momis in an interview said that the political instability in Papua New Guinea is a big concern and he expects strong voter interest in next month's election.

In December, the Supreme Court ruled the parliamentary removal of Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister was illegal but the Peter O'Neill led government ignored the order that he be reinstated.

In 2001 after more than a decade of armed conflict, the Government of PNG and Bougainville leaders signed a peace agreement which provided for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020 on Bougainville's independence from PNG.

The president John Momis says it doesn't bode well for the province that leaders in PNG aren't respecting decisions of the judiciary and says people are worried.

"It means that people will not respect agreements but by the same token now that the elections people are hoping that the new batch of leaders at the national level will be more committed to rule of law and the principle of the separation of powers, which has been a little bit confused in recent times."

18.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville to get EMTV

By KOLOPU WAIMA

Minister for Communication and Information and MP for Central Bougainville Jimi Miringtoro yesterday presented more than K76,000 to EMTV for the TV station to resume its telecast to his electorate.

Mr Miringtoro said the payment was to help offset an outstanding bill that dated back to 2002 which was supposed to be met by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

He said that when he returned to Parliament he would consider other mass media to be established in the electorate to cover news as well as educate people of issues affecting the electorate.

He said that at the moment, his people were out of EMTV coverage due to non payment of bills and therefore he was paying for the bills so that his people could access EMTV services once again.

He said that he was not bringing new services but was restoring the services that had been already in place.

"This is not a new project but we are restoring the service that has been in place before. Without going to the complexities of the outstanding bill issues, my primary issue at this time is for EMTV to restore this vital communication service to my people in Central Bougainville," he said.

The media, in particular the television, has been instrumental in informing and educating my people who have been out of touch with the outside world for the duration of the 10-year-civil war.

"Television is a powerful medium and EMTV facility at Arawa is an important peace-building mechanism for further reconstruction and development on the island," he said.

He said restoring this service in Arawa was part of his overall effort for the communication sector in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as well as the country.

"Since I took office last August, I have been appalled by neglect and poor state of communication facilities throughout the country, including our provincial radio station," he said.

"In the short phase of time, I have tried my best to get the responsible authority under my ministry to revive and restore these asserts.

"It has been more critical as this is the election year and our people deserve to be better informed and educated on election and development issues."

The Minister said he was hopeful of returning to parliament after the National Elections to realise his vision of relocating the provincial headquarters from Buka to Arawa.

“The restoration of such a vital communication service is part of my medium term plan to return the provincial administration to its rightful pre-crisis location of Arawa where the majority of our people are still situated,” he said.

18.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier - Reader's comment

South Bougainville MP has done well

I AM writing this letter in reply to an article in your Monday, May 7, 2012 edition titled “Bougainville has been overlooked”. The letter was written by one Joel Nava accusing the three Bougainville MPs that they had done little to help the people of Bougainville.

However, it was evident that out of the three MPs, Nava mainly directed his criticisms at the member for South Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Steven Pirika Kamma. Mr Nava termed Mr Kamma as an incapable leader who “does not listen to professional experts in relation to the implementation of weapons disposal programs as well as Bougainville autonomy implementation”.

The comments are a direct insult to the people of South Bougainville and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Mr Kamma has already done and proven to the people of South Bougainville that he is a true leader by funding developmental projects and services to the people in his electorate. South Bougainvilleans are now enjoying the delivery of services brought about under his leadership.

And South Bougainvilleans never achieved this during the reign of other South Bougainville MPs.

Mr Kamma was declared as the duly elected MP about two and a half years ago, but still managed to fund many impact developmental projects that the people are now seeing, enjoying and above all benefiting from. Your view that he is not serious about the weapons disposal programs is untrue. The issue is sensitive and needs to be thoroughly addressed.

There are means available to address it first before real disposal program can take place. The truth is that; the onus is on those who are holding onto these weapons. Leaders have already tried their best to address this issue. A lot of money has already been used to fund this exercise but of no total success. If they care about the future of the island than they must take the first step and dispose weapons.

Thomas Koioro

Executive Officer for the South Bougainville MP, Siwai

17.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville president concerned about political instability in PNG

The president of the Autonomous Province of Bougainville says the political instability in Papua New Guinea is a big concern and he expects strong voter interest in next month’s election.

In December, the Supreme Court ruled the parliamentary removal of Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister was illegal but the Peter O’Neill led government ignored the order that he be reinstated.

In 2001 after more than a decade of armed conflict, the Government of PNG and Bougainville leaders signed a peace agreement which provided for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020 on Bougainville’s independence from PNG.

The president John Momis says it doesn't bode well for the province that leaders in PNG aren't respecting decisions of the judiciary and says people are worried.

"It means that people will not respect agreements but by the same token now that the elections people are hoping that the new batch of leaders at the national level will be more committed to rule of law and the principle of the separation of powers, which has been a little bit confused in recent times."

The president of the Autonomous Province of Bougainville John Momis.

17.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tribunal hearing on Semoso on in Buka

By TODAGIA KELOLA

THE Leadership Tribunal inquiring into allegations of misconduct in office by the regional member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso (pictured) is now in Buka conducting the hearing.

The three members of the tribunal headed by the Chairman Justice Salatiel Lenalia, Magistrates Ignatius Kurei and Nerie Eliakim flew in to Buka yesterday and will be hearing testimonies from witnesses from both the State and the leader on the charges.



Last week the trial proper began with the State summoning former acting Prime Minister Dr Puka Temu as the first witness.

The State will be calling up about 13 witnesses to make their case against the leader.

Of the 14 allegations leveled against him, he through his counsel Charles Mende have indicated during the commencement of the tribunal that 13 will be vigorously challenged because the leader denies these allegations as put to him by the State.

Fourteen allegations have been raised against him and are put in to five categories, on misapplication of K2.7 million, beneficiary of K470,000, personally benefiting from public funds, winning contract on false pretence and alleged assault of a woman.

During the hearing in Buka the members of the Tribunal will also be visiting certain project sites that the member was alleged to have benefitted from when he applied for the funds.

16.05.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

We were right to oust unpopular prime minister: O'Neill

by Ron Berryman

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill took the opportunity to take the media to task in his keynote opening address at the 28th Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Council forum and expo in Brisbane.



PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill

With an election looming, O'Neill was a late non-starter. In his absence, former PNG prime minister Sir Mekere Morauta delivered O'Neill's speech to a packed audience on Monday.

"Politics in Papua New Guinea has obviously been in the news of late and some of the media coverage has been wrong and in some cases downright ridiculous," he told the forum.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Papua New Guinea has its own developing brand of democracy that is often misunderstood by even our strongest supporters.

Critics and doomsayers constantly write off Papua New Guinea as a nation headed for totalitarian rule, or worse still, no rule at all.

"Far from it."

The prime minister said PNG had a "vigorous parliamentary democracy".

With reference to the recent parliamentary upheaval which has involved a former prime minister, the governor, the police and the judiciary, O'Neill's speech said: "When political management degenerates into a ruthless abuse of power for the sake of self-interest, then parliament has the right to act. Indeed members of parliament have a duty to act on behalf of the people they represent.

"Parliament has a long-standing and lawful right to change the prime minister and the government without going to an election; to remove that government and an unpopular prime minister, as we did last August."

O'Neill said that while his government had only had a short time to "correct some of the wrongs of the past", he was now prepared to go to the people to confirm their support for his government.

"I believe that we will be elected and that will bring exciting prospects for all of us," he said.

"But I also have to say that for foreign investment to thrive, the benefits must flow two ways. Papua New Guinea must also reap the economic and social rewards as a result of your taking advantage of opportunities and the environment that we can provide."

And to add a touch of Australian political spice the federal Opposition deputy and shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop was one of the first day's keynote speakers. The federal government failed to field a starter, although with a fairly good representation of former PNG prime ministers in the conference room, former Australian PM and foreign minister Kevin Rudd might not have been out of place.

But despite the presence of an impressive speaker panel and some interesting political and economic topics, the "elephant" – the huge \$US15.7 billion PNG-LNG project – was never far away. It got a mention in every speech.

Business Council president and managing director of Rio Tinto PNG Peter Taylor told a packed house on the opening day that the 28th forum and trade expo was the most successful the Council had conducted since its inception in 1980.

"The Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council was formed to provide a channel of communication for business to government on policy issues of concern to business," he said.

"It is independent of government and until 2001 was confined to meetings of council membership until someone had a bright idea that the forum should be open to business people outside the membership, so from 2004 to 2008 the forum was held annually in Cairns.

"In 2009 it was held in Papua New Guinea for the first time in Madang and now alternates between Australia and Papua New Guinea. In 2010 we moved from Cairns to Townsville where it was a great success and then it returned to Madang in 2011.

“And now, for the first time the forum is being held in this great city of Brisbane, the capital of Australia’s Pacific state, which of course is the only Australian state to have a common border with Papua New Guinea.”

Taylor said the forum and exhibition had attracted record numbers with the exhibition area at maximum capacity and delegate numbers restricted by the size of the conference auditorium.

16.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Police in Bougainville ready

By Fabian Gatana

Bougainville police are ready to carry out their pre-election awareness programs and policing operations.

Chief Inspector Cletus Tsien said that 12 police personnel from the three regions in Bougainville had been selected to carry out pre-election awareness programs together with representatives from the churches in areas identified as ‘hot spots’ in each region.

Chief Inspector Tsien said that according to their schedule, awareness operations would take two weeks beginning next week, followed by a further two weeks of pre-election operations.

He said during pre-election operations intelligence would also be gathered from these hot spots and analysed and ascertained whether these areas need more attention or whether the situation in these areas had been contained.

But the Chief Inspector reassured Bougainvilleans that there was no immediate threat of disruptions to the elections. He said they did not expect problems in the election as in the previous years.

16.05.2012

Source: The National

ARB draws up security plan

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has drawn up a security plan for the general election. With threat warnings in Bougainville, election manager Reitama Taravaru said they had been working closely with police on a security plan which was already in place. It will be implemented when the election starts.

“From our intelligence so far in the 33 constituencies, everyone is geared up to participate in the election,” he said.

“So far we have not received any threat or disturbance so voters can exercise their constitutional rights in a trouble-free election.”

Taravaru said all the rolls for the 33 constituencies in Bougainville had been completed and sent to Port Moresby for the compilation of the final roll.

“We are hopeful the rolls will be returned to returning officers and electoral office in Buka for use during nomination and voting.

“During the exercise, we have managed to record 144,000 voters compared to the figure we had in 2007 national election roll.

“We made a reduction of 3,000 from the total of 147,000 during the exercise after identifying a lot of ghost names, names of those who have transferred and the deceased.”

He was confident that with the job they did in the rolls update programme, the region now had a more realistic figure on the number of voters.

Candidates who have registered their bio-data Form 29 included seven contesting the regional seat, 10 for North Bougainville, 15 for Central Bougainville and 10 for South Bougainville.

He said with also some more bio-data still in the electoral office, the figure could increase. They were looking at 37 candidates for the four seats.

Taravaru said they had budgeted for K2 million for the election in the region.

16.05.2012

Source: Islands Business

Changing Constitution is dangerous: Bougainville President

Bougainville Autonomous Government President John Momis has warned of the danger Papua New Guinea faces if parliamentarians continue to amend the Constitution to satisfy their political agendas.

Bougainville Autonomous Government President John Momis has warned of the danger Papua New Guinea faces if parliamentarians continue to amend the Constitution to satisfy their political agendas. Momis, one of the main architects of the nation's Constitution, said it was designed to give equal powers to the three arms of government – the executive, legislature and judiciary – to safeguard the well-being of its people. He said the judiciary was set up to remain as the final arbitrator if problems arose from the three arms. He said restricting the judiciary from doing its role was like cutting off one arm of the democratic system which had held together such a culturally-diverse country. Momis said looking at the way things were going, PNG was entering into a very dangerous situation which could dismantle the country into little groupings. He said the constitutional planning committee before independence travelled to all sub-district centres in the country to gauge the views of the people before finalising the “home-grown” Constitution. He said this was done over two and a half years. He warned that work should not be removed in one day without proper consultation with the citizens.

15.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Candidate pushes for Rio Tinto

By PETER KORUGL

An intending candidate has urged the Government to welcome Rio Tinto back into the country.

Kandaso Napi, intending candidate for the Laigap –Porgera electorate yesterday said Rio was a major player in the mineral exploration, production and processing sector and it was pleasing to see the country back in the country.

Mr Napi who worked for the Rio Tinto owned Bougainville Copper Mine, now defunct, said PNG had gained as a country, from what Rio had done on Bougainville.

“Apart from the monetary gains, look at the mining industry now. A lot of the workers on the mines around the country now were trained by BCL. That is the contribution that Rio has made to PNG,” Mr Napi said.

Mr Napi was responding to a story in the Sunday Chronicle yesterday in which Bougainville Copper Limited Chairman Peter Talyor revealed that Rio has been granted exploration leases in PNG since the mine 1990s when it pulled out of Bougainville.

Already the PNG Chamber of Mines has stated that the return of Rio Tinto was a stamp of approval for PNG.

“I could not agree more. This is good for PNG and the mining industry. Lets welcome this giant back with open arms,” Mr Napi said.

Mr Napi was employed as a driver by BCL and he later started his own trucking firm, which became the first national company to be awarded a contract by BCL.

When the mine was shut down in the 1990's due to the crisis, Mr Napi closed his business down and moved to Lae where he started again. His trucking firm is now contracted to the Porgera gold mine in Enga.

15.05.2012

Source: Australia Network News

Sir Mekere Morauta: PNG elections will go ahead !

15.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Australia and PNG meet for business treaty

By PATRICK TALU in Brisbane

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has strongly encouraged Papua New Guinea and Australia to have a strong business alliance.

The Prime Minister's keynote address was delivered by Sir Mekere Morauta on his behalf at the 28th Australia Papua New Guinea Business Forum and Trade Expo themed 'Today's Opportunity, Tomorrow's Prosperity' in Brisbane yesterday.

According to Mr O'Neill speech, the government welcomes foreign investment and would like to see "our partnership developed and diversified and some of you are no doubt aware, there is plenty of scope to do so across all sectors."

Sir Mereke said PNG has long had a successful mineral and petroleum sector but the game formally changed with the announcement of the go-ahead for the multibillion PNG LNG Project two years ago.

He said the development of this giant project, presently estimated at US\$17 billion (about K50 billion) has opened up a multitude of opportunities for Australia and PNG business as a stand-alone or joint-venture operations.

According to Sir Mereke the key driver of the economy in PNG is the LNG Project and the government of PNG wants to reassure the Australia's Federal Deputy Opposition Leader Julie Bishop that both government must work closely with ExxonMobil, Oil Search and their consortium partners to bring prosperity to this huge and complex project.

In the PM speech PNG LNG project will generate about K30 billions of direct revenue inflows into the country's coffers over the 30 years period life and billions more in multiple business and investment effects.

He said InterOil Corp and its farm-in partners are aiming to give the go-ahead for development of a US\$7 billion LNG project in the Gulf Province over the next five years.

"Our government has gone out of its way to assist InterOil to get on with the project in accordance with the provision of its development agreement with the State," the PM said.

Mr O'Neill also said that a third LNG proposal is being pushed along by Taslisman Energy and the Government is encouraging progress as well.

Apart from oil and gas investment and potential investment, PNG also has new world class mineral deposits at Wafi-Gopu in Morobe province, Yandera, Ramu Nickel and Cobalt, Nautilus Mineral's Solwara 1 Project, the world's first underwater exploration and mining and to name a few.

These are also multibillion kina project that have the potential to further transform the economic and social landscape of Papua New Guinea.

"My government encourages equitable investment in an exploration of our natural resources. Likewise we guarantee regime and business environment that are to our mutual benefit. Existing

and new business will not be stifled by inappropriate legislation, unfair or government policies that are out of keeping with prevailing international standard and practices.

“The onus is on Papua New Guinea’s political leadership and economic decision makers to make sure of the income from these projects to entrance national development.

“Success in this endeavour will also depend on this existence of a strong and independent public service and a healthy and committed business sector,” Mr O’Neill said.

15.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Australia and PNG meet for business treaty

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15.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Education project

By Aloysius Laukai in Manetai

World vision Bougainville program education project is commemorating international family day in all its project sites in Central Bougainville.



Pictured is one site at Manetai here the team is set to have some games this morning.

15.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Respect laws: Momis

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has urged all leaders and institutions in the country to respect the constitution.

Dr Momis expressed concern at the ongoing political and constitutional crisis which has diverted the National Government from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to support Bougainville.

He warned that PNG would destroy itself if any institution or any powerful group of leaders stepped outside constitutional boundaries and refuse to accept the limits of the Constitution.

“Until now, the constitution has been accepted as the source of those rules and those rules divide the power between different institutions, the aim being that no one institution gets too powerful,” said Dr Momis.

Speaking as an elder statesman and former deputy chairman of the Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC), Dr Momis called on all parties and institutions to;

nRecognise that the current constitutional crisis may destroy the most basic rules and understandings upon which PNG depends for its existence,

nTo exercise restraint, respect the constitution, and for all institutions to respect the roles and authorities of other constitutional institutions,

nTo maintain the independence of the judiciary as the only institution with the authority to resolve constitutional disputes and,

nTo respect the decisions of the Supreme Court. However, he warned that the Judiciary Conduct Act with great care in preserving its role as and an independent authority to resist temptations to respond to political attacks.

“It would be most helpful to the Judiciary and the Constitution if any member of the Judiciary, who might be perceived as having an interest in an issue or to be biased, withdraw from the matter,” he said. “Only this way can the decisions of the Judiciary be accepted by all. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Constitution has held PNG in unity in the past 37 years. Without the Constitution, we fear for PNG’s future.”

15.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Central Bougainville members meet to listen to people’s concerns

By PETERSON TSERAHA

Autonomous Bougainville Government members from Central Bougainville area met in Arawa last week to listen to their people’s problems and to address outstanding issues.

Led by the Central Bougainville Parliamentary Committee Chairman and Member for Eivo/Torau Melchior Dare, a number of issues, such as the ongoing scrap metal issue, Panguna landowners, the current status of the BRDC biodiesel plant, Kieta resource holdings, and the presentation of landowner and mineral rights.

“This is what I appeal to all other members to do get down right to the people’s level and listen to their concerns and see how they live and work.” Mr Dare said.

“There has been a major bang with issues surrounding Central Bougainville alone and as the Chairman of the Central Parliamentary Committee I am concerned with the image of Central Bougainville. That is why we all came here for the meeting,” he said.

“We all have to find a way to solve outstanding issues which are still stagnant, and that is my very concern, solving stagnant issues.”

The members had the opportunity to ask questions of people involved in major projects, especially the Isina Resource Holdings Limited.

The Central Bougainville parliamentary select committee is the best organised in the ABG House of Representatives, and a lot of people have commended them for their great work in solving a lot of outstanding issues.

The ABG was also cleared of some outstanding issues and how to solve them, especially the Bougainville Resources Development Corporation (BRDC) more specifically the Kabui model.

The members were told to convey the message to ABG President John Momis as to when they will know of the results of the BRDC investigation.

15.05.2012

Source: The National

Two ABG members to contest election

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

TWO sitting members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives will vacate their seats to contest the general election.

They are Hagogohe MP and former minister for peace and reconciliation, Robert Hamal Sawa, and the Kongara MP and former minister for primary industry Dominic Itta.

Sawa will be contesting the North Bougainville Open seat currently held by Lautu Atoi.

Itta will contest the Central Bougainville Open seat currently held by Communication Minister Jimmy Miringoro.

Both have committed themselves to working with the ABG if voted into parliament.

It means that the ABG will prepare for by-elections to fill the three seats left vacant – the first follows the death of Lule MP Paul Mitu.

15.05.2012

Source: PNG ATTITUDE

Paga women screamed as bulldozers destroyed homes

BY KEITH JACKSON

DAME CAROL KIDU has issued a statement on the enforced removal of 2,000 settlers from a development site on Paga Hill in Port Moresby after she was injured by police when she tried to intervene.

Dame Carol says she does not oppose the development of Paga Hill, and has previously told the settlers that one day they would have to leave, but “bulldozing a community does not solve any problems”.

“It only complicates things and creates a huge human rights issue.

“The Governor [Powers Parkop] and I are faced with hundreds of displaced families (refugees in their own country) who are now sheltering in tents with candles for lights because their power has been disconnected.”

Dame Carol said she had watched “women being dragged from their homes screaming while bulldozers were ordered to move in.

“There [were] babies, elderly, sick people as well as the fit and some very angry young men who were kicked viciously by police and for many families everything was destroyed.”

Eventually Dame Carol said she got the police to stop the demolition because lawyers were on their way with a stay order on humanitarian grounds.

She also said that most of the police “started to rethink what they were doing, especially when they realised that their own police legacy land was involved.

“Many said ‘Thanks Mum. I hope you would fight as hard for our families if they were in danger’.

[Download Statement by Dame Carol Kidu on the Paga Hill scandal !](#)

And here's some dramatic video of the incident involving Dame Carol, one real gutsy lady....

14.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Australia's visa process for PNG citizens strongly criticised

The President of the Australia PNG Business Council, Peter Taylor, has described Australia's visa process for Papua New Guineans as intrusive and the fees they are expected to pay as excessive and unjustifiable.

Australia's visa process for PNG citizens strongly criticised (Credit: ABC) Mr Taylor was speaking at the opening of the Australia PNG Business Forum in Brisbane this morning.

The Australian opposition coalition was also strongly critical of the visa process for PNG citizens.

Presenter: Pacific Economic and Business reporter Jemima Garrett

Speakers: Peter Taylor, President of the Australia PNG Business council; Julie Bishop Australia's Deputy Opposition leader and shadow minister for Foreign Affairs

[Listen here !](#)

GARRETT: Yes it was quite unusually really, usually business people are quite circumspect, but certainly many Papua New Guineans in the audience were nodding their heads in agreement because this has really been a very sore point for decades. Peter Taylor himself is a business heavy hitter, not only is he president to the Australia-PNG Business Council, but he's also executive chairman of Bougainville Copper and a director of Riotinto. This is some of what he had to say.

TAYLOR: These processes not only cause cost to business, but also cause great angst within the community because of the intrusive nature of the Australian Visa Application process, including requiring extensive evidence of financial capacity and support, including for business people with a record of many years of regular visits to Australia and for members of families of senior respected business people. There are some remarkable examples of senior business people being unable to travel on time for business in Australia because of these processes. There is probably no other country in which Australia visa policy processing receive so much critical scrutiny, comment, within the business community and a community at large because of the very close connections between the two countries across almost every facet of human engagement and of course our common border. Cost to business have recently been increased by introducing an additional fee to apply for a visa to Australia, a cost which in the view of business should be absorbed within the already what we consider excessive and unjustifiable visa fee of 300 Kina.

GARRETT: That was Peter Taylor, President of the Australian-PNG Business Council speaking here in Brisbane here this morning.

HILL: Well Jemima, was there any sort of a response to what Peter Taylor said from the other speakers from the conference?

GARRETT: Well, the main response actually came from Australia's deputy opposition leader and shadow foreign affairs spokesperson, Julie Bishop. She like the Business Council is calling for change.

BISHOP: It should be as easy to do business as between Australia and Papua New Guinea as it is between Australia and New Zealand and while I welcome an economic cooperation treaty, we should be aiming for a high quality full blown free trade agreement between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

If we are honoured to be the next government of this country, I most certainly commit to ensuring that we can free up the visa arrangements between Australian business people and PNG business people in particular so that we can have much easier means of doing business and investing in each other's countries. It is simply unacceptable for there to be so many bureaucratic hurdles in the way of trade and investment and in doing business across the Coral Sea.

GARRETT: That's Julie Bishop, Australia's shadow foreign affairs minister and I guess as you hear Ms Bishop gave a fairly passionate speech and it was very wide ranging. One of the other points she made was about the mining industry and on that she said she'd like to see Papua New Guineans skilled up and able to travel easily for work in the resources industry to her own state of Western Australia and also to Queensland, so I guess that gives even more impetus to this visa issue.

HILL: Jemima, this visa issues been around for quite awhile now. Why is nothing ever done regardless of whoever is in the Lodge in Canberra, nothing ever really seems to change?

GARRETT: No, it doesn't. You're quite right Bruce and I know it's been on the Business Council agenda ever since I've been going to these meetings and that goes back to the mists of time, so it is really time something was done. I think you can hear in the tone of Julie Bishop that she's really got the bit between her teeth and so possibly if there is a change of government, which the polls are suggesting will happen eventually we may well see some change.

HILL: They won't really asking for obviously just straight out visa on arrival or anything. They acknowledge obviously that when you have a developing country right next to a developed country, there obviously has to be some cheques and balances. But what they were really trying to say was for business people that go back and forth and are no risk that really shouldn't apply to them?

GARRETT: Oh no, they're talking about people in general, really they're complaining the whole process for everyone is slow, expensive and when they say intrusive, they mean people have to go through sort of humiliating lengthy details checks of things like their financial where with all. Sure it's good to be able to provide the evidence. You shouldn't have to go through very lengthy checks, so this is a big issue that applies to everyone, but business in particular, because when you have very senior business leaders being delayed for business meetings is a whole other order of problem that really does need to be dealt with.

HILL: Well obviously, Australia and PNG do a lot of business across the Torres Strait and it's only going to pick up. What other issues are they discussing at this conference?

GARRETT: Well clearly the economy was a big issue and on that one PNG's generally got a good story to tell. In fact Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was to have attended the conference. He pulled out at the last moment and he's public enterprise minister, Sir Mekere Moratau delivered his speech. And in that speech Mr. O'Neill highlighted that despite the general slowing in economic growth around the world, PNG still expected to grow at almost eight per cent this year which is really quite extraordinary. There's also been some debate in PNG about problems the government's facing possibly with the budget due to a combination of losses sustained by poor management within PNG's independent business corporation by the former minister, Arthur

Somare and the fact that the government's committed to a very expensive but well received pledge of free education.

In his speech, Peter O'Neill said the losses were well he didn't mention the losses, but in fact he said there will be a budget of 10.6 billion kina and it will be balanced. He acknowledged that there are some problems in terms of rolling out the free education, but he said he expected that to be fixed soon.

HILL: I wonder if we can pick up on something that Julie Bishop mentioned, skills transfer training that kind of thing. PNG is a tremendously wealthy country but it's people aren't and they're not really able to participate in large aspects of this mining boom because they don't have the skills and we're getting a lot of people migrating to PNG with the necessary skills. Is there a sense that if Australia upskill people in PNG that would really unlock the fortunes of the country for the people to participate in?

GARRETT: Well, that's certainly true, but I think when you talk to business people, there's two sides of this. One is possibly the PNG government could have put more effort in earlier, but equally businesses could have put a bit more effort in earlier. I know the PNG-LNG project which is the big one there now has a big program, but that wasn't operating in time for all the jobs that were available to begin with to be filled by Papua New Guineans. So possibly it's something that the PNG government could look at if business won't do it. The government can always take action to sort of insist I guess.

HILL: It is creating a bit of social tension the large numbers of migrant workers are getting quite upset about it aren't they?

GARRETT: Yeah, that's true, but it's interesting to see also the number of people say in the low level villages, particularly around Port Moresby. There all getting preference on the PNG-LNG project. The other issue of course is there's a lot of landowner companies working for these projects now, but unless they get the support to really upskill themselves, when the project finishes, they're left with nothing. What they need to do is get to the stage where they can start taking other contracts and you particularly see this with people like say Misima where there's been no development for the people there since that mine closed. If they'd had the managed to get to the level where they were contracting in Port Moresby, they would have been able to do that and I know that's what other landowner companies are trying to do, but that's a big ask going from nothing to being able to deal with the world's biggest corporations.

14.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Susuve puts hand up

By KOLOPU WAIMA

A NON-Bougainvillean has voluntarily raised his hand to form a committee to raise funds for Arawa High School in Central Bougainville.

Joel Susuve, from Gulf, is an ex-student of Arawa High School.

He completed his grade 10 in 1980.

Mr Susuve in an interview last Thursday, said that the school was one of the oldest in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and has produced a lot of good leaders who are now holding key positions in the country.

He said that he had the idea from a recent media report, that the member for central Bougainville and Minister for Communication Jimi Miringtoro is on a fundraising drive to raise funds for the school.

And in doing so the minister has already kick-started the drive by presenting some computers to the school.

He said this is a good move shown by the leader.

Now it is time for the people who benefited from the school to give something back to the school.

He said that he is voluntarily raising his hands to form a committee and be coordinator of the committee to raise funds for the school.

He said that the school produced a lot of vibrant leaders like MP for North Bougainville Lauta Atoi and others holding key positions in the region and throughout Papua New Guinea. These former students are called upon to come together to help support the development of the school.

The funds that will be raised will be to rebuild the school, build classrooms, buy library books, computers and other necessary items. He is calling on business houses in Bougainville and throughout the country to come forward to help in cash or kind.

Those who are interested to form the committee and to support can call Mr Susuve on 325 7855 or 76825643 or email him on barnabasjohn2012@gmail.com.

13.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

**28th AUSTRALIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BUSINESS FORUM & TRADE EXPO
BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
SUNDAY 13 MAY TO TUESDAY 15 MAY 2012**

[PROGRAM HERE !](#)

13.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS TO ACCUSE NCOBA

By Aloysius Laukai

Autonomous Bougainville Government President Chief JOHN MOMIS is calling on the National Coordination office for Bougainville Affairs

(NCOBA) to pull up its socks and perform its role as the facilitator of programs, activities and issues concerning Bougainville.

PRESIDENT MOMIS yesterday told a Press conference in Buka

that he was not happy with the performance of the Office which was created to support and mediate between the ABG and the National Government on issues affecting the region and the Peace process on Bougainville.

He blamed the NCOBA for not facilitating the Joint Supervisory Body meeting which discusses amongst other things draw down of

powers to the ABG.

President Momis said that he wants the office to be proactive in its activities and fast track outstanding issues that needs to be

discussed by the Joint Supervisory Body meeting.

New Dawn FM understands that the last JSB meeting in Rabaul was cancelled after the technical team from the National Government failed to meet the Bougainville team in Rabaul.

13.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TWO TO CONTEST

By Aloysius Laukai

Two sitting members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives will vacate their seats to run as candidates in the Coming Papua New Guinea National Elections.

They are the member for Hagogohe and former Minister for Peace and Reconciliation, ROBERT HAMAL SAWA and the member for Kongara and former Minister for Primary Industry in the last House, DOMINIC ITTA.

Robert HamalSawa will be contesting the North Bougainville Open seat currently held by LAUTA ATOI whilst DOMINIC ITTA would be contesting the Central Bougainville Open seat currently held by the Communication minister, JIMMY MIRINGTORO.

Both leaders have committed themselves to working with the Autonomous Bougainville Government if voted into parliament.

The ABG's Bulletin member's update has reported that the two are yet to inform the Speaker in writing regarding their resignations.

Writs for the PNG General elections would be issued on Friday May 18th, 2012 at 4pm.

New Dawn FM understands this means that the ABG would prepare for another by-election to fill in three seats left vacant, one following the death of the member for LULE, PAUL MITU and two for the seats vacated by these two members.

13.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FAMILY DAY: WORLD VISION ON FAMILY

By Aloysius Laukai

World Vision one of the development NGO's on Bougainville will be commemorating International Family Day on Tuesday 15th May, 2012 in Central Bougainville.

The family program is currently addressed under World Vision's Education Project currently which covers the Eivo/ Torau areas of

Central Bougainville.

The Basic Education Improvement Program caters for school aged students who are not in the formal education system.

And under this program, World Vision has already established

Learning Centres in the Eivo and Torau areas who will participate on the International Family day activities.

Education Coordinator, MRS HELLEN TEVIRI told New Dawn FM today that one of the first advocacy program commemorating the day would be to educate the Parents on their roles

towards educating their children.

Three Learning centres of VITO, MANETAI AND KANAVITU would be participating.

13.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VOTER EDUCATION MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

The Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency is organizing a Voter Education Forum in Buka next week.

In making the announcement, Executive Director HELLEN HAKENA said that the program would be held on behalf of Transparency International.

The aim of the forum is to make aware voters on how they can assess the many candidates that would be standing for the 2012 National Elections.

Transparency International PNG advocates good and transparent elections.

The forum will be held at the Kuri Village Resort starting 9am on Thursday May 17th, 2012.

New Dawn FM understands that the PNG Ombudsman Commission completed its awareness's on voter education throughout the region last month.

13.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Land ownership the Bougainville way

BY SIMON GARANA*

AS THE SAYING GOES, without food and water one cannot survive. If the saying also applies to land it is true to itself because it is only land that must provide food and water.

Therefore, whether through the matrilineal or patrilineal society one has to acquire and own land especially by inheritance. And this inheritance must continue for many years from generation to generation.

It is very important that the trend of ownership follow the same process. If the process is not followed it may lead to land disputes or bloodshed.

Land has a number of definitions, and the three that must be noted are the solid part of the earth surface, ground as used for farming, or a country or nation.

In Bougainville land is acquired through the matrilineal system except for Buin which is through the patrilineal system. Land is owned by a clan. Every clan must have a chief who oversees all matters relating to land. They have to make sure land is used wisely and that there is no land dispute, especially when the population is increasing.

Historically it is believed many people on Bougainville migrated from New Ireland some 28,000 years ago. Since then people have led normal lives with fishing and gardening.

Good leadership played its role in allowing people to respect land ownership by avoiding land disputes. It was a process emphasised throughout Bougainville to make sure the ownership was permanent with genuine understanding and respect from both sides.

Bougainville wants to overcome what has been experienced in PNG and other parts of the world especially Africa. It wants to control and manage land for its people.

With the establishment of its Autonomous Bougainville Government, multi-million foreign mining companies are not allowed to mine without its approval. The experience from the Panguna mine has taught Bougainville a lesson and it is very careful with its dealing with foreign companies.

For the villagers in Panguna can no longer go fishing or gardening because the land has been turned into a pit 700 feet deep under by a huge mining company.

Development in its definition means something that has been developed or development area where new industries are encouraged by government for employment and change. We have to make sure development benefits the very people who own the land. Bougainville needs development in order to progress.

Now that it has experienced the Panguna mine land dispute, negotiations have become key: negotiations to try to reach an agreement and to get over any difficulty.

Already there have been a number of negotiations in Bougainville where foreign companies are willing to establish palm oil, fishing and mining industries. Through the negotiation process, the Autonomous Bougainville Government is really making sure that the landowners are heavily involved.

In Buka no land has ever been sold to outsiders due to land shortage. Everyone continues to live on their land according to their clans. Nobody is allowed to plant cocoa or coconut or even making gardens on other people's land.

Fishing only is common as nobody lives in the sea, but some fishing grounds may be prohibited.

In Buin experience, children follow the patrilineal process. They do not acquire land from the mother. If a Buin man marries a woman from elsewhere in Bougainville or from another province, his children still have every right to own land in Buin.

It is the father who has to make sure his children are provided land to settle now and in the future. The process still exists today and it is good to see it working well in the area.

Bougainville is still part of PNG and is the first province to achieve autonomous government status. It has three regions and 33 constituencies.

Haku Constituency, where I come from, is the most populated area due to girls getting married at an early age. As I mentioned earlier, control and management of land must be a priority and even the over populated Haku area is part of this process.

Having females in the family is most important. This is the foundation of the survival of land. Every family at least tries to have a girl in a family. It may not be useful to have males only as it would be a sign of failure to land ownership.

In fact males cannot marry in the same clan as females. But her children can return to the clan as they own the land but his children won't.

Land is so important and valuable in Bougainville. Nobody here could survive without land and they know that. Before anything else a person must know he has land either through the matrilineal or patrilineal process.

Nobody here wants to follow what philosopher Karl Marx experienced in his home country, Germany, where the rich were getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Here, everyone wants to be equal.

** Simon Garana (59) was born at Lemankoa on Buka in Bougainville. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of the Division of Information, Culture and Tourism with the Bougainville Administration. Before that he was a primary school teacher, high school teacher and a lecturer at the Divine Word University in Madang. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree and a Diploma in Education Planning, both from UPNG. He is now retired*

11.05.2012

Source: Pacific Media Centre

PNG: Bougainville President calls for media independence

by Natalie Lavi *

PORT MORESBY (Divine Word University / Pacific Media Watch): President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis said he was happy that the media in PNG has been challenged by politicians and by the events happening in the country.

President Momis was the keynote speaker at the Media Freedom Day celebrations at Divine Word University last week.

He said he believes PNG is in a favourable time despite the many problems and hardships the country faces, but in order to preach the good news, the media must know and be imbued with the good news.

Call for independence

He said sometimes the media was being manipulated structurally by powerful people and by money, and ironically those in power were placed there by the very people they exploit.

“So what hope is there for the resource owners, for the villagers, to have a say when the media is being manipulated by those in power?”

He called on the media to be independent in their roles.

“The media itself must be imbued with the right values. What are these values? The values have been enshrined in the PNG Constitution,” he said.

The theme for the celebration was “challenges to the media in a new environment”.

Accountability ‘for the people’

Well-known PNG blogger Martin Namorong said the free press had a role in ensuring accountability to Papua New Guinea’s national goals and directive principles as enshrined in the constitution.

“If we are to talk about media freedom, we are to talk about creating enabling mechanisms for the purposes of defending our people and promoting and preserving our Papua New Guinean ways.”

The university students celebrated the event with speeches, games and entertainment depicting the importance of the media.

Their event was sponsored by the National Literacy Awareness Secretariat (NLAS) and began on Thursday afternoon with a float around Madang town.

Placards with bold statements “Stopim birua long ol niusman-meri” and “Stop police brutality on journalists” were displayed by students on the float.

Journalism heroes remembered

PNG journalism heroes, the late Robyn Sela and Yehiura Hriehwazi, were also remembered.

Robyn Sela was an investigative journalist with the Post-Courier and graduate of the University of Papua New Guinea. In 2003 Sela was assaulted and threatened by a soldier for her reports on the then Defence Force Secretary who was under investigation for improper conduct.

Yehiura Hriehwazi was one of Papua New Guinea’s leading professional journalists who advocated for strong investigative journalism. Hriehwazi was also a founding member of the Pacific Freedom Forum.

Chairman of the Media Freedom Day Committee Fabian Hakalits asked all present at the event to stand up and observe a minute of silence in respect of the two reporters.

Speaking also at the event was Dilen Doiki from Yumi Piksa, a local visual community action project in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

The Yumi Piksa project of the Creative and Social Media Centre at the University of Goroka received the UNESCO Divine Word University Communication and Development Award.

There were also students from the Health Management, Tourism and Hospitality, Business Studies Departments as well as Tusbab Secondary School in attendance.

The programme ended in the evening with the presentation of awards to participating departments and the trophies to the winning sports teams.

* *Natalie Lavi is a Divine Word University journalism student.*

11.05.2012

Source: The National

Warning for Semoso’s lawyer

By ADRIAN MATHIAS

A DEFENCE lawyer has been warned by the tribunal hearing the alleged misconduct in office of Bougainville MP Fidelis Semoso not to contradict himself.

Lawyer Charles Mende, in a notice served previously at the tribunal, said he did not object to Ombudsman Commission’s case officer Richard Pagen giving evidence at the tribunal.

But when Pagen appeared on Wednesday before the tribunal, Mende objected to some of the affidavits brought in by Pagen and asked the tribunal to adjourn to yesterday so that he could go through the affidavits.

Justice Salatiel Lenalia told Mende he was putting Pagen in an awkward position.

The tribunal was already in the process of marking the affidavits submitted by Pagen when Mende stood up to object to one of the affidavits.

Justice Lenalia told Mende he was contradicting his position.

Mende claimed some of those affidavits were not from Pagen.

He said Pagen was not the appropriate person to bring the affidavits authored by other people including the chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek.

He said persons who authored the affidavits had to appear in person and give their affidavits to the tribunal.

"This is in compliance with the rule of giving evidence," he said.

But State Prosecutor Anthony Kupmain argued that Pagen was the right person to bring in affidavits including those authored by others because he was the case officer investigating this matter.

The tribunal plans to relocate to Buka to allow witnesses there to give evidence.

The hearing is expected to take two weeks in Buka and is expected to be completed by May 25, 2012.

11.05.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

New report says PNG government dominated by corruption

A wide-ranging investigation in Papua New Guinea has found the machinery of government is dominated by a corrupt, self-serving "mobocracy".

New report says PNG government dominated by corruption (Credit: ABC) The result won't surprise many locals but the Prime Minister says the investigation's report is an important step in tackling the problem.

Presenter : Liam Fox

Speakers : Sam Koim, chairman, Task Force Sweep; Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister

[Listen here !](#)

11.05.2012

Source: The National

Buin school gets vehicle

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

TRANSPORTATION problems faced by Buin Secondary School, in South Bougainville, will be a thing of the past following the delivery of a new Toyota Landcruiser to the administration last week.

The vehicle was bought by South Bougainville MP and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma and was officially handed to the school last Friday.

Schools principal Tony Malamo said the presentation of the vehicle to the school was not a mistake.

"Minister, the initiative is your own dream where you are implementing your own vision guided by your own wisdom by equipping the different public institutions in South Bougainville open electorate," he said.

“On behalf of the students, members of the teaching staff, our ancillary staff, the school board and the school administration I would like to acknowledge your leadership.

“Today we are here to witness the reality of your dreams by presenting this vehicle to the school in front of our students, parents, members of our staff, guests and the community.

“Thank you for your contribution to education. Your presentation of the vehicle to the school will indeed bring a change in the lives of our students, staff members and the school administration,” Malamo said.

Deputy principal Lillian Watakapure said they would look after the vehicle.

Kamma challenged students and staff to look after the vehicle.

He said he had bought the vehicle because he saw that it would help in the smooth operations of the school.

He said if they damaged the vehicle no others would be given to the school.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Members called onto be productive

By Tapo Tovilu

A prominent figure in Bougainville Jared Sinato has called on all current members to use this time leading up to the elections wisely.

He called on members to complete all outstanding projects in their individual areas with the little time they have.

He says that if the members leave without completing projects in their electorates their people are the ones who will suffer the most.

He says that Bougainville is developing and whatever projects that are being done must be completed for Bougainville to move.

He has called on all members to also look at the possibility that they might not be re-elected and must complete all outstanding projects.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women encouraged to join BWIB

By Tapo Tovilu

Women all over Bougainville have been encouraged and challenged to join the Bougainville Women in Business.

Organization President Mana Sahoto says that the organization created to empower women economically is a way forward for women to contribute to the economy of Bougainville.

She says that any woman whether you are in business or not can join the organization to empower and strengthen women in the region.

She also added that the organization is targeting 1000 members and is working to secure more funding from donor agencies, politicians and other organizations.

She also thanked BWIB patron Elizabeth Burain on a K2000 donation to the organization for it to move forward.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE WOMEN IN BUSINESS REVIVED

BY TAPO TOVILU

Women in business a women's organization formed in 2000 to empower women in the region economically has again been revived.

President of the organization, Mana Sahoto yesterday in an interview told New Dawn FM that the organization now has been properly organized and has been revived.

She says that the organization was formed following the 8 point millennium plan specifically the 8th point stating that women should be empowered economically.

She added that now with a proper structure in place they are aiming at bringing in more women with a current strength at 50 members.

The treasurer Judith Rabans added that the organization started with K10000 and will now be looking at other avenues to increase their funding.

She says that the registration fee is K300 and all women from Bougainville have been strongly encouraged to join Bougainville women in Business.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ARCHITECT WARNS

By Aloysius Laukai

One of the main architects of the Papua New Guinea Constitution and President of Bougainville, Chief JOHN MOMIS today warned of danger if parliamentarians continue to amend the constitution to satisfy their political agendas.

He said that the constitution was designed to give equal powers to the three arms of governments, Executive, Legislator and the Judiciary.

Chief Momis said that the Judiciary was to remain as the final arbitrator if problems arose from these three arms.

He explained that restricting the Judiciary from doing its role was like cutting one arm of the democratic system which has continued to held the people of Papua New Guinea during the past 37 years.

President Momis said that looking at the way things are going Papua New Guinea was entering a very dangerous trend.

On the question of the Judiciary siding, Chief Momis said that in a normal situation if a judge is not comfortable of hearing a case he should decide to step aside to remove any doubts from people who may think otherwise.

The ABG President called on the people of Bougainville to respect the Supreme Court as the final arbitrator as not adhering to these decisions would get us into more problems.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS today called on the people Bougainville to vote good leaders in the coming PNG general Elections.

He made these remarks during a press conference in Buka this morning.

Chief Momis said that the people should vote for leaders who would people first instead of themselves.

The ABG President said that the timing was very crucial and these leaders would be in the position to support the ABG prepare for Referendum between 2015 and 2020.

He said that the National Parliamentarians must support the ABG in the drawing down of powers, sourcing of funds and quick release of the One Hundred Million Development grants.

President Momis said that the level of collaboration between our current members have been poor resulting in Bougainville missing out or getting funds very late.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

E LEARNING SUPPORT

By Aloysius Laukai

Autonomous Bougainville Government President, CHIEF JOHN MOMIS says that the ABG in collaboration with the Divine Word University in Madang would be setting up an University Campus on Bougainville for the people of Bougainville to study on Bougainville without leaving their homes.

He told a news conference in Buka today after returning from Madang this week.

ABG President was invited by the Divine Word University to talk on the Media Freedom Day last week.

He said that education was a priority of the Autonomous Bougainville Government therefore agreements have being signed by both parties to set the Learning centre as soon as possible.

Chief MOMIS said that they were looking at the possibility of using the latest technology using the internet to interact between the lecturers and the students.

The ABG President said that a Chinese Communication company ZTE has been engaged by the Government of China to help the ABG set up its communication system in the region.

New Dawn FM understands that these satellite systems can be utilized by institutions such as the universities to send in their learning materials to their students on Bougainville.

10.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Task Force Sweep says PNG is a corrupt 'mobocracy'

EOIN BLACKWELL

AAP PAPUA NEW GUINEA CORRESPONDENT

CORRUPTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA's government departments has become institutionalised, where illegality and secrecy is sanctioned to the extent that the nation is now a "mobocracy".

That's what the government of PNG has been told by its corruption watchdog, Task Force Sweep, which today handed its final report on its seven-month investigation into malpractice across government agencies.

"Generally our investigations have revealed a very frightening trend of corruption in this country," taskforce chairman Sam Koim said.

"The level of corruption has migrated from sporadic to systematic and now to institutionalisation, where government institutions are dominated by corrupt people who orchestrate corruption using lawful authorities.

"Institutions that are supposed to practice openness and provide check and balance are now becoming a secrecy haven, where they sanction illegality and secrecy."

Describing corrupt officials as a mob, Mr Koim said they had turned PNG from a constitutional democracy into a mobocracy.

The full report has yet to be made public, but Mr Koim said 20 politicians will be referred to the ombudsman commission for further investigation, while 24 public servants had been suspended for "facilitating or benefiting from corruption".

Mr Koim also said more than 10 lawyers will be referred to the PNG law society for investigation.

10.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ship arsonists to be arrested

By Fabian Gatana

THOSE involved in the burning of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels in Buka will be arrested and charged for arson.

Chief Inspector Cletus Tsien said that a dialogue has been established with the parties involved to give themselves up and face the law to which they have agreed. He added that those who also aided one way or another in providing petrol, food, etc will also be brought in and charged as accomplices to the crime.

"Everyone who is involved must feel the pinch of the law for their actions – they have shown a good responsible attitude by agreeing to turn themselves in," he said.

He also said that the vessels still remain the legal property of Peter Sharp and Rabaul Shipping and any talks of the vessels to be sold as scrap metal is illegal.

He said that he is currently holding talks with the Autonomous Bougainville Administration to arrange with Mr Sharp to come to Bougainville and retrieve his vessels.

Meanwhile, Chief Inspector Tsien has appealed to Bougainvilleans to be and act responsibly when consuming alcohol. He said there is a rise in public consumption of alcohol and consumption of alcohol on motor vehicles.

He said last week two drunken males were run over by a drunk driver at Gohi Village in Selau when they were lying on the road and has cautioned Bougainvilleans to be cautious of their actions.

10.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville police ready for poll awareness

By Fabian Gatana

Bougainville police are ready to carry out their pre-election awareness programs and policing operations.

Chief Inspector Cletus Tsien said that 12 police personnel from the three regions in Bougainville have been selected to carry out pre-election awareness programs together with representatives from the churches in areas identified as 'hot spots' in each region.

Chief Inspector Tsien said that according to their schedule, awareness operations would take two weeks beginning next week followed by a further two weeks of pre-election operations.

He said during pre-election operations intelligence would also be gathered from these hot spots and analysed and ascertained whether these areas need more attention or whether the situation in these areas had been contained.

But the Chief Inspector reassured Bougainvilleans that there is no immediate threat of disruptions to the elections.

“We have proven time and time again both with the ABG and previous national elections that Bougainvilleans like to take ownership of their elections so there is no immediate threat,” he said. He said that the Bougainville Police Service will still be using the same police man-power used in the previous elections which includes 179 regular officers and 350 Community Auxiliary Police (CAPs) officers.

Moreover, Ieta villagers with the assistance of the Bougainville Police Service have established a neighbourhood watch program to help curb the growing law and order issues arising from their area and the Buka town area.

Ieta chiefs, women and youth representatives have taken the initiative to tackle lawlessness in their area and are negotiating for reconciliations to take place between disgruntled parties.

Meanwhile, police have confiscated weapons from those who have them in their possession.

10.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso's case continues

By TODAGIA KELOLA

THE Leadership Tribunal inquiring into allegations of misconduct in office by the Regional member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso (pictured) is now in its trial proper stages.

Yesterday the state began its case by summoning witnesses for cross examination and tendering of evidences against the leader.



The first witness to be summoned to the witness box was former acting Prime Minister Sir Dr Puka Temu and six others, basically to confirm correspondences that were written by them which will be used as evidence against the leader. The state will be calling up approximately 13 witnesses to make their case against the leader.

Of the 14 allegations leveled against him, he through his counsel Charles Mende has indicated during the commencement of the tribunal that 13 will be vigorously challenged because the leader denies these allegations as put to him by the State. The 14 allegations have been raised against him and are put in to five categories, on misapplication of K2.7 million, beneficiary of K470,000, personally benefiting from public funds, winning contract on false pretence and alleged assault of a woman.

The Tribunal continues this morning for the State to call more witnesses.

10.05.2012

Source: The National

Semoso's tribunal case may end next Friday

By ADRIAN MATHIAS

THE leadership tribunal hearing into the alleged misconduct in office by Bougainville regional MP Fidelis Semoso should be completed by next Friday, a lawyer him said.

In the tribunal hearing yesterday, seven witnesses appeared before the tribunal comprising Justice Salatiel Lenalia and assisted by senior magistrates Ignatius Kurei and Nerrie Eliakim. On Nov 19, 2008, Semoso had written a letter to Sir Puka Temu, who was then acting prime minister, requesting for funds for a number of projects on Bougainville.

Abau MP Sir Puka, who appeared as the first witness yesterday, then wrote a letter on Nov 28, 2008, to Patrick Pruaitch, requesting him to release funds for a number of projects on Bougainville including the construction of the South Bougainville feeder roads, water supply and treatment and a hospital.

Sir Puka told the tribunal that as acting prime minister and chairman of the joint supervisory body responsible for building Bougainville at the time, he asked Pruaitch in a letter to direct funds following the request by Semoso.

The Department of Treasury and National Planning, after having gone through the letter and a proposal submitted by Semoso requesting the funds, approved K4.1 million cheque to implement projects on Bougainville as proposed.

However, Semoso was alleged to have misappropriated part of the money earmarked for the South Bougainville feeder road projects.

10.05.2012

Source: Radio Nwe Zealand International

30 students from Bougainville will soon head to Philippines for study

Thirty students in the Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville leave next week to begin university study in Cebu in the Philippines from next month.

Organizer, Nick Peniai, says the project, initiated by the president of the autonomous Bougainville government, John Momis, aims to have as many students as possible in Philippines universities and technical schools to raise skills across different sectors.

The New Dawn website reports Mr Peniai saying that under the current training system Bougainvilleans take years to qualify and the province has not got time to play around.

He says Bougainville needs to train its manpower for fields that are immediately needed with plans to develop businesses in Bougainville.

10.05.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

The Bougainville crisis

A poem written by SOPHIE GARANA

Sophie Garana (55) comes from Siwai in South Bougainville. She is a retired primary school teacher who taught in Bougainville and Madang for more than 34 years. She has a Certificate in Teaching and a Diploma in Primary Teaching from the PNG Institute of Education

Creeping quietly out of my thatched roof hut
I make sure not a single noise is made
To avoid being heard by the enemy faction

Ears as sharp as a donkey
I snatch an empty basket and a knife
As blunt as a rough stone

Quickly I make my way
To the garden for the day's portion of food.

Every movement is made with caution
For the enemy faction is ready to kill
For reasons unknown
Quickly I harvest what crop is ready
And get ready to make my way back to my hut.

As I'm loading my basket
Behind my stooped back a figure moves
Swiftly as a black crow
Among the trees and shrubs nearby.

My heart starts to beat faster than normal
And I ponder about all these happenings
Thoughts of my children
Left behind in the hut trouble me
Questions come my way
Is this the last day of my life?
Am I one of the targets?
And why?

Bang! The sound of a gun is heard nearby
Quickly I throw the basket down
Making a noise as loud as a falling dry coconut
And stumble away to the nearby bushes
Breathing even faster than usual
I try not to be heard by anyone.

As I try to comfort myself and peep amongst
The bushes in the direction of the gun fire
I feel prickles on my legs
Looking down to see what it is
I'm startled to see hundreds of ants
As many as an army of soldiers
I cannot shout though the pain
On my legs is getting worse
I have disturbed these ants
And I deserve to be bitten.

I try to move a few steps
Away from these ants
At the same time rubbing them
Off my legs but to no avail
More seem to be coming and no ending
To these insects.

In the act of doing that

I feel a hand on my
Left shoulder from the back
I cry out with great fright and run
Out to the open garden
The hand still felt on my shoulder

I cry the loudest with all my might
The cry is heard by women in the neighbouring garden
Anxious to know what it is
All run to the commotion site.

I hate to turn back and see who it is
Quickly he shouts out my name
Panno!
At that instant I turn around
To see who it is
My young uncle with a gun.

The frightening cry turns into a
Cry of joy joined by the women
Who ran to my shouting.

The laughter continues till the tear bags
Can give no more tears.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORLD BANK COCOA PROGRAMS STILL IN PIPELINE

BY TAPO TOVILU

The proposed cocoa farmer's rehabilitation and assistance scheme funded by the World Bank is still not clear to many cocoa farmers in the region.

The project which was aimed at reviving the cocoa industry in the region by giving small farmer assistance grants is still not yet clear to many.

Concerned farmers and cocoa buyers have questioned the, project asking at what stage it's at in terms of its implementation.

From the ground currently it is not clear who or which department is carrying out the assistance program in the region.

Farmers have called on the relevant authorities to deal with the issue and create more awareness on the criteria which farmers must meet.

New Dawn FM's attempts for comments from the authorities were unsuccessful.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women called to unite

By Tapo Tovilu

The women of Bougainville have been urged to unite for the upcoming National General Elections if they want to have more women in the ABG.

A public women's figure in Buka made these comments showing concern at the division in different women's groups in the region.

She says that if the women of Bougainville are serious in making a difference in the region their differences created by the different groups should be left behind.

She says that women in the region have the power numerically to vote more women into the ABG.

She added that women know the suffering in the region and will be very critical in the issues of Bougainville.

She called on the women to become one in the community so that they can make a difference in the region for a better future.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Schools becoming a concern

By Tapo Tovilu

The current trend of new schools being created in Buka has raised concern among parents and other members of the public.

A concerned parent has come out openly about the issue saying that these new schools being created have not yet commenced operation.

She says that the school year has already commenced and does not understand what or when these schools are going to begin.

She says that these schools make a lot of money due to the high school fees, where an individual's fees exceed K1000.

She is calling on the relevant authorities to look into the issue and also to check whether these schools have the right papers to operate in the region.

She says that under the ABG laws no outside business must be stand-alone but must operate in a partnership if it wishes to operate in Bougainville.

She also pointed out that its trainer's must also be checked whether they are certified and whether they are registered to operate.

She says that our children's education is very important as they will be the future leaders of Bougainville in the years to come.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Election awareness important

By Tapo Tovilu

More awareness has been called for by a senior public figure in Buka town to help the people better understand the election procedures.

The Figure told New Dawn FM today that as many are ready to go to the poles they must be fully aware of what the elections procedures are.

For centres like Buka and Arawa he says is ok but the other remote areas in south and Central Bougainville where the people are still not aware must be reached.

He says the purpose of an awareness before the elections is so that people who are about to vote know what to do and how it is done during voting.

He has called on the electoral commission to go ahead with the planned awareness before the elections commence in June.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Two killed at Selau

By Tapo Tovilu

Two members of the Mekamui fraction yesterday were run over by a truck believed to be owned by Agmark Limited in Kokopau.

From Sources the two allegedly drunk were sitting beside the road as the accident occurred.

Witnesses says that the truck which was about to overtake another vehicle on the road hit the two instantly killing them

New Dawn FM understands that on reports have yet been released by police on the two victims.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BDA houses nearing completion

By Tapo Tovilu

Two houses costing nearly K100, 000 are nearing completion in preparation of the move by the Border Development Authority and Customs to Buin.

The move which is for the purpose of monitoring of the border of Bougainville and Solomon Islands will commence after the completion of the houses and office.

John Reia from the Border Development Authority says that work is still ongoing on the houses.

He says that the inspections were done a week ago and both houses certified by health and safety.

He says the border posts which are still under construction by and Indian company has not yet been completed.

John says that the move will help the work of the Border Development Authority to better provide to the people of Bougainville its services.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TEAM TRAINED

By Aloysius Laukai

As the countdown to the issue of Writs for the National Election draws near a lot of things are happening behind the scenes as intending candidates start to strategies for the coming elections.

New Dawn FM has noticed three lots of people emerging as the countdown to the Issue of writs draw near.

First group of people have become Santa Clauses with last minute deliveries of goods and services whilst the second groups are trying to make their presence felt in their communities whilst the third group are just trying their luck.

In Bougainville there is also another group that become candidates in all elections.

Yesterday in Arawa, New Dawn FM was able to witness a Training program organized by one of the hot favourites in the coming election for the Central Bougainville seat and former UNDP Coordinator, JUSTIN BORGIA run a workshop to educate his team on how they can approach the challenges ahead.

The team that received training came from Panguna, Wakunai, Koromira, North and South Nasioi and the Eivo areas.

The training mainly educated the team on how they can identify a quality leader based on Ombudsman Commission's guideline of voting for a good leader.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New era for music in Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

The bench mark set by famous musicians in Bougainville has been given as a challenge to young upcoming musicians.

The challenge was made by one of Bougainville's current musicians who is involved heavily the support and bring up of new music talents.

While issuing the challenge he also has called for young musicians to stop the damaging trend of using digital effects in their recordings.

He encouraged upcoming musicians to familiarise themselves with manual playing and mustering instruments.

He added that when it came to a live performance they would not sound as good as they were to play instruments.

He says that he will be involved in an awareness program for better understanding true music in all forms.

He also supported a story run by New Dawn FM on the proposed project of setting up a proper recording studio for Musicians in Bougainville.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

More funding for schools

By Tapo Tovilu

More funding has been called for especially for schools in the remote areas of Bougainville.

This came from a former educationalist in Bougainville after witnessing firsthand the lack of infrastructure and materials for students in the rural areas.

He says that as Bougainville is moving towards referendum more should be done to build up our human resource.

He says that basic education in all areas is important as it will be the benchmark for a better stronger human resource in the future.

He made the call to the education department to design a program where schools in remote areas received more to help build their infrastructure.

He says despite the current hardships faced by many departments in terms of funding the priority must be given to building up our human resource.

09.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ARAWA BLACK OUT

By Aloysius Laukai

Residents of the former Bougainville Capital, Arawa Town have been without electricity since last Friday and will continue to stay that way until fuel is supplied by the PNG POWER's contractor to supply fuel delivers for the two diesel generators.

And disappointed power users told New Dawn FM in Arawa yesterday that since PNG POWER was switched on in Arawa there has been constant blackouts and this has made business houses and even residents loose money on freezer goods.

They said that PNG POWER has brought false hope to the residents of Arawa town but it has since not delivered quality service.

New Dawn fm understands the recent burning of the Rabaul Shipping's Kopra boats may be one of the contributing factor in the fuel shortage both at the BUIN TOWN and Arawa Town power plants.

One of the Kopra vessel's was the main carrier of Fuel and Gas supplies to the Autonomous Region before the burning.

09.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

NGI all set for the polls

By PORENI UMAU

ALL is set for the New Guinea Islands to go into the polls with the issue of writs set for May 18.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville confirmed that all Common Rolls for North and South Bougainville were already sent to Port Moresby over the weekend after completion of quality checks.

Election Manager Reitama Tarauaru said that checks for Central Bougainville was delayed after a killing incident in the Kongara where electoral officials were advised not to go as the situation was still tense.

He said that he has given an extra two days for quality checks to be done before the Common Rolls should be sent to Port Moresby by end of this week.

Mr Tarauaru said that awareness by civil society groups and police was still continuing while training for assistant returning officers already completed.

New Ireland has reported that it was still waiting to receive Preliminary Rolls from Port Moresby for Namatanai district to conduct quality checks, which should be expected by this week and send back. Provincial Election Manager Edward Konu said that Kavieng district was already completed waiting for the Principal Rolls to be issued from Port Moresby.

Mr Konu said that they were yet to conduct training for assistant returning officers for both Namatanai and Kavieng with maintenance work to be done on counting venues.

Pakop Taian Pasangat in Manus said that all Common Rolls were already completed and sent to Port Moresby.

He said that training for the 12 assistant returning officers from the 12 local level government council areas should start soon.

He said that he has 21 polling teams with two policemen each to a team with awareness from youth groups, community policing, and the civil society organisations, still ongoing.

East New Britain has completed all Common Rolls for the four districts which were already sent to Port Moresby.

Provincial Election Manager Terence Hetinu said that training for assistant returning officers should be done tomorrow for Kokopo, Rabaul and Gazelle districts, while Pomio would be conducted over the weekend.

Efforts to talk to the provincial election manager for West New Britain were unsuccessful.

09.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Advice to candidates

By PORENI UMAU

INTENDING candidates must be well versed in the country's political history.

This was emphasised by Dr Henry Okole during an election forum, funded by the East New Britain administration to educate intending candidates on the challenges awaiting them and what was expected of them should they win the elections.

Dr Okole and counterpart Dr Alphonse Gelu were invited to speak to intending candidates for the four open seats in the province and the provincial seat.

Dr Okole challenged intending candidates at the Vunapope Catholic Hall yesterday that they must know and would have to deal with the history of PNG should they get voted into parliament.

He said one important thing candidates should really understand was the Constitution.

He challenged all those that gathered to fully understand the political fallout over the last nine months so when they go into parliament, they should be able to deal with it.

"This election will make a difference. If we do not change, we are finished," Dr Okole said.

He informed the candidates that some of the issues that they should be fully aware of and deal with included the Liquefied Natural Gas Project, saying this would not only affect the Highlands region, Gulf and Central provinces but the whole nation as the benefits would be shared nationwide.

Another important issue, he said, was the Referendum on Bougainville which is scheduled for 2015 and 2020. Bougainville is to gain full independence between this period. Provinces such as New Ireland and East New Britain are also pushing for autonomy.

Others include the issue on two separate provinces, Hela and Jiwaka and the talk on forming a new Sepik Central province, and the political situation in the country, starting from August 2011.

09.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

2 new Momis interviews!

08.05.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

More grim testimony at PNG's Rabaul Queen inquiry

Survivors have been detailing the grim conditions on the Rabaul Queen as the inquiry into the Papua New Guinea ferry disaster continues.

The death toll from the tragedy has estimated at more than 200.

The commission of inquiry has finished **sitting in Buka in Bougainville** and will next convene in Kimbe.

Don Wiseman reports.

“A key concern for investigators has been to try and establish whether the ship was overloaded. Survivors have told of how packed the vessel was, with many people forced to sit on the floor, unable to stretch out and not willing to leave their places for fear of losing them. This despite the heavy rain affecting the open upper decks. Mary Jane Paha talked of passengers taking turns to sleep because of the lack of room. Mekevi Havia told the commission that passengers and their luggage should be weighed before they board the ship. He also says crew need to be better trained and more professional than those he encountered on the Rabaul Queen. Mitchell Denesius Tepon, whose brother, his wife and their daughter lost their lives in the disaster, says he'd been sleeping when the disaster began with crew yelling for passengers to try and balance the ship. The vessel had been listing but this had worsened in surging seas when the Rabaul Queen left Kimbe for Lae.”

07.05.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

Rio returns to PNG

by Blair Price

The Rio Tinto logo, featuring the company name in white serif font on a red rectangular background.

RIO Tinto has joined the growing ranks of major miners lured to Papua New Guinea. It did not make any grand announcements on the matter but has picked up at least three tenements.

Bougainville Copper, which is about 54% owned by Rio, touched on this development in its annual general meeting last week.

“Rio Tinto Exploration has applied for and has been granted exploration licences in PNG, the first such grants of licences since the mid 1990s,” Bougainville Copper chairman Peter Taylor (pictured) said.

“This is a good indicator that Rio Tinto is looking to be an active participant in PNG's future mineral development.”



While a Rio spokesperson is yet to respond to enquiries made last week, PNGIndustryNews.net has been able to obtain some limited information on three licences which have been awarded to Rio.

One of them is exploration licence application 1935, known as the Dumpu licence, in the Eastern Highlands of PNG.

The other two tenements have already been granted as exploration licences.

They include EL1933, known as the Markham licence, which is in Morobe province and EL 1934 (Angoram licence) in East Sepik province.

Those two licences were probably awarded some time last year with both listed in some PNG government documentation dated in January.

Given that Rio is a heavyweight in the bulk mining game, it is likely that all of three of the licences are prospective for copper-gold opportunities.

PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum executive director Greg Anderson told PNGIndustryNews.net that Rio's return was a stamp of approval for the country.

Key players in PNG's mining industry already include Barrick Gold (Porgera mine) and Newcrest Mining (Lihir mine and its joint venture with Harmony Gold at the Hidden Valley mine and the exciting Wafi-Golpu project).

At the exploration stage, Xstrata Copper is advancing the Frieda River copper-gold project while Brazilian mining giant Vale struck a JV with explorer Goldminex over various Owen Stanley Ranges porphyry copper-gold tenements last year.

Outside of industry speculation that Anglo American has shown interest in PNG opportunities in recent years, Rio's iron ore rival BHP Billiton did make a substantial effort to pick up a variety of tenements in PNG last year before pulling out of ELA negotiations this year.

"We did consider exploration for copper in the country but elected not to for a number of reasons including our ability to deliver on our commitment of world-class health, safety, environment and community performance," a BHP spokesperson told PNGIndustryNews.net last month.



There has been industry concern over some of the other possible "reasons" behind BHP's change of heart in PNG but BHP would not reveal its confidential discussions with governments.

There is also an interesting contrast in the fortunes of the recent PNG endeavours made by Rio and BHP.

Rio's past operation of the troubled Panguna mine on Bougainville Island appears to have caused no major issues in regards to winning new tenements in PNG.

BHP did not receive such treatment. Last year John Pundari, who was the mining minister before the demise of the Somare government in August, released a barrage of criticism against the environmental damage caused by BHP's past operation of the Ok Tedi mine.

07.05.2012

Source: The National

Opportunities for nationals to invest

INVESTMENT in shares of companies operating in PNG provides a real time opportunity for nationals to share in the mining and resources growth, which is now attracting international investment interest.

This was the thrust of a public shares and investment seminar conducted by licensed stockbroker, Kina Securities Ltd, at the Holiday Inn in Port Moresby last Friday.

It attracted more than 200 people.

KSL chief executive officer Syd Yates said PNG investment opportunities were attracting major investment from international companies to further develop the resources and agricultural industries of PNG.

“PNG is now a recognised global player with an important role in the global recovery programme following the disastrous financial crisis of 2008,” Yates said.

“The positive outcome from the global financial crisis (GFC) was the emergence of new developing nations such as China, India and Malaysia – who seized the opportunity to enter the international markets to obtain resources to fuel their own internal economic growth and development.

“As a result, the resources of PNG and other South Pacific targets were identified with the potential to supply a full range of resources for these emerging economies and as a result, major projects have been commenced.”

These major projects require funding and the opportunity to join with companies involved by investing in their shareholdings, which is a very practical option for PNG nationals to share in the growth of the nation’s prosperity opportunities.

“Many PNG nationals will gain employment from these projects which include the giant PNG LNG project and a number of spin-off energy development opportunities which are emerging following further exploration,” Yates said.

“To explore and develop these projects require the creation of new infrastructure – all opportunities for existing and new companies to be part of the development programme to create transport and engineering infrastructure to support these ventures.

“For the investor, there are opportunities to share in this unprecedented growth by buying shares in the various companies involved.

“If they are internationally listed companies, these shares can be acquired through investment funds such as our own Kina Assets Management Ltd (KAML), which invests widely in local, Australian and international share and investment funds.”

07.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kina strong against US, Aust dollar

By MELISSA MARTIN and PATRICK TALU

PAPUA New Guinea Kina (PGK) has appreciated significantly against the United States Dollar (US\$) and Australian Dollar (A\$) respectively in recent months.

The exchange rate as of last Friday May 4, PGK against US\$ stands at 0.4845 and A\$ at 0.4666 respectively.

According to Bank of PNG Governor Loi Bakani’s last months’ monetary policy statement in which he reflected on the developments in the balance of payments, the daily average kina exchange rate appreciated against the US dollar by 19.9 percent to US\$0.4458 between the March quarter of 2011 and 28th March 2012.

Mr Bakani said the appreciation reflected high agricultural and mineral export receipts, combined with inflows related to the construction phase of the PNG LNG project.

The kina appreciated against the Australian dollar by 8.3 per cent to A\$0.4276 over the same period.

The appreciation was attributed to cross currency movements, as the Australian dollar weakened against the US dollar. As a result, the Trade Weighted Index (TWI) appreciated by 12.6 percent during the same period.

The Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) also appreciated by 7.6 percent during the December quarter of 2011.

Mr. Bakani said PNG's Economic growth is estimated at 7.8% in 2012 against last year's 8.9%.

Inflation is forecasted to drop slightly to 7.60% in 2012 while Kina currency is relatively strong to Aussie, now at 0.46 compared to 0.44 last month, predicting growth in PNG's economy.

Mr Bakani also said that the 2012 National Budget was framed against the uncertainty in the global economy and high domestic economic activity.

The Government projects a balanced budget of K10.5 billion, with emphasis on increased spending in the priority areas of education, transport, law and order, and health, consistent with the Medium Term Fiscal Strategy (MTFS) and Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP).

The Government also projects balanced budgets for 2013 and 2014 of similar magnitude.

Public debt is projected to be 23.2 percent of GDP in 2012, compared to

24.1 percent in the 2011 revised estimates. The lower ratio is mainly due to an increase in GDP.

On the same juncture and comparing to other global markets and economies, Port Moresby Stock Exchange (POMSoX) has not been much affected by the Global Economic Crisis recently because of the growth in economic activities within the country.

THE Kina Securities Limited (KSL) shares manager Rick Tan has revealed this in a recent seminar held at Holiday Inn, Port Moresby.

"Large scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) investments are still a major push for local mineral resource projects and the economy," Mr Tan said.

The global meltdown has rid almost \$2.1 trillion in asset value worldwide in the recent years.

Global growth is projected to drop from about four percent in 2011 to about 3.5 percent in 2012 because of weak activity.

Global prospects are gradually strengthening again, but downside risks still remain.

07.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainvilleans take rights over resources

By PETERSON TSERAHA

BOUGAINVILLE has once again created history by taking ownership of their natural resources.

Five resource owner companies; Isina Resources Holdings, Pakasiapan Resources Ltd, Avaipa Resources Ltd, Baunapa Resources Ltd and Eruupia Resources Ltd have all signed Partnership Agreements with [Morumbi Resources of Canada](#) with a 15 percent carried interest.

Vice Chairman of Isina Resources Holdings and former Bougainville Revolutionary Army General Sam Kauona took time to explain how it will work in Bougainville so foreign investors could understand.

"Morumbi Resources of Canada is my partner and they are registered on the Toronto stock Exchange," he said.

Isina Resources Holdings and the other four Landowner Companies behind Morumbi have to make everything conducive for investors to have faith in Morumbi Resources on the public market on its PNG and Bougainville operations.

"The proceeds of the market will be used for exploration and other social impact projects on the island."

Once we get our Exploration Licences, each Landowner company will be given additional shares." Morumbi Resources is our Partner but we become shareholders in our partnership", Mr Kauna said.

He said the Bougainville Government will adopt and honour the current Moratorium on the Island for the best interest of Bougainville people.

"Section 23 of our Constitution gives us the ultimate rights of resources ownership and the resource owner company will be the only company that will apply for exploration licence". Mr Kauona said.

The former BRA General stated that, the landowner owner companies will decide who their foreign partner will be and the moratorium will only be lifted in respective areas where resource owner companies decide to do exploration in their areas.

Isina Resource Holdings limited have already registered its exploration activity with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) two months ago, and are waiting for their exploration license. There will be a paradaa, (lifting of local moratorium) at the end of this month in Isina area and exploration will start.

Three other resource owner companies are working on their exploration registration papers and will submit to the Bougainville Mining Department by the end of this month. They too will lift their moratorium on their time and call. The ABG has to have its tax policies and legislation in place.

06.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

EXPOSED on BACKDOOR PLAYERS: **Noah Musingku and his criminal network !**

[CLICK HERE](#)

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Visitors from the Philippines to Bougainville Copper's Panguna Mine Site !



Picture of the team from the Philippines arriving in Buin



The Philippine group posing for this Tapo Tovilu at Kangu Wharf in Buin. Background is Solomon Islands



Philippine group visit the Bougainville Copper's Panguna Mine site

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STILL CHANCE

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile, selected students that have missed out from the first batch of students to study in the Philippines have another six months to prepare for the second semester that starts in November.



Coordinator for the Philippine Study and CEO for Peace and Reconciliation Division NICK PENIAI (pictured) made these comments in Buka today.

He said that those selected but did not make it this time can still go in November. MR. PENIAI said that his division intends to send at least two hundred students every year and by the next five years about a thousand Bougainvilleans have been trained in the Philippines in various fields.

On the question why the Education division is not handling this program, MR. PENIAI said that this was a political program spearheaded by the ABG President under the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation and will remain that way in the initial phase of the program.

He said the Education division has been informed and would play a major role in other programs.

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONFIRMED FOR TRAVEL

By Aloysius Laukai

Thirty Bougainville students have met the requirements to attend Universities in Cebu Philippines at the start of first semester in June this year.

These are from the two hundred students approved by the selection committee to attend classes starting this year.

Organizer for the CEBU study program and Chief Executive Officer for the Division of Peace AND Reconciliation Division, MR. NICK PENIAI announced this on New Dawn FM today.

He said that the project initiated by ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS intends to send many students to learn in Philippine universities and also other technical schools to increase the capacity of Bougainvillean tradesmen in different fields.

MR. PENIAI said that under the normal system training Bougainvilleans would take years and Bougainville did not have the time to play around.

He said Bougainville needs to train its manpower to take in fields that are immediately needed with plans to open big businesses on Bougainville.

MR. PENIAI said that the first thirty participants would leave Bougainville on 18th May and travel on the same day to Manila then Cebu.

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VILLAGER COMPLAIN

By Aloysius Laukai

A village chief from Kiavu in the Tonsu constituency, Severinus Tatou today called on the ABG member for Tonsu, JOEL BANAM to fulfil commitment he made to his people during the last Tonsu Byelection.

Chief TATOU said that his people were still waiting for the member to visit them as he promised.

The chief told New Dawn FM that his people have been neglected by TONSU COE for many years and are very concerned.

He said Since Tonsu COE was formed they have been paying head taxes, licences for trade stores however his Kiavu village have not benefited at all.

Chief TATOU recalled receiving Roofing iron and two tanks when they were under the PEIT COE earlier on.

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BCL posts K3.7m loss in 2011

By Tapo Tovilu

Bougainville Copper limited yesterday announced a loss of K3.7 million in 2011 compared to an anticipated K7.3million.

Chairman Peter Taylor yesterday also announced that due to the loss BCL will not pay dividends.

This was announced at the annual Bougainville Copper limited meeting in Port Moresby yesterday.

Mr Taylor says due to the loss recorded and the need to preserve cash for future development the company will not pay a dividend.

He also says that there are positive changes ongoing in Bougainville especially with the Panguna mine landowners.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neil had confirmed in parliament that BCL by right of the Bougainville Copper Agreement was permitted to operate at Panguna for a further 21years from 2011.

He also confirmed that support from local stakeholders has been substantial in the process of moving forward.

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CPB awareness called to continued

By Tapo Tovilu

Since the devastating effects of the cocoa pod bora, the output of cocoa in the region has declined dramatically.

This sharp drop in the amount of Bougainville's cocoa exported each year has costed many farmers their cocoa crops.

A village leader from the Tonsu area has called for the continuous awareness programs of CPB pest control and block management.

He says since their initial awareness in the heavily parts of the region block management and control has been successful in preventing more damage.

He has called on DPI to continue with its awareness programs in the areas of north and parts of central were the pest has affected.

05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Israelis to visit Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

An Israeli delegation will be visiting Bougainville on Thursday for the discussion with the ABG for possible investment opportunities.

The visit from the delegation from Israel will be the first of its kind yet from a country in the east to visit Bougainville.

The purpose of the visit will be to discuss the possible opportunities they have to offer in in vesting in whatever field they are in.

New Dawn FM understands that the team will be in Bougainville for three days and will depart on Monday.



05.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville has potential

By Tapo Tovilu

With the increasing number of investors visiting Bougainville many have praised the current government for the achievement.

A senior public servant in the ABG has commended the current government for bringing in a huge number of investors into the region.

He says that at this time Bougainville will be expecting investors into the region for investment opportunities.

Meanwhile the ABG has also being warned to tread carefully with the numerous possibilities that investors will be offering.

He says from past experience Bougainville suffered a lot from bad decisions which now must be avoided.

He also made a call to all company groups operating in the region to also consider joint ventures with these investors in their respective fields of operation.

04.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW DAWN TO ALLOW CAMPAIGN ON RADIO

By Tapo Tovilu

New Dawn FM will allow campaign using radio by candidates of the coming Papua New Guinea General Elections.

In making the announcement, Manager ALOYSIUS LAUKAI said that Campaigns on Radio will be pre-recorded and must be on Policies by parties and candidates.

Backstabbing of fellow candidates will not be allowed on Radio.

The Manager said that candidates who want to make video presentations to their constituents would also be supported.

Campaign on Radio will begin after the writs have been issued and would end 24 hours before polling begins.

Persons interested can come to the office and enquire or you can call mobile number 71915292 for further assistance.

New Dawn FM understands that writs for the elections would be issued on May 18th, this year.

04.05.2012

Source: The National

List of passengers inaccurate, inquiry told

THE missing persons' list for Bougainville passengers on the mv Rabaul Queen was inaccurate, the commission of inquiry was told in Buka on Tuesday.

Special projects officer from the Bougainville disaster office Thomas Sansan and regional disaster coordinator Franklyn Lacey admitted to the commission that the number of missing people from the mv Rabaul Queen disaster on Feb 2 had some discrepancies.

Sansan told the commission the total number of Bougainville survivors registered was 64 while there were 43 people registered as missing.

But Sansan said the missing persons list was not correct as he believed relatives of those missing came and gave ghosts names.

“We recorded names of people who were missing but were not passengers on board the mv Rabaul Queen,” Sansan said.

Lacey admitted that he was not there personally to prepare the list with Sansan in Lae.

“I did not see any victim registration form but only saw forms that Sansan brought back with him when he came back from Lae.”

He also admitted that he did not check the accuracy of the master list and relied on his officers for the numbers of Bougainville survivors admitted.

Lacey further admitted to the commission that he did not see the missing person’s registration forms but just accepted them as been accurate.

The commission found out that he did not do any exercise on the 45 people listed as missing as the number was inaccurate because only 36 forms were completed.

Lacey said the reason was because some relatives of those missing did not come to sign the forms.

04.05.2012

Source: The National

Relatives of missing persons receive K51,000

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville paid out K51,000 to relatives of Bougainville passengers who went missing when the mv Rabaul Queen sank on Feb 2.

Bougainville disaster co-ordinator Franklyn Lacey was recalled to give evidence to the commission yesterday. He produced a document listing 46 names as those missing and the amounts their relatives received.

The list showed that the relatives received between K1,000 and K2,000.

The names of the Bougainville passengers declared dead are: Aaron Laden, Aaron Ruby, Rayleen Kabun, Joel Hakits, Kenneth Tepon, Lynette Tepon, Nicola Tepon, Jenevieve Tepon, Christabel Haput, Adela Korana, Pius Sale, Dessy Betsheba, Jacob Kumaiso, Lydia Moiyo, Teresita Paha, Mumai Marian, Kavia Delvin, Kavia Samuel, Kavia Selvin, Joan Elijah, Maniat Adrian, Maniat Alfred, Aaron Paina, Dalsy Paina, Junior Paina, Rebecca Paina, Steven Elma, Franklyn Tonoim, Jonita Vuruna, Junior Vuruna, Angela Kalowa, Wingslyn Kalowa, Clarice Siru, Suibui Bernette, Francisco Lugabai, Cathy Konukung, Boniface Nanou, Simon Kikira, Chris Kamuai, Daisy Kondes, Joyce Mundenala, Sandy Ositoke, Sirarui Desmond, Semmy Murray Topau, Kimikon Eric and Gerald Mike.

04.05.2012

Source: The National

PNG to host international mining forum

PAPUA New Guinea will host an international conference of mines inspectors in September.

The conference is aimed at building a safe environment for employees working in the hazardous mining industry, apart from working together to reinforce and harmonise regulatory and legislative practices across all jurisdictions.

It will attract chief inspectors of mines from all states of Australia, New Zealand and PNG and will be held from Sept 14-18.

PNG’s chief inspector of mines Mohan Singh said the conference would be held in Madang and its primary objective was to provide a common platform to the chief regulators to share, discuss and exchange their ideas and experiences in the area of safety and health.

“We will discuss these aspects as well as our innovative ideas and practices to benefit from each other’s experiences,” he said.

Participants will travel to Lihir Gold mine on Sept 14 and to Ramu nickel mine’s Basamuk refinery in Madang on Sept 15 for field visits.

They will go back to Madang to start a closed door conference on Sept 16-18.

03.05.2012

Source: The National

BCL keen to reopen mine

By MALUM NALU

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd (BCL) remains committed to reopening of the controversial Bougainville copper mine, according to chairman Peter Taylor (pictured).



He reaffirmed at BCL’s annual general meeting in Port Moresby on Tuesday that the vision to return to active exploration and profitable mining remained, with active support of local stakeholders.

“We face the coming year with enthusiasm for the tasks ahead, and anticipate good progress toward the vision of reopening the mine,” Taylor said.

“We have many initiatives in place, we believe we are ready to go, we are engaged with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the landowners, and we recognise that to a large extent, the time table rests in their good hands.

Taylor said Prime Minister Peter O’Neill had confirmed in parliament that BCL had, by right of the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA), permits to operate at Panguna for a further 21 years from 2011.

“There are also encouraging indications that funding for Bougainville and the drawing down of powers to the ABG including the power to license and regulate mining will be invigorated under his government,” he said.

Taylor said several new developments had occurred which should help facilitate the re-negotiation of the BCA.

“To make things clear, the BCA is an act of the PNG national parliament, and as such, can only be modified or repealed by the parliament,” he said.

“However, it is recognised by all stakeholders including BCL, that the agreement was drawn up in times and circumstances that differ from those prevailing today, and that significant changes need to be made to accommodate the views, rights and aspirations of all stakeholders including the landowners and the people of Bougainville.

“There is widespread agreement today that Bougainville’s economic future needs mining if it is to be able to fund services for the people from its own resources, as well as address future opportunities for economic and social development.

“A re-commencement of mining at Panguna cannot take place unless all parties: the landowners, the ABG, the national government of PNG, and BCL, are acting in close accord, now and into the future.

“Funding and sovereign risk assurance for the project will require a united effort.

“There will need to be a fair and stable regulatory regime that gives investors the confidence needed to commit to a project that will cost in excess of US\$3 billion.”

03.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PNG to host conference

PAPUA New Guinea will play host to the Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines from all states of Australia, New Zealand and PNG in September.

PNG's Chief Inspector of Mines (CIM), Mohan Singh made this announcement yesterday, adding that the conference would be held in Madang and the primary objective of the Conference is to provide a common platform to the chief regulators to share, discuss and exchange their ideas and experiences in the area of safety and health.

This two day conference is aimed at building a safe environment for employees working in the hazardous mining industry, apart from the aim of working together to reinforce and harmonize regulatory and legislative practices across all jurisdictions.

"We will discuss these aspects as well as our innovative ideas and practices to benefit from each other's experiences", said Singh.

He said the Chief Inspectors would attend a Presentation night on Sept 13 to conclude the "National Mining Emergency Response Challenge" which is another national level event happening on Sept 12-13, in which all mining companies in the country will participate.

The Chief Inspectors would then travel to Lihir Gold Mine on September 14 and then to Ramu Nickel Mines Basamuk refinery in Madang on Sept 15 for field visits. Having visited Basamuk, they will go back to Madang to commence a closed door conference on 16-18.

Mr Singh explained that during the field visits, the Chief Inspectors would inspect mining operations and interact with senior management of mines.

Most mining companies are expected to make presentations relating to their operations including management of health and safety issues at their sites to the Chief Inspectors.

The visitors would return to Port Moresby on September 19 before departing to their respective destinations.

The CIM said the Board of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) has allocated K150,000 to host this Conference while the entire mining industry in PNG is excited to make their own contributions to render this 'special event' a memorable one.

Mr Singh said the forum of Chief Inspectors was formed about 50 years ago, during which time PNG had just been an 'observer' until last year.

He said inclusion of PNG as a full member resulted from his attendance in previous Conferences at Melbourne and Darwin where PNG's status as full member was argued, appreciated and acknowledged.

03.05.2012

Source: Islands Business

PNG Politicians invest millions in Cairns

Papua New Guinea politicians who have bought properties in far North Queensland (Cairns) over the last 12 months will soon be in the spotlight when a meeting gets underway in Cairns next Wednesday.

Thu, 3 May 2012

PORT MORESBY, PNG (POST COURIER) ---- Papua New Guinea politicians who have bought properties in far North Queensland (Cairns) over the last 12 months will soon be in the spotlight when a meeting gets underway in Cairns next Wednesday. The meeting will reveal details of PNG leaders who have contributed immensely to the development of Far North Queensland (Cairns) and the positive aspects of the properties bought by the PNG elites. Cairns will soon be another "PNG city" because politicians, businessman and PNG residents in Australia are rushing to invest huge amounts of money there, purchasing properties worth millions. The number of properties purchased in Cairns since 2011 has increased and some purchases had also been done early this year. It is understood the Cairns North Registrar of Titles had compiled a report of PNG politicians who have bought properties in Cairns and the list would be detailed later next

week. It is also understood six known politicians have invested in million-dollar properties up north and central Cairns to a tune of \$A11.5 million (K24.5 million) — \$A3.8m, \$A1.9m, \$A2.3m, \$A2.0m and \$A1.45m respectively. Early last month it was reported in the Queensland papers that PNG residents were the largest foreign investors in the Far North, according to the latest figures from the Registrar of Titles. They bought commercial, residential and other property worth \$4.5 million out of \$16 million of foreign purchases in the last financial year. Next on the list was the UK (\$3.5 million), NZ (\$2 million) and Japan (\$1.9 million). Other notable buyers were from the Czech Republic (A\$680,000), Greece (A\$530,000), Hong Kong (A\$491,470), Argentina (A\$490,000) and Malaysia (A\$394,300). Hong Kong residents own the largest amount of land (1116ha) followed by Belgium (492ha), the UK (352ha), Japan (278ha) and China (91ha) while UK investors own the largest number of land parcels (257) followed by Japan (214), NZ (212) and PNG (101). CBRE Cairns Managing Director Danny Betros said there had not been many large sales to PNG investors in recent times until last year. He said the last large sale was the A\$19 million three-storey office building at 120 Bunda St to a PNG consortium in July 2010. The building was bought by Mineral Resources Lihir Capital Ltd, a company that receives royalties from the A\$1 billion gold project on Lihir Island, and invests in property and other concerns on behalf of the community. In May last year, a PNG family's first foray into the Far North's commercial property market was expected to be the start of further investments. The Honale family bought the home of Channel 7 local news in Mulgrave Rd, Parramatta Park, for \$A3.2 million. Betros said there were about 12 groups representing PNG investors active in the Far North. He said the mining boom was sparking interest by Papua New Guinea investors in the Far North as well as because of its close proximity. It is understood a PNG consortium is also eyeing one of the Cairns CBD's largest office blocks, the Corporate Tower. Greg Wood of Knight Frank Cairns said interest in property in Cairns had dropped off following the political stability in PNG. Wood said he expected the number of Australians and others working in the PNG resources sector to start buying mainly residential properties in Cairns for their families. The Far North's lifestyle, attractive property prices and the resource boom is drawing investors from PNG as well as Western Australia and Darwin, who are snapping up prestige waterfront homes and land in the elite Bluewater estate. In February this year, investors from PNG (politicians) called FNQ Hot Property principal Nathan Shingles at 9am one day, inspected the Bluewater property and by 4pm had signed a contract.

03.05.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Nape faces arrest over funds misuse

PALIAMENTARY Speaker Jeffrey Nape allegedly misappropriated about K5 million of the K30 million he requested from the National Government for an Agriculture project in his electorate.



Mr Nape (pictured) comes from Sinasina Yongomugl, Chimbu Province, and applied for K30 million from the Department of Finance and Treasury to rehabilitate a coffee and pyrethrum project in his Sinasina-Yongomugl electorate.

The funding proposals and the released cheques for this project did not correlate, hence, a police warrant of arrest has been taken after investigations carried out by the O'Neill-Namah appointed Sweep Team and police, which had not been effected since January 25, 2012 when it was officially stamped.

The instrument, out in January, 2012, has not been served on the Speaker because of difficulties faced by the team.

The warrant of arrest document filed at the Waigani District Court on January 25, 2012 by Sergeant Bernard Barrum of the National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Division (NFACD) including the affidavits have been circulated within the disciplinary forces.

Based on this letter alone, a reduced amount of K5 million was drawn on October 28, 2010, and paid to a company called Koge Yaba Poramara Estate Ltd. However, the name on the cheque did not correspond with the account name and the bank refused to accept it. Subsequently, another cheque was drawn December 3, 2010, of the same amount and paid to, this time, Koge Yoba Estate Ltd.

The arrest warrant details that on July 23, 2009, Mr Nape wrote a letter requesting funding from the Department of Finance and Treasury to rehabilitate coffee and Pyrethrum in his Sinasina-Yongomugl electorate.

The funding request of K30 million was in the form of a three-paged letter, without any costing or justification of this figure. It was not submitted through the normal process of project submissions, usually made to the Office of the Secretary for National Planning and Monitoring.

There was no proper project proposal/submission attached to the letter with proper costing to justify the amount requested. Furthermore, the content of the letter seemed to imply or suggest for some favour in return for his loyalty to support the then Somare-Temu Government and, coincidentally, this particular letter was written at a time when there were rumours of a vote of no-confidence against the Government.

“It is very obvious that he had used his position and power as a Member of Parliament and Speaker of Parliament to obtain funding circumnavigating proper processes.

“Fortunately for the State and tax payers of PNG this money was not paid out.

“Therefore, I make this application before this Honourable Court for the issuance of a warrant of arrest under Section 49 and 8 of the Arrest Act in order to arrest Mr Jeffrey Nape, Member for Sinasina Yongomugl electorate for the charges of Abuse of Office, False Pretence and Attempted Misappropriation/Stealing,” the warrant for arrest document detailed.

But Speaker Nape is adamant he has not erred in this process and that the money was never released. Although he refused to comment yesterday the speaker, now being watched by every Parliamentarian said he was ready to face the Sweep Team.

Sweep Team executives have responded that the process was still in order and the investigations was still on-going and that the Speaker would still be held answerable to law.

02.05.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

Bougainville mining outlook improves

PROGRESS on complex landowner matters and continual support from the Autonomous Bougainville government is providing more hope that Bougainville Copper may reopen the giant Panguna copper-gold mine in the years to come.

“I can confidently say that the year that has passed since we last met has given me more reason for optimism about the future of this company than any year out of the previous twenty,” Bougainville Copper chairman Peter Taylor said at the company’s annual general meeting.

“The most beneficial change has been the focus of Panguna landowners and other Bougainvilleans on the redevelopment agenda and the initiatives they have taken to contribute to momentum.”

A big hurdle to reopening the mine is to strike a new Bougainville Copper Agreement – which requires help from the PNG government as an act of Parliament.

Taylor said it was recognised by all stakeholders that significant changes needed to be made to the BCA – especially to accommodate the views, rights and aspirations of landowners and the people of Bougainville.

Getting in the position to negotiate with all of the landowners together is certainly a challenge.

The 1980 compensation agreement for the mine had around 600 landowners or landowner representatives.

Taylor revealed some of the important progress on this front, which would help bring Bougainville Copper closer to negotiating a new BCA.

“It is pleasing to note that landowners and others in nine areas most closely affected by the mine’s operations, including Panguna, the tailings areas, Arawa and the road and port leases, have all but completed the formation of legally based associations capable of providing genuine representation to the process of reviewing the Bougainville Copper Agreement,” he said.

If it all eventually goes to plan, Taylor foreshadowed that the closed mine could become a \$US3 billion project.

“The next technical work – a prefeasibility study on reopening the mine – will be very expensive, so certainty is needed that a workable mining regime and conditions will be put in place before committing the funds,” he said.

“There will be some ongoing studies to provide information for the renegotiation of the Bougainville Copper Agreement and some of those studies will also be relevant to mine redevelopment.”

In the meantime, he revealed technical work was already underway to update the order of magnitude study completed in 2009.

On the growing momentum on the island to reopen Panguna, Taylor gave credit to ABG president John Momis and members of his cabinet for their efforts and support.

“We face the coming year with enthusiasm for the tasks ahead and anticipate good progress toward the vision of reopening the mine,” Taylor said.

“We have many initiatives in place, we believe we are ready to go, we are engaged with the ABG and the landowners and we recognise that to a large extent, the timetable rests in their good hands.”

Panguna was the world’s fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989, with Bougainville Island subsequently embroiled in years of civil war.

The mine produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

The Panguna permits under the existing BCA allow for mining up to 2032.

The orebody at Panguna is only partially mined, with large available reserves.

In the mine’s last year of operation, estimated mill feed was at 691Mt at 0.4% copper and 0.47 grams per tonne gold.

Rio Tinto owns around 54% of Bougainville Copper.

02.05.2012

AGM answers online !

Today , we received BCL's answers to our questions, prepared for the 2012 Annual General Meeting !

[CLICK HERE](#)

02.05.2012

Source: The National

BCL posts K3.7 million loss in 2011

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd (BCL) yesterday announced a loss of K3.7 million in 2011, compared to an anticipated loss of K7.3 million.

Because of this, no dividends will be paid, chairman Peter Taylor announced at BCL's 45th annual general meeting in Port Moresby.

"Overall, income and costs were generally within budget, administration and exchange losses being over, offset by a similar amount under budget for BCA renegotiation," he said.

"Interest of K2.2 million earned on court-held IBDs has been brought into account this year.

"Due to the loss recorded and the need to preserve cash for future development the company will not pay a dividend.

"The company has sufficient funds to cover its recurrent expenditure under the current plan and is debt free."

Taylor said he was more optimistic about the future of this company than any year out of the previous 20 years.

"There are activities on foot in several areas that can positively assist Bougainville Copper Ltd make a return to profitable mining," he said.

"Some of these are within the control of the company itself, others less so.

"The most-beneficial change has been the focus of Panguna landowners and other Bougainvilleans on the re-development agenda, and the initiatives they have taken to contribute to momentum."

Taylor also talked about BCL's:

- I Investment strategy;
- I Ongoing tax dispute with the Internal Revenue Commission of PNG;
- I Litigation in the United States;
- I Corporate governance;
- I Safety;
- I Risk management;
- I Bougainville Copper Foundation;
- I Significant events, beginning on Bougainville; and
- I Bougainville Copper Agreement

Taylor said Prime Minister Peter O'Neill had confirmed in parliament that BCL had, by right of the BCA, was permitted to operate at Panguna for a further 21 years from 2011.

“It is possible that some further remediation work will be carried out on site with the co-operation of landowners, to make areas safe whether mining proceeds or not,” he said.

“President (John) Momis has been proactive in assisting the company carry out safety work.

“Again, the landowners will be informed and involved as appropriate.

“The vision to return to active exploration and profitable mining remains and, I am pleased to say, with the active support from local stakeholders to which I have earlier referred.”

02.05.2012

Source: The National

Juffa, party in Bougainville



NATURAL Resource projects in PNG must be treated carefully to strike a balance between investors, the people and the government so that everyone benefits.

People’s Movement for Change Party leader Gary Juffa (pictured) said this while launching the party in Arawa, Bougainville.

Juffa said the Bougainville crisis provided many lessons and all should learn for them to better manage resources.

02.05.2012

Source: The National

ABG administrator to give evidence today

CHIEF administrator of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government Lawrence Dissing will be among witnesses to give evidence at the commission of inquiry today.

Others include ABG special projects officer Thomas Sansa, Buka disaster officer Franklyn Lacey and survivor Maryjane Paha.

Tomorrow will be the last day of inquiry in Buka. It commences its next sitting in Kimbe on May 15.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kamma blasts South Bougainville ABG members

BY NEW DAWN MEDIA

CONSTITUENCY members from South Bougainville in the Bougainville House of Representatives have come under attack from the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

Minister Kamma had decided to voice out his unhappiness towards the ABG members in his electorate after seeing that many of them had always failed to be in their constituencies when he visits their area.

According to Mr Kamma, these ABG leaders should always be in their constituencies waiting for him so they can brief and inform him about struggles, hardships and troubles faced by people in their area.

He said they themselves know all these problems and should be waiting for him.

Instead, he said this was the opposite because every time he visits their constituencies their members never came to see me.

Mr Kamma said he was always told by the people that their ABG members spent most of their time in Buka.

The only constituency members from South Bougainville who are always present and waiting for Mr Kamma whenever he visits their area are those from the Siwai district.

The above statement was delivered by Mr Kamma on Tuesday when he officially presented a new vehicle, which he bought, to Bana high school.

ABG Minister for Finance Albert Punghau, who was also present during the handover of the vehicle, also supported the call by made by Mr Kamma.

Mr Punghau said the lack of attendance by any ABG member in any constituencies that Mr Kamma visits is a complete breach of protocol procedures.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls to check enrolments

By Tapo Tovilu

With the National General Elections approaching, the people of Bougainville have been asked to check whether they are on the electoral rolls.

The call comes after an experience from by elections in areas of North Bougainville where many people did not have their names on the rolls.

A concerned member of the public is calling on every one who is eligible to vote to enrol them to vote in the upcoming elections.

He has also called for the electoral commission to carry out its planned awareness so that people are informed of election procedures.

This year's elections will also see the inclusion of four members representing North, Central and South to the National Parliament.

New Dawn FM also understands that the people of Konnou will also be for the first time voting in this year's upcoming election.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Power still a problem

By Tapo Tovilu

Power fluctuations in Buka town are still a big concern for many business houses in town.

The continuous low rate of power which occurs nearly every day in Buka town has residents and business houses concerned.

A concerned business man in Buka told New Dawn FM that in the past month he has lost two chest freezers to these continuous fluctuations.

He has called on PNG power to increase their power supply to cater for the increasing power consumers in the Buka Town area.

New Dawn FM's attempts to get comments from PNG power were unsuccessful.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Teachers awaiting clearance

By Tapo Tovilu

Many retired and still serving teachers who received their risk allowances are still awaiting their cheques to be cleared.

Most of them who have been serving in the region during the crisis have been waiting for the clearance of these cheques. One teacher who came in all the way from Buin is still waiting for the clearance to be made.

He has called on relevant authorities to look into the matter and solve the issue so that the teachers can receive their payments.

New Dawn FM understands that the education department along with the health department have the largest number of public servants receiving risk allowances.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Music Industry Develop

By Threse Ericson

The music industry in Bougainville has increase with many young talented musicians who create their own album in the Region.

There were many new digital studios that make it easy for the young musicians to produced their own album and make their own money.

At this moment, many new albums have been released because of the digital studios that make it easier for the young talented musicians of Bougainville who wants to show their tarlent to the others.

According to this new album released New Dawn Fm receives more than two to three new album releases within a week.

New Dawn Fm encourages young talented musicians in Bougainville to write their own songs and produce them in Bougainville style instead of imitating music from other provinces.

[Listen to Bougainville music here !](#)

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

School Boards show frustration

By Tapo Tovilu

Many School Boards have shown frustration at the restrictions put on school board allocated project funds for schools in the region.

Dr Joe Vilosi a board member of Hahela Primary School has come out openly to express his concerns at the restrictions placed on these funds.

He says that many planned projects for schools around the region have come to a halt due to the restriction placed on funds by the education department.

He says that many of the board members have taken up the responsibility to become board members voluntarily giving up their time.

He says this should be realized and these funds for major projects for primary schools should be made available to the boards of schools.

New Dawn FM's attempts to get comments from the Education Department were unsuccessful.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

15million for Kunua High School

By Tapo Tovilu

Development is scheduled to hit the Kunua District after the historic reconciliation between two leaders from the area.

A total for K15million for development in the area and Kunua High School was among projects revealed at the reconciliation ceremony.

The event which was hailed as a landmark for the flow of services into the District has been welcomed by the people of Kunua district.

New Dawn FM understands that more impact projects are expected to be implemented in the years to come to develop the area.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Crashed truck salvaged

By Tapo Tovilu

The nasty accident which happened on the Kukul Hill climb was today salvaged by a joint team from the works department and PNG power.

The truck which lost control as it was descending crashed into a coconut tree and overturned at the sharp bend.

Workers from the works department today confirmed that a trainee mechanic training under their training program was the driver of the truck.

The Trainee who suffered minor injuries has since fled Buka for his home in Siwai South Bougainville.

New Dawn FM understands that investigations are underway into the cause of the accident.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police recapture 6

By Tapo Tovilu

Buka Police have so far recaptured 6 of the 14 escapees who escaped from the Buka Police station last week.

The escapees sang loudly while others cut through the cell bars and escaped in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Police have confirmed that 2 more were captured yesterday bring the new total to 6 escapees being recaptured.

Police have welded the bars back and have removed the guitar which was used to distract the lone duty officer.

Buka Police have also tightened up security at the Buka Police station and have also limited visitors to the Buka police cells.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Public warned of roads

By Tapo Tovilu

The roads in Buka are become dangerous each month as the number of vehicles increase in the main town area.

A concerned member of the public has called for the general public to be cautious when traveling on roads both in and out of Buka town.

His comments comes after a nasty accident over the weekend at the Kukul hill climb where a blue water tanker overturned as it was coming down.

The road's he says are getting dangerous and has called for parents especially to look out for their children.

New Dawn FM understands that no one was killed in the accident with the driver receiving minor injuries.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Leaders pledge to work together

By Tapo Tovilu

Community leaders from the Kunua district have pledged to work together once more to rebuild Kunua District.

The two leaders who shook hands on Friday have now vowed to uphold peace and unity in the district to help the district grow.

John Sisiosi one of the leaders who reconciled says that the district now will implement major projects planned to help the people.

He says many of these have been pending due to the situation in the district but as this has been put behind, the district is looking forward to these developments.

He thanked the people who were vocal in bringing them to reconcile and vowed to keep peace and harmony in the district.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Reconciliation the way forward

By Tapo Tovilu

The reconciliations currently being held around the region have been called as the way for the region to develop peacefully.

Minister for Natural Recourses and member for Yoro Michael Oni says that peace and reconciliations have the potential to help boost development in the region.

He was speaking at the Kunua reconciliations on Friday where he asked for help from the people of Kunua in the possibility of a similar reconciliation process to be held in his area.

The minister praised the two leaders for the humility and humbleness both had in leaving their differences behind and shaking hands.

He also told the people of Kunua District that the crisis had originated from his area and was ready to help in the peace and rebuilding of the region.

The member also revealed that with this significant reconciliation in the Kunua District more will be done to develop the district.

02.05.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Leaders in Kunua reconcile

By Tapo Tovilu

The people of Kunua District on Friday witnessed a major reconciliation between two of their leaders in the area.

The reconciliation which was hailed a bench mark for future reconciliations in the region was held at the Kunua station.

Members from the ABG and leaders from the area with people from all over the district were present to witness the historic occasion.

Minister for education and member for Mahari Constituency John Tabinaman praised the two leaders for the brave move.

He says this now will open the door way for development to start in the Kunua District and all its constituencies.

He says that Kunua District is one of the least developed areas in the region and this reconciliation was a key element in the rebuilding of infrastructure in the area.

He challenged the people to work together and to learn from the two leaders for the District to move forward.

01.05.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

2012 Annual General Meeting **Chairman's address to the shareholders released!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

01.05.2012

Source: The National

Kamma decries ABG reps' absence

MINISTER for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma (pictured) has attacked constituency members from South Bougainville in the Bougainville House of Representatives.



"I am not happy with the ABG members from South Bougainville," he said on Tuesday when he officially presented a new vehicle to Bana High School.

"When I visit their constituencies, they should be the one advising and informing me on the struggles, hardships and troubles faced by people in their area.

"They themselves know all these problems and should be waiting for me so they can inform me.

"I should not be doing a house to house interview with people in their constituencies.

"Instead this is the opposite. Every time I visit their constituencies their members never came to see me.

"Every time, I am told by the people that their ABG members are in Buka. They are always acting as if they were voted in by the people of Buka," Kamma said.

He said the only constituency members from South Bougainville who always waited for him when he visited were from Siwai district.

ABG Minister for Finance Albert Punghau, who was at the handover of the vehicle, supported Kamma's call.

He said the lack of attendance by ABG members in any constituency that Kamma visited "is a complete breach of protocol".

01.05.2012

Source: The National

Minister gives vehicle to Bougainville school

Story by WINTERFORD TOREAS

SOUTH Bougainville MP and Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kamma has given a new vehicle to Bana High School.

Many of school staff and students were speechless when they saw Kamma bring the vehicle to the school last Tuesday.

Students' representative Franzaberth Karau said they were fortunate to be given the vehicle.

"The school administration and the student body of Bana high school are proud recipients," Karau said.

"We have nothing to offer in return but to say thank you that you were able to recognise the struggles and needs of this school and was able to donate this vehicle."

Karau said the vehicle would benefit the school and the community.

Deputy headmaster Daniel Kameketa assured Kamma they would always "use this vehicle for the reasons you gave it to us".

Before officially handing over the vehicle, Kamma challenged the students, teachers and landowners of Bana High School to look after the vehicle.

"I know that there was a great need so I bought this vehicle for you. But my challenge to you all is that nothing is free in this world. Everything costs money," he said.

"I am appealing to you the students, teachers and even the landowners to look after this.

"If you damage it you will not be given any more projects. You students are the future leaders of Bougainville. Your destiny is in your hands.

"If you are lazy, you will be nobody.

"Look after your knowledge and it will change you."

This is the third vehicle to be given to educational institutions in the electorate.

Tonu High School and the Buin Specialised Training Centre received theirs earlier.

01.05.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Malicious U.S. sect to make first steps into the Solomons! Is Bougainville next?

As if there were not yet enough conmen and fraudulent foreigners on the ground in the pacific! Latest news says that the controversial so called "Church of Scientology" aims at poor, but resource-rich countries. The Florida (United States of America) based dubious sect is infamous for its malicious recruitment of new members, merciless brain-washing and insatiable greed for money. Now a team of "ministers of goodwill" made a first step into the Solomon Islands, next door to Bougainville. Are they also targeting to conquer Bougainville or has their vanguard already been there?

01.05.2012

Source: Solomon Times

Scientology Provides Free Seminars

The official launch of the Scientology Volunteer Ministers Goodwill Tour Solomon Islands, signals the launch of a month of free seminars on the 19 subjects of the Scientology Handbook.

Mathew Andrews (pictured), leader of the Scientology Volunteer Ministers Goodwill Tour gave an overview of the 19 topics the group will cover in seminars to those attending the opening of the Tour in Honiara.



Our aims are to pass on the knowledge of Scientology so people can overcome problems that trouble them or those they care about Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) April 27, 2012

At the opening ceremony in April 21 of the Scientology Volunteer Ministers Goodwill Tour in Honiara, capital of Guadalcanal Province, Hon. Ileen Sulukonina, Guadalcanal's Minister for Women, Youth, Children and Sports, welcomed the Volunteer Ministers to the region on behalf of the Guadalcanal Provincial Government. Hon. Sulukonina, who herself attended all 19 seminars when the Goodwill Tour first arrived in the Solomon Islands in Fall 2011, encouraged those present to take advantage of the training.



"The seminars will teach and inform people about the tools in knowing to know yourself and relationships with others in order to survive," she said. "Come with an open heart to learn, as Man's survival will depend on his knowledge about himself, others and his environment."

The Waru Panpipe Band and the Kakona Traditional Group performed traditional songs and dances and guests toured the traditional hut built for the occasion at Town Ground, and Mathew Andrews, leader of the Scientology Volunteer Ministers Goodwill Tour, gave an overview of the program with specific examples to illustrate the 19 topics the group will cover in the seminars- including how to communicate and understand others better; how to improve one's standard of living; solutions to alcohol and drug abuse; how to improve the ability to study and learn; what makes a successful marriage; and how to be an effective leader.

"Our aims are to pass on the knowledge of Scientology so people can overcome problems that trouble them or those they care about," he said.

News 06.2012

29.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Miriori expresses anger at PNGEC

By Fabian Gatana

PRESIDENT of the Mekamui Government of Unity Philip Miriori has accused the PNG Electoral Commission and its officers of being “slack and totally inefficient”.

Mr Miriori was speaking about the way in which preparations on the National Elections were conducted, highlighting three major problems. These were:

nNo prior arrangement was made with the PNGEC to allow those who are living away from their home provinces to vote using the postal voting system;

nA lot of eligible voters were not registered on the updated Electoral Roll; and

nToo many polling teams being sent into any one area.

He said even the ABG President Chief John Momis was not allowed because his name was not registered on the Electoral Roll.

He described it as pure madness and disgraceful, adding that “it must be condemned in the strongest term possible”.

“A lot of people I know are being deprived of their democratic right to cast their votes to choose the leaders they want to represent them in parliament for the next five years,” he said.

“I think this is not only a joke but a total disgrace to all law abiding and good citizens of PNG and Bougainville for being denied their right to vote.”

He said there was a lot of funding from the Government and donors to fund the elections yet things were not being organised and done properly according to the people’s expectations.

He warned PNG Electoral officers to do something about the situation immediately and support the interest of the people to cast their votes while the elections were not yet over.

29.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Call for EC to use 2010 Roll

By PORENI UMAU

AN intending candidate for the Central Bougainville seat has suggested that the Autonomous Region of Bougainville should use the 2010 ABG Electoral Roll for the election.

Joe Taruna made this call after seeing that more than half of the population at Siroronsi village did not vote on Tuesday because they did not have their names in the Electoral Roll.

Mr Taruna said the Electoral Roll for the 2010 ABG election was more accurate because people from the area who voted in 2010 turned up only to find that more than half of the village population were turned away.

An observer on the ground said that an elderly man was shocked to find that his daughters and wife were enrolled in the current Electoral Roll while he missed out, though he voted during the 2010 ABG elections.

The very reliable observer said that the many people had argued that they were ill-informed about the Electoral Roll for this year’s elections, thinking that it was the same as the one which was used for the 2010 ABG elections.

The observer said most of the people affected were people in the villages, citing that those involved in the Electoral Roll enrolment program may have not done their work properly and explained well to the villagers the difference of both Electoral Rolls.

The observer told this reporter that the people may have mistook this election’s Electoral Roll for the 2010 ABG election Electoral Roll and did not bother to enroll, knowing very well that they had already enrolled two years ago.

But it was a different story on Tuesday as many went back frustrated, citing that the 2010 ABG Electoral Roll should be used for this election in the Bougainville area.

28.06.2012

Source: The National

Momis and wife not listed

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis and his wife are among prominent Bougainville citizens whose names are missing from the common roll. This is despite being regular voters in past elections.

Momis said the Bougainville Electoral Commission (BEC), under election manager Reitama Taravaru, should have ensured that all eligible voters had their names on the roll. "It is not good enough to say it was the citizen's responsibility to make sure their names were on the common roll. "It is a perennial problem of the Electoral Commission. Despite having five years to prepare and with financial and technical support from our Commonwealth friends, we still find ourselves faced with missing names on the rolls." He attributed the cause of the missing names to last-minute preparations and lack of quality training. "The EC has failed us and I am disappointed that so much money has been spent by PNG, Australian and New Zealand governments. Yet, we're still faced with such issues."

28.06.2012

Source: The National

Vote for the right leader, says Momis

AS more than 145,000 eligible voters go to the polls in Bougainville this week, Autonomous Region president John Momis is encouraging them to have the moral courage to vote for the right leader. In a statement yesterday, Momis said choosing the right leaders to represent Bougainville in the national parliament was crucial to the region's progress towards the referendum for full autonomy or independence in 2015. "This is the time when the power lies in the hands of every citizen of Papua New Guinea to elect the best MPs that will represent them." Momis said the job of a politician was not to create his own business or use his office to advance his interests but to serve the needs of all people, including those who did not support him. He said elected public office holders were simply public servants and servants of the people. "Elect the best person who holds the interest of the people at heart and will serve you," he said. It is not hard talking about it but put into practice, it is very difficult that is why I urge each voter to really scrutinise each candidate and vote for the person who will serve." "This huge privilege to graduate a person into the political seat rests in your hands. You have equal right, no matter where you are from, whether you are young or old or literate or not, that does not matter, you have the same right to cast your vote and only you have the right to say that out of that number of candidates contesting, we graduate this person, we elect this leader to represent us. This is a great privilege," he said. He said as an independent Autonomous Bougainville Government, the Bougainville House of Representatives was independent from the national parliament and so it was important that the four elected Bougainville members respected and worked with the ABG. "It is true that the winning candidate will be a member of the national government but that does not mean he will have authority over the ABG. The winning candidates must collaborate with the ABG to promote nothing but the best interest of the people of Bougainville." Momis urged that the four members elected must be united in their effort to represent the people of Bougainville in the national parliament. "Bougainville is a special case. We have a timeline to referendum that is three years away. If we do not have a united effort from our four elected members, and with the National Government and the people of Bougainville, things will not work out, people will be angry and we could end up having another very unstable region," warned Momis. Momis wished all voters in Bougainville a safe and free polling.

28.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Polling on in Bougainville

By Fabian Gatana

DAY three into polling in Bougainville yesterday and already a lot of voters are complaining about their names not being registered on the Electoral Roll.

Bougainville Electoral Manager Reitama Taravaru said there had been complaints coming in from all over the region in regards to the matter but there was nothing much he could do since polling had already commenced.

He said there was ample time given to voters to enrol their names to be included and also to check if their names were on the Electoral Roll before the final roll was sent to Port Moresby to be printed.

He also mentioned that polling for the atolls had not yet commenced as the vessel MV Bougainville Atolls which was assigned to carry polling teams to the atolls had not yet arrived. He said payment for the use of the vessel had already been made to the National Maritime Transport Authority by the New Zealand High Commission and the vessel was expected to be in Bougainville on Friday. By then, polling in the atolls would have been five days behind schedule, he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Taravaru said polling for North Bougainville right down to Wakunai District was disrupted on Tuesday due to heavy rains.

28.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Training on traditional therapy on Bougainville

By PETERSON TSERAHA

TRADITIONAL therapy, especially herbs and massage has been used on Bougainville for a long time but only by a minority.

The Bougainville Diocese traditional health project (DTHP) last week hosted a training workshop in Buka to train people, especially youths and interested members of the public the knowledge of traditional health, herbs and messaging.

A professional physiotherapist and Cuban trained John Mark was engaged to run the training which attracted 38 people all from over Bougainville.

DTHP administrator James Kowie said a lot of people came up to get herbs and ask for a massage when they heard about the workshop.

"We had more than 50 patients and we realised that massaging and herbal treatment is a real need on Bougainville and people just don't turn to realise it," Mr Kowie said.

Mr Mark said these treatments were needed badly but people did not realise their value yet.

"It has been vacant for a long time now since our ancestors got introduced to modern drugs and surgery which is now widely used nowadays in the world," Mr Mark said.

"Before we think of surgery or taking drugs, we have to think twice that every part of our body is connected via nerves," he said.

"When you actually take drugs the disease still hangs around you but when you get a massage the disease is gone, because it has been physically removed from the body by the body itself."

A lot of patients including senior public servants and businessmen in Buka town came for help following the workshop.

And participants were grateful to be trained on how to use traditional herbs and massaging.

One participant and experienced massager Peter Hatanu from Nissan Island appealed to the Government, but especially the Health Department to allocate funding into traditional health.

27.06.2012

Source: The National

Police are ready for polling in Bougainville: Tsien

POLICE and the population in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB) are well prepared and ready for the polling which kicked off on Monday, June 25, 2012.

Provincial Police Commander Senior Inspector Cletus Tsien said police had completed the insertion process of police personnel into the various districts of North, Central and South Bougainville. They have travelled by hired transport with polling officials and the necessary polling materials which is being utilised for the event this country had been preparing and looking forward to.

The atolls combined team of five police personnel, electoral and polling officials are awaiting the MV Andreas hired by the Electoral Commission to get the team to oversee a safe and trouble-free elections in the outer islands of Carterets, Mortlocks, Tasman and Fead. Polling on Nissan Island will be manned by 10 police personnel stationed at the various polling locations.

Senior Inspector Tsien says that all in all, 364 police men and women were involved in the 10 to 14 days polling exercise throughout the region. He says the police personnel deployed for the polling exercise in the ARB are tasked with these special duties including:

nSpecifically provide security to presiding officers and ballot boxes;

nTeam commanders which are more or less like a response team of six where two are allocated to each region will be visiting polling booths to see that things progress in an orderly manner in the polling areas;

Those attached with logistics to safeguard ballot boxes, containers and anything to do with logistics; and a Public Safety Unit to work around the clock involving 13 police personnel tasked with providing safety around the police station during the polling.

“All in all, people throughout the ARB have always taken ownership of elections and I am pleased to say that we are not anticipating any trouble but people are all geared up for polling,” Chief Inspector Tsien said, adding that intelligence survey gathered in the last four weeks throughout ARB including the “No Go Zone” areas shows that no troubles were anticipated.

26.06.2012

Source: The National

Polling begins with hiccups on Bougainville

ISSUES such as the absence of serial numbers on ballot papers and changes of polling avenues were some hiccups as polling began in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville yesterday. But provincial election manager Reitama Taravaru said they did not affect polling activities in the three electorates.

Over the weekend, all election materials and allowances were distributed.

The movement of ballot boxes from Port Moresby to each district and wards went smoothly.

He said of the 200 ballot boxes, one was given to each of the 181 polling teams.

Taravaru said another issue was people complaining that their names were not on the electoral ward rolls.

He also said polling officers in North Bougainville discovered ballot papers were without serial numbers. They had to be discarded.

In Central Bougainville, polling took place but not before a sudden change of location at Arawa to the Kupe area.

In South Bougainville, landowners from the Makis constituency, who had outstanding payment issues with the ABG, halted polling.

Taravaru said yesterday they were busy negotiating to allow polling to continue.

Polling is expected in this area tomorrow.

He said polling for the Atolls would be delayed as the chartered ship to transport polling officials and materials was still in Madang.

The vessel was arranged by the Electoral Commission, New Zealand government and the Border Development Authority, which had been provided polling dates for the atolls.

Taravaru said it had affected polling in the area and they would have to re-schedule polling to meet the province's six to eight-day schedule.

26.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Two govts in Bougainville meet

A delegation from the Konnou Peace Committee met with the Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice President Patrick Nisira last week to discuss re-unification of ABG and Mekamui U-Vistract government.

The 20-men delegation which included Mekamui chiefs and ex-combatants, freedom fighters, Mongai Home-Guard, Wilmo and Kerugotomei met with the acting President to discuss the re-unification of the two governments and the importance of Bougainville having only one legitimate government which the chiefs saw as a pillar for sustainable peace not only in the Konnou area but on Bougainville as a whole.

Mr Nisira expressed his gratitude for the initiative taken by the Konnou chiefs, saying he was happy to meet with and discuss re-unification with Mekamui U-Vistract front man Noah Musingku so that there is no hindrance to the referendum come 2015.

He added that this meeting would be only to discuss re-unification and not as an opportunity for Mr Musingku to use to claim that ABG has given formal recognition to his government.

He emphasised that the Bougainville Peace Agreement gave birth to only one government and that is the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Moreover, the Vice President also warned the chiefs from Konnou that certain individuals from Buin were coming into Buka and getting involved in arm hold-ups as well as discharging firearms in and around the Buka Town area.

He told the chiefs to discourage neighbouring constituencies from bringing guns into Buka to conduct illegal activities.

He spoke strongly about the need to maintain Buka Town as an arms-free zone so that Bougainvilleans could move around freely and enjoy peace.

22.06.2012

Source: The National

Bougainvilleans celebrate day

By KEITH PUARIA

PEOPLE from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville living in Port Moresby celebrated their seventh anniversary last Saturday.

The various cultures of the region sparked the celebrations to life at the Bisini softball ground with singing and dancing.

The celebrations began on Friday at the Don Bosco Technical Institute seminar room with presentations from President John Momis and other prominent Bougainville citizens on the referendum and independence.

The Saturday show opened with a mass, flag-raising ceremony and the singing of the anthem. Groups from the North, South, and Central Bougainville then took to the stage. The lighter Bougainvilleans from the Atolls also took part.

The groups included bamboo bands from Haku Lontis, Singing kaur from Kieta, traditional song and dances from the Carteret Islands, Saposia, better known for their bamboo numbers, Mare Teheke from the Mortlock and Tasman Islands, Peit, Selau-Suir, Halia, and special numbers from Bana and Buin.

Other items included contemporary songs and dance from the UPNG BSA and Hagogohe.

The contest for the Mr Bougainville and Ms Bougainville ran all day.

It was eventually won by Tsitalato.

22.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Candidates told to keep distance from musicians

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE musicians are calling on Bougainvillean candidates contesting in the National Elections to immediately refrain from exploiting musicians and bands during their campaign rallies.

Tony Luwong, speaking on behalf of all Bougainville musicians said he was disappointed at the manner in which certain candidates (named) were not genuinely honouring their commitments in paying local bands for their services during campaign outings branding it as an "exploitation of Bougainville's musicians."

"When you make a commitment, honour your commitment," he said.

He said to combat this trend; Bougainville musicians have joined forces to establish the Bougainville Music Federation to look into the affairs of local musicians and also to combat piracy of local music.

He also said voters in Bougainville should be wary of these sort of people who make commitment but don't honour them.

Another prominent Bougainville musician Freddy Maneo said that the music industry contributes a favourable amount to the country's economy through tax collected from record sales but it still lacks recognition and funding from the government.

He said like sports, it helps keep youths away from trouble and provides a form of employment for them while contributing something back to the economy but sports always gets more recognition and funding from the government but does not contribute anything back to the country.

A three-day music fair is currently staged in Buka to help raise funds to establish the music federation. The music fair which began on Wednesday will end today and so far has showcased a lot of Bougainville's old and upcoming artists.

22.06.2012

Source: The National

‘Enough evidence to charge Semoso’ to answer charges in tribunal

By ADRIAN MATHIAS

State prosecutors have told a Leadership Tribunal they have sufficient evidence to commit Bougainville regional MP Fidelis Semoso to answer to charges of misconduct in office.

Public prosecutor Anthony Kupmain submitted there was sufficient evidence at a tribunal hearing at the Waigani Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Kupmain said it was up to the tribunal to hold Semoso accountable for actions.

Defence lawyer Charles Mende warned the tribunal to be careful with the evidence in relation to an allegation of sexual assault and torture against his client, saying it was criminal and serious. He asked the tribunal not to believe evidence given by Hani Hapoot, a house maid of Semoso, who is the alleged sexual assault and torture victim.

In his submissions, Mende said the tribunal should dismiss the allegations against his client. He said the allegation of false pretence had not been drafted properly.

Submissions were made to the tribunal on whether there was enough evidence for Semoso to answer to the charges.

The prosecution is made up of three lawyers, with Anthony Kupmain as the prosecutor, assisted by Ombudsmen Richard Pagen and Tabitha Suwae, the Ombudsmen Commission’s legal services director.

The tribunal will hear submissions next Wednesday.

21.06.2012

Source: The National

ABG police don new uniforms

POLICE in Bougainville displayed their new uniforms during a march to mark the general election operation.

The ceremony at the Buka police station began with the police and correctional services officers marching from the UN office in Buka to the police station.

It was attended by ABG Minister for Police and acting President Patrick Nisira, officers from the ABG administration, and officers from the New Zealand and Australian police forces.

Australia Deputy High Commissioner Margareth Adamson said Australia was committed to supporting PNG including Bougainville in the conduct of the 2012 general election.

She said Australia would send three groups of election observers to be based at Buin in South Bougainville, Arawa in Central Bougainville and Buka in North Bougainville.

She said police played an important role in the upholding of the constitution. And the new-look uniforms is indeed to boost morale among police officers.

Nisira urged police officers to be loyal and serve the Bougainville Police Service with dignity.

His appointment was in response to the recent use of firearms in armed robberies and he would like the police to be armed.

21.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

‘I did not receive money from Namah’

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso has warned critics and political rivals that he will not stand by and watch them tarnish his name and reputation.

Mr Semoso, very angry about the reports that he has received K500,000 from PNG Party and Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, told the Post Courier from Panguna yesterday that he doesn’t need politician’s money to win this election the second time.

“I’ve done all I can for the last five years...na handmark blo mi stap,” what more can I say,” Mr Semoso said interchanging his pidgin and English languages, because he was very angry.

“I don’t need any politician’s money to win this election. I have not received any money from PNG Party or Belden Namah for that matter. I have not received any assistance from PNG Party and I have not received any financial assistance from the National Alliance Party, but I am still going for elections under NA.

“I categorically deny receiving any funds of K500,000 or K5 million pledge to that effect from Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah,” Semoso angrily said.

“For the last five years, I have delivered services and I have touched the hearts of many Bougainvilleans from north to south, south to central and my small assistance and projects to the

women groups, the youths, the schools and people alike speaks for itself.

“Look at the road side markets, the assistance to schools all over Bougainville, other assistance I have given to the mothers of all over the region, they speak for themselves. I have a very popular support everywhere in the region despite the tribunal...my support is even bigger than 2007.

“This is another attempt by my political rivals to tarnish my name so they can win. Let me warn my rivals that I will not stand by and allow them to continue to tarnish my name and reputation with their cheap, utter and rubbish, smear political campaign. This is the same group that has put me through the tribunal but I must say that my people of Bougainville are not stupid. They will now vote for parachute leaders – those that fly in fly out of Port Moresby, come to Buka and back again to Port Moresby.

“But I will not bow down to them, my conscience is clear, all I want is to serve my people, get them through to referendum and have them live normal lives again. We have a lot to do in Bougainville and I want, or I have a big vision for my people of Bougainville,” he said.

Semoso was instrumental in negotiating for negotiations and peace within the rebel hardliners- Moses Pipiro for Panguna Mine and Chris Uma for the Me'ekamui Defence Force eventually getting them out of their hideouts to start talking with leaders of Bougainville.

21.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Referendum delay irks Momis

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis is worried the preparation for Bougainville's referendum is lagging.

Momis addressed hundreds of Bougainvilleans in Port Moresby over the weekend at the Bisini Oval during the 7th Anniversary of ABG Inauguration.

He singled out that over the last six months the national government has not attended or adhered to the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting that they hold every month to discuss the way forward for Bougainville.

“Bougainville's Constitution is home-grown and gives Bougainville the right to assume increasing control over wide range of powers, functions, personnel and the natural and physical resources of Bougainville,” Momis said. In August 2012 this year, the Peace Agreement will be 11 years old.

“A Referendum on Bougainville's future political status is now potentially only three years away (window of timing being 2015 – 2020), so given today's celebrations – it is a good time to have a “stock-take” – where are we at?

“The Peace Agreement and its obligations are between two parties – the Independent State of PNG and the leadership of Bougainville representing the people of Bougainville,” he said.

“As Bougainville tries its best to continue to honour the spirit, intention and commitments of the Peace Agreement – it appears that the other main party is not. Some people are saying that PNG does not understand the Peace Agreement. Some people are saying PNG is not honouring its commitments in the Peace Agreement. Some people are even saying that PNG is in breach of its Peace Agreement commitments’

“As President of Bougainville, I say that I am frustrated and tired that the blame for lack of real progress and standards for Bougainvilleans is falling at the steps of our Parliament and levied at the Bougainville administration.

“In fact, the reality is that barriers are constantly put in the way of the Peace Agreement and autonomy implementation because PNG is not taking its commitments seriously.

“The Bougainville crisis has more or less reduced us to basis humanity; however, the Bougainville Peace Agreement offers us a unique opportunity to rise out of the ashes of the destruction to build an egalitarian society in which the dignity of the human person and the common good of all is promoted and defended.

20.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Inquiry cites fraudulent deal

Poor managements by successive management firms have been alleged to have caused the demise of the two Bougainville flagships resulting in million of kina loss for the Autonomous Government.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Inquiry Report has cited the allegations of fraudulent deals relating to purchases, managements and the operations of the 2 vessels in their years of service. “While the purchase of MV Sankamap 1 was made consistently with all the necessary requirements, MV Sankamap 2 was found to have been purchased under arrangements that bypassed proper processes and involved many oversights. The PAC report said.



The MV Sankamap 1 was purchased for K2.8 million from Singapore to replace the aging MV Atolls (pictured) Enterprise in 1987. The vessel went through five management’s changes in its 15 years of operation. The changes were Coastal Shipping Management in 1990, Atolls Development Foundation (ADF) headed by Taihu Pais in 1994, a Management Committee headed by Kapeatu Puaria from 1995 – 2000 and Mr Aeron Rigamu as the Chairman of the management Team in 2000 – 2003.

Nukumanu Holdings was managing MV Sankamap 1 from 2003 to 2006 until the vessel went to Rabaul and was grounded there following directions from the National Maritime safety Authority (NMSA). “Basically, there was only a letter, an advice in a form of letter to us that we have been given the management role.” Jimmy Biribudo, Acting general Management of Nukumanu Holdings Limited said.

The Inquiry also highlighted commitments of the Taklam Understanding - a deal by the former ABG Minister for Administrative Services, Joseph Watawi to engage Nakikus Konga Consolidated Limited (NKCL) in Rabaul to maintain and operationised the MV Sanakamap 1 by 2007.

The Committee was informed during its site visit to Rabaul in February 2011 that only a partial work had been done on the refitting of the alternators which costed the ABG .K300,000. These costs included NKCLs security costs to stop vandalism on the vessel.

Arnold Pasia, a marine engineer working with Agmark had told the Inquiry that both Mr Watawi and Mr Konga had not been able to provide the funds to complete the work on the vessel.

“We’ve finished the alternators and after that Nakikus never came back at us. We were waiting for the money to come before we can do anything. Mr Nakikus never acted on it (quotation) – he was dealing with ABG and whatever dealings between him and ABG, I have no idea.” said Mr Pasia.

20.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tiensten anti-autonomy

CURRENT sitting Pomio MP Paul Tiensten has slammed the idea of granting autonomy to provinces, especially those that supported parliamentarians from the New Guinea Islands (NGI) region.



Mr Tiensten (pictured) said that the autonomous concept was not a good idea as it was not sustainable and that it would separate the country.

He said that instead of the autonomous provinces, he has proposed creation of economic corridors as proposed by the Peoples United Assembly (PUA) Party, led by Anderson Agiru and himself as the deputy leader.

He said that the proposed concept in forming economic corridors would create six regions which includes East and West Sepik and Enga as one, Madang, Jiwaka and Western Highlands as another, Morobe, Eastern Highlands and Simbu as the third and Milne Bay, Oro and Central as the fourth.

Mr Tiensten said that the fifth economic corridor or region would include Gulf, Western, Hela and Southern Highlands and the sixth to cover the New Guinea Islands region including West and East New Britain, Manus and New Ireland. He said that Bougainville could join the New Guinea Islands corridor if they wish to.

He said that with such idea, there would be sea ports built at one coastal port to service the regions and one international airport for each region.

He said that this concept would be aimed at empowering each province in these regions to at least have a say in the export, harvest and sale of their resources so that they would be able to develop their provinces and their districts.

Mr Tiensten said that this would fall in line with the proposed government system that PUA is also suggesting for PNG to adopt to give maximum benefit to the rural areas and all provinces instead of having everything parked in Waigani.

He said that through this system, 40 per cent of funds would be used in Waigani, 30 per cent at the provinces and 30 percent to go through to the districts, LLGS and ward levels.

He said that through such system, people in the rural areas should have maximum benefits and enjoy their fruits of their resources instead of having an autonomous concept in provinces where there are no economic programs or projects to support provinces that do not have resources at all.

20.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TARAVARU ON ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU has warned candidates not to campaign after the midnight of Friday June 22nd, 2012.

He was speaking on New Dawn FM explaining why polling on Bougainville will commence on Monday 25th June, 2012.



MR. TARAVARU (pictured) said that polling in PNG will commence on 23rd June and this automatically means that all campaigns must cease 24 hours before polling begins.

He said that they had decided to start on Monday 25th June, so that once they start polling there will be no stopping in between until all areas are covered.

MR. TARAVARU says that from experience all areas throughout Bougainville will be covered in the next two weeks.

On the counting, MR. TARAVARU says that counting will immediately begin after the last of the Ballot Boxes are returned to the Controlling storeroom.

He explained that due to shortage of experienced staff, they have decided to do counting of all Electorates on Buka island.

MR. TARAVARU said that South Bougainville Open seat will be counted at the Hutjena United Church Hall whilst Central Bougainville and North Bougainville votes will be counted at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall. Whilst the Central Tally Room will also be at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall.

20.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TAPI ON CELEBRATIONS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Clerk of the Autonomous Bougainville House of Representatives, ROBERT TAPI praised the Community around CHABAI for organizing their own celebrations last Friday to commemorate the ABG DAY.

MR. TAPI said that the future of Bougainville depended solely on individual efforts by communities such as the SOAKAP community around Chabai.

He said their celebration in a clean environment was as clear example of what a community can do if they are united and have one goal.

The ABG Clerk it only needed one community to make a drastic change that can in turn change the whole region of Bougainville.

MR. ROBERT TAPI was the guest speaker at the celebrations in Chabai.

Talking on Referendum, he said a well informed and peaceful community would be in a better position to make a good decision on the future of Bougainville when the time to finally vote arrives in three years time.

20.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MARKET ON THE STREETS

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka Town Council as of last week closed the only main market in Buka town resulting in a lot of market vendors buying and selling under any shade tree they can find in Buka town.

According to reports from the Town Council office, they were not able to remove piles of rubbish from previous markets and that the market would be closed until further notice.



New Dawn FM on Monday saw Town Council workers removing piles of rubbish from the Betel Nut market and also grass cutting at the main market.

And this morning the market vendors displayed their goods at the boat shed just opposite the main Buka town market.

The main market will open for normal business tomorrow

20.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ACP POLICE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Assistant Police Commander for Bougainville, THOMAS ELUH (pictured) yesterday challenged Bougainville Police Personal to serve Bougainville with loyalty.



Speaking at the Bougainville Police Service Uniform launching, MR. ELUH said that Bougainville Police Service is Bougainville's owned Police service that was created following the wishes of the people of Bougainville.

He said as such the Policemen and women must work with the local communities in addressing issues affecting the communities today.

MR. ELUH said that with the improvement of the uniform the workers must put extra effort in their day to day activities.

He said under current changes taking place, Police manpower will also be boosted to meet daily challenges facing the service today.

19.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka locals confiscate police vehicle

Angry relatives of a prisoner who died last year in police custody at Buka made off with a police vehicle belonging to Bana District Police over the weekend.

Late Zacheas Pareirea died towards the end of his jail term on October 17, last year, when he was electrocuted while attempting to install a power pole below high voltage power lines under the directions of the Buka Police Station Commander at that time.



According to sources from PNG Power, the installation was illegal and did not comply with their regulations.

The relatives stated that their efforts to seek justice had been frustrated with the case being deferred time and time again.

According to Leo Pareirea the father of the deceased, only K25,000 had been paid as “bel kol” or compensation and the original demand by the relatives of K250,000 still stands.

“We have a genuine case which clearly indicates that Zacheas died because the police were not doing their job properly and we have taken the vehicle in with the hope that something could be done about our compensation payment,” Raphael Taripire, the uncle of the deceased said.

Wakunai police have given the relatives of the deceased 24 hours to return the vehicle.

Zacheas’ father Leo Pareirea has responded by saying that he had given the police ample time to deal with the compensation demand and he could not see any reason why he was being given 24 hours.

“The vehicle is in safe hands and will be returned when we see the money we have demanded from the government and it is quite unfortunate that we have had to resort to the confiscation of the vehicle because we have wasted time and money going to and from in the effort to settle the matter in an amicable manner”, Mr Pareirea said.

He added that fees amounting to K5000 had been paid to Tamusio Lawyers but nothing had materialised since then.

According to Police, confiscation of the vehicle will likely hold up elections in the Bana District as the vehicle concerned is needed to move personnel, ballot boxes and polling booths to locations where polling will be conducted.

19.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MAKIS NO VOTE

By Aloysius Laukai

Ex-combatant leader in the Makis Constituency in Buin district, South Bougainville, ALBERT TSIBIN says that he will not allow polling booth to be stationed anywhere in Makis during the National Elections which starts on Monday next week.

He told New Dawn FM from Buin that this was because the ABG has not paid outstanding bills from the last Japanese Ambassador's visit to the YAMAMOTO Crash site early this year.

MR. TSIBIN said that persons from Makis wishing to cast their vote should do so in nearby constituencies.

Attempts by New Dawn FM to talk to ABG authorities regarding MR Tsibin's worries were not successful.

19.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA'S DISCIPLINE

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly appointed ABG Minister for Police and Acting ABG President, PATRICK NISIRA today called on the members of the Bougainville Police Service to be loyal and serve the Bougainville Police Service and shift out.

MR. NISIRA made this statement when addressing the Bougainville Police Service personnel at the Buka Police Station this morning.

The Acting Police Minister said that with him as the new Minister for Police he wants to the service upgraded to respond to demands that is challenging the service today.

He said that first task would be to make sure Bougainville Police Service is armed and the rifle becomes part of the Police Uniform again.

The vice President said that his appointment was in responds to the recent use of firearms in armed robberies and there fore he would like Bougainville Police Service to use arms in such situations.

MR. NISIRA also called on the President to increase funding for the Bougainville Police service with the new assigned tasks.

19.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TRANS NATIONAL CRIME UNIT

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service today became a member of the Trans National Crime unit in the Pacific with the donation of computers and other accessories to combat crime mainly between Bougainville and Solomon Island border.

This was revealed by the Australia Federal Police Advisor, STEWART MARLENS when presenting a Car and several new computers to the Bougainville Police Service this morning.

He said that the Pacific Trans National Crime unit which covers all the countries in the Pacific will be signed in Honiara in August this year.

MR. MARLENS said that the aim of the Trans National Crime Unit is to liase with other pacific states on criminal activities occurring within their borders or to address criminals creating problems and escaping to other countries.

18.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BPS LAUNCH NEW UNIFORM

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service this morning launched their new look uniforms to coincide with the official announcement to cover the National Government Elections 2012 at the Buka Police Station.

The ceremony started with the Police and CIS personnel marching from the United Nations Office in Buka to the Buka Police Station.

The ceremony was attended by newly appointed ABG Minister for Police and Acting President, PATRICK NISIRA, officers from the ABG Administration, Officers from the New Zealand and Australian Police.

In her launching remarks, Australia Deputy High Commissioner, MARGARETH ADAMSON, said that Australia was committed to supporting Papua New Guinea and including Bougainville with the conduct of the 2012 General Elections.

She said that the High Commission would be sending three groups of Elections observers to be based in Buin South Bougainville, Arawa in Central Bougainville and Buka in North Bougainville.

The deputy High Commissioner said that Police plays an important role in the upholding of the constitutions and the launch of the new-look caps for Bougainville Police is indeed a morale booster for the Bougainville Police.







18.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SPEECH BY HON. CHIEF JOHN MOMIS

PRESIDENT OF BOUGAINVILLE
 MINISTER FOR INTERGOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
 & AUTONOMY IMPLEMENTATION

Date: 15 June 2012

SPEECH NOTES & KEY MESSAGES



- The Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed on 30 August 2001
- Three pillars of the Peace Agreement are Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal
- Commitments of the Peace Agreement have been incorporated into the 2004 Bougainville Constitution
- Bougainville's Constitution is home-grown and gives Bougainville the right to assume increasing control over a wide range of powers, functions, personnel and the natural and physical resources of Bougainville
- The Autonomous Bougainville Government was formed in 2005 and is a separate and independent political institution from that of the PNG National Government
- The Autonomous Bougainville Government has an Executive Council (e.g. Cabinet) and its Parliament has full legislative

authority to make laws subject to the Constitution

- In August 2012 this year, the Peace Agreement will be 11 years old

- A Referendum on Bougainville's future political status is now potentially only 3 years away (window of timing being 2015 – 2020)
- So given today's celebrations – it is a good time to have a “stock-take” – where are we at?
- The Peace Agreement was a joint and collaborative exercise and the platform to resolve the Bougainville Crisis and to secure lasting peace for all people by peaceful means
- The Peace Agreement and its obligations are between two parties – the Independent State of PNG and the leadership of Bougainville representing the people of Bougainville
- As with any agreement or contract which is legally binding on two parties, each party must perform and deliver on its promises and commitments to give full and proper effect to the agreement
- The Government and Administration of Bougainville continues to strive and do the best it can do for its people
- There have been successes, and like any new system, organization and change there have also been some failures
- Generally, Bougainville is still very dependent on the goodwill and support of foreign aid donors and whilst we are grateful for those contributions over the years, we are realistic that that cannot last forever
- As Bougainville tries its best to continue to honor the spirit, intention and commitments of the Peace Agreement – it appears that the other main party is not
- Some people are saying that PNG does not understand the Peace Agreement
- Some people are saying PNG is not honoring its commitments in the Peace Agreement
- Some people are even saying that PNG is in breach of its Peace Agreement commitments
- As President of Bougainville, I say that I am frustrated and tired that the blame for lack of real progress and standards for Bougainvilleans is falling at the steps of our Parliament and levied at the Bougainville Administration
- In fact, the reality is that barriers are constantly put in the way of the Peace Agreement and autonomy implementation because PNG is not taking its commitments seriously
- Let me just give you a few clear examples that support my view in terms of the Peace Agreement obligations:
 - The administration of Bougainville is entitled to an annual unconditional “restoration and development grant” of K15million to cover its operations, including transferred powers and functions as drawdown occurs – this grant has not been forthcoming
 - Bougainville is entitled to annual “conditional intervention grant of K 100 million” for the next 5 years to be spent on projects jointly approved by the ABG and the National Government. Although the first K100million has been approved in both the 2012 National Budget and the ABG Budget – this has not been forthcoming and now we are over half way through year.
 - There is a Joint Supervisory Body for the Bougainville and National governments for consultation, to deal with autonomy implementation and disputes – in the last 6 months, PNG has either cancelled or not turned up to a meeting
 - Negotiations in relation to Bougainville's share of commercial fisheries resources from its waters have been stalled again; and even then, the potential outcome from these negotiations will not likely reflect a fair and equitable process or distribution
 - Lastly, in February 2011 key Bougainville Divisions signed Memoranda of Understanding with their National Department counterparts for the drawdown of functions and powers from PNG to Bougainville. Now 18 months later, there is only one ABG Division that has advanced the process of drafting a Bougainville law to formalize drawdown. This whole process has been slow and undermined by lack of resources, engagement between parties and commitment to the MOU obligations
- It is my view that these types of barriers continue to undermine the Peace Agreement and undermine the real intention and potential of autonomy for Bougainville
- Let me ask you – how would you feel if you entered into an agreement and the other party was simply ignoring or avoiding the obligations and commitments of that agreement
- I want to take this opportunity to say that the dream and possibility of true autonomy is not only good for Bougainville, but it is good for the nation of Papua New Guinea

- But we cannot do it alone and at the very least Bougainville seriously needs the resources and funding committed through the peace making process to actually realize the goals and give long lasting effect to the peace and security envisaged by an autonomous arrangement
- Lastly, I think it needs to be made clear that “autonomy” is something quite different to “independence”. The best analogy is to say that autonomy is a type of self-determination and self-governing arrangement but still within the umbrella of another nation, in this case PNG.
- The notion of independence speaks for itself and is a subject matter and far more important debate for another day.
- However, what I will say is that I sincerely hope that proactive steps and a concentrated effort can be made by both parties to honor the Peace Agreement as a matter of urgency. This is because I do not want to see our people continue to be disillusioned or become dispirited by the lack of true autonomous arrangements for Bougainville.
- It is of paramount importance that the people of Bougainville experience full autonomy in accordance with the spirit of the Bougainville Peace Agreement so that they would have a real choice when the referendum is held between 2015 and 2020.
- During the period leading up to referendum 2015-2020 the National Government and ABG cannot afford to leave any stone unturned in their joint effort to create capacity for good governance, fiscal self reliance, rule of law, sustainable development, democratization and equitable distribution of power, goods and services.

Concluding Remarks

The Bougainville crisis has more or less reduced us to basic humanity; however, the Bougainville Peace Agreement offers us a unique opportunity to rise out of the ashes of the destruction to build an egalitarian society in which the dignity of the human person and the common good of all is promoted and defended. And so with gratitude and optimism every Bougainvillean must take on the challenge and with great passion collaborate with others to liberate ourselves from all kinds of impediments as we empower ourselves to become active agents of change and development and not mere passive recipients of goods and services. Out of all peoples of Papua New Guinea, we Bougainvilleans have been favoured with the rare and unique opportunity to create a fully autonomous government with the added right to determine our ultimate political status through a referendum whether to be an independent nation or remain an integral part of Papua New Guinea as a fully autonomous region. We have an indispensable role here, so let us not shirk our noble privilege; for if we do the whole “experiment” will fail and we will be the losers, living with the detrimental consequences of our failure.

18.06.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville govt to arm police

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis aims arm the Bougainville police in response to increased criminal activities in the region.

He revealed this during a press conference in Buka last week.

He said because of the increased law and order problem throughout the region, the Autonomous Bougainville Government had no option but to improve the Bougainville police service by arming it.

Momis stressed they would help strengthen the Bougainville police service by giving them the capacity to deal with such issues.

He said those involved in the recent illegal activities would be hunted down and face the law.

He told the people of Bougainville that if nothing was done to stop such actions being carried out by a few, “Bougainville will not have a referendum”.

He called on citizens of Bougainville to condemn such actions as they were damaging their interests.

Momis condemned the recent attacks on businessmen in Bougainville.

He said such actions were damaging Bougainville's path towards autonomy.

He said for Bougainville to create good governance, promote law and order, promote economic recovery, create peace and harmony for all, "these activities must stop immediately".

Momis said Bougainville was eating directly from the national government and would not get anywhere if the trend continued.

"When there is lawlessness the Bougainvilleans are breaking the Bougainville peace agreement, the law and the laws of God.

"If lawless activities continue Bougainville will not achieve its dream of independence."

Under the peace by peaceful means policy, Bougainville police are not allowed to carry guns.

Momis appointed Vice-President Patrick Nisira as the new Police Minister, taking over from former minister, Leo Hannel, who will maintain his Public Service Ministry.

The Deputy Australian High Commissioner will present new service uniforms to the Bougainville Police in Buka this morning.

18.06.2012

Source: The National

ABG Day celebrated in colours

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government Parliament Speaker Andrew Miriki last Friday congratulated the people of South Bougainville for celebrating and commemorating what he called Freedom Day, ABG Day.

Miriki was speaking as the guest of honour to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Autonomous Bougainville government.

He called on those in doubt to support Bougainville's leadership citing seven years of work could be seen today throughout Bougainville.

He described that as a seven-year-old child and that the ABG was now slowly learning the nitty-gritty of life.

Miriki said the ABG Parliament was a financial member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and was benefiting from a twinning agreement between the New South Wales Parliament in Australia and the ABG Parliament.

He explained that this association was only for independent parliaments and Bougainville was privileged to be a member despite its autonomous status.

Miriki said Bougainville had struggled in the past 17 years to come this far and now had only two years to go before the referendum on independence.

He called on the people of South Bougainville to remain united as issues were still on the table for discussions.

Bougainville staged a number of activities to reflect on the past seven years of governance under the autonomous arrangement agreed to between the PNG government and the people of Bougainville to end the 10-year conflict.

Celebrations were held in Lae, Rabaul, Madang and Port Moresby on Saturday.

ABG President John Momis went to Port Moresby to celebrate with Bougainvilleans living there.

Vice-President, Patrick Nisira was with Bougainvilleans on Lihir Island.

18.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Namah made chief in Buka

DEPUTY Prime Minister Belden Namah was made a chief in Buka over the weekend.

Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso received him with high accord together with his Party officials.

Namah is making a second trip to Bougainville this time, to Central and South Bougainville with several leaders including Regional MP Semoso and his other PNG Party entourage.

The welcome reception for Namah into Bougainville was somewhat contradictory to the statement released by Mr Michael Laimo last week, who said that Belden Namah was not welcome in Bougainville.

Mr Namah and his team, had unknowingly arrived on Bougainville soil on Friday, June 15th, to learn that it was the 7th anniversary for the region since gaining autonomy.

It was an emotional time for Mr Namah as he recalled 15 years before, how as a young soldier he had assisted the people during the Sandline Crisis in 1997.

"I'm really touched. It's really an emotional trip for me. The last time I set foot here was in 1996 and after that the crises happened in 1997... I am just very happy to see the people moving around freely and the reception and I feel like crying.

"After serving in Bougainville, I have learnt one thing; that Bougainvilleans are very beautiful people. I want to thank the Member for North Bougainville Mr Fidelis Semoso, Governor Mr Louta Atoi and Acting President Patrick Lisira for welcoming me", Mr Namah said.

He added that previous successive governments neglected funding to Bougainville and that the O'Neill-Namah government was the first since the peace treaty to have allocated a budget of K100m. Mr Namah said he was happy that the Prime Minister Mr Peter O'Neill had listened to the cries of the people of Bougainville, particularly the President, Governor and the three members. The entourage were then led to the Bel Isi oval where Mr Namah continued to express his love for the people of Bougainville and challenged them to vote for the Bougainville Regional seat candidate Mr Lohial Nuau and also endorsed Regional member Fidelis Semoso as a Pro PNG Party candidate.

At the Hagogohe sports oval, the Acting President Patrick Lisira, on behalf of the President Father John Momis, said he was happy to have the Deputy Prime Minister as a special guest during their 7th anniversary celebrations.

"Mi givim bikpela luksave na welkam long Deputi Praim Minista na Jamie Maxtone-Graham, na long ol skul insait long Buka district na long olgeta Bougainvilleans(I want to extend a big welcome to Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Jamie Maxtone-Graham and to the participating schools in Buka district and to all Bougainvilleans", Mr Lisira said.

Mr Lisira told the people that the reason for celebrating the anniversary is because a lot had happened for the region, especially in the delivery of basic social services such as schools, health services and infrastructure.

He also said the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government (ABG) were able to maintain peace for the last seven years which was a big achievement for them.

Mr Lisira thanked the Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the President and the people for what he did in 1997 during the Sand line Crises.

The highlight of the visit was when a chief from one of the four clans, the Nawen clan, presented two live pigs to Mr Namah and also presented him with a traditionally woven necklace to officially initiate the Deputy Prime Minister as a Chief with a new name, Belden Harin Namah, Harin meaning 'warrior'.

Mr Namah then presented the people with K270, 000 cash. Two hundred thousand kina to the organisers of the welcome reception at the airport, K50, 000 to the participating schools and groups at the Hagogohe community, K10, 000 to the church and K10, 000 to the Bougainville Boxing club in preparation for the Pacific Games.

18.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Workshops on functions of govt

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Division of Autonomy Implementation and Monitoring of the Autonomous Bougainville Government has been busy running awareness workshops on the drawdown of powers and functions from the National Government.

It was firstly held at Bana District, then at Buin and Siwai in South Bougainville. The Siwai awareness workshop was held from May 14 - 15 at Panakei whilst the Buin workshop was on the 17- 18 and 18th at the Buin Secondary School Assembly hall.

The awareness was jointly initiated by the Division of Autonomy implementation and Buin and Siwai districts administration.

According to the initial report, compiled by Senior Programme officer Kotrifa Nanopa and obtained by the Post-Courier, the workshops were organised for several important reasons and they included:

To follow up on the main awareness workshop on the drawdown of powers and function held in June 2011 in Arawa and assist where necessary to improve the two districts awareness programmes

To establish an improved and effective administration link between headquarters and district administration COE and VA leadership within respective districts.

15.06.2012

Source: The National

Semoso allowed time to campaign

A TRIBUNAL hearing allegations of misconduct in office against Bougainville regional MP Fidelis Semoso has allowed him time to campaign for his seat.

Head of the tribunal Justice Salatiel Lenalia yesterday ordered that Semoso should go and concentrate on his campaigning instead of attending the tribunal.

“Leader is excused from attending his tribunal starting next Wednesday,” Lenalia said.

Semoso told the tribunal yesterday that it had not been an easy task for him as a leader of a region just recovering from a crisis to secure funds and implement infrastructure development projects.

Semoso faces 14 allegations of misconduct in office under the leadership code.

Of the 14, questions were based on allegations 1, 2 and 3 relating to the misapplication of K2.7 million from the South Bougainville feeder road project funds of the total K4.1 million.

The allegations relate to winning a contract under false pretence and failure to disclose interest.

He admitted he had interest in the company Bougainville Constructions Ltd, which he was a shareholder of.

Another company where he admitted having an interest was Solana Kori Ltd.

engaged in the cocoa and copra planting project on Bougainville. His wife Lina Semoso is one of the directors.

Lina Semoso also answered questions regarding allegations of sexual assault and torture and the use of K470, 000 allocated to Solana Kori Ltd.

Allegation 10 relates to alleged sexual assault and torture of Therese Marie Hani Hapoot, his baby-sitter and house maid.

Semoso told the tribunal that the evidence of the baby-sitter and house maid was false, baseless and defamatory.

He told the tribunal that he had been married for 22 years and had four children. And it was unbecoming for a person like him to do that.

“It’s another outrageous lie,” he said.

“I do not believe that those allegations were leveled against me. I performed to secure funds and deliver basic services to my people. I do not see any of these allegations as misconduct in office by me.”

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SPEAKER HAPPY

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Autonomous Bougainville Government Parliament Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI today congratulated the people of South Bougainville for celebrating and commemorating what he called Freedom Day in Buin this afternoon.

MR. MIRIKI was speaking as the Guest of Honour at today's celebrations to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

He called on those in doubt to support Bougainville's leadership citing seven years of work can be seeing today on Bougainville.

The Speaker described that as a seven year old child, the ABG was now slowly learning the Nitty-gritty's of life.

MR. MIRIKI cited one example in that the ABG Parliament was a financial member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Associations and was benefiting from a twinning Agreement between the New South Wales Parliament in Australia.

He explained that this association was only for independent Parliaments and Bougainville was privileged to be a member despite its Autonomous status.

MR. MIRIKI said Bougainville struggled in the last seventeen years to come this far and has only two years to referendum.

He called on the people of South Bougainville to remain united as Independent was a South Bougainville agenda and should remain focused.

15.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

1400 tested for HIV

By Joseph Morokana

More than 1400 people in the four constituencies on Buka Island have been tested for HIV/AIDS during a three week Voluntary Counselling & Testing (VCT) Outreach Program.

The VCT Outreach Program worth more than K100,000 and was facilitated by the Autonomous Bougainville AIDS Committee (ABAC) in more than 20 villages of Hagogohe, Peit Tonsu and Tsenalato Constituencies.

ABAC co-ordinator Ray Himata speaking during the closing of the VCT Outreach Program at Sohano Island on Wednesday commended the VCT Counsellors for their untiring efforts and commitments to take part in the HIV Testings.

"I commend you so much for your understanding, courage and firm commitment – having to endure three weeks of the VCT Outreach Program, having been away from your families," Himata said. He said details on the findings of the VCT would not be disclosed due to legal reasons until after been endorsed by the Autonomous Bougainville Monitoring and Surveillance Team (ABMEST).

Mr Himata said it was fortunate the VCT Outreach Program was initiated since it gave them an idea of where the progress of the rate of the HIV Infections is and also have highlighted priority areas where more focus would be in future.

"Areas where there was a good community turnout for VCT was due to the high level of literacy and knowledge the people have about HIV/AIDS – while areas where there was lack of awareness, the response by community was poor.

The co-ordinator said ABAC has vowed to fight HIV/AIDS in the region and needed a collective effort in which all the networking partners must set out long term plans in improving infrastructure developments and addressing key issues in gender inequalities in ARB.

ABAC HIV/AIDS Statistics for 2012 have shown that four new AIDS cases have confirmed so far this year. Since 2009-2012, North Bougainville has been steady in the number of AIDS cases. In

2009 North Bougainville accounted for 50 per cent of all AIDS cases, South Bougainville 30 per cent and Central Bougainville 20 per cent.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE CELEBRATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville today stood still to reflect at the last seven years of governance under the Autonomous arrangement agreed upon between the Papua New Guinea government and the people of Bougainville to end the Ten year conflict that reduced the entire economy and livelihood of the people.

Today's celebrations was different from previous celebrations in that all activities have been held in individual districts.

Celebrations for Buka district was held at HOKO in HaGogohe whilst for Selau Suir was held at Tsunpetz.

There was another big celebration held at the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre in Chabai, whilst others were held in Arawa, Buin, Siwai and other districts.

New Dawn FM managed to cover the activities in Buin, Tsunpetz and Chabai whilst it is monitoring celebrations in Centres like Port Moresby and Lae.

These celebrations would be held tomorrow.

The activities from Buin, South Bougainville was broadcasted live by New Dawn FM on Buka island.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WELL WISHERS

By Aloysius Laukai

People from all over the world sent their greetings to the people of Bougainville for commemorating the Autonomous Bougainville Day today.

From all the messages received by New Dawn FM on its website there was one outstanding one from Germany.

A Bernhard Winter from Germany said that twelve years ago he was the host to President Momis in Markt Schwaben when he visited Germany.

He congratulated the people of Bougainville for now seven years of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

MR. WINTER also wishes the very best for the future.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS SPLIT

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Bougainville leaders separated today to be with Bougainvilleans celebrating ABG day throughout Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

The ABG House of Representative Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI announced this during his address to the people of Buin, South Bougainville.

He said whilst he was in Buin, the ABG President chief John Momis is in Port Moresby to be with Bougainvilleans in Port Moresby whilst the Vice President is LIHIR with the Bougainvilleans there. Others leaders are also in Lae and other centres to be with Bougainvilleans out there.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Wishes

The Management and staff of NEW DAWN FM wish Happy Seventh Annivesarry to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the people of Bougainville.Happy celebrations.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sohano Primary to fundraise

By Tapo Tovilu

The Sohano Primary School one of the oldest schools in the region will be having a cultural show on the 21st of June.

The show will comprise of a number of activities with its main attraction being its fashion parade to be held later in the day.

Teachers have appealed to the public, relatives of students and former students to come along and help support the school.

The cultural show will be held at the school grounds on Sohano Island.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG day to be commemorated

By Tapo Tovilu

Tomorrow will mark Seven years since the inception of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The people of Bougainville will commemorate the day throughout the region with various activities and programs.

Tomorrow will also be a public holyday giving time for family and friends to get together to commemorate the day.

It was on this day in 2005 when Bougainville gained its Autonomy and started its long road to referendum and independence.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Beldam Nahma in Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

Deputy Prime Minister and controversial leader Beldam Nahma arrived this afternoon at the Buka airport.

He will be here for two days to visit Bougainville and his members contesting for the three national seats in this year National elections.



This trip however has caused a lot of controversy and his coming to Bougainville has also being questioned.

Also in yesterday's Post Courier Michael Limo lashed out at the Deputy Prime minister for his intentions of coming to Bougainville adding that he was not welcomed.

This also has caused a lot of controversy in his inclusion in the Bougainville crisis as many say that he has not yet reconciled with Bougainville.

The deputy prime minister will be in Bougainville for two days and will depart Bougainville on Saturday.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Change encouraged

By Tapo Tovilu

Members have been challenged to change the way they view the road towards referendum for Bougainville.

President Momis this morning told members of the ABG that time is a luxury they have and they need to work towards meeting the deadline of 2015.

Also in a press conference yesterday Momis told the people of Bougainville that if they did not respect the rule of law in the region this would also become a setback.

President Momis says that now is the time for us to really show that Bougainville can become what we have talked about.

He also encouraged voters in this year's elections to vote good credible leaders for Bougainville to move forward.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

President Challenge's candidates

By Tapo Tovilu

The president of Bougainville in his ABG day commemoration speech called on all Bougainvilleans to choose good credible leaders this election.

He called for the people of Bougainville to put their vote on members who will be crucial in fighting for Bougainvilleans in the national parliament.

He says currently the National Government has breached the constitution by not passing down all the powers to the ABG.

For this reason he says that this election is crucial for us to fight back for all powers to be passed down to the ABG.

President Momis also says that there are many other issues which are yet to be discussed and fought for in the National parliament and good confident leaders must be chosen.

He says that Bougainville will have to meet certain standards before it reaches referendum and needs to have good leaders to achieve its goals.

The president will be attending the ABG day celebrations in Port Moresby.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PRESIDENT CONDEMNS ATTACKS

BY TAPO TOVILU

President Momis today condemned the recent attacks on the innocent businessmen in Bougainville.

He told the people of Bougainville that the actions were damaging our path towards autonomy.

He says that for Bougainville to create good governance, promote law and order and create peace and harmony for all, this must stop immediately.

He added that it will make it difficult for us to be physically self-reliant where the government will create money and in turn deliver services.

Now Bougainville he added is eating directly from the National Government and is not going to get anywhere.

Momis says that when there is lawlessness the citizens of Bougainville are breaking the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the Law and the laws of god.

He warned that if these kinds of lawless activities continue Bougainville will not achieve its dream of independence.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police to be beefed up

By Tapo Tovilu

With the recent law and order problems on the rise in all regions of Bougainville the ABG will now be strengthening the Bougainville Police Service.

This was revealed this afternoon at a press conference by the ABG president John Momis.

He says that because of the increased law and order destabilization in the region, they will help improve the Bougainville Police Service.

Momis says that they will help strengthen the Bougainville Police Service giving them the capacity to deal with such issues.

Those he says who are involved in the recent lawless activities will be hunted down and will face the full brunt of the law.

He urged the people of Bougainville that if nothing is done to stop these actions being carried out by a few, Bougainville will not have referendum.

He called on all the citizens of Bougainville to condemn such actions as these actions were damaging the interests of the people of Bougainville.

15.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

More money needed for health care

By Tapo Tovilu

More money must be allocated for healthcare assistance for special case patients who need medical care.

This was revealed during last week's parliamentary sitting during the question without notice sessions.

Minister for Finance Albert Punghau revealed that this was not the case before but due to the crisis the government stepped in to help pay for medical expenses for those who were in need but couldn't afford it.

He says that as members they should take it on as a burden to help our people and also share their mandated responsibility.

He also called on the ABG to continue with its continual support for its people in terms of their health and life style.

He added that more money should be allocated for the program to continue in next year's budget to assist the people of Bougainville.

14.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

No liquor ban on Bougainville

NO liquor ban will be imposed for Bougainville during the election period.

However, the Bougainville Police have issued a stern warning to Bougainvilleans who consume alcohol to act responsibly and to refrain from consuming alcohol in public places.

Buka Police Station Commander Sergeant Emmart Tsimes, when issuing the warning, also added that betelnut vendors would also not be allowed to overnight at the seaside betelnut market, the reason being that the market place was being used for the illegal sale of home-brew and marijuana and is also being used for gambling and prostitution.

Meanwhile, Mr Tsimes has cautioned the general public on the circulation of fake K100 notes. He said police became aware of the fake K100 notes after some bottleshop owners fell victim. Investigations on the matter are continuing.

He has appealed to anyone who may have information on the person or persons responsible for the production of these fake notes to contact Buka Police on 973 9733.

14.06.2012

Source: The National

Laimo: Namah not welcomed in Bougainville

By LLANE MUNAU and ZACHERY PER

DEPUTY Prime Minister Belden Namah (pictured on the left) and leader of the PNG Party will not be welcomed on Bougainville soil this week.

Senior statesman and former South Bougainville member of parliament Michael Laimo said Namah must think twice before setting foot on Bougainville.

He said Namah has not reconciled yet with those he abused and their relatives, while he was serving with the PNG Defence Force in Loloho, Central Bougainville during the Bougainville crisis.

Laimo, a former minister for education, said Namah's PNG Party had no support in Central and South Bougainville.

"Namah has to really think twice before stepping on Bougainville soil.



“There are many victims of abuse and relatives of those abused by Namah, while he was serving with the PNGDF and was based in Loloho,” Laimo (pictured on the right) said.

Laimo who is currently a candidate for South Bougainville, running under the National Alliance Party flag, has challenged Namah to reconcile first with the Bougainvillians he had left scarred during the crisis.

He said Namah must do that before he could continue with his campaigning or setting foot on Bougainville.

Namah is due to fly to Bougainville tomorrow to launch his PNG Party and candidates on Bougainville.

14.06.2012

Source: The National

Resource campaign is lazy talk

CANDIDATES in resource-rich electorates around the country are having a field day.

They will do everything in their power. They are telling potential voters to ensure resource owners have a greater say and get a greater share of the benefits of resource developments.

They are painting the resource developers as selfish multi-nationals hell-bent on exploitation and profits with hardly a care for the welfare of ordinary Papua New Guineans and, particularly, resource owners.

This is, of course, a cowardly gambit since most resource companies have no recourse. They have no right of reply and would never raise a voice in protest anyway or they would be accused of participating in politics.

These kinds of talk make us recall the 1987 elections on the island of Bougainville. Then regional MP John Momis ran a hard anti-Bougainville Copper Ltd campaign, calling the company the “BCL pig” that needed slaughtering.

There was a mass slaughter later that year and of more than just the BCL pig. The insurrection that erupted on the island led to tens of thousands dead and the total neglect of entire generations of a people for 15 years. The pain is still being felt as Momis takes the helm of the Autonomous region’s government as its president.

Momis did not instigate what transpired with his campaign hard talk - there was already sufficient angst building up on the ground when the BCL agreement review did not come up in 1981 and again in 1987 – but the timing of his campaign talk was most unfortunate indeed.

The same is true today as well.

It is all very well to today talk about changing the law to transfer mineral and petroleum ownership back to the landowners. But has somebody sat down to really have a look at what it will mean for the future of PNG?

Are landowners the best candidates for wealth generation and, especially, for wealth distribution nationally?

Just how many billions have gone into landowning groups in the major resource areas of the country? We talk about Bougainville, Kutubu, Lihir, Porgera, Hidden Valley, Misima, Kainantu, Hides, Moran, Gobe and the list goes on.

The thundering rejoinder to the above sentence will be that what the landowners have received is a pittance compared to the billions that have been siphoned off overseas by the companies.

True, but there is hardly any evidence on the ground of the little that has been given to the resource owners, the provincial government and that which has been poured into government coffers through equity, dividend and taxation payments.

At all levels, our people have spent all the benefits with a single-mindedness bordering on insanity without a thought for future generations.

It would be an excellent exercise to find out just how much has been paid to resource owners over the years and see where all this money has gone.

The issue then should not be one of transferring ownership or wealth but of how to manage what we do have at all levels. This is to ensure the benefits are spread from this generation to the next and from one community to the next.

If we do not manage K1 now, there is no guarantee that we will manage K100 or K1 billion in future.

If one community has no thought for its own sons and daughters in future, how can they be made to change their mindset overnight to think about the welfare of the neighbouring community which does not own any resource, much less for that community's future generations?

Resource benefits' distribution is an important topic but the present talk is lazy talk by those who see passage of laws as a solution to a rather complex problem. It is not.

Resource benefits sharing must definitely be on the agenda for the next government. But it ought to be one of how much more resource owners and governments can get under the present fiscal regime.

There are many ways that can be done – equity participation, through taxation, through agreement reviews.

It is the benefits distribution and management of it that has fallen by the wayside. It must be known by one and all that resources are owned 100% by Papua New Guineans including resource owners through their government, the state.

If the government wanted, there is nothing stopping it under present arrangements, to own 90% or 100% of the mine or oil well, raise the money to fund the development of the resource and outsource management to a competent developer.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BAD FOR INVESTMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS said that Law and Order in the region will be strengthened and criminals would face the full force of the law once this happens.

He made these remarks when appealing to Bougainvilleans to stop harassing investors who are trying to raise the revenue of Bougainville.

Chief Momis made these remarks after the staff of Bougainville Import and Export Group were held at gun point by some criminals and all their cash taken on Wednesday night.

Mr. Momis said that this was a bad image for the region, whilst the ABG was trying to lure the investors into the region Bougainvilleans youths were doing the complete opposite.

The ABG President was responding to questions without notice in ABG Parliament this morning.

The Ex combatants member for South Bougainville, MICHAEL LAITA who wanted to know if the story of the theft was true and what the ABG would do to catch the criminals.

ABG President said that the Bougainville Police were already investigating the incident.

The ABG parliament rose this afternoon and would meet again in September.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Research team in Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

An election research team from the University of Goroka is in the region to observe the remaining activities of Polling and counting.

The team arrived on Saturday and will be in the region for six weeks until the return of writs at the end of the elections in Bougainville.

Team leader John Kepajia says that they will be mainly researching the issues which are affecting elections on a wider perspective.

He says that they will be based in the three regions to observe and assess how elections especially polling and counting are conducted.

They have asked the people of Bougainville for their cooperation as the report compiled will be given back to help improve the election process in the region.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Elections near polling

By Tapo Tovilu

As the date for polling just a few weeks away the level of law and order in Buka Town has increased with police appealing for law and order.

This follows incidents over the long weekend where criminals attempted to break into Norak Holdings in Buka town.

Apart from this police have hit hot spots in Buka town where crime has been at its peak.

Leaders in Buka are calling for control as the election polling dates draw near and as officials prepare for the rest of the elections remaining activities.

Buka police have also called on the general public to cut down on drinking in public areas as police will be tougher on offenders.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Soccer tournament into finals

By Tapo Tovilu

The Saposa inter village soccer tournament to strengthen youths in sports is in its finals.

The 3 week tournament held at Saposa a total of 9 teams from neighbouring islands took part in the Tournament.

This weekend will see the finals where four teams will battle it out for the Island trophy which in recent tournaments has been held by Hahon.

The organizers say that the tournament was set up to help youths leave the damaging trend of homebrew consumption by youths in the communities of Saposa.

They also called on other areas in Bougainville to help their youths get out of bad practises as the region will need a healthy productive human resource.

14.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls to rid use of guns

By Tapo Tovilu

A senior public servant in Buka Town has condemned Saturdays break and enters at the Norak Holdings building.

He also called for the people still in possession of fire arms to get rid of them as it was bringing back memories of the crisis.

He said it sounded like there were a lot of gun fire during the break in and also after all the tension had subsided.

He also questioned the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the weapons disposal program in the region.

He called on the ABG to look at providing subsequent solutions to the issue of guns still in the hands of communities throughout the region.

Meanwhile police have called for the perpetrators to come forward and surrender their firearms as this was a threat to the general public.

13.06.2012

Source: COPPER Investing News

Faith in China Remains in Hearts of Copper Bulls

Wednesday June 13, 2012, 4:15am PDT

By Shihoko Goto (picture) - Exclusive to Copper Investing News



Copper investors are firmly focused on China, rather than Europe, for clues on the red metal's long-term outlook, but in the near term Europe's woes continue to bear down on market appetite. The question now is as much about whether Chinese growth can offset declines elsewhere, and what Beijing can and will do to ensure steady growth, as it is about the impact of the Eurozone's financial crisis on international markets.

Amid all the uncertainty, one fact remains true: China is still the world's largest consumer of copper, accounting for over 40 percent of the market, and its position is unlikely to change. In fact, the second-largest importer of copper is Japan, followed by India and South Korea, with Germany coming in at fifth place, according to the International Copper Study Group. That hierarchy, along with expectations that the Eurozone's debt crisis will have a less significant impact on global copper demand than the Chinese economy, has led many analysts to downplay the ongoing turmoil in European markets. Clearly, the drivers of the copper market are, and will remain, emerging markets rather than the United States or Europe.

Chinese authorities have certainly demonstrated that they are prepared to take concrete steps to ensure growth, moving forward with a quarter percentage point cut in key rates last week. The first rate cut since 2008 was welcomed by investors. The fact that Chinese exports soared 15.3 percent in May from the same period a year ago, compared to a 4.9 percent increase in April, highlights the country's resilience in the face of a global economic downturn. With further monetary easing expected from Beijing in the coming months, investors see China leading the way in bolstering demand for copper and other base metals.

So while Goldman Sachs and other investment banks lowered their three-month price targets for base metals this week, the outlook is bullish in the longer term as demand for industrial materials is expected to rise. For now, Goldman has reduced its price target for copper to \$8,000 per metric ton from \$9,000 a ton, while Societe Generale has dropped its copper outlook to \$8,000 per metric ton from \$8,220 as anxiety about the spillover effect of the Eurozone's struggles persist.

"The precarious situation in Europe and scope for instability to spread wider afield, together with slowing growth in the U.S. and China, all add up to form a significant headwind to the copper market," said Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar.

Yet Goldman expects the copper market to be balanced later this year as supply tightens, stating that "given continuing disappointments in the supply growth of oil and some of the key base metals, this moderate pace of world economic growth is sufficient to tighten markets during the second half of this year, creating the need for higher prices to balance supply and demand."

That sentiment was echoed by Jeffery Born, a finance professor at Northeastern University's College of Business Administration in Boston, who argued that "it is important to note that copper inventories have fallen dramatically, particularly in London, in the past year. Thus, when economic growth prospects do improve and firms start increasing orders we should expect copper prices to rebound sharply and quickly. So today's gloom is setting the stage for a real profit opportunity – perhaps as early as the fall."

Others, however, are less enthused about the impact of the latest Chinese rate cut and further potential easing.

“The commodities market is most related to construction while the largest construction projects are mostly completed by now in China. The rate cut will help consumption – GM posted strong sales in China in May – but the demand of commodities in China will continue to soften as the economy moves into a new phase of development,” said Linghui Tang, associate professor at the College of New Jersey’s School of Business. She added that “China has invested a tremendous amount of capital in infrastructure in the past 10 to 15 years. As stated in its 13th five-year plan (2011-2016), the main focus now is to increase the quality of life. The main use of copper is in electricity grids. This part of infrastructure has been completely updated in China and its future demand is likely to be weak. Therefore, the rate cut will not lead to a significant increase in demand of copper.”

Tang’s colleague at the College of New Jersey, Susan Hume, cautioned that in the past low interest rates have produced asset bubbles, and said copper prices are likely to remain weak regardless of Chinese action, a trend that “can be seen in commodity-driven countries such as Australia, which have weaker currencies due to reliance on copper.”

At a time when major mining groups including Rio Tinto (ASX:RIO,NYSE:RIO,LSE:RIO) and BHP Billiton (ASX:BHP,NYSE:BHP,LSE:BLT) are looking to cut back on investing in copper mega-projects, the question remains as to whether miners that are holding back from developing new sites are being overly cautious or making sound investment judgments.

Securities Disclosure: I, Shihoko Goto, hold no direct investment interest in any company mentioned in this article.

13.06.2012

Source: Scoop World

Mining Activities To Begin On Bougainville

Wednesday, 13 June 2012, 12:40 pm

Press Release: Pacific Media Watch

Mining Activities To Begin On Bougainville

By Peterson Tseraha

BUKA (PNG Post-Courier / Pacific Media Watch): The Autonomous Bougainville Government has made history by moving a motion on the most sensitive issue on Bougainville mining exploration.

The motion is a positive step since its instalment in 2005 as a young government.

On Thursday, before a packed House of Representatives in Buka, Melchior Dare, Member for Eivo Torau Constituency and chairman of Central Bougainville Parliamentary Committee, presented a motion from the floor to introduce a Bougainville mining policy to start exploration on Bougainville - "a right that every Bougainvillean has been waiting for and have fought the Bougainville crisis for".

The motion calls on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to:

* Create a Bougainville mining oil and gas policy that should protect the interests of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, landowner rights and investors;

* Grant the local resource owners' company a licence to do mineral, oil and gas exploration on its own land, and;

* Consider the draft mining oil and gas policy during 2012.

In a rousing 45-minute presentation to the House, Dare explained that under section 4(b) of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, "autonomy" is intended to enable Bougainville to determine its own solutions to its own problems and needs and now was the time to act to resume mining exploration on the island.

He told the House that while the move to resume exploration on Bougainville was a grassroots movement driven by the resource owners themselves, the government had a duty to fulfill its function as the regulator of mining on Bougainville.

He stated that the ownership of mineral resources is usually claimed by the State or the Crown, and in the case of Bougainville the customary traditional landowners own the minerals which is protected by section 23 of the Bougainville constitution and recognised by Article 26 of the United Nations Convention.

13.06.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

David Martin: entrepreneur, newsman or jumping jack?

by AXEL G. STURM

EUROPEAN SHAREHOLDERS OF BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

THIS VIDEO WAS POSTED on YouTube by a Dr David Martin, the CEO of a minor financial service provider called M-CAM, based in Charlottesville, Virginia in the United States of America. Over the last a couple of months, Martin has been in Bougainville organising so-called landowner awareness meetings.

Everywhere Martin appears he refers to his academic "Dr" degree to impress locals. Usually Americans don't usually do this unless they suffer from inferiority complexes.

Martin has neither a stake in Panguna nor is he, as far as we know, a Bougainville Copper (BCL) shareholder. Without any insider knowledge he presents himself as the landowners' saviour.

His experience is influenced and supported by jobless former Me'ekamui rebels who pose with guns, and some few other people.

His latest "coup" has been to publish the video on YouTube. Like a jumping jack he runs around on the road to the Panguna mine site and accuses BCL and its shareholders "of being ignorant and not respectful to the people's voice".

It is obvious that Martin has never heard of BCL's and the ESBC's hard work to reconcile with all parties concerned.

He also is not aware of the widespread jealousy in Bougainville and has not read about money that has been embezzled by PNG officials in the past.

On the ground, Martin is accompanied by Lawrence Daveona, who was on ESBC's payroll for many years.

Just recently, Daveona was ousted as landowner secretary and spokesperson, allegedly because of disrespectful behaviour. Daveona is also known for pursuing his own agenda, which has had the effect of undermining the work of his fellow landowners. Sad, but true.

Nobody really knows Dr Martin's real intentions. There is some feeling he might be connected with interested American investors.

Just before the Bougainville crisis started, the US Pritzker Group had shown interest in taking over BCL.

It can be assumed that Martin does not work just for nothing. So who is behind all this? Who funds all his travel to PNG? Who pays for his activities on the ground?

Is Dr Martin a lucky charm or is he one those folks on Bougainville who appear and disappear from time to time?

One thing is unlikely, that David Martin is the Panguna landowners' Mother Theresa.

13.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tukihing goes for SLIP

TUKIHING Primary School on the West Coast of Buka recently introduced its School Learning and Improvement Plan (SLIP).

The school's head teacher Mr Dickson Pelpeli said that the launching coincided with World Environment Day.

The day started with a tree planting activity and later the SLIP launching which saw students in traditionally attire representing major clan groups in the area being escorted by a singsing kaur or kohi (panpipes) from Tung village to present the SLIP documents to officers from the Department of Education who had come on behalf of the Education CEO Bruno Babato.

In 2012 the five focus areas mentioned in the plan include; curriculum students development plan, staff development, management and administration, infrastructure development and school governance and community relationship.

The school plans to get new library books and other curriculum materials, provide more in service training to teachers, to build a new library building and hold regular Parents and Citizens meetings to review the SLIP outcomes.

Mr Pelpeli stressed that his intentions in launching the SLIP for Tukihing Primary School was because he wanted to create an environment conducive to improving child learning and academic excellence.

He called upon the parents and citizens to take ownership of the SLIP in ensuring that it is implemented.

"Education is a shared responsibility whereby all stake holders, the Education Department, parents, citizens, teachers and students all have a part to play in bringing about tangible change in improving the education of children," Mr. Pelpeli stated.

The school was established in 1962 by the Methodist Church (now United Church) to serve the communities of Tung and Poka along Buka Island's sheltered west coast.

The school is supported by the local population with some assistance from the government, non government organisations and church. The level four school's enrolment is not very high but has been steady over the years and it has two feeder elementary schools.

Approximately, a hundred students enroll at the school each year. The school is a United Church Agency School in the Tonsu Constituency.



Students from Tukihing Primary School marching with the SLIP documents to be handed over to Education Department officials. Picture courtesy of David Kelele, Bougainville Education Division

13.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Malasang into Co-op

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Malasang number three village co-operative Society is expanding and has won the hearts of leaders like Louta Atoi and Fidelis Semoso to chip in some support.

A delegation from CCI (Cocoa Coconut Institute) head quarters in Rabaul Led by CEO Doctor Eric Omuru and World Bank co-ordinator on Bougainville Patrick Koles also visited the Cocoa and Coconut blocks last week.

The first man to help was a candidate for North Bougainville seat Gerard Masa who donated K500.

The incumbent North Bougainville MP Louta Atoi pledged K50,000 and Fidelis Semoso regional member K30,000. The co-operative society now has an account with the BSP bank in Buka, so when all cheques are delivered they will be deposited into the account.

Last week the CCI boss in Bougainville Paul Nelau and Mr Koles visited the block in Malasang and were met by village chiefs, the society chairman Cornelius Sawa, his vice John Lerrin and field officer John Bitom. This is the first time that a co-operative has been set up on Bougainville, and a lot of leaders have commended the people of Malasang for their hard work.

According to Chairman Cornelius Sawa the main aim of the society is to help the Bougainville economy get back to its feet.

13.06.2012

Source: The National

EMTV to launch online website



[CLICK HERE](#)

MEDIA Niugini Ltd announced in Port Moresby yesterday the launching of EMTV Online, a new website that lets you watch thousands of streaming television shows, new programmes and breaking news on your personal computer.

Besides delivering video entertainment, the new site is part of EMTV's strategy to make popular content available to consumers across three screens at the centre of their lives, the TV, personal computers and mobile phones.

Head of sales and marketing Deepal Khanna said the company wanted most of its viewers to be able to access content anytime, anywhere.

"EMTV online provides you with a one-stop destination to watch TV shows and latest news updates wherever you have a broadband connection," she said.

"The site will grow and evolve to make more content available to consumers in new and better ways.

"Designed with a fresh innovative appearance as compared to the other websites in PNG; EMTV Online displays a plethora of features like video streaming of breaking news, popular programmes, Business PNG, Resource PNG, sports updates."

CEO Bhanu Sud said there was a lot of activity in the business, mining, resource and political sectors and launching the website enabled EMTV to connect with the audience, PNG and the world.

"We are anticipating close to 9 million viewers on a monthly basis," he said.

He said EMTV was keeping in line with its vision which was to be the communications business for the Pacific.

12.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier **BREAKING NEWS !**

Mining activities to begin on Bougainville !

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has made history by moving a motion on the most sensitive issue on Bougainville Mining Exploration.

The motion is a positive step since its installment in 2005 for a young government.

On Thursday, before a packed House of Representatives at in Buka, Melchior Dare, Member for Eivo Torau Constituency and chairman of Central Bougainville Parliamentary Committee, presented a motion from the floor to introduce Bougainville Mining Policy to start exploration on Bougainville. A right that every Bougainvillean has been waiting for and have fought the Bougainville crisis for.

The motion calls on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to create a Bougainville Mining Oil & Gas policy that should protect the interests of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Landowner Rights and Investor's grant the local resource owners' company the licence to do mineral, oil & gas exploration on its own land, and that the Bougainville Administration consider the draft mining oil and gas policy during 2012.

In a rousing 45-minute presentation to the House, Mr Dare explained that under section 4(b) of the Bougainville Peace Agreement "Autonomy" is intended to enable Bougainville to determine its own solutions to its own problems and needs and now was the time to act to resume mining exploration on the island.

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He stated that the ownership of mineral resources is usually claimed by the State or the Crown, and in the case of Bougainville the customary traditional landowners own the minerals which is protected by section 23 of the Bougainville constitution and recognised by Article 26 of the United Nations Convention.

12.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

School gets K5000

PNG Party gave K5000 to Hamatana Primary School and its feeder elementary school in the Hagogohe constituency in North Bougainville.

The money was handed over by party representative Darney Kehali at the school. The presentation was witnessed by the school's board of governors chairman, staff and students.

PNG Party is led by Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah.

Mr Kehali said he was fulfilling a personal commitment made to the school last year on behalf of PNG Party and Mr Namah.

He said that as a son of Sing village in the Hagogohe Constituency he was committed to bring further development to the Hamatana Primary and other schools in the constituency if Mr Namah and his PNG Party come into power after the elections.

Board chairman Wensislaus Soatsin said K3000 would be used for curriculum and infrastructure development for Hamatana Primary while K2000 would be used to develop its feeder elementary school.

11.06.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) closed due to public holiday "Queen's Birthday" !

10.06.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Business man, correspondent or jumping Jack?

by Axel G. Sturm

The video below was posted by a certain Dr. David Martin. Martin is the brilliant CEO of a minor financial service provider called [M-CAM](#).

M-CAM is based Charlottesville/Virginia (United States of America).

Since a couple of months Martin interferes on the ground by organising so called landowner awareness meetings. Everywhere when Martin appears, he refers to his academic "Dr." degree to impress locals. Usually Americans don't do so, except if they suffer from major inferiority complexes.

Martin has neither a stake in Panguna nor is he a Bougainville Copper shareholder (as far as we know). Without any insider knowledge on the ground he presents himself as the landowner's saviour. His experience is influenced and supported by job-less former Me'ekamui rebels with guns and some few other people. As his latest "coup" he published a video on YouTube. Like jumping Jack he runs around on the road to the Panguna mine site and accuses BCL and its shareholders" of being ignorant and not respectful to the people's voice". Quite obviously Martin never heard about BCL's and the ESBC's hard work to reconcile with all parties concerned.

He also never became aware of wide-spread jealousy on Bougainville. And never he read about money that has been embezzled by PNG officials in the past.



On the ground, Martin (picture on the left) is accompanied by Lawrence Daveona (who has been on the ESBC's payroll for many years). Just recently, Daveona (pictured below) had been ousted as landowner secretary and spokesperson – allegedly because of his disrespectful behaviour. Daveona is also well-known for following his so called “own agenda”. Actually he tries to undermine the work of his former landowner fellows. Sad, but true: Friendship and betrayal are the two sides of the same medal in Bougainville.

Nobody really knows about Martin's real intentions. There is some slight evidence that he might be remote controlled by the dubious “Scientology Church” or that he even receives his orders from interested American financial investors. Just before the Bougainville Crises started, the US-American Pritzker Group had shown high interest in overtaking BCL. Shortly after Pritzker representatives showed up on the ground, the attacks on the mine site started. Were both facts related?



It can be assumed that Martin does not work just for nothing. So who is behind all this? Who funds all his expensive travelling to PNG? Who pays for all his activities on the ground? Who pays for his friends like Daveona and Chris (Uma)?

Is Dr. David Martin a lucky charm or is he once again one those notorious free-riders who appear and disappear from time to time?

One thing is for sure: Dr. David Martin is certainly not the Panguna landowner's "Mother Theresa"! It's part of his strategy to pretend to be better informed than BBC, ABC Radio Australia or even CNN .

He says it and he believes it! - God bless America!

09.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn On Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE ELECTORAL TEAM READY

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling on Bougainville will start on Monday June 25th, 2012 in all districts.

The Bougainville Electoral Commissioner and Returning Officer for the PNG General Elections covering the four Bougainville seats, REITAMA TARAVARU revealed this yesterday when talking with New Dawn FM in Buka.

He said that they were hoping to cover the entire region in two weeks.

He said that the Polling will end on Friday July 6th with counting to commence immediately after.

MR. TARAVARU said that preparation for the Election has been on target and that he was confident they are more than ready for the elections.

He said that currently the office was engaged in training all its officers who will be involved in the elections.

Meanwhile a total of SIXTY NINE candidates are vying for the four Bougainville seats that are South Bougainville open currently held by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, STEPHEN PIRIKA KAMMA, Central Bougainville Open currently held by Communication Minister JIMMY

MIRINGTORO, North Bougainville Open seat currently held by LOUTA ATOI and the Bougainville Regional seat held by FIDELIS SEMOSO.

He appealed to all Bougainvilleans to allow candidates to campaign in all areas without any restrictions.

MR. TARAVARU said that all candidates must be heard for the voters to make a well informed decision to vote.

He made this appeal after learning that some people in some areas were not allowing candidates to go into their areas.

Australian Hercules C130 this afternoon brought in some Electoral Boxes that would be used during the Elections.

Pictured is the C130 RAAF Hercules in Buka:



08.06.2012

Source: Post-courier

Queen Elizabeth II to visit in November

THE Queen of England and head of the Commonwealth, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Second, is looking forward to visiting Papua New Guinea in November as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



H.R.M. Queen Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee in June 2012

Governor General Sir Michael Ogio announced this in a press statement he released yesterday in Singapore where he has stopped over for more than a week before returning home.

He said he and his wife, Lady Esme, were very impressed with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations held from June 3-5 and witnessed by millions of people in London.

"During the celebrations Her Royal Highness personally expressed that she is very much looking forward to visiting Papua New Guinea in November," Sir Michael said.

It is unfortunate that the political impasse and the 2012 election have distracted the nation's attention away from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

However, the political situation will have settled by early August when the new Government is formed and the people of Papua New Guinea will no doubt welcome and embrace the Queen and her entourage in November, like they have always done for any member of the Royal family when they visit the country.

"Lady Esme and I are very happy to have been invited by Her Majesty and the head of the Commonwealth to attend her Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London," the Governor General said.

Sir Michael (pictured) said they were moved by the outpouring of adoration and love for the Queen shown by the millions of people who had turned

out to be part of the celebrations.

The weather was chilly, windy and it rained but this did not deter the people in their millions as they lined the streets and the banks of River Thames to be part of this colourful and historic occasion," Sir Michael said.

The Governor General and Lady Esme attended the Diamond Jubilee Pageant, Concert and the National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's cathedral. Sir Michael had the opportunity to also meet his counterparts from different Commonwealth countries.

Last Wednesday, the Governor General was invited as Knight of the Order of St John by HRH the Duke of Gloucester who is the Grand Prior of the Order.

Sir Michael said he was proud to represent the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on this historic occasion. He and Lady Esme arrive from Singapore on Tuesday.



"I take this opportunity to express my best wishes to all the candidates for the 2012 election and look forward to the formation of the new Government for the people of Papua New Guinea," the Governor General said.

08.06.2012

Source: Post-courier

O'Neill to return: Poll

By NEVILLE TOGAREWA

PETER O'Neill will return as Prime Minister to serve his first full term as Papua New Guinea's head of Government after the general election, according to a public opinion poll.

This is among other interesting election predictions based on the results of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted between the last quarter of 2011 and first quarter of 2012 by PNG's only public opinion poll company, Mell Research & Marketing Consultants owned by Michael Mell.

"Our public opinion poll strongly predicts that the O'Neill-Namah Government will return to power after the national election," Mr Mell told the Post-Courier yesterday (see advert on page 20 for details).



"Our poll further predicts that Mr O'Neill's People's National Congress party will muster the numbers required to return him as Prime Minister and his deputy Belden Namah's PNG Party will also muster the numbers to again make him Deputy Prime Minister," he said.

Mr Mell said the only major threat to the current coalition Government returning to office is if "there is an open fight" between Mr O'Neill and Mr Namah over who should become Prime Minister.

"If the O'Neill-Namah partnership remains as strong as it has been in the last 10 months during the remainder of the campaign and polling periods and up to the formation of Government, the public can be rest assured that the current coalition Government will return," he said.

"Our poll predicts that both Mr O'Neill's People's National Congress and Mr Namah's PNG Party will win the most seats, followed by their coalition partners, (Don Polye's) THE Party and (William Duma's) United Resources Party," Mr Mell said. He also said "a little over 50 per cent" of sitting MPs will retain their seats.

On Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Mr Mell said: "If the Chief was a young man and was contending for the Prime Minister's post, the recent political impasse would have a large impact on his election to propel him back into Government.

"But this is not going to happen and even the newly-appointed National Alliance leader (Patrick Pruaitch) will be nowhere near to becoming a prime ministerial candidate.

"The political impasse has been the result of Somare's indecisiveness as to who among his sons would replace him as National Alliance leader and subsequently become Prime Minister.

"The Grand Chief and his NA party executive have failed miserably to perform the most important strategic political move to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and this will hurt them during the polls and formation of the new Government."

07.06.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Bougainville officials divert funds for cars

It has been revealed in the parliament of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province, Bougainville, that officials have diverted funds to buy cars.

The Minister of Finance, Albert Punghau, says 423,000 US dollars were diverted from the 2012 budget appropriation by officers outside of the normal system.

The newspaper, The National, reports Mr Punghau as saying the funds would be returned and the staff concerned dealt with.

He says what they did was illegal and should not be repeated.

07.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kamma forgives ex-BRA boss

A SMALL but significant reconciliation ceremony was held last Saturday in the Siwai District of South Bougainville between a former BRA commander Albert Siping and the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma. The ceremony follows an incident which happened last week in which two of Mr Kamma's private vehicles were forcefully taken by Mr Siping and his followers at a roadblock they had set up at Aku Primary School in the Makis constituency in Buin. Mr Kamma was returning to his village after campaigning in Buin when the incident happened. Mr Siping had set up the roadblock and took Mr Kamma's vehicles, claiming that the South Bougainville MP had not been paying his elder brother for the jobs he had done in constructing classrooms in schools in the Makis constituency. However, that small incident has now been solved following the returning of the two vehicles by Mr Siping.

During the small ceremony Mr Siping apologised to Mr Kamma and asked for his forgiveness. He also assured Mr Kamma that they would still support him during this election period. Mr Kamma in return accepted the apology and assured Mr Siping that his brother's outstanding payment would still be honoured. The ceremony was witnessed by the Autonomous Bougainville Government Minister for Finance Albert Punghau and the ABG member for Ramu constituency Thomas Mauroko Pa'ataku. Pictured are Mr Kamma (right) and Siping exchanging traditional shell monies as a sign that they had said sorry.

07.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Laaka gets new building

Words and Picture: WINTERFORD TOREAS



LAAKU Elementary School students in the Ramu constituency in Siwai, South Bougainville, now have every reason to celebrate because they will not be studying under old sago thatched classrooms anymore. This follows the opening of their new permanent double classroom last Friday. The new building which was constructed with financial assistance from the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma, ABG member for Ramu constituency Thomas Mauroko Pa'ataku and the board of management of the school was officially opened by Mr Kamma. Pictured is Mr Kamma cutting the ribbon to officially open the new building.

07.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Polling in two weeks time

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission is already set for polling in two weeks time with more than 30,000 polling and counting officials ready for operation throughout the country.

And the PNGEC will be providing more than 9800 polling places and more than 4,700 polling teams now all ready to go when polls are announced on June 23, 2012.

Further, there are more than nine million papers that the PNGEC is printing because during polling, all eligible voters will receive two ballot papers — one for their Open Electorate and one for their Province. With around 4.3 million on each Roll, some 9 million ballot papers will be printed and distributed.

Chief Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen in his brief to the Diplomatic and Foreign Missions detailed that the PNGEC would not be as well prepared for the 2012 General Election without the significant support provided by the Government of Australia, Government of New Zealand, China for the provision of translucent ballot boxes and also from Republic of Korea (South Korea) for donation of laptops, United States of America and many more not mentioned.

“The PNGEC will be providing more than 9800 polling places, Mr Trawen said. There will be more than 4700 polling teams and there will be approximately 30,000 polling and counting officials,” he said.

“The PNGEC would not be as well prepared for the 2012 General Election without the significant support provided by the Government of Australia. This support commenced in April 2000 and has been unflinching ever since. It has totalled some AUD50 million.

“Three phases of support have been provided under the AusAID funded Electoral Support Program – ESP3 is presently in place and that team helping us to run a good election in 2012. More recently the Australian Civil Corps (ACC) has provided assistance across the full range of election activities. I am deeply indebted to Australia for its continued support.

“I also want to place on record my thanks to other donors not named. New Zealand has assisted with funding the Media Centre and shipping arrangements around Milne Bay and Bougainville; to China for the provision of translucent ballot boxes and also from Republic of Korea (South Korea) for donation of laptops.

07.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Duma declares it's time he gets PNG's top job

By PETER KORUGL

Western Highlander and leader of the United Resources Party William Duma (pictured) has announced that he is going for the country's top political post.



“I have served my apprenticeship and I am now ready. I am confident of taking the Prime Minister's post,” Mr Duma declared to over 3000 supporters from the Jiga Mugumana tribe yesterday.

“I feel for this country. Why is it so rich in resources like gold, copper, oil and gas and yet its people are so poor.”

Mr Duma said for the last 19 years, the United Resources Party (URP) had provided strong support to all the governments and have been faithful to them.

He said his party had learnt its lessons over the years and it was growing stronger and stronger while the rest of the political parties were crumbling.

“When you reach the top, there is no other way except down. All the other main political parties have reached the top with our support, now is our turn,” Mr Duma said.

Mr Duma called on Papua New Guineans to embrace the URP and vote its candidates to form the next government.

"A lot of people call me by all sorts of names but this short man was given a good brain by God. I am ready to take the top post," he added.

He said his records were clean and as Minister responsible for Petroleum and Energy, he had laid the foundation for the economy for the next 40 years.

He is confident that URP will do well because the party has endorsed some of the best people this country has produced.

The party's election strategist Steven Pim agreed.

"We are on top in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Our candidates are doing well in Central. We are doing well all over the country," he said.

Mr Pim explained that URP- endorsed candidates were professional people who were leaders in their own professions and had what it takes to become members of Parliament and form Government to change this country for the better.

The announcement by Mr Duma brings to four the number of senior politicians from the highlands who have put their hands up for the country's top political post. The others are THE Party leader Don Pomb Poly, incumbent PM and Peoples National Congress leader Peter O'Neill and Peoples Party leader Peter Ipatas.

07.06.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville's K898,000 used to buy cars

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

FUNDS totalling K898,200 were diverted from the 2012 ABG budget appropriation by officers outside of the normal system.

This was revealed in the Autonomous Bougainville Government parliament yesterday during question time by ABG Minister for Finance and Planning Albert Punghau.

He was replying to ABG member for Bolave Lawrence Uakai who wanted to know why another budget book was printed excluding some funds that were under the approved 2012 ABG appropriation.

Punghau said he was already aware of the funds that were diverted to buy cars for the administration.

He said the funds would be returned and officers concerned dealt with.

He said what the officers did was illegal and should not be repeated.

Meanwhile, Bougainvilleans are calling on the ABG president to immediately deal with officers diverting funds outside of the normal system.

They want the ABG to quickly set up an investigation into the matter.

The parliament sitting for June started yesterday and ends Friday.

It will also discuss the seventh anniversary celebration scheduled for June 15.

07.06.2012

Source: The National

Locals end awareness on mine lease areas

A PANGUNA landowners' educational awareness programme for the six mine lease areas of Bougainville has been completed.

Co-ordinator Lawrence Daveona and the executives of the interim Panguna Landowners Association for the six mine lease villages carried out the awareness over six weeks.

Daveona travelled to the six mine lease area villages covering the Lower tailings, Upper tailings, Special Mine Lease area villages, Port Mine Access Road, Radovan/Uruawa and Siokate customary land on the outskirts of Arawa Town.

The programme's aim was to educate landowners on the global financial and business consequences of resource development in Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

An international collaboration between Panguna mine lease area stakeholders and M.Cam-a finance corporation based in the US with operations throughout the world-created a presentation entitled "Global financial literacy: A basic analysis of financial structures effecting asset development in PNG and Autonomous Bougainville".

The intention was to recognise the urgency of creating an informed dialogue for the consideration of the Bougainville copper and related lease areas.

It was conducted by Dr David Martin, CEO of M.Cam.

Martin's final information sessions began at the Panguna mine site with several local landowners in attendance.

He provided detailed information with respect to the corporate structure of Bougainville Copper Ltd and a review of the supra-constitutional nature of the Bougainville copper agreement drafted during Australian administration prior to independence.

The presentation showed the complex corporate structure designed to enrich foreign investors while providing minimal economic or social value to the country and the region.

It also highlighted the need for landowners to be fully aware of all economics of resource development including financing corporations, asset holding and leasing corporations, and other developer-related companies.

Martin said many of these operator-affiliated companies shielded financial and physical assets from legal liabilities and damages within PNG.

The awareness also went into the no-go zone areas where the team met with the leader of Mekamui Defence Force, Chris Uma.

Daveona and his organisers are currently planning to expand their awareness to other parts of Bougainville using the University of PNG students and other interested stakeholders throughout the country.

Daveona said the awareness which originally was to target the six area villages have received overwhelming support to be extended to all parts of Bougainville.

06.06.2012

Source: PNG television networks

Peter O'Neill campaigning for 2012 (re-)elections

06.06.2012

Source: Leonard Fong Roca Blog

Impact of a Panguna Mine Pit Lake

By Leonard Fong Roca

The Panguna Mine pit is about half a kilometre deep and two kilometres wide. Today it sleeps idle a scar of suffering in the heartland of Bougainville. Kilometres of gravel stretches and slopes surrounds the pit to the west and to the east, stands the imposing Pen hill (organic rock) brae that was butter-cut to the side of the central regions of the Crown Prince Range by the BCL; added on, is the rock spree and slip that slides to settle into the pit.



Panguna mine pit

In the early days of the BCL operations (1970s), the naturally occurring crust water systems that sprouted from the numerous sections of the pit, was drained by a pumping station mounted at the lowest section of the pit through a network of steel pipes to the surface. This was a costly exercise.

To minimise the cost of operations, BCL engaged a foreign specialized company to open a drainage tunnel network. A location right at my family's piece of land was selected (in 2004, I erected my house right at the entrance and lived there ever since).



Pit Drainage tunnel entrance

From the entrance, the Panguna pit is around 6 kilometres to the north-east, but the company cut the tunnel straight east towards the Kongara area more than a hundred kilometres away but cut it short from continuing and redirected it towards the pit.

After mapping out their position some 3-400 metres below the pit, the company punched from the bottom of the pit, 1.5 metre in diameter steel pipes piece by piece through the crust to the tunnel below. After reaching it, the punched in 3 more and the job was done. The strategy was, every time the pit expanded down, a piece of the steel was cut. The pit experienced from JULY 1985 no nightmare of water built-up.

My concern today is the concentration of wash-out from the sides of the pit at the bottom. It threatens the intake vaults (of course, two were already permanently shut off). The remaining two, are near from their fate. And when they are shut, the Panguna pit will turn into a huge lake of water.

The only lowest point that the reservoir can drain is through the main pit entry wing and out into the Kavarong River firstly, through the public vehicles pit-area entry tunnels. This water, however, washes away with it, tonnes of gravel that hosts the pit workshop section to the secondary crusher (a distance of half a kilometre).



Public vehicle pit area access tunnels

The flow of this washout from the Panguna Pit Lake shall further energize the naturally running Kavarong River along the 'V-shape concrete Kavarong waterway that is already in a state of a long pond system after blocked by a huge landslide from the direction of the BCL Concentrator Zone (beyond this point, right below new Dapera village, the V-shaped water system is in better condition).



V-Shape Kavarong water way. Workable area beyond Dapera



Landslide affected zone of the Kavarong waterway near the BCL concentrator



Water filled sections of the water way near the former BCL light vehicle workshop

These combine forces of nature, will block the V-shape water way, around new Dapera and divert the water, through the lower section stretching from the secondary crusher to the B-40 workshop, into the more lower belt (5-10 metres lower) hosting the conveyor belt system that former supplied the spreaders kilometres away to the south-west that poured gravel into the Tumpusiong Valley (my home).



Spreader area

All these areas just mentioned, of course, before the mine came into existence, were the sky or tree tops enjoyed by the winged animals. The waste gravel from the pit area filled in the valley and today made it possible for human occupation. Some dozens or hundreds of metres below is the pre-mining river bed of the Kavarong River.



Gravel brae above Pirurari village

Once the genesis is done, we face the catastrophic action of nature that is the Kavarong River trying to relocate its old bed as it washes with it billion tonnes of waste gravel down into the Tumpusiong Valley.

The washout will first consume the Pirurari village and move on into my section, where the Kavarong River is still searching for its apical bed.



Pirurari Village below

The Panguna-Jaba section of the highway into South Bougainville will be off once and for all. Affecting the economically vibrant South by cutting off the access to the Bougainville east coast areas like Arawa and Buka, for Bana district, this is the access not too costly from driving through Siwai to Buin and to Arawa.

For the Tumpusiong valley where many of us are now settled near the highway to the Southern districts and close to the banks of the polluted Kavarong River, this will cause us to resettle to the higher altitudes with some costs.



Tumpusiong Valley

This is a disaster soon to be unfolded for the Panguna District and the Bana District in South Bougainville.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO ACTIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says that the Bougainville administration through the office of the Chief Administrator, LAWRENCE DISIN were in the process of studying the recommendations made previously by the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts headed by its chairman the member for Tsitalato, COSMAS SOHIA.

The ABG President said that previously all these recommendations were not given to the office of the Chief Administrator resulting in no actions taken to these recommendations.

The ABG President made these remarks when answering to questions by the member himself who wanted to know why recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in the past were not implemented.

He said that now this problem has been solved and the office of the Chief Administrator was working on these issues.

The President also revealed that these documents were only delivered to the office of the Administrator two weeks ago.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Australian NSW Representative speaks to ABG Parliament



Hon Don. Harwin President of the Legislative Council in the New South Wales Parliament has been talking to ABG members in the ABG Parliament yesterday. Pic by Aloysius Laukai



Buka island: ABG Government House

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEMBER WANTS INCREMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

Members of the ABG today called for more funding compacted into individual members projects funds from the current ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND.

The member for Lato William Lavapua who introduced the motion said that the current funding was not enough for members to do sufficient projects in the rural communities.

Many of the members talked in support of the motion but wanted the normal system of service to be fully utilized instead of ABG members becoming fund distributors.

06.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Locals demand money from candidates

By PORENI UMAU

A FEMALE candidate in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has cried foul on the way locals were treating candidates who go to campaign in their area.

Francesca Semoso, a long time woman leader in the region and candidate contesting under the Peoples Party banner led by Peter Ipatas, has revealed that people in Buka, especially the Haku and Selau constituencies, were using the elections to make money.

She said that in Kokopau, people have built stages where they charged intending candidates cash to use their stage to campaign.

She said that the people were charging K300 per independent candidate and K500 for those endorsed by parties for the use of the dais.

Ms Semoso has called on Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen to come out clear and explain such practice, saying that this was illegal.

She said that when she went out to campaign over the weekend at the market in the Haku constituency, she was approached by men who demanded that she pay K300 to campaign. She complained that people should understand that not all candidates were travelling around with money.

She refused to pay and instead used her own equipment and just three minutes into her campaign, the men blasted their huge equipment and disturbed her with their loud music and she eventually decided to pack up and leave.

Bystanders who witnessed the incident almost destroyed the stage in retaliation when they turned up to listen to her, but she intervened and stopped what could have been a violent situation.

She said that it was a very disheartening experience and as a female candidate, she was treated unfairly and it was a public humiliation which she described as totally unfair and uncalled for.

But Ms Semoso said that she would not back down from campaigning, stating that this was the current situation in the North Bougainville area, especially in the Haku and Selau constituencies.

06.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Nuau for Central Bougainville

PNG Party candidate for Central Bougainville, Lohial Nuau has vowed to restore basic government services in the electorate if he is given the mandate in the coming National General Election.

Speaking from Buka, the former social-scientist graduate from Unitech said after the crises and 20 years on, there is nil basic services of education, health and economic reaching his people of Central Bougainville.

Nuau who is synonymous with boxing and his good networking amongst the government bueracrats and politics believes he can be able to deliver services to the Autonomous region of Bougainville overall. He says he has built a good network as a former public servant and the sports administrator. The former Department of Petroleum employee said he is confident he is the right leader to be able to deliver goods and services.

"I have been in the government system, and with today's politics of good networking, I am confident that I can deliver the services to my people who have been neglected for over two decades now," he said confidently from Buka.

He is supported by the Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah's party, the PNG Party. As sports administrator, Mr Nuau believes that politics and sports can work in partnership to deliver goods and services to the people.

"Sports knows no barrier. It brings people from all walks of life together in one-ness and unity. Through sports, Central Bougainville and PNG can receive benefits if the right people are elected into the National Parliament.

Mr Nuau said boxing is like many other sports which involve unemployed youths to become part of the community.

06.06.2012

Source: The National

Semoso targets trauma on Bougainville

By ISAIAH IGISH

A SOCIAL worker who has returned from overseas training is ready to tackle trauma cases on the island.

Francis Semoso is the first Bougainvillian to undertake this course at the Mindanao Peace Institute in the Phillipines, through funding from the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) and the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency (LNWDA).

He said it was almost 15 years after the infamous Bougainville crisis ended, but the people who lived through the crisis were still traumatised by the event.

Many social issues arising within families and communities were the direct cause of this (trauma) which individuals never realised.

Semoso, project officer-masculinity with the LNWDA, said this after returning from the Phillipines where he participated in a three-week course on "Community trauma and peace building".

The training was a bonus for someone with vast experience as a social worker in Bougainville.

"Trauma in Bougainville is caused by the loss of family members and loss of family assets.

"With the training I received, I am now going to team up with other community-based organisations in Bougainville, NGOs, the national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to combat this pressing issue," Semoso said.

The three-week training he received was based on:

I Peace education concept and approaches;

I Peace education training programme design; and

I Community trauma and peace building programme.

"By the time I get to Buka, I will start drafting trauma counseling and peace building programmes for the region," he said.

06.06.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville NGO says more people want to leave Carteret Islands

TULELE Pasia, a non-governmental organisation in Bougainville says more people want to move out of the flood-prone Carteret Islands.

The islands are regularly inundated by sea water, affecting the lives of the islanders.

Tulele Pasia has for years been working to relocate families to Tinputz on the Bougainville mainland. So far six families had moved.

Spokesperson Ursula Rakova said their aim was to relocate 1,700 people by 2020 at four different sites.

She said residents were now keen to leave the islands.

“Right now there are more people willing to sign up to move to mainland Bougainville because of the lack of food that can be grown,” she said.

“The population is also increasing, the land is getting short and basically no available land suitable for growing a lot of food crops.” – RNL

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Top PNG policeman Yakasa arrested and charged



A senior Papua New Guinea policeman, Fred Yakasa (pictured), will appear in court today after being arrested yesterday and charged for depriving the political right of Prime Minister Peter O' Neill and his cabinet ministers last December.

Mr Yakasa was the Police Commissioner appointed by Mr O'Neill's rival for the Prime Ministership, Sir Michael Somare.

The Acting Deputy Police Commissioner and Chief of Operations Simon Kauba says police acted on a formal complaint by Mr O'Neill.

It is alleged that Mr Yakasa and a group of officers set up a barricade around the precincts of Government House in a move to prevent Mr O'Neill and his fellow parliamentarians from being sworn into office.

06.06.2012

Source: The National

Yakasa arrested, charged for obstructing MPs

By JUNIOR UKAHA

CHIEF Supt Fred Yakasa has been charged with one count of “interfering with the political liberty of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and others” last December, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Acting Deputy Police Commissioner and Chief of Operations, Simon Kauba, said police acted on a formal complaint by O'Neill and arrested Yakasa yesterday as he was coming out of the Waigani Court premises.

Police alleged that at the height of the political impasse, Yakasa and some policemen set up a barricade around the precincts of Government House on Dec 12 and 13 in a move to prevent O'Neill and his fellow parliamentarians from being sworn into office.

“In doing so Yakasa and his group of policemen had contravened Section 79 (1) of the PNG Criminal Code Act Chapter 262,” Kauba said in a statement.

Kauba alleged that Yakasa had, by intimidation, interfered with the free exercise of the political right O'Neill and his cabinet ministers had to see Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio.

Yakasa, 47, of Watumanda village in Wabag, Enga province, was taken to police headquarters in Port Moresby and interviewed before being charged, Kauba said.

He was later taken to Boroko Police station and released on his own recognisance.

Kauba said because of the political nature and sensitivity of this case, the investigators had to work on this case meticulously and in a professional manner to eliminate any perception of bias before arresting Yakasa.

Yakasa will appear in Waigani Committal Court at 9.30am today.

Yakasa was appointed commissioner of police by Sir Michael Somare after the Supreme Court last December recognised the Grand Chief as the legitimate prime minister.

When The National telephoned Yakasa yesterday, he said: "I am at the Boroko police station going through the normal process."

Yakasa's lawyer David Dotaona said his client was charged for his part in allegedly preventing O'Neill and others from entering Government House last Dec 12 and 13, to be sworn in by the Governor-General.

Dotaona said Yakasa was leaving the court premises after attending his case with Tom Kulunga over the commissioner's post when he was picked up.

"The way they treated him was not good as heavy handed tactics were applied," he said.

"He is not a common criminal.

"They should have accorded him the courtesy to present himself for questioning," Dotaona said.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville library gets help from Wellington counterpart

A new library being built in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is set to benefit from expert help from New Zealand's Victoria University Library.

The campaign to build the library is led by author Lloyd Jones, whose book, 'Mr Pip' is set in Bougainville in 1991, during the decade-long civil war.

Mr Jones says the library building itself is expected to be completed towards the end of the year and they're lucky to have Victoria University Library on board to mentor the Bougainville library staff and provide them with expertise.

"Victoria university has been really helpful, aiding us with developing a collections and management policy, this policy will guide the operation of the library. There are a whole lot of disciplines around operating a library, clearly. Before the books actually leave New Zealand and go to Bougainville, they're going to catalogue them."

Lloyd Jones says the local librarians will then be trained, and outreach programmes will need to be undertaken so locals can learn to interact with and use the library.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Focus in Bougainville shifting to literacy rates, says Mr Pip novelist

The author of Mr Pip, Lloyd Jones (pictured), says with the building of a library in Bougainville going well, the focus is now shifting to creating community activities that will help raise literacy rates.



Lloyd Jones' Booker Prize nominated book Mr Pip is set in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, and he heads the campaign to build a library there.

Mr Jones says building the library itself is expected to be completed towards the end of the year.

"Beyond just putting books in a library we have to think about all the kinds of community activities to do with raising literacy rates, getting people to read and write their own stories, all these kinds of

things. We thought it would be a good idea to provide very short term residencies, eventually. Different people would go up there and spend some time with kids in classrooms."

Lloyd Jones says the two to four week residencies would aim to teach children how to develop their own interests in creative areas, and ultimately develop their own written story-telling.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUDGET FUNDS DIVERTED

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Finance and Planning, ALBERT PUNGAU yesterday revealed that some changes were made by officers at the planning office on the ABG's 2012 budget without the government's knowledge.

He was responding during question time to calls by the member for BOLAVE, LAWRENCE WAKAI who wanted to know if rumours that a new budget book was printed changing figures from the ABG approved Budget.

Finance minister Albert Punghau revealed that there were some changes to the budget but that the move was illegal and would not be implemented.

He assured the House that this ministry and the ABG is working to fix the situation.

New Dawn FM carries live Questions without notice in parliament.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Minister calls for all to respect the environment

By Tapo Tovilu

The minister for environment and conservation and ABG member for Rau in the Wakunai today challenged the people of Bougainville to respect the environment.

He was speaking at the environment day celebrations at the Bel Isi Park this morning.

He told listeners that the environment was very important for the survival of the human race.

He says that damaging the environment is like taking away air from the atmosphere endangering human health.

He made a call to the people of Bougainville to care for the environment as it was the source of life and without it will not be alive.

He also congratulated the BUC for their initiative in launching their environment campaign in the Buka town area.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUC launchers environment campaign

By Tapo Tovilu

The Buka Urban Council today to commemorate environment day launched an environment campaign.

This was revealed by BUC manager Brenda Tohiana in her speech at the Flora Cultural show case today at the Bel Isi Park.

She confirmed that the BUC would be engaged in the new campaign which will see the transformation of Buka town into a greener town.

She says because of climate change the days are getting hotter so they plan to plant more trees in the town area.

While saying this she also called on the general public to respect and look after the newly planted trees which will be planted around Buka town.

She made these comments following past experience where newly planted plants are at times destroyed before they are fully grown.

She called on the general public to take part in the campaign by looking after the trees and plants which will be planted.



06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Environment Day in Buka

By Tapo Tovilu

The people of Buka especially in the areas within Buka town started the day with a cleaner thon led by the Bank of South Pacific workers to commemorate the World Enviroment Day.

They led a group of workers, family members and the general public with a clean a thon from Hutjena to Buka town.

The day also included a flora cultural show showcasing different flowers in Buka by mothers at the Bel Isi Park.

The day ended with a concert also show casing the different plant species in Bougainville's flora and fauna.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Airport crossing causing concern

By Tapo Tovilu



Bike racing on Buka runway

The constant airport crossing in Buka is becoming a concern with the new flight schedules and increased airport activity.

A proposed fence project which was to cover the whole length of the airport has not come about due to financial matters.

Airport staffs have called on authorities to enclose the runway area as the daylight crosses might cause havoc.

The CCA has also been called on to put tougher penalties on the current trend on run way crossers.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Voters warned to choose wisely

By Tapo Tovilu

A village leader in the Tonsu Peit area in Buka has called on his people to vote leaders wisely this election.

He says that Bougainville since autonomy has not changed at all and needs more effort in order for Bougainville to meet its referendum timeline.

He says that Bougainville must be ready for the upcoming referendum in 2015 calling on the people to vote good leaders for this to eventuate.

He called on all to consider their future and not what goods were to be provided during this time of campaign.

He also called on the people of Bougainville to not be involved in any election related violence adding that Bougainville must have a peaceful trouble free election.

06.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Philippines Cocoa expert in Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

A three men Philippines delegation consisting of a COCOA expert touched down in Buka on last Saturday.

The team will be visiting major cocoa farms in the region to see possibilities of establishing a major cocoa direct export cooperation in Bougainville.



Bougainville being in the past one of the leading cocoa producers has the ability to reach a high standard in cocoa export.

A spokesman from the team says that from previous visits they are certain that with the technology they have they can help bring the cocoa industry back up.

He says that their visit will be mainly focused on scooping out areas in Bougainville which have high yielding capabilities.

The team will be departing Bougainville on the 16 of this month and will return on a later date with their findings.

05.06.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG SITTING ON

By Aloysius Laukai



The ABG HOUSE of representatives started sitting for the JUNE SESSION at 2pm this afternoon.

When the house commenced the speaker ANDREW MIRIKI announced the presence of a delegation from New South Wales Parliament visiting the region.

The Australian New South Wales parliament has a twinning arrangement with the ABG parliament since the last house.

Under this arrangement the New South Wales parliament is assisting with capacity building of the ABG.

The sitting will end this Friday.

< Andrew Miriki

05.06.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Carteret islanders keen to move to PNG's Bougainville

A non-government organisation in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says more and more people want to move off the flood-threatened Carteret Islands.

The tiny islands are regularly inundated by sea water, compromising the islanders' living conditions.

The NGO, Tulele Peisa, has for several years been working to relocate families to the Bougainville mainland at Tinputz.

So far six families have moved but spokesperson for Tulele Peisa, Ursula Rakova, says their aim is to accommodate 1,700 people by 2020 at four different sites.

She says there is now a lot less reluctance to leave the Carterets.

"Right now there are more and more people willing to sign up to move to mainland Bougainville because of the lack of sufficient food that can be grown on the islands, the population is also increasing, the land is getting shorter and basically not available land suitable for growing a lot of food crops."

05.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Downstream policy crucial for PNG

By PATRICK TALU

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Julia Gillard's bold stand in telling Australians mining giants that they do not own resources is something for Papua New Guinea's Prime Ministers and elected leaders to learn from.

"If Australian Prime Minister can tell the mining bosses face to face "you don't own the resources", why has it been so difficult for the current Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, and his predecessors and successor to come out and say the same thing to our exploiters in this country?" resources and landowners advocate and the former Vice President of Mama Papa Graun Party Simon Ekanda asked.

"Ms Gillard is a real Australian national leader to stand up against the corporate giants and tell them straight away that her people own the resources and deserve better than crap."

I can't see this in PNG. When will our Prime Minister and Ministers tell the mining, petroleum, fisheries, forestry, palm oil, and other resources' bosses "enough is enough. You don't own the resources. Papua New Guineans own and deserve better and maximum benefits and have control over their resources" Mr Ekanda said.

Ms Gillard's blunt gauntlet to big mining bosses in Australia last week where she told them "you don't own the resources" is a vote of confidence for his fight to retain resource ownership by indigenous,' he told the Post Courier this week.

"Papua New Guinean Prime Ministers and leaders should open their ears and eyes to hear and see what Gillard has to tell exploiters straight away then being proxies.

"It's time now for the PNG Government to take a bold stand like Australia and say, "enough of being exploited and extracted," Mr Ekanda added.

The National Capital District Regional Seat candidate who has been so vocal on transfer of resources from State to landowners and a critique of the multibillion PNG LNG Projects Agreement also stressed that the laws crafted by Australia are well planned and a secret that Australia wants to keep Papua New Guineans poor and incapable of standing on their own to develop their resources.

“Our current constitution and resources laws made by Parliament are on advice from Australians, Europeans and other foreigners who have their interest in our resources so that they can come in indirectly using their multi corporation to extract and exploit our resources.

Thirty-six years of being an independent sovereign nation and yet successive government have done nothing to retain and develop our own resources by a means of an onshore downstream investment policy.

Are we going to keep on exporting our gold bars, oil barrels, liquefied natural gas, round logs, oil palm and copra and cocoa to to be processed and imported into the country with a higher prices?

When will a truly Papua New Guinea government build downstream process plants to manufacture all our natural resources that will benefits the country in terms of economic returns, employment opportunities, increased tax revenues and other benefits associated. This will in turn alleviate poverty and improve the livelihood of Papua New Guineans,” he stressed.

Mr Ekanda and his legal team who are behind the proposed Kondra Bill to change the Mining and Petroleum Acts which gives mining and petroleum developers absolute rights to extract at the point of granting a mining or petroleum licence believe that if the resources ownership is transferred back to the resources owners; it will benefit both the government, resources and developer on a win to win situation. However, the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum and other major mining and petroleum developer have opposed the move to the change of resources ownership back to the landowners from the State saying it would “scare away investors and is not good for the long term of the country. They say only a few resource owners will be benefiting,”

05.06.2012

Source: The National

Ex-sports administrator vies for Central Bougainville seat

By HENRY MORABANG

SPORTS administrator Lohial Nuau is contesting the election because he wants to see the living standard of his people lifted.

After 20 years of suffering from the Panguna crisis, the geologist said it was time to enter parliament and do something for people in Central Bougainville.

He is standing as a member of Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah's PNG Party.

Nuau said the people of Central Bougainville were still way behind in terms of development.

After the crisis, basic services such as education and health had stopped, he said.

The former PNG boxing association president said politics and sports should work together in delivering goods and services to the people.

Sports activities involve many youths which is a way to address the law and order problems.

He intends to use his networking as a former public servant and sports administrator to deliver services to the people.

Nuau said he has joined the PNG Party because he strongly believed that it was time for a change.

He wants to be part of a team who will deliver services to the people.

04.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New Bougainville leaders hold key

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE 2012 National General Elections for Bougainville is paramount and important because the political leaders chosen will be the “front liners” for the region's road to referendum and independence.

And all Bougainvilleans have been urged to vote wisely, look at leaders who have the heart for Bougainville and not those who will take the region for a ride.

Already, the Autonomous Bougainville Government is way behind with its “road to referendum”, the drawdown of powers have not been addressed at all in the last 10 months, the weapons disposal program, the capacity and its public service machinery, the mining aspect, the total road to recovery and many more issues are yet to be addressed by both the ABG and the National Government. This is also including the factions of Bougainville hardliners, the Noah-Musingku regime and the Me’ekamui team together with ABG.

There will be a total of 69 candidates who have nominated to contest the various seats in Bougainville. Their candidates come from strong political parties like the Melanesian Alliance, the National Alliance, THE Party, PNG Party, PNC Party, People’s Party, People’s United Assembly, Peoples Movement for Change Party, Social Democratic Party, United Resource Party.

03.06.2012

Source: The Fiji Times ONLINE

Delegates can learn from TLTB: Qetaki

by Repeka Nasiko

THE iTaukei Land Trust Board believes visiting Pacific government delegates can learn from TLTB, says general manager Alipate Qetaki (pictured).

Mr Qetaki said this before making presentations to a delegation of Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in Sigatoka this weekend.



He said their presentations would focus on informing the delegation on TLTB as a model that had been around for over 71 years.

TLTB and the iTaukei landowners have contributed immensely to Fiji's socio-economic development and growth over the years and the evidence is there for all to see, through making of iTaukei lands available for leasing purposes.

The ABG and PNG (Papua New Guinea) governments can learn from TLTB, said Mr Qetaki.

He said TLTBs presentation would be part of the presentation by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and on behalf of the iTaukei institutions which include the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the iTaukei Affairs Board and the iTaukei Lands Commission (TLC).

Mr Qetaki said the objective of the presentations was to discuss the legal framework of the trusteeship, management and administration of iTaukei lands.

Also discussed will be TLTBs core roles and how TLTB consults with landowners on development issues, requirements for the issue of leases and licences on iTaukei lands, the iTaukei reserves and issues surrounding reserve lands, TLTBs finances and management of trust funds and TLTBs organisation structure and human resources requirements for the effective administration of iTaukei lands.

The ABG officials are currently touring the country before moving to Tonga later this week.

01.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso case on next week

By TODAGIA KELOLA

BOUGAINVILLE Regional member Fidelis Semoso has a case to answer in relation to allegations of misconduct in office charges against him.

That's the ruling of the Leadership Tribunal comprising chairman Justice Salatiel Lenalia, Magistrates Ignatius Kurei and Nerie Eliakim when they dismissed an application by him for a no case submission on the grounds that there was no evidence to sustain the charges.

Senior Magistrate Nerie Eliakim who delivered the ruling on behalf of the other two members said: "The leader's first leg of the submission seems to have been misconstrued. Firstly, this tribunal is empowered by the Constitution to investigate and determine the allegations of misconduct in office levelled against the leader.

"The tribunal therefore is required only to inquire into the conduct of the leader and not his guilt.

There is a huge difference and must be so, between a tribunal inquiring into a leader's conduct and a court presiding over a criminal offence.

The latter is required by law to be satisfied beyond any reasonable doubt the guilt of the accused and a lawful conviction can only stand upon the prosecutions proving each and every 'element' of the offence or charge."

She explained further that in a leadership tribunal, the Ombudsman Commission has referred the leader's case contained in the Statement of Reasons to the Public Prosecutor who then requested the Chief Justice for a tribunal to be set up.

The prosecutor is therefore not prosecuting the case but is acting in a capacity as Counsel assisting the tribunal in inquiring into the leader's conduct.

As counsel assisting the tribunal, he is only required to provide evidence to prove allegations of misconduct under the leadership code and not to prove any elements to prove guilt, as technically, there is none.

They dismissed the application and directed that the leader opens his case and adjourned for a week to allow him to call his witnesses.

Meanwhile, suspended Minister and Member for Kikori Mark Maipakai will know by next Wednesday the penalties of the seven charges that he admitted on late filing of annual returns and the allegation of extra marital affairs.

His counsel Paul Paraka has submitted that the tribunal impose a fine on all the allegations against him while the Public Prosecutor Pondros Kaluwin has asked for the leader to be dismissed from office.

01.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Farmers form group

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

A group of dedicated and very hardworking people in Buka Island have formed a business group to rehabilitate Cocoa plantations with a major aim to export overseas and to improve the standard of living for village people.

The Malasang Cooperative Society was officially registered on Monday but was formed in March this year, and has already attracted a good 344 members and still rising.

The society is chaired by prominent Buka businessman Cornelius Sawa and the deputy is John Lerrin and already they have a field officer and operations manager John Bitom.

According to field officer John Bitom, the society and its members are now working on a 60 hectare Cocoa block. "Mainly we are now on the rehabilitation process whereby we are pruning and cleaning old Cocoa trees so that they can bear Cocoa pods, Wednesdays and Fridays are the member's working days. Mr. Bitom said.

"Our main aim is to develop blocks for small holders in four groups, here in Malasang village number three." He said.

The society has already ordered a total of, 60,000 nursery seedlings and they have a nursery area of 25 by 13 metres to store the seedlings where they will germinate and be replanted to replace old Cocoa trees.

"We are all contributing to Bougainville's economy and also to put a touch for us once again on the world market in which, Papua New Guinea does not provide enough volume to meet international standard, but because of the flavour of our Cocoa w are up there." Mr. Bitom said.

"Our main aim is to improve the standard of Living, Rehabilitate Cocoa plantations, and once we get the certain amount needed, we have a vision of exporting direct to overseas, instead of using other companies as middle man and the money these Companies get contributes nothing to the development of Bougainville." He said.



The Malasang Cooperative Society has wasted no time in reviving cocoa farming. As shown in this picture these three gentlemen (Left to right) John Girana (With saw) Peter Yako and field officer John Bitom cleaning a Cocoa tree which is one of the Society's initiatives.

01.06.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Melanesian Alliance Party endorses 50 candidates

MELANESIAN Alliances (MA) Party General Secretary Nick Klapat has confirmed that 50 MA candidates will be contesting various seats throughout the country.

These candidates had their records checked by the police and also have good reputations at the community, District, Provincial, national and international levels.

These candidates include former Rabaul MP and former African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Secretariat General Secretary Sir John Kaputin who will contest the East New Britain Regional. Others include former Kiriwina-Goodenough MP and Higher education Minister Brian Puliyasi, former Mining Minister and Central Bougainville MP Sam Akoita and former National Parliament clerk and Autonomous Region Of Bougainville (AROB) Administrator Simon Pentanau.

Mr Puliyasi will contest the Kiriwina-Goodenough, Mr Akoita for Central Bougainville and Mr Pentanau for AROB Regional seats. Other candidates are Simon Eyork (Telefomin Open), Rodney Kane (Vanimo-Green Open), Johnson Rayaprum (Aitape-Lumi Open), Morgan Gwangilo (Maprik Open), Alphones Saiho (Yangoru-Sausia Open), John Kamalua Wauru (Bogia Open), Kikereng Wargem (Sumkar Open), Lison Soma (Usino-Bundi Open), Sama Melembo (Raicoast Open), Andrew Ariako (Madang Regional), Geeman Goitia (Huon Gulf Open), Rudia Afius (Menyama Open), Alex Palai (Finchafen Open), Ori Posi (Markham Open), Browen Kiki (Lae Open), Sipora Bendum (Bulolo Open), Daphine Togale Melau (Tewai-Siasi Open), Kem Hsingut (Morobe Regional), John Kwarara (Rigo Open), Philomina Lala (Kairuku-Hiri Open), Russell Wauwik (Moresby North-West Open), Angela Filer Mandie (Moresby North-East Open), Norman Kanai Oma (South Fly Open), Noka Konda (South Fly Open), Ps Lapia Danaya (Middle fly Open), Aiwa Sawa (Western Province Regional), Fr Klower (Ijivitari Open), Caroline Abani (Alotau Open), Augustine Johnatan (Esa-Ia Open), Steven Nesai (Milne Bay Regional), Pedi Anis (Kavieng Open), Fr Bruno (Namatanai Open), Antony Joseph Bem (North Bougainville Open), Francis Magel (Rabaul Open), Samuel Sam Manikot (Gazelle Open), Camillus Vorei (Taliasia Open), Peterson Afore (Henganofi Open), Tom Nunuwei (Goroka Open), Chris Samson (Daulo Open), Nimo Kama (Obura-Woninara Open), Paul Bin Wiwi (Gumine Open), Jacob Numapo (Chuave Open), Thomas Dagi (Hagen Open), Thomas Mek Kumini (Jiwaka Regional), Wasu Amu (Laigap - Porgera Open), Sosoro Kosi (Nipa-Kutubu Open) and Benias Peri (Koroba-Lake Kopiago Open). Mr Klapat said that MA's founding fathers John Momis, the late Bernard Narokobi with Sir John were behind the drawing up of the National constitution. "It is a bonus for the nation to have Sir John back to defend and strengthen the national constitution which is currently being trampled on by the current politicians. And MA will be out to campaign throughout the country to restore the national constitution. We are a Party that strongly believes in the constitution."

01.06.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Takuu - My atoll, my home, place of my ancestors

BY RAROTEONE TEFUARANI



MY ISLAND OF TAKUU/MORTLOCK lies about 250km northeast of Kieta in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

Takuu is the name given to the southernmost and largest of the islands. This island is distinctively broken in half where one half makes up the cemetery and the other half make up our individual family gardens. It is common knowledge that cemetery and gardens hold a very high significance in any cultural society.

We come from the land of Takuu but in actual fact our population inhabits the neighbouring

island to Takuu called Nukutoa.

It is a well known fact that Takuu islanders have grown 'taro' for nearly as long as the Chinese has grown rice and the land has provided so generously over the years despite the water table rising.

We also have banana and coconuts that are well suited to our environment and provides for us all year round just as the taro does. Taro for us has a lot of value and is used a lot in many important traditional gatherings.

Then there is the cemetery where our ancestors and those lost rest. So many generations rest on this island, their graves are decorated with their belongings whether it is a cup, a plate or even their clothes. If we leave we contradict what our very own culture has taught us and that is to respect our dead and families of those buried lose everything of sentimental value.

For some time now it has been evident that sea levels have risen due to climate change and tectonic plate movement, threatening not only food crops but my island home's very existence.

We are not the only atoll affected by the forces of climate change. Also sharing the same fate are our neighbouring atolls Nuguria/Fead, Nukumanu/Tasman and the Cartarets.

The Papua New Guinea government has come up with a plan to relocate my people to mainland Bougainville but this is yet to be fully implemented.

Among the young people there is growing acceptance that maybe it is time to move on, but for the majority of the older generation it is hard for them to accept this change.

I am strongly against the relocation of my people and will present to you a few facts as to why we should not move.

Takuu has many exquisitely divine islands that surround it and all of them have something in common - and that is their white exotic sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. Amongst these are two main attractions that say so much about our history and should be preserved.

The first attraction is the ruins of Queen Emma Forsayth's house on one of our surrounding islands called Amotu; and the second is on one of our other surrounding islands called Nukerekia, a pristine island that is our best kept treasure.

Queen Emma came to inhabit Takuu in the latter half of the nineteenth century, not long after a drought and an epidemic had hit the island very badly. It was during this population decimation that 'Queen Emma', who was of American and Samoan parentage, bravely set a goal to establish a local cocoa plantation which she successfully did as she had done in New Guinea. To this day her house ruins, though weathered, still remain untouched on the island of Amotu.

Nukerekia, on the other hand, is located on the north western side of Takuu and is known to us islanders as Bird Island because it has a reputation for birds laying their eggs on the sand where they are left untouched by all who visit the place.

This treasure of ours has been preserved in its natural state by our ancestors for many generations before us, meaning custom has taught us never to take anything from this island when we visit. Even a tiny shell is prohibited.

I believe our traditions must be maintained no matter what the cost. We cannot lose these very important pieces of our history and we must do everything in our power to preserve them just as our ancestors have protected them for years.

I strongly feel that one must take into consideration the importance of education before relocation is carried out.

Education is very limited back home due to a number of contributing factors and without the proper knowledge and skills our people will not survive in a modern society apart from the village life they've always known.

The two major contributing factors as to why education is limited are due to the lack of transport to and from the island and the remoteness of the island. The only means of getting to the island is by ship and in cases of emergencies, helicopter.

When there is a delay in the ship's schedule, it delays the transport of school learning materials which in turn slows down classes for children. Most times they never reach the island, so the school is forced to withdraw students until supplies arrive, which sometimes takes up to a year.

The remoteness of the island discourages a lot of teachers from taking up their post resulting in a shortage of teachers and, when this happens, the school is forced to withdraw students temporarily until a teacher shows up. In most cases they repeat the next year when a teacher is available to teach that particular grade.

Villagers who have lived their whole lives on the island are unfamiliar with modern technology.

If you look at the life of an average islander and compare it to a person living in modern society you'll notice that there are hardly any similarities between the two.

Girls and boys spend their days learning to tackle the day-to-day chores of an average village in which boys are taught to master the art of fishing, making a canoe, gardening and basic carpentry and girls are taught to garden, weave baskets and mats, cook and wash clothes.

Our people are not prepared to relocate to a modernised society where education is essential for survival. If we relocate our people to mainland Bougainville it will mean culture shock for our people and their lives will change immensely.

Their normal day-to-day routine will be ruined and without a proper education most families won't be able to afford the normal necessities in life like food, water, healthcare and school fees just to name a few and this alone can threaten our peoples' existence.

Our forefathers have fertilised our very gardens with the dust of their bones so how can we just turn our backs on them and leave this island. If we lose this island we lose everything.

People can say that we must move forward with the times but we must move forward in the right way; without our ancestors we wouldn't have made it this far.

If we leave our island and relocate to mainland Bougainville as proposed by the government then we face losing our many attractions, our beautiful surrounding exotic islands, the cemetery that holds the evidence of our past, the gardens our forefathers worked hard to toil and most importantly respect for our heritage.

Another important thing that we risk losing is our traditional etiquette that has always been compulsory for both females and males with most emphasis being placed on the role of a woman. In our society since women are more restricted than men, we are taught from a very young age how custom requires us to dress and behave at all times.

Our main attractions tell the story of our people and how our island came to be. All our exotic islands have meaning and a history of their own and if we move all that will remain is our traditional songs and dances that have been passed down from generation to generation to tell all our children and many generations after of our history and someday that will not be enough

Yes, it is clearly evident that the sea is rising but there has to be a better solution than relocation.

I took the time to sit with one of my uncles the other day and I just listened to the way he spoke of this island and of what it meant to him and I realised this is their home, the only life they have ever known.

It is because of this island that I have learnt where my roots lay. It has taught me to value the beauty of life itself and to never ever take anything as beautiful for granted ever again.

It breaks my heart to know that my home might one day cease to be but I will never stop fighting and neither will our people.

Relocation must be a last resort and not just considered because it is an easy and quick solution. If we leave our identity will be eroded and perhaps even lost forever!

31.07.2012

Source: Riverbendnellingen ([The Bougainville Copper Project](#))

Unique video online:

Bougainville Copper Induction Video

Former Bougainville Copper employees published on Youtube an unique video that gives excellent inside views into daily life on Bougainville and in and around the Panguna mine. A document that you absolutely should not miss! Please use the link below as Youtube's public search doesn't allow access yet!

[Click here please: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj9CZ615kz0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj9CZ615kz0)

31.07.2012

Source: EM-TV

Joe Lera is ABG Governor

Finally after a long delay in the counting for the Bougainville regional seat Joe Lera has come out victorious.

While the NCD Regional seat is a long way from making a declaration, the Moresby Northeast electorate should declare its Member of Parliament by today.

However, elimination for the Moresby Northeast is continuing at a snail's pace. As of this morning they were up to the 40th exclusion with eight more candidates in the race.

And, still in the lead is, sitting Member, Andrew Mald, but with very tight competition from PNG Party man, John Kaupa and closely behind at the third place is Labi Amaiu.

A winner is likely to be declared either today or Wednesday.

While the Returning Officer for the electorate, Douglas Hare has been sidelined for unknown reasons, its Acting RO, Joe Kandai was arrested last week also for unknown reasons. For now, the Acting RO in charge of counting in the electorate is a returning officer from the West New Britain province.

As for the NCD Regional, counting of primary votes still continue. As of yesterday, after count 215, Incumbent Governor and the leader Social Democratic Party, Powes Parkop is still in the lead with a difference of more than 10 thousand votes to the second candidate and PNC man, Wari Vele, and on the third spot is Michael Kandiu, an Independent.

One interesting factor revealed in the counting of the regional votes is that there is an increasing number of informal votes.

More than 4 400 informal votes have been recorded so far. And most of them were recorded from the settlement areas.

With the return of writs set for the first of August, which is tomorrow, it is not looking good for the NCD Regional. More than a hundred boxes are still outstanding to be counted mostly from the Moresby South electorate. And while it will take longer than a week to get a winner for the seat, the Electoral Commissioner is not worried at all.

In a media brief yesterday afternoon, Commissioner, Andrew Trawen said he is not worried that it will be a failed election if only one or two seat not being declared on time.

Mr Trawen said by today all the seats should be declared except for three regional, Enga Provincial seat, Western Highlands and the NCD Regional which he said can be explained to the Governor General when the Writs are issued.

New Uncertainty and Trouble ahead ?

31.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Local companies oppose BCL return

By PATRICK TALU

Talks of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL)'s return to the civil war-torn Autonomous Region of Bougainville to reopen the Panguna mine has received stiff resistance from the Bougainville landowner companies from the mine area.

Joe Birunoim, mandated spokesperson for five major landowner companies from the Panguna mine area, a former politician and former rebel commander yesterday said the talk of BCL returning to Panguna is 'a joke'.

Mr Biruniom who represents Avaipa Resources Ltd, Pakasianpa Resources Ltd, Baunapa Resources Ltd, Erupia Resources Ltd and Karato Resources Ltd said BCL is not welcomed in Bougainville.

"It has more than enough outstanding issues on its plate. If BCL is stalking about returning to the Panguna mine pit is fine but not accepted at the 7 sisters (the seven mining lease areas). We have had enough damaged accumulated from BCL. Knowing the fact that BCL is out of the region, we have already established ourselves as exploration and mining companies to explore and mine our own mineral resources. We have joint partnership with major internationally reputable mining and exploration companies who have agreed to our model of shareholdings and benefiting sharing arrangement which is a unique and different from any other developers could afford to offer," Mr Birunoim said.



Vice Chairman and a director of umbrella company Isina Resources Holdings Ltd Sam Kauna (pictured with family) said if there is any negotiation for reopening of Panguna, it has to be a wide consultation and not for ABG President John Momis to decide whether BCL is to come or not as it's a private political deal.

"The very people who fought for their land and resources have to be consulted. But in this case, the landowners have decided their own destiny and said no t o BCIL.

I am working on as model to give back mineral and oil ownership back to the landowners and any talk to BCL coming back will defeat the purpose of setting up and

landowner's companies to locally explore and mine our own resources.

If we can do exploration and mine our own with other companies through joint venture, there is no need for BCL as it does not have any place in the region, the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army General told the Post Courier yesterday.

A former senior politician from the region who requested unanimous when asked to comment after learning of BCL interest to return said, "the general feelings in Bougainville is that there is an ill feeling about the news of BCL return. General, Bougainvillians don't want to see BCL coming back."

Also it must be made clear that under Section 23 of the Bougainville Constitution, all mineral and oil resources are owned and belong to the landowners or resource owners of Bougainville and not ABG, the National Government or any foreigner for that matter," the former politician said.

Two weeks ago, BCL chairman Peter Taylor was in the region to talk to the Panguna landowners including ABG President John Momis. Mr Momis later told Radio Australia that the meeting with BCL was very significant. "It was the first time that all the landowners were represented in the group that talked with us. In the past we had other big meetings but not all landowner groups were represented. But this time it was good. I was not completely surprised.

I was very happy because we had been doing a lot of work, the administration has been doing a lot of work liaising and talking with the landowner groups and insisting that landowners must come to an agreement to work together," Mr Momis reportedly said.

31.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Alotau camp rises to 80

By GORETHY KENNETH in Alotau

PRIME Minister-in-waiting Peter O'Neill will have little trouble in being elected as the next Prime Minister with a solid backing of about 80 MPs, most of whom are now in his camp in Alotau, Milne Bay province.

When the latest head count was taken at Alotau Airways International Hotel last night, there were 72 MPs present.

New MP for Goroka, Bire Kimisopa, will join the camp this morning with Peoples United party leader and Governor for Hela, Anderson Agiru; re-elected Kandep MP and leader of THE Party, Don Polye; and leader of National Alliance Parry, Patrick Pruaitch, with his new MP for Sinasina Yongomugl, Kerenge Kua. **New MP for Bougainville, Joe Lera will also join the Alotau camp this morning from Buka.**

Mr O'Neill chaired a caucus meeting yesterday and the meeting was still in progress by 9 o'clock last night. No details were announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

Leaders and members of all the coalition partners have been working over the last several days on the coalition's policy framework and work plan for the next five years.

They will continue and finalise these important initiatives up until until the MPs decamp in Alotau and move to Port Moresby in time for the 9th Parliament sitting to elect the Speaker and Prime Minister.

As of last night, the party standings were: PNC 30 MPs; THE Party 14; NA 7, PPP 6; URP 5; PUA 4; PP and PUA on 3 each; and UP and PNGNP on one each.

31.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Namah confident in his camp

LEADER of PNG Party and caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah is adamant that his Rapopo Camp in East New Britain will form the next Government as his numbers swell in the lead up to the inaugural sitting of the 2012-2017 Parliament.

“Whether I am Prime Minister or I make somebody with the numbers to be the Prime Minister, we are going to form the next Government on the floor of Parliament,” said a determined re-elected MP for Vanimo Green River on his arrival at Tokua Airport late yesterday.

Mr Namah stressed at a press conference that more than 50 per cent of sitting MPs have lost their seats in the 2012 national elections.

“That is the people’s statement for change. Papua New Guineans want change,” he said.

“Elected leaders must provide strong, vibrant and determined leadership to uproot the deep and corrupt network of the old guard to effect the people’s desire for change.

“I believe that two-thirds of the Government of the last 10 months is intact and we will join hands to form the next Government. I am prepared to support a Government of change,” he said.

Mr Namah arrived in the wake of an early morning earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale that rocked homes in Kokopo for about one minute.

Instead of dampening their spirits, the number of the already buoyant Rapopo camp soared with the arrival of leader Mr Namah with additional MPs including returned Talasea MP and caretaker Deputy Speaker Francis Marus, Komo-Magarima MP Francis Potape, new Goilala MP Daniel Mona and Sandaun Governor Ankap Mai.

Mr Namah’s delegation was received at Tokua Airport by an East New Britain Provincial Government delegation led by Deputy Governor Boniface Setavo, ENB provincial police commander Chief Inspector Sylvester Kalaut, provincial events coordinator Gordon Gaius and MPs including Rabaul MP Dr Allan Marat, Bulolo MP Sam Basil and West New Britain Governor-elect Sasindran Muthuvel.

All were driven under tight police escort involving some 20 vehicles to Rapopo Plantation Resort, midway between Tokua Airport and Kokopo Town.

Last night, security was tightened at the resort where the MPs which also includes Gazelle MP Malakai Tabar, **North Bougainville MP Louta Atoi**, Kandrian-Gloucesterc MP Joseph Lelang, and Angoram MP Ludwig Schulz met to decide a way forward.

The Rapopo camp is likely to be joined by the newly declared Governor-elect of Madang Jim Kas. They are also monitoring results of counts in Jiwaka, Chimbu and Eastern Highlands provinces.

31.07.2012

Source: The National

North Bougainville MP joins Namah !

By ABIGAIL APINA

NORTH Bougainville MP-elect Louta Atoi is at the PNG party’s camp in Kokopo, East New Britain, because he believes in Belden Namah’s leadership.

“I believe in his style of leadership and I also believe that as leaders, we need to make tough choices this time around,” he said.

Namah is on the sidelines as People’s National Congress party leader and caretaker Prime Minister Peter O’Neill stitches up a coalition capable of forming the next government without his former deputy.

A PNC party candidate Atoi said yesterday he switched camps because he believed in his principles.

“I believe in good governance, transparency and accountability and I believe this team will see this way forward for this country,” he said.

He added it was important for leaders to make ethical choices in their lives as representatives of their people.

He said he was explaining his move because it was important the people of North Bougainville knew why he made the move.

"I believe that Namah is the right choice for the autonomous arrangements for Bougainville as I believe he can help us achieve more in our quest," he said.

Bougainville's autonomous arrangements has never been addressed in the past 10 years and he strongly believed that a Namah-led government would address the issue.

"There is nothing for the people of Bougainville to be afraid of and my switching camps is the right move," he said.

30.07.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Film producers hope to screen Mister Pip in Bougainville

A producer of the film Mister Pip says they will try to find a way to get it screened in Bougainville. Mister Pip, based on the novel by Lloyd Jones, is set in 1991, during the decade-long civil war in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province.

The film has been selected to premiere in the prized Special Presentation section of the Toronto International Film Festival.

The producer Robin Scholes says screening it in Bougainville is a trickier issue.

"There aren't cinemas in Bougainville, there isn't electricity in most places. So, we will have to find a way to show the film on a screen, and we're hoping to do that before the end of this year."

30.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Declaration on

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU will shortly declare the new member for Bougainville Regional, Joe Lera who has won the seat after a long and tiring battle to get the seat.

As of the primary counts **JOE LERA** was ahead by one or two thousands to challengers, ISHMAEL TOROAMA and sitting member FIDELIS SEMOSO until the eleventh exclusion of Fidelis Semoso which made him finally reach the absolute majority to win the seat.

30.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FINAL COUNT

By Aloysius Laukai

Counters are now counting elimination 11 to find out the winner for the Bougainville Regional seat at the Hutjena counting centre.

From exclusion 10, the figures are as follows,

JOE LERA 23,549

ISHMAEL TOROAMA 18,629

FIDELIS SEMOSO 15,699

Absolute Majority 28,939

Fidelis Semoso has been removed now and his votes would be distributed to the two still in the race, Ishmael Toroama and Joe Lera.



29.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

9th Elimination

LERA STILL AHEAD

By Aloysius Laukai

Joe Lera is still leading after the 9th elimination of candidate, Magdalen Toroansi.

Figures from rank down,

JOE LERA 20,547

ISHMAEL TOROAMA, 17,267

FIDELIS SEMOSO 14,497

KAPEATU PUARIA 11,088

TOTAL Ballot papers 63,399 and the absolute majority now stands at 31,700 sp Kapeatu Puaria will be eliminated next

29.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Results

By Aloysius Laukai

After the 8th elimination, JOE LERA is still maintaining his lead with 18,275

ISHMAEL TOROAMA 15,573

FIDELIS SEMOSO 13,205

KAPEATU PUARIA 9 843

MAGDALEN TOROANSI 9,775

On the 9th exclusion currently in progress, Magdalen Toroansi has been excluded and her 9000 votes will be distributed to the running candidates.

Counting is now progressing smoothly.

29.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING RESUMES

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat has resumed after so many disturbances which included adjusting of figures after a final quality check in Buka today.

Remaining candidates in the race also briefly met with the Electoral Manager and agreed for the counting process to continue and a winner declared quickly.

The count started with elimination 8 which is candidate, ALBERT MAGOI who has 6493 votes to be distributed to the still running candidates.

Five candidates who are Still in the race are,

JOE LERA 16760

ISHMAEL TOROAMA 14308

FIDELIS SEMOSO 12401

KAPEATU PUARIA 9066

MAGDALENE TOROANSI 8995

Absolute majority at this stage is 34,012

29.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING PROBLEM TWISTS

By Aloysius Laukai at the Hutjena counting centre.

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat turned into a new issue last night with scrutineers wanting the count of informal figures.

When that was agreed and done the count was suspended again for 8am this morning.

And after 11 am the same group returned questioning the total Regional figure which they wanted to be re-checked again. They tried to reconciled their figures but have not yet compromised to allow the process to continue.

If this continues the Electoral commission must intervene to allow the process to be completed as it has already past the due date, lucky the extension for the return of writs is still on.

28.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Counting start

by Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Regional seat counting will start with elimination 8.

As you can see preparation is complete and for the elimination.

28.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Elimination to start tonight

By Aloysius Laukai

NEW DAWN FM has been informed a while ago that elimination for the Nort Bougainville would start tonight at the Hutjena Secondary School hall.

Bougainville election Manager said that they were organizing counters so that counting can begin from where they stopped on Wednesday night.

He however did not say if counting officials have been paid.

New Dawn Fm will update this site once new figures appear tonight.

28.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE LOSING

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Regional member may not contribute to the formation of the next PNG National Government as counting for the Regional seat suspension enters its 3rd day.

New Dawn FM talked to the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU who said that the matter was still un-resolved. He said if they resolve outstanding issues, counting will resume.

27.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New movie star

THE Mr Pip film, set in Bougainville has been selected to premiere in the prized special presentation section of the Toronto International Film Festival.

Mister Pip tells the story of the last white man on war-torn Bougainville, who teaches local children by reading Charles Dickens' Great Expectations.

The story is set in 1991, during the decade-long civil war in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province.

The film's director, Andrew Adamson and producer, Robin Scholes, will attend the premiere.

Robin Scholes says the film is truly epic, and made all the more powerful because it is founded in the real life stories of the Bougainvillean people who helped shape and make both the book and the film



It was announced today that the film will premiere in the prized 'Special Presentation' section at the festival, which runs from September 6 to 16.

Mr Pip is an adaptation of the critically-acclaimed New Zealand novel of the same name by Lloyd Jones.

It is directed by Oscar-nominated New Zealand director Andrew Adamson and stars Golden Globe winner Hugh Laurie, known for his role in the American TV drama House.

Laurie plays Mr Watts, a school teacher on the island of Bougainville who befriends one of his pupils, Matilda, and helps her endure a violent civil war.

New Zealand Film Commission CEO Graeme Mason said the film's selection put yet another spotlight on the nation's wider film making talent.

"Mr Pip is an outstanding New Zealand film from an outstanding New Zealand film maker.

27.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pay and Recount

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat starts after midday today.
Guess what we found at the counting centre when setting up the PA system this morning.
The handwritten note said pay and recount....



26.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Suspension till tomorrow.

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat elimination has been further suspended until tomorrow Friday midday, 27th July, 2012.

This was announced by the Returning officer for North Bougainville Marchelin Kiarei this afternoon.

He told scrutineers and remaining counters and the public that the Electoral Office could not pay the counters today resulting in the extension of the suspension from yesterday night.

This however would exceed the official return of writs which is the 27th July 2012.

The PNG electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen has extended today the return of writs by one week.

After the announcement at the counting centre, Southern Regional Police Commander, Superintendent PAUL KAMUAI said that the continuous delays were causing unnecessary burden to everyone including the officials and something must be done to complete the process once and for all.

He said South Bougainville Police were still providing security whilst other regions have scaled down their manpower.

Superintendent Kamuai said that this was also proving too much for his team.

Meanwhile, nearly all the service providers since polling and now counting are yet to be paid.



26.07.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG's political rivals form partnership

There is an old saying that in politics there are no permanent friends, just permanent interests.

And nowhere is that truer than in Papua New Guinea politics where the two men who had a bitter falling out as both claimed the prime ministership have now made up.

As the dust settles after this month's election, Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare, opponents for months, now say they will join forces to form government.

Presenter: Sean Dorney

Speakers: Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister; Sir Michael Somare, National Alliance Party leader; Dr Alphonse Gelu, Political Parties Integrity Commission

[Listen here !](#)

25.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Another suspension

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting of the Bougainville Regional seat was going smoothly until shift change at 11pm tonight.

7th elimination figures are as follows,

JOE LERA is still leading with 16,760

ISHMAEL TOROAMA 14,308

FIDELIS SEMOSO 12,401

TOROANSI MAGDALEN 8,995

ALBERT MAGOI 6493

There is a small issue as the counters change the next group refuses to continue and demand to see the Electoral Manager due to non payment of allowances.

25.07.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Feel good by telling other people to feel bad!

Richard Solly (pictured) is a certain Mr. Nobody from London. He feels good when he's able to fight against international mining companies. [His latest coup is - once again - meant to attack Rio Tinto for supplying alledged "conflict copper" for the production of Olypmic medals.](#) "Copper Investing News" journalist Shihoko Goto reports on Solly's latest activities. In the past his organisation tried to attack Bougainville Copper Limited and the ESBC as well:



[Please find out more about Solly's London based group!](#)



Are Olympic Medals Made From Conflict Copper?

By Shihoko Goto - Exclusive to Copper Investing News



Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but many shoppers these days are conscious about how their carats were mined and vote with their feet against so-called blood diamonds that were mined at conflict zones in Africa. Should Olympic athletes too be aware of where the metal for their medal comes from, and should they insist on getting awarded with copper as well as gold and silver that were mined sustainably at the London games?

That is certainly what the London Mining Network is calling for. The alliance of human rights and environmental groups has been one of the many non-profit organizations protesting against Rio Tinto (ASX:RIO) being the official metals provider for all 4,700 medals produced by the Royal Mint for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. The last time Rio Tinto was the official metals supplier was in 2002. This year, the metals have been sourced from Rio Tinto's Kennecott copper mine in Utah and Mongolia's Oyu Tolgoi mine produced in an environmentally sustainable manner that promotes local growth, according to Rio Tinto's CEO Tom Albanese:

"Being ethically responsible is a thread that runs through everything we do. We aim to bring long-lasting positive change to the communities where we work, respecting human rights, bringing economic benefits and looking after the environment," Albanese stated in a news release.

Such claims, however, have been dismissed by many environmental as well as labor rights advocates.

"We certainly do not agree with the assessment" by Rio Tinto about the sustainability of its mining operations, said Richard Solly, a coordinator for the London Mining Network (LMN). The organization argues that Rio Tinto did not go through an audit and certification process before being accepted as the provider of the metals for this year's London Olympics. In particular, LMN has pointed out allegations by Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment and Utah Moms for Clean Air that the Bingham Canyon project is having an adverse affect on the health of those in the surrounding communities. Oyu Tolgoi, meanwhile, has been accused by the advocacy group

of causing not only heavy environmental damage, but also poor labor practices including sexual harassment of female workers in Mongolia.

While Rio Tinto has denied such allegations, there is no shortage of environmental groups as well as labor unions and human rights advocacy groups siding with LMN. The Geneva-based International Metalworkers' Federation has leveraged its global network to rally union members to object to Rio Tinto's role in the upcoming games. The United Steelworkers, meanwhile, launched the Off the Podium campaign earlier this year to pressure the International Olympic Committee to use Rio Tinto as well as to publicize what the group regards as human and labor rights violations in addition to environmental damage caused by the company until the games end in August.

Of course, Rio Tinto is not the only miner to face the wrath of activists, but the fact that the latest games is in a city where political activism thrives, together with the power of social media, appear to have made public opposition more visible. There had been some opposition to BHP Billiton (ASX:BHP) being the 2008 Olympic Games provider in Beijing by using metals from its Cannington mine in Queensland, Australia as well as its Escondida and Spence projects in Chile. Yet such protests were overshadowed by opposition against the Chinese government for its human rights violation as well as environmental destruction.

What has not changed is the tradition of using actual gold and silver as well as copper to produce the medals. According to the Olympic Charter, the gold and silver medals must each be made of at least 92.5 percent pure silver and the gold medal must be gilded with at least six grams of gold. The silver medal is 92.5 percent silver while the remaining 7.5 percent is copper, and the bronze medal consists of 97 percent copper, 2.5 percent zinc, and 0.5 percent tin. Over 8 tonnes of gold, silver, and copper has been extracted and refined for this year's Olympic medals which are 3.25 inches in diameter and weigh over 14 ounces. The medals have been housed in the vaults of the Tower of London since earlier this month for safekeeping.

Any athlete would argue, though, that the true value of a medal is not how much gold, silver, or copper it contains. Moreover, it appears that the Rio Tinto boycott movement has not permeated much across the general public. In the Tokyo suburb of Oizumi Gakuen, for instance, the community has united around local Masaki Ito, a 2011 World Trampoline Championship silver medalist and Olympic medalist hopeful. Asked about whether or not the source of a medal should be of concern, one Ito fan and local coffee shop waiter Norihide Otani said that such discussion should be banned during the games.

"Gold is best, but any medal is just great. Who made that medal doesn't matter. There will always be time to address labor disputes... and they never go away anyway. It's bringing home a medal that's important right now," Otani said.

Securities Disclosure: I, Shihoko Goto, hold no direct investment interest in any company mentioned in this article.

25.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FINAL COUNTDOWN

by Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville regional seat final elimination has started.

As of the final quality check the figures are as follows,

ALBERT MAGOI 5232

SIMON PENTANU 4666

HENRY ONSA 689
KAPEATU PUARIA 6887
SAM KAROL 1058
LYNET ONA 2369
JIMMY MOSE 2033
JOE LERA 13,400
ISHMAEL TOROAMA 10,867
MAGDALEN TOROANSI 6373
MARCHELIN GETSI 2852
JOE WATAWI 4419
FIDELIS SEMOSO 9051
TOTAL VOTES 69,896 and absolute majority is 34,949

25.07.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Are O'Neill and Somare trying to isolate Namah?

by KEITH JACKSON

WITH THE NEWS THAT prime minister Peter O'Neill is in talks with his rival Sir Michael Somare over a possible coalition deal, is the new game in town 'let's isolate Belden?' And will it work? Not one of the 42 registered political parties in Papua New Guinea will go anywhere near commanding a majority in its own right.

O'Neill's People's National Congress is easily doing the best and can probably look forward to winning between one-quarter and one-third of the seats in the new parliament.



With volatile PNG Party leader Belden Namah announcing during the campaign that he'd take on O'Neill for the prime ministership, it seems unlikely he'd want his party to join any coalition put together by O'Neill.

Although stranger things have happened in PNG politics.

Instead, Namah will be working hard on persuading minor parties and independents to join cause with him. The rewards he'll be offering will be munificent.

It seems O'Neill is also talking seriously to Don Polye, whose Triumph Heritage Empowerment Party is running second, former PM Sir Julius Chan (People's Progress Party) as well as Somare (National Alliance) and other smaller parties.

The O'Neill-Somare alliance is especially intriguing as it's only a few week ago that the Grand Chief said the Young Turk should face gaol for what the old man (and, it might be added, the Supreme Court) saw as O'Neill's unconstitutional prime ministership.

On present indications, a coalition between O'Neill, Somare, Chan and Polye would go very close to gaining a parliamentary majority.

On seeing that this might be the likely outcome, a host of other minor parties and independents could be expected to join the O'Neill bandwagon.

This would leave Namah out in the cold as a rather frustrated and one would imagine embittered opposition leader.

But that's just one permutation in a dynamic calculus that has many twists and turns left in it yet.

It's become a cliché to refer to PNG as the "land of the unexpected".

But time and again it manages to live up to this reputation.

25.07.2012

Source: The National

PMs bloc - Somare, Wingti and Chan back O'Neill

By FRANK S KOLMA and STARZA PAUL

THREE former prime ministers, Sir Michael Somare, Sir Julius Chan and Paias Wingti, yesterday pledged support for caretaker Prime Minister and PNC party leader Peter O'Neill to form the next government.

That was the announcement, but the moment belonged to Sir Michael and O'Neill who hugged and held hands – two men who claimed legitimacy to the office of the prime minister for six months and split political parties, the civil service, the judiciary and the military into two opposing spheres.

Hardly a word passed at the press conference about that period which history will remember kindly as the "political impasse" as the group talked of a new government of reconciliation, of hope and a return of integrity to government and parliament.

The move, which attracted a rush of numbers to the O'Neill camp by smaller parties and independents, was also described as a move to restore confidence to the people, of investors and the international community. Sir Julius Chan, who orchestrated the move, declared: "This is a memorable occasion in the history of this nation when such big power players like the Grand Chief (Sir Michael Somare) and Paias Wingti are here which will show the people of this nation that we, the experienced leaders, have the heart for the nation and its people.

"This is something you will never see anywhere in the world.

"I thank the Grand Chief for joining forces. He is above politics; he has got the interest of the people at heart." Judging by those who turned up yesterday, the numbers in O'Neill's camp swelled to 39 out of the 66 seats declared so far.

This included PNC's 20 declared members, the People's Progress Party's six, Sir Michael's National Alliance five and Wingti's People's Democratic Movement member for Middle Ramu Tommy Tomscoll.

Wingti, while leading in the Western Highlands, had not been declared.

Also leading but undeclared in the National Capital District regional seat is Powes Parkop, who was present and lent his two members to O'Neill.

Hela Governor and leader of the United People's Assembly Anderson Agiru, who has one other member in Pomio MP Paul Tiensten, also attended the meeting.

Absent from the gathering and offering no commitment were Finance and Treasury Minister Don Polye and his Triumph Heritage Empowerment Party's five members, Petroleum and Energy Minister William Duma and his three United Resources Party Members and Enga Governor Peter Ipatas' People's Party and his three MPs. The PNG Party has set up a separate camp in Kokopo, East New Britain, where it is wooing independents and smaller parties to put its leader Belden Namah as its choice for the top post.

Sir Michael received the highest accolade for joining O'Neill.

He said: "I thank O'Neill for inviting me to this press conference.

"We do not want disruptions. "I believe that by having me, Sir Julius and Wingti, you can be rest assured that we will be able to provide services and give confidence to our people. "We are seeing a new government in the making." Wingti said the country needed to see integrity brought back to the institutions of state and for the rule of law. "We want to see parliament operate properly," he said.

“We want to see things done properly and the laws followed.”



Former prime ministers Paias Wingti (left), Sir Michael Somare and Sir Julius Chan (right) yesterday committed their parties – People’s Democratic Movement, National Alliance and People’s Progress Party respectively – in support of a government to be formed by Peter O’Neill (second right). The four leaders all declared a common desire to form a new coalition government at the Airways Hotel, Port Moresby. – Picture courtesy of Prime Minister’s media unit

25.07.2012

Source: The National

Tribunal asks Governor General to dismiss Semoso

By ADRIAN MATHIAS

A LEADERSHIP tribunal in Port Moresby yesterday recommended to Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio to dismiss Fidelis Semoso as member for Bougainville regional after he was found guilty of misconduct in office last week.

He was charged with misappropriating K2.7 million meant for the South Bougainville feeder road project and sexually assaulting and torturing a woman.

The tribunal found him not guilty on several allegations in categories three, five and six.

Category three related to personally benefiting from public funds meant for the feeder road project.

Category five related to winning a contract under false pretence and category six related to the failure to disclose interest.

However, pursuant to section 28(1A) of the Constitution, and section 27(5)(a)(b) of the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership, which says that if a tribunal found a leader guilty of misconduct in office, it must recommend to the appropriate authority that he or she be dismissed from office or recommend other appropriate penalties. The tribunal said Semoso was culpable for what he did.

“On the inquiry before us, the leader has been found guilty of misconduct in office for very serious breaches of the Constitution and the OLDRL. “The manner and process of getting the money to fund the projects nominated by the leader, and how the money was used, was not proper and

this amounts to serious culpability."The tribunal recommended Semoso for dismissal from office to the public prosecutions, which then made a submission to the office of the governor-general for signing and eventual dismissal.The ruling was made in the absence of Semoso, who was still in Bougainville.

His lawyer appeared for him.

25.07.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville count drags

COUNTING for the Bougainville regional seat began again from the first exclusion yesterday and is going at a slow pace as figures continue to differ.As of 3pm, it was decided the counting process at Hutjena Secondary School hall counting centre would start again from the first exclusion. Quality checks had been completed.

A re-check of counting official names was undertaken but the officials were reportedly demanding they be paid their allowances before they started counting.

North Bougainville returning officer Marcelline Kearei announced on Monday night that counting for the regional seat would be suspended until 9am yesterday.

It was later decided that counting would begin again from the first exclusion.

24.07.2012

Source: missioBayern

Sonntag der Weltmission 2012

Blick nach Bougainville

24.07.2012

Source: missio Bayern

Bischof Bernard Unabali

Gast zum Sonntag der Weltmission 2012

Sonntag der Weltmission 2012

Hamarah Bamboo Band Bougainville

24.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE SEAT

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Regional seat may not be declared on time if the current inefficient counting mode is still employed this week.

Counting for the Bougainville seats started on Monday July 9th and After 3 weeks of counting, figures are still unofficial.

Noone is to be blamed for this slow process, that has made so many people question why this was so slow.

Disturbances were made by both the candidates and their scrutineers and including unbalanced counting figures.

As the day for the return of writs draws near which is July 27th it is a big concern as this might be the case because counters have been having sleepless nights since July 9th.

And after several recounts over the last two weeks candidates this afternoon wanted another recount and this time starting with the first ballot box was ordered which has made it more difficult for the counters to beat the deadline.

By seven pm tonight the count has not started.

To make matters even worse these counters are talking about boycotting the count over non payment of their allowances.

NEW DAWN FM was also informed that food supply to the counting officials was also stopped last night by catering groups also for non payment of their work.

New Dawn Fm will also as of midnight tonight stop all its live coverages of the counting as it was getting more expensive for us to follow.

We will however update our website daily.

24.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville landowners want Panguna re-opened

Impacted landowners of Panguna mine have met in a bid to pave the way for the return of mining giant Rio-Tinto.

Rio's Panguna copper mine was the spark that ignited a decade-long civil war which left thousands dead and the economy of the island on its knees.

Two decades on, there is a growing consensus among landowners about re-opening the mine.

The president of the ABG John Momis and landowners spokesperson Bernadine Kirra who is the Chairwoman of the 3000 strong landowner group speaking to Radio Australia's Jemima Garret at the weekend said respective landowners of Panguna are talking to Rio Tinto for a possible return.

Kirra who was said to be from the lower part of the mine tailings that badly affected their environment said "the meeting with Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) was a step forward. it was a very good meeting because we agreed at once some decisions that BCL has to meet."

Ms Garret asked what the feelings amongst the women were and the other landowners and whether they want to see the mine re-opened, eventually;

Ms Kirra responded, "uh, yeah! Most people in mine-affected areas and all of Bougainville, we would very much want BCL to come back before it decides to come to Bougainville and help us with our economical recovery on Bougainville," she said.

Mr Momis added that the meeting with BCL was very significant. "It was the first time that all the landowners were represented in the group that talked with us. In the past we had other big meetings but not all landowner groups were represented. But this time it was good. The landowner groups represented all the groups that have been listed as the legitimate landowners, which include Mekamui, of course, yes.

"I was not completely surprised. I was very happy because we had been doing a lot of work, the administration has been doing a lot of work liaising and talking with the landowner groups and insisting that landowners must come to an agreement to work together," Mr Momis said.

Chris Damana, Interim Chairman of the key umbrella group, the Panguna Landowners Association, said the BCL representative acquitted himself well.

BCL will come and re-open the mine but need to tidy up a lot of things before they come and re-open the mine. We all agree that BCL will come back because they have learned their mistake. We have learned our mistake and, maybe, we can start on a new slate," Mr Damana said.

24.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Back to business

By Aloysius Laukai

Whilst many losing candidates are trying to recover from the stress of ol politics over the last months, A Bougainville candidate, DAMIAN KORA has accepted the results.

He told New Dawn Fm that he has to go back to his building and construction business.

MR KORA said he would not bother himself with the problems of going through the court of disputed returns.

He is pictured here buying steel for his building on Buka town.



23.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sixth Elimination

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat is very slow as figures continue to differ.

Counters are double checking elimination 6 before they can put it up on the board.

From the 13 candidates vying for the top seat six have been eliminated with seven candidates still in the race.

Those that have been eliminated and their second and

3rd choices distributed are, JOE WATAWI, MARCHELLIN GETSI, JIMMY MOSE, LYNETT ONA, SAM KAROL and HENRY ONSA.



Pictured are counters double checking Elimination 6 at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall counting centre.

22.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Count suspended

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Bougainville Regional seat has been suspended and will continue later today.

Counting had been slow when figures did not match from one of the eliminations last night.

This has been fixed and further eliminations will follow when counting resumes later today.

So far no candidate is close to the absolute majority fifty percent plus one mark of 34,946.

22.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Reflection from Aloysius Laukai in Port Moresby.

To all our listeners on Bougainville and you our readers from our blog.

By Aloysius Laukai Teamleader Bougainville's community Radio Network.

Covering the 2012 PNG General Elections.

The LPV election is good but the counting is so costly as it drags on and on from days to weeks.

New Dawn FM started covering the counting from day one and has continued for 24/7 until the final winner for the Regional seat is declared.

Us as a community radio surviving from donation and sponsors have been really stretched over our limits.

Our broadcasts were using cellphones which made it more expensive as our paid phone lines to the counting centre were not connected by telikom, even lines for the electoral commission were not activated.

We would like to thank one sponsor that made it possible for us to move between the various counting centres by donating one drum fuel, SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE ENGINEERING, ALBERT KINANI.

Your contribution has made it possible for us to concentrate limited resources on other pressing matters like power, flex cards and off course food for our hardworking staff.

To you our viewers, your questions, comments and queries has kept us going despite these difficulties and challenges we face everyday in trying to disseminate news and information to the entire world.

Sometimes we feel like throwing the towel and say enough..but we continue as without us getting information from Bougainville would be like normal from the PNG papers.

Thank the your staff of New Dawn FM for their tireless dedication to this service.

Thank you!

Since a couple of months, the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) regularly support Radio New Dawn's important information effort. We would be pleased if you would kindly contribute either via the ESBC account or directly to Aloysius Laukai. Please find here the bank account information that you need!

[Please click here to find out more about Radio New Dawn on Bougainville!](#)

21.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women constesting praised

By Aloysius Laukai

women who contested this year's national general elections were praised for their efforts and contributions in the elections and for challenging their menfolk.

Returning officer for north Bougainville said this today when declaring the north open seat winner. He praised the three women who took part in the Bougainville elections.

He says that they came out finishing well within the five in all regions revealing that there was support for women leaders in the region.

He encouraged them to work together this year in their respective areas to strengthen and move the region forward.

21.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Still anybody's absolute majority

By Aloysius Laukai

After the 3rd elimination in the Bougainville Regional seat count, no one is near the absolute majority figure of 35,016.

JOE LERA is still extending his lead as the counting continues.

JOE LERA is on 14019

TOROAMA ISHMAEL 11,372

FIDELIS SEMOSO 9,536

KAPEATU PUARIA 7,229

TOROANSI MAGDALEN 6,818

ALBERT MAGOI 5,421

SIMON PENTANU 4,928

JOE WATAWI 4,804

MARCHELIN GETSI 3,199

21.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Regional seat count

LERA AHEAD By Aloysius Laukai in the Bougainville regional counting,JOE LERA is leading with 13,543 votes. Ishmael Toroama is running second with 10,967 Sitting member Fidelis Semoso in running 3rd with 9,123 Kapeatu Puaria is next with 6939 Magdalen Toroansi is on 6439 Albert

Magoi is on 5273, Simon Pentanu 4681 Joe Watawi on 4525 Machelin Getsi on 2897 Lynet Ona 2454 and Jimmy Mose is on 2073. These are figures after the first elimination

21.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville returns MPs

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville has returned three of the four sitting members in this year's National election with the Regional seat still on count.

From the latest count sitting member Fidelis Semoso is still at a good 3rd place.

This is despite widespread campaign that they have been silent in parliament in the last five years.

And because the vote has shown the complete opposite it seems the members have slowly and silently won the heart of voters to return them back to the Tambaran Haus.

Despite all the campaign talk New Dawn Fm has received congratulation messages to these three Bougainville leaders on its comments page.

They said that they are prepared to work with them to move Bougainville forward.

20.07.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville considers court action against PNG government over unpaid funds

Whoever takes over as Prime Minister in Papua New Guinea after the post-election political horse-trading is finished will have a lot on his plate.

Bougainville considers court action against PNG government over unpaid funds (Credit: ABC)

Not the least is a financial settlement of money owed to the Autonomous Government of Bougainville under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

The PNG government has promised Bougainville 100 million kina a year - equivalent to 42 million Australian dollars - in funding for essential programs.

But, despite repeated requests, it has not paid up.

Bougainville's President, John Momis, says if the new Prime Minister does not pay up he will have to consider court action.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville

Listen here !

MOMIS: we still haven't got the 100 million that the National government promised, for this year 100 million. That money hasn't come yet. We don't seem to know why the national government ..they don't seem to tell us. We have had delegations going to meet, senior bureaucrats going to Port Moresby to meet with the National Planning Office, with the Treasury and we still don't have

any satisfactory answer. So we are at a loss as to what we need to do now. Maybe we need professional people to bring us together in a sort of a mediation process and if that doesn't work we may need to have some adjudication that needs to be done and, if that fails, I guess we just have to go to court. But we are waiting for the election results and the formation of the new government, for me to make that last visit to Port Moresby because we are frustrated. We don't understand. Nobody seems to tell us exactly why they are not releasing the money and, as far as we are concerned, it is a breach of a contract. Bougainville Peace Agreement is not just an agreement, it is a contract between two governments.

GARRETT: You have had people in Port Moresby, recently, talking about this issue. Were they able to get any satisfaction?

MOMIS: No! No! No satisfactory outcome.

GARRETT: so what immediate action do you want from the Papua New Guinea government that will be formed once the electoral process is finished?

MOMIS: Well, I want to go and meet with the new Prime Minister and put it straight to him that we believe they have seriously breached a contract, especially in view of the fact that ...you know for many, many years Bougainville made the lion's share, you know, paying a big contribution to the national purse and we don't understand why they are still subjecting us to this way of not giving us a direct answer. We have wasted seven months.

GARRETT: Just what impact is this lack of funding having on your government and the people of the region?

MOMIS: Massive detrimental impact. We are not a normal situation. We are just coming out of the Bougainville Crisis. We need money for weapons disposal, for reconciliation, for dealing with law and order problems. We are dealing with an administration that lacks capacity. We have to build capacity. Even the autonomous government House of Representatives, it doesn't have the capacity and so on and so forth. So it is making a massive detrimental impact on our effort to (?inaudible) Bougainville for good governance, for rule of law, respect for law and order, especially in preparation for the referendum (On Independence from Papua New Guinea) from 2015 to 2020.

20.07.2012

Source: The National

Submissions on Semoso's penalty to be heard today

THE leadership tribunal dealing with Fidelis Semoso will sit today to hear submissions on his penalty, even if he is absent.

Bougainville regional MP Semoso was on Monday found guilty on most of the 14 allegations of misconduct levelled against him. The charges were related to the misappropriation of K2.7 million South Bougainville feeder road project funds.

The number of charges that Semoso was found guilty of was to have been revealed yesterday as well as the appropriate penalties.

The tribunal yesterday threw out a request by Semoso's lawyer, Charles Mende, to adjourn by a week the hearing on penalties.

Semoso remains in Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, where he is trailing in the tally to retain his seat, and did not appear before the tribunal yesterday.

Senior magistrate and tribunal member Nerrie Eliakim told Mende his client was being disrespectful of the tribunal and objected to the adjournment.

20.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso to appear in court today

By JACOB POK

Submissions on the penalties for Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso would be made today at the leadership tribunal hearing misconduct allegations against him at the Waigani National Court.

The case was adjourned yesterday to today to allow lawyers for the office of the public prosecutor and Mr Semoso lawyer to prepare their submissions. Mr Semoso was found guilty on most of the 14 charges that he was facing.

The allegations include: alleged misappropriation of K2.7 million from South Bougainville Feeder Road Project funds without proper tender process; benefit of public funds valued at K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Waters Ltd and misapplication of K1 million from South Bougainville Feeder Roads.

Semoso was also alleged to have assaulted and tortured a Ms Therese Marrie Hani Hapoot; winning a contract under false pretence; and failure to declare his interest.

Mr Semoso is currently trailing 5th in the Bougainville provincial seat. He is expected to appear in court in court to witness the submission on penalties that would be imposed on him.

19.07.2012

Source ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville Landowners speak out on latest moves with Rio Tinto mine

Landowners are meeting on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville to pave the way for the return of mining giant Rio-Tinto.

Bougainville Landowners speak out on latest moves with Rio Tinto mine (Credit: ABC)

Rio's Panguna copper mine was the spark that ignited a decade-long civil war which left thousands dead and the economy of the island on its knees.

Two decades on, there is a growing consensus among landowners about re-opening the mine.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speakers: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville

Chris Damana, chairman of the Panguna Landowners Association

Bernadine Kiraa, Chairwoman of the Panguna Lower Tailings Landowners Association

[Listen here !](#)

GARRETT: Reconciliation is now the name of the game between landowners and Bougainville Copper - the Rio Tinto subsidiary that owns the Panguna copper mine.

It has been a long hard road.

Landowners have been holding talks among themselves and with the Autonomous Bougainville government for more than 2 years.

Earlier this month, there was something of a breakthrough - a three-way meeting between landowners, the Autonomous Bougainville government and Bougainville Copper.

Bernadine Kirra, is Chairwoman of the 3000 strong landowner group that suffered most during mining - the lower tailings landowners.

KIRAA: The meeting with BCL was a step forward. it was a very good meeting because we agreed at once some decisions that BCL has to meet before it decides to come to Bougainville.

GARRETT: And what is the feeling amongst the women and the other landowners. do they want to see the mine re-opened, eventually?

KIRAA: Uh, yeah! Most people in mine-affected areas and all of Bougainville, we would very much want BCL to come back.

GARRETT: Why?

KIRAA: To help us with our economical recovery on Bougainville.

GARRETT: Bougainville's President John Momis says the meeting with BCL was very significant.

MOMIS: It was the first time that all the landowners were represented in the group that talked with us. In the past we had other big meetings but not all landowner groups were represented. But this time it was good.

GARRETT: And did the landowner groups include mekamui and some of the landowner groups that have been hostile to Bougainville copper?

MOMIS: The landowner groups represented all the groups that have been listed as the legitimate landowners, which includes Mekamui, of course, yes.

GARRETT: Were you surprised at the broad representation of landowners that turned up for the meeting?

MOMIS: I was not completely surprised. I was very happy because we had been doing a lot of work, the administration has been doing a lot of work liaising and talking with the landowner groups and insisting that landowners must come to an agreement to work together.

GARRETT: Bougainville President John Momis.

Landowners took charge of the agenda at the meeting with Bougainville copper.

Chris Damana, Interim Chairman of the key umbrella group, the Panguna Landowners Association, says the BCL representative acquitted himself well.

DAMANA: Mr Paul Coleman, during our 13 agendas that we presented, gave us a positive ..all of them positively answered us. BCL will come and re-open the mine but need to tidy up a lot of

things before they come and re-open the mine. We all agree that BCL will come back because they have learned their mistake. We have learned our mistake and, maybe, we can start on a new slate.

GARRETT: So the landowners want to see the mine re-opened?

DAMANA: Of course we need Panguna mine to re-open, definitely!

GARRETT: Landowners told Bougainville copper that before any more moves could be made towards formal negotiations for the re-opening of the mine the company must take part in a reconciliation ceremony and pay what is known as belcol money.

Respecting tradition is crucial to the success of future talks.

This week, landowners have been holding a series of meetings to draw up some instructions so that BCL gets it right.

DAMANA: We are discussing it now, this morning, in a meeting. we want to put it in black and white to BCL because as you know BCL will see it from the Western cultural perspective. we see it from the Melanesian cultural perspective so we need to explain properly to BCL what this belcol money is and what will meet our purpose, that BCL will do before we go into serious talkings with BCL.

GARRETT: Chris Damana, interim Chairman of the umbrella organisation, the Panguna landowners Association.

Landowners are still discussing exactly what the belcol should entail.

Bernadine Kiraa, from the lower tailings landowners association does not want to pre-empt the outcome, but she is clear on what her people want.

KIRAA: We really want something that will benefit the whole of Bougainville but, especially myself, I am really looking for BCL to build maybe some good schools for a better standard and maybe better hospitals for Bougainville for a start because we really have a problem with good standard of education and the health facilities here on Bougainville at the moment is very low.

GARRETT: If the mining does go ahead, would all of Bougainville benefit or would it only be the landowners from around the mine?

KIRAA: No, No, this time we are looking from a different perspective. All people of Bougainville should benefit because they have all suffered due to the landowners conflict so we are looking forward to a new complete agreement that will benefit all of Bougainville.

19.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Pirika returns

By Fabian Gatana

UNITED Resource Party (URP) candidate and sitting member for South Bougainville Steven Kama Pirika was declared yesterday for a second term in parliament.



Mr Pirika (pictured) won with a landslide 10, 262 votes after the 11th exclusion which saw the member surpass the absolute majority needed for a candidate to win.

Returning Officer for South Bougainville John Monei when declaring Mr Pirika said that the people of South Bougainville have spoken through their votes and gave Mr Pirika the mandate to lead them for a further five years.

Mr Pirika in accepting his declaration thanked South Bougainvilleans for having confidence in him for another term in parliament.

He said he had a vision to change South Bougainville, but needed all South Bougainvilleans to work in close partnership with him to develop the region.

He said his first term in parliament was short lived and he would show South Bougainvilleans his full capacity in his full five year term.

Mr Pirika also appealed to all losing candidates to assist him to work towards a common goal for South Bougainville.

Meanwhile counting for North and Central Bougainville and the Regional seat continues with the elimination rounds.

19.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arthur Somare accepts defeat

By SIMON ERORO and
GORETHY KENNETH

OUSTED Angoram MP Arthur Somare has accepted his election defeat graciously, blamed himself for not providing the leadership his people expected and thanked them for working with him for the last 15 years.



Arthur Somare accepts defeat



The National Alliance Party yesterday suffered one of the biggest defeats when its senior member, vocal spokesman and sitting member Mr Somare lost his seat to former MP Ludwig Patrick Schulze.

Mr Schulze did not expect to win and his unexpected victory is a major political coup and sweet revenge for Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's eldest son and heir apparent who had defeated Mr Schulze in the 1997 polls after serving only his first term.

Mr Schulze, a Pangu Party man, reclaimed the seat after 15 years with 11,800 votes to Mr Somare's 10,624, a difference of 1176 votes.

Mr Schulze trailed throughout the counting until Lazarus Kenni, candidate for People's Movement for Change Party, was eliminated. He then surged from behind to defeat Mr Somare.



Arthur Somare said he is relieved that he is now out of politics and he can concentrate on his private life, adding he accept the decision of the people and their desire to have a new leader.

"I offer my congratulations to Mr Ludwig as the new Member for Angoram. I accept the people's decision in its entirety and wish him the best in the future and to bring prosperity to Angoram," Mr Somare said.

"You know, I have not fared well and my defeat is a direct consequence, perhaps it was the type of leadership that I provided. I am not necessarily disappointed. If anything, I am relieved that I can now move on with my private life," he said.

"I have had the pleasure of working with the people of Angoram for 15 years. They did not let me down. If anything, I let them down. As a consequence they were not satisfied with my efforts and that's why they chose a new leader," Mr Somare said.

He said it was a pleasure working with the people of Angoram and his colleagues in Parliament and thanked them for it.

PANGU Pati's national president Milo Timini felt a huge weight had been lifted off his shoulder after hearing the declaration of Pangu candidate Ludwig Shulze as the duly elected member of Parliament for Angoram late yesterday.

Mr Timini told the Post-Courier last night that despite the party's problems going into the elections, he was very thankful to the people of Angoram for voting Mr Shulze back to parliament.

"I feel humbled upon hearing the result that the people of Sepik, and especially from Angoram who have weighed their trust in PNG's oldest party by voting in Mr Shulze."

"I am proud to say that out of many candidates endorsed by the party, many tried their best despite limited financial constraints, but to have one member win one seat is a major win for Pangu Pati."

Mr Timini also took the opportunity to thank all those who stood as Pangu Pati candidates and especially for trying so hard in the eye of many adversities.

He said Pangu would be looking to strengthen its position in this term of parliament for the future.

Mr Shulze who polled the winning number of 11,800 defeated sitting member and National Alliance strongman Arthur Somare 10,624 by a margin of 1176 votes.

Mr Timini also congratulated other elected MPs.

19.07.2012

Source: The National

O'Neill welcomes new PNC MPs

CARETAKER Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has welcomed the election of People's National Congress party members Mao Zeming (Tewai-Siassi) and Jimmy Miringtoro (Central Bougainville/pictured).



Zeming was declared the winner on Tuesday while Miringtoro got the nod yesterday morning.

Their declarations bring to six the number of seats the PNC party has won so far.

Other People's National Congress members declared include Charlie Benjamin (Manus provincial), James Marape (Tari-Pori), Paul Isikiel (Markham) and O'Neill (Ialibu-Pangia).

"Zeming has served the people of Tewai-Siassi in this capacity before and returns for another term.

"His return to parliament under the PNC party fold shows the people of the electorate have confidence in his leadership and the policies of the party," O'Neill said.

"I'm confident Zeming will serve the people well during his tenure."

He also welcomed the re-election of Miringtoro to parliament for a second term.

“Miringtoro has proven himself at the national level, serving as a minister (communications) in my cabinet in his first term. I welcome his election for a second term.”

O’Neill is expecting PNC to pick up a second seat in Bougainville –that of North Bougainville where sitting MP Lautu Atoi is leading comfortably.

18.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG count hiccup minor

By FABIAN GATANA

REGULAR police members including their community auxiliary counterparts engaged in the counting period of the National Elections on Bougainville walked off their jobs for two hours at the 2 counting venues in Buka on Monday night.

The Bougainville Police personnel were disgruntled over unpaid allowances which they blamed on the management and administration of the Bougainville Police Service.

However the counting and elimination processes at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall and the United Church Chapel were not disrupted as the security duties were taken over by the Bougainville Police Service elite teams from the SOAT (Small Operations Action Team) and the Bougainville Rural Police Task Force from South, Central and North Bougainville. According to Commander Tsien this will be the fall back plan should the strike go on.

Northern Bougainville Regional Commander Inspector Cletus Tsien assured Bougainvilleans yesterday that security at the counting venues is not a problem as the specialist teams were assigned to take over should regular police and community auxiliary personnel carry on with their ultimatum of standing down from duties by 6 pm today if there is no favourable response to their grievances from concerned authorities.

“This is just a minor in-house issue and will be ironed out smoothly but I wish to stress here that the contributing factor to this problem lies squarely with concerned non commissioned officers (NCOs) on the ground, the very ones that are fabricating stories and demanding their allowances to be paid right now. As an NCO, what have you done to look after your officers on the ground? Have you followed the right procedures in looking after their welfare in terms of food supplies and so forth?”

Commander Tsien also stressed that he had received complaints from ordinary officers that some of their NCO’S had been misusing police vehicles by drinking while on duty and womanising thereby neglecting their men on the ground. He said such officers will be dealt with accordingly in due course.

He said that these undisciplined types of section heads are the real culprits who let the police personnel on the ground down.

Meanwhile Inspector Tsien confirmed that allowances for the police personnel should be ready by this week. He added that generally the counting process on Bougainville had been going smoothly and minor election related issues were being sorted out peacefully. He praised the people of Bougainville for having a peaceful election without any election-related violence.

18.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CENTRAL COMPLETE

By Aloysius Laukai in Suva

Eliminations for the Central Bougainville Open seat was completed last night with winner to be declared this morning.

By seven pm last night all eliminations were completed with only two candidates remaining.

They were the sitting member for Central and Minister for Communications, JIMMY MIRINGTORO and the former ABG member for Kongara DOMINIC ITTA.

The last to be eliminated was Chris Damana.

Counting for the Central Bougainville open seat started earlier than the other seats however there has been several suspensions of counts on the way until last night when it was finally completed.

17.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso guilty

By JACOB POK

Bougainville Regional MP, Fidelis Semoso has been found guilty on most of the 14 allegations of misconduct charges levelled against him in a leadership tribunal he was facing.

The number of charges that Mr Semoso was found guilty of would be made known on Thursday.

The tribunal will also decide on the penalties that would be imposed on Mr Semoso on the charges.

Yesterday, the tribunal members comprising Justice Salatial Lenalia as chairman with senior magistrates Ignatius Kurei and Nerrie Eliakim verbally handed down their respective rulings on Mr Semoso's charges.

A final merged decision would be delivered on Thursday along with the penalties. The respective ruling of the tribunal members revealed that Mr Semoso was guilty on most of the charges.

The allegations include: alleged misappropriation of K2.7 million from South Bougainville Feeder Road Project funds without proper tender process; benefit of public funds valued at K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Waters Ltd and misapplication of K1 million from South Bougainville Feeder Roads.

Semoso was also alleged to have assaulted and tortured a Ms Therese Marrie Hani Hapoot; winning a contract under false pretence; and failure to declare his interest.

Mr Semoso is currently trailing 5th in the Bougainville Provincial seat.

But despite that, he is expected to appear in court on Thursday to receive the formal ruling of the tribunal and the penalties that would be imposed on him.

17.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA DECLARED

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for South Bougainville, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA has retained his South Bougainville seat.

After the tenth exclusion, STEVEN PIRIKA polled 10262 votes to reach the absolute majority required for winning the seat.

Timothy Masiu came second with 5087 votes.

Mr Pirika was declared just after eleven this morning by the Returning Officer, JOHN MONEI
Peter Manuka came 3rd with 4042 votes.

Steven Pirika Kamma took on the lead as soon as counting in the Torokina area and never looked back until he was declared this morning.

17.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Meeting opened

by Aloysius Laukai in Suva

The Regional Conference on Local Governments for Climate Change started at the Japan Pacific ICT Multi Purpose Theatre, University of South Pacific yesterday.

Participants from all over the South Pacific and observers from all over the globe witnessed yesterday's opening by the President of Fiji Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.

The Manager for New Dawn FM was invited to speak at this conference as the Chairman of the Board of Tulele Peisa and NGO group from Carterets islands.

This NGO group is re-settling the Carterets islanders to Tinputz on mainland Bougainville.

This NGO group has been seeking support from international donors to support these people without local support.

The conference will end tomorrow.

17.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN assistance to ABG

By Aloysius Laukai

In the effort to promote a lasting peace and social stability, the UNDP introduced a community security perspective to its peace building and Governance program. Over the last year communities in south Bougainville took ownership of the process with a number of events such as the Konnou ceasefire, Siwai arms summit, etc.

The ABG is also soon to pass a Peace and security implementation strategy. There are also communities such as Ioro I in central region where ex-combatants have started own initiatives on community driven peace and security. The 9th of July was set aside so such self-driven communities to demonstrate the effort. So far, Siwai district and Ioro I COE in central region are being assisted by the Ausaid weapons specialist to register the weapons for containment and destruction.

Due to the elections fever, the main destruction exercise has been deferred to a later date in the month of August when the elimination of all registered and assembled arms in these communities will be done in special ceremonies. The introduction of a peace and security strategy is gradually giving a fresh impetus to a partnership and integrated approach to peace building and weapons disposal.

17.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REGIONAL PROGRESSING WELL

By Aloysius Laukai

Progressive count for the Regional seat is as follows,

JOE LERA leading now with 33,130

Ishmael Toroama 26217,

Fidelis Semoso 21659

Kapeautu Puaria 16930

Magdalen Toroansi 14413

Simon Pentanu 12925

Albert Magoi 12638

Joe Watawi 11104

Marchelklin Getsi 6979

Lynet Ona 5866

Jimmy Mose 5610

Sam Karol 2598

Henry Onsa 1621

17.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

South to be declared

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the South Bougainville seat has been completed with declaration to be made at 10 am this morning.

Whilst primary count for North Bougainville ended last night.

The final figures were, sitting member Lauta Atoi was leading with 6819 votes, William Nakin 3483, Sisiesi 2697, Kora 2597, Konaka 2464, Sarei 2426, Hamau 1943, Sawa 1706, Toro 1407, Masa 1321, Tsora 1308, Belleh 1076, Ross 772, Semoso 642, Tsunno 552, Tumar 394, Bule 387, Pais Taehu 182, Niu 156, Thompson 50.

Quality check in progress.

15.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTS SUSPENDED

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting and eliminations for Central and South Bougainville have been suspended to 6pm on Sunday.

For Central Bougainville, they will resume with elimination 13 when they resume.

For South Bougainville they will do the Quality check before going to through the elimination process.

For North Bougainville counting is still on...

We will update.....

14.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TOROAMA LEADS

By Aloysius Laukai

Ishmael Toroama is leading on the Bougainville Regional seat race.

From added figures from the three regions

Ishmael Toroama is leading with 11,008 votes.

Albert Magoi is on 4956

Simon Pentanu 5750

Henry Onsa 404

Kapeatu Puaria 5999

Sam Karol 723

Lynet Ona 1787

Jimmy Mose 2329

Joe Lera 10,713

Magdalen Toroansi 6220

Marchellin Getsi 1535

Joe Watawi 3594

Fidelis Semoso 3660

14.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH RANK DOWN

By Aloysius Laukai

Steven Pirika 8175

Timothy Masiu 2995

Peter Manuka 2506

Raymond Kakaponi 2182

Michael Laimo 1488

Thadeus Kaile 1220

Patrick Heromate 1171

Peter Bana 1001

Michael Anugu 994

Joe Parum 645

Peter Tengka 531

Gabriel Pangtei 379

Joseph Moikui 253

David Kaua 102

14.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH AND NORTH ADDED

By Aloysius Laukai

JOE LERA has taken the lead from Ishmael Toroama.

These figures are added from figures taken from Regional counts in South Bougainville and

Central Bougainville.

Progressive figures are as follows,

Albert Magoi 412

Simon Pentanu 5122

Henry Onsa 337

Kapeatu Puaria 5467

Sam Karol 609

Lynet Ona 1663

Jimmy Mose 1980

Joe Lera 9,776

Ishmael Toroama 9403

Magdalen Toroansi 6053

Marchelline Getsi 1,237

Joe Watawi 1,619

Fidelis Semoso 2803

Will include North Bougainville figures as soon as we get them

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

South results

PIRIKA STILL AHEAD

By Aloysius Laukai

After count 73 in South Bougainville open, Sitting member, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA is still ahead of his rivals.

He is on 7,204 votes, Masiu is on 2711, Manuka on 2391, Kakaponi 2090, Moikui 244, Laimo on 255, Bana on 953, Anugu 883, Hetomate 836, Kaile 738
Parum on 615, Tengka 506.

Counting is continuing

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Seven gone

By Aloysius Laukai

In the elimination process for Central Bougainville so far seven candidates have been eliminated. They are WESLY THOMAS who polled 72 votes was the first to be eliminated then JOE SIBU, Dominic Diuka, Laurie Patrick, Theresa Jaintong, Simon Barananko, Leo Reivasi.

Still remaining are Mathew Kusa with 368 Clarence Dency on 407 And Joe Taruna on 410 Martin Miriori 471, Chris Bao 490, Thomas Tamusio on 577, Rodney Osioco 697, Chris Korokoro ,852 Justin Borgia 904,

Lohial Nuau 1284, William Reinhardt 1329,

Chris Damana 1651, Dominic itta 1733, Sam Akoitai 1743 and the leading candidate and sitting member Jimmy Miringoro on 2232

Elimination continues...

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA LEADERS CRY FOUL PLAY

By Aloysius Laukai

Panguna landowner heavies have threatened to challenge results for the Central Bougainville Open seat in the Court of Disputed Returns.

President of the Meekamui Government of Unity, PHILIP MIRIORI and Deputy Chairman of the Panguna Landowners Association, MICHAEL PARIU in a press statement released to New Dawn FM named certain candidates as giving out large sums of cash to lure the people to vote for them.

They said that they had concrete evidence and would take this all to court.

New Dawn FM understands that the two leaders backed a Panguna landowner himself, MARTIN MIRIORI AT THIS 2012 General elections.

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CENTRAL BEGINS ELIMINATION

By Aloysius Laukai

Elimination process for the Central Bougainville Open seat began after lunch today.

The process was suspended yesterday after two candidates disputed one Ballot box from the Panguna district citing that the box was removed from the polling officials and remained with them for more than 24 hours.

The Provincial Returning Officer had to suspend counting to seek legal advice from the Electoral headquarters in Port Moresby.

Head office made the official clearance and demanded the counting should proceed as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, a candidate who masters 7938 votes will be declared and counting stopped immediately.

This has been take from the total voters figure of 15,874 voters divide by 2 and plus one.

This means the fifty percent of 15,874 IS 7937 PLUS ONE would give you the winning figure of 7938.

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

South near complete

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the South Bougainville Open seat was suspended this morning to resume at lunch time today.

And as of this morning all ballot boxes for BUIN District were completed with only BANA district to be covered before elimination begins tomorrow.

As of Count 62 this afternoon, sitting member STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA was still well ahead of his rivals with 6021 votes.

Coming second was TIMOTHY MASIU with 2374 votes. The others have scored the following votes, DAVID KAUA 43, MOIKUI 215,

KAKAPONI 1974, PANTEI 316, PETER TENGA 366, MICHAEL ANUGU 294, JOE PARUM 553, THADEUS KAILE 257,

PATRICK HEROMATE 258, PETER MANUKA 2242,

PETER BANA 902, MICHAEL LAIMO 1161.

Counting is continuing tonight.

13.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOAT TO PICK UP

By Aloysius Laukai

The MV ANDREAS that took polling officials to the Atolls is expected to reach Buka this Sunday. This was revealed to New Dawn FM by the Bougainville Electoral Manager REITAMA TARAVARU today.

MR. TARAVARU said that due to bad weather the ship was not able to complete the Atolls within six days.

He said that ship would be travelling to Motlock from Tasman to pick up the other polling officials and head back to Buka.

He said counting for the Atolls will just fit in to the other areas of North Bougainville already in the count.

New Dawn FM understands counting for the North Bougainville Open started from NISSAN ISLAND.

13.07.2012

Source: EMTV

BSP returns to Arawa after 23 years

Bank South Pacific is the first financial institution to return to Arawa in Central Bougainville since the crisis 20 years ago.

Banking services ceased in Arawa in 1989 as a result of the looming crisis.

The business community and the people of Arawa celebrated the new branch on Tuesday new the bank open its doors.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA LEADING IN SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE COUNT

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for Regional seat in South Bougainville after count 40, JOE LERA is leading with 4,386, Kapeatu Puaria is on 1,948, Magdalen Toroansi 1,252, Ishmael Toroama 4, Albert Magoi 521, Lynet Ona 313, Simon Pentanu 269, Marchelin Laris 253, Karol 211, Fidelis Semoso 192, Joe Watawi 167, Jimmy Mose 106, Henry Onsa 74. Counting is now from polling in the Buin district with Bana district still to be counted.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO FLY IN

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS does not support the fly-in concept being used by mining companies in Papua New Guinea.

Chief JOHN MOMIS revealed this during a press conference in Buka this week.

The ABG President said that this system does not support the economy of the province in which the operation is taking place.

He said if any agreement is to be signed with a developer on Bougainville he would insist that there be no fly-in/fly out system on Bougainville.

The Chief said that although this system does have some negative impacts in terms of law and order and Squatters settlements he still want the workmen and women to support the local economy by living and buying food and other basic necessities on Bougainville.

He said that he would strongly push the staff and of companies to live on the island.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEVEN THOUSAND NEEDED

By Aloysius Laukai

Winner for the Central Bougainville Open seat will need only 7938 votes to reach the absolute majority once counting for the Central Bougainville Open restarts.

This will be worked out from the total voters totaling 15,874.

And based on the 50 percent plus one required to win the race fifty percent of 15,874 would be 7,937 add the one would make the winning number of 7,938 votes.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELIMINATION SUSPENDED

By Aloysius Laukai

Elimination for the Central Bougainville Open seat has been suspended to seek legal advice from the Electoral Commission in Port Moresby.

This was made after two candidates disputed boxes already counted last night.

Counting officials took the whole day today to recheck already allocated ballot papers to individual candidates before the elimination process can begin.

Once this is sorted out, elimination process will continue until the final winner is declared.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA EXTENDS LEAD

By Aloysius Laukai

The sitting member for South Bougainville open seat and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA has extended his lead as counting enters the Buin District.

As of count 35 this afternoon, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA was on 4,041

Whilst his nearest rival TIMOTHY MASIU was on 1,103 votes.

The Others collected numbers as follows, David Kauva 21 votes, Moikui 173, Raymons Kakaponi 486, Gabriel Pantei 255, Peter Tengka 329, Michael Anugu 274, Timothy Masiu running second

on 1,103, Joe Parum 299, Thadeus Kaile 97, Patrick Heromate 211, Peter Manuka 381, Peter Bana 300 and the former member for South Bougainville Michael Laimo 472 votes. Counting for the South Bougainville Open seat will continue tonight as agreed last night with the Election officials and candidates.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NORTH BOUGAINVILLE STARTS

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the North Bougainville Open seat starts tonight as the last polling was completed on Tasman island today.

The counting for the North Bougainville Open was delayed to allow voters in the Atolls to vote in this year's election.

Counting will start tonight and allow the ballot boxes from the Atolls to reach Buka by Saturday this week.

Counting for the North Bougainville Open seat will be held at the Hutjena Secondary School hall.

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELIMINATION

By Aloysius Laukai

Elimination for Central Bougainville open starts at ten am this morning.



Pictured are Electoral officers preparing the Elimination Board at the Hutjena Secondary School Counting centre.

Final count last night count 32 last box, sitting member Jimmy Miringtoro was leading with 2127 votes.
Sam Akoitai 1706
Dominic Itta 1659
Chris Damana 1468
William Reinhardt 1283
Lohial Nuau 1234
Justin Borgia 887
Chris Korokoro 790
Rodney Osioco 665
Thomas Tamusio 555
Based on the above Absolute majority 50%+1 will be worked out from 15,874 votes.
Divided by 2 would be 7937 votes plus is the winning number of 7938.
Goodluck to the winner who gets this number this morning

12.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIRST COUNT ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

Central Bougainville completed primary counts for the Open seat with the final count at 32 with the following figures,

Sitting member Jimmy Miringtoro polled 2127 votes, SAM AKOITAI polled 1706, Dominic Itta 1659, Chris Damana 1468, William Reinhardt 1283, L Nuau 1243, Justin Borgia 887 Chris Korokoro 790, Rodney Osioco 665 and Thomas Tamusio 555.

Elimination starts at TEN AM this morning.

The final figures for the Regional seat was not available at the time of this post.

Meanwhile, counting for the South Bougainville Open was also suspended till this morning due to some complaints by candidates.

Their problems were sorted out last night and counting will begin again this morning.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sorting dispute

Officials meet

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Manager REITAMA TARAVARU and PPC for North Bougainville, Inspector Cletus Tsien and PPC for South Bougainville Inspector Paul Kamuai talking with South Bougainville Candidates and their supporters at the Buka Police Station.



11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LANDOWNERS ASSURE BOUGAINVILLEANS

By Aloysius Laukai

Panguna landowners have assured Bougainvilleans that this time they would make sure that all Bougainvilleans benefit from the PANGUNA MINE if re-opened.

This was revealed by the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS in a news conference yesterday. Chief MOMIS said that the Chairman of the Panguna Landowners Association CHRIS DAMANA made the assurance at the meeting last week between the landowners the ABG and a representative of BCL PAUL COLEMAN.

MR. MOMIS said that he was happy the landowners have made this assurance to the people. He said despite this assurance the ABG represents all Bougainvilleans in any of its dealings.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TOROAMA LEADING

By Aloysius Laukai

Former BRA General and businessman ISHMAEL TOROAMA is leading as counting for the Central Open continues tonight.

As of Count 26 this afternoon, ISHMAEL TOROAMA was leading with 2,998 votes.

Coming second was the former Ombudsman Commissioner and National Parliament Clerk, SIMON PENTANU with 2220 votes.

On 3rd place was the former District Commissioner for South Bougainville, JOE LERA who polled 1308 votes.

The sitting member FIDELIS SEMOSO is running fourth with 1156 votes.

Counting for the North Bougainville Open will start this Thursday as they are still polling in the Atolls district.

The figures for the Regional seat has been reported separately and should be added with other districts to get the added figures for the real figures.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MIRINGTORO OVERTAKES

By Aloysius Laukai

The sitting member for Central Bougainville and Communications Minister JIMMY MIRINGTORO has taken over the lead as Central Bougainville completes counting in most of its areas.

After count 26 for Votes in the Eivo Torau area, JIMMY MIRINGTORO has polled 1910 overtaking the former member for Central, SAM AKOITAI who was leading from count one.

SAM AKOITAI has so far collected 1693 votes.

The former ABG member for Kongara DOMINIC ITTA is running third with 1514 votes.

William Reinhardt who has been doing well since count one has dropped to fourth place with 1195 votes.

Counting for count 27, 28 and 29 have been completed and would be released shortl

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA LEADING SOUTH

By Aloysius Laukai

The sitting member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA is leading the South Bougainville Open seat.

Counting for the South Bougainville open seat had to be stopped after 9am this morning to allow counting officials to rest and counting would start after 6pm this evening.

As of the last count for South Bougainville Open, STEVEN PIRIKA was leading with 3633 votes whilst coming second was TIMOTHY MASIU who polled 869 votes.

The former member for South Bougainville , MICHAEL LAIMO was running 3rd with 315 votes.

Coming next was PETER TENGKA with 312 votes and the fifth placing was with JOSEPH PARUM who was on 274.

As counting starts this evening they will count Buin votes and end with the final votes from the Bana district before they go into eliminations later tonight.

BREAKING NEWS !

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA TO OPEN !

By Aloysius Laukai

The three stakeholders in the Panguna Mine issue last week agreed to work together towards consensus on re-opening the mine closed since 1989.

This was revealed by ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS in Buka today.

He said that last week's meeting agreed that if the mine does re-open it must be primarily for the benefit of all Bougainvilleans.

Also it must be entirely under a new mining agreement that must ensure that the world's best practices are followed by whoever is selected as the new operator.

President Chief JOHN MOMIS said that BCL and the Papua New Guinea Government have already agreed that any Panguna negotiations must involve the ABG and the landowners.

He said that last week's meeting also agreed that negotiations must be based on principles of fairness, integrity and transparency.

Chief JOHN MOMIS also said that the landowners also agreed that because of the suffering during the Bougainville conflict all Bougainvilleans interest must be taken into account in all negotiations.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BCL INVITED INTO ARAWA

By Aloysius Laukai

Representatives of the Panguna Landowners last week invited BCL to open a liaison office in Arawa the former mining town on Bougainville.

This was also made know by ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS in Buka during a press conference this afternoon.

He said the land owners last week when inviting BCL into Arawa said that this liaison office will from this office facilitate important cultural practices that would prepare for possible reconciliation amongst various stakeholders of the Bougainville conflict.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG ON PANGUNA

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has taken major step towards preparing for a process to decide the future of the PANGUNA COPPER MINE which until 1989 was operated by the Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL).

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS revealed this to reporters during a press conference.

President MOMIS said that he was happy with the outcome of last week's meeting between Panguna landowners, the ABG and a representative of the Bougainville Copper Limited, MR. PAUL COLEMAN.

He said that this meeting for the first time let the landowners representatives directly raised key questions with MR. COLEMAN.

The response by MR. COLEMAN also emphasized that BCL accepted those landowners concerns and is committed to work with the ABG and the Landowners to resolve these issues said President Momis.

He also said that the landowners representatives were also impressed by Mr. Coleman's openness to their problems and demands.

Chief Momis also said that this meeting brought together for the first time, the main Panguna mine stakeholders.

11.07.2012

Source: The National

BSP returns to Arawa

BANK South Pacific yesterday became one of the first financial institutions and major businesses in Papua New Guinea to return to Arawa in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville since the Bougainville crisis 23 years ago.

Banking services in Arawa ceased around July 1989 when all major businesses and banks pulled out as a result of the looming crisis.

When BSP closed its doors then, it was a quiet exit, due to security concerns, and yesterday as it re-entered, there was a celebration and the bank was welcomed back with open arms.

BSP group chief executive officer Ian B Clyne, deputy chief executive Robin Fleming, head of security George Loverock, general manager retail banking Frans Kootte and manager branch operations John Brutnal travelled to Arawa to hand over the new BSP branch.

It is a containerised branch, a concept first delivered by BSP in 2010 when it opened a similar branch in Motukea outside Port Moresby.

Prior to the crisis, BSP Arawa had more than 30 staff and a good customer base.

Today, there are eight personnel and the bank is confident of growing its customer base again.

Clyne said BSP was back in Arawa after 23 years and the feedback received so far from customers and the people of Central Bougainville was one of appreciation and huge relief, as it eased the burden to travel out of Arawa to do their banking.

“BSP’s presence so far has made a huge difference by bringing this very essential service to the community,” he said.

“We have had very positive comments from the locals from as far as Buin and Siwai, who can now travel to Arawa to do their banking and return home on the same day as opposed to going to Buka where they would have to spend a night and return home the next day.

“The business community here in Arawa are also very happy about the branch because it is making banking easier for them in terms of cost, security and time spent and other costs involved in travelling to Buka.

“It is also interesting to note how technology has changed since 1989, where BSP Arawa now has two ATMs.

“BSP is the first to bring ATMs into Central Bougainville, that is because we mean business and it shows our commitment to bring banking services into the heart of the community.”

The bank is also aggressively rolling out its BSP Rural network throughout the country, and in Bougainville BSP is set to open two rural branches in the next few months in Wakunai and Buin.

11.07.2012

Source: The National

Big step of faith in Bougainville, says Clyne

THE opening of Bank South Pacific’s Arawa branch is a big step of faith in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and especially the Central and South parts of the island.

“It is a sign of confidence in your future,” bank chief executive officer Ian Clyne told local leaders, school children, political, business leaders and villagers.

Clyne was at Arawa to open the bank’s branch – the bank’s 40th.

BSP also has rural agencies at Buin and Wakunai in this part of Bougainville.

Clyne said they were happy to reopen in Arawa after closing its operations at the height of the Bougainville crisis 23 years ago.

He said branch opening came after feasibility studies done in 2010.

Clyne said preparations for the opening also involved “frank and open” discussions between the bank management and Bougainville leaders.

Central Bougainville MP and Minister for Information and Communication Jimmy Miringoro also played a large role in the opening of the bank branch.

Central Bougainville regional commissioner James Koibo and Arawa landowner leader Theresa Jaintong were among leaders who reassured Clyne and his senior management team that Bougainvilleans would ensure the bank property and staff would be respected and taken care of.

They told the people gathered that the bank would only be safekeeping their money.

Clyne also said BSP was happy to provide services to the people but would pull out again if it was forced to.

ABG agriculture minister Nicholas Darku said Bougainville's agriculture-based economy would see an expansion in the next few years and BSP's presence on the island would help in that growth.

Jaintong welcomed the opening of the bank branch and pointed the need for investors to consult landowners if they were considering setting up shop in Arawa.

BSP's Arawa branch - four modified shipping containers - is situated within the Arawa police station.

"We will make land available if you decide to move out from the police station," Jaintong told Clyne and his staff.

The branch is headed by Patrick Buibui and has eight staff, all local Bougainvilleans trained in the bank's Buka branch.

11.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Count Update

By Aloysius Laukai

Central Bougainville open seat after Count 15 for KOKODA Central Open former member for central, Sam Akoitai 1381

Sitting member Jimmy Mirintoro is coming second with 784, William Reinhardt is on 713 Dominick Itta on 409 and former ABG member LEO REIVASE on 340.

After count 17 for Kongara Central open seat

1st Sam Akoitai 1383

2nd Dominick Itta 951

3rd Jimmy Mirintoro 813

4th William Reinhardt 752

5th Justin Bogia 460

After count 17 for the regional seat

1st Ismael Toroama 1548

2nd Simon Pentanu 1087

3rd Joe Lera 656

4th Albert Mangoi 644

5th Jimmie Mose 609

In South Bougainville Open, after Count 19. Sitting member Steven Pirika is leading with 1181 with broadcaster Timothy Masiu coming second with 312 votes, Raymond Kakaponi is on 208, Patrick Heromate is on 177, Peter Bana is on 151, former South Bougainville member Michael Laimo is on 130, Buka businessman Gabriel Pantei is on 118, strong businessman Joseph Parum is on 116 Peter Manuka is on 70 Moikui is on 33, Michael Anugu is on 31, Thaddeus Kaile is on 20 and Peter Tengka has 18, Kaua on 11

Counting is continuing...

09.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Observers

By Aloysius Laukai

Observers wait patiently as counting officials prepare to count the first ballot boxes for Central Bougainville.

Police will bring in the boxes. From left, Electoral manager, Reitama Taravaru, election observer Roselyn Kenneth, PPC central, Huitona Tohua and PPC NORTH Inspector Cletus Tsien

Counting centre pics



09.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Counting commences very slowly

Counting starts

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Central Bougainville seat has finally commenced. We will shortly give you the first figures. South Bougainville count will begin shortly at the Hutjena United church hall .

09.07.2012

Source: ESBC Research

ASX Sydney:

BOC shares UP 23.6 percent !

Final price AUD 0.89 (+17 ct) !

Volume: 165.041 shares !

09.07.2012

Source: The National

Semoso tribunal adjourns to July 16

A DEFENSE lawyer has asked a leadership tribunal, hearing alleged misconduct in office charges against Bougainville regional MP Fidelis Semoso, to defer its ruling to after the polling. This is because polling in the Bougainville Atolls was yet to be completed and he is a candidate. The tribunal was to have delivered its ruling last Friday. But Semoso's lawyer Charles Mende asked the tribunal to defer its decision to July 16 when polling in the region should be completed. He said in his earlier submission that his client was concerned that he would not be given reasonable opportunity to obtain votes from people if the tribunal handed down its decision before the end of the polling on Bougainville. The tribunal agreed and adjourned its ruling to July 16.

09.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Youths call for more from members

By Tapo Tovilu

Youths from the Wisai area have called on the next elected members after this election to do more for youths in the Konnou Constituency. These calls follow countless efforts made by community and youth leaders to the sitting members

for assistance in funding for youth programs in the area.

Noah Tokuru a youth leader from the Wisai area told New Dawn FM that many youths today are involved in illegal activities in the area and this must stop.

He says that as part of the efforts in helping youths they have started small village programs involving youths.

He says countless efforts in seeking assistance from former members were unsuccessful as many did not reply.

He says that he is now calling on those members who will come into power to look at helping them as the youths are the next generation leaders.

09.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING ON

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the Central Bougainville Open seat will start at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall at six pm this afternoon.

Just before counting, all counting officials had a two hour briefing and shift one will start at six pm. According to their program they will do three shifts until all votes are completed.

New Dawn will carry the counting live and update the site every now and then.

South Bougainville Open seat will also start counting this afternoon at the United Church hall at Hutjena.

North Bougainville will wait until all Atolls have voted.

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Crossing the passage

Linking the islands

By Aloysius Laukai

Taking cars across the Buka passage has been the problem for so many years.

And since the last pontoon was destroyed during the conflict chartering ships or barges has been expensive.

Now floaters are being used and many people opting to other types like the wooden boat built locally just launched on Friday.

Pictured is one cocoa workhorse being used to do the job.

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG, BCL AND PANGUNA LANDOWNERS MEET IN BUKA

BY MARIA LAUKAI

Panguna mine related issues were the main agendas of a meeting today between the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Panguna Landowners Association and Bougainville Copper Limited.

This is the first time, all three parties have engaged in discussions related to the Panguna Mine and the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

In his opening remarks this morning, Bougainville President Chief John Momis urged that all parties work in unity to achieve the best outcome of the meeting.

He added that the three parties must be transparent and honest in their collaborative effort to reach an understanding.

BCL representative Paul Coleman said in response that BCL was conscious of the issues that need to be discussed with the ABG and the landowners of Panguna.

He assured that every issue would be taken into account and he added that even if not all issues are resolved at least BCL would be in a position to address these issues.

The meeting ended this afternoon with resolutions that would be released to the media on Monday

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ANDREAS ARRIVES

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Atolls will vote

By Aloysius Laukai

The long awaited chartered ship to transport polling officials to the Atolls of Bougainville finally arrived in Buka at 0730 this morning.

PNG MARINETIMETRANSPORT AUTHORITY'S MV ANDREAS arrived and will pick up polling officials to the Atolls this morning.

Although polling will end today, an extension has been made only for the atolls.

Counting will commence on Monday

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PONTOON TO FERRY TRUCKS

By Aloysius Laukai

A locally built Boat that can ferry trucks across the Buka Passage was launched this afternoon at the Buka wharf.

The boat was built by the TSIROGE BOAT BUILDING team that started on the project last year.

The project was started by MR. STROEBLE from Germany who was working as a volunteer for the Catholic Church on Bougainville.

His wife, STEPHANIE STROEBLE was the coordinator for the Bougainville Traditional herbal medicine project.

Their contract has expired and will be leaving Bougainville tomorrow.

The wooden catamaran type boat can ferry one truck at any one time across the Buka passage.

The official launching was made by the ABG member for Tsitalato, COSMAS SOHIA.

Speakers at the launching were amazed at the use of local wood to build the boat.

The boat is owned by local businessman RALF is powered by a 200 Horse Power Petrol Engine.

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING DELAYED

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the North Bougainville seat has been delayed to allow the Atolls islanders to cast their vote this weekend.

This was revealed by the Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU today.

He said whilst counting for Central Bougainville and South Bougainville would start on Monday, counting for the North Bougainville Open seat would wait for polling in the Atolls to be completed.

MR. TARAVARU said that this was just a precaution as results from other areas of North Bougainville can influence votes in the Atolls.

He said once ballot boxes from the Atolls are brought in counting will immediately commence.

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PAYMENT PROGRESS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Electoral Office is working around the clock to make sure all polling related bills are paid for in time.

The Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU revealed this on New Dawn FM in his daily election updates.

MR. TARAVARU said that he will check the Cash Fund certificate for all polling related payments to make sure there are enough funds to settle all bills.

He also said that polling in many parts of Bougainville have been completed and returning officers returning Ballot Boxes to the Buka Police Station for safe keeping until counting.

MR. TARAVARU said polling in the Suir area will continue until tomorrow.

07.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING IN BUKA

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the four Bougainville seats will be done at Hutjena on Buka island.

In making the announcement last week, Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU said that they had to resort to having counting in Buka because the Electoral Commission was short on experienced manpower to cover the three regions.

He said putting them in one area would make it easy for the team for supervision purposes during the counting.

MR. TARAVARU said during the past it was difficult to communicate with counting centres in Arawa and Buin resulting in a lot of unnecessary pressures to staff.

Counting for South Bougainville Open will be at the Hutjena United Church Hall whilst the Central and North Bougainville Open seats will be counted at the Hutjena Secondary School hall.

Counting will start on Monday 9th July, 2012.

04.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Police: Criminals in Bougainville beware

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE Police have issued a stern warning to criminals in the Autonomous Region to immediately refrain from their illegal activities and intimidation tactics towards the public and surrender themselves to authorities.

Chief Inspector Cletus Tsien issued the warning amidst an escalation of crime in the peaceful township of Buka.

Mr Tsien said an organized criminal gang posing as ex-combatants are responsible for a series of

break and enters and discharging of firearms in and around the township. He said their identities are known to Police and arrests will be made soon.

"I am giving them (criminals) time to surrender themselves or face being hunted down by the people of Bougainville with the assistance of Police. You have no place to go. The only safest place for you to go is the Police Station," he said.

He said that the real ex-combatants have parted from their old ways and are now leading normal lives as good law-abiding citizens while these criminals are tarnishing their good name and image.

He also brushed aside rumours that Police had shot and killed one of the gang members in a shootout saying that from an autopsy conducted on the deceased Police have established that the victim had been shot by one of their own.

He sent his condolences to the victim's family and thanked them for their support in assisting Police in their investigation.

04.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING IN BUKA

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the four Bougainville seats will be done at Hutjena on Buka island.

In making the announcement last week, Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU said that they had to resort to having counting in Buka because the Electoral Commission was short on experienced manpower to cover the three regions.

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Counting for South Bougainville Open will be at the Hutjena United Church Hall whilst the Central and North Bougainville Open seats will be counted at the Hutjena Secondary School hall.

Counting will start on Monday 9th July, 2012.

04.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SETTLERS HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

The first settlers at the Carteret resettlement centre in Tinputz are happy they have been selected to pioneer the resettlement project in Tinputz.

And all those interviewed by New Dawn FM today said that now they are able to grow their own food and feed their family.

All the six families already on site said that they were very happy with what the TULELE PEISA is doing to relocate the islanders to mainland Bougainville.

They also thanked the Catholic church for honouring the commitment made forty years by Bishop Leo Lemay to move some Carteret islanders to Bougainville due to the increase in population.

And now with the rising sea level the people have no option but to find alternate places to be their next homes.

The settlers also called on those other islanders not willing to leave their island to think again and be allowed to be relocated.

04.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CATERETS RESETTLEMENT PROGRESSING

By Aloysius Laukai

Work on the Carterets Islands Resettlement program in Tinputz is progressing well.

The program which is under the NGO group TULELE PEISA INC and the Diocese of Bougainville intends to initially move ONE HUNDRED people to Tinputz with plans to move others to Mabiri, Tearouki and Tsimba in Central and North Bougainville.

Executive Officer for TULELE PEISA INC, MS USURLA RAKOVA told New Dawn FM this morning that of the one hundred they have already identified eighty people with another twenty once their accommodation are completed.

She said the families that were already on site had already established themselves and already fending for themselves.

MS. RAKOVA said that under the TP relocation program individual families have been allocated areas in which they can plant cocoa and also grow their food.

She thanked donors like the CPL group of Companies for donating Housing materials for the Houses, Border Development Authority for Housing Materials and a Saw mill in which it has been possible to cut timber for the houses.

MS. RAKOVA said that most of the funding are sourced from European countries including, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

04.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Cateret Resettlement On

By Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz

The resettling of Cateret islanders to Tinputz on mainland Bougainville is progressing well.

CEO for the NGO group TULELE EISA INC that us settling the first 100 people, URSULA RAKOVA says that they have addressed the first eighty people with work on the remaining 20 people to the resettlement site in Tinputz.

The local cateret island NGO has been working on the resettlement of the first 100 islanders to Tinputz on mainland Bougainville.

They have been working with the Catholic church of Bougainville who have given 70 hectares of land to the program.

Most of the funds for the project has been through fundraisings and donations from overseas.

With the assistance of the Bishop, Benard Unabali Tulele peisa has secured lands to move more islanders to Tearouki Tsimba and other places.

03.07.2012

Source: The National

ABG wants govt to transfer functions

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government expects the new government to ensure that the concerned parties join the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB).

The JSB comprises ABG members led by President John Momis and their Papua New Guinea counterparts led by the newly-elected prime minister.

The ABG is concerned following the Papua New Guinea government's failure to uphold contractual obligations in drawing powers and functions to the ABG.

Momis said despite perceptible progress in bringing powers and functions to Bougainville, "there are constraints such as the slow transfer".

"Among the causes are issues relating to capacity, disinterest on the part of the national government and some legal and institutional restraints relating to absorptive capacity in

Bougainville,” Momis said.

He said with this level of development, he thought it was important the ABG and the national government consider new approaches to the transfer issues.

Momis suggested both parties refocus their efforts on four key strategies – capacity and internal and external co-operation, economic issues leading to self-reliance, government institutions establishment and security issues.

He said with these goals his administration had been directed to focus on strengthening the division of autonomy through providing additional resources, including legal expertise.

“I intend to meet with the national government after the elections to consider establishing a small implementing unit at Waigani to execute the co-operative arrangements,” Momis said.

He said that would include a corresponding unit within the ABG division of autonomy or the chief administrator’s office to ensure matters relating to autonomy and the transfer of functions and powers were not entangled.

Momis said since the process of autonomy was new to both governments “each should be mindful and respect all Bougainville peace agreement commitments”.

“Autonomy is not just a phrase in daily use but to which its core objective is the transfer of real powers and functions from the Papua New Guinea government to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.”

03.07.2012

Source: The National

Momis thanks Digicel for services given to Bougainville

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis has commended Digicel PNG Ltd for establishing communication services throughout Bougainville despite having had some of its equipment destroyed in certain areas.

Momis made the comment in a recent meeting with company chief executive officer John Mangos and chief technical officer Shiva Kumar in Port Moresby.

Momis said his government regarded highly the services provided by Digicel in Bougainville as it had greatly improved the contact of rural population, facilitating many aspects of economic and social development.

Momis had the opportunity to advise Mangos on the use of Digicel towers to extend radio broadcast coverage in Central and South Bougainville, sponsorship of Team Bougainville for the PNG Games in November and a possible new tower for San Toro Pass in Buin district, which could contribute to peace-building in Bougainville.

He said that could eventuate if Digicel worked in co-operation with the ABG and local leaders.

Momis said if that was possible it would be a big achievement as Bougainville had had particularly bad access to information and education for many years.

He assured the company of the ABG’s continued support on the basis that both entities shared similar interest in providing communication service to the people of Bougainville.

03.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOAT SECURED

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Electoral office has finally secured the MV Bougainville Atolls to do polling run for the Atolls district of Bougainville.

A senior officer from the Bougainville Electoral office told New Dawn FM that the ship MV Bougainville Atolls will arrive in Buka this Thursday and immediately take its polling teams to the Atolls.

According to the Bougainville Electoral Manager REITAMA TARAVARU polling in the Atolls will take five days.

And according to the new program for polling in the Atolls, polling would end on Tuesday 10th July 2012.

03.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SLOW IN CHARGING

By Aloysius Laukai

Lack of timely charging and prosecution of cases for which remandees are held in the lock for unnecessary long periods is a major contributing factor to overcrowding at the Buka Police Cells. The CEO for Law and Justice division, CHRIS SIRIOSI revealed this when announcing that the ABG has identified correctional Services as a priority and has taken steps to ensure the need for high risk prisoners who are in the prison to be properly guarded until their transfer to Bekut. He said normally these high risk prisoners should be transferred to the nearest most suitable prison which in case of Bougainville is the Kerevat Jail in East New Britain. MR. SIRIOSI said that these were matters within the jurisdiction of the appropriate courts of justice and are clearly beyond the authority of the ABG. In any case the ABG with the help of AusAid will continue to give this issue the special attention and to build a fully functional prison system for Bougainville at Bekut on Buka island.

03.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BEKUT JAIL UPDATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Work on the construction of Low, Medium and High Risk sections of the BEKUT Prison is progressing well and is not being held up by Ausaid consultants or funding according to the CEO for ABG's Law and Justice Division, MR. CHRIS SIRIOSI. He was responding to calls by the North Bougainville Regional Police Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien who wanted to know why this work was taking so long to complete. MR. SIRIOSI said that construction of such facility goes through a number of stages from design to tendering and construction. He said according to the agreed plan, this year they will build the medium risk accommodation which is progressing well. MR. SIRIOSI said that the High Risk accommodation for 80 to 100 detainees will be completed in 2013. He said that AusAid has already funded the very successful low risk facility which now houses 50 low risk detainees. MR. SIRIOSI said that this has assisted in reducing the number of detainees in the police cells.

03.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONSA ON BOATS

By Aloysius Laukai

North Bougainville Open candidate, HENRY ONSA today called on the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU to make sure that the common roll for the ABG election is fixed before 2015. MR. ONSA was commenting on missing names in this year's PNG General Elections.

He said that because Bougainville will vote for Referendum every Bougainvillean must have their names on the common roll to participate in this exercise.

MR. ONSA said starting this year the Bougainville Electoral Commission must make sure work is done to update the common roll for the ABG 2015 elections.

03.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka cell is small: Police

By Fabian Gatana

OVERCROWDING in the Buka Police Station cell is an issue that needs immediate attention by concerned authorities.

Chief Inspector Cletus Tsien said this when referring to a mass breakout of 17 high-profile criminals on Sunday from the Police Station cells.

He said the overcrowding had led to three other major breakouts in recent years and it was a problem that should have been rectified years ago. It is also imposing a big burden on police officers who have the responsibility of taking care of the prisoners and at the same time carrying out their duties.

“Law and order issues are changing with criminal gangs becoming more organised and police need to step up but they cannot when they have a dual responsibility to look after these people in the police cells,” he said.

He said three years ago there were talks to upgrade facilities at Bekut, the newly established Bougainville prison but the Law and Justice Sector had been prolonging this from taking place.

He said a line needed to be drawn to differentiate between the responsibilities of the Correctional Services and the Police.

He added that the police cells were to be used only for keeping remandees, awaiting court and they should be moved to proper facilities.

03.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville atolls need more time

By Fabian Gatana

POLLING for the Bougainville Atolls will need to be extended to allow for the islanders to take part in the elections.

Bougainville Electoral Manager Reitama Taravaru said the vessel engaged to transport polling teams and materials to the atolls, MV Andreas, left Madang yesterday and should arrive in Buka on Thursday, a day before the close of polling.

He said even though the vessel arrives in Bougainville towards the end of the polling period for the atolls, the people would need to be given the opportunity to vote for their leaders.

He said the Bougainville Electoral Office had sent a request to the Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen in Port Moresby to allow for an extension for polling in the atolls, adding that only the Electoral Commissioner had the power to allow for this.

He said he was grateful to the New Zealand High Commission for fulfilling its commitment and making payment on time for the use of the vessel MV Bougainville Atolls .

Mr Taravaru, however, is disappointed at the Border Development Authority (BDA), the owners of the vessel for not making sure that the vessel was seaworthy and available as this has caused a major disruption to polling in Bougainville.

03.07.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Man runs off with ballot papers in South Bougainville

By PORENI UMAU

A BALLOT box was hijacked at a polling booth in Ibirai near Buin in the South Bougainville area last week Thursday.

This was confirmed by the Returning Officer John Monei yesterday.

He said when the polling team assigned to the area finished for the day, a man approached the polling booth and made off with a ballot box which was reclaimed 45 minutes later by pursuing police providing security.

The man was arrested and locked up at the police cell but the ballot papers were tampered with. Mr Monei said a re-poll was supposed to be conducted over the weekend but people in the area asked for the suspect to be released before a re-poll could be done.

He said according to police at Buin, the suspect could not be released.

He said negotiations were being held for the re-poll to be held at the Buin District office.

Meanwhile, at a polling booth in Morula in the Makis Constituency, the oversight by the presiding officer for a certain polling booth has caused 124 ballot papers to be informal.

Mr Monei said the presiding officer did not sign at the back of the 124 ballot papers as required before people could cast their votes.

He said this had caused an issue among voters and scrutineers and he was still waiting for advice from the Electoral Office in Port Moresby for further action about the informal papers.

But he said all polling should be completed by Thursday this week with counting to be held in Buka next week Monday.

He said generally polling was quiet throughout South Bougainville despite many people complaining about missing out on the Electoral Roll.

03.07.2012

Source: The National

Tribunal to rule on Semoso's case

A LEADERSHIP tribunal hearing misconduct charges against Bougainville MP Fidelis Semoso will announce its ruling on Friday.

It was to have handed down the decision yesterday but deferred to allow for the completion of polling on Bougainville this week. Semoso is defending the regional seat.

His lawyer Charles Mende had asked the tribunal to defer its ruling to Friday to allow for the completion of polling in the Bougainville electorate.

Mende told the tribunal Semoso felt the announcing of the decision might be prejudicial to his chances of retaining the seat.

Mende said his client had the right to be elected to public office and requested that the decision be delayed.

Public prosecutor Pondros Kaluwin said he had no objections to the request.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ATOLLS STILL TO VOTE

By Aloysius Laukai

Voters in the Atolls districts of Mortlock, Tasman, Feed and Catrets islands may not vote this election due to transport difficulties being faced by the Bougainville Electoral Commission to transport polling officials to these locations.

As of this morning the Ship owned by the PNG Marinetime Transport Authority did not arrive casting doubt if polling will ever take place this year.

Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU said that it was difficult to hire another

boat from another company as payment has been made to the PNG Marinetime Transport Authority who should have released their boat last week
He said that he was told only today that the company has no ships available as their ships were under service.
New Dawn FM understands that the local Election officials were this afternoon talking to the owners, SWT for one of their ships currently operating in Bougainville waters.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTING SET FOR MONDAY

By Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the four Bougainville seats will start at the Hutjena Secondary School starting Monday next week.

This was revealed by the Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU today.

MR. TARAVARU said that counting for the South Bougainville Open seat will be at the Hutjena United Church Hall whilst North Bougainville and Central Bougainville open seats would be done at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall.

The central tally room will also be at the Hutjena Secondary School hall.

MR. TARAVARU said that there will be a three-day training for counting officials on Friday, Saturday and Sunday before counting starts on Monday 9th July, 2012.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE WANTS BEKUT UTILIZED

By Aloysius Laukai

North Bougainville Regional Police Commander Inspector Cletus Tsien today called on the donor partner Ausaid to quickly complete the BEKUT rehabilitation centre to take in prisoners that are currently locked up at the Buka Police cells.

Inspector Tsien revealed this at a News conference in Buka this afternoon.

He said that the Buka Police cells has been used over the past eight years and this must not be allowed to continue.

Inspector Tsien said that police has no capacity to look after prisoners and they must be put in their rightful place that is the Bekut jail.

MR. Tsien said that as criminal activities in the region was increasing Police need to step up its efforts to counter and needs these cells to put in remandees that the court should address and then sent to Bekut or other jails throughout Papua New Guinea.

He also revealed that seventeen hardcore criminals escaped from the Buka Police Station cells last Sunday afternoon and Buka Police Station chief is blaming Law and Justice consultants for the delay in the completion of the Bekut Prison cells outside Buka town.

In revealing this, North Bougainville Regional Police Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien said that this was the fifth time prisoners escaped from these lock ups.

He said that in most breakouts, prisoners when they knew that the manpower was low would request their cells for opening to give food or for cleaning purposes.

When the officers open the gates they would then overpower the Police and escape.

Inspector Tsien says that these cells were built for normal police operation in which remandees must be put through the courts and leave the cells.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service today praised the people of Bougainville for a peaceful polling throughout the region.

North Bougainville Regional Police Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien told a press conference that police were happy that polling went in smoothly throughout the region.

He said that in North Bougainville polling went without any problem, and in Central there were some issues with the sitting member, however these were sorted out whilst the problem in South Bougainville were not election related.

Inspector Cletus Tsien said despite these the polling went smoothly.

He appealed for calm during counting.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ESCAPE

By Aloysius Laukai

Seventeen hardcore criminals escaped from the Buka Police Station cells last Sunday afternoon and Buka Police Station chief is blaming Law and Justice consultants for the delay in the completion of the Bekut Prison cells outside Buka town.

In revealing this, North Bougainville Regional Police Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien said that this was the fifth time prisoners escaped from these lock ups.

He said that in most breakouts, prisoners when they knew that the manpower was low would request their cells for opening to give food or for cleaning purposes.

When the officers open the gates they would then overpower the Police and escape.

Inspector Tsien says that these cells were built for normal police operation in which remandees must be put through the courts and leave the cells.

He said that the current two cells should cater only 32 prisoners but currently has more than sixty remandees.

Inspector Tsien is calling on those responsible in completing the Bekut Prison to speed up the work and release the burden from the Police.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CALL TO SURRENDER

By Aloysius Laukai

North Bougainville Police Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien is calling on the criminal elements operating on Bougainville to surrender to Police.

Inspector Tsien said Police will soon been hunting these criminals as they have their names and identities with them.

He said Police with the help of the communities have already discussed and know the people operating within the region.

The North Bougainville Police Commander appealed to these people to surrender before it too late.

02.07.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLL IN ATOLLS

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling in the Atolls islands of Tasman Motlock Fead is still outstanding on Bougainville as polling in many parts ended at the weekend.

This is because the Ship chartered under New Zealand's support to the PNG Election is yet to arrive to Bougainville to carry polling officials to the Atolls.

And a passenger ship that arrived from Rabaul this morning made many people thinking that this was the ship arriving.

When checked by Aloysius Laukai of New Dawn FM the captain said that he was on scheduled trip to Buka Nissan and back to Rabaul.

This ship Mv Marunga2 owned by SWT carried passengers from Rabaul and has cargoes for Nissan High School.

The captain said that he can assist to ferry the Polling team if their head office is contacted by Election officials.

He said he can still of load in Nissan today and tomorrow make run to the Atolls.

New Dawn FM understands the Election officials chartered a boat from the Border Development Authority managed by the National Maritime Transport Authority

News 08.2012

31.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Powerless Buka

By Aloysius Laukai

The so called temporary headquarter of the Autonomous region of Bougainville, Buka Town is now a powerless town since the PNG POWER'S generator developed engine trouble last weekend.

And their small standby gen sets cannot meet the demand for electricity by Buka's other mini towns of Kokopau, Sohano, Kubu and Hutjena and not forgetting villages getting power under the rural electricity program.

Their so called load shedding does not even cover the backstreets as we have been without power since yesterday..now going into 48hrs without power.

And two local radio stations completely out of service the entire population is also in the dark.

As darkness falls we are totaly hopeless till the next morning.

31.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

No Power

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka town has been without electricity since yesterday.

And business houses with freezer goods could dump all their goods if this continues this morning. PNG POWER last weekend was severely crippled when its main generator developed mechanical problem.

And they gave load shedding notices which they followed for only one day.

Even internet networks via mobile phones which we use are not working since yesterday.

31.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Discuss Bougainville referendum now

By Gorethy Kenneth

PAPUA New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders have to tell the people of Bougainville whether there will be a referendum in 2015 or not.

This is because time is running out and the main benchmarks, set under the Bougainville Peace Agreement that have not been addressed – for example – the Fiscal Self Reliance, Weapons Disposal Issue and Capacity Building to name a few.

Sam Akoitai, speaking as former Bougainville Affairs Minister, a former rebel hardliner and a concerned Bougainville leader, also on behalf of the people of Bougainville, said yesterday that time is running out. He said that it is better to talk about the referendum now before it falls flat on people's faces.

"It's better to say it now rather than leave it until late 2015 and frustrate the people again," Mr Akoitai said. "I am calling on ABG and the PNG Governments to tell the people of Bougainville and PNG whether there will be referendum in 2015.

"The Bougainville Peace Agreement was a creation for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, they both must work together to ensure the BPA is fully implemented before 2015. There are benchmarks in the BPA that needs to be addressed immediately," he said.

"The BPA is a double entrenchment agreement and there will be difficulties making amendments if leaders start thinking of an extension of time to the referendum."

Mr Akoitai, who also went on Radio Australia before an interview with the Post-Courier said yesterday despite him not being a leader in the ABG and PNG Government's specifically on Bougainville, he was very concerned that there has not been any progress so far. Yesterday ABG President Momis met with Acting PM Leo Dion over ABG issues also including the K100 million owing to the ABG. Bougainville has just two years to address pressing issues before the referendum for independence.

They discussed the way forward for Bougainville. Details of the meeting had not been disclosed, but the Post-Courier was reliably told that it was on the K100 million funding from the National Government and outstanding Joint Supervisory Body meeting and the Referendum issue.

31.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG gets 140 Govt powers

THE total number of powers and functions transferred to the Autonomous Bougainville Administration (ABA) by the National Government so far stands at 140.

Reports from the Division of Autonomy and Implementation show that education has the highest number of powers and functions transferred, at 63 – based on the approved MOUs. Teaching Service Commission (TSC) has 25 powers and functions transferred, eight powers and functions currently available to ABG; health has four transferred with 25 delegated, and six retained by ABG; Lands and Physical Planning has 11 transferred and five delegated; Forestry has 15 transferred and eight currently available to ABG; Primary Industry has 20 transferred and 28 available to the ABG; and Community Development has only two powers and functions currently transferred from the National Government to ABG.

However, the delay with funding and no Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meetings between the National Government and ABG in the last six months has been highlighted as among the major constraints faced in the process of the drawdown of powers.

About 14 divisional executives in the ABG Administration met with representatives from the six Council of Elders (COEs) in Central Bougainville in a week-long awareness workshop in Arawa last week, particularly to update the people on the progress of each division on the drawdown of power process.

Deputy Administrator, Operations - and Chief Executive Officer of the Division of Autonomy and Implementation Paul Kebori told the participants that other issues regarding Unity, Weapons Disposal, Reconciliation and Good Governance were also key ingredients to speed up the implementation process.

"ABG is existing – the structure is in place, we just need to put together the other vital parts regarding legitimate frameworks of the respective Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) to make it work.

There are also aspects that need to be considered which relate to Peace and Reconciliations, Weapon Disposal, Referendum, Good Governance, infrastructural developments and Manpower." Mr Kebori stated.

Mr Kebori told the participants that as citizens of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, they had a duty to fulfil and they must work together to implement the autonomy.

There are 40 COEs, 13 districts and three regional commissioners in North, Central and South Bougainville.

He said it was a must that Bougainville Administration linked up with the COEs.

31.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mine reopening urged

A LEADING businessman has thrown his support behind moves to reopen the Bougainville mine, saying this is the way forward to rebuild the crisis-torn region.

Kandaso Napi, who became the first national to be awarded a freight forwarding contract by Bougainville Copper Limited when the mine was operating at its peak, said the Government, Rio Tinto and the landowners need to work together to make sure the mine is reopened.

“It is pleasing to note that Rio Tinto is working cautiously not to repeat the mistakes of the past. The Government too must do the same. The past was created as a consequence of the Government failing its people,” Mr Napi said.

Mr Napi was responding to a recent statement by Rio Tinto Country Manager Mr Paul Coleman that moves on reopening the mine were progressing well.

Mr Coleman said the talks involved the landowners, the Autonomous Region Government and all other stakeholders.

Mr Coleman said it would cost the company around K8 billion to reopen the mine and there was a lot of work to be done.

“We want to get it right for the first time so we don’t get anything from the past,” Mr Coleman told Post-Courier.

Mr Napi said the Panguna mine laid the foundation for the growth of PNG when this country became independent in 1975 and the people of this country owe it to the people of Bougainville to make sure they rebuild their lives.

“The traditional cash crops on Bougainville were abandoned and being rehabilitated only recently. The Autonomous Region of Bougainville need all the money it can get to rebuild the place and the lives of its people,” Mr Napi said.

He said BCL or Rio Tinto should not shoulder the blame alone for what has happened and all parties should strive to find a way forward.

31.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

From autonomy to independence

BOUGAINVILLE has just two years to address pressing issues before it can start talking about the question of referendum for independence, scheduled to take place in 2012.

Right now Bougainville needs to move ahead with economic recovery to provide employment, education and better health services. People’s lives must be improved to prove to all Bougainvilleans that life on the island was worth fighting and dying for 20 years ago.

This is probably how autonomy will be measured.

Time is running out and the benchmarks set under the Bougainville Peace Agreement — for example, Fiscal Self Reliance, Weapons Disposal and Capacity Building — must be addressed now rather than later.

Autonomous Bougainville President John Momis and the Administrator Lawrence Dising must take charge immediately. They must work closely with the PNG Government and the international community, including factions on Bougainville.

They have to deal with the Morumbi/Panguna issues if they are serious about referendum and independence for Bougainville. They have to deal with the Tonu Issue of Noah Musingku; the Weapons Disposal issue and the outstanding reconciliations. All this have the potential of hindering development and economic recovery on Bougainville and may torpedo the referendum for independence question in 2015.

The Post Courier, as a paper, has walked the journey with Bougainville since the Provincial Government days and through to the Bougainville Crisis era. We can see a big problem for the islanders ahead if a solution is not found to deal with all these issues. President Momis and his administration must deliver now.

People are willing; disarmament is possible; re-opening of the Panguna mine is feasible; economic recovery is possible; and independence is possible. All it takes is the right connections being made at the right levels to make the system work. Although much has been achieved in the past five years, many people claim there is nothing to show for it. Australia has been on its toes in the region developing, funding and assisting the ABG and the National Government on Bougainville.

New Zealand has done its bit with Law and Order; United Nations is there for many reasons and Red Cross is still there, although not with a big budget but with their heart! The churches and any non-government organizations are still struggling to get Bougainville back to normalcy. These organisations can only supplement what comes off the PNG National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

While the money-generating division, Commerce and Trade office details that the Bougainville economy is expected to increase within five years provided the Government address the pressing issues at hand — the region's GDP is estimated to increase to K250m with cocoa to contribute about K110m, copra K18m, alluvial gold K30m per year and scrap metal another K30m. But all these cannot be achieved unless the problems detailed are addressed.

In light of this, the National Government must act now before anything comes up again! A warning to take heed!

30.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa comes alive

Churches celebrate Day of Prayer

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE'S former headquarters Arawa town came alive with different church-organised activities last weekend as the residents and others from the nearby villagers converged to commemorate the National Prayer Day.

The three-day event, which was held from the 24-26 of this month was spearheaded by Rev. Robert Sanasi and his wife Everlyn.

Rev. Sanasi, who is also the Country Leader of the All Pacific Assembly-PNG branch, led more than 150 children and youths from the Aroma Bougainville-Waropa area to observe the event there.

The three-day program began with praise and worship to God the King of Glory on Friday evening.

The following day's celebration saw a big triumphant march led by the children and members of the different denominations in Arawa.

The event started at the Arawa Youth Centre, down to the town's main shopping centre and then on to the old Provincial Government House. The march then proceeded to the Rumba Road and the residential areas before finishing back at the Youth Centre.



The purpose of the march was to acknowledge Christ Jesus as the King of Bougainville and PNG as a whole.

The Sunday program was held at the Independence Oval and was attended by pastors and their congregations from the different denominations.

Invited guests included the Central Regional Commissioner James Koivo and the local ABG member Linus Dake.

Those that witnessed the celebrations were happy with the event and promised that next year's National Prayer Day celebrations in the autonomous region would be much bigger than this year's. Rev. Sanasi officiated the closing.

30.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ARB MP intent on addressing development

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera will be making it his business to address the pressing issues that Bougainville is currently facing during his term as its representative in the National Parliament.

And one of his main tasks is to table in Parliament the progress attained since the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in 2005.

Mr Lera claims that since his predecessors have not been tabling this report in the National Parliament he will become the first MP to do so.

Mr Lera confirmed that he will also be attending the next ABG Parliamentary sitting where he will deliver his maiden speech.

During the (ABG) parliamentary session, Mr Lera will outline his 100 days plan and announce other plans to be pursued in his term in Parliament.

It is understood that Mr Lera has identified six projects that he intends to address during his first 100 days in office.

30.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MORE INDUSTRIES NEEDED

By Tapo Tovilu

Investors currently in the region must bring in more and do more to start industries in the region to help strengthen the economy.

The call was made by Chief Francis Loio who called on the Chinese to do more than just retail shops.

He says that the retail business is small and should be left to the locals in whatever region of Bougainville they are in.

He also made a call to authorities to monitor the quality of goods coming into the region and going on to our shelves.

30.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CALLS TO IMPROVE NOVA ROAD LINKS

By Tapo Tovilu

Calls have been made by the travelling public residing in the Kahule and Nova for more to be done to help fix their road to Buka Town.

They say that they have now for too long been travelling on poor road conditions to and fro town.

They thanked the works department which is currently upgrading the Ramunpan road area.

They made a call to member for North to look at doing more to help improve the road conditions from Buka to Kahule.

30.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DECISION CRITICISED

By Tapo Tovilu

The decision by the National Police Minister to rid the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary of its Auxiliary Unit has been questioned by many.

A Police Cap from the Tinputz area says that auxiliary police officers are helping in areas where the police officers are not present.

He says that for Bougainville the auxiliary police have been part of their community policing program which in the last five years has been very successful.

He says that the decision to remove the auxiliary police will leave a gap in the community policing section of the Bougainville police service.

He made a call to those in power to look back at the decision and to consider what effects it will have on the community.

30.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MANAGER WELCOMES SUPPORT

BY Aloysius Laukai

The General Manager for Team Bougainville, MR.WILLIE MASIU today welcomed Bougainville Copper Foundation's support to team Bougainville.

He told New Dawn FM from Port Moresby that this support was needed as the team needed to get all its team uniforms for the games.

Mr. Masiu said that team Bougainville was in dire need of funds as funds allocated by the Autonomous Bougainville Government totaling FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA was not available until the ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA funding from the National Government was received.

He said his team would still need some more sponsors in order for Bougainville to fully participate at this year's PNG GAMES.

Meanwhile, PRIME MINISTER PETER ONEIL announced that the National Government as paid FOUR MILLION KINA to AIR NIUGINI so that the TWENTY TWO Provinces can get to the games in Kokopo.

He said this means all Provinces would get TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA each for air fares for their contingents.

30.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BCF SUPPORTS TEAM BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Copper Foundation has approved THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND KINA to support Team Bougainville to get to KOKOPO, East New Britain Province for the 5th PNG Games in November this year.

BCL, Country Manager, PAUL COLEMAN said that the company was more than happy to support the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to participate at the national sporting event.

He said Sports was very important in PNG and Bougainville and they were happy to support team Bougainville.

MR. COLEMAN said that Bougainville may not be fortunate like other provinces in terms of financial assistance due to their situations and it was only proper for Bougainville Copper Foundation a subsidiary of Rio Tinto to come on board and support them take part in the games.

29.08.2012

Source: Islands Business

Bougainville mine talk goes well

Progress talks on reopening the Paguna Mine in Bougainville are going well and steady.

Port Moresby, PNG --- Progress talks on reopening the Paguna Mine in Bougainville are going well and steady.

Country Manager for Rio Tinto PNG Ltd Mr Paul Coleman said Monday in Port Moresby.

He said they the company does not want to repeat mistakes from the past so they are very cautious about what they are doing.

"We want everyone to be involved," Coleman said.

He said those to be involved in this process included all concerned stakeholders, the ex-combatants, Mekamui, the landowners and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

He said that after all consultations with all stakeholders they would proceed with pre-feasibility studies on reopening the Paguna Mine.

He said the progress on reopening the mine has moved forward and steady and is heading in the right direction.

Coleman said from the feedback they are getting off their consultations, most Bougainvilleans including the Autonomous Bougainville Government are keen on reopening the mine.

He said they had a meeting with stakeholders in Bougainville recently and will have another soon.

He said majority of them saw that reopening the mine would help with economic development in Bougainville.

He said much has been said but there is still much work to do.

Coleman said they are very cautious with they are doing and they would like to bring all parties into the process.

He said it would cost the company around US\$4-6 billion if they were to reopen the mine.

“There’s a lot of work to be done and we have made a lot of progress in the past months,” Coleman said.

“We want to get it right for the first time, so we don’t get anything from the past.”

29.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

BCL backs Team Bougainville

By ANCILLA WRAKUALE

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Limited is supporting Team Bougainville get to Kokopo and participate in the 5th PNG Games with a whopping K330,000.

BCL country manager Paul Coleman said the company was more than happy to support the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) to participate at the national sporting event to be held in Kokopo next month.

He said sports were very important in Bougainville and all of PNG and they were happy to support team AROB.

He said Bougainville may not be fortunate like other provinces in terms of financial assistance due to their situation and it was proper for Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL)- a subsidiary of Rio Tinto to come on board and support them take part in the games.

“We don’t want to see these guys miss out because of lack of funding,” Coleman said.

This will be the second time that the mining company has come on board to support Team AROB.

Coleman said in the 2009 Games, they assisted with sporting equipment and other items.

General team manager of Team AROB Willie Masiu was overwhelmed with the support from Rio Tinto.

He said the money will be used mainly to purchase uniforms for the teams.

He said they were having difficulty with funding and BCL helped bail them out from their biggest worry.

He said the Autonomous Bougainville Government will be supporting the team with K500,000.

However, Masiu said they haven’t received the money yet because the money will come from the K100 million from the K500 million for the ABG by the National Government.

“We were banking on that money, but it wasn’t forthcoming and when BCL came in to support, we were grateful and excited about it,” Masiu said.

He said their biggest aim was not to win medals but to take their young people out of Bougainville to see the changes happening in other parts of PNG.

This, he said, was also a good strategy towards peace restoration process on the island.

Masiu said AROB will have a total of 484 sportsmen and women including officials to the game in East New Britain Province.

He said they will have 18 teams from AROB participating in all major sports such as kick boxing, taekwondo, martial arts, soccer, basketball, volleyball and others.

Masiu said they also have 23 people with disabilities who will take part in para-games.

He said they are now in training sessions in preparations for the game.

Masiu said they got professionals from the National Sports Institute in Goroka to help with training their sports people there.

29.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-combatant: Bougainvilleans should observe I-Day with pride

BOUGAINVILLEANS have been challenged to always observe the ABG's Inauguration Day with pride. This is the call from one of the former combatants from South Bougainville.

This former combatant has voiced his concerns after seeing that many Bougainvilleans have not been observing the ABG's inauguration day with pride.

He said, instead they still always look forward to celebrating PNG's independence anniversary.

"I want to challenge all Bougainvilleans to observe our Inauguration day with pride because it is very important to us...for it was on this day, seven years ago, that we were given the autonomous status by the PNG Government.

"However, the opposite is happening. Instead of us celebrating this day, many of us have not done so. This clearly shows that we do not appreciate the fact that we have already gained our autonomous status.

"Furthermore, this day should be observed with pride because many of our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, uncles, aunties and relatives had lost their lives during the crisis. That is why we must always observe this day as very special and a remembrance day for all of us Bougainvilleans. When we are not celebrating this day with pride, it clearly shows that we do not have a heart for those that had lost their lives during the crisis."

He said he was saddened to see many Bougainvilleans looking forward to celebrating the PNG's Independence anniversary instead - saying that they should also do the same during the ABG's inauguration celebrations.

He added that it would be best if the ABG's Inauguration day celebration is observed in all the districts throughout Bougainville, instead of only in Buka and Arawa.

29.08.2012

Source: The National

ABG plans education curriculum

By ABIGAIL APINA

A CURRICULUM development and legislative workshop of a joint implementation group (JIG) involving the Department of Education (DOE), Teachers Services Commission (TSC) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) was held in Kokopo, East New Britain, last week.

It is understood the three-day workshop was to develop action plans for the ABG education curriculum and legislation that will be presented to the JIG meeting next month in Buka.

JIG co-chair and ABG education chief executive officer Bruno Babato said this was part of preparations towards the transfer of powers and functions from the national government to the

ABG so that administrative decisions were made by appropriate authorities concerning the political destiny of the region.

Babato said seven MoUs were signed last February between the national government and the ABG, two of which concerned DOE and TSC.

He said this further resulted in the formation of the JIG, which involved mainly a joint technical team as a vehicle to implement the transferred powers and functions from DOE and TSC.

He said sub-committees on curriculum and legislation were then created to find a way forward for the elementary education curriculum and the draft Bougainville Education Bill, which will be legislated before the end of this year.

Babato said the consultation on curriculum development would continue to ensure the ABG team continually received technical assistance in developing its own curriculum for elementary education and TVET sectors.

He said these would further explore the opportunities of how to best serve the teachers in Bougainville.

Babato said on the downside, gaps in capacities in funding and additional staff were potentially undermining what was undoubtedly a strong commitment from DOE and TSC to help ABG division of education institutionalise transferred powers and functions that had been transferred to Bougainville in practical ways.

29.08.2012

Source: ESBC

[ESBC press release 20120829_EN](#)

Phoenix from the Ashes!

Four to six billion US Dollar will be poured into Bougainville soon!

„We appreciate a lot Mr Coleman’s promising statement, published in the PNG Post-Courier on Tuesday (read below),” said the president of Bougainville Copper’s European shareholders (ESBC), Axel G. Sturm in Andorra. “The four to six billion US-Dollar (eight to twelve billion Kina) that is projected for the re-opening of the dormant Panguna mine in Central Bougainville will bring a sudden impact for the island’s suffering economy.”

Already in January 2012, Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice President Patrick Nisira had predicted that “the re-entry into Panguna by ... Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) can be made possible by the end of 2012”. He may be right.

BCL company secretary Paul Coleman is quite confident: He says that the progress on reopening the mine has moved forward, it is steady and it’s heading in the right direction.

The next weeks are supposed to be crucial. If everything works well, Bougainville may face next year its biggest change ever. It might rise like Phoenix from the ashes!

28.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mine talk goes well

By ANCILLA WRAKUALE

PROGRESS talks on reopening the Panguna Mine in Bougainville are going well and steady. Country Manager for Rio Tinto PNG Ltd Mr Paul Coleman (picture) said this yesterday in Port Moresby.



He said that the company does not want to repeat mistakes from the past so they are very cautious about what they are doing.

“We want everyone to be involved,” Coleman said.

He said those to be involved in this process included all concerned stakeholders, the ex-combatants, Me'ekamui, the landowners and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

He said that after all consultations with all stakeholders they would proceed with pre-feasibility studies on reopening the Panguna Mine.

He said the progress on reopening the mine has moved forward and steady and is heading in the right direction.

Mr Coleman said from the feedback they are getting off their consultations, most Bougainvilleans including the Autonomous Bougainville Government are keen on reopening the mine.

He said they had a meeting with stakeholders in Bougainville recently and will have another soon.

He said majority of them saw that reopening the mine would help with economic development in Bougainville.

He said much has been said but there is still much work to do.

Mr Coleman said they are very cautious with they are doing and they would like to bring all parties into the process.

He said it would cost the company around US\$4-6 billion if they were to reopen the mine.

“There’s a lot of work to be done and we have made a lot of progress in the past months,” Mr Coleman said.

“We want to get it right for the first time, so we don’t get anything from the past.”

28.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Why No pay?

By Aloysius Laukai

A paramount chief in the Suir area and chairman of the Tinputz coastal Village court, JOSEPH PANIKUN today called on the ABG to make sure that the efforts made by village court officials are compensated well.

He told New Dawn FM that the village courts have not been getting funding from the ABG for so many years and was wondering why this was happening.

MR.PANIKUN said that in Bougainville village Courts settle most of the local conflicts before they escalate but the authorities have overlooked them for many years.

He said that when he enquired at the Selau district administration he was told the funds for the village courts were paid early this year but have been diverted to other urgent programmes.

Chief Panikun also warned that if the village courts decided to stop work there could be a total chaos in the communities.

28.08.2012

Source: The National

Trouble-maker in Buka apologises publicly

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

NOTORIOUS trouble-maker in Buka town, Garry Sawa, publicly apologised for his wrong doings at his Noru village, Ieta, last Thursday. The moving reconciliation ceremony was witnessed by Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice-president and police minister Patrick Nisira, Justice John Kawi, associate Boskey Horta, Buka police station commander Armet Tsimes, UN representative Peter Siunai, representatives from the peace and reconciliation division, Bougainville administration and the chiefs and people of Ieta village. Sawa paid K2,000, a pig and shell money and apologised to Lina Pai, a former Air Niugini Buka office manageress, who his group held up at gunpoint at the Air Niugini office in 2002. He asked for forgiveness from those he had mistreated in the past. Sawa said he would not be involved in such criminal activities any more. He previously surrendered five high-powered rifles to the Bougainville police service, in Buka. Nisira called on the people of Ieta village to organise and benefit from economic activities on their land. He said instead of selling land to outsiders, the people should take part in economic activities. He was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony between Sawa and Pai, in Ieta village, last

Thursday. He thanked the people of Ieta village for giving their land for the development of Buka town and assured them of ABG support.

He said they made it possible for Buka to develop.

27.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Does Bougainville need its own regional 'Rambo' mission?

by AXEL G STURM | European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper



DURING HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA last week, Solomon Islands prime minister Gordon Darcy Lilo stated that "the presence of RAMSI has been vital in allowing things to get back to normal in Solomon Islands".

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a partnership between the people and government of Solomon Islands and 15 countries of the Pacific.

RAMSI arrived in Solomon Islands in July 2003 at the request of the government. Since then, much has been achieved and Solomon Islands is continuing on its path to recovery.

RAMSI has managed to:

- Ensure the safety and security of Solomon Islands.
- Repair and reform the machinery of government, improve government accountability and improve the delivery of services in urban and provincial areas.
- Improve economic governance and strengthen the government's financial systems.
- Help rebuild the economy and encourage sustainable broad-based growth.
- Build strong and peaceful communities.

All these services are also desperately needed in the so-called 'North Solomon' region, the Autonomous Province of Bougainville and its surrounding islands.

RAMSI is helping Solomon Islanders get their nation working and growing again. That will take years of hard work. Nothing will change unless Solomon Islanders want change and are willing to work hard in support of a common cause.

It seems that RAMSI is quite successful in its work. While I believe that military presence as in the SI won't be needed in Bougainville, the situation on the island sometimes reminds me a bit like the pre-RAMSI times in Solomon Islands.

News like the plundering of Chinese shops in Buka, the arson of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels, roadblocks on the island and even stories about a self-proclaimed king who manages his fraudulent financial business relations by satellite phone from his jungle camp are not really encouraging for foreign investors.

But these investors are now urgently needed to build Bougainville's economy in the way outlined by President John Momis recently.

My hope is that all Bougainvilleans will be willing to learn from their Melanesian brothers in Honiara and that they will take into consideration some kind of Bougainvillean RAMSI support.

This could perhaps be called 'RAMBO' (Regional Assistance Mission for Bougainville). It can bring the island forward towards a better future and perhaps even an important step nearer to independence.

27.08.2012

Source: ESBC

[ESBC press release 20120827_EN](#)

Does Bougainville Need "RAMBO"?

During his visit to Australia, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo stated last week that "the presence of RAMSI has been vital in allowing things to get back to normal in Solomon Islands (SI)".

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a partnership between the people and Government of Solomon Islands and fifteen countries of the Pacific.

RAMSI arrived in Solomon Islands in July 2003 at the request of the Solomon Islands Government. Since then, much has been achieved and Solomon Islands is continuing on its path to recovery.

- Ensure the safety and security of Solomon Islands.
- Repair and reform the machinery of government, improve government accountability and improve the delivery of services in urban and provincial areas.
- Improve economic governance and strengthen the government's financial systems.
- Help rebuild the economy and encourage sustainable broad-based growth.
- Build strong and peaceful communities.

All these services are desperately needed in the so called North-Solomon region - in Bougainville and the surrounding islands - as well.

RAMSI is helping Solomon Islanders get their nation working and growing again. That will take years of hard work. Nothing will change unless Solomon Islanders want change and are willing to work hard in support of a common cause.

“It seems that RAMSI is quite successful in its work,” says the President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Mr. Axel G. Sturm and adds: “I even believe that military presence as in the SI won't be needed in Bougainville although the situation on the island reminded me sometimes a bit of the pre-RAMSI times on the Solomon Islands. News like the plundering of Chinese shops in Buka, the arson of the three Rabaul Shipping vessels in March, roadblocks on the island or even stories about a self-proclaimed king who manages his fraudulent financial business relations by satellite phone from his jungle camp are not really encouraging for foreign investors.”

But these investors from abroad are urgently needed now to build up Bougainville's economy in the way as it was outlined by President Momis recently.

“My hope is,” says Mr. Sturm, “that all Bougainvilleans will be willing to learn from their Melanesian brothers in Honiara and that they will take in consideration some kind of Bougainvillean “RAMSI” support. This could then be called RAMBO (Regional Assistance Mission for Bougainville) It can bring the island forward towards a better future and perhaps even an important step nearer to independence!”

26.08.2012

Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

New kid in town: Cargo plane

By Aloysius Laukai

This old model air niugini's chartered freighter made people wondering which plane was landing at Buka airport this morning. Aloysius Laukai had to rush to the airport to find out.



24.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Simple for Lindsay as Morumbi moves on Bougainville resources

by BEN JACKSON



THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT the legitimacy of the exploratory and mining partnerships between Canada-based Morumbi Resources and five land ownerships companies in Bougainville.

It is unclear from where these land ownership companies derive their authority, but it seems they have over-stepped their jurisdiction, with neither the Autonomous Bougainville Government nor the government of Papua New Guinea having sanctioned any exploratory or mining projects in Bougainville.

Attention was drawn to Morumbi's activities in Bougainville with last month's appointment of Lindsay Semple as chief executive officer.

Semple, an Australian national, has a colourful history in PNG and Bougainville, having previously brokered a 10-year logging deal on the mainland which is alleged to have lasted only a few months resulting in land owners and contractors not being paid what they were owed.

Then, in 2008, Semple, acting for Invincible Resources, made facilitation payments of \$8 million to President Joseph Kabui and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to secure a deal for 70% of Bougainville's mineral resources.

The late Joseph Kabui never took the deal to Bougainville's parliament and as a result was facing a vote of no-confidence before his sudden death in June 2008.

The deal was canned following Kabui's death, but not before \$200,000 had been spent by Kabui and another \$1 million had been withdrawn by other unnamed persons.

At the heart of the deal was Sam Kaouna, financial advisor to Kabui, who it seems saw it as his place to decide on the future mineral resources for Bougainville when he and Lindsay Semple created Invincible.

Kaouna told the ABC's Steve Marshall in 2008: "Lindsay Semple, out of hundreds of interested investors that came into Bougainville, turns out to be that person, that special person, who is genuine, who is able to listen to the way people think.

"Look, although hundreds, I have chosen Lindsay because in my heart I feel that he's the person Bougainville needs."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, four years on Kaouna is again at the centre of affairs; this time as vice chairman and director of Isina Resource Holdings, one of the landowner groups that have made deals with Morumbi.

24.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ROAD WORK PRAISED

By Tapo Tovilu

The mothers of the Kubu Hahela market have praised the ABG and other donor partner for the road work currently has been carried out.

They say that the sealing of their market front now makes it easy for vehicles especially during peak hours to move in and out of the market area attracting many customers.

They have called for more similar work to be carried out in other parts of the roads in Buka as this will make transportation easier.

The mothers now have made an appeal to the general public residing in Kubu to help keep the area clean as this much of the area is part of the ABG headquarters.

24.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

QUALITY CONTROL ENCOURAGED

By Tapo Tovilu

Quality control on goods coming into the region has not been tough as there are very evident signs of counterfeit products in our shop shelves.

These were comments made by a public figure who would like to remain anonymous during an interview on New Dawn FM.

He says that during the past month he has been carrying out a survey on the number of counter fit products in shops in Buka.

He says that from his findings there has been an increase in the number of counter fit products coming into the region.

He says this is a very worrying issue as Bougainville currently is going through the economic growth period and products like this are damaging this growth.

He called on the relevant authorities to look into the matter as this was an ongoing and very dangerous issue for the economy of the region.

24.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DELAY CAUSES FRUSTRATION

By Tapo Tovilu

Former public servants now have become frustrated at the long delay in payments of the second lot of payouts promised.

Donald Ratson a former public servant who served as a officer in the commerce division in Arawa for 15 years say that it has been too long now.

He told New Dawn FM in an interview that today that the promised date of July 15 has passed and there have not yet been any payments.

He says that many who served Bougainville and who are entitled for their risk allowance payments share the same frustration.

He made a call to unions in Bougainville to come out openly on the media and tell the people of Bougainville of what is holding up the payouts.

He also made a call to John Kali to stand by his words as he had in the first round of payments promised that the second round would also happen.

24.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ORGANIZE TO BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Vice President and Minister for Police, PATRICK NISIRA today called on the people of IETA village to organize and benefit from economic activities happening on their land.

MR. NISIRA said that instead of selling land to outsiders, the people should organize and participate in the economic activities taking place on their soil.

He was speaking at the reconciliation and handing of weapons at Ieta village today.

The Vice President also thanked the people of IETA village for giving their land for the development of Buka town.

He said this has made it possible for Buka town to develop to where it is now.

MR. NISIRA said that the ABG was prepared to work with the people of IETA village to engage in meaningful activities that can benefit all the Ieta people.

24.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COURTS GIVING CHANCES

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Court was very lenient on GARRY SAWA as it tries to move away from giving straight forward sentencing into jails to sending back convicts into their communities.

And as punishment the court ordered that MR. SAWA pay the victim and reconcile based on Bougainville's tradition.

This was revealed by the Associate to Justice John Kawi, HORTA BOSKEY today.

He was speaking at the reconciliation between GARRY SAWA and LINA PAI at Noru this morning.

The Associate to Judge made these comments when responding to comments by another former combatant and Business man, DAMIAN KORA who wanted to know why the court was lenient on GARRY SAWA.

MR. KORA said that the TOGARAU resolution by all former combatants clearly stated that anyone in possession of arms could be seen as a law breaker and should be dealt with severely by the courts.

MR. BOSKEY said that the court had to study all submissions from the Probation officer, Chiefs and the lawyers before making the sentencing.

He said that the courts does not want to send convicts for ten to twenty years in jail and return and do the same things all over again but opt to other means of sentencing in which persons can change immediately.

MR. BOSKEY thanked MR. SAWA for being brave and opting for the public reconciliation that was witnessed today.

23.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SAWA SAYS SORRY

By Aloysius Laukai

Notorious trouble maker in Buka town GARRY SAWA has publicly apologized for his wrong doings at his NORU village, IETA this morning.

The moving reconciliation ceremony was witnessed by the ABG Vice President AND Minister for Police, PATRICK NISIRA, representative of the National Court Judge, JUSTICE JOHN KAWI, Associate BOSKEY HORTA, PSC for Buka Police Station, ARMMET TSIMES, UN representative, PETER SIUNAI representatives from the Peace and Reconciliation division, Bougainville administration and the chiefs and people of Ieta village.

MR. SAWA also paid cash totaling TWO THOUSAND KINA a pig and shell monies and also apologized to LINA PAI a former Air Niugini employee was held up at gun point at the Air Niugini office in 2002.

He also asked for forgiveness from whom he had mistreated in the past.

MR. SAWA said that he would not involve in these types of activities again in future.

MR. GARRY SAWA previously surrendered five high powered rifles to the Bougainville Police Service in Buka.

23.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Reconciliation



Pictured are GARRY SAWA And LINA PAI shaking hands at the Reconciliation ceremony at Noru, leta today.



Pic of Garry Sawa shaking hands with Buka Police Station Commander AMMERT TSIMES.

23.08.2012

Source: The National

Government statutory bodies meet in Bougainville

OFFICIALS from government statutory bodies are conducting a week-long joint agencies border awareness in Buin, Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

They include the Department of Labour and Industry, Customs, Office of Censorship Board, Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Independent Consumer Competition Commission, Health, World Health Organisation and others.

Deputy chief censor Jim Abani said the purpose of the awareness was to educate the people from the newly developing region about roles, responsibilities, functions and objectives of each statutory body.

The workshop is to ensure people understand the rules and regulations of state agencies that allow people to take part in socio-economic activities.

"It is the new era for the ARB and through the Border Development Authority, people need to be educated with the necessary information to ensure they participate meaningfully and productively to achieve their intentions under required processes," Abani said.

He said, many illegal activities like smuggling were becoming common and the people needed to be educated about that.

Among many issues raised is a concern regarding the unauthorised sale of DVDs on the streets of major centres like Port Moresby, Lae, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Madang and smaller centres and towns.

"It is against government policy to sell multiple DVDs and consumers have been urged not to buy such illegal items as they will never get their money's worth from those products," he said.

Abani said police, Customs including other law enforcing agencies were empowered by the Censorship Board to confiscate such items while investigating and uprooting distributing sources.

22.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ESBC support Momis

By Aloysius Laukai

The European Shareholders of BCL have welcomed ABG President Chief John Momis's efforts to implant foreign investment on Bougainville.

The statement on their website in Germany stated however that for Bougainville to encourage foreign investors the ABG must first establish Law and Order on the island.

This means it must equip Police Forces with arms so that they are able to enforce law on the island.

The site stated also that conmen like NOAH MUSINGKU and people running around with guns terrorising peace loving citizens must also be brought to justice.

Also former combatants and Meekamui activists have to be urged to lift roadblocks and all outstanding reconciliations have to be made.

Once all these are done, Bougainville will be a very interesting place for investment for foreigners for the good of all Bougainvilleans.

22.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Women center needed

By Aloysius Laukai

The president of the Hahela Catholic Women's Association on Buka island, CECILIA KOSIN wants her group to build a women's resource center at Hahela parish.

And she called on the ABG to support her group to build this resource center that can further support the work of the women.

She made these remarks at Hahela last Sunday.

CECILIA KOSIN said that the women can organize many community activities but without an office their labour would be in vain.

She called on President John Momis to immediately look at the matter and respond positively to their request.

22.08.2012

Source: EM-TV

9th Parliament Opening

21.08.201

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG's Governor-general opens Parliament with a call for reconciliation

Papua New Guinea's 9th National Parliament has been officially opened by the country's Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio.

PNG's Governor-general opens Parliament with a call for reconciliation (Credit: ABC) Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, members of the judiciary and the 109 MPs were present for the occasion.

Firmin Nanol reports, from Port Moresby .

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: PNG's Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio

Listen here !

21.08.201

Source: EM-TV

Momis Announces Foreign Investment Regime

President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, John Momis, has announced his government's intention to establish a foreign investment regime to attract investment to Bougainville.

Tuia International a New Zealand firm was engaged in 2011 to advise the ABG on the policy framework.

One key recommendation was to clearly define the type of investment it was looking for and to create an institution that would screen investment proposals.

President Momis says responsible investment will ensure that the interests of Bougainvilleans, values, culture, and environment are protected as much as possible.

Tuia International expects to complete the project by December. By that time the investment Bureau members would be identified.

21.08.201

Source: National Catholic Reporter

Film screening to raise awareness of plight of islanders

by Sharon Abercrombie

More than 100 Catholic colleges and universities will walk in the footsteps of the first climate change refugees in early October. They will watch "Sun Come Up," [3] a 2011 Academy Award-nominated documentary that presents the plight of 2,500 inhabitants of the Carteret Islands, an island paradise 50 miles north of Bougainville, Papua, New Guinea.

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is sponsoring the film as a way to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology, said Dan Misleh, the coalition's executive director.

For thousands of years, the ocean surrounding the Carterets had been a gentle mother. Then, in 2007, it began washing ashore, destroying precious croplands, permanently ruining the soil. Within the next decade, the islands will disappear forever under the water. The residents will have to move before they starve. Or drown.

"Sun Come Up" chronicles three weeks in the lives of the five families who have volunteered to be the first to resettle and to scout out land for their folks back home. We see them cast off in boats from Carteret, then take to the Bougainville countryside in bumpy vehicles. Their quest brings them to 15 towns. They encounter a variety of receptions, including outright refusal, indifference and thinly veiled hostility. One town warned that a portion of the population still suffers from the after-effects caused by 10 years of civil war. Many inhabitants are still armed, the villagers warned.

"Sun Come Up" is packed with heart-wrenching scenes. The 40-minute film unwinds like the best of novels, and viewers will immediately empathize with the heroines' and heroes' stories. One in particular: Four-year-old Cornelia sobs against her mother's shoulder. She doesn't like the new place they have come to at all, with its strangers, their noisy cars and the garbage scattered along the dusty road. "She wants to go home and wash in the sea," explains her mother with sadness.

Finally, the Carteret refugees find a community that accepts them with kindness, joy and celebration. It is a Catholic parish in the Tinputz region, where local families agree to make room for them. In a scene that could be right out of scripture, the parishioners hold a symbolic wedding between themselves and the Carteret families.

Since the film's debut, the Bougainville Catholic Diocese has resettled 12 families. It is one of many efforts going on right now to assist in a widespread relocation effort of the rest of the islanders. Other groups and nonprofit and government organizations are also helping, Misleh said.

Misleh said one group helping in the relocation is Tulele Peisa, which means "sailing the waves on our own," run by Carteret Islander Ursula Rakova, who is featured prominently in "Sun Come

Up." In a Brisbane diocesan paper write-up from the Catholic Leader, Rakova tells how the predominantly Catholic Carteret Islands have been suffering the loss of crops and water supplies from the rising seas.

Brisbane Mercy Sr. Wendy Flannery's community and Catholic Religious Australia have been strong supporters of Tulele Peisa.

In a Catholic Leader story from 2010, Flannery said the church's teachings call for a new awareness around environmental problems.

"The ecological conversion to which our Church calls us requires a new look at our relationship with the divine source of all life, and an examination of the basic ways we live and relate to one another, and to other creatures, on our common home of planet Earth," she said.

The October film viewings of "Sun Come Up" will be followed by a scholars' conference, "Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States," Nov. 8-10. The conference is co-sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, The Catholic University of America and the USCCB, and Bishop Bernard Unabali of Bougainville will present the keynote address.

The screening sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change comes with educational packets designed for Catholic colleges, universities, high schools, youth groups, dioceses and parishes. The packets include a step-by-step guide inspired by Catholic social teaching to spur discussion after the film and encourage viewers to take action in response to the unfolding climate crisis, Misleh said.

The coalition invites parishes, high schools and youth groups to participate, too. Thanks to a recent grant from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the coalition has secured a number of DVDs at a discounted rate to mail to registrants. To sign up, go to org2.democracyinaction.org [5]. For further information, email Misleh at danmisleh@catholicsandclimatechange.org [6]. For a downloadable flyer and a film preview, go to the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change's website.

21.08.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

Dare's statement causes Bougainville LO's to react

Konopa Kana

The Bougainville landowner companies are describing the Member for Eivo/Torau and Chairman of Central Bougainville Committee Melchior Dare's statement in the Post-Courier Weekender as a blunder and not in the interest of the people of Bougainville.

Directors of Karato Resources Holdings Limited, Pakasipan Resources Ltd, Banapa Resource Ltd, Kupe Resource Ltd, are refuting Mr Dare's response to earlier media statements by the resources owners on their quest to control and own mineral resources in the region.

A representative of Karato Resource Holdings Limited Joe Bironoim asked who Mr Dare speaks for, the resource owners of Central Bougainville where the Defunct Panguna mine is located or the entire province?

Mr Bironoim said that as an elected representative of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville (ABG) he is expected to speak for and serve the interest of the land and resource owners rather than of the company (Bougainville Copper Limited) which has been blamed for civil war and environment destruction.

He said that Mr Dare's statement clearly indicates that he is in favour of BCL giving "bel kol moni" or compensation for a short term gain which cannot comprehend the loss of lives and environmental damage which was the reason for not wanting to re-negotiate the return of BCL.

According to Mr Bironoim all the directors of the resource holding companies are already positioning themselves for the long term vision to take ownership of the resources, develop them and export from Bougainville.

He said that it won't be in their interest to see foreigners come and exploit their resources and leave them with all the shambles and deep craters on their land.

Another prominent Bougainvillian and Director of Isinau Resources Holdings Sam Kauona has called on Mr Dare to withdraw his statement as it kills the spirit of independence and self determination in resource development and political destiny.

“Mr Dare is now contradicting himself as he was the one who sponsored the motion of the second ABG Parliament meeting where he moved the motion to recognise landowners’ right to own resources in Bougainville,” Mr Kauona said.

“And as a leader, he must stand by what he says at the first place rather than being swayed by money.

“As the way he speaks now, it seems that he must have been (influenced) by interested persons.”

The former Bougainvillian Revolutionary (now Me’ekamui Government) Commander General is now seriously venturing into exploration and said even if the National or ABG Government want to negotiate for BCL return, they must recognise the rights and wishes of the landowners.

“Not only that, they have to have a wider consultation with all the affected people from the Civil War caused by the BCL inflicted environment damages,” he said.

21.08.2012 (published on 18./19.08.2012)

Source: Post-Courier Weekender

Member responds to media statement

THE MEMBER for Eivo/Torau and the Chairman of the Central Bougainville Regional Parliamentary Committee Melchior Dare has responded to comments made by director of Karato resource owners company, Joe Bironoim.

“In my capacity as the member for Eivo/Torau constituency, I regret to say that Joe Bironoim has not consulted my Eivo chiefs, clan chiefs, elites of Eivo Torau, to release such insensitive media statement that is not representative of Eivo/Torau people and more so, legitimate clan resource owners groups collectively.” Mr Dare said.

He stated that to draw lines between and state their position as central regional parliamentary committee members, we share commendation to BCL and challenge that local resource owner’s company’s initiatives will take a long while, to operate feasibly and monetarily viable to become operational and bring about fiscal economic self reliant to Autonomous Bougainville and its people.

“It will certainly require concerted effort, time resource capacity and energy by all players in the joint venture investment partnership and ABG as legitimate Government and custodian of the Bougainville peace agreement,” Mr Dare said.

He added that the central members have thanked BCL executive director Paul Coleman to take a bold stand to come physically to Buka.

“It has been a privilege for Mr Coleman to genuinely and humbly come to Bougainville with open policy to listen and further understand players and key stake holders in the spirit to listen and understand, the immediate pressing matters affecting Bougainvilleans as a whole and special targeted population in Panguna lease affected areas,” Mr Dare said.

The director also said it will certainly help BCL to strategically plan and intervene with its monetary capacity that is highly anticipated and available unlike other investors unknown to Bougainville.

BCL is known to Bougainville mining industry investor in the pre colonial days to pre crisis era with its former Panguna mine operation.

“Our political position is to hold BCL responsible and accountable at this crucial phase for Bougainville’s future,” he said.

“If BCL is the culprit to cause conflict and crisis on Bougainville then we Bougainvilleans must open joint collaborative consultation and dialogue at this crucial time to embark on BCL to be responsible to address immediate and pressing peoples grievances.” He said.

“We cannot shy away from main players like BCL.”

“It is unreliable to explore with new joint venture investors that have not proven to Bougainvilleans. Mr. Dare said.

He also said there are obvious constraints and impediments in negotiating new genuine joint venture investment partnership for resource owners without a capacity in negotiating management and capital investment.

“The central Bougainville Regional Parliamentary committee wish to applaud and commend Mr Coleman on behalf of BCL for realising and to make commitment towards maintaining stem positions, on the new deal new Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) on future mining investment dealings o Bougainville between resource owners and ABG in post conflict Bougainville,” Mr Dare said.

Paul Coleman has offered to genuinely address primary terms and conditions from “Bel Kol” money, compensation, fund peace and reconciliation and build and enhance capacity of PLOA with office space, and special technical advisers.

21.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Governor General to open ninth Parliament today

GOVERNOR-General Sir Michael Ogio (picture) will formally declare Papua New Guinea’s ninth Parliament officially open at grand opening ceremony at 9 o’clock this morning.

Prime Minister Peter O’Neill will move a motion on the Governor-General’s address-in-reply and thank Sir Michael Somare for his address.



The session will end with an address by Opposition leader Belden Namah before Parliament adjourns to September 4.

Leader of Government Business James Marape will take charge of the proceedings in the Chambers in the afternoon, his first task, since his appointment.

The order of the proceedings at the morning grand opening ceremony will include a guard of honour by the PNG Defence Force first Royal Pacific Island Regiment the combined Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and Correctional Services pipes and drums bands.

Mr Marape, who is also Finance Minister, said yesterday opening proceedings would be ceremonial. Parliament will then adjourn to 2pm and after the official welcome and speeches by Prime Minister Mr O’Neill and the Opposition leader, Parliament will adjourn for a week and reconvene on September 4.

According to the official program, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia and justices of the National and Supreme Court benches will take precedence.

The Parade host will be the PNGDF Commander Brigadier General Francis Agwi, accompanied by Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga and Correctional Services (CIS) Commissioner Martin Balthaser. Heads of diplomatic missions – high commissioners and ambassadors – will also be present for the occasion.



The Governor-General will take his position on the dais for the royal salute, to be followed by the combined band playing the British national anthem “God Save the Queen”, a 21-gun salute and PNG national anthem.

Sir Michael will then inspect the guard of honour and band and then mount the dais where he will take the general salute. He will then dismount to meet the Speaker Theo Zurenuoc and they will proceed to the Speaker’s lounge, escorted by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Opposition will announce its shadow ministers today and the Government will also announce its vice ministers.

21.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

More national experts needed

By JASON GIMA WURI

PROFESSOR Chalapan Kaluwin of the University of Papua New Guinea has called for more national experts and scientists to be involved in research when it comes to the seabed mining issue in the country.

“UPNG and other universities are important resource bases for research and technical expertise and they should be part of the development process instead leaving everything to a few government departments and their friends,” Prof Chalapan (picture) said in an email from Australia where he is currently carrying out some research.



He is with the Environmental Science and Geography School of Natural and Physical Science at UPNG. He said this topic is of interest to all stakeholders, both nationally and abroad, and requires broader consultations.

“I have included the team members of the Extended Continental Shelf Project and interest groups to contribute to this discussion, and I’m also aware of Professor Karl Gena of University of Technology who has done research work on mineral deposits and geochemistry from this area and so is Dr Espi.

“We just need to establish facts and figures to make progress in this issue and must be done with some urgency as the politicians and investors may get better of it if is delayed further.

“The most important thing is to ensure the Government and our people realise that after 35 years of experiences in the field of sciences with expertise to contribute meaningfully to any development whether on land, ocean or atmosphere in the PNG, institutions and people like us should be able contribute in any new developments in PNG,” he said.

In off shore seabed mining in the oceans in PNG, a lot of experts who have done work in this area but no one is able to get technical advice from UPNG or PNG’s expertise, Prof Chalapan said.

He said **Bougainville Copper Limited** and OK Tedi were great examples of foreigners or developers making the final decisions

“We need to put our hands up and advise the Government that there are technical experts who can assist the process in determining the most appropriate solution, he said.

Prof Chalapan said in terms of strategy, PNG experts could do the following:

Write discussion papers for the Government and the people of PNG, organise a consultative meeting or conference of New Guinea Islands’ provincial government leaders and Milne Bay, support students, NGOs and provincial governments with their campaign activities and for NGI and Momase provincial governments to sponsor and organise a seabed mining summit to gauge a national perspective on the project?

“Too many times we read about mining conferences being held in Australia and Papua New Guinea continues to be left out,” Prof Chalapan said.

21.08.2012

Source: The National

World Bank: PNG not easy place to do business

By KEVIN PAMBA

PAPUA New Guinea is not an easy place to do business, according to the World Bank’s “ease of doing business” index of economies for 2012.

Out of 183 economies measured, PNG ranks 101, a drop of four places from last year’s ranking of 97.

PNG ranks lower than fellow Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) members, Solomon Islands (74), Vanuatu (76) and Fiji (79).

Of the two metropolitan economies of the Pacific, New Zealand (three) is a much easier place to do business than Australia (15).

The city-state, Singapore, is the easiest economy to do business in the world with a ranking of “one” followed by Hong Kong (two), New Zealand (three) and United States (four).



Other economies in the top 10 ranking are Denmark (five), Norway (six), United Kingdom (seven), South Korea (eight), Iceland (nine) and Ireland (10).

Surprisingly Japan (20) ranks behind many OECD countries.

The world’s largest and fastest-growing economy, China ranks comparatively low at 91

but better than stable-mate, India (132).

Many of the African countries rank as the most-difficult places with Congo Democratic Republic, Guinea, Eritrea, Congo Republic, Central African Republic and Chad making the bottom five.

“A high ranking on the ease of doing business index means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm,” the World Bank stated on its website.

“This index averages the country’s percentile rankings on 10 topics, made up of a variety of indicators, giving equal weight to each topic.”

“The rest of the tables summarise the key indicators for each topic and benchmark against regional (East Asia and Pacific) and high-income economy (OECD) averages.”

The 10 topics that PNG and the other 182 economies were measured and the scores it (PNG) received in terms of degree of difficulty are: starting a business (84); dealing with construction permits (138); getting electricity (20); registering property (87); Getting credit (98); protecting investors (46); paying taxes (106); trading across borders (99); enforcing contracts (163) and resolving insolvency (116).

PNG is classified as a “lower middle income” country with the gross national income per capita at US\$1,300. The PNG ranking can be seen on the URL

link:<http://doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/papua-new-guinea/>

21.08.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Business

Bougainville sets up new foreign investment regime

Jemima Garrett

Bougainville is to establish a new foreign investment regime with the aim of attracting responsible investment.

Bougainville's President John Momis has announced he plans to set up an Investment Bureau to screen all investment proposals.

After some bad experiences in the past, Mr Momis said he wants to make sure new investment is responsible and protects the interests, culture and environment of Bougainvilleans.

Mr Momis says Bougainville needs foreign capital to grow and prosper but wants partners that will share its hopes and values.

Legislation to establish the Investment Bureau is expected to be tabled in parliament in December.

20.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SHAREHOLDERS NEWS

By Aloysius Laukai

Good news for shareholders of the former INVESTMENT CORPORATION of PAPUA NEW GUINEA. A team from the Melanesian Trustee Services Limited which manages funds from the former

Investment Corporation which has been changed to Pacific Balanced Fund would be visiting Bougainville to talk to shareholders on Bougainville on the status of their investments. The team will meet shareholders at the Hahela YC HALL on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th August, 2012.

And on Thursday 30th August and Friday 31st August they will be meeting with shareholders at the Arawa Police Station.

Shareholders are kindly requested to bring in copies of their share certificates and some form of identification like Passports or drivers licences.

According to their notice which New Dawn FM has copy, the team will produce new Identification documents to members.

The notice says that the team would also present the status of the Pacific Balanced Fund and also present their new look share certificates.

Persons requiring further information can contact the Melanesian Trustee Services Limited on Phone numbers 3210560 and 3210561 or fax 321 0563 or email at trustee@mtsl.com.pg

20.08.2012

Source: ESBC

A brief comment.

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper welcome President Momis' efforts to implant foreign investment on Bougainville. To encourage foreign investors, the ABG should first establish law and order on the island. That means: to equip police forces with arms so that they are able to enforce law on the island. Conmen like Noah Musingku and his gang and criminals like Damien Koike have to be brought to justice. Furthermore: Former combattants and Me'ekamui activists have to be urged to lift illegal road-blocks etc. . Outstanding reconciliation ceremonies have to be made. Once all this is done, all Bougainville will be an interesting place for investment for foreigners to the best of all Bougainvilleans.

20.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FOREIGN REGIME FOR BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

Autonomous Bougainville Government President, CHIEF JOHN MOMIS today announced the intention of his government to establish a foreign investment regime to attract responsible investment to Bougainville.

In 2011 the ABG engaged [Tuia International](#), a New Zealand firm, to advise on how to attract investment into Bougainville. Tuia's recommendations were adopted by the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) in December 2011 as policy.

President Momis said "A [key recommendation by Tuia](#) was the need for Bougainville to define clearly the type of investment it was looking for and to create an institution that would screen investment proposals for approval by the government.

We want to have investment for Bougainville that is responsible, and this will be enshrined in the legislation.

Responsible investment will ensure that the interests of our people, our values, our culture and our environment are protected as much as possible as foreign investment and industries grow".

He said legislation will be drafted to establish an investment bureau to screen all investment proposals, and recommendations will be tabled in the Bougainville Parliament to ensure full transparency.

President Momis says that the Investment Bureau will have a board appointed by BEC, and membership will reflect the wider interests of the Bougainville community.

The ABG President said that he believes that the people of Bougainville will see this as a very positive development.

“our recent history in Bougainville with outside investors as not always been good. The Tuia International recommendation mean that we will be able to seek investment into our future on our terms. We need outside investment to grow and prosper, but our partners have to share our values and hopes for the future. We have what the world wants so we can, and will set the bar high.” Tuia International expects to complete the project by December 2012.

And President Momis hopes that by that time the Investment Bureau members would be identified, the process in place, and the legislation to give effect to its role ready to be tabled in parliament.

The Project is sponsored by the ABG with the support from New Zealand and Australian governments through the Governance Implementation Fund.

20.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Peles Rice: Doing good while doing good business

by KEITH JACKSON

PELES RICE LTD WAS ESTABLISHED IN BOUGAINVILLE to import, fortify, pack and distribute Sunlong quality rice at the same price or less than competitive brands.

The company is the brainchild of Tim Ashton, an Australian farmer, developer and human rights activist – which I agree with you is an unusual combination.



It's also run by an impressive board of directors, which includes chairman Simon Pentanu (pictured, former chief ombudsman of PNG and chief administrator of Bougainville), Stan Basiou (chairman of Kalang Advertising and adviser to the Bougainville government), Albert Kinani (managing director of South Bougainville Engineering) and Lawrence Mattau (director of Bougainville Veterans Holdings).

The general manager is Peter Tareasi, former group accountant of John Lysaght PNG Limited group of companies and current government and landowners

liaison manager. with the Bougainville Islands Group.

Peles Rice is a commercial company (that is, it seeks to make a profit) with a strong social motive – to establish in Bougainville an industry that will make available a staple product at a highly competitive price.

The PNG rice market is currently controlled by Trukai Industries, an expatriate owned monopoly with over 95% of the market. By the time this rice reaches Bougainville, it is very expensive.

Peles Rice will be able to cut costs by acting as its own wholesaler selling direct to stores, cutting out the middleman so to speak.

It's a great idea for a region of PNG that's been doing things tough. But, as diligent readers will recall, there is a major problem.

While Peles gas secured some solid investment to date, it still requires another K550,000 (\$250,000) to actually get going.

So the company is looking for additional investors or loans.

PNG financial institutions have clammed up on lending to Bougainville, and Peles Rice is a victim of this.



Perhaps there's a feeling there's too much risk involved, but, as Tim Ashton says, Bougainville is open for business and the north is probably one of the most peaceful regions of PNG.

Initially, Peles Rice will service the northern centre of Buka as far south as Wakunai from a proposed factory and distribution centre in Buka.

Production and distribution from places further south such as Arawa and Buin will not take place until the directors are comfortable with the security situation, especially in relation to the large amounts of cash that the business can generate.



For further information on this project, contact Tim Ashton at tim_ashton@bigpond.com.

20.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HAHELA FEAST DAY

By Aloysius Laukai

Our lady of assumption parish this week celebrated feast day of the parish on Wednesday August 15th.

The women from the parish celebrated at Taiof mass centre.

And today all the mass centers celebrated a combine mass at the Hahela parish.

Mass centers, Sohano, Taiof, Buka town, Novah, Malasang mass centers met and the combine choirs were very nice.

Pictured are women from the Hahela parish presenting their item after church.



20.08.2012

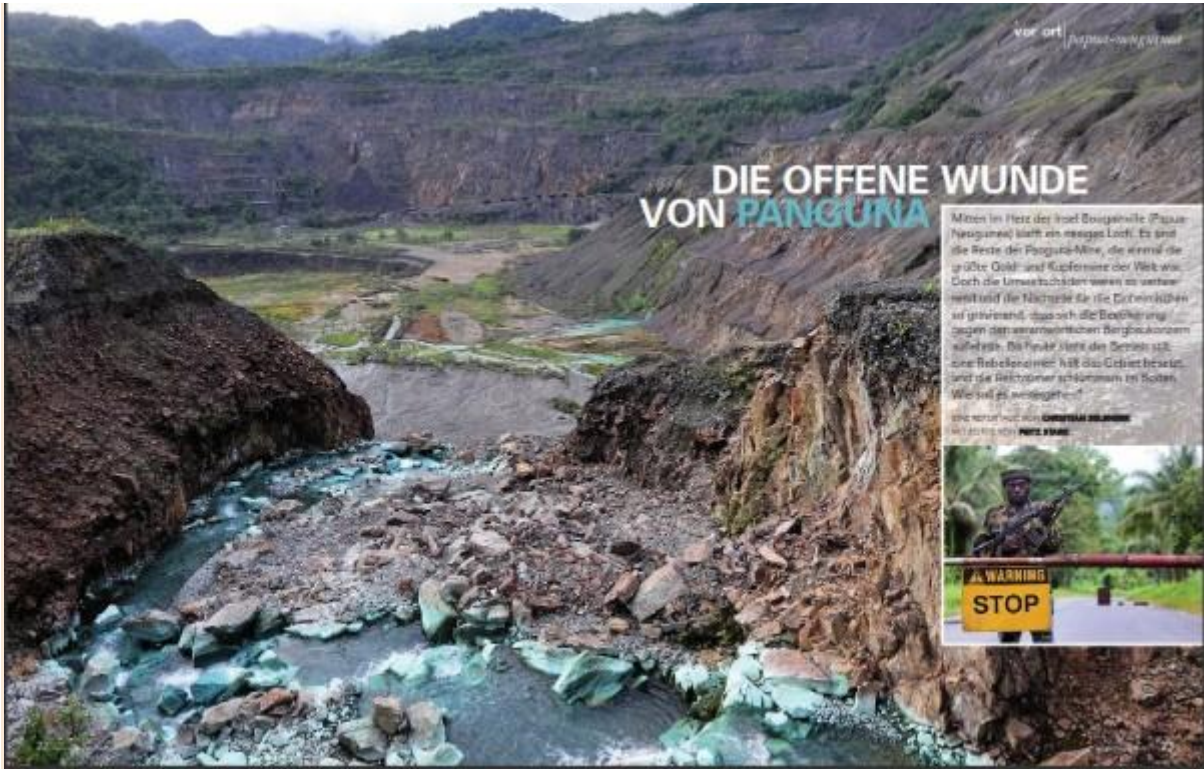
Source: missio * magazin Nr. 5/2012 (September/Oktober)

Titelreportage: Die offene Wunde von Panguna

* Über missio

Das Internationale Katholische Missionswerk missio Ludwig Missionsverein KdöR in München gehört seit 1922 zum deutschen Zweig der Päpstlichen Missionswerke. Gegründet wurde es 1838 durch König Ludwig I. von Bayern. Allein 2011 hat es 468 Projekte in 35 Ländern auf den drei Kontinenten Afrika, Asien und Ozeanien unterstützt. Im Fokus stehen dabei der Auf- und Ausbau lokaler kirchlicher Strukturen sowie die Ausbildung kirchlicher Mitarbeiter.

[Klicken Sie bitte auf das Bild unten, um den Artikel zu lesen!](#)



19.08.2012

ESBC comments:

For a long time Antony Loewenstein kept shut-up. Now the self-styled journalist and notorious "minophobe" individual is back on stage again. Read his latest defamatory piece of writing here:

19.08.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

Classic corporate journalism on Papua New Guinea; what environmental concerns over mining?

Antony Loewenstein



Antony Loewenstein in Bougainville

The following piece by Brian Robins in the Sydney Morning Herald Business section is classic mainstream media myopia. After decades of exploitation and environmental disasters due to mining, the possible re-opening of the mine on Bougainville in Papua New Guinea is discussed without once acknowledging the huge vandalism and violence perpetrated by Rio Tinto back in the day. I visited earlier this year and saw the reality of corporate destruction. Robins mentions none of this, of course:

Last month, senior managers at Bougainville Copper met landowner groups with a stake in the Panguna mine area for a further round of meetings, and they remain optimistic of winning and maintaining broad support for a resumption of operations.

At the same time, the Bougainville government is trying to corral all the landowner groups to sit at the table to cut a deal with Bougainville Copper, although it is far from clear what the position of Rio, with its dominant 70 per cent stake in the copper company, will be to any proposal to resume mining.

Work to redefine the size of the ore body as a precursor to any mine development work is under way, and last month the head of Rio's copper division, Jean-Sebastien Jacques, joined the Bougainville Copper board. But with an estimated \$3 billion price tag, any progress in resuming mining will be slow and will need more than just the backing of the central government to get off the ground.

Bougainville Copper is saying nothing publicly at present as it waits for landowner groups to reach some unity with the Bougainville and central governments on a resumption of mining – a process that could happen quickly, or could be several months away, at best.

But the political risk to any large project on Bougainville cannot be underestimated since the Autonomous Bougainville Government still plans to hold a referendum on secession by 2020 which, if it were to proceed, would scuttle any prospects for a resumption of mining any time this decade, and beyond.

18.08.2012

Source: Brisbane Times / Fairfax BusinessDay

Miners tap resources the Melanesian way

by Brian Robins

Exploiting PNG's mineral wealth takes long negotiation and the full co-operation of the local landowners, writes Brian Robins.

For long-time expat Australian Lindsay Semple, who has been kicking around Bougainville for a few years now, it was the deal of a lifetime.

Semple had allegedly paid 20 million kina (\$9 million) to the Autonomous Bougainville President, Joseph Kabui, to win exploration access to 70 per cent of Bougainville, but Kabui's death in 2008 derailed this.

Recently, Semple claims he cut another deal with the Autonomous Bougainville government, which he has backed into a Canadian-listed minnow, Morumbi Resources, where he has been appointed the executive. But the Bougainville government says otherwise.

Welcome to the world of doing business in Papua New Guinea, where fact and fiction can sometimes seem to merge.

Notwithstanding Semple's manoeuvring on Bougainville, Bougainville Copper has been making solid, if quiet, progress to resurrect its long-idled Panguna copper mine, while across the country work is moving ahead on the Mount Kare gold deposit.

Ring a bell? It was found by CRA, a Rio Tinto forerunner, in the late 1980s when the then exploration manager discovered a gold nugget while digging the toilet for an exploration camp in the highlands. That find triggered a gold rush by the local villagers in early 1988, which ultimately forced CRA to abandon the area as the locals ran riot.

Exploration work has proceeded in fits and starts since and, while there is little doubt about the economics of the gold deposit, the key is winning - and sustaining - the support of warring local villagers for a mine.

There is an unusual symbiosis between Mount Kare and the Bougainville copper mine, since it was also in 1988 that Bougainville Copper, which is also controlled by Rio, suffered the first of a series of explosions that led to the closure of what was then one of the largest copper mines in the world. Those explosions, of the power pylons leading to the mine, were the start of the insurrection that led to the mine closure by mid-1989.

For Stephen Promnitz, formerly with Kingsgate Consolidated and who now runs Indochine Mining, which is trying to develop the Mount Kare deposit, PNG presents few new challenges since he cut his teeth as a geologist at Mount Kare. "With the newly elected government, PNG is in a de-risking phase," Promnitz said of the political risk in the country, after the recent changes in Port Moresby.

Indochine is finalising its pre-feasibility study for a prospective \$120 to \$150 million mine project and has hired a Melanesian Fijian, George Niumataiwalu, to help win over local landowners. He is credited with taking the Hidden Valley resource to a completed project for its owners, Harmony and Newcrest Mining.

At Mount Kare, a 1.8 million ounce resource grading an average 1.9 grams of gold a tonne, including a 700,000 high grade zone at 3.7 grams a tonne, developing a modest-sized mine producing 100,000 to 150,000 ounces a year over an initial seven- to eight-year mine life would appear straightforward. With any luck, it will be the first step in a larger operation.

As Niumataiwalu has put it when talking to the Mount Kare landowners of the present gold resource: "We don't know if we have the ear, the leg or the hindquarters, but we are looking for a big pig."

Niumataiwalu is keen to pursue the "Melanesian way" with any development of the Mount Kare resource - working with local villagers to ensure they are supportive as the mine plans proceed - to try and avoid any last minute surprises that could derail the project and stall it for another 25 years.

The Melanesian way is also getting a workout with Semple for his plans on Bougainville where, for Rio Tinto, a resumption of mining may not be simple, since opposition remains deeply entrenched in some quarters.

Last month, senior managers at Bougainville Copper met landowner groups with a stake in the Panguna mine area for a further round of meetings, and they remain optimistic of winning and maintaining broad support for a resumption of operations.

At the same time, the Bougainville government is trying to corral all the landowner groups to sit at the table to cut a deal with Bougainville Copper, although it is far from clear what the position of Rio, with its dominant 70 per cent stake in the copper company, will be to any proposal to resume mining.

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17.08.2012

Source: East Asia Forum, ANU, Australia

Economic challenges for the new Papua New Guinea government

Author: Aaron Batten, ADB

Papua New Guinea's (PNG's) incoming government will inherit an economy buoyed by a decade of rapid economic growth and poised to reap the benefits of its vast natural wealth. After the state was nearly bankrupted in 2001, real per capita income has risen by 150 per cent and private sector employment has more than doubled.

The PNG economy is projected to grow 7.5 per cent this year, supported by high government spending, high commodity prices, and a US\$16 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, which is now entering its peak construction phase. Business is also booming. A recent survey of PNG's top 100 Chief Operating Officers (COOs) found that 90 per cent expect company profits to be higher in 2012 than in 2011, with none expecting a decline. Two thirds said their 2011 profits had exceeded expectations. With over US\$27 billion (equivalent to 190 per cent of 2011 GDP) expected to be invested in the mining, oil and gas sectors before the end of the decade, PNG's medium-term growth outlook is strong.

But PNG's macroeconomic success masks growing unease about the distribution of the benefits of growth, including the government's ability to translate wealth and macroeconomic stability into better public services. Progress has been made in some areas: the proportion of the road network in 'good' condition has risen from 10 per cent in 2003 to 33 per cent in 2011, and under-5 mortality rates have fallen in many provinces. Yet many other core public services have deteriorated over the last decade, particularly in rural and remote areas. PNG is one of a handful of countries that is not on track to meet any of the Millennium Development Goals.

Rising inequality is partly a result of constraints on non-mining investment. While the stock of private sector employment has doubled over the last decade, ADB estimates show that less than 5 per cent of the population, (or roughly 10 per cent of the working age population) are currently able to earn a wage in the formal economy. PNG's COO survey highlights that a shortage of skilled labour, poor law and order, lack of technical expertise, unreliable utilities from state owned enterprises (SOEs), and the poor state of transport infrastructure impose major barriers on investment in the non-mineral economy, where poorer people are more likely to be employed. The Asian Development Bank estimates that less than 10 per cent of the working age population are currently able to earn a wage in the formal economy. These constraints combined with rising firm profitability have led to a dramatic outflow of investment funds from PNG over the last decade. For example, PNG's investment in Australia reached \$US1.2 billion (equal to 12.8 per cent of GDP) in 2010—350 per cent higher than the amount of money invested by Australian companies in PNG.

High inflation also undermines equality: roughly 85 per cent of the population relies on cash crops for semi-subsistence livelihoods, so their purchasing power has deteriorated rapidly in recent years. The combination of structural constraints in land and housing markets and rising property demand has contributed to a sharp increase in rental prices. As a result, a growing proportion of urban residents are being forced to live in informal settlements with poor access to power and sanitation facilities, and significant security risks.

PNG's booming mining sector is also creating inequality at the village level. In the next 12 months, the government must manage 8,000 local workers who will be retrenched from the LNG project. Landowner groups are warning of social unrest if alternative work arrangements for these workers cannot be found.

Managing these problems will be difficult for the new government, which faces a period of much slower growth in government revenue. Later this year the Government will finalize its third Medium Term Fiscal Strategy (MTFS 2013-2017) which will play an important role in establishing the fiscal rules required to balance PNG's large social and physical infrastructure investment needs with maintaining the macroeconomic stability that has underpinned the last decade of economic growth. Maturing mining and oil operations, for instance, will contribute to a 5–10 per cent decline in real government revenue by 2014. LNG revenues starting in 2015 will help, but given the generous tax concessions, current expectations are that there will be zero net savings within the newly created sovereign wealth fund in the next five years.

The budget is a big challenge because, at US\$650 per capita, PNG's revenue is among the lowest in the South Pacific.

Three main factors contribute to PNG's low revenue base. Firstly, only 5 per cent of the population is engaged in formal private sector employment, which gives the government a small income tax base. Secondly, as a result of tax concessions and the end of additional mining profits tax in 2003, the average effective tax on PNG's mining, oil and gas companies is low compared with other fiscal regimes. The recently opened Ramu Nickel and Cobalt mine has a ten year tax holiday before it will contribute to national revenue. Many other similarly beneficial concessions have been made to firms across the sector. Thirdly, PNG suffers from poor tax compliance and enforcement because the national tax office lacks the staff and resources to investigate evaders.

PNG's low revenue means the incoming government will have to turn to some sort of fiscal austerity. Expenditure should focus on rehabilitating existing infrastructure rather than creating new assets, because the government will struggle to maintain new projects. Strengthening the tax office and taxing the mining sector more heavily would help alleviate fiscal pressures over the medium term.

The government's biggest challenge for the next decade is improving the inclusiveness of economic growth. And this will require a re-invigoration of the microeconomic reform agenda: the government needs to strengthen competition, lower barriers to new business and stimulate growth in the non-mineral economy. Service delivery by SOEs must also improve. The new administration should make SOEs more accountable and performance-oriented, improve management structures, and encourage greater private sector participation.

The 2012 budget unveiled plans to restructure SOE governance and accountability frameworks. If these initiatives can be implemented, they will create the conditions for much faster growth in the non-mineral economy. This reform is a crucial step to avoid overreliance on commodity exports, thus improving the range and quality of employment opportunities for the people of PNG.

Aaron Batten is Country Economist at the Port Moresby Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank. A version of this article was first published here in the Development Policy Blog.

17.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainvilleans reckless behaviour lets down our people

by LEONARD FONG ROKA



IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, in my home area of Panguna's Tumpusiong Valley, a group of Bougainvillean students from the University of Papua New Guinea, with backing of officials of the

Autonomous Bougainville Government, executed an awareness program on current issues such as autonomy and education.

Later talk spread throughout the valley that these future leaders of Bougainville had some difficulty answering the village people's questions. Some of the students frankly stated they had no idea how to respond to questions. Others, in responding to questions, showed the villagers they were not aware of the issues affecting the valley.

Another of these students angered the people by stating that 'when we graduate, we don't feel like returning to Bougainville because pay rates are too low'.

Gossip in the valley also had it that the team was very much into drinking (a friend of mine from Muguai told me he was touring with them because they provided free beer). Sad to say, but alcohol is now a problem in Bougainville.

It was also said of the team that many were lovers courting each other and not touring for the good of Bougainville's 15,000 lost lives in the civil war.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the words of Francis M Deng, who wrote in 1997: "Deprive a people of their ethnicity, their culture, and you deprive them of their sense of direction or purpose".

I believe we are suffering under this curse. Maybe we've forgotten that there is a place in the Solomon Sea called Bougainville. Maybe there was not a crisis we failed to contain politically which turned into a civil war costing the lives of thousands of our brothers and sisters.

If you think that the terrible conflict was instigated by me, a Panguna fellow, you ought to change that mentality. Bougainville colonialism created a crisis in the hearts and minds of our elders and we inherited this. The seeds of conflict were sown long before hostilities broke out.

Panguna's icons of secession, the late Francis Ona and the late Joseph Kabui, were not there when John Teosin began the Hahalis Welfare Society. They were not present in demonstrations in Kieta and Arawa by Napidakoe Navitu led by the late Sir Paul Lapun. They were not there on the mission led by current President John Momis in the mid-1970s which went to the UN in New York campaigning for Bougainville independence.

They weren't there, but they were children who grew up in that aura of conflict.

Be that as it may, Bougainville is now our common problem. The old people originally involved in the protests against our Papua New Guinean masters did not carry the freedom campaign in their hearts, so, when finer economic pastures sprouted, they forgot their fight and sucked on PNG's breasts.

As Bougainvilleans, we ought to accept that we are all victims of what our 1960s and 1970s elders left unnourished, neglecting that already they had made their children see, hear and feel the Bougainville problem created by colonialism.

Mr Deng's idea of cultural deprivation did happen in Bougainville, and the Bougainville crisis of 1988 gave a venous sting to it. We know who we are - we know we are Solomon people - but our problem is irresponsibility to our homeland.

We have our tails firmly glued to our bellies in fear. In the open, we talk PNG; we talk Bougainville only in the safety of cyberspace. We have to act out for the world that we are Bougainvilleans.

I feel sad seeing all this. The more we drift, the more Bougainville will suffer.

Every year Bougainville exports students to be educated, hopefully to serve Bougainville in return. But away from home, they are here running after New Guinean penis and vulva and don't want to be the true Bougainville light to self-determination and progress.

A fundamental reason why the United Nations supported a referendum on Bougainville independence was because of the prospect of cultural genocide of Bougainvilleans as a marginalized people in the hands of an irresponsible Papua New Guinea government and people.

Bougainville today has a bunch of people that talk Bougainville away from home; but, when in their village, they are the problem to the community.

I regularly, meet people coming home from New Guinea, loading beer into PMVs because they want to drink all the way to South or Central Bougainville; or booze all the way to Haku or to Nissan Island. Does this, make sense? Are we doing any good for our village relatives?

This also shows that we don't respect ourselves as Bougainvilleans and those who died during the conflict leading us to become empty drums that lack vision and thoughts worth contributing to the good of Bougainville.

Where do you stand?

We claim we are way behind in terms of development. For those of us who travel beyond Bougainville, it is of paramount significance that our homecoming ought to be a source of positive thinking so our respective communities can improve and Bougainville can be a better place.

Leonard Roka is a mature age student at Divine Word University in Madang. He was a participant in the civil war, in which his father was killed.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis assures more benefits

By Tapo Tovilu

President Momis while speaking at the Launching of joint venture business in Buin yesterday assured the people of Bougainville that they will now benefit more from similar projects.

Bougainville he says is the first in the Pacific to stand and say that we have to have a joint venture business plan for any outside business.

He also revealed today that Bougainville will be now involved in downstream processing for export in the next five years.

He says that by law it will be required that any company wishing to do business in Bougainville must be a joint venture business.

Momis added that for too long the people of Bougainville have been slaves to other foreign companies but now he says we will be beneficiaries to business ventures in Bougainville.

He says that the reason for this is that outside business have transparency ensuring that they follow the regulations set by the ABG.

He also made a strong call to the people of Bougainville not to depend only on the ABG but also do what little they can to help develop the ABG.

He says that we will soon bring in experts to help the grassroots in ways they can make money for themselves.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Investors welcomed

By Tapo Tovilu

Chinese investors have been now given the chance to start joint venture business with businessmen from Buin.

At the launching today in Buin Commerce and trade minister and ABG Member for Konnou Wilfred Comba expressed his joy at the official lunch of the joint venture business plan.

In his speech he thanked Investors' police and ABG president for their efforts in providing the opportunity for the joint venture business for the people of South Bougainville.

He says that the Government is for the people and was put in place by the people so that such services can be provided.

He added that Bougainville now must fulfil the requirement of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and work together for progress

He also says that for Bougainville to be politically independent it must be first economically independent.

He assured the people of Bougainville that under his department there are rules and regulations, so investors now coming in have the blessing of the ABG.

Comba also says that both local and joint venture business will be at the same level which he explained that it will be at a level playing field in the business arena.

He revealed more good developments which under the planning of the ABG will start from next year onwards.

He appealed to the people of South Bougainville to look after these investors and other things the ABG is putting into place for their benefit.

He also called on the people to Support the work of the government so that both the ABG and the people of Bougainville can move forward.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kauva calls for respect

By Tapo Tovilu

Member for Makis and ABG minister for Peace and Reconciliation Newton Kauva has called on all foreign investors and joint venture business currently in Bougainville to respect the cultural ways of the local people.

He says that as Melanesians culture is a part of life and must be respected and recognised for peace and understanding between men.

He says that for foreign business especially they must respect the ways of what community they run their business in.

He added that if this is followed he has guaranteed that business will flow smoothly without trouble in Bougainville.

He urged also that Bougainvilleans respect foreign business in the region as they are investing in the growth of the regions economy.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sealing to begin tomorrow

By Tapo Tovilu

The Buka town areas from City Pharmacy all the way to the buai market will tomorrow have the pavements and walkways sealed.

This was reviled today by an officer from the Buka Urban Town Council on New Dawn FM's talkback show.

The officer says that the Buka town pavement sealing project has been funded through PNG Australia transport sector support program where AUSAID is funding.

The preparation work which began a week ago by a local road works company IKL has now been completed awaiting the first coat sealing.

Sealing will be carried out by nationally renowned road sealing company based in Port Moresby Dekenai Construction.

The officer says that work was supposed to have begun last week but due to the non-arrival of Dekenai's equipment's the work was moved to this week.

Other areas where sealing will also be carried out are Kubu hill and the Kubu Hahela market area opposite Uni Center.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Water supply for town called for

By Tapo Tovilu

The residents of Buka town have called on the ABG through the Buka Town Urban Council in developing and installing a water supply system for the Buka town area.

The plan for a water supply system for Buka town was made a few years ago but still up to this date no physical work has been carried out.

Residents of Buka town say that during long periods of the dry season finding water for the most basic of things is very difficult.

They also added that with no designated water truck for filling up water tanks for residential areas there is much need for the water supply system.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Moderator to visit Buka

By Tapo Tovilu

The United Church of Papua New Guinea moderator Reverend Samson Lowa will be visiting Buka to officiate the creation of the Buka Town Urban circuit.

His visit will also coincide with his farewell trip which he currently is doing in all regions of the country as he will be replaced next year.

The United Church of Bougainville will all be gathered at the Buka Town United church building for their service with the current UC moderator.

The service will also be a time for all leaders of the United Church in Bougainville to come together for the special occasion.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Cruise ship docks in Buka

By Tapo Tovilu



An Australian tourist cruise ship docked into Buka wharf today while passing through on its journey around the pacific.

The massive double hulled ocean cruiser named Inspiration 2 while docked was an eye opener for boat farers going to and fro Kokopau.

The ship departed Buka after a four hour stop over on its way to Rabaul than onto other destinations on its tour of the pacific.

< **MV Carnival Inspiration 2**

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Chiefs calls for help

BY Tapo Tovilu

Chiefs from the Tanamalo area on Buka Island are calling on the ABG and other road works contractors to assist them in the upgrade of their section of the Buka ring road highway.

Peter Tagiolo a chief from the area today during an interview with New Dawn FM made the call representing his people.

He says that due to heavy rains during the past month and no proper drainage their roads have gone from bad to worse.

He says that the road is their only way of transport to and fro Buka town for his people and has called for more assistance in the maintenance of the road.

Meanwhile Mr Tagiolo also made some positive comments commending youths from the area who have taken an initiative in patching the huge potholes in their section of the highway.

He has called on stakeholders to make their pledging become reality to prepare the ring road for sealing by next year.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Road works commended

By Tapo Tovilu

The current road restoration and upgrades being carried out in the Buka town area Kubu and Hutjena have been praised by members of the public.

They say that these upgrades are a facelift to the Buka area and should continue in the future.

They added that as Buka is currently the ABG capital and major business center for the region such beautification projects must be done more often.

The thanked the Buka urban town council and the works department with other contractors for the current work and have called for more similar work to be carried out in areas where work has not yet been done.

17.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kauva calls for respect

By Tapo Tovilu

Member for Makis and ABG minister for Peace and Reconciliation Newton Kauva has called on all foreign investors and joint venture business currently in Bougainville to respect the cultural ways of the local people.

He says that as Melanesians culture is a part of life and must be respected and recognised for peace and understanding between men.

He says that for foreign business especially they must respect the ways of what community they run their business in.

He added that if this is followed he has guaranteed that business will flow smoothly without trouble in Bougainville.

He urged also that Bougainvilleans respect foreign business in the region as they are investing in the growth of the regions economy.

17.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

The tough task of investing in the new Bougainville

by KEITH JACKSON

TIM ASHTON [picture] WAS RAISED on the plains of central NSW and developed



a love of rural life and people and a strong belief in social equity and justice.

In 2005, he happened to be introduced to the charismatic President Joseph Kabui of Bougainville, got on well with him and was invited to visit the autonomous province to assist in any way he could.

Ashton took up the offer and, when he arrived in Bougainville, was assigned by Kabui to review foreign entities seeking to gain an early foothold in Bougainville following the tragic civil war.

Ashton decided to start by looking at an outfit called Invincible, purportedly a Canadian resources company.

"I provided Kabui with a report on Invincible," Ashton says, "in which I found very strong circumstantial evidence that it was at best opportunist, even fly-by-night...."

"More disturbingly, it was not the native Canadian company it represented itself to be, but one which originated in Russia. It had been backdoor listed on the Toronto stock exchange and was funded through a secret Cayman Islands trust with links into Russia..."

Ashton was alarmed about the deal Kabui's new Bougainville government might be about to do with a company that lacked transparency and had such obscure associations.

"I have always held a belief that one should not get into bed with any entity without first being able to look under it and with Invincible that was impossible."

Ashton submitted his report – "which was received rather coolly" - to later find out that Invincible had funded President Kabui's election by a reported \$US2 million.

He was disappointed but undeterred.

Ashton began to establish a joint venture with some Bougainvillean investors to import quality rice to be fortified, packed and distributed within Bougainville, providing a solid local industry and providing good returns.

The competitive advantage of the business was that it would sell wholesale directly from the factory; which no other company could do.

The Bougainville end of the project was relatively easy once Ashton gained the trust of potential investors.

He says: "The business model is predicated around raising trade finance of K550,000 for nine months, secured against government title land with buildings and plant to the value of approx K1.2M."

OK, good, productive idea. Not a great capital cost. Socially and economically desirable in a province struggling to reassert itself. So what's the problem?

"It revolves around what appears to be an unofficial embargo on providing credit to Bougainville by finance institutions based in Port Moresby," Ashton explains.

"The National Development Bank gave conditional approval, the condition being that we provide security outside Bougainville.

"We had investors in the province, but this condition really raised the bar. And on such a modest investment, too.

"In the case of another potential investor, the CEO of a major finance organisation was keen to go ahead but was outvoted by his fellow directors."

Ashton is puzzled at this negative response, which he equates to an embargo.

"Bougainville is a far safer environment than Moresby, Lae or the Highlands. Expats and nationals walk everywhere, even at night, through Buka, Arawa and Buin," he observes.

"The BSP bank in Buka is built of fibro and gyprock and has a couple of unarmed security guards by day, who are more interested in sleeping or chatting up young ladies!"

So there's a potentially profitable, viable, eminently socially desirable project ready to go in Bougainville – but it lacks what is basically short term trade finance to fire it up.

"We need K550,000 loan for nine months and as a sweetener we are offering a generous free carried equity position in the operation."

That's the deal.

Anyone out there interested.

If you want to obtain further information, you can email Tim at tim_ashton@bigpond.com

16.08.2012

Source: ESBC Research

Voices on Panguna

[Click here and find out what people said on re-opening the Panguna mine and Bougainville Copper Limited...](#)

16.08.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville customs to hold border issues workshop

THE PNG Customs office in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is organising a week-long workshop to create awareness of border issues in the region.

PNG Customs manger in Bougainville (ARB) John Kiu said it was important that the people are aware of border issues and how they can develop the country and region in partnership with government agencies and NGOs.

Kiu said migration into the region would increase because of the continuous economic growth in the country that has also spilled into the region.

The workshop would be held in Buin from the 19th of this month to the 24th.

Kiu said the workshop would be conducted by a Joint Border Agency which would comprise of Investment Promotion Authority, Labour and Employment Department, Department of Health, World Health Organisation, PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service, National Fisheries Authority and other relevant state agencies.

He said the purpose of the workshop is awareness and to promote collaborative efforts between the public and government.

He said this would help give public information of state agency so that the state agencies do not work in isolation.

He said the main target of the workshop would be youths and women groups, advocacy groups, war veterans and business representatives.

Kiu said he hoped the meeting would be a success to foster economic growth and development in the region.

16.08.2012

Source: The National

Health worker gets house

COMMUNITIES at the Skotolan Sub Health Centre near Buka, in Bougainville, recently celebrated the opening of a new house for its health worker.

The three-bedroom house will help improve staff punctuality and relieve them from the long daily walk to work.

The house was built at a cost of K92,300 with funding provided by Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program Ltd (PNGSDP).

This is part of a K4 million project funding support by the company to the United and Catholic churches to rehabilitate rundown infrastructure in the health and education sectors.

Since 2008, both churches have been able to maintain and build new health and education facilities in over 23 project sites in the autonomous region.

A delegation of 20, comprising of representatives from the United Church, the Autonomous Bougainville government and PNGSDP, which was represented by Lawrence Stephens, Ginia Siaguru and Mark Soi, travelled recently to Skotolan for the launch of the new house.

They were met by representatives from Skotolan and escorted to the site of the new building.

Many health facilities became rundown because of the Bougainville crisis which prompted the PNGSDP board to decide on providing funding support to the United and the Catholic churches in 2008 as they already had education and health facilities in the region.

Under the project funding agreement, the churches were to use K2 million in the health sector and K2 million in the education sector.

Since 2008, 23 health centres and high schools have benefitted from PNGSDP's grant.

ABG health chief executive officer Dr Anthony Pumpara acknowledged and congratulated the good work of health workers serving the people.

15.08.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's Parliament should address Bougainville - constitutional specialist

An international law and constitutional specialist says Papua New Guinea's new parliament should address the long-neglected commitment to build the autonomy process in Bougainville. The window for the independence referendum in the autonomous province opens in the PNG parliamentary term which has just begun.

Dr Andrew Ladley from Victoria University's School of Government says the challenge of giving Bougainville the best chance of developing an autonomous government has largely been ignored for years by Waigani.

"Bougainville has every right I believe to feel largely neglected. The big issues are elsewhere in PNG that have primarily occupied the PNG government and Bougainville feels that its autonomy process has been stalled, it's not getting much money, it's not able to do much, it's not able to evolve any of its powers and it's still limping along like any of the other provinces."

Dr Andrew Ladley.

15.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

EL NIÑO WARNING

By JASON GIMA WURI

PAPUA NEW GUINEA and other Pacific nations are about to experience one of the worst El Ninos ever to hit the Pacific Ocean.

This is according to the Island Climate Update, a monthly publication prepared by the Pacific National Meteorological Services, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric (NIWA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) using funding from NZAID.

The Pacific is about to enter an episode of El Nino, however the signal is mainly being seen in the ocean temperature, and not yet in the atmospheric circulation, stated the publication.

It further stated that El Ninos are usually characterised by reduced easterly winds and warmer sea surface temperatures around the dateline in the equatorial Pacific.

Monitoring buoy and satellite measurements have shown that the ocean is warmer than usual in the Central Pacific (by 0.7 Celsius).

But that the easterly trade winds in the central Pacific are still blowing at their usual strength for this time of the year.

Normal climate patterns are expected across much of the Pacific for the next three months, but an El Nino could lurk on the horizon later this year, according to the latest Island Climate Update.

However, slightly less rainfall is forecasted over the next three months for some island groups such as Tuvalu, Samoa, Tokelau, the Northern Cook Islands, the Society Islands and Wallis and Futuna. There looks to be lightly more rainfall for others such as Western and Eastern Kiribati, Tonga, Niue and Papua New Guinea.

After two years of La Nina conditions which led to drought in Tuvalu, Tokelau and Samoa, the Pacific is expected to experience El Niño conditions after August this year.

El Nino conditions usually cause less rainfall over many of the Pacific Islands, particularly in the western Pacific, and more rainfall near the equator in the central Pacific.

Attempts to get more information from our local PNG National Weather Service were unsuccessful as many of the Forecasters seem to be absent from work.

For more information, or if you would like to subscribe to the Island Climate Update or a monthly newsletter, please contact your National Meteorological Service.

14.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS FIRM ON AUTONOMY

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, CHIEF JOHN MOMIS has been praised for his bold stand to see autonomy work in Bougainville.

RADIO NEW DAWN FM today received calls from listeners after listening to the replay of the TALK BACK show held in Port Moresby last week.

They said that ABG President must be praised for his continued commitment to autonomy and to see it work on Bougainville with the funding support of the PAPUA NEW GUINEA national government.

Like in Port Moresby many in Bougainville have requested for a copy of President's educational talk on FM 100 replayed by NEW DAWN FM last night and this morning.

14.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON REFERENDUM

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says that Bougainvilleans must be allowed to feel and taste autonomy before voting for the referendum in 2015.

He was talking on FM 100's TALK BACK show replayed on New Dawn FM last night.

Chief MOMIS said for Bougainvilleans to vote properly they must be well informed on what autonomy is.

He says that he wants the people to be empowered by involving in economic activities instead of sitting around and waiting for handouts.

President MOMIS called on the National government to support the ABG to realize this goal.

14.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TOWN ORGANIZE

By Aloysius Laukai

SIXTY THREE families in Buka town will raise K124 each to contribute towards the uncompleted classroom at the Hahela Primary School.

From the total outstanding monies to complete the classroom which is 48 THOUSAND KINA ,63 Families within Buka town, Kokopau, Novah and Sohano will have to raise a total of SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWELVE KINA with the first installment of FIFTY KINA payable by this Friday.

And Parents of Buka students have set up a committee that would organize other activities to raise funds for the school.

Executives for Buka town are as follows, GABRIEL PANGTEI chairman,

Thomas Waikami representing Kokopau is the deputy chairman, Treasurer is Magareth Renget and secretary is HONA HOLAN and committee member representing Novah, PATRICK PETESON.

First meeting for the group will be held at the NEW DAWN FM Conference facility at 5 pm this Thursday.

14.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SCHOOLS DEMAND PAYMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

Secondary schools in Bougainville are in desperate need for urgent injection of funds to continue operating until the end of the school year.

AND two secondary schools are already calling on parents with outstanding schools fees from last year to complete these fees as soon as possible.

HUTJENA secondary school yesterday put out a service message calling on parents to make their payments because the school was having financial problems due to slow payment from the National Government to pay the second component of school fees.

AND the Bishop Wade Secondary school and the technical school have been relying heavily on garden food contributions from the communities around the school.

14.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONE DAY SUSPENSION

By Aloysius Laukai

Classes at the HAHELA PRIMARY School were suspended today by the Bougainville Education Board to allow the School's Board of Management, the Parents and Citizens and the Teachers of the school to iron differences between the three groups that has developed over the last three months.

AND the three groups met at the School grounds to listen to teachers and Board members explain why this situation was allowed to develop.

Explanation from the Teacher's representative, MRS. MISIRARI said that because the Board was not working the teachers were finding it difficult addressing many issues that were affecting students learning at the school.

These included lawless activities at the school, Not enough classrooms and students were sharing school materials.

Also some grades had more than sixty students making it difficult for a teacher to handle as the required ratio per teacher was one to 25.

Chairman of the Board, DR. JOE VILOSI also explained that due to work commitment he was not able to attend to the school's programs.

After several heated discussions all agreed to break into groups and fundraise to complete one uncompleted Classroom that should ease the school's problem once completed.

The fundraising of FIFTY KINA per family will come under the following groups, HANGAN, HUTJENA, HAHELA/KUBU, IETA and Buka TOWN that covers NOVAH, KOKOPAU and SOHANO island.

Parents have until this Friday to pay in their first FIFTY KINA.

13.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

USE NGI VOLUNTEERS

By Aloysius Laukai

General Manager for TEAM BOUGAINVILLE, WILLIE MASIU today called on PNG SPORTS FEDERATION to utilize Volunteers and Technical officials from the New Guinea Islands in the coming PNG GAMES to be held in RABAUL later this year.

MR. MASIU said that each code tournament directors should identify referees, scorers and other technical officials within the NGI to volunteer for the games.

He said that it would be expensive to fly in volunteers from Port Moresby and other centers to officiate at the games.

MR. MASIU said that this could be a good opportunity for the NGI officials to gain experience and get exposure at these games.

The General Manager for Team Bougainville said that schools around the East New Britain province could be used to act as scorers for the games.

MR. MASIU said as NGI would be hosting the game it was only proper for NGI officials to fully participate.

He said games that are not played in the NGI can take in their officials.

Bougainville will have a strong contingent of 500 athletes including officials and support staff to this games scheduled for November this year.

13.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO MORE DEATHS

By Aloysius Laukai

Trainer for the one-week Village Birth Attendants, SR. CELINE TUSSALAH wants Bougainville to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate on Bougainville to ZERO.

Speaking at the closing of the VBA workshop last Friday, SR.TUSSALAH said that Bougainville needs to train more Village Birth Attendants to reduce the number of deaths occurring in the rural areas of Bougainville.

She called on Health Facilities to make sure waiting houses for pregnant mothers are built near health institutions to save mothers from working long distances to deliver their babies.

SR. TUSSALAH said that she used to train a lot of Nurses and she was happy to work with WORLD VISION to train village women to help in their communities.

She called on the participants not to see themselves as Nurses or Health workers but helpers in their communities.

13.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE MINISTER HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for POLICE and Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA (picture) today praised members of the Bougainville Police Service and the Community Auxiliary Police for their outstanding efforts in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the recently conducted General Elections.



He said that 542 men and women of these two organizations worked well together and more importantly, the communities that they served appreciated the safe environment created by their professionalism.

This was the first major operation involving the community auxiliary Police and the Bougainville Police Service from all three regions working together and it worked well said MR. NISIRA.

The minister said that despite earlier speculations that the polling would be interrupted by unrest, the early and on-going intervention carried out by the Bougainville Police Service and the presence of the Community

Auxiliary Police in their villages ensured that no such activity occurred.

13.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TWO RE-APPOINTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Two Bougainville members have retained their ministries when the Prime Minister PETER O'NEIL announced his cabinet last week.

However reports have been confusing as they were given different constituencies in the official announcement.

The member for Central Bougainville, JIMMY MIRINGTORO was given his Communication ministry whilst the member for South Bougainville, STEPHEN KAMMA PIRIKA has been given the new AUTONOMY ministry which could have moved away from the old Ministry for Bougainville Affairs.

New Dawn FM managed to clarify the report and has confirmed that the two Bougainville members have retained their ministries.

13.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Release Bougainville fund

A businessman has urged the National Government to release the K100 million committed to the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Kandaso Napi, a Lae-based businessman said the Government should not hold on to the funds any longer because the reconstruction work on Bougainville is not complete.

"There is a lot of work to be done with that money. Give the money to the Momis administration and they can do what they like with it," Mr Napi told the Post-Courier yesterday.

Mr Napi, who started his trucking firm in Bougainville at the height of the Bougainville copper mine operation, said PNG owes a lot to Bougainville and it was only fair that the money was given as a token of appreciation to the people of the region.

"Everyone knows that PNG benefited a lot from the Bougainville copper mine's revenue. It is time we repay our debts," he said.

Mr Napi said Waigani was holding on to the money because the Autonomous Region government did not provide a plan on how it wants to use the money and while this may seem a very good reason, the people of Bougainville were facing hardships, partly created by the Government of PNG.

13.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Schools face closure

MANY schools throughout the country have closed and more are expected to close soon because the National Government has not honoured its commitment to release the second batch of its free education subsidy funds.

Schools that are mostly affected are boarding schools that do not have the money to feed their students. However, lack of free education funding is also affecting most schools throughout the country, including day schools.

Senior Education department officials could not be contacted yesterday to confirm the reasons why free education subsidy funds for the second half of the 2012 academic years have not been released on time to keep the schools going.

The Government has earmarked K350 million for the second half of the year but it is not known when the money will be released.

Ula Pokana, principal of Gerehu Secondary School, in the National Capital District, raised these concerns during a Parents and Citizens Association meeting at the school two weeks ago.

Mr Pokana told parents the school would have no alternative but to close its doors and send the 1846 students home if they didn't receive their share of the promised funds on time.

Principals of several schools confirmed that they are also affected, especially boarding technical colleges and secondary schools. Schools in the rural areas of the New Guinea Islands and Momase region are still waiting for the second batch of the school subsidy funds.

Head of a technical school in the New Guinea Islands told the Post Courier that he had to send the students home because they have run out of money to purchase food for the students.

"We are still waiting for the National Government through the Education department to release the second batch of our share under the free education policy," the school principal said.

"We used to charge parents and students some fees, especially to pay for rations to feed the students. But we have not been charging and collecting any fees since the start of the free education policy beginning this year," he said.

"But the funding is not forthcoming and we are struggling to maintain our operations. The problem is there is nothing we can do about it," he said.

Some schools in Bougainville also reported that they have sent their students home because there is no money to buy food and to keep their generators running.

The principal of a technical school said he had no choice but to send his students home last week, advising them to wait at home until the Education office in Buka tells them that the funds have been sent by the Education department in Waigani.

"We had money when we charged parents some money on top of the school fees and that was basically to run the school and buy food for students. But we don't have any money now and there is nothing we can do until we get the funds from Port Moresby," the principal said. The Post Courier was told yesterday that several schools in NCD are also facing the same problems and have approached the Education office in Port Moresby. Two weeks ago in Alotau, a group of teachers from rural high schools and a technical college attempted to see their leaders who were camping there to tell them that they were still waiting for their funds.

12.08.2012

Source: EM-TV

President of ABG Upset Over Funds Withheld

President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, John Momis, is not happy about the bureaucratic stand off which has resulted in the people not having access to 100 million kina that belongs to them.

He says it's unbecoming for the bureaucracy to continue to impose needless conditions on the ABG.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REDUCE RISK

By Aloysius Laukai

About 30 Bougainville women die each year during child birth and this can be reduced further according to the CEO for Health Division DR. ANTHONY PUMPARA.

He was speaking at the closing of a five day village birth attendant's workshop at the Kuri village resort today.

The workshop was organized by World Vision's Rescue Children and youth from HIV and AIDS project which is currently targeting the Tewa, Mahari and Torokina Constituencies.

DR. PUMPARA said that previously his division has been training nurses at Health Centers on how to attend to these mothers during childbirth.

He said he was pleased that NGO's are also assisting by training villagers to assist mothers especially when they are in the remote areas.

About Fourteen women from TEWA and MAHARI Constituencies graduated as village birth attendants and received certificates and including a First Aid kit each.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP

By Aloysius Laukai

World Vision's Bougainville Program Manager, BONIFACE WADARI says that World Vision will continue to partner with the Health Division and other NGO partners to reduce infant Mortality rate throughout Bougainville.

He was speaking at the closing of the five day Village Birth Attendant's workshop in Buka today.

MR. WADARI said that WOLRD VISION ran two other trainings prior to this workshop in the districts.

He called on the participants to put into practice what they have learned and start saving lives in the villages.

MR. WADARI said that risks in the communities are high and the participants first job was to encourage mothers to deliver their babies in Health centers instead of their homes.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UNITY FOR BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for North Bougainville, LOUTA ATOI yesterday called on the people of Bougainville to unite and move Bougainville forward.

He said Bougainville had a huge potential to become a prosperous nation only if the leaders are united and work with their people to develop economic activities for the region.

MR. ATOI said that Bougainville was blessed with natural resources in which if developed properly can earn huge monies for the region.

He was talking on New Dawn FM after returning from the first parliament session in Port Moresby.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COCOA FUNDS

By Aloysius Laukai

Cocoa farmers throughout Bougainville will be assisted with funds to improve productivity of their cocoa blocks if they get organized and seek assistance.

This is contained in an awareness message from the Cocoa Board office in Buka to the people of Bougainville.

The message clearly states that farmers have to select one credible lead partner in which funds would be released through.

The message from the office of the Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project said that those farmers who missed out on the first round can submit their proposals for funding this second round.

The program is funded by World Bank to support smallholder cocoa blocks in East New Britain and Bougainville and small coffee block owners in the Highlands region.

An awareness team is currently touring Bougainville to further inform the people of this project.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEMBER JOINS OPPOSITION

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for NORTH BOUGAINVILLE, LOTA ATOI yesterday explained why he opted to join BELDEN NAMAHA and his group in the opposition ranks.

He told New Dawn FM that he had to move with BELDEN NAMAHA and his group as he believed in the leadership of new breed leaders like BELDEN NAMAHA who had the heart for the people of Bougainville.

MR. ATOI said he did not want to work with old politicians like the former Prime Ministers, PAIAS WINGTI, SIR JULIUS CHAN and the Chief himself SIR MICHAEL SOMARE because he strongly

believes that PAPUA NEW GUINEA desperately needs new and vibrant leaders to get it into the next level.

He called on the people of North Bougainville to remember that he will still have the same level of Government services and funds to deliver to his people.

MR. ATOI however said that under the leadership of BELDEN NAMAHA the opposition has organized itself to provide the check and balance to the government of Papua New Guinea.

AND he also said that as a member of the opposition he would be in a better position to question the government on issues affecting Bougainville today.

He said if BELDEN NAMAHA becomes the Prime Minister, Bougainville's issues can be addressed properly and quickly instead of the speed the current process is going on and on.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Vba Training ends

By Aloysius Laukai

Twenty village birth attendants received their certificates at the Kuri village resort after completing five days training at the World Vision Conference in Buka town.

The training was organized by World vision's Rescue children and youth from Hiv and aids project.

The facilitator was Celine Tusalah a specialist midwife trainer who recently completed her masters as a trainer for the Health Division.

The certificates were presented by the CEO for Health, DR.ANTHONY PUMPARA.

Pictured are the participants who attended the training.

10.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Cabinet named

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill last night announced a 33-member Cabinet or National Executive Council with their respective portfolios or ministerial responsibilities.

His Deputy Leo Dion will also be responsible for Inter-Government Relations.

THE Party leader and Kandep MP Don Polye will take charge of Treasury, with Finance now separated. It will be headed by Tari Pori MP James Marape.

Former President of PNG Law Society and Sinasina Yongomugl MP, Kerenga Kua, is Minister for Justice and Attorney General, and his colleague lawyer, Rimbink Pato is Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

Lae MP and only woman Minister Loujaya Toni has taken charge of Religion, Youth and Community Development.

Prime Minister O'Neill said the Cabinet line-up is balanced, with all the provinces and regions fairly well represented.

He said although most of the Cabinet Ministers are first-timers, they have had both public and private sector experience and he is confident they will perform to expectations.

“Whatever wealth of experience they have from the public and private sector will be put to good use to deliver Government policies and programs,” Mr O’Neill said. The full list of Cabinet Ministers are:

Prime Minister - Peter O’Neill.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Inter-Government Relations - Leo Dion.

Minister for Treasury - Don Polye.

Minister for Public Enterprise and State Investment - Ben Micah.

Minister for Forest and Climate Change - Patrick Pruaitch.

Minister for Transport - Ano Pala.

Minister for Agriculture and Livestock - Tommy Tomscoll.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration - Rimbink Pat.o

Minister for Public Service - Sir Puka Temu.

Minister for Religion, Youth and Community Development - Loujaya Toni.

Minister for Environment and Conservation - John Pundari.

Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and technology - David Arore.

Minister for Justice and Attorney General - Kerenga Kua.

Minister for Defence - Fabian Pok.

Minister for Education - Paru Aihi.

Minister for Finance - James Marape.

Minister for Petroleum and Energy - William Duma.

Minister for Housing and Urban Development - Paul Isikiel.

Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture - Boka Kondra.

Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry - Richard Maru.

Minister for Sports and Pacific Games - Justin Tkatchenko.

Minister for Labor and Industrial Relations - Mark Maipakai.

Minister for Health and HIV-AIDS - Michael Malabag.

Minister for Police - Nixon Duban.

Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources - Mao Zeming.

Minister for Correctional Services - Jim Simatab.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology - Jimmy Miringtoro.

Minister for Mining - Byron Chan.

Minister for Works and Implementation - Francis Awesa.

Minister for Autonomous Regions - Steven Kama.

Minister for Lands and Physical Planning - Benny Allan.

Minister for National Planning - Charles Abel.

Minister for Civil Aviation - Davies Steven.

10.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Toddler wins Trukai Rice boat

By PETERSON TSERAHA

Just K3.70 for a packet of one kilogram Trukai rice has made a young two-year-old Buka girl, Larisha Baramun, to be a winner of a 19 foot 30 horse-powered banana boat worth at around K12,000 to K15,000 from the Trukai rice Banana boat promotion.

Larisah's father, an employee of Elutu Enterprises in Buka Larry Baramun was lost for words when he went to get the boat on behalf of his daughter.

Out of 2884 entries in Buka alone Larisah was the lucky one chosen. Participating entries came from Alotau, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kavieng which added up to 10,000 but winners were from only Buka and Kimbe.

"I was really surprised and now I am happy my child has won this competition," Mr Baramun said. "My daughter with her baby-sitter came shopping in Buka town and bought a packet of rice, filled up the entry form, cut out the logo and put it into the entry box simple as that."

"I thank Trukai for giving us clients a chance to participate in this kind of promotion competition, it kind of like rewards us for buying Trukai rice."

Trukai sales manager in Buka Mickey Roberts thanked the winner for being patient for the delay by Ela Motors to ship the boat from Alotau to Buka.

10.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Member thanks

By Aloysius Laukai

The re-elected member for North Bougainville, LOUTA ATOI today thanked the people for having faith in him and voting him to serve them in parliament in the next five years.

He made these calls on New Dawn FM this morning.

MR. ATOI said that the one year stint had moulded him

.to give them the best in the next parliament.

He promised to work closely with the Autonomous Bougainville Government whilst serving his people.

MR ATOI said that he had plans to fast track water and sanitation projects in his electorate.

He said he had just spent Three Hundred Thousand kina on water tanks from the total allocated funds of ONE POINT FIVE MILLION KINA.

These tanks are now ready for distribution.

He mentioned other outstanding projects for women just waiting for suppliers to complete the orders before they can be delivered.

Or reporter was able to see new sawmills, water tanks and containers of materials ready for distribution which clearly shows that continuity eventually pays off good dividend in the end.

And the people of North Bougainville will benefit from their actions.

10.08.2012

Source: The National

Ministries for 32

By JEFFREY ELAPA

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill believes he has picked a "balanced" cabinet with the experience to build the country during its stay in office.

It included first-term female MP Loujaya Toni, who was named minister for religion, youth and community development.

A key post went to T.H.E Party leader Don Polye, who will be in charge of treasury while the justice and attorney-general ministry went to Kerenga Kua, who stood as an independent.

In other important positions, Paru Ahi (People's National Congress) was made education minister, Fabian Pok (United Resources Party) defence, James Marape (PNC) finance, Nixon Duban (PNC) police minister and the health and HIV/AIDS portfolio went to Michael Malabag (PNC).

"There are some who have served in cabinet in the past," O'Neill said last night.

"A handful of ministers are new to both parliament and cabinet, but they come with a wealth of experience from the private sector and business that this government will fully utilise.

"There are some who will feel they have missed out, but we can't satisfy everyone.

"I am confident this team will deliver the development programmes and policies that our people embraced by voting us overwhelmingly back into government."

O'Neill spent yesterday reviewing the ministries with chief secretary to government, Manasupe Zurenuoc, and government legal advisers before approving the list for announcement and gazetting.

"It is a balanced team," he said.

Most of the ministers in his previous government were retained.

Twelve new MPs were handed ministries, including three from past parliaments. O'Neill's PNC Party, which won 27 seats, was allocated 13 ministries.

Besides the prime minister, the others are Ano Pala (transport), Aihi (education), Marape (finance), Paul Isikeli (housing and urban development), Boka Kondra (tourism, arts and culture), Malabag (health), Duban (police), Mao Zeming (fisheries and marine resources), Jimmy Miringtoro (communication and information technology), Francis Awesa (works and implementation), Benny Allan (lands and physical planning) and Charles Abel (national planning).

Polye's party has been awarded the next highest number of ministerial positions including the deputy prime minister's post to Leo Dion.

Dion, who will also head the inter-government relations ministry, is joined by Polye (treasury), David Arore (higher education, research, science and technology) and Labour and Mark Maipakai (industrial relations minister).

The United Resources Party, which has seven MPs, received three cabinet posts – William Duma (petroleum and energy), Steven Kama (autonomous regions) and Pok (defence).

The People's Party received two ministries –Davis Steven (civil aviation) and John Pundari (environment and conversation).

Patrick Pruaitch and Jim Simatab of the National Alliance were given forest and climate change and correctional services respectively.

From the People's Progress Party, Ben Micah was given public enterprises and state investments and Byron Chan got mining.

The People's Democratic Movement's Tommy Tomscoll got agriculture and livestock.

Other ministers are Social Democratic Party's Justin Tkatchenko (sports and Pacific games); United Party's Rimbink Pato (foreign affairs and immigration); and independent candidate Richard Maru (trade, commerce and industry).



09.08.2012

Source: ESBC - press release 20120809

WELCOME ON BOARD MR. JACQUES!

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper Limited (ESBC) welcome that Mr. Jean-Sébastien Jacques (picture) joined the company's board of directors. "We understand this as a strong commitment to the future of Bougainville Copper and the re-opening of the Panguna mine," says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm. Mr. Jacques is the London based President of Rio Tinto's copper operations.

Since many years no senior Rio Tinto officer had attended Bougainville Copper's board of directors.

09.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lera says Bougainville needs more

By Tapo Tovilu

The newly elected Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA (picture) says Bougainville needs more revenue if it wants to independently run its affairs.



He says currently Bougainville is sourcing out between 9 to 10 million kina per annum adding this was not enough.

He said Bougainville needs about one billion kina per annum to run all its program.

The regional member says that the only avenue currently for Bougainville to source all the funds it needs is to re-open the Panguna mine and also establish other additional industries.

He added that Bougainville has rich mineral resources

That can source more than enough funds to sustain it as a country on its own.

MR.LERA said that the opportunities were there but it all would depend on the political will by its leaders.

09.08.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

Press Release

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER LIMITED (BOC)

The directors of Bougainville Copper Limited announce the following results of the company for the six months ended 30 June 2012 which have been independently reviewed together with comparable results for six months to 30 June 2011.

The result for the six months ended 30 June 2012 was a net loss of K3.3 million (AUD\$ 1.5m) compared to a net loss of K3.8 million (AUD\$1.4m) for the corresponding period last year.

Events of significance to the company have occurred recently.

In July, BCL Management visited Bougainville, and held fruitful talks with landowner representatives from all the key communities with a direct stake in the Panguna mine.

The exchange of views was positive and constructive, supporting the view of the Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis that the great majority of Bougainvilleans are in favour of a re-start of operations at Panguna. Talks are on-going.

The smooth passage of the PNG National election and the formation of a new government headed by Prime Minister Peter O'Neil including many experienced and pro -development leaders is also seen as positive for the re-negotiation of the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

The Bougainville Copper Foundation is facilitating an extension of broadcast radio services to all points in the region, enabling a new and effective form of communication for the people of Bougainville.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is focussed on returning its seat of operations to Arawa, where services including banking, communications, airport, roads and public health have been recently up-graded.

Within the company, President of Rio Tinto's international copper operation, Mr Jean-Sebastien Jacques, has joined [the board of Bougainville Copper Limited](#). The Chairman Mr Peter Taylor believes that Mr Jacques, who is a senior executive within the Rio Tinto group, will bring significant expertise and experience to the Board .

Rio Tinto expertise, together with that of outside experts, continues to be applied to the up-graded Order of Magnitude Study defining the parameters of a re-started Panguna operation.

Income from investments rose during the period, although a loss was recorded. Selective selling of equities is expected to continue to meet development expenses.

[**Click here to read BCL's entire 1st half year report !**](#)

09.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K100m fund delay confirmed

Autonomous Bougainville Government has confirmed this newspaper report regarding the K100m promised by the National Government for Bougainville.

President of ABG John Momis, when commenting on yesterday's Post-Courier article titled, Government Withholds B'ville K100m, said the story reflected the current position with regard to the release of the first tranche of funds promised to Bougainville for High Impact Projects (HIPs), agreed jointly by the ABG and the National Government at the JSB of February, 2011.

Since that date there have been much discussions and exertions by both governments but despite almost a year and a half of discussions, the ABG and the people of Bougainville have not benefitted from a single toea of the funds promised.

The president was careful to note that the current impasse is not political but represents more of a bureaucratic stand-off. He noted that it was un-becoming for the bureaucracy to continue to impose needless conditions on the ABG. It would seem as if the National Government bureaucracy was constantly moving the bar required to access the funding.

He stressed the point that the ABG was an Autonomous Government and should not be treated as if it was a mere bureaucratic entity. The JSB Decision and the joint obligations of the Bougainville Peace Agreement had to be mutually respected.

For the record, all of the funding proposals for the utilisation of the first K100m have been carefully prepared, reviewed and costed in joint exercises by officials of the ABG and officials of the National Government departments and submitted to the appropriate entities in Waigani.

He says it is therefore a misstatement to say that projects have not been fully identified or submitted to Waigani.

For the first K100m, the ABG has identified some 77 projects, all fully costed and with cash flow projections. Mr Momis noted that ABG had done its homework.

Moreover, the ABG, through the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) has established a Project Management Unit (PMU) in the Office of the Chief Administrator to implement and monitor HIPs and have put in place all of the necessary mechanisms to receive the funds.

He stressed that the unavailability of the first K100m has caused undue hardship on the people of Bougainville. Included in the K100m is the annual Restoration and Development Grant of K15m which is a commitment under the Bougainville Peace Agreement and which the ABG had previously received at the start of each financial year. Because this grant has now been included in the overall funding framework of the HIP its non-availability means that important work that would have been carried out in the districts of Bougainville in consultation with COEs and district administrations has come to a virtual standstill. Projects such as construction of aid posts, classrooms and water systems and other district projects have not been able to proceed. This has resulted in considerable hardship for people in remote villages throughout Bougainville.

The remaining K85m would be utilised on the 77 identified and approved projects. Of this sum, funds have been also earmarked for peace and reconciliation activities, various economic projects, infrastructure projects, including feeder roads and for a shipping vessel for regular shipping services to the atolls. While in themselves, these smaller projects may not be regarded as "macro projects" in the definition of HIPs, they are of high impact value to the people of Bougainville coming out of the crisis.

The remaining funds to be advanced over the next four years would be applied to a few selected HIPs which will have residual value for all Bougainvilleans. The development priorities will be set by the ABG.

President Momis stressed that Bougainville had a lot of "catching up" to do and time was not on its side. The people of Bougainville will soon have to make a political decision on its future and they must see that there are concrete benefits accruing from an autonomous relationship with the National Government.

Lastly, the President noted that his Minister of Finance, Albert Punghau and the Chief Administrator Lawrence Disin recently met with Secretary Steven Gibson of the Department of Finance and was given assurance that the funds would be released. The Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc directed the release of funds to Bougainville and further directed officials that the usual PIP policy guidelines would be applied to the use of these funds.

President Momis noted that the funding for 2012 was also approved by an Act of the National Parliament and by an Act of the Bougainville House of Representatives. It is the law of the land and should be respected if the Rule of Law and good governance are to prevail.

He urged those who would wish to play games to stop. He noted that officials of the National Government departments, in particular, the Department of National Planning, Finance and the Chief Secretary for Government have been working well with the ABG side to draw down the Restoration and Development Grant and to the HIP funding to implement progress on Bougainville.

"This is a serious matter that affects the lifeblood of the people of Bougainville and too much time has been wasted in needless pursuits," said Mr Momis.

09.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis holds talk with Digicel team

By Joseph Morokana

Mobile Phone Company – Digicel has been commended for its part in restoring vital communication services and helping towards a major peace progress in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Bougainville President, Mr John Momis had expressed his praise on the communication service during his meeting with Digicel's Chief Executive Officer Mr John Mangos and Chief Technical Officer Shiva Kumar in Port Moresby recently.

"The Provision of communication service in Bougainville by Digicel has contributed to peace building and also enabled better exchange of information between the remote areas and the rest of the country," said Mr Momis.

There are a total of 33 Digicel towers distributed throughout Bougainville. Hahela tower is the main switch and the linkage towers are located at Ovovois in Tinputz, Iraka in Mabiri, Hantoa in Selau and Pakia Gap in Panguna.

The other towers are at Lontis, Eltupan, Hanahan, Hoko, Malasang, Lihu (Buka town), Tendu (Tinputz), Kekesu, Kapesia, Wakunai, Manetai, Loloho, Pere in Bana, Pavaire village in Arawa, Keriau in Bana, Urai in Siwai, Tokaino, Buin town, Namuanek in Buka, Hamatana and Tanhil in the Haku Constituency. There is one under construction at Togarau in Wakunai and three new ones being proposed at Nissan, Atsinima and Torokina station.

Three of the towers in Makaki Point in Kieta, Arawa, Koromira Aropa and Namuanek in Buka have been decommissioned due to vandalism.

Mr Momis had also discussed with the Digicel team about other issues.

The President of the Autonomous Region wants to promote a closer working relationship with Digicel in future.

09.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill delays cabinet line-up

Leo Dion is deputy PM

By GORETHY KENNETH



PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has appointed East New Britain Governor Leo Dion as the Deputy Prime Minister.

In a surprise move which will generate a wide range of reactions from across the nation, Mr O'Neill announced Mr Dion's appointment at the Government House, despite not living up to his promise of announcing ministerial portfolios for his 22 other Members that were appointed and sworn in yesterday, most of them relatively new.

Among them is woman parliamentarian and Lae MP, Loujaya Toni.

Mr O'Neill said he would announce the portfolios today. The decision to have members sworn in without portfolios irked a few

MPs and some elite members of the nation who eagerly waited for the announcement. This was a commitment Mr O'Neill made last Sunday.

"Today concludes our formal line-up of Cabinet, which is a total of 33 as required by our law," Mr O'Neill said.

"Let me take this opportunity to thank all the leaders of the coalition partners and especially the leader of THE Party (Don Polye), the second biggest party on the floor of Parliament, for agreeing to one of their members becoming the Deputy Prime Minister of the country," he said.

"Today's ministerial line-up, as many of you will notice, has got a fresh (outlook)... but I am certain that they will perform to their very best and to the expectations of our people. We will perform to our very best and I think today is a great start to making sure that Papua New Guineans are served..."

Mr Dion said it was a hard call to accept the second top position but assured everyone present that with his experience, he will do his best for the people.

It was reported on the social media yesterday that "Although Leo Dion is a quality choice too – he has the experience, respect and leadership qualities required – from the perspective of purely the numbers' game which is so crucial in PNG politics, it is a rather illogical decision, and one that must have been made with a few distractions in mind – most importantly in this instance – the idea of 'regionalism'."

MPs sworn in as Ministers yesterday and Rimbink Pato, David Arore, Paul Isikiel, Richard Maru, Dr Fabian Pok, Nixon Duban, Jimmy Miringtoro, Tommy Tomscoll, Loujaya Toni, Kerenga Kua, Paru Aihi, Mark Maipakai, Justin Tatchenko, Michael Malabag, Jim Simatab, Byron Chan, Francis Awesa, Benny Allen, Davis Stevens, Steven Pirika Kamma and Boka Kondra.

The 10-member caretaker cabinet still remains and they include Don Polye -Treasury and Finance, Correctional Services, Labour, Industrial Relations, Immigration and Transport; Patrick Pruaitch - Housing, Urban, Provincial and Local Level Government and Forest; William Duma – Petroleum and Energy, Defence, Tourism and Art Culture and Autonomy and Autonomous Region (including Bougainville Affairs); Sir Puka Temu - Public Service, Agriculture and Livestock, Foreign Affairs and Trade; James Marape - Works, Implementation, Lands and Physical Planning, Education, Research and Science and Technology; Charles Abel - Commerce and Industry, Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs), Justice and Attorney General, Communication, Information and Technology; Mao Zeming – Fisheries, Marine Resource, Health, HIV Aids, Family Affairs , Youth Religion and Gender; Ben Micah –Public Enterprises, Sports and Pacific Game and Mining; and John Pundari - Environment, Climate Change and Civil Aviation.

09.08.2012

Source: The National

O'Neill's new cabinet



Ministers of the O'Neill cabinet flanking former prime minister and PPP leader Sir Julius Chan (left), Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio, Deputy Prime Minister Leo Dion and former prime minister and PDM leader Paias Wingti.

08.08.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

A new cabinet sworn in for Papua New Guinea

Now to Papua New Guinea and the final part of the election process where the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill announced his cabinet.

The line up will be approved by the Governor-general.

Mr O'Neill and a caretaker cabinet have been running the country since the election results gave him a majority and there was a reconciliation with former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare.

For an update Bruce Hill spoke to our correspondent in Port Moresby, Firmin Nanol who reported from the swearing in ceremony.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol

[Listen here !](#)

08.08.2012

Source: Radio Ne Zealand International

PNG PM names Dion as his deputy

The Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has announced his deputy as more details emerged of the new cabinet line-up.

The Deputy Prime Minister will be Leo Dion (picture), the Governor of East New Britain Province.



Mr Dion is a senior member of Don Polye's Triumph Heritage Empowerment Party, the party which returned 12 elected MPs - the second highest of any party after Peter O'Neill's People's National Congress' 27.

Mr O'Neill has already signalled that Mr Polye will hold the Treasury and Finance portfolio.

Our correspondent Oseah Philemon says Mr Dion's appointment is probably related to regionalism.

He says while many thought that Don Polye would be offered the Deputy Prime Ministership, that would have meant two Highlands MPs in the top two positions which could be poorly received in other regions.

"So Peter O'Neill had to really trade it off. If he gave the portfolio of Treasury and Finance to Don Polye, that is a very senior ministry and he couldn't also give him the Deputy Prime Ministership. He (O'Neill) has got more than ninety members in his camp and he's got to please everybody. So I think the best trade off was to give a very senior position, like Deputy Prime Minister, to the people of the islands region."

Meanwhile, Loujaya Toni, one of the three women MPs, has reportedly been sworn in as a minister at Government House.

Powes Parkop has been declared the winner of the National Capital District in the last election result.

Mr Parkop retains the seat he first won at the 2007 election, giving his Social Democratic Party a third MP.

08.08.2012

Source: EMTV

New Bougainville Governor gets down to business

New Governor of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Joe Lera (picture) in an exclusive interview with EMTV outlined his five year development plan.



He says he will take the bottom up approach to include leaders at the village level to have a say in the political process.

He already has a 21 page document with specific plans, and developing the human resource is his main focus.

He's entrance onto the political arena is definitely a game changer for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. He will allow the political process to start at the grass roots level.

He knows that the Autonomous region has its own government and he will work in partnership with President John Momis.

Within the five years of his term, the date of the referendum will fall; he knows that economically Bougainville will not be ready for full pledge independent come 2015.

In his mind he'd rather be an independent MP, but because of financial restrictions he decided to join a party.

EMTV: ABG Governor in business

08.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Me'ekamui reaffirms stand

THE ME'EKAMUI Tribal government backed President Momis' call on misleading information on the operational status of the defunct Panguna mine.

This followed middlemen signing agreements without following procedures and not consulting the Autonomous Bougainville Government(ABG) and the Me'ekamui Government's respectively on the re-opening of the mine.

Traditionally elected President of the Me'ekamui Government of Unity Philip Miriori said that all of the land and natural resources are on customary land and there is no land registration.

Mr Miriori said that there is no survey or deeds on the land and people have come to our country to pay people large amount of money and have them sign documents that contain bogus information to mislead investors.

He said that the Panguna legal action against Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL)-RioTinto is in the courts and BCL is not mining anywhere on Me'ekamui land.

"Their bogus licences are expired and until all issues are resolved, they can hype their stock exchange in free speech but they won't be mining on our land." Mr Miriori said. According to Mr Miriori the customary tribal land is under the auspices exclusively of the Me'ekamui Government.

Miriori is one of the land owners as well as Vice President Takaung and has not signed any authorisation for using their property nor do they have the governments signed and sealed signature upon any document to date.

"This is simply a stock hype with no foundation or basis in reality," Mr Miriori said.

"Desperate people do desperate things."

"This action is totally irresponsible and can't be achieved without permission of the Me'ekamui Government," he said.

The Me'ekamui will not sanction this stock hype attempt at deceiving the unsuspecting public, the only true statement was there are no geological reports to substantiate anything because people are only dealing with blank paper.

08.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Government withholds Bougainville's K100 million

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE National Government is ready to release the outstanding K100 million from last year to Bougainville, but it will only do so after certain outstanding issues are resolved to Waigani's satisfaction.

It is understood that the K100 million is part of a K500 million package, with annual disbursements of K100 million.

One of the reasons why the National Government is reluctant to allocate the money immediately is that it is yet to receive credible documents funding proposals on projects, including one or more impact projects that can be funded from the public funds.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government headed by President John Momis and his provincial administrations are yet to submit their proposals to Waigani.

The first K100 million, which was to have been allocated last year, is from the K500 million that the National Government had allocated and promised for Bougainville, outside of the normal annual budget of K80 million that the ABG receives annually.

Last year, the National Government through the Chief Secretary's office was a little bit worried about the first release of the money because there was no concrete proposal for use of the K100 million.

The project proposals should include one major impact project funded by the National Government direct to Bougainville. This impact project has not yet been fully identified.

The Government also agreed last year to dispatch the money quarterly – the first K25 million in the first quarter, but this did not happen because of the delay in preparations by both the ABG and the National Government.

Last week in Alotau, the two Bougainville MPs, Steven Pirika Kamma and Jimmy Miringoro pledged to help the National Government see that these funds are used for impact projects that will benefit all the population of Bougainville.

The Bougainville Affairs Ministry will be announced today, so we should be know what the outcome of this K100 million will be and how it will be distribute and used.

07.08.2012

Source: EM TV

PM to announce full cabinet

07.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Prep schools improved

By Joseph Morokana

There has been a positive improvement in the number of new elementary schools established in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB) over the last 10 years.

Elementary Education Coordinator, Mr Sedi Palin said the number of existing schools in ARB were 383 at present which is 80% of the required elementary infrastructures in the Districts.

"We have 383 elementary schools operating at present and the maximum number of schools needed is around 400," said Mr Palin.

Mr Palin said due to the current increase of elementary school children to about 27,000, ABG leaders and the community should change their mindset and focus more on the importance of elementary education.

He urged our leaders to put more emphasis on the development of elementary education as it was the foundation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Policy the ABG is embarking on.

"We should concentrate more on making sure our children have the interest and commitment to enrol and complete their basic elementary education. This will make a sustainable impact on the number of children attending classes at the upper primary and secondary schools," Mr Palin said.

Figures given by the Elementary Office have shown 65 new elementary schools pending registration, and a total of 856 teachers currently teaching at the elementary schools in the Region.

The distribution of Elementary schools throughout the Autonomous Region showed that Buka 1 has 17 elementary schools; Buka 2 has 27, Selau Suir 17, Tinputz 24, Wakunai 30, Kunua Keriaka &Hahon 16, Torokina 18, Arawa/Kieta 52, Nissan/Atolls 20, Bana 33, Siwai 31, Panguna 9 and Buin 21.

Mr Palin added that in 2013 each District should propose and plan for the setting and registering of 3 new elementary schools development.

However, Mr Palin has also challenged some teachers in remote schools to consider their job as a profession to fulfil and practice.

He said that teachers in remote schools had not been committed to their duties and have been absent from classes.

“Teachers in remote schools are not serious enough – and today teaching has been taken as just another job where they are getting paid for doing nothing. Teaching is all about punctuality, commitment and professionalism to live up to,” he stressed.

Mr Palin added that schools should have an environment that was conducive to the students’ learning needs – and have classrooms decorated with educational materials and good building infrastructure.

He said that Buka District was the only area that had almost all permanent building infrastructure.

06.08.2012

Source: Islands Business

Newly elected PNG Prime Minister targets corruption

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O’Neill has told SBS News his government plans to crack down on corruption, in his first interview since being re-elected to the nation’s top job.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (SBS) ---- Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O’Neill has told SBS News his government plans to crack down on corruption, in his first interview since being re-elected to the nation’s top job. After 12 months of political instability and a lengthy election process, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O’Neill has told SBS News his government plans to crack down on corruption, in his first interview since being re-elected to the nation’s top job. Speaking of a massive deal with petroleum company Exxon Mobil that could see the nation's GDP double over the next two years, O’Neill said a sovereign wealth fund had been put together specifically to manage revenue coming from mineral developments in the country. “This is a unique opportunity for our country, basically, because our country has squandered similar opportunities in the past. My job now is to create an environment where these funds are managed properly.” O’Neill also spoke of his government’s willingness to support equal rights in parliament. “Papua New Guinea has had a change in its attitude towards women, and it’s encouraging to note that two ladies have been elected to parliament now, and although that is not enough, I think it is a good start.” O’Neill, originally from the Highlands region of the country, was re-elected in early August by a huge majority of 94-12 by members of parliament. There were no other nominees; however a last-ditch legal bid to halt proceedings failed. PNG’s new government is formed from a broad coalition of former leaders and senior parliamentary figures, including Sir Michael Somare, who was ousted as Prime Minister in August last year. “For them to come and give support to myself and other young leaders, to manage our country over the next few years is an indication of the maturity of politics our country,” O’Neill said.”

06.08.2012

Source: SBS News

Peter O'Neill's first interview after re-election

06.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Landowners irate over BCL talks

By PATRICK TALU

THE talk of Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL)'s re-opening of its defunct Panguna copper mine will not be an easy task.

There is already a strong anti BCL feeling across the breath and width of the Island of Bougainville as the news of BCL's intention to return to Panguna has been prominently hitting news headlines in recent times.

Chris Uma, the Defence Force Commander General of the Mekamui Government, former Bougainville Revolutionary Army General Sam Kauona, seven mining tenement licence area landowners and Bougainvilleans in general are opposing the move by BCL to reopen the once world's third largest copper mine.

Mr Uma and his disarmed army who is manning the gate of the 'No-Go-Zone' and the Panguna special mining lease area responding to media statements said, "the talk of re-opening of Panguna mine is the final thing or not even been thought of," Mr Uma told this reporter at Panguna mine after a fact finding mission last week.

"Me no laik harim displa toktok lon kam bek blong BCL, em ino stap lo tintin too (I don't want to hear the talk of BCL returning, not even in my mind), Mr Uma said.

"Panguna bai reopen behain lo independence blo Bougainville. nogat independence, nogat Panguna mine (Panguna will only reopen after Bougainville gains independence. No independence for Bougainville, no re-opening for Panguna,)" Mr Uma said.

He said the re-opening of Panguna mine is not a Panguna landowners issue any more.

He said it's a Bougainvillean issue and should there be any talk of reopening the mine, the entire Bougainvillean population are to be widely consulted and not for few politicians and handful of landowners to decide whether BCL returns or not.

"Bullet kisim body blo me first na blut i kapsait. Me baim pinis Panguna na ol lon blut blo me na narapela 20,000 pipol blong Bouganville die , em blut blo ol baim displa island (I shed the first blood from the bullets and my blood paid off Panguna, the 20,000 Bougainvilleans who lost their lives their blood have paid for the island of Bougainville," the soft spoken Mr Uma said.

Mr Kauona added that the re-opening of Panguna mine is a sensitive issue that cannot be lightly taken and for a few self interested people to talk about.

"There has to be a wider consultation with all stakeholders in the civil war and through that consultation, and if the people are happy to accept BCL, then so be it," Mr Kauona said.

He said the very key stakeholders are the ex-combatants who forcefully shut down the mine and they have to be consulted along with all other stakeholders.

The former BRA General and now a private citizen who is seriously going into mineral exploration said if BCL has to return then it has to come under certain conditions including; agreeing to compensate the 20,000 lives lost, environment damage compensation of K10 billion as initially demanded by late Francis Ona, only to mine the currently special mining lease and not to touch the seven mining tenement licences (not negotiable), compensate ex-combatants, compensate PNG Defense Force soldiers who lost their lives in the civil war and 'bell kol', a customary way of initial compensation to make peace.

Recently, Paul Coleman, a senior executive of BCL has visited landowners of Panguna and Arawa and held discussion to re-open the mine.

It was reported that Mr Coleman has instructed local contractors to fast track an office building within Arawa Town in which this writer has confirmed being under initial mobilisation for construction.

Also ABG president John Momis has said that the negotiation by BCL with Panguna landowners was progressing well with the view of re-opening the mine.

A senior officee from ABG who spoke to this reporter in Buka at the weekend confirmed that ABG was in talks with BCL and landowners to find a way forward in resolving the issues. The office said there needs to be more and wider consultation made as the situation on the ground is fluid.

06.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna resource owners refute claims

By PATRICK TALU

THE resources owners outside of the defunct Panguna Copper Mine of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are adamant that they will pursue their quest to own exploration and mining licences to develop their resources despite impediments from any political and interested external influences.

Refuting claims by the Autonomous Region of Bougainville President, John Momis, on the 2nd of August on this newspaper where he expressed concerns in which he alluded to the passing of a motion by his Parliament to recognise resource owners' right to their mineral resources; more than six major landowners company directors said Mr Momis was 'talking out of context' and they will pursue aspiration.

Isinau Resources Holdings Ltd's Vice Chairman and Director Sam Kauona, Joe Birunoim and Richard Birikos, Chairman of Baunapa Resources Ltd, Francis Makita (Chairman) Karato Resources Holdings Ltd, Jacob Betopa (Chairman) Pakasipan Resources Ltd, Conrad Benkenasi (Chairman) Kupe Resources Ltd, Michael Otoroa (Chairman) Bougainville Basin Resources and other directors of Avaipa Resources Ltd, and Erupia Resources Ltd have expressed grave concerns that the misleading media statement by Mr Momis about Canadian investor Morumbi Resources and the denying of the passage of a motion on the ABG Parliament to recognise Bougainvillain rights to their resources would affect their pursuit to do mining exploration and eventual mining.

The directors of Erupia Mining & Development Ltd, a Morumbi PNG subsidiary and Karato Mining & Development Ltd., another Morumbi PNG subsidiary said Mr Momis' statement published on this paper last week was "misleading" and undermining the resource owners quest to obtain exploration licence and mine the mineral resource on their own.

"Momis is confused. Where does Momis stand and whose interest is he serving? The President doesn't know what he is talking about," Mr Kauona told this reporter in Arawa last Thursday.

The former Bougainville Revolutionary Army General said six out of the seven Mining Tenement (MT) area resources owners outside of the Panguna Special Mining Lease are already doing business with their Morumbi Resource.

"We are already into the business of exploration and drilling with our Morumbi Resource in compliance with Section 23 and 14 of the Bougainville Constitution which recognises Bougainville resources owners the rights to own and develop their resources. Isinau is in the third week of exploration and drilling by within 6 weeks, we will cover the entire Isinau foundry.

We are doing everything in compliance with the supreme laws of Bougainville. What has Momis and his government been doing in terms of mining and resource developments when the powers and functions have been drawn down seven years ago? Now what had prompted him to raise alarm? a furious Mr Kauona asked.

Mr Birunoim added that it was misleading for the president to make mention of Morumbi Resources and his newly appointed Chief Executive Officer Lindsay Semple for making misleading statement at the Toronto Stock Stock Exchange.

"At no one time Mr Semple was mentioned in any statement posted on the stock market nor commenting anything on the passing of motion except this newspaper alone for publishing the news," Mr Birunoim said.

An irate Mr Semple also called the Post Courier and categorically refuted Mr Momis as "misleading".

The directors have further called onto Mr Momis to retract his statement and apologise to the six resources owners of Bougainville as his statement had detrimental effect on their exploration licence prospect.

"The resources owners said their current joint venture arrangement with Morubis has already produced results where there are projects like cattle ranching, rice farming and even building

health facilities which are normally the case after any memorandum of agreement is signed for resources development.

“We are reaping rewards from our model of our 30-70 shares or benefit sharing arrangement with our partners. We don’t want anyone to stand on our way when are already benefiting from our business,” Mr Kauona added.

06.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Poor reporting on HIV

By Joseph Morokana

Poor Reporting Channels on HIV/AIDS Data and the lack of proper testing facilities have been highlighted as some of the contributing factors to effectively monitor the trend of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Bougainville.

About 23 Diocesan HIV/AIDS Counsellors from the various agency facilities met with the National Catholic AIDS Council (NCAC) Coordinator, Ms Justine McMahon and the Voluntary Counselling & testing (VCT) Coordinator, Sr Arnolda Kavanamur and the Monitoring at a one-day meeting at the Bougainville Diocese AIDS Office at the Hahela Parish last Tuesday.

The NCAC coordinator, Justine McMahon had specifically met with her officers to try and work out what should be done regarding the HIV&AIDS Program and how they can boost up the current stage of progress in the Region.

“In terms of financial support - It’s our part to help you succeed with your tasks – but then you should give us a good report back.” Ms McMahon said.

National Catholic AIDS Council Report in 2012 have shown that - agency facilities have been undertaking Voluntary Testing & Counselling (VCT) Tests more with only a very limited tests being done on the HIV&AIDS entry points in Antenatal, Sexually transmitted Diseases (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB).

“Other tests in the main HIV&AIDS entry points - Antenatal, STIs, and TB need to be conducted also. Your reports show that only more VCT have been done.” Sr Anorlda Kanavamur, the NCAC VCT Coordinator told the Counsellors.

The NCAC statistics in the first and second quarter of 2012 had shown that, VCT testings alone had accounted for almost 88 percent of all related HIV/AIDS tests coverage in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Sr Kavanamur also told the counsellors that they should use the current two HIV/AIDS Confirmatory facilities – Our Lady of Mercy VCT in Arawa and the Mary Mother of Hope at Hahela Parish in Buka if they needed to get their clients for confirmatory HIV/AIDS tests.

“There are also factors that determine quality tests – and one is having proper facilities that are conducive to effective HIV testings,” said Sr Kavanamur.

The HIV/AIDS Data from the Bougainville Diocese VCT Centre has indicated that only five Integrated Health Facilities have been conducting HIV/AIDS tests out of the total of 17 centres.

06.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Caretaker government in place

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guineans will know who their Deputy Prime Minister will be when Prime Minister Peter O’Neill announces his full Cabinet on Wednesday.

Prime Minister O'Neill yesterday named his caretaker Cabinet at the Grand Papua Hotel in Port Moresby yesterday which was also officially gazetted.

He also announced that the Government is now bracing for the National Budget Session coming up in November, which will now be the full responsibility of the Cabinet once named this Wednesday.

Mr O'Neill will look after National Planning and Police until new Ministers are appointed and announced on Wednesday.

"Deputy Prime Minister will be announced on Wednesday. There are no negotiations going on in the deputy prime minister, it's already decided. You will be pleasantly surprised," Mr O'Neill said.

Below is the line up:

* Don Pomb Polye - Treasury and Finance, Correctional Services, Labour, Industrial Relations, Immigration and Transport

* Patrick Pruaitch – Housing, Urban, Provincial and Local Level Government and Forest

* William Duma – Petroleum and Energy, Defence, Tourism and Art Culture and Autonomy and Autonomous Region (Bougainville Affairs)

* Sir Puka Temu - Public Service, Agriculture and Live stock, Foreign Affairs and Trade

* James Marape-Works, Implementation, Lands and Physical Planning, Education, Research and Science and Technology

* Charles Abel, Commerce and Industry, Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs), Justice and Attorney General, Communication, Information and Technology

* Mao Zeming – Fisheries, Marine Resource, Health, HIV Aids, Family Affairs , Youth Religion and Gender

* Ben Micah –Public Enterprises, Sports and Pacific Game and Mining and

* John Pundari-Environment, Climate change and Civil Aviation

"These are basically the ministers that are going to look after the ministries over the next two days and of course, they will be re-distributed again on Wednesday to respective ministers as we finalise the discussions. So with these announcements I am pleased to announce that I am now signing these papers," Mr O'Neill said.

"We are now structuring the government before we can start the work. We have spent three months in the election process and that process has taken too long but we have now come to an end...

"The Budget session coming up in November- we don't have time to go through and delay any further formation of this government we want the ministers to participate fully in the formation of that budget and also have some very good number of legislative programs and legislations that we want to introduce in August so that is why I am pleased to announced that these are the main responsibilities that I have put forward," he said.

05.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville support O'Neill

By Aloysius Laukai

All four Bougainville National members voted for Prime Minister Peter O'Neill when parliament voted for the Prime Minister on Monday.

Three members were with Mr O' Neill's camp in Samarai whilst one was with Belden Namah's camp in Rabaul.

Three that were in Milne Bay were the re-elected members for Central, Jimmy Miringtoro and Steven Pirika Kamma for South Bougainville.

And of course the Regional member JOE LERA.

The re-elected member for North Bougainville, Louta Atoi had to cross the floor to support his party leader Peter O'Neill before returning to the opposition.

05.08.2012

Source: EMTV

O'Neill Sworn In

05.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Rain in South Bougainville Destroys Roads and Bridges

By Aloysius Laukai

The continues down pour of heavy rain experienced in the last two weeks in parts of Southern Bougainville finally left a toll of destructions on Saturday night washing out most causeways in Siwai Buin and Bana blocking access to hospitals and business centers in Buin and Arawa out of reach. Many travelling public are being affected by this rain which also has caused damage to food gardens.

The ABG member for Ramu Hon. Thomas Pataaku has expressed concern on the disaster and wants government intervention to immediately reach the area to fix the roads and bridges washed away by the continues flooding and to support families experiencing shortage of food as a result of rain and flooding.

Reports reaching the UN office in Siwai have indicated families affected by shortage of food as a result of the rain and flooding.

Meanwhile, New Dawn FM also received distress signals from the people of Torokina District in South West Bougainville.

Report from Torokina District Office said that more than six thousand people are without food as their food gardens were destroyed by recent heavy rains.

They wanted immediate assistance from the Disaster and Emergency office in Buka.

04.08.2012

Source: EMTV

Belden Namah's Moving Speech

04.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude / Meekamui News

Reopening the Panguna mine is not what we need

by MEKAMUI | Mekamui News

IT'S A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE to have felt and it is sad to hear and see our Bougainville leaders talk about reopening the closed Panguna mine.

What do the leaders want? Do they care for the people and their land, or do they care for the money which will destroy land and ruin people's lives?



We the people of Arawa have had to face all kinds of social problems and have been victims of the mine. We think we've had enough of the mine issue.

Instead of finding other avenues to raise money, the Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders talk only about reopening the mine. Is this the only way for Bougainville to go forward?

For the last 25 years since the mine was closed we, the grassroots people, have earned money from cocoa, copra and other commodities.

It's very funny, though, that some of those leaders who are making big money from cocoa plantations that they own still talk about reopening the mine.

What went wrong? Or do they just want more money? More money, which means more destruction in the name of development.

In June I went up to Panguna and, when standing outside Pirurari village, I saw a few taro gardens on the side of the waste gravel where there was still some soil from when the mine stopped.

I asked Michael, the man from Pirurari, whether, if mining starts, he will plant taro there again. He told me that the village people don't want the mine reopened; it's only the leaders who are talking about it.

Reopening Panguna mine is hazardous, so please leaders talk about agriculture, tourism, fishing, etc.

If you want to talk about Bougainville Copper Ltd, talk funding reconciliation, schools and medical centres because BCL has already got plenty out of our motherland and left it with a big scar.

03.08.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Peter O'Neill elected as PNG Prime Minister



Peter O'Neill has been elected as Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister by newly-elected MPs. PNG's ninth parliament convened today despite results in three of the 111 electorates yet to be declared as vote counting continues for the general election.

Mr O'Neill was voted in by 94 MPs.

Mr O'Neill's People's National Congress won the most seats of any party in the general election and has formed a coalition government with several other political parties.

Earlier, MPs elected a new speaker, Theodore Zurenuoc.

Mr Zurenuoc is from the People's Progress Party of a former Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan which is part of Mr O'Neill's coalition.

Mr Zurenuoc received votes from 88 MPs while the only other candidate, Francis Marus of the PNG Party, received 17.

The PNG Party's Belden Namah is expected to be the opposition leader.

Mr O'Neill's election comes year and a day after he was controversially voted in by MPs to replace the veteran Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare in a parliamentary move subsequently ruled illegal by the Supreme Court.

Despite the two having been locked in a dispute over the Prime Ministership for most of the past year, Sir Michael has announced his support for a government led by Mr O'Neill.

03.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

The end of uncertainty. Is this a new era for PNG?

KEITH JACKSON

IT WAS A YEAR AGO that Peter O'Neill took over the reins of leadership from Michael Somare via Sam Abal – and it has been 12 months of political mayhem since.

This afternoon, having won an election with a commendable level of political organisation and strategic understanding, O'Neill was elected 94 votes to 12 in his own right as prime minister. Absent was the taint of a job deviously obtained and a parliament fragmented by internecine strife.

As new beginnings go, this is a promising one.

O'Neill has forged a coalition of considerable strength and he has shown that, in pursuing and attaining group leadership, coolness and reasonableness are more potent traits than aggression and volatility.

On the opposition benches sit Belden Namah and his men; Namah with time to reflect on whether boisterousness and threat are worth perpetuating if he is ever to realise his goal of leading Papua New Guinea.

I can't help but feel that, despite the many flaws of the election just past, we have witnessed a new maturity and sense of proportion in the way Papua New Guinea has assembled its new government.

Much of the credit for this must be given to O'Neill but, as I have mentioned previously in PNG Attitude, when you see the calibre of so many of the new members of this parliament, you see a new breed of politician emerging.

This new generation certainly owes something to clan and tribal loyalties, but it also reveals a strong connection to experience in the world beyond – to education, career and interaction with modernity.

From this group of men and women, O'Neill has a wonderful opportunity to put together a ministry of talent and past attainment.

Sure, he will have to pay attention to the political composition of a complex coalition – such is the case in most governments these days – but the chance of great change is there.

There are some rogues who will need to be kept in check, and maybe even brought to book, and this will be a test, but overall this government looks like a very good one indeed.

The people of Papua New Guinea have done well in this election. We all know they deserve better in the future. Let's hope the promise of this new group of politicians can be delivered.

03.08.2012

Source: ABC Australian Network News

O'Neill sworn in as PNG prime minister

03.08.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

O'Neill sworn in as PNG prime minister

Papua New Guinea's parliament has elected Peter O'Neill as the country's prime minister.

Mr O'Neill was the only nominee for the position and won the vote with the support of 94 members of parliament, with 12 voting against.

After the vote, Mr O'Neill was officially sworn in by the governor-general at a ceremony at Government House.

It was the fourth time in just over a year that Mr O'Neill has taken part in such a ceremony.

Parliament convened on Friday for the first time since the general election to swear in MPs and elect a prime minister.

A last-minute legal bid to stop parliament from sitting failed after the national court ruled it could sit despite votes still being counted in three seats.

At parliament, Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill, who were once bitter foes, walked into the chamber together as coalition partners.

The chief justice had to preside over the oath of office twice because around 15 MPs led by the former deputy prime minister Belden Namah arrived an hour late.

There was applause from the public gallery as two female MPs, Loujaya Toni and Delilah Gore, rose to sign their declarations.

Earlier, Theo Zurenuoc was sworn in as PNG speaker by the governor-general.

Mr Zurenuoc, who was nominated by the O'Neill camp, won 88 votes to 17 against Belden Namah's nominee, Francis Marus.

Mr O'Neill has been invited by the governor-general to form government after his PNC party won 27 votes in the general election.

03.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Theo Zurenuoc is new speaker of PNG parliament

KEITH JACKSON

THE WELL-CREDENTIALLED FINSCHHAFEN POLITICIAN Theo Zurenuoc (picture), seen here in casual clobber, was this morning elected as the Speaker of the Papua New Guinea parliament.



Now representing the People's Progress Party, Zurenuoc was first elected as an independent in 2007, winning the seat by defeating his uncle. The PPP has six members in the new parliament.

Zurenuoc has an impeccable political pedigree, his father Sir Zibang Zurenuoc KBE (1927-2008) also being a parliamentarian and onetime Deputy Speaker,

Zibang had served as a cooperative officer in the colonial public service before being elected to parliament in 1977 as MP for Finschhafen, serving as Minister for Community and Family Services.

When Peter O'Neill became prime minister in August last year, he appointed Zurenuoc as his Minister for Education.

One of the O'Neill government's first announcements was that it would commit funds to providing free primary education to all children in the country, and subsidised secondary education.

At the time Zurenuoc stated that all classes should be in English in primary schools, with classes in indigenous languages abolished, and that outcome-based education should be abandoned, since many teachers considered it to be "suppressive, irrelevant, outdated and not working".

In 2009 Zurenuoc said he supported reserved seats for women in parliament and has consistently held a progressive and nation-building view of his position on national politics.

He replaces the controversial Jeffrey Nape, defeated at this election, who never seemed to be able to raise the role of Speaker above the hurly burly of party politics.

03.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

AIDS councillors urged to strengthen trends

By Joseph Morokana

Poor reporting channels on HIV/AIDS data and the lack of proper testing facilities have been highlighted as some of the contributing factors that need to be strengthened to effectively monitor the trend of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Bougainville.

About 23 Diocesan HIV/AIDS counsellors from the various agency facilities met with the National Catholic AIDS Council (NCAC) Coordinator, Ms Justine McMahon and the Voluntary Counselling

and Testing (VCT) co-ordinator, Sr Arnolda Kavanamur and the monitoring at a one-day meeting at the Bougainville Diocese AIDs office at the Hahela Parish on Tuesday.

The NCAC co-ordinator, Ms Justine McMahon met with her officers to try and work out what should be done regarding the HIV/AIDS program and how they could boost the current state of progress in the region.

“In terms of financial support - It’s our part to help you succeed with your tasks – but then you should give us a good report back.” Ms McMahon said.

National Catholic AIDS Council Report in 2012 had shown that - agency facilities have been undertaking Voluntary Testing and Counselling (VCT) tests more with only a very limited tests being done on the HIV/AIDS entry points in Antenatal, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs) and Tuberculosis(TB).

“Other tests in the main HIV/AIDS entry points - Antenatal, STIs, and TB need to be conducted also. Your reports show that only more VCT have been done.” Sr Anorlda, The NCAC statistics in the first and second quarter of 2012 had shown that, VCT testings alone had accounted for almost 88% of all related HIV/AIDS Tests coverage in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Sr Arnolda also told the counsellors that they should use the current two HIV/AIDS confirmatory facilities –Our Lady of Mercy VCT in Arawa and the Mary Mother of Hope at Hahela Parish in Buka if they needed to get their clients for confirmatory HIV/AIDS tests.

“There are also factors that determine quality tests – and one is having proper facilities that are conducive to effective HIV testings.” Sr Arnolda said.

The HIV/AIDS data from the Bougainville Diocese VCT centre has indicated that only five Integrated Health Facilities have been conducting HIV/AIDS testings out of the total of 17 centres.

Those were Manetai — 22 antenatal tests, Sovele — 2 antenatal tests, Morotona — 30 antenatal and 8 STIs, Tinputz — 36 antenatal tests and Teoroki — 109 antenatal tests.

“A lot of the diocese counsellors have vowed to start vital tests on the HIV/AIDS entry points once they get back to their respective facilities – our meeting with Ms McMahon and Sr Arnolda on the HIV/AIDS Issues in ARoB has been both timely and worthwhile.” Co-ordinator of the Bougainville Diocese AIDs Centre, Stella Morokana said. The statistics of People infected with the AIDS Virus from the 2011 figures given by the Autonomous Bougainville AIDS Council (ABAC) has indicated about 94 cases and an estimated average of 13 new AIDS Cases in a year.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) according to the NCACs’ 2011 Report had shown a total of 4000 plus HIV/AIDS testing in all the different entry points with Gulf Province having the lowest of just 600 tests.

03.08.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network News

O'Neill to be formally elected PNG PM

03.08.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Last-minute challenge as PNG parliament to sit

A court in Papua New Guinea is due to decide whether to prevent the country's parliament from convening to elect a prime minister.



Peter O'Neill (centre) toasts his election victory at Government House in Port Moresby earlier this week.

Parliament is due to sit for the first time after the general election, so MPs can elect a prime minister.

But two politicians have asked the National Court to prevent the sitting because votes are still being counted in three seats.

Their lawyer argued it would be undemocratic for parliament to sit without every MP present.

Lawyers for the state and for Peter O'Neill said the constitution only requires a majority of seats to be declared before parliament is convened.

Judge Colin Makail is due to hand down its decision just 90 minutes before parliament is scheduled to start.

O'Neill confident

Peter O'Neill and around 80 newly-elected MPs have arrived back in Port Moresby, after spending most of the week in Alotau, on the country's eastern tip, shoring up support ahead of the vote.

Mr O'Neill has been invited by the governor-general to form government after his PNC party won 27 votes in the general election.

He expects to be returned as prime minister after forming a coalition with several parties, including that of his former nemesis Sir Michael Somare, and some independent MPs.

He says it's unfortunate not all MPs can be present for today's vote.

"Unfortunately that is the case, but you must realise that we've been having these elections for the past three months," he said.

"We started in April, now we're in August. It's unfair to the seven million people that we drag this issue out forever."

Political challenge

Among those launching the challenge is Sam Basil, deputy party leader of former deputy prime minister Belden Namah's PNG Party.

Despite joining forces to throw Sir Michael Somare out of prime minister's office a year ago, relations between Mr Namah and Peter O'Neill have soured.

Mr Namah is urging MPs to desert Peter O'Neill's camp and join his push to form government. The National Capital District, which takes in Port Moresby and its surrounds, is one of the three seats in which counting is continuing.

The incumbent Governor, Powes Parkop, is in the lead and says it will be a shame if PNG's capital is not represented in Parliament.

"I'm disappointed, but I can't help it now...the process has to go ahead," he said.

Rumours rubbished

Meanwhile, the PNG Defence Force Commander has taken the unusual step of holding a press-conference to dispel a rumour about a military coup was going to take place on Friday.

Brigadier General Francis Agwi says the rumour, sent around by text message and email, is rubbish. "This is not true," he said. "Whoever has started this email has tarnished the good name of the PNGDF."

02.08.2012

Source: ESBC Opinion

MP Ridiculous!

Namah's latest absurdity:

Now Belden versus Ian !



Belden Namah

VS.



Ian Kemish

Why does former Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah always want to play the role of PNG's greatest fool ? Is he mentally troubled?

02.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Belden Namah wants Australia to recall Ian Kemish

by KEITH JACKSON

YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT Belden Namah might have enough challenges trying to cobble together a viable representation in parliament, but now he's decided to prosecute a war of words against Ian Kemish, Australia's high commissioner in Papua New Guinea.

Today he stated that the popular diplomat should be recalled. The trigger? Yesterday the high commissioner attended a ceremony where the governor-general invited Peter O'Neill to form the next government.

According to Namah, Kemish violated PNG's sovereignty by attending the event.

"Kemish's presence is a breach of protocol," Namah said. "I call on the Australian foreign minister to apologise and to discipline the high commissioner.

"He should be recalled immediately, because he interfered with PNG's sovereignty by deliberately trying to influence the election and the process of parliament electing the prime minister."

The Australian High Commission said the attendance of Kemish and his deputy, Margaret Adamson, followed assurances from government house and the PNG electoral commission.

Mr Namah's supporters launched legal action today to stop parliament sitting tomorrow morning, when it is expected Mr O'Neill will be elected prime minister by about 75 of the 106 MPs whose seats have been decided so far.

The other five MPs won't be able to participate because the count is not concluded in their electorates.

Lawyers for Namah's party deputy, Sam Basil, say that's reason enough to stop the session.

A judgment is expected at 8.30 in the morning.

02.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis clarifies mining company

By PETERSON TSERAHA

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis has expressed concerns about misleading statements made about Bougainville mining policy by Canadian company Morumbi Resources Incorporation (MRI).



President Momis (picture) said that the ABG has not yet made steps to introduce mining policy although a motion to adopt a draft mining policy was introduced by a backbench member on June 7, 2012, but it was not an ABG policy.

"The motion was not adopted by the house, instead ABG ministers emphasised that only the ABG can develop mining policy.

The ABG has not moved to start mining exploration and a legal moratorium on mining exploration introduced in 1971, at Bougainville's request has not been lifted." He said.

"When the ABG does develop its own policy it is unlikely to allow a landowner company to decide who can explore or develop resources and such activities involve many blocks owned by numerous clan groups and they affect adjacent blocks, and those down river or in areas where roads and powerlines must pass," President Momis said.

He said only the ABG will be able to take account of many interests involved, and so will be the authority to issue licences and in doing so it will take account of rights of customary owners.

According to President Momis (MRI) were making incorrect statements in Toronto about development of Mining Policy on Bougainville and hoped that potential investors are not being misled by such statements.

In an article in Post-Courier dated 11, July 2012 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MRI Lindsay Semple claimed that the ABG had taken motives to introduce Bougainville Mining policy to start mining exploration on Bougainville.

In a statement issued in Toronto dated July 10 2012, claimed unanimous support was given to a motion introduced into the ABG House of Representatives on June 7, 2012 accompanied by a

“Draft Mining Policy” calling on ABG to make laws recognising landowner rights to choose companies to explore and develop mineral resources under their land.

[Find out more about backdoor players like Morumbi Resources Inc. and Lindsay Semple !](#)

02.08.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Convening of PNG parliament before all seats declared is unconstitutional, says Namah

The leader of the PNG Party, Belden Namah (picture), has launched a legal bid to restrain Papua New Guinea’s parliament from convening tomorrow to elect a Prime Minister.



After his People’s National Congress emerged from the general election as the party with the most MPs, Peter O’Neill has been invited by the Governor General to form the next government.

Mr O’Neill appears to have the support of various political parties to lead a coalition government.

However at least three of PNG’s 111 MPs haven’t been declared yet as the deadline for the return of writs for three regional seats was extended until next Wednesday.

Mr Namah says under the constitution parliament is not supposed to sit until the complete election writs are returned.

“I don’t know why Mr O’Neill is rushing when he is boasting that he’s got the number (majority of MPs) in Alotau. he should not be feeling insecure. He should be secure and he should adhere to the constitution of our country. And the way that things have been rushed, it’s denying the population whose electorates have not yet been declared their rights to elect the Speaker and the Prime Minister, their constitutional right.”

Belden Namah

02.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O’Neill to form government

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE inaugural meeting of the ninth national Parliament will convene at 10 am tomorrow (Friday) to elect the new Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

This is when Prime Minister-in-waiting, Peter O’Neill, will also announce the government’s 15-member caretaker Cabinet to take charge and formally begin the process of putting the new

regime in place, beginning with the appointment and announcement of the full National Executive Council.

This follows the official invitation by the Governor General Sir Michael Ogie at Government House yesterday to People's National Congress Party to form Government.

The Governor General's invitation followed advice from Chief Electoral Commissioner, Andrew Trawen earlier, when he returned 106 of the 111 Writs.

Under the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates, the party that wins the highest number of seats in the election is invited by the Governor General to form government.

PNC has won a total of 27, more than any other party, and his number has been boosted by his other coalition partners and is therefore entitled to be invited to form government.

General Secretary and Public Officer of the PNC Party Jonathan Oata received the official instrument from the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogie at Government House before party leader Mr O'Neill and his coalition party leaders.

Present to witness this important occasion were Mr O'Neill's party executives and coalition party leaders: Don Polye, Triumph Heritage Party; Sir Julius Chan, People's Progress Party; Patrick Pruaitch, National Alliance Party; Anderson Agiru, People's United Assembly Party; William Duma, United Resource Party; and Powes Parkop, Social Democratic Party.

The team flew in from Alotau yesterday afternoon and arrived in Port Moresby just after 2:30pm before proceeding to the Government House for the ceremony.

Chief Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen and Chief Secretary to Government Manasupe Zurenuoc officially returned the 106 writs to the Governor General, before official secretary to the Government House Tipo Vuatha presided over the official signing and presentation of the invitation instruments.

"I would like to thank the people of Papua New Guinea, for giving our party the People's National Congress, the mandate to lead. I am overwhelmed by the support the people have lent us across the length and breadth of the country during the elections," Mr O'Neill said.

"The invitation by the Head of State today is an answer to your call, and I humbly accept it," Mr O'Neill said. The PNC party campaigned strongly on platforms and policies that have guided the government I led in the last 10 months," he said.

"There are simple policies that seek to address the core of our society's problems. They are achievable policies that have been fully endorsed by our people and will continue. These policies will work alongside those of our coalition group that we have now," Mr O'Neill said.

"The election has gone on for a long time, but it is over now. The people have spoken, and we have a duty to deliver the government. I want to assure you all that your government is now in place," he said.

Regarding concerns raised in the media by various individuals, including Bulolo MP Sam Basil, about the government being formed while some declarations were yet to be made, Mr O'Neill said:

"I am advised that section 81 (3) of the Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections allows the Electoral Commissioner to receive those writs later than the date set for the return of writ."

O'Neill flew out of Port Moresby again yesterday afternoon to join his camp in Alotau.

02.08.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Alotau campers shift to Port Moresby for election

ABOUT 80 member elects from the Alotau camp arrive in Port Moresby today to prepare for the election of the prime minister when Parliament sits tomorrow.

People's National Congress Party Leader Peter O'Neill will travel to Port Moresby today with all the coalition partners – the National Alliance, THE Party, People's Progress Party, People's United Assembly, Social Democratic Movement, PNG Country Party, People's Democratic Movement, United Resource Party, United Party and independents.

This is after Chief Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen returned only 106 of the total 111 Writs to Governor General Sir Michael Ogio in Port Moresby yesterday.

This also follows the Governor General Sir Michael Ogio's invitation to Peter O'Neil's People's National Congress Party to form government in the ninth Parliament.

The entire team is expected to travel in today ahead of the first session of the ninth National Parliament tomorrow.

The first order of the day tomorrow will be the swearing-in of new MPs followed by the election of the Speaker and the Prime Minister.

The sitting of Parliament comes despite the fact that five electorates will miss out on this most important constitutional process.

01.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police report

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police are happy that the election on bougainville was trouble free.

PPC for Bougainville Police, Inspector Cletus Tsien made these remarks at the declaration ceremony on Monday.

He said that before the election there has been rumors that some people would disturb the election on Bougainville.

He said that despite these, police was able to cover all polling booths throughout the entire region PPC TSIEN said that law and order was everybody's business and he thanked all Bougainvilleans for maintaining peace and good order during the election period.

01.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE MEMBER

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville has a new Regional member.

He is the former Director for the University of PNG's Bougainville campus and the former commissioner for South Bougainville region under the new ABG administrative structure.

MR LERA polled 26,199 votes after the 11th elimination early Monday morning at the HUTJENA Secondary school counting centre.

The former BRA General now businessman, Ishmael Toroama came second with 21,208 votes.

MR.LERA reached the absolute majority figure after the sitting member, FIDELIS SEMOSO was excluded and his 15,699 votes distributed between the last two remaining candidates.

MR LERA was declared by the Returning Officer, REITAMA TARAVARU at ten am on Monday 30 th July,2012.

01.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SECOND CHANCE

By Aloysius Laukai

Another opportunity for Bougainville students has opened on Bougainville.

Grades Ten and twelve school leavers can now further their studies through the University of Technology's Department of Distance Learning(DODL) which now has agencies throughout Papua New Guinea.

This was revealed by the deputy principle (academic) of Hutjena Secondary School and DODL coordinator, WAMSIE SAI on New Dawn Fm's talk back program this week.

MR SAI said that first semester had ended and registration on for semester two applications.

He said similar to the UPNG Program, they are also offering courses at K200 per subject and another K100 for facility fees.

He said that classes are held for two hours per subject every Saturday morning.

The coordinator further explained that Grade ten leavers can complete their programs within two years whilst Grade 12 leavers can just upgrade within a year and apply to colleges or universities.

More information can be obtained by contacting MR WAMSIE SAI at the Hutjena Secondary School.

01.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lera leaves to Milne bay

By Aloysius Laukai

The new Regional member for Bougainville, yesterday left Bougainville on a chartered plane to team up with two other Bougainville members who are in the Milne Bay camp.

They are the member for South Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA and JIMMY MIRINGTORO the member for Central Bougainville.

The re-elected member for NORTH BOUGAINVILLE LOUTA ATOI has joined BELDEN NAMAHA's team in Rabaul.

Parliament elects the speaker and Prime minister this Friday.

01.08.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON PUBLIC SERVICE POWERS

BY Tapo Tovilu

ABG PRESIDENT, DR. JOHN MOMIS has commended the Department of Personal Management and the Bougainville administration for working on the final drawdown of public service powers to the Bougainville administration.

DR. MOMIS made these remarks at the handing down of instruments for the drawdown by the Secretary for DPM, JOHN KALI yesterday.

Chief Momis said that Bougainville must have a public service that is unique from the others.

He said not only fulfillment, it must be effective in carrying out their roles and responsibility.

The instruments were delivered to the chief administrator, Lawrence Disin.

01.08.2011

Source: adio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA WANTS TO SEE RESULTS

LERA EYES JANUARY

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly elected Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA has vowed to change some things on Bougainville by January 2013.

He made this commitment during his inauguration speech as the new member for Bougainville.

MR LERA said that he would like to review processes of service delivery to the people of Bougainville.

He reiterated his earlier plan to kove (?) Bougainville into the next level.

Whilst thanking the people for placing mandate in him, he also thanked the outgoing member for his contribution to Bougainville over the last five years.

He also promised to seek some advice from the former member on certain issues affecting the region.

01.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO ACCEPTS RESULTS

By Aloysius Laukai

The outgoing Regional member for Bougainville, FIDELIS SEMOSO has accepted the wish of the people of Bougainville. MR SEMOSO in a brief ceremony to declare the new Regional member elect, JOE LERA thanked the people for having faith in him in the last five years.



He said that ye fully accepted the result and would continue to work for the development of Bougainville as a private citizen.

MR SEMOSO (picture) also called on the new member to work closely with the ABG To see autonomy work on Bougainville.

HE said the people would like to see law and order issues addressed quickly.

MR SEMOSO said that he tried to shortcut things to fast track development im the region and got his fingers burnt.

He wished Mr Lera good luck in the next five years in parliament.

01.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Reitama happy

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral manager, Reitama Taravaru tha the election process on Bougainville was gemially over.

He made these comments at a declaration ceremony in Hutjena on monday.

He said that although the process was slow and painful it was able to iron differences with candidates, scrutineers and the people of Bougainville.

He also thanked the ABG PRESIDENT and the Bougainville Police service for ensuring that the election process was done without trouble.

The election manager also thanked all polling officials, counting officials and the media for working tirelessly in the last three weeks.

01.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

O'Neill invited to form PNG government

Peter O'Neill has been invited by Papua New Guinea's Governor General Sir Michael Ogio to form the next government.

The leader of the People's National Congress, the party which has emerged from the general election with the most MPs, Mr O'Neill has announced he has the support of various other political parties to lead a coalition government.

The coalition is understood to include as many as 80 out of PNG's 111 parliamentarians.

Mr O'Neill is expected to be elected on the floor of parliament on Friday.

His former deputy, Belden Namah has taken out newspaper ads offering the job of prime minister if MPs form government with his PNG party.

01.08.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch / Mekamui | Mekamui News

Reopening Panguna mine

It's a painful experience to have felt and sad to hear and see leaders talk about reopening the closed Panguna mine. What do the leaders want, do they care for the people and their land or they care for the money which will destroy land and ruin people's lives. We the people of Arawa had faced all kinds of social problems and have been the victims of the mine, brought squatters so we think it's enough of the mine issue.

The ABG leaders instead of finding other venues to raise money they only talk about reopening the mine. Is this the only way for Bougainville to go forward? For the last 25 years since the mine was closed we the grassroots earn money from cocoa, copra and other commodities. It's very funny though that some of those leaders they are making big money from cocoa plantation that they own but yet they talk about reopening the mine. What on Mekamui went wrong? Or do they want more money??? More money, which means more destruction in the name of development.

In June I went up to Panguna, when standing outside of Pirurari village I saw few taro gardens on the side of the waste gravel where some soil formed when the mine stopped. I asked Michael the man from Pirurari, if mining starts will you plant taro there again? He told me, we the village people don't want the mine to reopen it's only the leaders who are talking about it.

Reopening Panguna mine is hazardous so please leaders talk about Agriculture, Tourism, Fishing, etc. If you want to talk about BCL talk funding reconciliations, schools and medical centres because BCL had already got more out of our motherland and left it with a big scar.

01.08.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

O'Neill well on top; but instability may be lurking

KEITH JACKSON

THE NINTH PAPUA NEW GUINEA PARLIAMENT will have its first sitting on Friday even though it is likely a number of seats will still not be determined and some electorates will not be represented in the vote for prime minister.

Despite that anomaly, the vote seems to be a foregone conclusion with Peter O'Neill's coalition group – with a claimed 68 of the 111 seats in parliament – ensconced in Alotau this past week as it organises to transform itself into the next government.



Peter O'Neill's coalition

Peter O'Neill says:

Our group here is content. We have come together as mature leaders with one goal and that is to deliver services to our people back in our electorates.

[Belden] Namah should stop bickering and start planning for what he will do for his own people in Vanimo Green.

We are not wasting our time worrying about numbers to form government. We have gone past that stage. We are now well into integrating the coalition member parties' policies to synchronise with existing government policies.

We have a country to run. We have responsible leaders in our camp who range from mature, seasoned politicians with vast experience to young, energetic and vibrant leaders who are hungry for change.

O'Neill also issued a challenge to Namah to stop wasting time playing petty politics.

If Namah thinks he has the numbers, I urge him and his group to come to parliament to prove himself. Stop trying desperately to poach members who have already set their path for what they believe is in the best interest of this country.

Spoken like a man who knows he's in control.

So how has this control been achieved – and how is it being exercised.

Well, the election has led to the formation of three political groupings – or 'camps' as they are known: O'Neill's at Alotau, Namah's at Rapopo near Kokopo, and John Kerenga Gul's Camp 3, or the 'eastern bloc', at Goroka for the residue.

In rough figures, O'Neill probably has 65, Namah maybe 20, Camp 3, who knows, perhaps 10 at the most – which leaves around 15 members still looking or unaligned and striking out on their own.

One of these is the respected Gary Juffa:

I am NOT part of the Eastern Block. I am here to support my regional candidate Sam Sii. I am here with governor elect for Morobe, Hon. Kelly Naru, who is a friend by the way and we embrace certain values and principals [sic] much of which the members here do as well.

We are also collectively concerned about certain national issues such as the granting of citizenship to Djoko Tjandra and in my specific case the Naima Rice Monopoly Project and the Seabed Mining Project and such other issues which we here have spoken about and are concerned about.

I am NOT forming a group as an alternative government and I am not lobbying for the PM's job I am just speaking to like minded elected leaders and discussing how best to approach our common concerns and how best we can represent our people in our electorates, our province and our country.

Usually in politics, when you start defining yourself by what you're not, it suggests that you're well and truly on the back foot. I get the impression that this is not Juffa's normal or preferred stance, so a statement like that suggests that the present political dynamic has rattled him just a little.

As for Namah, struggling for numbers in the Gazelle, former Attorney-General and re-elected member for Rabaul, Dr Allan Marat, said the Rapopo camp opted to side with the former deputy prime minister because of his style of leadership.

As for Namah himself, he says "the Namah camp in Kokopo does not necessarily require the numbers to be in government, but they will only offer the best leadership system to those in government".

Respected commentator Emmanuel Narokobi has written:

It's a tough decision choosing your camp and any winning candidate wants to get into parliament with the government because it is the only way to ensure that you get funds for development in your electorate....

I personally would like nothing better than to see a totally new government come into power at the end of this week, but the numbers are stacked against them [those of independent mien] so far.

Although it will be extremely difficult for Camp 3 and Camp Kokopo to make inroads at this stage, it is not totally impossible, but the clock is ticking and time is running out.

So it does seem that O'Neill's superior organisation, political agility and skill at consensus building has managed to get the game well under control.

But Namah remains a formidable opponent, and those new, highly educated and independently-minded members – irrespective of what camp they're in – promise to offer much more to PNG than the old, self-aggrandising, 'what's in it for me' style of politics.

They do seem to offer hope for a nation-building rather than a wealth-acquiring mood. Let's hope so, anyway.

Footnote: The Electoral Commission is anticipating that very soon the election petition cases will start pouring in. The Commission's lawyers say they anticipate cases from West Sepik, Imbonggu, Kandep, Kompiani-Ambum, Wabag and Wapenamanda. There are bound to be more. Aggrieved parties have 40 days from the date of a declaration to file their case

News 09.2012

28.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

African billionaire to visit PNG

SOUTH Africa's mining magnate and first black billionaire, Patrice Motsepe, who has an annual net of US\$2.7 billion, is coming to PNG next month.

He will be in Port Moresby to meet with key leaders; specifically, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, Finance Minister James Marape, National Planning Minister Charles Abel, Treasurer Don Polye, and Mining Minister Byron Chan, Petroleum Minister William Duma and mining and business entities.

Mr Motsepe, born in the sprawling black township of Soweto is a lawyer, who became the first black partner at Bowman Gilfillan law firm in Johannesburg and eventually ventured into mining in 1994 buying low-producing gold mine shafts and turning them profitable using a lean management style.

He is the chairman of Harmony Gold - a shareholder with interests in Wafi Golpu and other business interests in PNG.

Motsepe, who is also the chairman of African Rainbow Minerals (ARM), a leading South African diversified mining and minerals company, and has interests in gold, ferrous metals, base metals, and platinum.

He is one of Africa's leading entrepreneurs and was voted 2002 South Africa's Business Leader of the Year by the CEOs of the top 100 companies in South Africa. In the same year, he was the winner of the Ernst & Young Best Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

28.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka hosts youth fair

By JORGE RUMAROPEN

BOUGAINVILLE Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church is staging its biggest church program this week in Arawa, Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The Youth, Ambassador, Pathfinder and Adventurer (YAPA) Fair under the theme of 'Transforming Grace' is aimed at changing the lives of Bougainvilleans through God's life-changing power of love.

The week long program is bringing together Bougainvilleans from all walks of life for the first time in the township of Arawa since its devastation during the Bougainville Crisis.

Locals from the districts of Buin, Nasio, Koromira/Kongara, Nasi, Wakunai, Inus, West Coast and Buka together with 38 church congregations numbering almost three thousand are attending the program. Also attending the fair is ABG Minister for Commerce and Trade Wilfred Komba, ABG CEO Finance Graham Kakarouts (who is also Pathfinder director for Buka District), the Youth Director for PNG Union Mission Pr Timothy Sandau, ABC NGI Region Director Anne Famane and

other SDA guests. At the opening night on Monday, Mr Kakarouts announced the ABGs commitment of K10, 000 towards supporting the program.

ABG Trade Minister Mr Komba said that it (ABG) is also committing K1m to assist all youth programs in the region out of the K100m from the National Government. He said however due process must be followed in order to access the funds through the Division of Community Development.

The YAPA Fair involved marching, ballgames and other physical activities besides life-changing spiritual and inspirational messages of hope by guest speaker, Pr Sandau. On Tuesday the eight districts braved the midday heat when they marched from the SDA headquarters at Rumba to Independence Oval for the official parade. The procession of brightly-coloured uniforms representing each district passing by brought Arawa Market to a halt. The event is expected to draw more crowds and to have a positive impact in the lives of the people thus paving way for development.

28.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Call for by-elections

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A FREELANCE journalist in Bougainville is calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Electoral Commission in Bougainville to immediately conduct by-elections for the four constituencies in the province.



Former radio personality Tom Katoa (picture) decided to voice out his frustration over the delay in the by-election process saying people in the constituencies affected have been denied representation in the Bougainville House of Representatives.

He said the ABG has been tempering the constitutional rights of these people by not addressing the issue quickly.

“I want the ABG and EC to immediately conduct by-elections for these constituencies. They should start as soon as possible. If they

fail to conduct these elections then they are deliberately denying the rights of the people in these constituencies,” Mr Katoa said.

“The ABG President Chief Dr John Momis has always been talking about the rights of Bougainvilleans. What about this by-election issue? If we do not conduct these by-elections then we are depriving these people their right for their representative to be present on the floor of Parliament,” Mr Katoa added.

Mr Katoa said the ABG and the EC should not make excuses that there was no funds available to conduct these by-elections.

Attempts to contact the Bougainville Election Manager for comments were unsuccessful.

The four constituencies are Lule, Rau, Hagogohe and Kongara.

Lule and Rau constituency seats became vacant following the death of their members (Paul Mitu and Joe Egilio) while the members of Hagogohe (Robert Sawa) and Kongara (Dominic Itta) had resigned this year to contest in the PNG National Election.

27.09.2012

Source: The National

Mining exhibition in Cairns eyes top guns c

DOZENS of businesses are to showcase their goods and service capabilities to some of the biggest names in mining at the Australia and Papua New Guinea Mining Resources Exhibition in Cairns next month.

Among them are BHP Cannington, Rio Tinto, Century, Ernest Henry, Barrick Gold, Ok Tedi, Newcrest and Highland Pacific.

More than 60 exhibitors have confirmed space at the Cairns showground for the exhibition on Oct 12-13.

They included JM Switchboards, Northern Iron and

Brass Foundry, CNW Electrical, Charter Yachts Australia, IBS Engineering Supplies, Perrott Engineering, Tong Sing, Advance Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College.

JM Switchboards director Mary-Ann McEachan said she believed mining provided a new avenue for their business.

She said the company had done little work in the sector and recognised it as an area of expansion with the expo providing a venue to promote their business.

“We will look at manufacturing, supplying and the installation of switchboards if any mining company is interested,” McEachan said.

One of the event managers Keryn Hayes said Cairns had been chosen because of its proximity to PNG, its large fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) base.

She said they had “high expectations” and hoped to create the right atmosphere for the resource representatives to discover a large range of goods and services available to the sector in the Far North.

“This inaugural event is expected to boost the Cairns economy by bringing visitors and exhibitors from as far away as Perth and PNG,” Hayes said.

“The dates were especially chosen so that those attending could enjoy the weekend off in fabulous north Queensland.

“The expo provides the perfect platform for suppliers of the mining and resource industry to directly reach this niche market.

“This is a chance for workers of the mining industry from across Australia as well as PNG to shop around for essential goods and services and a fantastic opportunity for the exhibitors to meet these people and build sustainable working relations with them.

“We have invited mining delegates and representatives from 270 mine sites including PNG, Solomon Islands, Irian Jaya and Papua.

“We hope to establish a buying culture for the Australian and PNG based companies who supply goods and services to the mining sector.” – The Cairns Post

Hayes said entry was free but it was for trade representatives only, not the public.

Co-organiser Mark Eady said the number of stands would be restricted to 200 to ensure exhibitors received the maximum benefit.

“Cairns is a great place to hold this expo seeing as it’s already a major home base for FIFO employees to the resources industry which will mean the foot traffic coming through this event will be directly related to the industry,” he said.

Eady said there would be new, as well as tried and proven products and services on display.

The expo will include a meet and greet cocktail evening and an awards night for the best exhibits.
- The Cairns Post

27.09.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville women team up with agro-foundation

By SENIORL ANZU

RURAL women in Bougainville have teamed up with the PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (PNGWiADF) to network with other women and source new information and techniques to improve their agricultural farming practices.

During the launching of the Bougainville Women in Agriculture (BWiA) in Arawa recently, local women in agriculture and floriculture tied the knot with the national body.

The occasion coincided with a floriculture show which was attended by more than 200 women from nearby areas including Koromira, North Naioi, Awara, Kieta, Buka Island and Panguna.

PNGWiADF President Maria Linibi, who officiated at the occasion, said there was much enthusiasm and interest by women who had settled into a new life using the land and its resources following the Bougainville Crisis.

Linibi said women in Bougainville have also ventured into small business opportunities and have played a huge role in developing the island.

The one-day occasion was organised by BWiA under the leadership of president Delwine Ketsian.

The group was previously known as Kieta WiA but due to interest and attendance from throughout the island, the name was changed to BWiA.

The launching was done jointly by Linibi and commissioner of Central Bougainville, James Koibo.

Among others who attended were representatives from Central Bougainville MP's office, women of Central Bougainville, other women leaders and farmers.

Linibi said Bougainville women had huge potential in agriculture development due to their ownership of land through the matrilineal family structure.

Local women said that the presence of PNGWiADF was a positive move for them to develop partnership, share resources, and learn from one another.

They said this was also the beginning of many good things to come through networking and having better access to information on agriculture and development through the PNGWiADF establishment and network.

Linibi said the women were determined and had the passion to participate in innovative development, as shown through the different exhibits and displays during the floriculture show.

Following the launching, Linibi was taken around the island on a guided tour.

27.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

BWF appoints executives

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF) now have an executive in place to manage the affairs of the organisation.

This follows the election of BWF's office bearers following a two days annual general meeting held at the Buka Town United Church building in Buka on Tuesday.

The BWF executives that were elected include Hona Holan (President), Agnes Nara (V/President), Martha Barako (Secretary) and Anastasia Papi (Treasurer).

Mrs Holan and Mrs Papi come from North Bougainville while Mrs Barako and Mrs Nara represent women in Central and South Bougainville respectively.

Mrs Holan while giving her maiden speech as the first BWF president said her executives are ready to face whatever challenge that may come their way during their terms in office.

She said they will also try their best to assist women in Bougainville, especially in bringing up the women's plight to the authorities responsible.

She also added that BWF was committed and ready to implement international covenants like CRC, CEDAW and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that recognises the role of women in peace building, emphasising the need for their full participation in all efforts to promote peace and security.

Mrs Holan also acknowledged the support given by the stakeholders that had played a major part in the formation and establishment of BWF, and pledged that her executives will continue to work closely them.

Apart from the election of the executives, BWF also launched its constitution during a small ceremony which was held that same night at the Kuri Village Resort.

The constitution was unveiled by the ABG Minister for Women, Community Development, Youth and Churches Rose Pihei.

BWF's constitution was drafted by legal officers from the law and justice sector in Bougainville.



BWF President Hona Holan presenting the BWF Constitution to Mrs Rose Pihei at the Kuri Village Resort

26.09.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville policy

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville will reserve retail business for locals only, according to a new government policy.

ABG President John Momis recently announced that no foreigners would be allowed to operate retail shops on Bougainville, giving locals the opportunity to venture into business.

It will also encourage the business houses to fix prices on wholesale basis. Currently business obtain goods from Port Moresby and then mark up prices.

The ABG wants to avoid problems experienced in other parts of the country where foreigners dominate the business sector leaving locals little chance to compete.

Reports given by Commerce Minister Wilfred Komba in parliament indicated that the Bougainville import-export group would be liquidated because of differences between certain businessmen based in Port Moresby.

Momis said if foreigners continued dominating the retail business in Bougainville, they would be asked to leave.

The commerce division has listed businesses which should be reserved for Bougainvilleans only.

When the Panguna mine is re-opened, all supermarkets and retail outlets will be run by Bougainvilleans only," he said.

26.09.2012

Source: The National

ABG turns to it's own people

The township of Buka is no different to many other towns in Papua New Guinea except for one striking difference.

Whatever businesses that are operated within it are owned by Bougainvilleans.

Most of it, at least. Big operations such as shipping were, until the mishap of the Rabaul Queen and the burning of three ships off Buka, owned by Rabaul Shipping.

All the guest houses on the island are owned by local people and operated quite professionally by them.

That was why when a major business interest from outside the autonomous region got approval to build a major hotel near the Parliament House overlooking the bay, the news was greeted with anger.

They should be happy now the Autonomous Bougainville Government has introduced a policy to reserve retail businesses for locals only.

ABG President John Momis announced that no foreigners would be allowed to operate retail shops on Bougainville.

The purpose is to give locals the opportunity to step up and venture into businesses.

It will also encourage the businesses to fix prices on wholesale basis.

Currently businesses obtain goods from Port Moresby and then mark up their prices.

The president wants his autonomous region to avoid problems experienced in other parts of the country where foreigners dominate the business sector leaving locals little chance to compete.

Commerce Minister Wilfred Komba told the Bougainville Parliament that if foreigners continued dominating the retail business in Bougainville, they would be asked to leave.

He said retailing should be reserved for locals

The commerce division has listed businesses which should be reserved for Bougainvilleans only.

When the Panguna mine was re-opened, all supermarkets and retailing outlets would be run by Bougainvilleans only, he said.

Is the government being discriminatory?

We think not. We think the ABG policy ought to be adopted wholesale throughout Papua New Guinea.

There are far too many foreigners in businesses which should rightly be reserved for Papua New Guineans only.

Businesses such as tucker boxes, bakeries, small to medium size retail shops and supermarkets and other cottage industries ought to be reserved for citizens.

No Papua New Guinean, however rich, would be allowed to operate a retail shop in downtown Manila or Bangkok or Jakarta.

There is a reserved business list that has always been in existence.

Indeed, there exists a list of reserved jobs as well.

Both, unfortunately, have not been enforced.

Foreigners ought not to be blamed if they are involved in reserved businesses or holding down reserved jobs.

It is the authorities responsible for policing these reserved positions, such as the Works Permit division of Labour and Employment or the Immigration and Citizenship Services agency or the Investment Promotion Authority.

It is these government agencies which need to be fully staffed and resourced to police the reserved businesses and jobs.

The situation is far more serious than is thought.

An initial report into the anti-Asian riots of May 2009 revealed starkly that the underlying reason was because Papua New Guineans felt left out of the formal economy.

They felt their own government was allowing foreigners to come in and take their business opportunities and their jobs away.

When police tried to turn away informal sector workers who wanted to bring their grievances to the National Capital District governor, that is when they turned violent and turned on businesses owned by foreigners who they felt were cheating them of their opportunities.

That anger will always exist so long as the businesses and jobs that citizens can perform competently are not protected and made available to them. Bougainville is doing right by its people.

26.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New focus in Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera has outlined his plan that he will be using the bottom up approach to revolutionise Bougainville's Top-Up political system.

This is because he believes that it will lead to Bougainville achieving its referendum.

Mr Lera's vision which he plans to achieve during his term as the Bougainville Regional MP is "to develop people to build a nation".

Mr Lera is currently visiting the 13 districts of Bougainville to introduce his five-year service strategy which was designed to achieve his political agenda.

The document highlights his actions within the domain of PNG development Vision 2050 and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville's (AROB) Autonomy Project identified in the Vision 2050 and Bougainville 2002 Peace Agreement and the Autonomy Roadmap to 2015 Referendum.

"To drive this vision, the 300,000 people of Bougainville must be educated, basic Government infrastructure be improved and economic projects established to empower people to take part in the development of Bougainville," Mr Lera said.

The plan outlines 25 projects that can help achieve Independence for Bougainville and to set the tone in his first 100 days.

Mr Lera has already secured funding for the following activities;

- * Communicate his programs, nMeeting with three open members and ABG to outline areas of responsibility and mobilise resource to target critical infrastructure;
- * Meeting with development partners;
- * Identify and visit three high impact projects in the three regions;
- * Negotiate extra budgetary funds for three towers in the economic heartlands of the three regions;
- * Make statement and advertorial on the Korepovi – Laruma – Wakunai corridor road, Wisai – Kongara arterial road and Atolls expedient project;
- * Trade skills scholarships;
- * Establish strategic management mechanism in Port Moresby and ARoB and;
- * Planning for 2012 bottom up planning meetings in January, Peace Agreement Audit for 2013 major meeting.

Mr Lera is now calling on all Bougainvilleans to work with him to implement his vision which will also provide a roadmap to achieving Bougainville's political future.

Mr Lera has so far visited five constituencies in Buka Island and Selau in North Bougainville.

He has also visited Aita and Arawa in the Central Region to communicate his five-year plan and mobilise people to be partners in development.

He will be visiting South Bougainville next week.

26.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Woman rapes boys

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

POLICE in Arawa in Central Bougainville have arrested a married woman after she was alleged to have raped three young boys last Friday.

According to the Arawa police station commander, senior sergeant Herman Birengka, the woman from Kopani village in the Kieta district had lured the boys with K20 before forcing them to have sexual intercourse with her.

Mr Birengka said they have brought the woman to the Meri Safe Haus in Arawa to stay there because there is no cell for women at the Arawa police station.

He said police are still waiting for the three boys to come forward and give their statements before police can proceed with their next course of action.

Mr Birengka said once all the investigations were completed, and depending on the evidence available, police would charge her for rape.

Meanwhile, Arawa police are still hunting for the driver of a vehicle which had overturned while speeding down the Premier Hill in Kieta resulting in the death of one of the passengers on Independence Day.

Mr Birengka said the vehicle, a Toyota Landcruiser, had gone off the road and overturned five times as it rolled down the mountain side.

The driver of the vehicle was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

Five other passengers who were also on the vehicle were admitted to the Arawa Hospital but have already been discharged.

Mr Birengka said once police apprehended the driver they would charge him for dangerous driving, causing death.

25.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Mine update, Momis

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE NATIONAL government annual K500 million reconciliation payment to Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) with the first K100 million given by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill paved forward negotiations on the re-opening of the Panguna mine which still in progress with many positive achievements and changes already taking place.

ABG President John Momis said during the recent ABG Parliamentary sitting this month, much work has already been done in preparing the ABG and landowners to negotiate the future of the Panguna mine.

President Momis said 98 percent work on the preparation of the initial six landowner associations has already been completed, with the Rorovana Association still awaiting its certificate of incorporation.

An interim landowner organisation known as the United Panguna Resource Owners Association (UPROA) has also been established with the appointment of interim executives comprised of executives of the initial six landowner associations, as well as the additional three landowner associations that were approved by the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) early this year.

Mr Momis said that a joint delegation comprising of officers from both the ABG and the PNG National Government also completed their two weeks scoping mission in and around the Panguna mining areas.

The purpose of this two weeks survey was to determine what was actually in Panguna and Apart from this studies on the conditions of the people affected and impacted by the Panguna mine operations and other kinds of detailed studies required were also conducted.

A joint coordination committee will receive the report of the scoping mission and then develop and approve terms of references for the detailed baseline studies that would be required to be undertaken on behalf of the parties to the negotiations.

He also revealed that three regional forums have already been planned for the latter part of this year in the three regions of North, Central and South Bougainville.

The aim of this forum is to inform the people of Bougainville on what the government is doing regarding negotiations on the possible reopening of the Panguna mine.

It is understood that there are plans to have the mine re-opened as soon as possible to support the ABG government's economic development strategy and fiscal self-reliance.

25.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville hosts new tech college

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLEANS should be proud that they now have a new technical college where they can attend and attain quality technical knowledge and skills.

That was the message delivered by the Secretary for Education, Dr Musawe Sinebare, during the launching of the Bougainville Technical College (BTC) last Thursday.

Dr Sinebare said the launching of the new college in Bougainville came at a crucial time when the country was going through a recruitment drive for a skilled workforce.

He said there was no need for PNG to recruit technical personnel from overseas when they can be produced here in the country.

He said institutions like the Bougainville Technical College will produce trained graduates, therefore, there was no need to recruit from overseas.

Dr Sinebare also encouraged women in Bougainville to apply and enrol at BTC so that they can also attain technical expertise in fields once dominated by men.

The Bougainville Technical College, located in the Tinputz district of North Bougainville, was established to replace the former Arawa Technical College, which was burnt down during the height of the Bougainville crisis.

BTC is the second approved technical college to be launched in PNG. The first one saw the conversion of the then Moramora Vocational Centre, in West New Britain Province, to Moramora Technical College.

25.09.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville opens first tertiary institution

BOUGAINVILLE'S first tertiary institution opened last Thursday.

Education Minister Paru Aihi opened the Bougainville Technical College in Tinputz, making it the first tertiary institution for the Autonomous region.

Aihi said the launch of the college came at a time when it was crucial for the country to build up a technically skilled workforce to meet liquefied natural gas project demand.

The Bougainville Technical College will take in its pioneer students in 2013, which will come from the region and provinces in the New Guinea Islands.

Aihi said, in compliance with Vision 2050, the national education board approved the establishment of technical colleges in Enga, Southern Highlands, West New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville.

He said the Bougainville Technical College was the second college to be opened after the West New Britain Technical College.

“Why should we continue to import labour from other countries when we can produce our very own welders, engineers, machine fitters, electricians, fabricators and carpenters in institutes such as this?” Aihi asked.

He said the Education Department was now working towards establishing a multi-disciplinary technical college in each province, four regional poly-technical institutions with one vocational centre and community college for each district throughout the country.

Aihi said the establishment of these institutions would require appropriate infrastructure and the training of additional teachers to cater for increasing enrolments.

That was why the department of education had added a new technical, vocational and training wing to its structure.

“The structure paves the way towards providing an efficient and effective system that will address the shortage of skilled workers that the country needs,” he said.

Aihi said the demand for skilled labour had grown as a result of the recent boom in the mining and petroleum sector.

He said: “The vast majority of our children will not progress to the universities and other higher education institutions – only a very small number will.

“It is imperative that we provide an alternate pathway for children who do not make it into the formal system and give them an opportunity to gain some form of technical skills training to improve their standard of living,” he said.

He handed over a cheque for K300,000 as counterpart funding for infrastructure development of the

24.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Use of POs rise in Buka

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PREVENTIVE Orders (PO) issued by the Buka District Court have been on the rise this year, according to the Bougainville senior provincial magistrate Bruce Tasikul.

On top of that, many of those who have applied for these POs continue to be assaulted and abused but police still continue to turn a blind eye by not arresting the perpetrators.

“Since I took up my posting in March this year, there has been an increase in applications for POs by victims in court.

“I also noted that victims that applied for POs have on many occasion been assaulted, abused and police have not taken any action in charging the perpetrators especially the husbands,” Mr Tasikul said.

Mr Tasikul said these perpetrators should be held accountable for their actions therefore they should be charged by the police.

Mr Tasikul said apart from police carrying out their duties, in order to address this issue it needs a consolidated approach of all the stakeholders including the public and private sectors, civil society organisation, churches and the developing partners.

24.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville opens new college

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

STARTING from next year and onwards, Bougainvilleans will no longer have to travel out of the region to seek technical education in institutions located in the other centres of PNG.

This is because they now have their own technical college which they can attend and attain qualifications similar to those offered in the other technical colleges.

This new college which will be called the Bougainville Technical College (BTC) is located at the former Tinputz Vocational centre in North Bougainville.

The Bougainville Technical College,

which now replaces the former Arawa Technical College that was burnt to ashes during the height of the Bougainville crisis, was officially launched last Thursday by the Minister for Education in the National Parliament Paru Aihi and his ABG counterpart and acting President John Tabinaman.

Mr Tabinaman, while delivering his speech thanked the people of Tinputz for their support and accepting the Bougainville Executive Council's decision for the college to be established in their district.

Mr Tabinaman also gave a brief overview of the ABG's plans to rationalise technical/vocational education in Bougainville.

This, he said, was to maximise the resources and improve the delivery of relevant and competency based enterprising vocational and technical skills education and training.

Mr Tabinaman said the establishment of BTC was in line with the ABG's education plans, which was to offer the people of Bougainville with higher technical skills and knowledge.

He also appealed to the National Government to build this institution into a fully pledged college of higher technical education as a peace dividend to the people of Bougainville.

Minister Aihi said Bougainvilleans should be proud of this significant occasion because they would now be able to gain technical qualifications within the island instead of travelling out of the region.

He, however, issued a challenge that those who graduated from BTC should be marketable both within PNG and abroad.

Mr Aihi announced that the Ministry of Higher Education would continue to assist Bougainville in its future educational endeavours.

Minister Aihi also presented K300,000 to the college to kick-start some of its other preparatory programs before next year.

Other invited guests present included the ABG members from the Tinputz area, National Department Education Secretary Dr Musawe Sinebare, deputy secretary Damien Rapese and other senior officers from the Education Department's TVET division. PNG COUNTRY REPORT ON FORESTRY

24.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PNG COUNTRY REPORT ON FORESTRY

By Aloysius Laukai

The Papua New Guinea Forest Authority has successfully implemented an International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) funded Project on community based Forest management projects involving the community in the Madang Province.

This was revealed by the Director for Policy and Planning at the PNG Forest Authority DR. RUTH TURIA at the Head of Agriculture and Forestry Services conference in Nadi this morning when reporting Country report of what Papua New Guinea has done since the last Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services meeting two years ago.

DR. TURIA said that Papua New Guinea was hoping to establish similar forest management Projects in other parts of the country after the trial in Madang province proved successful.

She also highlighted four main areas in which the PNG forest Authority realized some achievements in the last two years.

The second achievement was that the PNG Forest Authority developed a Climate Change framework for action following which they have identified five pilot projects for REDD PLUS initiatives and out of these five this year they are working on the first two of these five projects.

The 3rd Activity for PNG is that as part of the overall government of PNG vision 2050 and the Development strategic plan 2010/2030 and the medium term development plan 2011/2012 each government agency was required to come up with their own strategic plans, the PNGFA developed its own plan.

In terms of challenges and measures, to try and address some of those challenges PNGFA has extracted six Programmes from the PNG Vision 2050 that PNGFA supposed to ensure that 68percent of the total timber harvest is to be processed in the country by 2030.

The Doctor said that the PNG Government had come up with a policy direction that there will be no more log export for new areas to be allocated as of 2010.

As well as that PNGFA was also working on a downstream procession strategy to address that challenge.

The Director also highlighted that PNGFA was following the government direction to make sure that eighty percent of total PNG Timber exports are processed by 2030.

PNGFA was also working on increasing Forest Plantation areas to ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND HECTRES from the current SIXTY THOUSAND HECTRES .

She also mentioned that the PNGFA also wants to see seventy percent of all forest areas conserved for Carbon Trade through collaboration with the Office of Climate Change by developing a policy in which this can be implemented.

Next challenge for PNG as in most Pacific countries land is customary owned, PNGFA was looking at coming up with some permanent forest estate for the continuous supply of timber resources to the timber industry and to get landowners to fully participate in forest management activities.

And to sum it all up the DR. RUTH TURIA also said that PNGFA has already developed a National Forest Development Guideline that is now into implementation which aims to see the landowners involve more in forestry activities.

24.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AGROFORESTRY MEET OPENS IN FIJI

By Aloysius Laukai in Nadi

The 5th Regional Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services(HOAFS) meeting started this morning at the Nadi International Hotel, Fiji.

Chief Guest speaker retired Colonel SAMUELA SAUMATUA, Minister of Local Government Housing Development and Acting Minister for Primary Industry officially opened the meeting.

In his opening remarks, MINISTER SAMUELA SAUMATUA said that Agriculture and Forestry sectors of the Pacific are facing a number of strategic threats: from rising food insecurity associated with rising imported food prices and shrinking national food production, from climate change and the threat that rising temperatures and sea level pose to our forest resource and food production systems, and from urbanization, the challenges that poses to the management of our agriculture and forestry resources and the health of our populations.

He also said that he Pacific's population is booming ith estimates indicating it now exceeds 10 Million and is expected to reach 15million by 2035.

This he said was equivalent to a growth rate of 188,000 people equivelant to the population of Samoa- are being added to the total each year, an increasingly, that rising population is found in towns and cities.

To meet the expected demand for food without significant increases in prices, the Pacific will need to increase the production of food by over 50%.

He said yet agriculture productivity in the Pacific is falling, and has been for the last decades as populations move off the land behind.

And he said that with added threat of climate change, the ability of our food production systems to meet this level of rising demands is under threat.

Papua New Guinea is chairing this meeting as this meeting was supposed to have been hosted by Papua New Guinea but due to the Papua National Elections this year this meeting was moved to Fiji.

The last meeting was held two years ago in Samoa. The next meeting will be held in 2014 in the Solomon Islands.

And to meet the requirement for Solomon Islands to host the next HOAFS and MOAFS meeting, Solomon Islands was elected as the deputy chairman for this week's meeting.

Papua New Guinea is being represented by the Minister for Agriculture TOMMY TOMSCOLL.

And chairing this meeting on behalf of Papua New Guinea is MR.KANAWI POURU, Managing Director for the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority.

24.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REGIONAL QUARANTINE MEET

By Aloysius Laukai in Fiji

In this day and age of International travel and trade greater than ever before and as people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

New pests incursions and pest outbreaks cost governments, farmers, consumers billions of dollars every year.

One pest species are established their eradication is often impossible, and controlling them takes up a significant percentage of the cost of producing the food.

It is to discuss and analyze risks to national plant resources that a consultation of plant protection and quarantine officers from 14 Pacific Island Countries and territories and met from 17th to the 21st of September, 2012 at the NADI, TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL.

The meeting titled REGIONAL WORKSHOP for the review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures was organized by the Secretariate of the Pacific Community's Land Resources Division in collaboration with the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) provides a framework for plant protection that includes developing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) for safeguarding plant resources.

In his Opening Speech the acting Director of SPC Land Resources Division, MR. INOKE RATUKALOU re-iterated SPC's vision of a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

In addition he said Land Resources Division's core business was to improve food and nutritional security of the Pacific Community through sustainable management and development of land, agriculture and forestry resources.

Analysing risks to national plant resources is a major component of sustainable management of agriculture resources objective.

The Regional consultation was conducted by DR. JOHN HEDLEY of New Zealand MAF Biosecurity as Principal Advisor, International Organizations, and DR. JAN BART ROSSEL, DAFF Australia's Manager of International Plant Health Programme.

The consultation brings together IPPC contracting parties in the Southwest Pacific region to review the ISPMs, and to discuss and exchange views on the Draft standards.

In addition, to assist contracting parties in preparation of comments on draft ISPMs prior to submitting these comments to the IPPC standard committee.

The meeting will also give contracting parties the opportunity to call for topics for standard setting work programme, call for experts to take part in drafting ISPMs, and identifying topics for consideration at future workshops.

Contracting parties to the IPPC share the same goal: to protect the world's cultivated and natural plant resources from spread and introduction of plant pests while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods and people.

ISPMs are the standards, guidelines and recommendations recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied by members of the World Trade Organization under the agreement on the Application of Sanitary Phytosanitary Measures.

A regional standard which this meeting reviewed is the Generic Heat Treatment for fruit fly (Tephritidae) host fruit in the Pacific.

23.09.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

BRA was the root of bloody civil conflict in Bougainville

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

IN OCTOBER 1992 I WAS A KID roaming around parts of the Kieta and the Bana districts in South Bougainville with Bougainville Revolutionary Army 'A' Company bodyguard unit.

The unit was attached to my relative, the late Autonomous Bougainville Government president Joseph Kabui, who at the time was vice president of the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG).

I provided escort duties to my leader and partook in no armed operation except one assault on, as I see it today, an innocent Bougainvillean in Bana.

Despite the fact that my father was killed by the BRA in 1993, I consider myself a Bougainvillean nationalist.

This is because of the awareness I have for the ill treatment of my island of Solomon / Bougainville by colonisation and later by Papua New Guinea, especially as a result of the copper mine on my land of Panguna.

As Panguna people, we sparked off a conflict that saved Bougainville from the brutality of Bougainville Copper Limited, Papua New Guineans and the squatter settlements that grew on our land. (I carry a scar on my face caused by kids at the Arawa's Morobe Camp in 1988).

But it was not our fight alone. It was a struggle for self-determination that went back to the so-called cargo cult movements like the Hahalis Welfare Society and other groups that sprung up in Bougainville, especially after the onset of the works to construct the mine.

These were groups condemned publicly but silently assisted by Catholic missionaries and a few expatriate cocoa and coconut planters. They demonstrated without violence against 'rascals' on our island.

Engaging the barrel of the gun, we did the old timers proud in 1988 by sending the 'rascals' packing in fear and pain from our beloved island. Thus did they realize the fact they were 'rascals' in Solomon exploiting and suppressing a people they were not related to.

In that fight we created the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. I know this name shocked the Pacific and even our Papua New Guinean rulers, or Ivitu, as we know them in Buin.

But the big question is, why did we turn on each other? This is the question that must be answered today so that we take Bougainville in the right direction.

In 1990, I was a Grade 4 student at Kaperia Community School in Arawa when the first ceasefire was signed by Sam Kauona (BRA) and Leo Nuia (PNG), known as the 'Butcher of Bougainville'.

All the BRA men were stationed at Panguna. Law and order was observed for a month with the late Francis Ona as the supreme head.

But, as these BRA men got out of this cage, they started calling themselves redeemers of Bougainville and began to harm businesses in Arawa by looting.

Once after school, I encountered two BRA men wearing shoes they had not paid for, saying to the cashiers in a store known then as the Haus Bilas: "We have suffered in the bush fighting for you".

To the late Francis Ona and his followers, closing down the Panguna mine was the bliss that blinded them. Keeping order and governing Bougainville was neglected. Thus the BRA recklessness grew and spread.

The BRA men, most of them illiterate, went astray grabbing private and ex-BCL property, looting shops and exploiting women often with the gun.

These unorganized BRA bands falsely accused innocent people of being PNG spies and tortured them. Others were accused of sorcery and killed.

The politically incompetent Francis Ona was nowhere to be seen or heard in this anarchy created under his name.

I was hearing that the BRA's ill treatment of innocent Bougainvilleans was executed under the 'standing orders' of Ona. But this was a lie as I heard later that Ona was not aware of any 'standing orders' and he was not responsible for the suffering endured by Bougainvilleans.

The BRA posed as a body with a central command fighting for Bougainville freedom when in fact it hosted dozens of independent individuals or bands who operated at will across Bougainville.

To many of these BRA men, Buka was a strange place with beautiful women and unarmed men. So, with their new-found privileges, they invaded Buka in ex-BCL or robbed vehicles, exploiting women and terrorizing the peace.

This led Buka leaders like Sam Tulo to invite the PNG government into Buka in 1990 and resulted in the creation of the Buka Liberation Force (BLF) that fought on behalf of the PNGDF after an agreement signed in New Ireland.

The BRA response was: "The Bukas have sold off our island to foreigners" instead of admitting that it was the BRA that was dividing the people of Bougainville with their irresponsibility and recklessness. (Joseph Kabui was politically capable, but the ruler then was the barrel of the gun and Francis Ona.)

In South Bougainville's Siwai district, responding to this BRA-BIG insanity through its creative leader the late Anthony Anugu and a few others, was created the South Bougainville Interim Authority (SBIA) to provide services to the people who now had no leader to guide them. This initiative shocked the sick BRA and BIG.

But in early 1992, these kind and valuable leaders were betrayed by Siwai BRA lunatics and they were killed in Panguna.

Thus, today it is the BRA that ought to re-evaluate its irresponsibility in the past and lead Bougainville in the right direction instead of sitting down and waiting for miracles and creating fear in the hearts and minds of my people on Bougainville.

21.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WEB 2.0 TRAINING ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

Senior Journalists from 5 Pacific countries, FIJI, TONGA, SAMOA, SOLOMON ISLANDS and PAPUA NEW GUINEA this afternoon completed a one week training at the TANOVA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL in NADI, FIJI.

The workshop was facilitated by the Secretariate of the Pacific Community and sponsored by the PACIFIC MEDIA ASSISTANCE SCHEME based also in Fiji.

The Journalists will continue to cover Pacific leaders Conference on Managing Strategic Risks to Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific.

Papua New Guinea is being represented by EMTV and New Dawn FM

21.09.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville highlights International Peace Day



And in Bougainville Helen Hakena (picture), who is the President of the Laitana Nehan womens group said she was pleased with the United Nations to come up with this very important day. She spoke to John Papik.

Presenter: John Papik

Speaker: Helen Hakena, the President of the Laitana Nehan womens group in Bougainville

[Listen here !](#)

21.09.2012

Source: The National

Govt will support ABG, says O'Neill

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has assured the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) that the government is ready to ensure it achieves its developmental programmes in the next five years.

"I presented a cheque for K100 million to the ABG on Wednesday and this is the first component of the K500 million that the government of Papua New Guinea will give to the people of Bougainville annually for the next five years as agreed during the joint supervisory body (JSB) meeting in Port Moresby in February last year," O'Neill said.

"The K500 million commitment is the additional fund from the national government to support key development projects that will enable the Bougainville people to recover from the crisis.

"This will also grow their economy swiftly in order to successfully implement the autonomous arrangements entered into under the Peace Agreement.

"Within the next five years, the government will continue to support the ABG with such funding to ensure the people of Bougainville receive the developmental services that they deserve and also to make sure the arrangements are intensified," O'Neill said.

The prime minister said a JSB meeting would be held in Kokopo, East New Britain, next month for both

governments to renew the partnership by discussing key agenda items that was being prepared. which the Joint Technical Teams are preparing.

The JSB is comprised of ministers from the PNG Government and the ABG, of which the prime minister is chairman. The ABG president is the co-chairman and the body is responsible for identifying and implementing developmental programmes in Bougainville.

O'Neill said he would visit Bougainville on Oct 16, the day before the JSB meeting in Kokopo.

"The National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) is working to ensure that the upcoming meetings in Arawa and Kokopo are not only successful but come up with constructive outcomes for Bougainville and PNG.

"As a Government, we also thank our donor partners like AusAID and New Zealand Aid for providing support in the JSB process."

20.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna returns ex MPs remains to make peace

THE REMAINS OF ANTHONY ANUGU, former South Bougainville MP - were finally dug up and handed over to his children by the Panguna people - showing a positive step in the reconciliation process.

This reconciliation process shows of one of the 5 key areas the ABG is embarking on. The other key areas are Weapon disposal, good governance, referendum and Autonomy.

The late Anthony Anugu was taken hostage by members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) in 1990, after a meeting with the National Government Authorities in Honiara. This meeting, among other issues that time, was intended to return the basic services to South Bougainville. His colleagues' graves are still to be dug up.

Regional peace co-ordinator Jude Aris said uniting their people in Bougainville was crucial as it would create an environment of peace, stability and development.

"There are outstanding reconciliations that needed to be done in the next 5 years. About 1400 reconciliations are yet to be done throughout the region – as it would need a substantial amount of funding by Autonomous Region of Bougainville of Government (ABG)," Mr Aris said.

He said the high impact reconciliation ceremonies, particularly in the Panguna area, Buin and Siwai have also being prioritised. "Former ABG presidents –Joseph Kabui and James Tanis have done a significant progress and we need to continue with them," he said.

One of the major reconciliation ceremonies being planned for this week is between the ABG president, John Momis and the Tinputz ex-combatants when they took Mr Momis hostage and taken up to Panguna in 1997. The ceremony will be held at Tinputz this week. Chiefs from Buin representing Mr Momis have arrived in Buka and are due to travel to Tinputz for the occasion.

20.09.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Government makes major commitment to Bougainville

The Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, is assuring the people of Bougainville that his administration is ready to help the autonomous provincial government achieve its development aims over the next five years.

He says he gave the ABG a cheque for 100 million kina, or nearly 48 million US dollars, this week.

Mr O'Neill says this is the first component of a quarter of a billion US dollars in support to be paid over the next 5 years.

He says it is additional support for key development projects that will enable Bougainville people to recover from the crisis.

Mr O'Neill says it will also help Bougainville grow its economy swiftly so it can successfully implement the autonomous arrangements entered into under the Peace Agreement.

Last week veterans of the civil war presented a petition to the ABG complaining at the lack of progress achieved under the Peace Agreement.

20.09.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville K100 million richer

By DULCIE OREKE



THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville yesterday received K100 million from the national government to help with its development.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, who presented a cheque for the amount to Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis in Port Moresby, said the government was committed to ensuring that services continued to flow to the people.

He said the government was also committed to working with the people.

O'Neill thanked Momis and his people for their patience.

He said this was the "first of its kind and unique" for a province to receive such a sum.

O'Neill, who will visit Bougainville next week, said the funding was from the 2012 budget.

He said he hoped the ABG would use the funds to address developmental issues.

Momis said the national government's move had demonstrated its commitment to honouring agreements.

He said the PNG government and ABG had a great chance to work together.

20.09.2012

Source: The National

Top cop praises Bougainvilleans for peaceful Independence week

A SENIOR policeman in Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has applauded the people for a peaceful independence anniversary.

Acting provincial police commander Emmart Tsines said yesterday from Buka the independence anniversary was celebrated on Monday.

“The Autonomous Bougainville Government and the provincial administration decided for the province to have our independence occasion to be celebrated on Monday because it was a public holiday,” he said.

Tsines said the province had been quiet since the general election and praised the people for their maturity in keeping peace.

“The conduct of the general public has been very good here in the province and we have had no major problems.”

He said he congratulated police personnel for maintaining peace.

“You all, personnel from the law enforcing agency, have done very well in the province and I applaud you for a job well done so far.”

20.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Observe court order

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BREACHES of Court Orders are a very serious matter which should warrant heavy penalties for those who commit them.

That’s the warning from the Senior Provincial Magistrate at the Buka District Court House, Bruce Tasikul, before handing down his decision last Friday to a young man in Buka who had breached a Court Order issued by the Buka District Court.

Greg Bengi was found guilty by Mr Tasikul after breaching a Protection Order taken by his wife, and which was issued on the 12th of July this year.

According to the Protection Order, Mr Bengi was placed on a good behaviour bond with conditions. One of the conditions was for him not to consume any form of intoxicating liquor during this period.

Mr Bengi was summoned to appear at the court after he was caught consuming alcohol less than two months after the issuing of the Protection Order.

The dependent had stated that work pressure was the main cause for him consuming the alcohol to release the work pressure.

However, Mr Tasikul still stood by his decision that breaching of Court Orders was a very serious matter and therefore heavy penalties must be imposed.

He also emphasised that people must respect and abide by the orders of the court.

He said if people don’t respect court orders, there would be anarchy in society.

“If you think that you will not comply with Orders that are sought through Protection Order proceedings, than you are wrong. It is about time the Courts impose tough penalties to deter others. People must see to respect Court Orders and abide by them so that there is respect for the legal system.

“Victims of domestic violence, especially women must be protected by the law and not allow themselves to be subject to such abuse by perpetrators like their husbands.”

20.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville mourns Egilio

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is mourning the death of one of its senior cabinet ministers who passed away on Tuesday night.

The late Joseph Egilio passed away at around half past eleven at the Buka General Hospital.

The late Egilio, who hails from the Wakunai district of Central Bougainville, was the Minister for Culture and Tourism and member for Rau constituency in the Bougainville House of Representatives during the time of his death.

According to one of his ministerial staff, Mr Egilio was admitted to the hospital after suffering from heart burn.

It is understood that he had been suffering from heart problems for quite some time.

Last year he was also referred to a hospital in Singapore for medical operations after experiencing heart problems.

The late Egilio was also a former member for Central Bougainville in the National Parliament from 1992-1997.

The Bougainville Administration is still finalising funeral arrangements and a program for the late Minister.

Mr Egilio's death now brings to three the number of ABG members to have passed away while serving their terms in the Bougainville House of Representatives.

The other two were the former ABG President, late Joseph Kabui, and the Minister for Mineral Resources and member for loro constituency, Dr Benedict Pisi.

20.09.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville setting up its own public service

The government in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville intends setting up its own public service within months.

This comes as veterans of the civil war complain about the lack of progress achieved under the Peace Agreement.

President John Momis concedes their concerns are legitimate but he says his government has been making some effort.

He says this includes new legislation for a public service, an investment code, and town planning laws.

Mr Momis says a handicap has been the low wages paid Bougainvillean public servants but this should shortly be remedied.

"We are 3 levels below the rest of the country and we have had commitment from the national government to bring it on par with the rest of the country so that will be a big incentive to attract qualified technical people to come to Bougainville. As it is it is very difficult. Nobody wants to come and work in Bougainville if the pay package is quite poor."

19.09.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville confident PNG Government will advance promised funding

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says both his administration and the national government need to collaborate to properly implement the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

John Momis has been petitioned by veterans of the civil war and accepts parts of the agreement are not in place.

He says there is a need for a new approach but he says he is confident of a lot of support from Prime Minister Peter O'Neill with whom he has been meeting this week.

Mr Momis says a key factor has been Port Moresby's failure to provide the constitutionally allowed funding.

"That is the Restoration Development Grant which we have not got for the last 3 years as well as the 100 million (kina) per annum that was guaranteed by the Government to be given to Bougainville, but we have had very good discussions in the recent past and I am positive that this will result in a mutually acceptable result."

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis.

19.09.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville Government committed to review of Peace Agreement

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, says he accepts not enough progress has been made on the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

This follows a petition presented to him by the Bougainville Veterans Association, made up of ex-combatants from the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army, resistance fighters and the Mekamui group.

It wants an immediate review of the implementation of the Agreement.

Mr Momis says he will speak with the national government about what can be done to improve the implementation but he acknowledges several problems.

"Draw down of powers, provision of funding, taking positive steps to create law and order and investment and so on and so forth. It is not true that nothing has been done. A lot of things have been done but it is true that funding has been slow. I hope that this will be positively addressed very soon."

19.09.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Pacific Beat

More Carterets Islanders settle on Bougainville

The salt water invasion of the Carterets Islands in Papua New Guinea, has forced another seven families to leave the islands to settle on the mainland of Bougainville.

They are being resettled in land gifted by the Catholic Church near the town of Tinputz where another five Carterets families have settled since 20-09.

Ursula Rakova, the director of the NGO Tulele Peisa which is overseeing the relocation is telling Brian Abbott the Carterets islands will be uninhabitable within about 30 years.

Presenter: Brian Abbott

Speaker: Ursula Rakova, the director of Tulele Peisa, an NGO overseeing the relocation of families from the Carterets Islands in Papua New Guinea

[**Listen here !**](#)

19.09.2012

Source: The National

Carterets families sign relocation deal

By SALLYTIWARI

EIGHTY-three families living in the Carterets Islands, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, have signed up to be relocated to the mainland, local non-governmental organisation director Ursula Rakova says.

Rakova, who heads the Tulele Peisa, said the families had met the relocation guidelines in terms of vulnerability, willingness to relocate and participate with host community as well as the size of the family.

Programme manager Basil Peso said intermarriage was one of the criteria for relocation.

“There is emphasis on intermarriage because it binds and creates unity in inheriting and acquiring land,” Peso said.

Alaskans George Tom and Stanley Tom from the Newtok community and Alaska immigration justice project director Robin Brenon, with Michael Kiromat from Ahus Island, Isaiah Malachai from Luf of Western Islands and The Nature Conservancy’s climate change coordinator Dr Gabriel Kulwaum are in the region to observe and share experiences and ideas on the relocation of communities as a result of climate change.

Rakova said the Carterets had lost more than 20m of land to salt water invasion during king tides over the past 30 years.

She said since 2009, five families had been relocated to Tinputz Catholic mission.

She said although the church had gifted the land, the Tinputz community had been very welcoming towards their relocation process.

“They consider the relocated Carteret islanders at Woroav as a village and not a settlement,” Rakova said.

She thanked the church as well as the people of Tinputz for the 71ha of land, saying each family would receive a hectare each.

She said the remaining land would be used to farm cocoa so that the community could sustain itself economically.

Rakova said the settlers were working on a mini-integrated forestry project where they were planting trees as their contribution to mitigating climate change.

19.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EGILIO ORBITS

By Aloysius Laukai



Late Joe Egilio

The ABG Minister for Culture and Tourism, JOE EGILIO has died.

He died at the Buka General Hospital this morning.

The minister has been sick for some time and was seeking medical attention overseas for some time.

The late Egilio represented the people of Central Bougainville in the Papua New Guinea government.

He was also the minister for communications.

He won the ABG election in 2010.

The late Egilio is the 2nd ABG member to die whilst representing his people.

18.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou MP commended

By PETERSON TSERAHA

MEMBER for Konnou constituency and Minister for Trade and Commerce in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Wilfred Komba, has been highly commended by his people for the good work he has done so far.

Spokesperson representing supporters and the people of Konnou, John Taipa Tauria, said people throughout South Bougainville as a whole, have now come to admire the kind of leadership Mr Komba is displaying.

“In terms of development and for bringing peace back into a once war torn Konnou, Mr Komba has contributed a lot,” Mr Taipa said. “He has been re elected into parliament because the people want him back for what he has done in his first term.”

Mr Taipa also said other members should see that as a good example and follow suit. Although the ABG has limited funds, members like Mr Komba have put their priorities right and invested money into key areas.

“We want action leaders: people who can talk and do things at the same time, whilst enhancing the relationship between the ABG and the National Government.” Mr Taipa said. “That is exactly what Mr Komba is doing.” He said.

Mr Komba has contributed and helped in a lot of areas: health, education, small projects such as cocoa dryers, poultry, school fee assistance. The member even visits and funds medical evacuations for emergency cases in his area.

Mr Komba has a dream for his constituency to be developed by 2015.

“We need leaders who can put people as their first priority. Mr. Komba is such a leader and people have to be grateful,” Mr. Taipa concluded.

17.09.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Ex combatants in Bougainville demand review of Peace Agreement

The government in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville has been called on to review the Bougainville Peace Agreement by November.

The Bougainville Veterans Association, which represents ex-combatants from the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army, resistance fighters and the Mekamui group, presented a petition to the ABG President, John Momis, last week.

It calls for the immediate review of the Peace Agreement.

The Agreement was signed in 2001 and the association says it should be reviewed every five years but that has not happened.

New Dawn FM reports the association also calls on Mr Momis to request that the United Nations send back monitors because they claim the peace process has been purposely delayed.

16.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUG CELEBRATE

By Aloysius Laukai

BOUGAINVILLE will celebrate the PNG'S 37th Independence at the Hutjena oval tomorrow.

According to the program, the ceremony will start at 09am with nearby secondary and primary schools singing the national anthem.

Then speeches with dancing by cultural groups from Tsunpets, Malasang and Hangan villages. Other centres like Buin and Arawa will also commemorate this day.

16.09.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Re-opening Panguna must follow dictates of the people

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

THE PEOPLE OF PANGUNA – site of the now ghost copper and gold mine, no more than a huge hole in the ground - have seen environmental carnage and the influx of aliens.

Today they know that the extraction of the mineral ore on their land was for the good of Papua New Guinea and not Bougainville.

They know a Panguna kina was spent on the Highlands Highway construction; a Panguna kina was there in the founding of Air Niugini; a Panguna kina was built into Waigani parliament house....

To them, Papua New Guinea was made by the Panguna mine and the many Bougainville cocoa and copra plantations.

To the Panguna people, the making of Papua New Guinea, from the basic economics to politics, was all Bougainville design and financing.

This is the insight that the uneducated or illiterate majority of Panguna landowners are told day-in, day-out.

Since the days of the crisis and civil war to the dawn of the peace process, this is the information they are nurtured on.

One hears these stories in the family home, after church services and, worst of all, in the boozing where you hear all the Panguna curses.

For the majority of the static, illiterate Bougainvilleans, the Bougainville crisis opened their realization of the fact that they are Solomon Islanders.

At the peak of the Australia-backed PNG blockade of their island, they had a brother who gave them little ammunition and medicine. His islands were close to the coasts of Buin and Kieta and could be seen from the high mountains.

The political discourse of the conflict-days was anti-PNG. Churchmen preached gospels loaded with sentiments of anti-PNGism. Musicians of Bougainville sing the negativity created by the New Guineans and BCL (the illiterate so love their artists and their songs).

At every traditional feasting night there are anti-PNG or BCL folksongs and poetic lamentation songs at funerals for any post-conflict death.

For all, every bad thing happening is attributed to these past deeds.

For the majority of Bougainvilleans and the Panguna people, this is their culture.

Thus, when one looks at the re-opening of the Panguna mine, one has to look at the people of the area and their landowners' body to get a clear picture of what our hope is for re-opening the mine.

The noted trend in approaching the subject today is that the non-landowners dictated the wishes of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Autonomous Bougainville Government did not consider retributive justice for all the bad things that happened on Bougainville because of the mining.

There are many injustices in Bougainville that ought to be addressed before talking about mining.

Firstly, the majority of the Panguna population consists of the illiterate or half-literate men and women (high school failures, ex-BCL labourers and other ordinaries). But in this group is a new culture alongside the wealth of guns.

One finds the culture of entrepreneurship is growing. This unit of people hosts gold panners, gold buyers, scrap metal dealers, victims to scrap metal dealing conman, retail outlet operators and investors in cocoa planting who buy land in the coastal areas such as Wakunai and Tinputz.

Before the Bougainville conflict, these people were nobodies in their own land and in 1988-89 the late Francis Ona ran to them for support and got what he wanted readily.

He did not even establish a political manifesto to execute the secessionist struggle.

Thus the crisis was born against BCL, its few local friends and Papua New Guinea.

When the Bougainville peace process came into existence, it was those surviving BCL 'local friends' and the opportunists who went ahead with the Panguna mine re-opening talks.

Meanwhile the majority slowly adapted to change by engaging in business and investment with their own sweat without talking about the mine re-opening.

So, on the issue of Panguna re-opening, one has to deal with the crisis-created opportunists (some armed), the few old BCL 'local friends' (most in the current Panguna Landowner Association) and the change-adaptive majority (to whom the crisis-created opportunists run for support).

So far, the discourse on the issue of Panguna re-opening comes from the opportunists and the few old BCL 'local friends' who feign as genuine representatives of the people.

The dangerous majority has no voice yet. The re-opening gossip that every now and then excites the world is not representative of the Panguna majority.

It is obvious. Every foreigner who enters Panguna with mine re-opening hopes chats with the crisis-created elite or members of the Panguna Landowners Association (many of whom are BCL old 'local friends') and returns to spill their biased in-house chit-chat to the media as a breakthrough towards the re-opening of the mine.

The majority of the Panguna people (illiterate and literate) are standing at the foundation of Bougainville history. To them, BCL was for Papua New Guinea's development and not Bougainville's.

The re-opening of the mine bodes well for the locals in an independent Bougainville that is free from Papua New Guinea with the benefits for Bougainvilleans.

(The failure of the Bougainville weapons disposal program comes into play here because many people see that Papua New Guineans will return if Bougainville is free from weapons.)

The majority of the people of Panguna and Bougainville need to be assured that their crisis-created spirit of entrepreneurship will be sustained by the ABG. But so far, the signs are not good as the ABG is trying to suppress self-reliance by inviting Chinese foreign direct investment to get Bougainville, in a trickle of seconds, away from the stone-age and into the computer-age (a process that took industrial countries centuries).

This is likely to create loopholes for the Bougainville economy in the long run. When extraction of raw materials is depleted and the investors proudly depart, where will Bougainvilleans turn to where all farming land is gravel?

Many can criticise my discourse, but one has to note that the Bougainville crisis was a 'natural university' to many Bougainvilleans for it opened the islanders' mind's eye.

So, re-opening the Panguna mine must follow the dictates of the Bougainville people with a leadership that is trusted by the people and not the kind of leaders that are dirt to the people's eyes and yet are currently playing the game for Bougainville.

14.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SITUATION TENSE:

FIGHTING IN BANA

By Aloysius Laukai

One man is dead as fighting that started 3 months ago near Panguna erupted again this morning. And New Dawn FM is monitoring the situation near Jaba pumb station on the Panguna mine tailings area close to the coast.

New Dawn FM received reports that this morning one man was cut with a grass knife and he bled to death.

This was in payback of one that was cut with knives and the person was hospitalized at the Buka hospital. He was later released.

This morning they met with the attacker and the fight started resulting in the death.

And report just received another person was shot with a gun but his condition is not clear at the moment.

At this stage we do not know if police have been deployed to the area.

14.09.2012

Source: United Nations UNDP Press Release / Scoop Media

Peacebuilding stakeholders to meet in the Solomon Islands

14 September, 2012 (UNDP) – Senior government officials, members of the civil society and development partners from four Pacific Island countries will gather in the Solomon Islands next week for a skills training workshop, “Sharing and Exploring Pacific Approaches to Dialogue”.

The workshop is part of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) project, and will be attended by more than 40 participants from Fiji, Papua New Guinea (including Bougainville), Solomon Islands and Tonga.

The workshop will equip members of the Pacific Peace Community to design and facilitate dialogue and conflict analysis processes, including strategic planning, programme planning and training activities with greater skill and effectiveness.

The UN Resident Coordinator for the Fiji Multi-Country Office and UNDP Resident Representative, Knut Ostby and Team Leader of UNDP’s Crisis Prevention and Recovery team, Tracy Vienings will deliver remarks at the opening of the workshop. The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Papua New Guinea, David Mclachlan-Karr will also be attending the workshop.

This third regional workshop is facilitated and organized by CPAD in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace.

The Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) is a project of UNDP. It aims to strengthen the conflict prevention architecture of the Pacific region by providing technical advice and capacity building support to governments and to civil society organizations that have a specific involvement or mandate to promote peace and implement conflict prevention initiatives.

14.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Factions voice concern

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A PEACEFUL protest march took place at the Bel Isi Park in Buka town on Wednesday.

The protest saw members from all the different factions that were involved during the Bougainville crisis airing their frustrations over many issues that Bougainville is currently facing.

The former combatants were led by their leaders which included Ismael Toroama, Sam Kauona, Chris Uma and Peter Barik.

The march was also significant because it saw Me’ekamui commander Chris Uma and his members attending to also voice their frustrations.

Though the Me’ekamui factions were never part of many discussions that were held both within and outside Bougainville regarding Bougainville’s political future, their attendance during the protest march was a sign that they too were carefully monitoring all the events taking place on the island.

Some of these issues raised include disunity between the ABG leaders and the Bougainville MPs in the National Parliament, the JSB meeting, law and order, weapons disposal, full autonomy and the review of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

They said the BPA was long overdue therefore a review should take place as soon as possible.

ABG President Chief Dr John Momis and some members of the Bougainville House of Representatives were present to receive the petition from the former combatants.

While responding to the former combatants demands, President John Momis said he agreed with some of the issues that they had raised.

He however said that some of these issues were supposed to be discussed between the ABG and the National Government.

14.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS FIRES

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS says no foreigner will be allowed to operate retail shops on Bougainville.

He made these remarks when commenting in parliament on reports tabled by the commerce minister, WILFRED KOMBA that the Bougainville Import Export Group would be liquidated due to differences between certain Port Moresby Chinese businessmen.

He said that these groups were allowed on Wholesale bases and to provide factory prices not getting cargoes from Port Moresby.

He said if they go retailing then they will be asked to leave.

Chief Momis said that retailing should be for locals only.

On the question of some Bougainvilleans who bought shares under BIEG he said all their funds should be refunded.

He said the Commerce division has already set out a Reserved list of businesses that are for Bougainvilleans only.

The chief said that when the Panguna mine reopens all the supermarkets and other retailing will be run by Bougainvilleans only.

14.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ACCEPTS PETITION

by Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS yesterday accepted the petition presented by former combatants in Buka. the petition was handed by SAM KAUNONA on behalf of the excombatants.

The excombatants assembled at the UBS security base before marching to the Belisi house for the presentation.

Chief Momis said that he supported the peaceful but powerful demonstration by the former combatants.

He promised to immediately act on the issues raised in the petition.

The President said that the government needs to be reminded if it was not performing and that was why the ABG sitting was suspended to meet the protesters.

13.09.2012

Source: EMTV

Bougainville Veterans want Peace Agreement to be reviewed

The Autonomous Bougainville Government President this morning received a petition from the Bougainville Veterans Association representing ex-combatants from both the former BRA, Resistance fighters and the Mekamui.

They want the National Government and the ABG to review the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed in Arawa in August 31st 2001 by the end of November this year.

They also want it to be reviewed every five years.

They said since the signing, it was never been reviewed.

Among other things the ex-combatants also called on the ABG President to immediately request the UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL AFFAIRS to return from NEW YORK and monitor the Peace process which they claim has been purposely delayed.

They also called on the ABG legal office to tell the people of Bougainville what was the status of the drawdown of powers to Bougainville.

The petition was delivered to the ABG President by former BRA Commander SAM KAUONA.

12.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VETERANS PETITION GOVERNMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Veterans Association representing excombatants from both the former BRA, Resistance fighters and the Mekamui today presented a petition to the Autonomous Bougainville Government President this morning.

They among other things want the immediate review of the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed in Arawa in August 31st 2001 and should be reviewed every five years.

Since the signing it was never reviewed.

The excombatants want the National Government and the ABG review the agreement by November this year.

The excombatants also called on the ABG President to immediately request the UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL AFFAIRS to return from NEW YORK and monitor the Peace process which they claim has been purposely delayed.

They also called on the ABG legal office to tell the people of Bougainville what was the status of the drawdown of powers to Bougainville.

New Dawn FM was not able to get a copy of the petition which was delivered to the ABG President by former BRA Commander SAM KAUONA.



PIC OF THE VETERANS MARCHING

12.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ex-combatants call for review

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville veterans association today demonstrated to the ABG and the national government to review the Bougainville peace agreement.



Pictured are them marching in Buka

12.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New library for ARB school

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

MORE than 200 students and staff of Taiof primary school in the Mahari constituency in North Bougainville can now look forward to enjoying their reading lessons and completing their research and assignments in a comfortable venue.

This follows the opening of the school's new library building last week in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The opening of this new library building will no doubt improve the students' academic performances because they will now have a conducive place to read and acquire more knowledge and skills than they were able to do so in the past.

The building, which cost around K50, 000 to construct, was funded through the Education Department's School's

Learning Improvement Program (SLIP).

The communities of Taiof Island complemented the SLIP funding by providing labour and other building materials which contributed to the successful completion of the project.

The opening of the building was also a milestone achievement for the school, as it sets Taiof Primary School as the first school out of the 25 primary schools in North Bougainville to utilise its SLIP funding to complete a building project.

Invited guests present during the opening celebration included the ABG member for Mahari constituency in the Bougainville House of Representatives, John Tabinaman and the chief executive officer for the Division of Education in Bougainville, Bruno Babato.

Both leaders, when delivering their speeches, challenged the students, staff and communities around Taiof to look after this new building.

They also urged the school's administration to stock the library building with new books.

12.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Pay taxes, says Banam

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A CONSTITUENCY member in the Bougainville House of Representatives has blamed the ABG for the increase in Solomon Islands-brewed alcoholic beverages illegally entering Bougainville.

Tonsu constituency member Joel Banam said the increase in alcohols illegally entering Bougainville is attributed to the tax increases in beer following the adoption of the Beer Tax Act by the ABG early this year.

According to this beer tax policy, the ABG will be collecting 70t on each bottle or can of beer consumed by Bougainvilleans.

The introduction of this policy has led to an increase in beer prices, resulting in Bougainvilleans crossing over to the neighbouring Solomon Islands to buy cheap beer there and transporting it back into the island.

"It is obvious that the Executive Government of the ABG did not adequately consider wider financial implications before implementing their decision on the increased tax on alcohol beverages," Mr Banam said.

He said while the increase in taxes from the sales of beer was a good internal revenue earner for ABG, the height of the tax rate was also counter-productive.

Meanwhile, Mr Banam also blasted the Bougainville Administration, saying they have not been adequately performing their duties in collecting taxes and also in assisting the ABG to make sure that illegal trading was adequately monitored and justice brought on offenders.

He gave as examples, the huge volumes of copra and scrap metal being shipped out of Kieta in Central Bougainville, and other goods from Solomon Islands illegally entering Bougainville.

"To the best of my knowledge, the ABG has not collected any taxes from these businesses, many of whom are operating illegally," Mr Banam said.

He said currently those business houses that are paying taxes to the ABG, were those located in Buka and Kokopau in the northern tip of Bougainville.

Mr Banam is now calling on the ABG to ensure that existing businesses in the whole of Bougainville, including Central and South Bougainville, be paying appropriate taxes to the government before introducing new tax schemes.

11.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG NEWS

SPENDING MORE FUND

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for Tsitalato and chairman of ABG Public accounts committee, COSMAS SOHIA today called on the officers from the planning office to use telephones instead of travelling to Port Moresby to work on outstanding funds from the national government to the ABG.

MR.COSMAS SOHIA said more funds have been spent trying to get to Port Moresby every kow and then,using hotel,hire cars and blowing out bills unnecessarily.

He made these comments in parliament commending on ABG President's statement on the unity of the ABG and the four national members, creation of the Bougainville website www.bougainvillebulletin.com and the draw down of public service powers.

11.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG SITTING

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG House of representatives September session started at ten am this morning without the National members as promised earlier.

Only the new Regional member, JOE LERA sat at their special seats on Parliament when parliament sat this morning.

Due to the power problem, New Dawn FM will not be able to air this session like all other sessions in the past.

New Dawn Fm will however cover for news.

11.09.2012

Source: The National

Lera to work with Bougainville MPs

THE new regional member for Bougainville, Joe Lera, wants to work with the three national members of parliament and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to address the autonomy issue between the national government and Bougainville.

The four parliamentarians are expected to attend when the ABG House of Representative convenes today for its September session.

The four MPs are Lauti Atoi member for North Bougainville, Communications and Information Minister and member for Central Bougainville Jimmy Miringtoro, Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Autonomy and member for South Bougainville Steven Pirika and Lera.

It is understood this is the first time that national MPs and those from ABG will be seen to be working together since the region gained autonomy in 2005.

Lera assured the people of Bougainville the attendance of their respective members complemented the recent reconciliation in Port Moresby between the four MPs and the ABG leadership.

Lera hopes to work alongside his colleagues and the ABG to address the autonomy issue between the national government and the people of Bougainville.

11.09.2012

Source ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG business groups express concern over cost of law and order

The cost to business of Papua New Guinea's law and order problems has been a hot topic at the PNG Investment Summit under way in Port Moresby, with businesses saying they have to spend many millions of dollars each year on security.

Esso Highlands, the operator of the 17-billion dollar PNG LNG project, is one of those companies concerned about threats to staff.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Peter Graham, Managing Director of Esso Highlands

Listen here !

11.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Electoral outstanding

By Aloysius Laukai

Electoral officials' lives and properties on Bougainville may be in danger after outstanding from the National General election remains unpaid due to no funds.

And officials from the districts remain in Buka since June in the hope of getting these funds and settling payments for cars used during elections, caterers and other service providers to election officials.

A assistant returning officer from one of the notorious areas of Bougainville told New Dawn FM that he has remained in Buka since the counting because service providers are waiting for him at home and the Provincial Electoral Office remains silent on these issues.

When contacted by New Dawn FM the Bougainville Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU said that all calculations have been made and sent to headquarters but they have been waiting since July.

NEW DAWN FM understands that if these outstanding remain it would be very difficult to run a bye-election for 3 vacant seats in the ABG house of representatives.

The three seats are for Hagogohe constituency left vacant when former member, ROBERT HAMAL SAWA resigned to contest the National election, seat for RURE constituency was left vacant after the former member, PAUL MITU died and the seat for PEIT was left vacant as the member and former Bougainville Premier, Dr. Alexius Sarei is down due to old age.

10.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Government plans JSB meeting

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE long-awaited Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between the Government of PNG and the Autonomous Bougainville Government is set to take place next month.

This is according to the PNG Government chief secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc.

Mr Zurenuoc proposed that this meeting should take place between October 10-23.

He said he would now hold discussions with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to set the exact date for the proposed timeframe for the JSB meeting to convene.

The proposed dates were set following a preliminary discussion on the Referendum and Autonomous arrangements review of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville held in Buka last Thursday.

This one-day discussion was held between the PNG Government officers led by Mr Zurenuoc and their counterparts from the ABG.

Mr Zurenuoc also clarified that the JSB meetings were not held towards the end of last year due to the political instability faced by PNG.

This was following the unceremonious dumping of Sir Michael Somare and the election of Peter O'Neill as the new Prime Minister.

The last JSB meeting was held in February last year.

The JSB is made up of leaders from both the PNG Government and the ABG. It is through this meeting that important issues like the drawdown of powers and functions from PNG to the ABG are discussed.

Meanwhile, the announcement by Mr Zurenuoc for the JSB meeting to convene is a welcome sign for many positive changes to take place in Bougainville.

Many Bougainvilleans have been criticising the ABG leaders, saying there was lack of progress towards full autonomy taking place. They said this was because there had been no JSB meeting held since early last year.

10.09.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Christianity a problem for us: it drives people off the plot

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, CHRISTIANITY is an impediment to any form of human development in Bougainville, apart from the spiritual.

From the simple exaggerated Bible-based teachings, Christianity creates a senseless fear in the minds of our population on our economically-struggling island.

I was born and brought up in a hardcore Catholic family. In my life was nothing secular, just religion and its ways.

Reflecting, it is obvious I've lost so many opportunities that would have made me someone to make a positive contribution to society much earlier. It could have been different if my parents had brought me up in a balanced life culture—secular and religious.

My life was a struggle for the unknown good things in Heaven. My father was an auto-mechanic with the gone Bougainville Copper Limited. He never bothered to teach me how to dismantle and reset the injector pump of a diesel Toyota Hilux. But I knew Christianity.

Translating this into nation building, Christianity is a serious problem because it is leading the Bougainville people in the wrong direction.

I say this because, if you read the Christianity's book of principles, the Bible, it is a book of contradictions. It needs an educated Bougainvillean to read between the lines; not the poor illiterate of society.

Getting the population of Bougainville educated is our goal to realise our ambition for nationhood.

I accept the fact that development comes into society through a man's understanding and learning of the basics of economics and politics. These are not spiritual aspects of life. They are the fundamental bases to drive Bougainville forward.

Christianity can come into play when all loopholes are sealed and the island's governing machinery is steaming forward. An educated population is the only group which can navigate a beneficial way between secularism and Christianity.

Christianity's ritual of conversion has created fanatics across Bougainville. These converts have, with the unprecedented power of spirituality, condemned education, money and everything secular not worthy for the good of Man and Earth.

This is a sting to positive progress, for it is freely setting people off-track from Bougainville's national goals.

In late 1999, a bunch of my schoolmates at Arawa High School quit school because of the Christianity-promoted 2000 supposed end of the world!

Every afternoon after school I saw them preaching the Bible in the public places in town when Bougainville needed them in the classrooms.

Christianity can distract us from pursuing a path of personal, family, community and national development through education.

10.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ex students meet

By Aloysius Laukai

A total of 110 exstudents from the St. Marys Asitavi girls high school met at their old school to pledge support towards their old school.

Former principal of the school and wife of ABG President, Lady Elizabeth Momis told New Dawn Fm in Buka that the ex students association was looking at a number of fundraising activities to replace very old buildings still being used by the school.

And according to the weekend's program their association donated some money to the work of maintenance of the church building.

The gathering was used to unite ex students so that they can contribute some funds to the upgrading of the vey old buildings.

Last year New Dawn Fm Facilitated communications between the school and a sponsor from Europe who brought a Vsat for ASitavi high school.

07.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ARB review in Buka

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PRELIMINARY discussions on the Referendum and Autonomous arrangements review of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville were held yesterday in Buka.

This one-day discussions was held between government officers from both the PNG National Government and the Bougainville Administration.

The PNG government delegation which was led by Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc includes the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General Dr Lawrence Kalinoe and Director of the National Coordinating Office for Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) Ellison Towalom.

According to Mr Zurenuoc (picture), two main agendas which will be looked at during their discussions will be on the identification of how to review the autonomous arrangements and the preparations on how to conduct the referendum for the political future of Bougainville.

He said this round of discussions first started in May last year, but was stalled later during the political instability caused by the election of Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister in August last year.

With the formation of the new government already in place and all past political differences already buried, this now paves way for this review discussions to continue.

Mr Zurenuoc added that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has also thrown his support on these discussions.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc said the long-awaited K100 million funding for restorative and rehabilitative projects in Bougainville should be drawn down to the ABG this week. All hiccups preventing transfer of this funding has been fixed.

07.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Cocoa exports increase

THE total export value for cocoa year 2010 and 2011 reached K344,568 million, five percent or K16 million more than the previous cocoa year according to the latest Cocoa Market Report released by the Cocoa Board of PNG.



Cocoa Board of PNG acting Chief Executive Officer Barnabas Toreu said production for the cocoa year 2010 and 2011 reached 47,592 tonnes, an increase of approximately 21 percent or 8192 tonnes more than the previous cocoa year (2009/2010).

He said for the calendar year 2011, production totalled 47,954 tonnes, 16 percent higher (6562 tonnes) than production in 2010 adding that this was partly due to the big production output in East Sepik Province.

Total exports volume for 2010 and 2011 cocoa-year reached 47, 289 tonnes, approximately 21 percent higher than exports for the 2009 and 2010 cocoa year and total exports for the calendar year 2011 was 47,652 tonnes, 14 percent higher than exports in 2010.

Mr Toreu said total export value for the calendar year 2011 was K321 million which represented a decrease of eight percent compared to export earnings for the 2010 calendar year.

The lead producer provinces for the cocoa year 2010 and 2011 were the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and East Sepik Provinces at 36 percent each or 17,180 and 17,071 tonnes respectively followed by East New Britain Province with 16 percent (7527 tonnes) and Madang with 2053 tonnes.

06.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE LEADERS UNITE

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Bougainville will for the first time see their national parliament members attend the ABG HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE meeting next week when the house sit for the September session starting Tuesday.

According to the new Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA all four Bougainville national members, LAUTA ATOI the member for North Bougainville, Communications Minister and member for Central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringoro, the Minister for Bougainville affairs and Autonomy and member for South Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA and MR LERA himself will be present.

Mr. Lera said that the four national members will be attending the meeting as a united group unlike in the past and since the inception of autonomy for the region in 2005.

Regional member, Lera has assured the people of Bougainville that their members attendance compliments the recent reconciliation between the four national members and the ABG leadership in Port Moresby.

Mr. Lera said that in his term in office he will endeavour to work with three open members and the ABG to address the autonomy issues between the national government and the people of Bougainville through the ABG.

NEW DAWN FM understands that the four national members have never attended ABG HOUSE meetings at any one time together.

06.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Still out

By Aloysius Laukai

New Dawn FM would like to apologize to its viewers that due to power problems in Buka town they haven't been updating this site also they have stopped broadcasting completely until the problem is solved.

Also our back up power is yet to be connected to be able to act as a backup system.

We will try our best to keep this site updated regularly.

06.09.2012

Source: Asia Times

Gun violence rises in Papua New Guinea

By Catherine Wilson

BRISBANE - In Papua New Guinea, the largest island nation in Melanesia in the southwest Pacific, where more than 60% of major crimes involve guns, a burgeoning illegal arms trade is associated with lack of employment growth and low human security, with vulnerable communities suffering the consequences.

This is the case in the autonomous region of Bougainville in the east of the country, where disarmament remains elusive more than 10 years after a civil war fought over resource exploitation.



"Guns are now being used in domestic violence and armed robberies, and to settle land issues," said Helen Hakena (picture), director of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Bougainville.

"Recently there have also been armed hold-ups and shoot-outs between gun owners and police. Many people in Bougainville

now accept guns as a normal part of life."

Development and economic recovery in Bougainville have been slow over the past decade, and many issues from the civil war have not been resolved.

"We also see that guns are being traded between Bougainville and other parts of Papua New Guinea and across borders. People from the Highlands often come here to buy guns," Hakena said.

Gun violence is no stranger to the small Melanesian communities in this part of the world, which over the past quarter century have experienced the Bougainville independence struggle (1989 - 1998), civil war in the Solomon Islands (1999-2003), and four military coups in Fiji between 1987 and 2006.

In Bougainville, 20,000 people were killed and more than 60,000 displaced, while a "lost generation" of children were denied education and infrastructure was decimated. In the Solomon Islands, communities were ravaged by armed violence and arson, development came to a halt, and the local economy collapsed.

There has been no armed conflict in Melanesia - which comprises Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia - or the wider Pacific Islands for nearly a decade. But Gordon Nanau, a lecturer in politics and international affairs at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, said that was no reason for complacency.

"Whether there are serious conflicts or not, arms circulation should always be a big concern," he emphasized. "Pacific Islanders are concerned about the issue of illegal arms smuggling. With weapons around, communities are less safe, and supplies of arms passing through the Pacific must be discouraged at all costs."



The Pacific Islands account for a fraction of the global legal trade in small arms and light weapons estimated to be worth more than 8.5 billion dollars in 2012. However, there are 3.1 million civilian-owned firearms in the Pacific region, or one per ten people, which is 50% above the world average. And they outnumber those held by military and police forces by a ratio of 14:1.

Papua New Guinean civilians possess the largest number of guns in Melanesia, with an estimated 72,000 or 1.2 guns per 100 people, while police and defense forces hold approximately 19,000 firearms. New Caledonia is second with up to 50,000 civilian-held guns. And in the Solomon Islands, since disarmament, during which 90% of firearms were surrendered, there are believed to be 1,775 privately owned guns, or 0.35 per 100 people.

Gun violence is a serious issue in Papua New Guinea. The capital, Port Moresby, with a population of 450,000, has a murder rate of approximately 54 per 100,000 people, compared to an average global rate of less than 7 per 100,000 people.

And in the Southern Highlands, where an estimated 90% of firearms are illegally owned, 23% of households have been victimized by guns.

The Small Arms Survey, an independent research project located at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, concludes that crime is driven by the breakdown of traditional values, limited employment opportunities, inequality and disputes over resource ownership. Incentives for acquiring guns include self-defense and a sense of duty to defend tribal or clan interests.

And according to Oxfam International, "the impact of small arms is especially damaging in the Pacific region because of a lack of state capacity, corruption and the illegal sale and diversion of ammunition to armed groups and individuals."

The majority of firearms used in conflicts and crime in Melanesia have been leaked or stolen from legal police and military sources. The Small Arms Survey estimates up to 30% of guns in public holdings in Papua New Guinea are siphoned or sold to civilians and armed groups, with the illegal trade and smuggling of guns financed by politicians and the educated elite. Poverty and low wages have exacerbated corruption.

In 2005, Papua New Guinea's Guns Control Committee produced a report which made numerous recommendations for gun reforms. But these have never been acted upon.

There is also a known link between the trade in guns and drugs. In the Pacific Islands, the illicit commercial cultivation of marijuana has been identified in Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea, where it is regularly traded for firearms.

However, many law enforcement agencies in the Pacific Islands are under-funded, with limited capacity to implement existing gun laws or monitor the extensive maritime traffic between isolated and sparsely populated islands.

Today there are no regional agreements regulating arms transfers or the activities of arms brokers, while gun legislation varies across Pacific Island states.

The Pacific Islands Forum, an inter-governmental organization of 16 independent and self-governing island states, which is concerned about the threat posed by illegal guns and light weapons to stability and socioeconomic well-being, has endorsed the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons and initiated measures to address arms circulation.

The Model Weapons Control Bill was developed and accepted by member states in 2003, and was further updated in 2010 to include brokering provisions. The challenge is consistent application across states.

"The implementation of the Model Weapons Bill is a matter for members of the Pacific Islands Forum to consider based on their specific national priorities," a spokesperson for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat said.

"Some countries face immense firearm and law and order challenges and accordingly have undertaken activities to assess the issues they face and are working towards improving gun control and law and order."

Another regional initiative is the Pacific Transnational Crime Network, a collaboration of law enforcement, customs and immigration agencies across the Pacific, sponsored by the Australian Federal Police, which is working to build the capacity of island states to combat transnational crime.

But ultimately, reducing the quantities, circulation and misuse of guns in Melanesia also entails diminishing their demand through raising levels of development, socioeconomic equality and human security, and effectively tackling corruption.

05.09.2012

Source: EMTV

Basil opposition reply

05.09.2012

Source; EMTV

O'Neill says controls will be put in place to curb overspending

There is nothing to hide. There will be nothing hidden.

In his state of national address in the first proper parliament sitting yesterday, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill opened the session with the state of the country's economy.

Despite the economy's growth doing well, he said controls will be put in place to curb over spending especially by national and provincial departments.

Salome Vincent reports.

05.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

A bright future

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has outlined the Government's programs and work plans to take the country forward into the next five years.

He did this in his maiden State of the Nation address to parliament yesterday.

"I know the way ahead is not going to be easy for us but together we have the best possible opportunity in addressing many of these challenges."

The Prime Minister started off with the state of the economy which he says continues to be positive, recording unprecedented growth levels despite uncertainties and a lack of capacity to sustain that growth.

"Our economic policy and finance management team of ministers are best placed and will provide more details when each minister makes their ministerial statement in the days ahead." Mr O'Neill said.

"There is nothing to hide. There will be nothing hidden. "We are also committed to working inclusively with all our people both directly and indirectly, with businesses and churches, international community, donor agencies, to forge development alliances and secure new windows of development opportunities."

The Prime Minister then set out his Government's work program for the next five years with the thrust of the program about growing the future.

"For too long we have let opportunities to empower and enrich our citizens slip through our fingers.

This will not happen under our watch. Growing the future means growing, re-investing and diversifying the economy to maximise opportunities for our citizens.

Mr O'Neill said the policy drivers to achieve the desired future growth include free education and healthcare. He also targeted infrastructure maintenance and development and strengthening Law and Order.

The Prime Minister also outlined the Government's work plans for mining and petroleum, legislative reforms, anti-corruption measures, public sector reforms, public private partnership, foreign policy, policy approach, political stability and conduct of parliamentary business.

"These policy drivers are also directed at addressing our lowly rated social indicators of poor literacy levels, high maternal and infant mortality rates, inefficient law and order enforcement, ageing public sector workforce and declining state of our country's infrastructure."

He said the Government will strengthen the existing Public Private Partnership policy with new emphasis on growing domestic manufacturing, agri-business and the non-mineral sectors of our economy.

"Our Government is committed to working together with the private sector to forge strong development partnership in improving services such as telecommunications and energy by rebuilding institutions like Telikom and PNG Power, with the aim of turning them into efficient and reliable service providers," he said.

He said these service providers are seen in many countries as key drivers of a nation's economic and social development.

"Successful implementation of these policies, which are to be complimented by establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund, will provide our nation with long-term safeguards and buffers."

The Prime Minister said anti-corruption measures will include establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

"Our government has moved decisively to take the anti-corruption program forward and beyond what Task Force Sweep has done so far," he said. We are serious about stamping out corruption at all levels and all sectors of our nation."

He said the other Government priorities involve public sector reform, aimed at restoring efficiency in implementation and delivery of public and development services from Waigani right down to the provincial, district and community levels throughout Papua New Guinea. The Department of Personnel Management will be abolished and the Public Services Commission will be restructured to oversee the efficient performance of the Public Service," Mr O'Neill said.

"We hear our people's cry for change for a better life that reflects our national wealth. Our Government is determined not to fail them. Why should our people continue to remain poor in a rich country?"

The Prime Minister said the nation is at the door of big unprecedented economic progress and a very bright future. The onus is upon our Government to open that door to transform the wealth and opportunities therein into gains for people and the nation," he said.

Prime Minister O'Neill said the wait was over and this Government now has the chance to reset the development and wealth creation direction for the nation.

05.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Elders want grants

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Council of Elders in North Bougainville are calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to immediately make funds available and pay the COEs their outstanding grants.

The 14 COE chairmen say they have been banging on the ABG doors for the past eight months but without any success.

The plight of this highest of village governing bodies was revealed to the Post-Courier last week by the chairman of the Carterets COE, Bernard Tunim.

Mr Tunim, who represented his colleague chairmen, blasted the ABG saying they have been waiting anxiously for nearly a year now, without receiving any funds to operate their offices.

"They say that we are the second highest governing body on the ground after the ABG. Yet they are not paying us our grants to carry out our duties in the village level. How do they (ABG) expect us to perform our duties when they have not been funding us for the past eight months," Mr Tunim said.

"We are on fire by the people because the village court magistrates and those that have been rendering their services to us are still waiting for their payments. My question is for how long are we going to wait?"

"They say there is no money available, yet we see and hear of ABG officers flying back and forth between Port Moresby and Buka. If these officers were given funding to travel, why can't they do the same by paying us our COE grants," added Tunim.

He gave an example of his people, the Carterets Islanders who facing problems due to the effects of the climatic change.

05.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Dysentery in Bougainville claims lives

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE recent outbreak of dysentery in one of the most remote and mountainous areas on North Bougainville has already claimed the lives of some villagers.

According to reports, the outbreak at Melelup village in the Suir constituency area has already claimed eight lives.

Many more could have succumbed to the disease, but were luckily saved following the rapid deployment of health officers who managed to contain the sickness.

Health officers, led by the Selau/Suir district health officer (DHO) Rodney Sapaun had walked across rugged terrain and steep hills for over 13 hours before reaching the affected village.

Mr Sapaun said those who had succumbed to the outbreak were children between the ages of four and seven years old.

He said the dysentery outbreak first occurred in June, adding that if the villagers had reported the incident earlier on they would have saved the lives of these children.

“According to reports, the outbreak started after one of the dysentery patients admitted at the Buka hospital had decided to run away back to the village. While he was traveling on a vehicle back to Tinputz his body waste had come in contact with one of the village chiefs from Melelup. When the chief returned to his village, he may have somewhat passed on the bacteria to his children and then to the other villagers,” Mr Sapaun said.

Mr Sapaun said after assessing the situation, he saw that the outbreak had occurred due to total negligence by the villagers regarding their health and hygiene conditions.

“One of the reasons which led to the deaths of these children is that the villagers especially the parents are not concerned about the way they live. When we came here we saw that there were no toilets, resulting in the dysentery outbreak in the area. And so apart from treating the villagers, we also staged awareness campaigns on how they should look after their houses and village in terms of creating a healthy and hygienic environment. We also helped them build their toilets,” added Mr Sapaun.

Mr Sapaun said they will be leaving the area once they are sure that the outbreak has been contained.

Apart from the outbreak, the villagers were also faced with food shortages following continuous heavy downpour over the past months.

However, the Bougainville Disaster office in Buka had come to their rescue by chartering a chopper to airlift food rations into the area.

04.09.2012

Source: The National

MP wants Bougainville peace deal implemented

By ROBSON AKIS

REGIONAL member for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) Joseph Lera wants to ensure the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed by the PNG government in 2001 is fully implemented.



Lera (picture) would like to see MPs from the region working with the leaders of the Bougainville government to implement the agreement in preparation for the referendum in 2015.

Lera said the referendum might be three years away from Bougainville determining its own future and it was important for political leaders from the region to advance the peace agreement.

He said the choice made during the referendum would determine whether Bougainville remained as part of Papua New Guinea or became a separate nation.

“In order for Bougainvilleans to make informed choices for their destiny, the leaders must stand united on a common platform for service delivery to the people of Bougainville,” Lera said.

“I want to see that the ABG meetings are well attended by national MPs.”

Lera said he would employ a bottom up strategic plan to launch his political programmes starting with a 100 day activity plan to present his maiden speech in the national parliament and the House of Representatives in Buka.

This would be followed by a series of meetings with its three open MPs and ABG members to outline their areas of responsibility.

Other activities would include meetings and negotiations with development partners to identify and establish high-impact projects in each of the three electorates in Bougainville.

Lera also plans to establish a trade skills scholarship scheme for Bougainvilleans seeking to enhance their technical skills.

04.09.2012

Source: PNG EM-TV

Health issues to be included in Mining Agreements

Mining companies intending to operate in PNG in future are expected to submit as detailed health impact assessment reports before they are allowed to start work.

Acting Prime Minister Leo Dion made this known while opening the 48th Medical Symposium now underway in Port Moresby.

The health department is in talks with the mining department to amend some sections of the mining legislation to include their requirement.

Ruth Rungula with this report.

03.09.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K100m set for ABG

By Gorethy Kenneth

THE National Government is now ready to release the first K100 million to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

This is the first batch of funds from the K500 million the National Government promised to Bougainville specifically for impact projects in the region.

Finance Minister James Marape assured the ABG that the Finance Department was ready to disburse the K100m.

The funds have been sitting with the Department of Finance awaiting resolution of key issues including:

- * Whether or not to agree to the PIP process and guidelines for projects on Bougainville;
- * Whether the list of 75 projects submitted by the ABG for funding under the K100m is agreeable; and
- * Whether the Trust Instruments are sufficient to manage the disbursement of the K100m from the subsidiary Trust Account.

Leaders of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and their national Members of Parliament met for the first time since the formation of the new Government this week.

They discussed critical issues to progress the development of Bougainville.

ABG President John Momis, Vice President Patrick Nisira and Minister for Finance Albert Punghau met with the four Bougainville National MPs Joe Lera, Jimmy Miringtoro, Steven Pirika and Lautu Atoi.

Also present were national Minister for Finance James Marape, Secretary for Finance, Steven Gibson and officials from the Department of National Planning and the Office of Bougainville Affairs.

Chief Secretary to the Government Manasupe Zurenuoc, who mediated on behalf of the Prime Minister, said the meeting was for Bougainville leaders to consult each other and resolve key issues relating to the disbursement of the K100m that was allocated by the National Government to the ABG this year.

Mr Zurenuoc said he was extremely pleased with the outcome of the discussions between the leaders and commended them on behalf of the Prime Minister for their willingness to talk frankly and resolve issues.

During the discussions, Mr Marape assured the ABG that the Finance Department is ready to disburse the K100m. President Momis reminded the meeting of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and said that the K100m was desperately needed to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bougainville.

Mr Miringtoro said that high impact projects should be the focus of the K100m and urged the Department of National Planning to work closely with the people of Bougainville.

Mr Pirika also called for more transparency and accountability of funds released to the Bougainville administration.

Speaking on behalf of the three National MPs, Governor Joe Lera called for quick disbursement of the K100m while North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi demanded a more inclusive approach in project discussions to avoid duplication and unnecessary spending.

Mr Zurenuoc said there was strong support for a more participatory and consultative approach to engaging both national and ABG leaders in the development and peace-building process on Bougainville.

With that understanding, the leaders accepted and agreed to:

- * Use the PIP process and guidelines for projects on Bougainville. Director (NCOBA) will represent Bougainville's four national MPs on the Projects Steering Committee and report to them regularly on the outcomes of each committee meeting;
- * Abide by the project listing as contained in the 2012 Development Budget; and
- * Utilise the Trust arrangements already established to manage the disbursement of the K100m.

"The Bougainville people can be assured that their leaders are united and firm on ensuring that services are delivered," Mr Zurenuoc said.

02.09.2012

Source: Weekend Courier

Will there be referendum: Akoitai

By Gorethy Kenneth

PAPUA New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders have to tell the people of Bougainville whether there will be referendum in 2015 or not.

This is because time is running out and the main benchmarks, set under the Bougainville Peace Agreement that have not been addressed – for example – the Fiscal Self Reliance, Weapons Disposal Issue and Capacity Building to name a few.



Sam Akoitai (picture), speaking as former Bougainville Affairs Minister, a former rebel hardliner and a concerned Bougainville leader, also on behalf of the people of Bougainville, said yesterday that time is running

out and that it is better to talk about referendum now before it falls flat on people's faces.

"It's better to say it now rather than leave it until late 2015 and frustrate the people again," Mr Akoitai said. I am calling on ABG and the PNG Governments to tell the people of Bougainville and PNG whether there will be referendum in 2015. The Bougainville Peace Agreement was a creation for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government., they both must work together to ensure the BPA is fully implemented before 2015. There are benchmarks in the BPA that needs to be addressed immediately," he said. The BPA is a double entrenchment agreement and there will be difficulties making amendments if leaders start thinking of an extension of time to referendum."

Mr Akoitai, who also went on Radio Australia before an interview with the Post-Courier said yesterday despite him not being a leader in the ABG and PNG Government's specifically on Bougainville, he was very concerned that still and he says that there has not been any progress so far.

Yesterday ABG President Momis met with Acting PM Leo Dion over ABG issues also including the K100 million...

Bougainville has just two years to address pressing issues before it can talk on referendum for independence.

This week Acting Prime Minister Leo Dion met with ABG President John Momis to discuss the way forward for Bougainville. Details of the meeting had not been disclosed, but the Post-Courier was reliably told that it was on the K100 million funding from the National Government and outstanding Joint Supervisory Body meeting and the Referendum issue.

02.09.2012

Source: Weekend Courier

Mining policies under review

Mining Minister Hon Byron Chan (picture) said his ministry under the leadership of the Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM) and support from the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) was reviewing various mining policies and laws.



He said this on Thursday Aug 30 when he visited MRA and DMPGM which are government agencies under his ministry, responsible for the regulation of the mining industry (MRA) and creation of mining policies and laws (DMPGM).

The Minister said the review aimed to address predominant issues faced by the mining sector today and in the future.

These issues include mineral ownership and royalty.

Mr Chan said most of these policies and legislations were at their final drafting stages and that he hoped to table some of them in Cabinet and Parliament towards the later part of this year and early next year.

Policies and regulations that are being reviewed include the Mining Act 1992, Mining Safety Act and Mining Policy among others.

Hon Chan said it was the will of this government that resource landowners and communities around the country must be given more recognition and attention in as far as resource benefits are concerned.

"With this intention, the review of these mining policies and laws are aimed at achieving this same objective without causing much harm to the profits of the mining companies."

The leader said he acknowledges the achievements and challenges faced by the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) and the Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM).

“By visiting these organizations, I now understand the achievements, the shortfalls and the constraints and challenges that they are going through.

“It is now my duty to take leadership in driving the regulatory responsibilities of my ministry and to assist these entities address impediments that are denying us from delivering on our mandate,” said Hon Chan.

The Minister said that at DMPGM, the current building housing the department was a fire hazard and was condemned and not worthy for his professional staff to work in.

He said the building must be replaced with a new one and that his priority was to secure funding for a new building.

“I will also be looking at addressing the terms and conditions and housing for these professional employees.

“It is important that we retain these professional staff to drive policy and legislative initiatives of the mining sector.”

The Minister said the MRA was faced with a high turn-over of staff because the institution was losing its staff to more lucrative mining and petroleum companies in PNG and overseas.

He said his duty was to address this matter.

He said the MRA Act 2005 must be amended to address impediments that are constraining the organization from delivering its mandate effectively and efficiently.

01.09.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS HAPPY MAN

By Aloysius Laukai



ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS is happy that the new national leadership under Prime Minister PETER O'NEIL was able to respond positively to Bougainville's

Case after meeting with them last weekend.

President MOMIS made these remarks at the Buka airport this afternoon after returning from PORT MORESBY with his delegation which included the Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA, Finance Minister, ALBERT PUNGHAU, Planner, LESLIE TSERAHA and the Chief Administrator, LAWRENCE DISIN.

ABG President said that meetings with the Acting Prime Minister, LEO DION, Public service minister, DR. PUKA TEMU, TREASURER, DON POLYE and the chief secretary

were very promising. He said that the long awaited ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA and including the FIFTEEN MILLION KINA Reconstruction funds for last year and this year were also approved.

President MOMIS will make other announcements at a press conference on Monday. Pictured is President Momis welcomed at the Buka airport this afternoon.

News 10.2012

31.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FULL SUPPORT

By Aloysius Laukai

Prime Minister PETER O'NEILL says that the national government will fully support the Autonomous Bougainville Government with funding to come out from its financial problems it is facing today.

He said that the O'NEILL/DION government was committed to the peace process on Bougainville and has already released the much talked about ONE MILLION KINA for Bougainville.

The Prime Minister made these comments when answering to a series of questions raised by the newly elected Regional member for Bougainville, HON JOE LERA who wanted to know if Export levies for Bougainville currently collected by East New Britain province through exports of Bougainville's Cocoa and Copra can be paid back to Bougainville.

MR.LERA said that Bougainville's sweat were not being felt on Bougainville because all these exports were done in East New Britain Province.

He said every week 50 to 100 Bougainville Businessmen travel to Rabaul to do shopping at the Hardwares and Wholesales as Bougainville still has to develop these infrastructures.

The member said that all Bougainville monies end up to places like RABAUL.LAE and PORT MORESBY in this way.

Prime Minister in his response said that he would be talking with the Minister for Treasury and would respond to him in writing.

He stressed the need for Bougainville to be supported by the government.

31.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Officials at the Sandline Inquiry

by EPHATA SAMUEL

The Sandline Inquiry continues from last week

On Monday April 28, 1997, Cabinet secretary Peter Eka, Prime Minister's department secretary Noel Levi and Defence secretary James Melegepa appeared before the Sandline Inquiry to give evidence.

Cabinet Secretary Peter Eka said that sacked commander Jerry Singirok had complained it was taking "far too much time" in finalising the Sandline contract.

Mr Eka told the inquiry General Singirok had visited unheralded and complained about State Solicitor Zachery Gelu taking too long to clear the Sandline contract.

This was a few days before the contract was finalised and signed on January 31.

Mr Eka said during that visit General Singirok was also worried about the Rimbink Pato case and the safety and security of documents and asked him where he kept his.

"I sort of showed him to the safe that contained those documents and I took it from that, it was the reason why he came to see me," he said.

General Singirok delivered a letter calling for an urgent meeting including with Internal Revenue collections director, Controller of Customs and Foreign Affairs officials.

The meeting would cover exemption of communications and military hardware, entry visas and the employment of trainer and consultants.

"As a matter of urgency I need to clear some communications equipment held up at customs and immigration while other items coming in need to be allowed entry without delay... I am willing to brief the key players and wish to commence without delay," the January 20, 1997 letter by General Singirok read.

Mr Eka said he had no prior knowledge of Sandline until a January 15 National Security Council meeting and had gone ahead then to call a meeting between Attorney General Sao Gabi, acting Finance chief James Loko and Transport and Works Secretary Miria Ume.

The meeting was to tell them of the Security Council decision to engage Sandline and that they had a part each in implementing it. He said Mr Ume was called so he could be shown the decision that tender procedures had been waived.

Internal Revenue Commission chief David Sode was also phoned and referred to a Singirok letter asking for a tax clearance certificate on communications hardware, ammunition, explosive, planes and other military accessories.

The inquiry also heard that Mr Eka had signed a letter drafted by PM's Department Deputy Secretary Nau Badu to General Singirok outlining Sir Julius' intentions about the special force unit. He also swore he had never met, spoken with or seen Tim Spicer and was never aware of the setting up of a palace guard.

He said General Singirok had never expressed opposition against Sandline or mentioned his intended actions of protest.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister's Department Secretary Noel Levi said that the British High Commissioner in Port Moresby had told him he "should not touch Plaza 107" (or Sandline International).

He told the Sandline commission that he made inquiries in July last year after receiving a fax from Plaza 107 offering their services to help stop the Bougainville conflict.

He asked the British High Commissioner if he knew anything about Plaza 107, and received the cautionary response without anything else being said and no explanation as to why he should "not touch" Plaza 107.

He said a London barrister had been asked to check on Plaza 107 and had provided information over the telephone. Mr Levi said he had known the barrister during his days as PNG's High Commissioner in London, but he did not want to say his name and instead wrote it on a piece of paper for the inquiry team only. He said Plaza 107's fax was the third private offer after the Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan had rejected two earlier offers by an organisation from Russia and an Australian expatriate who was living in the country but had since left.

The information supplied by the barrister on Plaza 107 was submitted to Sir Julius and no-one else.

Mr Levi said he had no prior knowledge of Plaza 107, Sandline or Sandline executive Tim Spicer, and was only making inquiries on behalf to the Prime Minister as his job required.

Sir Julius had handwritten "reject" and "File Bougainville" on the information about Plaza 107 supplied by Mr Levi.

Mr Levi said he was on leave from December 18 to February 2, and the next he heard of Sandline was when he was briefed on February 3 by Peter Eka and Defence Secretary James Malegepa, and told that the Government was engaging the British military consultancy company.

He said he was not surprised that the Government had engaged Sandline after rejecting Plaza 107 (the same organisation), and had simply accepted it as something the Government had decided.

Also, he said, it had never been pointed out to Sir Julius that Plaza 107 and Sandline were the same organisation and no further inquiries were made.

"I did not see any need for it because the decision had been taken," he said. "My job was to implement it."

Defence Secretary James Melegepa told the Sandline Inquiry that he and several other government officials had negotiated the contract without having previous documents or the proposal by Sandline International.

Mr Melegepa agreed that this type of negotiating was “quite unusual.”

He also agreed that “it was not normal”, especially when they were negotiating something for which there was a fixed decision from which people could not retract.

“The other party (Sandline) cannot retract from that so therefore it was not a negotiation at all,” he said.

The negotiating team included Mr Melegepa, Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, Deputy Finance Secretary Vele Iamo and State Solicitor Zachary Gelu.

Mr Melegepa said Rupert McCowan (Jardine Fleming’s Hong Kong based officer), who was earlier in the negotiating room at a Finance Department office, had been asked by Deputy Prime Minister Chris Haiveta to help and had said he would speed up the contract processing.

The negotiation was done through a long distance telephone call – a conference all – with a director of Sandline, a Mr Grunberg.

Mr Gelu had been emphatic that the contract should be for 12 months and not three months, to allow for the transfer of technology, training pilots and so on.

Other concerns raised at the negotiation and later presented to Mr Haiveta included the contract period of three months being too short, logistical support in terms of fuel, oil and lubricants and who should pay for those things, and sustainability and maintenance costs and “that the second payment is not linked to the achievement of the objective of the contract”.

Mr Haiveta was informed of the concerns, which he noted.

Mr Melegepa said General Singirok was the only one among them who had possession or had seen a copy of the proposal.

He said the commander did not raise any objections at the negotiations because, as he understood it, it had been put already to the General Singirok that he needed a contract at any payment, even for the State to make payments for anything.

The Defence Secretary said he was never happy with the contents of the proposed contract.

“I still held the view that it (contract) was too expensive and we still not had enough time to have a look at other options,” he said.

More on the Sandline Inquiry next week.

31.10.2012

Source: The National

O’Neill: Movement of Bougainville people needs controlling

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill says the movement and activities of people in Bougainville need to be controlled.

After receiving reports that private planes were using the Aropa airport and other abandoned airstrips in Bougainville, he said the Autonomous Government of Bougainville needed to work with the Airport Corporation to fix the airport and monitor movement of people and illegal activities in the area.

He said an uncontrolled movement of people would breed more illegal activities and cause major problems for the government.

Speaking during question time in parliament yesterday, he said the ABG also needed to improve other infrastructure using funds from the government allocation.

O’Neill said the government had dispatched K100 million of the annual funding to the ABG and another K15 million was given to upgrade infrastructure such as the Aropa airport, Arawa town and its infrastructure, the Buka ring road and other roads such as the Buin highway.

He said his government was committed to assisting the people of Bougainville on the restoration of service.

Since Bougainville is a largest cocoa producing province in the country, it will benefit from the government subsidy for cocoa and copra,” O’Neill said.

He said the government would subsidise the prices of cocoa and copra farmers and a similar scheme would be extended to other cash crops such as coffee and oil palm.

30.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG strategise on security, arms

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) now has a peace, security and weapons disposal strategy to address a key pillar of the Bougainville Peace Agreement on Autonomy Implementation and Weapons Disposal.



The Weapons Disposal strategy was passed by the Bougainville Executive Council on October 11, in Buka, Bougainville.

This is the first time since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001 that the ABG has in place a plan to address the disposing of firearms used during the Bougainville conflict — spanning over a decade that claimed more than 15,000 lives.

The strategy will guide all stakeholders towards achieving the Bougainville Peace Agreement requirement to dispose of allegedly more than two thousand firearms that are believed to still be in the possession of former combatants.



Vice President of the ABG, Patrick Nisira who provides leadership to the initiative expressed his appreciation for the commitment shown by the various levels of Government to contribute to the operation of the strategy to rid the communities of the growing threats of arms. “We have come a long way consolidating this mechanism; it is the outcome of wider consultations, and a new focus on community-driven approach to peace with security and arms disposal enforcement”.

Nisira said the Peace and Security and Weapons Disposal strategy grants ownership of the Peace Building Process to the local communities and encourages an all-inclusive participatory concept to the process.



Weapon removal in Torokina in 2010

The plan also ensures that the weapons issue is approached through co-ordinated and elective integration programmes devised to empower community confidence with a more interactive and systematic approach to fostering and sustaining development.

“In the past we have lacked a structure to guide the overall implementation of the Peace Process. With the new structure, the ABG will manage these implementation activities within a guided process,” he said.

“This strategy is action oriented to mitigate increased crime, carry out a government and community joint strategy on weapons disposal and effectively address weaknesses that may be identified in long term security and law and order enforcement mechanisms.”

Nisira added that the new strategy is more integrated — capturing peace building, socio-economic and political integration, resource governance and more importantly the security and elimination of arms from the region.

The new approach is community-driven. It promotes collective responsibility (Government and citizens) for security, with relevant institutional and legislative backing provided by the autonomous government.

Nisira acknowledged all stakeholders who had assisted in the development of the strategy and urged that they contribute to the implementation of the guidelines set out.

This strategic approach encourages equal participation from all levels of Government; the ABG, National Government, ex-combatants, donor partners and the civil society,” he said.

He especially thanked United Nations Development Program Bougainville mission for playing an instrumental role in the design of the strategy and urged that they continue to support in maintaining regular technical assistance for the full implementation and actualisation of the strategy.

30.10.2012

Source: The National

Somare, Chan pay respect

TWO former prime ministers and founding fathers of the nation, Sir Julius Chan and Sir Michael Somare, paid their respects at a state funeral for the late Sir Donatus Mola at the Hahela Catholic church in Buka last Friday.

Sir Donatus was described as a lifetime friend and a colleague to both men who shared vast experience and collaboration in pre-independence Papua New Guinea.

Along with the two knights was Parliament Speaker Theo Zurenuoc.

All three arrived from Port Moresby to attend the requiem mass for the late Sir Donatus and personally share their condolences with the family and the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

Members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government led by yet another founding father, President John Momis, attended the mass as well.

30.10.2012

Source: The National

Sir Donatus loved people, leaves behind a legacy, says Chan

FORMER prime minister, Peoples Progress Party founder and New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan conveyed his condolences to the family and people of Bougainville on the death of party co-founder and life member, Sir Donatus Mola.

Sir Julius described the late Sir Donatus as “a man genuinely in unison with the people he loved and represented, leaving behind a legacy that is shared with only a few pioneer politicians including Sir Michael Somare, Sir John Guise, Sir Albert Maori Kiki, Sir Barry Holloway and Sir Peter Lus, to name a few”.

He said the late Sir Donatus lived a distinguished life as the first North Bougainville MP and the country's first information and extension (communication) minister and commerce and business development and health minister.

He said as communication minister in 1974, Sir Donatus launched the NBC New Ireland, originally known as Maus blong Solwara Antap.

“He was instrumental in the selection of the PNG flag and the designing of the national crest as a member of the Second House of Assembly Select Committee on Constitutional Development in late 1970, along with Sir Matiabe Yuwi, Ross Johnson Wally Lussick, Mat Toliman, John Middleton, Alan Kerr, Sinake Giregire, Tei Abal, Geoff Littler, Paulus Arek and Tom Leahy.

“This was a man with vision that together with those who have left us and those still surviving sat down in the early years of a young nation of PNG to deliberate and convince our people that PNG was ready for independence 37 years ago.”

Sir Julius said the immediate family had lost a loving father and grandfather, a man with staunch beliefs in democracy and self-governance for his country.

“The passing of Sir Donatus leaves only three of the original founders of the People's Progress Party, Warren Dutton, Daniel Bokap and myself.

“We shall miss him as we continue with the PPP vision,” Sir Julius said.

He said Sir Donatus showed commitment to the PPP at its inception in 1968.

On behalf of his government, and party president Brown Sinamoi, ministers Ben Micah and Byron Chan, Speaker Theo Zurenuoc and supporters of PPP throughout the country, Sir Julius thanked the family for the wonderful and matchless contribution Sir Donatus made to his country.

“Sir Donatus was a rare and valuable colleague and friend.

“We shall all miss him.”

29.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG's plan to open mine criticised

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government's mission to fast-track the re-opening of the Panguna Mine in Central Bougainville is now drawing criticisms from many people on the island.

One of those who have always been vocal about the issue on the mine's reopening is the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) general commander Sam Kauona.



Mr Kauona (pictured) revealed that the ABG was now in the process of amending Section 23 of the Bougainville Constitution which states that the landowners have total rights and control over minerals that is found in their land.

He said the ABG was now planning of amending this Mineral Rights law so that all minerals will become the property of the State.

He claimed that an "Australian sponsored lawyer" (name) had already conducted a three-day comprehensive workshop with President John Momis and his Cabinet at the ABG Parliament House about a fortnight ago.

Mr Kauona said their main focus of discussion was about the new Mining Laws and who should hold the title for the Mineral Rights.

He said this lawyer had emphasised that minerals were not owned by the people, adding that their only right was for gardening and living on those resources.

This lawyer had stressed that the people who claimed that they owned the minerals did not know what was underground or their value so the State had the power as it governed both the land and people.

Mr Kauona claimed that this lawyer was able to convince the ABG Cabinet and had put the ABG in a position to have Section 23 changed so that the ABG would take ownership of these minerals.

"I'm going to tell (this lawyer) and President Momis that I fought the foreign "inserted concept" (Law) and got rid of it. I'm here to write new laws governing my land, my resources and paramount of all, my people," Mr Kauona said.

He said the old laws were gone and he was here to change, especially resource laws, whether it was the fish, timber, minerals or hydrocarbon laws.

Mr Kauona was also asked by this reporter to comment on the recent statement made by President Momis during the recently held JSB meeting in Kokopo, regarding the ABG's move to fast track the reopening of the Panguna.

Mr Kauona gave a big laugh and said he had waited almost a year for his exploration licence but the Government had directed all its focus on the Panguna issue.

He said he would not comment on that but wanted the ABG President to reply to the petition which they had presented to him a few weeks ago.

Meanwhile, a two-day mining workshop was currently underway in Arawa.

The workshop, which started yesterday, was to get views from all stakeholders to legislate a temporary Mining Policy which would be presented in the next ABG parliament sitting scheduled to be held in December.

Mr Kauona, who is also the vice chairman of the Isina Resources Holdings Ltd is attending the workshop, along with five other landowner companies that have registered for mineral exploration licences.

ESBC: Sam Kauona is the Bougainville spearhead of notorious conman and backdoor player Lindsay Semple and his Canadian MORUMBI Inc. gang ! [Find out more here!](#)

29.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Dare sets to work in new portfolio

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

MEMBER for Eivo/Torau in the Bougainville House of Representatives Melchior Dare can now perform his duties as the new Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches.

Mr Dare takes over the ministerial responsibilities from his predecessor during a handover-takeover ceremony which was held last Wednesday in Buka.

Former Minister for Community Development and South Bougainville women's representative in the Bougainville House of Representatives Rose Pihei has now been moved to the Ministry for Culture and Tourism.

Mrs Pihei, before handing over the portfolio to Mr Dare, said she was very happy with the outcomes achieved during her term as the minister.

She said after assessing all her achievements, she concluded that she was only able to achieve 30 per cent of her aims and plans.

Mrs Pihei, however, challenged Mr Dare to continue on from where she had left. She also offered her support to Mr Dare.

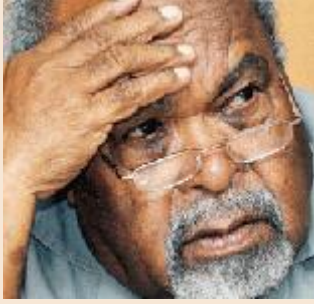
29.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Former PM's arrive in Buka

By Tapo Tovilu





**Former PNG Prime Ministers: Sir Julius Chan
and Sir Michael Somare**

Two former Prime Ministers of Papua New Guinea Sir Julius Chan and father of the Nation Sir Michael Somare arrived last Friday in Buka.

Their trip was to attend the funeral service of Late Member for North Bougainville in the Pre Independence National Parliament, Sir Donatus Mola who died last week.

Present at the airport to receive both members was ABG president Dr John Momis and his cabinet.

While giving his welcome Momis said that another former member who helped to build Papua New Guinea and Bougainville had passed.

He said the late Donatus was a colleague and a friend to all and his passing was a loss to Bougainville.

The two former members departed at 2pm after the funeral service held at Hahela Parish.

29.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG education division on track

THE education division in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is successfully implementing transferred powers and functions from the National Department of Education (NDoE) and Teaching Service Commission (TSC), chief executive officer Bruno Babato said.

He said the NDoE had already transferred 63 powers and functions to ABG and the TSC had transferred 39 powers and functions.

“It is pleasing to state that transferred powers and functions are being implemented successfully,” he said.

“Additional powers and functions will be transferred depending on the capacity of Autonomous Bougainville Government.”

Babato said two memorandums of understanding were signed on Feb 17 last year between the NDoE and ABG; and TSC and ABG.

“Since then the National Education Board had approved the establishment of a joint implementation group (JIG) in its first meeting of 2011 after the signing of the MoUs.

The JIG membership comprises the Department of Education, Teaching Services Commission and Autonomous Bougainville Government.”

He said the roles and functions of JIG were to draw up policy guidelines on implementation of transferred powers and functions, supervise the implementation of transferred powers and functions to ABG, assess the progress of the implementation of transferred powers and functions to ABG and report on the implementation of transferred powers and functions to appropriate authorities in the ABG and the national government.

He said the Bougainville Desk was established in November 2011 at National Department of Education.

Babato said curriculum and legislation sub-committees were established and workshops held for the sub-committees to discuss and develop the action plan for ABG curriculum, while the legislation committee was to prepare drafting instructions for Bougainville Education Bill.

"However for ABG to fully realise the aims and objectives of autonomy in terms of providing education services, adequate funding is a vital factor that must be seriously addressed as sufficient funding is needed to effectively implement the MOUs," Babato said.

"Some of the transferred powers and functions including school registration, development of curriculum in elementary and the technical vocational education sectors, operational costs for standard officers and the ALESCO payroll are national functions that have not been performed by the ABG division of education before.

"As such, these will require their inclusion in the annual budget for these powers and functions to be performed."

28.10.2012

Source: SCOOP

New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs McCully to visit Papua New Guinea



Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully (pictured) will travel to Papua New Guinea today to meet members of the new government, including Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Foreign Minister Rimbink Pato.

The meetings will include discussions on Asia-Pacific regional issues, trade and investment links, aid, and **political and economic developments in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.**

Following the meetings in Port Moresby, Mr McCully will travel to the Highlands region with Mr Pato for a first-hand look at economic development, agriculture and energy opportunities.

"This visit comes at an important juncture in the relationship between Papua New Guinea and New Zealand," Mr McCully says.

"I will be meeting with a new PNG government, formed after elections in July for which New Zealand provided vital logistical support."

Mr McCully will be accompanied by a small business delegation.

28.10.2012

Source: EMTV

Bana gains access to health services at last

About eight thousand people in the Bana area of Central Bougainville now have health services closer to them with the opening of a new hospital.

Located less than an hour from the Panguna Mine, the Morotona facility was built with funding from another mine, Ok Tedi.

The project was also supported by the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville.

27.10.2012

Source: Weekend-Courier

THE PASSING OF A LEGEND

A Great Statesman, A Great Legacy

By Gorethy Kenneth



BOUGAINVILLE and Papua New Guinea has lost yet another leader in Sir Donatus Mola (pictured) who died on Saturday last week from medical struggle leaving behind a big legacy, a huge family and a great following. This is one man who has had a hand in the history making of Papua New Guinea, one man who stood behind the Father of the Nation, PNG's first Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and who made sure his children, grand children, great grand children and that of PNG see his hand in the making. Sir Donatus Mola helped Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare shape and take Papua New Guinea to independence in 1975 the hard but smooth way. I had the privilege and honour to share my last two hours with him for an interview back in Buka in 2011 when he was down with asthma. It was the time when Grand Chief Sir Michael was going through his medical treatment in Singapore last year. He gave me his full life history. But this "young old man" I always called him – my bubu, was always a happy man, smiling but always asked me if I had spoken to his brother Sir Michael. "Bubu, can you call Somare, my brother? I want

him to buy my ticket and I will fly to go and see him," Sir Donatus would say to me every time we met (and that was occasionally) in Buka. "You know, my bubu," he lifts his head up to speak, "we only had enough money in the past, not much as we see today, and Bougainville Copper was helping us big time, that's why I had the upper hand. Mi save kusai osem Bougainville i mekim kamap planti moni. Mi laikim wanem, Somare bai tok yesa, mitupla save koros, tasol mi save tokim em, brata, bai mi stopim mine sapos yu no harim mi," he said. Sir Donatus would sob in between his interview repeatedly saying "bubu, I am always praying for my brother Michael to recover. I know I am not well now, but my bubus still need him. He will be okay," he had said then in our last interview in 2011. He would talk about his days travelling seven continents of the world as a minister and at times standing in as the Prime Minister when Sir Michael was busy back in PNG. Sir Donatus spoke highly of his relationship with Sir Tei Abal, Sir Matiabe Yuwi, Ross Johnson, John Middleton, Alan Kerr, Sir Sinake Giregire, Geoff Littler, Paulus Arek and Tom Leahy and Sir Paul Lapun He was Bougainville's first North Bougainville MP and the country's first Information and Extension (Communication) Minister and also Commerce and Business Development and Health minister. One thing that he was always proud talking about when we would sit for a chat was the fact that Sir Michael Somare vested on him and Sir Paul Lapun - first south Bougainville MP to negotiate PNG into independence and how they played instrumental roles in negotiating for factions to vote for independence. "When Papua New Guinea was preparing to go into independence, the whole Highlands faction was against it because the kiaps brainwashed them and told them that 'ol nambis bai rulim kantri na yupla bai nogat'." "Somare at that time lost hope in negotiating these highlanders coming to terms with the Southern, New Guinea islands and the Momase for independence. These Highlanders did not want independence. "So Somare sent me to Mount Hagen and Sir Paul Lapun to Goroka to try and talk them into agreeing with us. I basically told the blokes in Hagen, if you don't agree with us now, we Bougainvilleans will break up and take our copper mine money away and you will suffer. That's what I told Sir Paul Lapun to relay to the Goroka group too. We both successfully returned to Somare with good news and that's it! We gained independence from Australia. "I am also the person that chose the flag we fly today. The Highlands, Momase and Southern regions settled for a blue and white and some other coloured flag. "Ol i laikim kala kala laplap, mi lukim ahh, mi no laik," he said smiling and nodding his head, saying in language, "bregina Somare" (that

Somare)... “I was not satisfied with the flags they were choosing, I refused them because there was no representation of Bougainville inside - the colour black. “Mi no laik,” mi tokim Somare! “So when I saw the one we fly today, I told Somare to fly with me to Kerema and officially bring it and announce it because it contained the colour I was after - black!” So this young old man was smart, a teacher cum politician and later a simple businessman. He was the first Bougainvillean to own a telephone in remote Lemankoa village, a farmer and he was well respected everywhere he turned up. This man, also told in our interview of how he adopted, now one of Papua New Guinea’s top gynecologists Dr Glen Mola. But this Statesman, come every independence day, the ABG would always make sure he was picked up from his Haria, Lemankoa home, as was Sir Paul Lapun - to thank them and make them feel part of the community and show respect as Bougainville’s pioneer MPs. Sir Donatus stood tall in front of the PNG flag in Buka last year Independence, saluting it remembering the days of the formation of self government even the choosing of the PNG flag. He cried as the flag was raised and sang the Anthem with pride, looking up, with tears rolling down, he looked down to wipe the tears and simply put his hand on the left side of his chest to sing “Papua New Guinea” as the crowd ended the Anthem and he saluted with his totally white teeth shining from afar! May you rest in Peace my bubu! And I know my bubu Lina is smiling to have you by her side! I miss you and am in tears as I write this, smiling at the stories you told and being the privileged to have listened to your secrets, your history and all your life doings!

27.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE LEADING

By Aloysius Laukai

The UNDP Chief technical officer on Bougainville, TONY AGYENTA has praised the people of South Bougainville for supporting their youths and minimizing criminal activities in South Bougainville.

He told NEW DAWN FM in Arawa that South Bougainville a branded notorious criminal haven has changed and is now focusing on developing their areas.

He was speaking after returning from South Bougainville yesterday.



MR. AGYENTA said that uncontrolled drunkards on the streets now can be seen in Buka and Arawa towns whilst in the South the chiefs are working with their Police and former combatants to stop the brewing of homebrew in their communities.

The UNDP Chief Technical Officer also questioned why more bottle shops have been approved in Buka town in the last six months.



He said the ABG must do something to reverse this as it was only creating problems for the region.

He said whilst the UNDP was trying to assist the government to improve law and order, the liquor commissioner was approving Bottle shops everywhere resulting in the rise of illegal activities.

New Dawn FM was unable to talk to the Liquor Commissioner regarding this story.

27.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONNECTING TO GOVERNMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

The UNDP Chief Technical Advisor on Bougainville ANTHONY AGYENTA yesterday told participants of the South Bougainville Development and Technical Meeting to make sure that their work is connected to the government network.



He was explaining on the processes that can connect the districts to the headquarters in Buka.

MR. AGYENTA said that if the head of the government was strong and the legs were weak it would naturally collapse.

He told the participants that this training was to help them strengthen the legs of the government so that it can be able to stand.

MR. AGYENTA said this can be done by strengthening the coordinating structure of the administration.

He said that Properly planning, collecting and storing data base and monitoring is the way the districts must develop their capacity to support the Government and its administration of which they were serving in the districts.

He stressed that when people are not connected to their government they will simply lose confidence in their government which in turn could lead to more problems for the region.

MR. AGYENTA said that UNDP will support the administration to build the capacity needed to support the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

27.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LOCALS STAYED BACK

By Aloysius Laukai

The leaders in South Bougainville yesterday questioned why Bougainvilleans in the Bougainville administration cannot visit the districts.

The Executive Manager for Buin district JOHN ITANU made these remarks when thanking a Sepik man, MOSES KOLIWAN who was facilitating the meeting in Bana yesterday.

In his closing remarks, MR. ITANU questioned why Bougainvilleans from the administration are only excited if the meeting is held in Port Moresby and other centres and not within the region.

He said that comments by certain staff that the notice for the meeting was given to them late was not true.

He said meetings organized by the administration for district staff was an opportunity for them to meet the headquarter staff and such attitude by them is not acceptable.

The meeting was officially closed by the newly appointed Minister for Culture and Tourism, the Hon. ROSE PIHEI

27.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORKSHOP ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

By Aloysius Laukai

The South Bougainville Administration Development and Technical meeting ended yesterday on high note.

The two-day workshop gathered Executive Managers and their team leaders in the Four districts in South Bougainville from Buin, Siwai Torokina and the host district Bana to look at ways in which they can work together in the districts and how they can link to the administration at the headquarters.

The meeting was organized by the Bougainville administration with financial and technical support from UNDP on Bougainville.

This meeting was also attended by NGO groups in the district and including officers from the Deputy Administrator Administration's office in Buka.

The meeting was the first since the Commissioner for South Bougainville resigned two years ago.

Amongst the issues the group discussed they were very vocal on the need for the Bougainville Administration to appoint a commissioner for the South Bougainville Region.

They said that as long as the position remains vacant the people of South Bougainville will continue to miss out on much needed services.

The group also questioned why this has taken so long for the administration to act.

The meeting also discussed ways to minimize the cost of carrying out their activities including approval of funds by the Headquarters.

A detailed recommendation would be made available to the Administration and the media on Monday.



Pictured after the meeting are MR. EDWARD KENAI UNDP Development Planning and Coordination Associate, MR. ANTHONY AGYENTA UNDP Chief Technical Advisor, MR. JOE NORO(senior) Executive Manager Siwai District, MRS. ROSE PIHEI ABG Minister for Culture and Tourism.

26.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ona speaks out

By Tapo Tovilu

The son of one of Bougainville's great leaders, Francis Ona has come out openly on his position on the issue of the planned reopening of the Panguna mine.

In a press release yesterday the Minister for Planning in the Meekamui Government Stanley Ona openly stated that his people and the Government of Meekamui will not allow any scheme to re-open the Panguna mine.

He also added that current media reports of the discussions into the re-opening of the Panguna mine are damaging to all parties and unless serious conditions are met there will be no mining of Panguna.

He says that if the ABG would like to re-open the Panguna mine serious negotiations and discussions must be made first.

He added that many lives were lost in their struggle for human rights and their fight for freedom and such should be avoided in the future.

26.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Work force support needed

By Tapo Tovilu

After last week's mass recruitment exercise by Mining giant New Crest Mining, there is a need for more support for Bougainville's young human resource.

From the results of the recruitment exercise, close to 300 applicants were turned down due to their lack of experience in the field.

A senior public servant who wishes to remain anonymous says that this clearly shows that the trained human resources of the region need help.

He explained that it wasn't a damaging comment but with the situation in the region the ABG must do more to support our work force in terms of more training and work experience.

He says that though it is up to the individual to have sufficient training and work experience, the base line is that the worker will in turn help build the ABG thus the government is obliged to help in the workers build-up.

He added that the huge turn up was a clear example that many of the educated and trained elite would like to work for the rebuilding of the region.

He called on the relevant authorities to look into the matter and provide adequate support for the current unemployed human resource for Bougainville.

26.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PUARA SAYS COOL DOWN

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for Human Resources Division of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, PUARA KAMARIKI is calling on former public servants to calm down as the next Risk Allowance payments process are in progress.

He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that as soon as cheques are printed in Port Moresby, a team of officials will come to Buka to make the payments.

MR. KAMARIKI was responding to calls by former public servants that the second payment was very slow and should be speeded up.

He said although payments were to be paid in June and due to the National elections, these payments were further delayed.

MR. KAMARIKI hopes to get the new date from the department of Personal Management this week.

He said names have been finalized for payment and he hopes all former workers who risked their lives during the crisis would be fully compensated.

26.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PARENTS CONCERNED

By Aloysius Laukai

Parents of Grade Nine and Eleven students attending Hutjena Secondary school are very concerned why students have not attended classes during the last five months.

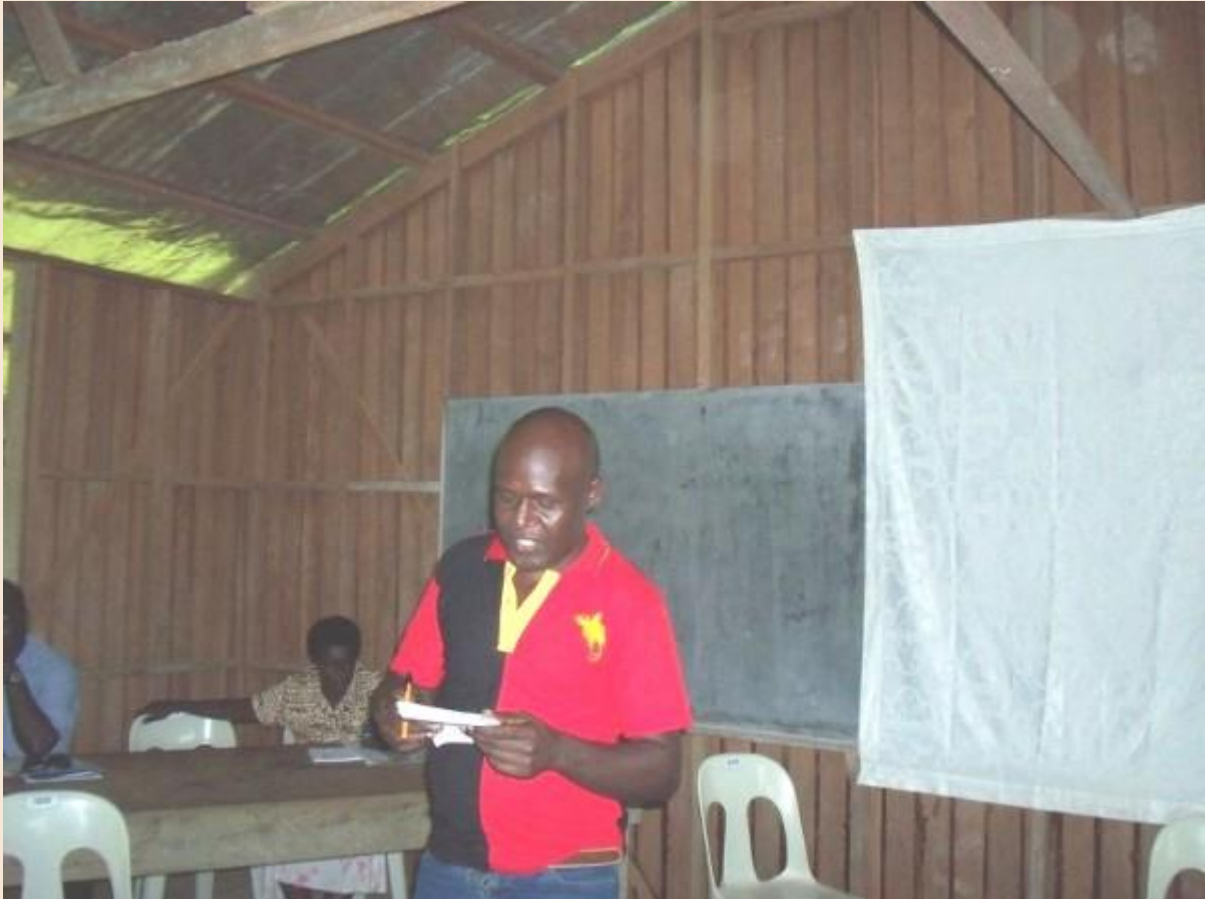
And they are calling on the Principal of the School to tell them why this is happening and the school has not told the parents why.

A concerned senior Public servant this afternoon told New Dawn FM that they were very concerned as a full term has lapsed and still there was no explanation coming from the school.

And the concerned parent who wants to remain anonymous said that if the problem was with water shortage or cult in the school this must be sorted out quickly so that the students can go back to normal classes quickly.

New Dawn FM understands that an internal investigation on the conduct of certain students at school is also in its two months with no solution in sight.

New Dawn FM was unable to get comments from the School administration on this issue.



Officer from Autonomy Implementation Division STEVEN KOLOWA explaining on the Draw down of Powers.



Bana Development Technical meeting Team pose for this AL Picture.

The Minister Rose Pihei and Deputy Administrator Operations Paul Kebori are also inside this group

26.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K7m allocated for feeder roads

By VERONICA HANNETTE

WORK on feeder roads in Bougainville are underway says the Minister for Works, Transport and Civil Aviation, Carolus Ketsimur (pictured).



Minister Ketsimur said the K100 million given by the National Government for high impact projects is currently available and funds have been allocated to different projects in the province.

He said K7 million has been earmarked for feeder roads around the province enabling local farmers to have access to better roads.

Minister Ketsimur said most of the feeder roads in the province have caused inconvenience to some extent resulting in adequate service delivery denied to certain areas.

Minister Ketsimur said the other portion of the funds will be allocated for other higher impact projects such as the sealing of roads, the Buka ring road, the Torokina oil palm project, Peace and Reconciliation **and the re-opening of the Copper Mine.**

26.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

By-elections for Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Electoral Commission office in Bougainville will soon be conducting by-elections on the four vacant constituency seats in the Bougainville House of Representatives.

These constituencies that do not have a representative include Lule, Rau, Hagogohe and Kongara.

The process towards conducting these by-elections first began on August 24 this year, when the ABG Speaker Andrew Miriki had notified the Electoral Commission regarding the vacancies.

Bougainville Election Manager, Reitama Taravaru said he is planning to have the by-elections conducted before the end of this year, however, the dates to hold these elections have yet to be confirmed.

Mr Taravaru said he wants to have this elections conducted before December 19 so that the new members can also attend the ABG parliamentary session which is scheduled on that date. He said though time is a factor to be considered, he does not want to delay the election process because the people in these four constituencies have been denied their right to have their representatives in the ABG parliament. Mr Taravaru said the delay was because his term as the Election Manager had expired in April this year.

Mr Taravaru blamed the Bougainville Administration for failing to advise the Bougainville Executive Council over the vacancy in the Election Manager's position resulting in the delay.

However, Mr Taravaru said since he had been notified that his term has been extended by one year, the onus is now on him to arrange the necessary tasks that need to be done before conducting the elections.

He said he will be raising this issue next week during the Election Steering Committee meeting. Mr Taravaru said the estimated costs for staging the by-elections would be around K1 million.

The Lule and Rau constituency seats became vacant following the deaths of their members Paul Mitu and Joseph Egilio, while members for Hagogohe, Robert Hamal Sawa and Kongara, Dominic Itta both handed in their resignations.

Both Mr Sawa and Mr Itta had resigned to contest in this year's National Election.

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW DIVISION

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly appointed ABG minister for Tourism. ROSE PIHEI says that the ministry for tourism has no division to start with and since her appointment she has been working around the clock to create the division.

She was also speaking at the Bana technical meeting this morning.

She said that tourism was a big revenue earner for the region and needs to be strengthened by creating a division that would spearhead and promote activities in the region.

She said that they have appointed a CEO and two staff that would start up the division.

The minister also stressed the need for other divisions to address outstanding issues that are inter connected like the veterans affairs which is working on weapons issues and Law and order issues.

She said that she wanted the tourism division get the same attention as mining as they would create mass employment for the general population.

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Linkages Missing

by Aloysius Laukai in Bana

The acting Deputy Administrator Operations, PAUL KEBORI has acknowledged missing links between the Administration headquarters and its districts.

Speaking at the Bana meeting this morning, MR.KEBORI said that since his appointment as the Acting Administrator Operations he has come to realize that many districts were operating in isolation from other districts and including the Administration headquarters in Buka.

He said that without any linkages between these districts it is difficult to monitor the activities of the districts.

MR KEBORI said that the idea of committee system used by Siwai district which is addressing development issues in collaboration with UNDP and other stakeholders is one system that can be studied and possibly implemented in other districts.

Meanwhile. The acting Deputy Administrator Operation also raised his dissatisfaction over the non attendance of other senior Bougainville Administration officers who were invited to speak at this meeting.

He said these were some attitudes by staff of the administration that continues to disappoint efforts by the administration to move Bougainville forward.

The meeting will end tomorrow afternoon.

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Coordinate resource

by Aloysius Laukai in Bana

The south Bougainville UNDP representative, PETER SIUNAI says that there has been no proper coordination mechanisms of resources thus resulting in slow or no progress at all in the districts.

Speaking at the opening ceremony. MR.SIUNAI said that the UNDP was prepared to support the administration to strengthen its capacity to develop its officers who can in turn develop the nation.

He said in Siwai they have tested a system that is a committee system covering issues and coordinates activities on development and other issues affecting the district.

He said that development proposals are then submitted to the Authorities for funding and this was working well.

MR.SIUNAI says if it is working in Siwai it can also work in other districts.

The Siwai team will present item on this tomorrow.

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH COMMISSIONER NEEDED

By Aloysius Laukai

The acting Executive Manager for BANA District David Rumbali is calling for the immediate appointment of the Commissioner for South Bougainville to coordinate activities in the South Bougainville.

He said that since the former commissioner (now regional member) left the post the districts have distanced themselves from each other.

This he said has led to dis integration of activities in the districts.

Mr Rumbali was speaking at the opening ceremony of the South Bougainville Technical meeting this morning.

He said it has taken a while for the Bougainville administration to appoint a replacement to this position.

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BANA MEET OPENS

By Aloysius Laukai in Bana

The South Bougainville District Development and Coordination Technical meeting was officially opened this morning by the newly appointed ABG minister for Tourism ROSE PIHEI in Bana.

The meeting is being attended by Executive Managers and staff from four districts in South Bougainville. TOROKINA, BUIN, SIWAI and the host district BANA.

With participants representing NGO's operating in the districts. In her opening remarks, minister PIHEI highlighted difficulties ABG ministers were facing working with their Division's CEO's.

MRS PIHEI said that because the CEO's were directly under the Chief Administrator some were not responding to Minister's instructions.

She was talking on autonomy implementation at all levels starting from the ABG down to its administration at the headquarters down to the districts.

She welcomed the organizers of this meeting which will change the way the administration in the districts can plan for their districts.

The meeting will end tomorrow Friday

25.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville Mourning

by Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville is mourning the death of one of its first National Parliamentarians who represented Bougainville in the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in the pre independence era.

The late Grand Chief SIR DONATUS MOLA died at his home last Saturday. He was aged 88.

The late SIR DONATUS MOLA is survived by his wife and 13 children and 48 grand children.

He became the member for North Bougainville in the national parliament in 1965 and continued until 1978.

The late DONATUS MOLA also served as the national minister for Health, Education, Commerce and the Public Service during his time as the national member.

He was a strong catholic who was instrumental in localizing of priests in the catholic church.

The late Sir Donatus Mola was a life member of Sir Julius Chan's PEOPLES PROGRESS PARTY.

He was knighted in 2005 for his service to the community.

Since the first House of Assembly, the North Bougainville seat was held by five national members starting with DONATUS MOLA, SAM TULO, JAMES TOGEL, MICHAEL OGIO and LAUTA ATOI.

A state funeral is being organized for the late Grand chief starting with a requiem mass at the HAHELA Catholic church tomorrow Friday morning.

He will be laid to rest at his MANGOANA village in the Haku area on Saturday.

NEW DAWN FM wishes to send its condolences to the family and friends of the late Donatus Mola.

25.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

AROB mourns Grand Chief Sir Donatus Mola

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



Sir Donatus Mola in September 2010

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville is mourning the death of one of its statesman, the late Sir Donatus Mola.

Sir Donatus passed away peacefully at his Mangoana village in the Haku constituency on Buka Island last Saturday.

He was 88 years old.

Sir Donatus was a former member for North Bougainville in the then House of Assembly from 1967-1976.

The ministerial portfolios he held during his term as the North Bougainville member include Health, Communications and Business and Public Utilities. In 1977 he lost his seat to Sam Tulo.

Late Sir Donatus has 13 children, 63 grandchildren and 63 great grandchildren.

He was knighted as Grand Chief Sir Donatus Mola in 2006.

A requiem mass will be held tomorrow at the Hahela Catholic Church. Former Prime Minister and People's Progress Party (PPP) leader Sir Julius Chan is also expected to attend this state funeral.

After the requiem mass the late statesman's body will be transported to his village.

The Knight will be laid to rest at his Mangoana village this Sunday.

25.10.2012

Source: The National

Grade 12 exams in Bougainville running smoothly

GRADE 12 exams started well this week with no major hiccups in three secondary schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, chief executive for education Bruno Babato said.

The three schools are Buin Secondary with 136 students, Bishop Wade Tarlena Technical Secondary with 119 and Hutjena Secondary with 164.

Babato said Grade 10 papers were being marked at the Hahela Catholic youth centre.

"Marking of exam papers for 1,751 students began this week and will finish by the weekend.

"About 35% to 40% of these pupils will be selected to Grade 11 in 2013," Babato said.

"Also in 2013, the new Arawa Secondary School will have its first Grade 12s sitting for their examinations."

He said after the Bougainville crisis, the education division had opened all schools to encourage children to get an education.

According to statistics, a total of 56,000 students from elementary to Grade 12 were in school in 2010.

Babato said with regards to transition from Grades 10-11, they hoped to see an improvement from 30% to 40%. He said in 2011, only 33% made it through to Grade 11.

24.10.2012

Source: Foreign Control Watchdog - New Zealand

Rio Tinto to get out of Bougainville

by Murray Horton

Rio Tinto, the world's biggest mining company (which owns Comalco and the Bluff aluminium smelter), is finally facing reality and has announced that it is going to sell its Panguna copper and gold mine, on Bougainville. This unimaginably huge, open cast mine (boasting the world's biggest hole) was regularly described as the jewel in the crown of this most voracious of mining transnationals. During its years of operation it constituted Papua New Guinea's single biggest source of revenue, but it was revenue that came at a colossal cost to Bougainville, an island that had a long history of attempting to secede from PNG. Things came to a head in 1989, when a land owners' armed uprising closed the mine (permanently, as it turned out) and sparked the war of independence that caused so much bloodshed and suffering (mostly caused by the brutal PNG blockade of the island).



Vandalized BCL properties in Panguna, Bougainville

New Zealand played an honourable part in brokering peace talks in the late 1990s and they are ongoing, being on the brink of producing Bougainville as an autonomous province of PNG. The PNG military became re-established on the island (having been completely driven off at the outset) but they, and all other outsiders, including New Zealand's and other countries' peacekeeping troops, have never been allowed to get anywhere near Panguna, which remains firmly under the control of Francis Ona, the leader of the original uprising. Ona is still committed to an independent Bougainville (to be renamed Mekamui) and has never been part of the peace process.

Despite having been involuntarily closed down since 1989, Bougainville Copper Ltd (54% Rio Tinto; 19% PNG government; 27% public shareholders) has remained one of PNG's most profitable companies – it made \$A10 million profit in the 2000/01 financial year – despite, or because of, undertaking no other activity. Even if it sells its Bougainville assets, it will retain \$A79 million cash. The question arises as to whether it will find a buyer. Presumably it is trusting in the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of fellow mining executives (or should that be greed?). The company has set aside \$A14.5 million for compensation to Bougainville land owners – who hold out the possibility that mining might be allowed to resume in several years time, under new ownership. But Rio Tinto itself faces a multi-billion dollar class action suit in the US, over its conduct in Bougainville.

The Panguna mine has been idle since 1989 and, while the millions of dollars worth of mining equipment has been rusting away in the tropical sun and rain, the badly battered surrounding environment has had a chance to partly recover (the operation is so gargantuan that it created its own micro-climate). Elsewhere in the region, other deadly relics of the Bougainville saga are also quietly rusting away. Since the aborted 1997 attempt by the PNG government to win the war using the foreign mercenaries of Sandline International, their seized helicopter gunships have been stored in an Australian Air Force base, in the Northern Territory. Sandline wants to sell them to recoup some of its losses – but assault helicopters are a prohibited export to most countries. So they sit, unmaintained and unsaleable, in a hangar.

The Panguna mine and Rio Tinto brought nothing but grief to the people of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. The island, the country and the region are well rid of them. And we need to salute the heroic struggle by the Bougainvilleans to rid themselves of this parasite. They have

paid a very high price but they are well on their way to the self-determination they have fought for all along.

Retrieved from the link: <http://www.converge.org.nz/watchdog/97/9.htm>

24.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

District Organize

by Aloysius Laukai in Bana

South Bougainville region is gearing up for a two day meeting titled District level development and coordination technical meeting.

This meeting is the first of its kind and aims to gauge the views of the districts on issues concerning development in the region.

The meeting is organized by the Autonomous Bougainville Government administration and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

According to the program for tomorrow, more than 50 participants will be attending the meeting which includes personells from UNDP, other NGO,s like Care International, Bougainville Health Program, OXFAM. MSF and Executive Managers and officers from Buin, Siwai and Bana districts.

Minister for Culture and Tourism, Rose Pihei and Acting Deputy Administrator Operation, PAUL KEBORI arrived tonight in Bana for tomorrow's meeting.

For the first time the people of Bana are hosting this meeting which includes providing accomodation for the visiting participants.

24.10.2012

Source: The National

Groups selected for grants

Story and picture by ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

NINE grants totalling K500,000 have been given to remote communities in Bougainville as part of the Strongim pipol strongim nation project.

Bougainville grants screening committee chairman and commerce chief executive officer Albert Kinani said the committee received 180 applications for the AusAID project of which nine had been approved.

He said the committee had a difficult time in making the selections but considered people with no capacity at all and from remote areas to be given the first chance.

Kinani said the groups would be supported with training and other resources to make sure their capacities were raised in the course of their projects.

He said selectors chose projects in the remote areas of South, Central and North Bougainville going as far as Tasman Island, which was much closer to the Solomon Islands group.

Programme director Jeremy Symes said it was a partnership programme between Australia and PNG to strengthen people who in turn would strengthen the nation.

At the signing of the first five approved projects for Central and South Bougainville in Buka last Thursday, he said the programme was a kind of assistance by the people of Australia to the people of PNG to help the rural population in terms of development and health issues.

He said it was not intended to help individual families but to develop communities and to maintain existing infrastructures such as schools, rural health facilities and to see business grow and become sustainable.

Kinani was happy that the committee concentrated on helping the most remote areas of Bougainville.

24.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Alarms raised in Panguna

THERE are foreigners already engaged in alluvial mining in the vicinity of Panguna Mine.

And already it is raising eyebrows not only for villagers and other former combatants but leaders alike.

Sam Akoitai, speaking as former Mining Minister and a leader from Central Bougainville, also a former rebel hardliner has called on the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to come out clearly and explain to the people of Bougainville and PNG what law these foreigners are using and if they have complied with PNG foreign laws to enter into business — especially in Panguna.

Mr Akoitai raised these serious concerns yesterday as he knows the sensitivity of the Panguna Mine issue, particularly when the situation is still very much tense.

He called on ABG leaders both provincial and national MPs to seriously address this issue of foreigners — especially Americans, Africans, Australians and others — who are engaged in alluvial mining in Panguna when the mining issues have not been addressed in full.

Mr Akoitai also raised the alarm bells for both governments to be extra cautious because the issues at hand — given that more than 20,000 lives were lost due to the Panguna issue — had not been resolved.

“I am calling on the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to explain whether outsiders or foreigners who are engaged in mining activities have come through the proper channels, through Foreign Affairs, Labour and Employment or have work visas and work permits,” Mr Akoitai said.

“I am specifically cautious because the situation is still very sensitive and all the leaders both in ABG and National Government must take heed and address it head on.

“These people are not only doing business in mining but also scrap metal industry.”

24.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ona: Panguna is shut

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE eldest son of the man who orchestrated the closure of the Panguna mine in the late 1980s, which later led to the Bougainville Crisis, has come out publicly to voice his stand regarding the possible reopening of the Panguna mine.

Late Francis Ona's son Stanley Ona said he will not be entertaining the re-of the mine.

Stanley Ona had decided to voice his unhappiness following recent media reports made by ABG President, Chief Dr John Momis and other ABG leaders, that the ABG is looking at re-opening the Panguna mine.

“I'm the minister for Planning and the eldest son of our great human rights leader late Francis Ona. My people, the tribal nation of Me'ekamui, will not entertain any scheme to re-open the Panguna mine or allow PNG or ABG to infringe upon our rights as an indigenous tribal nation.

“These media releases are damaging to all parties, and unless serious conditions are met, there will be no mining of Panguna,” Mr Ona said.

Mr Ona warned that they will not bow down easily to the ABG's stand regarding the re-opening of the once largest open cut mine in the world.

"The arms and weapons we have are designed for our defence. 20,000 lives have perished in our human rights struggle and if our occupiers think that they will walk over us, they are greatly mistaken.

Mr Ona said that if the PNG government wants to "right the wrongs they have inflicted upon the Me'ekamui" they should enter serious negotiations and discussions.

"Hiding behind the bogus ABG that PNG and Australia created, will not further their cause. Simply and candidly, there will be no re-opening of Panguna," he said.

Mr Ona added that violence, bloodshed, denial of human rights, killings of women and children was part of the method used in the past by PNG and Australia. "Are these announcements now telling the world that the Me'ekamui needs to prepare for this to start again? I am truly surprised, that you all haven't learned anything from your bloody past. Panguna is not open for discussion. Me'ekamui Human Rights and our Memorial are issues that we can discuss to put closure to that bloody past," Mr Ona said.

24.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier - reader's letter to the editor

Bougainville must not be exploited

THE Bougainville crisis was triggered by landowners demanding (BCL) some billions of kina for the damages of our land, environment and cultures.

Many innocent people were killed and their blood had spilled on the land.

Culturally thinking, it means that, whatever that is on the land had been washed by the blood of many innocent Bougainvilleans. The land, environment and culture rightfully belong to the people of Bougainville through their government, and in this case, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (AGB) which is the custodian of the people of Bougainville.

As a Bougainvillean I have watched with tears, materials worth billions of kina were damaged by the war. These damaged materials were to be shifted from Panguna, Loloho and Kieta. They were to be shifted out of the Island by 'few so called landowners collaborating with foreign multinational companies, and BCL as well.

As a Bougainvillean citizen, I am suggesting that the war damaged materials should have been forfeited to the state, that is the ABG) to secure good amount of money to rebuild Bougainville as a means of compensation for the our beloved brothers and sisters who had been killed during the crisis throughout the region.

Secondly, if the current trend, is only for those who are continually shifting the blood washed materials out from the Island for their own personal gain and benefit, I could suggest here that the ABG should have a policy in place so that this group of self-style Bougainvilleans shall be liable to the compensation of the crisis related deaths and the damages of our properties in the future when full normalcy is recovered.

There have been documentary movies filmed during the crisis about leaders addressing peace, justice and Independence which with current comparison I could say; we have been totally driven out of the track towards 'achievement and victory'.

We have been dragged backward, way to long, instead of moulding up what we have fought and died for.

I am ashamed and I sympathise as well of what is happening right now.

In addition, it is hurtful and sympathetic to see only a few people amongst the whole Bougainvilleans to benefit out of these materials which had cost the lives of our people from the Southern to the northern end of the Island.

I wonder what my fellow Bougainvilleans who are not having a taste of share out of these export giants think and feel.

We fought for equality, justice and final achievement of Independence which is enshrined in the PNG constitution, and the leaders have failed miserably to make it a reality.

I strongly appeal to young adolescence and leaders of Bougainville to see things not just at the surface but to see the issues with deeper interpretation because today, the “love of money is the root of all evil.”

Citizen of Bougainville

23.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis content with JSB meet

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Chief Dr John Momis said he is positive that many positive changes will now take place between the Government of PNG (GoPNG) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

This follows the successful Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between GoPNG and ABG, which was held last week in Kokopo, East New Britain province.

Mr Momis said he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, adding that the outcome of this meeting was more favourable than previous JSB meetings.

He said many of the issues discussed will now lead to Bougainville achieving its full autonomy status.

Meanwhile, President Momis said the first K100 million that was presented to him by Prime Minister O'Neill last month in Port Moresby, will be used to fund projects identified by the ABG.

He said eventhough this K100m, which is part of the K500 million special intervention funding from the National Government to the ABG, was initially intended to fund high impact projects proposed by the National Government, the ABG had decided to fund its identified projects.

He said funding for next year and the next three years will be used to fund high impact projects that are proposed by both the National Government and ABG.

Mr Momis also clarified that this first K100m funding although being released late to the ABG, will not be affected by the close of accounts at the end of this year.

22.10.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

ABG continues Panguna push

RE-OPENING the giant Panguna copper-gold mine is the highest priority issue for Autonomous Bougainville Government president Dr John Momis.

He updated PNG government members on this issue during recent talks in east New Britain capital, Kokopo.

According to the Post-Courier, Momis requested that the Panguna re-opening process be treated as a special agenda item for all future meetings of the joint supervisory board shared by the two governments “until the matter is concluded”.

Momis reportedly said his government was working on mining and petroleum laws and draft instructions were approved for a bill on a “transitional ABG Mining Act”.

He reportedly expects this legislation to curtail any foreign-owned companies in the ABG region that have operated without consultation of either his or the PNG governments.

Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper is clearly not in this camp, and getting community approval to re-open its Panguna mine is one of the biggest challenges – especially as high copper prices continue to improve the business case.

There were about 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine – providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

Panguna was the world's fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989, with Bougainville Island subsequently embroiled in years of civil war.

The mine produced nine million ounces of gold and three million tonnes of copper from 1972.

The Panguna permits under the existing BCA allow for mining up to 2032.

The ore body at Panguna is only partially mined, with large available reserves.

In the mine's last year of operation, estimated mill feed was at 691Mt at 0.4% copper and 0.47 grams per tonne gold.

Rio Tinto owns about 54% of Bougainville Copper.

22.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Late Ona's son opposes Panguna mine re-opening

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

The eldest son of late Francis Ona is against the re-opening of the famous Panguna mine.

Stanley the eldest son of the late Francis Ona, who was behind the closure of the Panguna mine in the late 1980s, which later led to the Bougainville Crisis has decided publicly to voice his stance against the possible reopening of the Panguna mine.

Late Francis Ona's son, Stanley Ona boldly said that he will not be entertaining the re-opening of the mine.

Mr Ona had decided to air his disappoint following recent media reports made by the ABG President Dr John Momis and other ABG leaders that the ABG is looking at re-opening the Panguna mine.

"I'm the Minister of Planning and the eldest son of our great human right leader the late Francis Ona.

"My people the Tribal Nation of Me'ekamui will not and cannot entertain any scheme to re-open the Panguna Mine or allow the PNG or ABG to infringe upon our rights as an indigenous tribal nation.

"These media releases are damaging to all parties and unless serious conditions are met, there will be no mining in Panguna," Mr Ona said

Mr Ona warned that they will not bow down easily to the ABG's stand regarding the re-opening of the once largest open cut mine in the world.

"The arms and weapons we have are designed for our defence. Twenty thousand lives have perished in our struggle and if our occupiers think that they will walk over us, they are greatly mistaken.

Mr Ona said if the PNG Government wants to "right the wrongs they have inflicted upon the Me'ekamui" they should enter serious negotiations and discussions.

"Hiding behind the bogus ABG that PNG and Australia created, will not further their cause, simply and candidly. There will be no re-opening of Panguna," he said.

Mr Ona added that the violence, bloodshed, the denial of human rights, killings of women and children of Bougainville was the method that was used in the past by PNG and Australia.

"Are these announcements now telling the world that the Me'ekamui needs to prepare for this to start again?

"I am truly surprised, that you all haven't learned anything from your bloody past.

"Panguna is not open for discussion.

"Me'ekamui Human Rights and our memorial are issues that we can discuss to put closure to that bloody past," Mr Ona said.

22.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Chiefs query ABG MOUs with China

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government president John Momis has been challenged to explain and update the people of Bougainville on the seven agreements that were signed in China early last year, resulting in the formation of the Bougainville China Cooperation Committee (BCCC).

Vice president Patrick Nisira heads that committee, but Mr Momis spearheaded the MOUs signed between China and ABG which include:

* Honghua Group – the Global Second Largest Manufacturer of Oil Drilling Platforms (this company supplied drilling platforms to LNG Project) and Hengsen Chemical – a famous company in China;

* Tongling Nonferrous Group – the Second Largest Copper Mining Company in China;

* Hunan Hydro & Power Design Institute – the Second Largest Institute in China;

* Sun Innovation Group Company – a famous multi-industrial company based in Hongkong (they came by the private jet); and

* Hosia Engineering Design Company and Ruike Construction Company Developed and had BEC approve on mid July 2011 the Package Strategy for Establishing Comprehensive Economic Structure and System in Bougainville.

Bougainville and Buka island chiefs in a statement over the weekend had also called on Mr Momis to update the 300,000 people of the island on the status of the Kokopau Modern Town which was widely publicised last year and which has never been talked about since it was published nationally and internationally.

“We only know that according to Bougainville China Economic Cooperation (BCEC) Strategy report, companies from China who visited to help Bougainville in its economic prosperity, specifically help build up Strategic Partnership with China to secure Chinese Government aid, attract Chinese investment and achieve direct trading access to China to cut off middlemen, achieve full autonomy by implementation of Bougainville Peace Agreement to allow the people to compare the autonomy and full independence before referendum and see Bougainville China Cooperation as a strategy to achieve the full autonomy,” the chiefs said. Today, we have heard of nothing.”

Because of Bougainville’s low revenue income, lack of capacity (Government and economy), low employment rate (25 percent employed formal sectors) and big fiscal gap (K93,566,500 in 2010) ABG’s legal arm approved BCCC on June 12, 2011.

“This economic system was said to enable Bougainville to accelerate economic growth, achieve economic independence and support Bougainville social welfare development but it is not doing that, we are going the other way,” they said.

The BCEC report also detailed that BCCC over the last 12 months had:

- Established Bougainville Public Investment Corporation Limited – 100 percent ABG owned company. (This business arm provides a legal position for ABG to go into any joint venture and creates the second source of revenue for the goal of ABG fiscal self-reliance).
- Established Bougainville General Development Corporation Limited – 52 percent ABG & 48 per cent Chinese investors. (This company will serve as a headquarter company and play a leadership role in establishing every industrial development capacity company in JV with Chinese investors);
- Established Bougainville Import & Export General Corporation Limited – 60 percent Bougainvillean & 40 per cent Chinese investors.

21.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pacific herbsman

by Aloysius Laukai

A local herbsman Intena Nuna is promoting his NGUNA JUICE which clenches the blood system in the body is in Buka this week.

Nina is from Salamaua in the Morobe province and produces these herbs for clients in Papua New Guinea. He has been working on this product in the last 26years.



Bougainville herbs coordinator James Kovie with Nuna Intena are pictured here in Buka

BEWARE OF UNPROVEN AIDS CURE !

A man selling an unproven AIDS cure - "Nguna Juice" - in Kainantu, Papua New Guinea.



21.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Augustine Karuvi: an epic journey of a Bougainville rebel

by LEONARD FONG ROKA | Supported by the Jeff Febi Writing Fellowship

WE BOUGAINVILLEANS STARTED the civil war that killed thousands and it is we who must now lead the younger generation to attain a better life in a Bougainville that is free from all forms of suppression and exploitation.



In 1988, the young men who initiated the anti-Bougainville Copper and anti-Papua New Guinea militancy in central Bougainville were mostly those who had hardly reached high school.

A good number of these men were involved in criminal activities thus when Panguna erupted, they were there.

One such youngster was Augustine Karuvi (pictured) of Koiano in the Kokoda constituency of Kieta.

Karuvi was a student who decided to walk out of the classroom to join the fight.

The young Augustine Karuvi left school in 1989 at age 17 to fight. At the time his area, which was referred to as

Koromira, was a safe-haven for some of the pre-crisis rascals.

His fighting career was halted by the 1990 ceasefire between the PNG security forces and the militants.

In 1991 he returned to attend a school operated by the weakened North Solomons provincial administration, but it closed in early 1992.

Also in 1991 the reckless Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) arrogance caught up with his extended family, which included a cousin serving in the Papua New Guinea Defence Force. The BRA claimed the family was still communicating with him.

Hence Augustine was tortured along with some of his male family members.

In that same period, his next cousin, a defected police officer, Joseph Miarama Kasika, was killed by locals at Rotokas in Wakunai when he arrived on the scene where a band of BRA men had been stirring up trouble.

Augustine was a lost youngster for whom there was no hope. He was trapped.

Then in 1992, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force landed at his home on the Toimanapu plantation.

Augustine says the PNGDF captured this location as strategic position to try and quell the BRA boats that darted into the Solomon's Choiseul province for humanitarian help in the midst of the Australia-backed total blockade of Bougainville.

After this event, and out of loyalty to the Bougainville cause, despite his previous treatment Augustine joined the BRA group of his home, Koiano.

His first action in the BRA was at the Toimanapu PNGDF camp. This camp hosted some local families who surrendered to get medical assistance. This operation saw an early dawn raid on the PNGDF and it resulted in the death of a popular BRA fighter, Eperi, from the Kongara area.

After many other operations, Augustine's next major engagement was against the PNGDF's operation to clear Bougainville of all rebel areas, code named as Operation High Speed, around 1996.

Augustine was at the former Aropa International airport defending his land from invaders in an engagement that took nearly a week until the PNGDF was driven back to Arawa where they caused the death of two Bougainvilleans—a BRA man and an innocent Kongara child who was fishing.

To Augustine, witnessing the loss of that child with a long future ahead of it, was devastating. "Truly I was fighting a genuine cause for my island and people," he said. "We were victims of ill treatment of our home by foreigners that did not respect us."

The kid had come to fish in Aropa before the fighting began. As the exchange of gunfire began, tracer bullets fired by the PNGDF confused him so he darted downstream and was captured by the enemy.

His body was retrieved by Augustine and four other BRA men a day later, buried with hands tied behind back. He was tortured to death and sustained broken bones and knife wounds but no bullet wounds.

After this incident, Augustine continued to fight the PNGDF until they withdrew, unable to face the determined BRA fighters.

As the BRA was gearing for a massive final assault, scouts reported that the invaders were nowhere to be seen.

In the BRA rush to scavenge where the PNGDF had been positioned, a booby trap exploded and killed another of his comrades, Nathan Matebai, a BRA legend of the late 1990s.

Despite being exhausted by the Aropa operation, Augustine went straight to another attack on Toimanapu. Here the BRA engaged the PNGDF for a week.

This fight, once again in his home area, ignited on a Friday. "We engaged the PNGDF with care to let them waste their Australian ammunition," he told me, "and when it felt like they were done we could move in and slaughter them.

"But things really went not the way we wanted."

On the Sunday morning, it was Augustine's group's turn to disturb the enemy. They engaged the PNGDF and exchanged fire. With a partner, some 50 metres away from the PNGDF line, Augustine were struggling to figure out the location of a machine gunner when the firing caught his friend. He died instantly and Augustine called a BRA soldier from Buka Island and they moved the dead man to safety.

Early next morning, the PNGDF wounded BRA general commander, Ishmael Toroama, and the operation to flush out the invaders from his home was called off.

Augustine Karuvi feels good that he had contributed to resist his island's subjugation and exploitation by foreigners.

With this in his heart, in 1997, when his enemies, the PNGDF, were withdrawing from parts of central Bougainville, he went on to attend Arawa High School and continued on to Bishop Wade Secondary School.

From here he enrolled in Business Studies in Rabaul and in 2005 was employed by a local Arawa company in Bougainville.

In 2006 he joined the Dominican Order of the Catholic Church to become a priest. In 2007 he was posted in the Gizo Diocese in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, a posting he completed in 2009.

"I took a boat from Gizo and went straight home instead of wasting time going to Port Moresby and to Buka," he laughs. "This is my home island and it is one of the many reasons many Bougainvilleans died as we tried to regain our rights as Solomon Islanders."

Augustine and his family were originally from the northern Choiseul Island of the Solomon Islands and were newcomers to central Bougainville just before colonialism.

From 2010-2011 he attended Bomana Catholic Theological Institute and now he is an ordained Dominican brother in the Order of Preachers and has just completed an English Language Arts course at Divine Word University to venture more into learning and become a good Bougainvillean.

To him, Bougainville's future depends on people who make a sacrifice to be educated despite the fact that they are over the required age of sitting in classrooms and often laughed at by those who did not see the impact of the Bougainville civil war.

But we have to cuddle our traditional values and move on from the cruelty of history to make a new free Bougainville for our future generations.

21.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville stories come flooding back in new play

by BRIAN KARLOVSKY | Hornsby Advocate (Sydney)

IT'S 20 YEARS SINCE former London Times journalist Robert Cockburn (pictured), who was covering the Bougainville conflict, reported for his newspaper and the BBC on the murder of a young Bougainvillean bus driver.



But the chilling scene and the saga of a mining company's activities prompting civil war in Bougainville, is set to be brought to life in a fictional drama, *Hotel Hibiscus*, at the Zenith Theatre this month.

"There was the murder of a young village bus driver, who I found in the mortuary," Mr Cockburn, 59, said. "I felt so moved because it was an innocent who was caught up and shot and that's where the play began. It was very immediate and very personal."

Set on fictional Hibiscus Island in Papua New Guinea, *Hotel Hibiscus* is a brutally revealing account of Australian involvement in the six year "dirty war" on Bougainville.

Mr Cockburn, who also covered the Maralinga Royal Commission while Australian correspondent for The Times, said there were still a lot of questions to be answered.

"There was a recent announcement in the US Supreme Court where it had given them permission to bring a case on genocide and war crimes against the miners operating at Bougainville at that time," he said.

"That case is on going and brings the story right up to date and throws it into the future. I will be watching with a professional eye what happens in the court case."

Hotel Hibiscus is an Australian political thriller that questions our complicity and silence in war crimes carried out just 20 years ago. Thornleigh resident Robert Cockburn wrote it while he reported on the Bougainville conflict in the 1990s.

Photo: Kristi Miller

21.10.2012

Source: EMTV

Bougainville Joint Supervisory Body Meeting

20.10.2012

Source: Weekend Courier

BOUGAINVILLE ISSUES DISCUSSED

By GRACE TIDEN

THE Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) has endorsed a number of recommendations that arose during the one-day meeting in Kokopo this Wednesday.

JSB Co-chairs Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Dr John Momis signed the official joint statement on the conclusions and records of the JSB soon after the end of the meet.

The JSB directed that the recommendations be adopted and implemented by respective governments.

Some of the conclusions and reports that were endorsed include the ABG Capacity Development Strategies, implementation of MOUs on the transfer of powers from national government departments to the ABG divisions, **Panguna negotiations**, autonomy implementation, high impact projects and K500 million Special Intervention Fund, visa and immigration issues and weapons disposal. Mr O'Neill together with Dr Momis had discussed the high impact projects and endorsed a number of projects to be undertaken on the island in 2013.

Some of the projects include the Buka ring road sealing, Kokopau to Buin road sealing, Bougainville power upgrading, Kieta Port upgrade, Aropa airport upgrading, Arawa and Buka water supply and sewerage and Arawa township redevelopment projects amongst others.

Both leaders reiterated their commitment to the process of the implementation of the Autonomy arrangements in the interest of peace, prosperity and development in Bougainville and were satisfied that there was a new spirit of cooperation in the work of the JSB.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and East New Britain Regional Member Leo Dion, ENB Governor and Kokopo MP Ereman Tobaining Junior, Mining Minister Byron Chan, Treasury Minister Don Polye as well as other National Government and ABG senior

ministers, Chief Secretary to Government Manasupe Zurenuoc, UN and Australian observers, technical officials and other invited guests.

20.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS SATISFIED

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS is happy at the outcome of the JSB meeting held in Rabaul this week.

Chief Momis described the meeting as the best JSB meeting the region has had since 2005.

He was speaking to reporters in Buka this morning.

President MOMIS raised many issues discussed at the JSB which among others starts with the setting up of the Bougainville Public Service which will go with the Public Finance Management Act to manage Bougainville's funds.

He said that the ABG was also working on mining Policy that they hope to pass through the parliament in December or at the March session.



The President also announced a special committee on reopening of the Panguna mine which will be headed by RAYMOND MASONO (picture) the former Deputy Administrator Policy.

On the ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA allocated by the National Government, Chief Momis said that this year's funds have been appropriated by the ABG however next year's funds will specifically for High Impact Projects.

On the issue of Businesses by foreigners, the President said that once laws have been enacted no outsider would be allowed to operate canteens and stores that are only for Bougainvilleans.

On the question of foreigners marrying Bougainvilleans to operate businesses, President Momis says that this law was currently being reviewed.

20.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

IMPACTS RURAL AREAS

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile, Tracy Tann the Development Specialist and team leader for AusAid on Bougainville also commented at the ceremony.

Mrs Tracy Tann said that SPSN was one project that was creating impacts in the rural communities of Papua New Guinea.

She said that in 2010 AusAid projects in PNG were reviewed which saw increased funding for Health and Education sector.

She also said that in the next two years AusAid intends to spend over FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS in programs like the Strongim Pipol Strongim Nation for small and big grants to support the development of communities who in turn can develop the nation of Papua New Guinea.

Those first five groups from Central and South Bougainville to benefit this round are as follows, Turumino Clan Group from Borepuru village in Buin .

They will benefit from a Water and Sanitation project totaling SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND KINA.

ROROVANA 1 Catholic women's group in Central Bougainville will also benefit from a water supply project costing FIFTY SEVEN THOSAND KINA.

RABAULU Primary School in Siwai will get funds totaling SEVENTY SEVEN THOUSAND KINA for the maintenance of School facilities.

St. Joseph's NAVIBI Primary School in Central Bougainville will get funds to totaling SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND KINA to construct new school facility.

AND BALBI GRAINS AND VEGETABLE Group in Wakunai will get SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND kina for agricultural activities including marketing fruits and vegetables.

20.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SPSN SUPPORT

By Aloysius Laukai

SPSN Program Director JEREMY SYMES says that Strongim Pipol Strongim Nation is partnership program between Australia and Papua New Guinea to strengthen the people who in turn can strengthen the nation.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of the first five approved projects for Central and South Bougainville in Buka yesterday, he said the program is a kind of assistance by the people of Australia to the people of Papua New Guinea to develop capacity for the rural population in terms of development and health issues.

He said it was not intended to help individual families but to develop communities and to maintain existing infrastructures like schools, rural health facilities and in Business is to see them grow and become sustainable.

He said that the projects are given with expectations and that is to use them wisely on the purpose they have been approved for.

The recipients will also be supported and trained to make sure that they achieve their goals to develop their areas.

He said that he was happy that the Bougainville committee concentrated on helping the most remote areas of Bougainville.

MR. SYMES said this was totally different with committees in other provinces which were sometimes helping those who are already privileged.

19.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG sees Panguna re-opening as priority

By GRACE TIDEN

THE AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government has considered the Panguna Re-Opening Process and Negotiations as its highest priority.

Speaking in Kokopo on Wednesday this week during the one-day Joint Supervisory Body meeting between the ABG and the National Government, ABG President Chief Dr John Momis said they hope the issue will be treated as a special agenda on all future JSB meetings until the matter was concluded.

He said the brief that was presented to the JSB detailed the administrative actions taken jointly by the ABG and by the appropriate National Government Departments to deal with the Panguna Re-Opening Process.

A meeting between ABG and the National Government Technical Officers (Joint Technical Officials Meeting) which was held two days before the JSB meeting recommended that a Joint Panguna Review Coordination Group to be established and that the ABG was preparing itself and the landowners to negotiate on this matter.

A full brief by the ABG and the National Government on the progress of the Panguna re-opening process and negotiations was presented during the JSB meeting.

Amongst the conclusions and records of the JSB was the Panguna Negotiations which stated that the JSB noted the establishment of the Panguna Co-ordination Committee within the ABG for the Panguna reopening process and fully endorsed the work streams and the cooperative relations between the ABG and the National Government.

The JSB also agreed for the state to commit its support to the process for the reopening of the Panguna Mine.

Dr Momis also said under the JSB Agenda item Mining, Oil and Gas, the ABG was working on its own mining legislation and drafting instructions has been approved for a Bill for a transitional ABG Mining Act.

He said the main reason for this step being taken was to emphasize that it was the ABG that sets mining policy for Bougainville and that all stakeholders must obey the law.

“This includes foreign companies, some of which so far have failed to even consult either the ABG or lawful PNG authorities about their mining related activities in Bougainville. This ABG legislation will hopefully put a stop to this practice in an emphatic way,” he said.

19.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG requests separate tax system from PNG

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) for the first time since the peace agreement has now recommended a complete separation from Papua New Guinea tax system and taxation revenue arrangements under autonomy.

ABG President John Momis made the recommendation in his address to the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) between ABG officials and PNG Government officials in their meeting in Kokopo, East New Britain, yesterday.

Mr Momis in his address put it bluntly to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and the PNG Government officials that the PNG bureaucracy has failed to meet the country's financial obligation to Bougainville within the spirit of the Peace Agreement and its legal obligation to Bougainville.

“The ABG is concerned that current autonomy arrangements for taxation revenue are falling short of what was originally intended. We do not doubt the good intentions and sincerity of the IRC or the National Government. However, it is clear that the IRC lacks the internal capacity to meet the current obligations and there is insufficient will to make the current arrangements work,” Mr Momis said.

“We are led to the conclusion that there will need to be some fundamental changes to the taxation revenue arrangements under autonomy.”

He said Bougainville needed to have much better control of its taxation revenues than what the current arrangement permitted.

Mr Momis said the points of concern were:

- ▶ Failure by IRC to collect the personal income tax collectable from Bougainville's cocoa and copra industries with an estimated loss of between K10 million to K20 million a year;
 - ▶ Failure by IRC to properly account for company tax, custom duties and 70 percent of GST collections from businesses in Bougainville;
 - ▶ Failure by IRC to properly account for collection of personal income tax from Bougainville employees of businesses and National Government enterprises;
 - ▶ Non-payment of outstanding sum of personal income tax from the ABG's own payroll between June 2005 and 2010 amounting to K3.4 million plus another K2 million deducted from hardship allowances paid to former Bougainville public servants totaling around K5.4 million;
 - ▶ Non-payment of stamp-duty where Bougainville is entitled to 100 percent of stamp duty on Bougainville transactions in which no revenue from that has come through since 2005;
 - ▶ Continuing late payments (average three months delay) to ABG on remittances of personal income tax deducted from Bougainville public servants and;
 - ▶ The ABG lacks the expertise to properly audit and analyse the accuracy of IRC accounting and administrative systems to make sure that Bougainville is receiving its full revenue entitlement.
- Mr Momis said overall, it was recommended that there be a review of whether the current autonomy arrangements were workable in the long term and whether Bougainville needed to consider establishing a completely standalone revenue collection system with its own taxation office to take full control of taxation in Bougainville.

He said this would involve complete separation from PNG's tax system.

"These are matters for consideration and during the course of our discussion on this particular item we will suggest and recommend some measures to improve the existing system," Mr Momis said.

19.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

K500m for projects

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

K500 million special intervention funding from the National Government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) will be used for high-impact (HIP) projects on Bougainville.

This was endorsed by both the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and ABG president John Momis after the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting in Kokopo, East New Britain on Wednesday.

The first batch of K100 million from the K500 million over a five-year period to ABG was presented by Mr O'Neill to Mr Momis in Port Moresby last month.

The JSB meeting in Kokopo noted and endorsed the joint approach by the National Government and the ABG on the identification, prioritisation and utilisation of the K500 million special intervention fund.

The JSB noted that Mr O'Neill and Mr Momis discussed the issue of the HIP and endorsed the following projects for 2013:

- ▶ Sealing of Buka Ring Road;
- ▶ Sealing of Kokopau-Buin Road;
- ▶ Buin-Siwai Road;
- ▶ Aropa airport upgrading/sealing and terminal;
- ▶ Kieta port upgrade;
- ▶ Arawa Hospital;
- ▶ Arawa and Kieta water supply and sewerage;
- ▶ Bougainville power upgrading;
- ▶ Arawa township redevelopment projects (including ABG Administration and Government Headquarters); and
- ▶ Bougainville Bridge program (Arawa-Buin).

The JSB also endorsed the approaches regarding the establishment of the Joint Program Management Unit in the ABG to oversee project implementation.

Prime Minister O'Neill in his address to the JSB said that he was glad that the first batch of K100 million was now in the hands of ABG government.

"Let's get our acts together and make the most of this money. Let our people of Bougainville feel and see developments to their lives." Mr O'Neill said.

"We need to exercise prudence in the management of this fund and ensure that relevant PIP expenditure guidelines are followed, including compliance with the approved 2012 Development Budget books.

"Transparency and accountability are very important principles we need to adhere to for they will increase the level of trust and confidence our people of Bougainville will have on us.

Mr O'Neill and Mr Momis reaffirmed their commitment to the process of the implementation of the autonomy arrangements in the interest of peace, prosperity and development in Bougainville.

The two leaders emphasised the need for closer consultation at all levels and were satisfied with the spirit of cooperation and thanked all parties involved on the process before signing the Joint Statement on the conclusions and records of JSB.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna re-opening a high priority for ABG

THE Panguna Re-Opening Process and Negotiation is considered as a highest priority issue by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

This was revealed by the President of the ABG Dr John Momis in his opening address to the Joint Supervisory Body in Kokopo recently.

Dr Momis informed the forum that a full brief by the ABG was to have been provided to the JSB to detail administrative actions taken by Bougainville authorities and appropriate national government agencies to deal with the Panguna Re-Opening Process.

He said that this would be treated as a separate issue from the Fifteen Step Mining, Oil and Gas agenda.

Dr Momis further requested that the Panguna Re-Opening Process be treated "as a special agenda item on all future JSB meetings until the matter is concluded".

He also informed the JSB forum that the Bougainville government was working on legislations specific to the Mining, Oil and Gas industry within the region. He said draft instructions have been "approved for a Bill for a transitional ABG Mining Act".

This would ensure that all mining and extractive activities in the region relating to mining, oil and gas are governed by a strict set of legislations, with stakeholder activities being carefully scrutinized to ensure compliance with Bougainville laws.

Dr Momis said that the ABG was wary of operators, particularly foreign owned companies who have been operating outside of, and without consultation with lawful ABG and PNG authorities.

"This ABG legislation will, hopefully, put a stop to this practice in an emphatic way", Dr Momis said.

Dr Momis expressed satisfaction at renewed interactions of late between the ABG and the national government at the senior bureaucratic level, particularly with the Department of Works, Mining and the MRA which should ensure "a new level of commitment on the part of the National Government towards a greater level of cooperation with Bougainville" in all areas.

Dr Momis is Co-Chair of the JSB along with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG president John Momis” We need full co-operation from the PNG Government

THE significance of the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB), conceived as a high level avenue through which both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government can discharge their respective duties as stipulated under the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) should not be lost on either government or their agents.

This statement was made by President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Dr John Momis when speaking at the JSB meeting in Kokopo, East New Britain Province on Tuesday this week.

Dr Momis said that the BPA had evolved into the ABG, considered “a stable functioning constitutional and political entity”. He said despite this, “there there is still a need for the JSB to function as it was envisioned by its framers”.

However, Dr Momis expressed disappointment that there had not been regular integrations between Bougainville and national government officials on matters pertinent to autonomy and referendum on Bougainville.

He said the role of the Joint Technical Officials from both governments could be enhanced to ensure that issues and administrative matters could be reviewed and settled or referred to the JSB for deliberations and resolutions.

“For this to happen, however, we need the full cooperation of National Government Officials at the Deputy Secretary/ Heads level and above to focus on the work of the JSB in relation to bilateral autonomy arrangements.

“I would therefore appeal to the Chief Secretary, through the Prime Minister, to ensure that the engagement of senior Waigani officials in this process is encouraged and in fact mandated. This is a part of the evolutionary process in the arrangements of the BPA that I referred to earlier”, Dr Momis said.

Dr Momis also stated that both governments should retain their prerogative to bring to the JSB forum issues considered significant to autonomy and referendum arrangements being fostered through both governments.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM’s advice on Autonomous Bougainville Government

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill has called for prudent management of funds allocated by the National Government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

As part of his opening address to the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Kokopo earlier this week, Mr O’Neill said he was pleased to note that the first batch of the K100 million earmarked for the ABG had been released to Bougainville authorities.

Mr O’Neill stated that it was important for the ABG to ensure that “relevant PIP expenditure guidelines are followed including compliance with approved 2012 Development Budget books”.

“Transparency and accountability are very important principles we need to adhere to for they will increase the level of trust and confidence our people on Bougainville will have on us”, Mr O’Neill said.

He also called for a concerted effort from national and Bougainville authorities in the implementation of programs approved under the funding to ensure that the “people of Bougainville feel and see developments in their lives”.

The Prime Minister further also spoke the need for a review of autonomy arrangements. He said that this needed to be expedited to ensure compliance with constitutional requirements. The review is critical for autonomy arrangements and preparations for Referendum in 2015.

Mr O'Neill further called for the strengthening of Bougainville's public service machinery. He said that a strengthened public service, along with an effective "information dissemination drive" is crucial to seeing effective service delivery and implementation of other government programs.

He also encouraged leaders to establish reconciliation and trust among the people of Bougainville. He said weapons disposal and other development programs in the region hinges on the confidence the people of Bougainville will have in the ABG and the national government.

"We need to build bridges among our communities so to speak and give them the opportunity to communicate with one another and rediscover their potential.

"I believe this is the most plausible way forward to extending the reach and legitimacy of the ABG Government", Mr O'Neill said.

The Prime Minister reassured the JSB meeting of the national government's commitment to supporting the Bougainville government.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Momis blames PNG Government's bureaucracy for failing to meet financial obligations as agreed

THE President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Dr John Momis has accused the national government's bureaucracy of failing to meet Papua New Guinea's financial obligations to the region as spelt out in the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Organic Law on Peace Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002.

Dr Momis was referring to current autonomy arrangements for taxation under which PNG's tax authority, the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) is expected to collect and remit taxes and duties to the ABG.

He observed that this may be due to the IRC's "lack of internal capacity to meet its current obligations", causing the ABG to consider instituting changes to the region's internal "taxation revenue arrangements under autonomy", with the view of establishing a complete "stand alone revenue collection system with its own taxation office to take full control of taxation in Bougainville. This would involve complete separation from PNG's tax system".

Dr Momis further stated that the IRC had failed to collect an estimated K20 million in taxes from Bougainville's cocoa and copra industries, including failure to account for personal income tax from Bougainville employees of businesses and national government enterprises.

He said that the ABG has yet to receive remittance of seven years worth of stamp duty collections for all Bougainville transactions dating back to 2005, as well as company tax, customs duties and 70% of GST collections from businesses in Bougainville.

He said that since the ABG does not have the expertise to "properly audit and analyze the accuracy of IRC accounting and administrative systems", professional assistance from outside the region will be sought to determine whether Bougainville was receiving its full revenue entitlement.

Dr Momis said the ABG was also concerned with the National Fisheries Authority's inability to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding which would see transfer of fisheries functions and powers to the Bougainville government. This failure would have financial and fisheries revenue implications for the ABG.

"This is a matter affecting not only the autonomy arrangements but also one with implications for the economic and fiscal sustainability of Bougainville", Dr Momis said.

He said that although the ABG was encouraged by the renewed political interactions with the national government, greater cooperation and commitment at the senior bureaucratic level was needed in Bougainville's the path to autonomy and referendum.

Dr Momis was speaking at the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Kokopo earlier this week.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Copper: more than a base metal

Story courtesy of OTML media & public relations department

WHEN Papua New Guineans think of copper, they think mostly of copper wire and of course our copper mine at Ok Tedi.

But copper is more than a base metal used to conduct electricity as John Fennell, CEO of the International Copper Association (ICA), Australia revealed earlier this month during a visit to Ok Tedi. ICA Australia's members include major industry players such as BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd and Xstrata.

The ICA is a New York-based organisation primarily focussed on research and development of copper products. It has 43 member-companies from around the world that invest around US\$ 100 million (about K196 million) in creating innovative copper based solutions to meet the increasing demands of industry and households. For instance, the ICA has developed innovative copper fish nets that increase productivity and improve fish quality on fish farms.

The ICA through its aquaculture arm, EcoSea, has distributed around 400 copper fish nets around the world. Copper nets have reduced aquaculture costs by 20% as they require less cleaning and repairs. With the growing interest on Barramundi farming in Western Province, copper nets could potentially improve efficiency and increase productivity of local Barramundi farms by allowing local fish farmers to use fresh water systems instead of stagnant fish ponds.

Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) is a member of the Oceania branch of the International Copper Association. Mr Fennell visited the mine for a few days and was excited about the company's mine life extension plans.

"It's great to see companies like Ok Tedi extending well into the future because we sure need copper around the world," Mr Fennell said.

One other exciting new frontier being keenly pursued by the ICA is the use of copper-alloy touch surfaces that have antimicrobial properties. Mr Fennell explained that many harmful bacteria like the infamous hospital superbug Methicillin Resistant staphylococcus aureus [MRSA], die on contact with copper. He further emphasised that many people may not know that other harmful bacteria like Clostridium difficile, E.coli also die once they come into contact with copper.

Copper touch surfaces could have various applications in hospitals and public spaces to reduce the spread of infections in the community and improve general wellbeing. Antimicrobial copper surfaces could be used on kitchen bench tops and equipment in public eating places, as they kill most bacteria unlike commonly used stainless steel appliances.

Statistics from the National Department of Health indicate that Pneumonia is the biggest cause of hospital admissions and mortality in PNG. Respiratory infections are most commonly spread by hand contact with contaminated surfaces. The application of copper touch surfaces on taps, door handles, support bars and hospital equipment could help reduce the spread of respiratory infections.

OTML, through its Oceania membership of the International Copper Association is contributing to improvements in Public Health through the application of antimicrobial copper. OTML also directly contributes to improvements in community wellbeing through employee Occupational Health and Safety initiatives as well as its K20 million North Fly Health Services Development Program.

The North Fly Health Services Development Program Annual Report for 2011 reported that in 2010, North Fly saw an increase in diarrheal diseases amongst children under 5 years, with an incidence of 615 cases per 1000 children under 5 years. The challenges of water and sanitation can be eased by the application antibacterial copper touch surfaces to reduce contamination by E.coli and other gut flora.

Papua New Guinea produced 146, 336 tonnes of copper in 2011, through OTML. Last year, OTML earned K4.536 billion in export revenue. Its shareholders (State of PNG and PNG Sustainable Development Programme Limited) received dividends totalling K1.654 billion. Mining

royalties paid to the Fly River Provincial Government and Landowners totalled K86 million while total taxes paid to the PNG Government were close to K1.2 billion.

The economic and public health benefits of copper are enormous and counterbalance the environmental impact of mining. OTML recognises these positive societal benefits of copper and is currently focused on Mine Life Extension (MLE) whilst mitigating risks.

“We are pursuing a Mine Life Extension that is not only feasible in commercial terms but socially and environmentally acceptable to stakeholders,” says Nigel Parker, the Managing Director and CEO of OTML.

18.10.2012

Source: EMTV

Bougainville: Joint Supervisory Body Meeting



At the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Kokopo yesterday, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill met with members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

O'Neill is glad that the first batch of 100 million kina is now in the hands of the ABG. He said work on the review of the autonomy arrangement needs to be sped up.

O'Neill said he wants to see emphasis given to developing and strengthening the Public Service on Bougainville. He also said no one can talk about weapons disposal without first reconciling and establishing trust and confidence among the people of Bougainville.

ABG President John Momis said the role of meeting the autonomy should be among the core focus of each Department and State Authority.

18.10.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville urges PNG to change tax arrangements

The President of Papua New Guinea's Bougainville province says there's a need for fundamental changes to taxation arrangements handled by the national government.

The national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are in Kokopo in East New Britain for a joint supervisory body meeting.

President John Momis says the national bureaucracy is failing the province with the specific financial obligations laid out in the Peace Agreement not being met.

He estimates a loss of up to 9.5 million US dollars a year in uncollected income tax.

The President says there are also significant losses from the non-payment of stamp duty, improperly accounted for company tax and customs duties, while as much as 70 percent of good and services tax is not collected.

Mr Momis wants a review of whether the autonomy arrangements are workable or whether Bougainville needs to consider establishing a completely stand-alone revenue collection system.

18.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SPSN PROJECTS APPROVED

By Aloysius Laukai

Strongim Pipol Strongim Nation this morning announced nine Projects approved to be funded under the small grants scheme on Bougainville.

And since Monday this week, Spsn has been running trainings for these successful applicants at the Lumankoa Guest house conference room.

In his opening remarks, at the agreement signing this morning, the Chairman of the Screening committee and CEO for Commerce. ALBERT KINANI said that Spsn received a total of 180 Expression of interests and only nine projects were approved for funding.

MR KINANI said that his committee had a hard time making the selections however they were guided to make sure that people in the most remote areas and had no capacity at all were selected under health, education, gender balance also on capacity building for these unfortunate groups.

He said these groups will be supported with training and monitoring so that these projects have results.

The nine projects are five in Central and South Bougainville and four in the North Bougainville.

These successful applicants will have to pay their ten percent equity before they can get these funds.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM assures ABG of Government support

By GRACE TIDEN

THE National Government is and will always remain committed to supporting the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill gave the assurance to the ABG President Dr John Momis and his senior ministers during yesterday's Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Kokopo.

In his statement to the JSB, Mr O'Neill said the meeting between ABG and the National Government was important to him since becoming Prime Minister to strengthen the bond between the government and the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville since the last JSB meeting in early 2011.

He attributed the long delay to the difficult political situation PNG went through last year followed by the national elections early this year.

However, he said he was happy to know that the first batch of the K100 million was now with the ABG government, adding that transparency and accountability were important principles they needed to adhere to, by increasing the level of trust and confidence the people of Bougainville have in the Government.

“Let our people of Bougainville feel and see developments in their lives,” he said

Mr O’Neill also said they need to speed up work on the review of the autonomy arrangement because this was now overdue and has some serious constitutional implications for non-compliance.

Both governments were concerned at the slow pace at which the autonomy arrangements were being implemented and made a number of endorsements at the end of the JSB meeting to fast track the autonomy implementation matters.

“The review is critical as it underpins the challenge of making the autonomy arrangement work successfully and also that it will inform preparations for the conduct of the Referendum,” the PM said.

Mr O’Neill also outlined other issues such as the development and strengthening of the public service on Bougainville and the establishment of trust and confidence among the people on the island.

“...we can’t talk about Weapons Disposal on Bougainville without first reconciling and establishing trust...We need to build bridges among our communities...give them the opportunity to communicate with one another and rediscover their potentials,” he said.

The PM together with Dr Momis co-chaired the one-day meeting and both signed the communiqué at the end of the gathering.

18.10.2012

Source: The National

Momis: Let us avoid more trouble

AUTONOMOUS Region of Bougainville President John Momis has warned that the government must meet the people’s high expectations to avoid any trouble.

“The expectations of the people of Bougainville are very high,” he said during the opening of the joint supervisory body (JSB) meeting in Kokopo yesterday.

“The situation is still very fragile and if we (ABG government and national government) do not play our roles properly, we run the risk of social disorder.”

The supervisory body comprises of members of the ABG and national government.

Momis said the full cooperation of the national government was vital to focus on the work of the JSB in relation to bilateral autonomy arrangements.

“Assisting Bougainville should be among the core focus of each and every departmental state authority in Waigani,” he said.

He appealed to the chief secretary through the prime minister to ensure that the engagement of senior officials at Waigani in this process was encouraged and mandated.

“This is a part of the evolutionary process in the arrangements of the Bougainville peace agreement,” he added.

Momis said the recent march and the petition presented by ex-combatants was an example of this heightened expectation.

He said the group could very well have been misguided in their actions and demonstrated lack of understanding that could lead to autonomy but rightly or wrongly their expectations were high.

Meanwhile, Momis was encouraged by the national government’s renewed emphasis on Bougainville.

18.10.2012

Source: The National

Review of autonomy process overdue, says PM

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill says the review of Bougainville's autonomy process is overdue and must be conducted in a timely manner if future autonomy arrangements are to work successfully. He told the joint supervisory body meeting in Kokopo yesterday: "We see the need and support the call by Autonomous Region of Bougainville President John Momis on work we are carrying out jointly to attain full autonomy.

"The national government supports that it is well and truly overdue and we have a lot of work ahead of us because of some serious constitutional issues that need to be resolved.

"The meet will endorse a submission to ensure that work on the review of the autonomy process is conducted in a timely manner.

"This work is critical as it underpins the challenges of making autonomy arrangements work successfully and will also inform us of preparations of referendum that is due between 2015 and 2020."

He assured Momis that the region would again be featured prominently in the 2013 budget.

O'Neill said the first batch of the national government's commitment of K100 million was with the ABG.

"Let us now work together in making sure this money is spent well to improve lives of people and making sure we commit funds to rebuilding vital facilities on Bougainville," he said.

"We need to exercise prudence in the management of these funds and ensure that relevant public investment programme guidelines are followed in compliance with Public Management Act."

18.10.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville needs to make money

BOUGAINVILLE regional MP Joe Lera wants the 300,000 people of the region to have money in their pockets before any mining is started there.

Lera said although he understood the need to raise funds for the Autonomous Bougainville Government, he still thought Bougainville needed to develop other ways of raising money.

He made these remarks during awareness campaigns in South and Central Bougainville last weekend.

He said if mining was started, only the educated and trained operators would find jobs while Bougainvillean youths would miss out.

He said if agricultural projects were encouraged, "everybody, no matter if they are educated, will have employment opportunities".

He said in his first 100 days in office he wanted to see technical schools established on Bougainville.

Lera said his awareness campaigns would cover the rest of Bougainville, including the atolls, before the end of the year.

18.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Family help desk opened in Buka

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

WIFE beaters, especially husbands in Bougainville, be warned that your actions will not be tolerated any more.

And those promoting any form of violence in the family must also be warned to stop their activities or face the law for their actions.

This follows the recent launching of a family help desk at the Buka District Court house last week.

This help desk will be the avenue where victims of violence, not only women, but husbands and children too, can go to seek assistance.

The initiative to establish this help desk began in 2010 by the then Bougainville senior district court magistrate Peter Toliken.

Mr Toliken, who is now an acting National Court Judge, was also present to witness the launching.

While delivering his speech, Mr Toliken highlighted that this help desk would not only be used to address issues affecting women but the family as a whole.

He said that the purpose of establishing this help desk is to promote unity and rehabilitation in the family.

Mr Toliken also stressed that avenues like this help desk should be entertained because a lot of issues arising nowadays can be mediated.

He also commended everyone who was involved in successfully setting up the help desk.

The help desk, which was funded by AusAID at a cost of K16, 000 was officially opened by the director of Bougainville-based NGO, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Helen Hakena.

Mrs Hakena, before officially opening the help desk said that this help desk will act as a "one-stop shop" where victims of family violence can go to seek assistance.

Apart from the help desk at the court house, other similar safe desks are also located at the Buka Police station and the Buka hospital.

18.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Throw away your guns & gain your freedom! Oh yeah?

by LEONARD FONG ROKA | Supported by the Jeff Febi Writing Fellowship

IF WE WANT TO FAST-TRACK the peaceful settlement of the Bougainville issue once and for all, then we ought to do it in a manner that ordinary people see as right; not from the perspective of the big men of Bougainville, nor of international law.

Imposing upon the people what they just don't like is the one and only catalyst of the setbacks we are familiar with in the pacification of the Bougainville conflict.

One of the three major pillars that will determine the execution of the Bougainville referendum on independence between 2015 and 2020 is the disposal of our weapons.

This is the design and liking of international law and PNG but not Bougainville.

If the Autonomous Government or our free-riders in the Meekamui all want independence, then they need to throw away the guns.

In the many negotiations held overseas as well as within PNG and Bougainville, PNG leaders are always screaming for a gun-free Bougainville. But what is the logic behind this demand? Does it meet the expectations of all Bougainvilleans?

Many educated Bougainvilleans, of course, will support the pillar of a weapon-free Bougainville; but the see-saw does not favour these few. One has to understand that, the educated and the illiterate majority do not share the same world view.

Thus, as decision makers, we have to remember that Bougainvilleans were treated as cheap prostitutes by colonialism. Their island was forcibly annexed (without their consent) by Germany in a self-glorification chat with Britain.

Since then, they have struggled against this evil in the form of exploitation of their resource rich island, cultural genocide and were laughed at as their old people wept under the sun demonstrating against PNG, Australia and BCL's ruthlessness.

These things have become the chitchat of everyday Bougainvillean life and yet decision makers ignore it, upholding the imposed sting of international norms that have no place in Bougainville.

The majority has yet to be educated to understand how the globalised world's political, economic and social mechanisms are operated.

From 1988 on, guns were their means of change. Without the employment of violence on the New Guinean squatter settlements around Bougainville and the attack on Bougainville Copper Limited, by now Bougainville would have being the land of Papua New Guineans.

Guns chased away the squatter settlers who were every day driving the natives further inland. Guns shut down Bougainville Copper Limited which brought them in.

But most Bougainvillean fighters noted that guns reached their hands not from a donor like Australia, but by personal sacrifice. That is, to own a gun you had to kill your enemy, the Papua New Guinean soldier, as he shamelessly pursued you to kill you and rob you in your own land.

But are political decision makers noting this? Leaders are worshipping imposed norms of conflict resolution listening to what the mind speaks and not what the heart speaks.

Politicians did not acknowledge this fact about Bougainville when, in 2001, they signed the terms of the future referendum on independence.

Bougainvilleans know the long struggle for self-determination before 1988 that was ignored by the Papua New Guineans who were using the wealth of Bougainville to build their own country. Yet our leaders gave in and sold us off once again to square an historical nightmare.

And here is where Bougainville is being divided into factions. There was a faction which wanted to end the war with the gun seeing the many successes the BRA was having against the Papua New Guinea army. And there was this other bunch that wanted a solution by peace.

All sides were working through different means to achieve nationhood for Bougainville.

But to many of us, weapons disposal is a problematic issue because it does not respect the Bougainville people.

The question is: If guns made PNG change its dirty attitude to Bougainville, why did PNG push for the eradication of guns without firstly seeing Bougainvilleans from the Melanesian perspective rather than continuing a psychological war from an international legal stage?

It is so silly to come to Bougainville calling, 'Throw away your guns and I will give you freedom!'

Bougainville will never be fooled this time by such empty promises. PNG ordered Bougainville leaders to push for weapons disposal without giving them something.

That something is not autonomy because some of the very people who were involved in the protest marches of the 1970s for Bougainville independence are still around.

They share what they saw: we protested for nationhood, but PNG gave us a provincial government and now, when our 15,000 innocent people have died because of that past ignorance, they have given us autonomy.

That something is protectionism in trade and powers over people's movement between PNG and Bougainville.

This tiny step, for example activating a vagrancy act in the NG parliament to control movement into or out of Bougainville, can be a catalyst to instigate a positive leap forward.

Many ex-combatants support the idea of preserving their guns in a museum-kind of arrangement where the children can always feel the pain their forefathers went through. But politicians see not this and now we are on the eve of the referendum.

But seeing non-Bougainvilleans flooding into Bougainville as teachers, preachers and in government offices stirs something different in the mountains.

The little heard voice is the voice political decision makers ought to be careful of in Bougainville.

A referendum on independence in the midst of division between leaders and the Bougainville people, and division between Port Moresby and Bougainville, will not work.

I for one see that this can be sealed only with a review the Bougainville Peace Agreement which needs to be rewritten in a Bougainvillean way.

And since this agreement is multilateral, all stakeholders must put on Bougainville shoes because we are interested to solve a problem not in Fiji or Papua New Guinea, but in Bougainville.

17.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JSB-Meeting: KOKOPO COMMUNIQUE

by Aloysius Laukai

The Papua New Guinea national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government this afternoon signed another agreement which further strengthens the Bougainville Autonomous Government in its desire to draw down more powers from the national government as agreed to in the August 2001, Bougainville Peace Agreement.

This agreement paved the way for the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The Kokopo Communique this afternoon was signed by the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, PETER O'NEIL and the ABG President. Chief JOHN MOMIS witnessed by Ministers and officers of the PNG Government and the ABG.

The communique among other things talks about giving the ABG increased funding to prepare Bougainville for draw down of powers from the national government.

Prime Minister Peter O'neil also committed the national government to fully support the ABG reach and taste full autonomy within Papua New Guinea.

He said that the national government will fund for the upgrading and sealing of Roads from Kokopau right down to Buin and all the way through Siwai and Bana in South Bougainville.

Funds would also be allocated for the upgrading and opening of the Aropa International airport, the rebuilding of Arawa General Hospital and including rural electrification for Bougainville.

The Prime minister was accompanied by his deputy. LEO DION and other senior Ministers including the Minister for Autonomy Steven Pirika and government officers.

The ABG delegation headed by President Chief Momis and ABG ministers and officers will return to Buka tomorrow.

NEW DAWN FM understands this is the first successful meeting since ABG President Chief John Momis took office in June 2010.

17.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EXCOMBATANTS WANT REVIEW

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville excombatants want the Bougainville Peace Agreement to be reviewed as soon as possible.

Whilst commenting on the national government's commitment for increased funding ex combatants still want this covered during the review and not by any other arrangement.

Excombatants spokesman, John Angamata told NEW DAWN FM in Buka that they would still want the two governments to quickly address the review as a matter of urgency.

He said that the deadlines included in their petition still stands and they would be waiting for the ABG for an update.

The ex combatants are organizing a talk back show on New Dawn FM this Thursday at ten am.

17.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

KOKOPO WELCOME



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill arrived in Kokopo, East New Britain to a rousing Tolai welcome on Tuesday afternoon, a day before the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. Mr O'Neill was treated to a welcome fit for a chief at Tokua airport where three tumbuan, put on a spectacular performance for him.

17.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM Arrives in Kokopo to a Rousing Tolai Welcome

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill arrived in Kokopo, East New Britain to a rousing Tolai welcome on Tuesday afternoon, a day before the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between the national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Mr O'Neill was treated to a welcome fit for a chief at Tokua airport where three tumbuan, put on a spectacular performance for him.

The three tumbuan belong to the Deputy Prime Minister, Leo Dion; the ENB Governor, Ereman ToBaining Jnr; and the ENB Provincial Government respectively.

The Prime Minister was adorned with a headdress and later presented with rings of tabu or shell money.

Mr O'Neill in turn presented shell money to the three tumbuan as is custom for members of the Tumbuan society.

Mr O'Neill was recently initiated into the Tumbuan society and the chiefly welcome was also a show of the province's appreciation at Mr O'Neill's trust and confidence in Deputy Prime Minister Leo Dion.

Mr O'Neill was then driven to the Takubar Sports and Entertainment Centre where he was briefed on work in progress at the stadium, the venue for the 5th PNG Games next month.

Mr O'Neill was then taken to the Gazelle International Hotel where school children from Kokopo Primary lined up the street with flags to welcome him.

The JSB will commence tomorrow morning and resolutions from that meeting will be announced later in the afternoon during a press conference.

17.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM to meet Momis today

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE very important meeting between the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) starts today in Kokopo with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and President John Momis taking the lead.

This is the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting where Prime Minister O'Neill and his team will meet with ABG President Momis and his team to iron out outstanding issues that were addressed last year.

These issues include: draw down of powers and functions; weapons disposal program; K500 million from the National Government; mining and Panguna Mine; Public Service in Bougainville; review of the Autonomous Bougainville Arrangements; referendum and Independence; and other matters.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister O'Neill arrived in Kokopo, East New Britain, to a rousing Tolai welcome yesterday afternoon, a day before the JSB meeting.

Mr O'Neill was treated to a welcome fit for a chief at Tokua airport where three tubuans put on a spectacular performance for him.

Tolai elders adorned him with a headdress and later presented the Prime Minister with rings of tabu or shell money.

The event was significant as Mr O'Neill was recently initiated into the Tubuan society. As a member of the society, he has a significant role to play. The Prime Minister in turn presented shell money to the three tubuans.

The three tubuans belong to Deputy Prime Minister, Leo Dion, ENB Governor Ereman ToBaining Jnr, and the ENB Provincial Government.

The chiefly welcome was organised to say thank you to Mr O'Neill for his trust and confidence in Mr Dion, whom he made his deputy.

Before the arrival of the tubuans, the Prime Minister inspected a joint guard of honour by the police and CS personnel.

He was then driven to the Takubar Sports and Entertainment Centre where he was briefed on work in progress at the stadium, the venue for the fifth PNG Games, next month.

Mr O'Neill was then taken to the Gazelle International Hotel where school children from Kokopo Primary lined up the street with flags to welcome him.

He also met with members of the ENB business community later in the evening.

The JSB will begin in the morning and **meeting resolutions will be announced in the afternoon during a press conference.**

17.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kauona: ABG must spend wisely

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE K100 million that was recently given to the Autonomous Bougainville Government by the National Government is for Bougainville's much-needed Administration capacity building, and not for re-opening the Panguna mine.

This money should be used for setting up an IRC Office, Mining Policy and Legislation, Lands Office and Legislation and all other departments that lack capacity.

That's the view of the former BRA commander Sam Kauona after reading a recent report in this daily paper, with regards to how ABG wants to use this K100 million funding.

According to the report, it was stated that this funding would be used to reopen the Panguna mine.

"We thank the O'Neill-Dion Government for recognising the Peace Agreement and committing to its obligation. However if this money is given for the negotiation and re-opening of the Panguna mine, then I regret it's in breach of the intended cause," Mr Kauona said.

"Panguna has countless problems and I see it will be a waste of money without having our own mining policies and legislations. All stakeholders of Bougainville must be consulted before talking about re-opening the Panguna mine. There are three known major mining companies apart from Rio Tinto who are also interested in the Panguna deal and are waiting for Bougainville to legislate its Mining Act," added Mr Kauona.

Mr Kauona is now challenging the ABG and its Administration to put the K100 million to good use for the benefit of the whole island and not in areas that will tangle us and divert from his people's mission, which is Resource Ownership.

17.10.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

Rio drops copper guidance

by Lauren Barrett

RIO Tinto increased its iron ore output in the September quarter but its copper and coal divisions struggled, with the miner again downgrading its copper production guidance for the year.

Global iron ore production for the three months totalled 67 million tonnes, slightly up on the 62Mt recorded in the June quarter.

Pilbara iron ore output tipped in at 63Mt, representing a 5% increase year-on-year.

Rio said production continued to exceed sales in preparation for the ramp up to 283Mt per annum, with a measured build-up of stocks across all mines.

Year to date, global iron ore production is sitting about 187Mt, up 4% on the same time last year.

Sales from its Pilbara iron ore division totalled 61Mt, with year-to-date sales tipping in at 170Mt.

During the September quarter, the world's third-largest miner continued to work on its expansion of the Pilbara iron ore infrastructure to ramp up to 283Mtpa by the end of 2013, despite the weakened price for the steel-making commodity.

Commissioning of Brockman 4 phase 2 was completed, as was commissioning of the sixth rail for Robe Valley fleet and the company also undertook Cape Lambert dredging.

Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese said it had been another strong quarter for the company, despite the backdrop of weakened sentiment and heightened volatility.

"As we said at our investor seminar last week, markets remain volatile, but our business is resilient and our operations are performing strongly, reflecting our consistent strategy of running large, long-life, cost-competitive operations," he said.

Mined copper for the quarter totalled 123,000t, down from 133,500t recorded in the June quarter, while copper production for the third quarter tipped in at 69,700t.

Despite the massive Oyu Tolgoi project almost ready to come online bringing increased levels of copper output, Rio dropped its copper guidance for mined and refined copper to 560,000t and 290,000t respectively from 600,000t and 320,000t respectively.

Meanwhile, bauxite and alumina production were 13% higher compared to the same period in 2011, following record production at Weipa and Guinea.

Rio said the increase was driven mainly driven by an increase in third-party demand.

Rio also performed well on the uranium front, with production at its 62%-owned subsidiary Energy Resources of Australia increasing 29% year-on-year.

At Rossing in Namibia, third-quarter production was slightly above 1.1Mt, up 35% from the September 2011 quarter.

Rio's share of uranium production for the year is expected to be about 9.7 million pounds.

Rio's coal division struggled, with hard coking coal production in Australia slipping 16% below that of 2011 due to the impact of dragline maintenance at Hail Creek and a major preparation plant shutdown at Kestrel as part of the mine extensions project.

It was better news for thermal coal, with output moving up 18% year-on-year as a result of increased plant capacity at Bengalla and the continued ramp up of the Clermont mine.

In response to ongoing cost pressures and high inflation impacting the coal business in Australia, Rio said it was taking action to reduce controllable costs and increase productivity.

The company announced in July it would retrench employees from its Clermont open cut coal mine in Queensland less than two years after it opened, the result of low thermal coal prices.

At its Argyle diamond mine, production was up 46% from the June quarter of 2012 due to a combination of access to a high-grade region of the pit and increased plant flexibility.

For the first nine months of 2012, Rio charged \$US1.5 billion (\$A1.4 billion) in pre-tax and pre- divestment exploration and evaluation expenditure to the profit and loss statement.

16.10.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville grant to be spent on impact projects

The regional member for Papua New Guinea's Bougainville, Joe Lera, says the autonomous province aims to spend a 48 million US dollar grant from the national government on impact projects.

It is the first of a promised 250 million dollars to be provided by Port Moresby over the next five years.

Development in Bougainville has been held back by a lack of resources and Mr Lera says they want to use these initial funds to create an environment fostering business activity.

"Like hydro, communications, fixing roads, bridges, so people can use this infrastructure to think of other ways they can engage in revenue making activities."

Bougainville's regional member in the national parliament, Joe Lera.

Meanwhile the national government and the Bougainville provincial administration are this week holding a joint consultative meeting in Kokopo.

Mr Lera says the drawing down of powers from Port Moresby is the critical issue.

16.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM meets ABG officials

By GRACE TIDEN

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill will be in Kokopo today to be part of the joint supervisory body (JSB) meeting between the government of PNG and the Autonomous Bougainville government. An ABG delegation led by President Chief John Momis arrived in Kokopo yesterday from Buka. Other national members of the JSB also arrived, and were met by senior government officials at Tokua airport.

As for the PM's arrival today, a formal reception will be held at Tokua airport to welcome him.

Deputy Prime Minister Leo Dion and ENB Governor Ereman Tobaining Jr are expected to be at the airport for the welcome reception.

After meeting with the leaders and members of the JSB, Mr O'Neill and his delegation will proceed to the Takubar Sports grounds where he will inspect the upcoming PNG Games facilities.

Minister for Autonomy and Bougainville Affairs Steven Piraka will host a welcome dinner at the Gazelle International Hotel this evening for the Prime Minister and his delegation.

16.10.2012

Source: The National

ABG willing to complete jail

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is willing to help the Correctional Service complete the construction of the Beikut Correctional Facility on Buka Island after the review of the memorandum of understanding between them.

That understanding was reached after a meeting at the Correctional Services' headquarters in Port Moresby last Wednesday.

The meeting involved officers from the ABG, CS and technical advisers from Papua New Guinea and Australia Law and Justice Partnership (PALJP).

ARB law and justice division chief executive officer Chris Siriosi led the team in the meeting with CS executive team and PALJP advisers.

Siriosi urged officers from both parties to re-visit the MoU.

"ABG is here for substantive issues. Set a time for all of us to meet to discuss the issues of erecting a proper prison facility in ARB," he said.

"We'll have to revisit and review the MoU and identify which areas CS is responsible and which are ABG's."

He learnt that this year CS did not provide any project formulating document for funding the Beikut project in 2013 and that had delayed the 2014 funding.

Siriosi was not impressed at the CS leaving out Beikut for next year's funding.

"I need immediate clarification on cost of the project, not bits and pieces," Assistant Commissioner overseeing New Guinea Islands' prisons Philip Eka said.

"With the knowledge of the cost we can take responsibility.

"I want you CS officers and technical advisers to make available the master plan and I want one contractor to build the institution, not many contractors," he said.

All parties agreed to convene another meeting to review the MoU and the master plan before any further work is undertaken at the site.

16.10.2012

Source: The National

Buka observes World Sight Day

THE Buka Vision Centre joined World Sight Day celebrations last Thursday to help spread awareness of available eye care services in the local community.

In addition to the day's celebrations, PNG Eye Care's founder organisation, the International Centre for Eye care Education (ICEE), changed its name and is now known as the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

PNG Eye Care and the institute joined in the worldwide World Sight Day celebrations, along with over 110 organisations helping to spread the global message.

There are 640 million people who are blind or vision impaired simply because they do not have access to an eye examination and a pair of glasses.

World Sight Day, traditionally held on the second Thursday of October, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness about avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

PNG Eye Care operations manager Eileen Tugum said: "All governments and institutions worldwide need to address one of the simplest eye care problems to correct – refractive error.

"When left untreated, refractive error can cause vision impairment and blindness, drastically reduce educational and employment opportunities and can often lead to poverty.

"PNG Eye Care provides accessible eye care services for people as well as good quality eye glasses."

The Buka Vision Centre open day was orchestrated to help raise community awareness about eye health and the local services available.

Free eye examinations and low cost spectacles are provided for all who visit the Vision Centre.

"There is no better way to celebrate World Sight Day," Tugum said.

Dr Muhammad Salim Reza said: "It's an honour to be here in support of PNG Eye Care and their World Sight Day initiative.

"Creating eye health awareness and eye care services in the community is a positive way in which to tackle avoidable blindness," Reza said.

Institute chief executive officer Prof Brien Holden said institute initiatives were working to address the global problem of avoidable blindness.

"We are continuing to focus on building sustainable capacity in each region and believe that to achieve the scale of progress needed, efforts must be scaled up. PNG Eye Care is working hard to strengthen the eye care message within their communities," Holden said.

16.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

The strangeness of Musingku: money, politics & Papaala

LEONARD FONG ROKA | Supported by the Jeff Febi Writing Fellowship



PAPAALA IS A STREAM in the village of Aitara just south of the Tonu station in the Siwai area of Bougainville.

To the people of Siwai, Papaala has great significance in their local mythology which was why Noah Musingku named his operation after this stream.

By scrolling through the blog, Papaala Chronicles, one can work out that the said Kingdom of Papaala is a pure fantasy of money, politics and religious fanaticism created for the people of Bougainville by insane Bougainvilleans.



Noah Musingku [left] lives the life of a recluse in Tonu protected by heavily armed guards who are trained by the single remaining Fijian. He lives on one meal a day in fasting and prayer to fulfill the covenant he says he has with God to liberate the people of Bougainville.

Despite his isolation, Musingku says he long talked of unity with the late Francis Ona and his Meekamui. Ona always denied that.

In ABC Foreign Correspondent's interview with Francis Ona (the reporter was Shane McLeod), Ona claimed he "does not know whatever Noah Musingku is up to".

Despite Musingku crowning Ona a 'king' and Ona having nurtured Musingku in his backyard at Guava village, Panguna, Ona still denied him to the world.

Musingku does not travel from Tonu but remains in his house working on computers connected to the internet. His rare public appearances occur on ceremonial days where he emerges wearing a gold crown. He gives a short speech and hides away.

Recently he is said to sponsor a mini-sports events in Tonu and provide a little philanthropy to some elementary schools. His 'army' is paid regularly. They regularly desert but, when rumours of money are in the air, they return. But many leave and never come back.

My informant states that Noah Musingku is always sealed off from the sun, protecting his health with umbrellas. Musingku, as the saviour of Bougainville, has to be protected from direct sunlight. Likewise with his siblings and extended family. Nobody knows why, but that is what they do.

In our world, man must labour to get something on the table.

In post conflict Bougainville the economy is still staggering due to political and economic complexities and people's unsettled mindsets centered on the Melanesian culture of compensation.

It was in this context that Musingku took advantage of our people in their time of desperation.

With Papaala money, politics, and religion converge as a single realm of activity with Noah Musingku at the centre.

The religious with little formal education are the hardcore followers of Papaala. To the illiterate Musingku is a legend.

Out of nowhere, he has created his own calendar; the Papaala calendar. July, which is the galip-nut season in most of Siwai, is the New Year. Musingku throws a celebration of feasting for his followers.

To the Papaala, the days are not Sunday to Saturday but they are aligned with the Genesis creation myth. Sunday is 'Light Day' and Saturday is 'Rest Day'. Months are not named as January and so on but are called after the many precious minerals referred to in the Bible.

In Arawa, some Pentecostal prayer groups and individuals make a monthly donation of K10 that goes to Papaala for the good of Bougainville. I am not sure where this money ends up in, but it is only in Tonu where Musingku is based.

In the ABC program I referred to, the late President Joseph Kabui tells Shane McLeod of Noah Musingku: "...he is a bit of an evangelist in there, and a salesman there, and a bit of a conman there—so, he is certainly a smooth operator".

Illiterate Bougainvilleans have long being victims of the 'smooth operator'.

In this scenario we can see how sophisticated Papaala must seem for less educated people in the economically difficult world of Bougainville.

I think it is justifiable to say that, in our Melanesian developing part of the world, religion can be a problem. People can be trapped by the identity of God and of Papaala. Investing in education is a goal for our children - but still many ignore it.

We should not be biased but should know that superstitious thinking has no place in the world. As Divine Word University lecturer Bernard Yegiora puts it, "Without inferential or dialectical thinking we would be void of new knowledge and devoid of progress of human society. Inferential or dialectical thinking flourished when the Greeks (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) broke away from superstitious [religious] thinking" - an act that brought change into our world.

Thus, fellow Bougainvilleans, reality and not superstition must explain our world. According to ABC reporter Shane McLeod, Noah Musingku's UV-Stract scam has robbed 80% of Bougainvilleans of millions since coming into existence.

The UV-Stract is now a cyberspace activity. With Musingku as the director and his elder brother, Miscek Autahi as the chairman, social network sites, especially Facebook, are full of UV-Stract activity. The poor people fall prey to this fantasy. They are told there are great UV-Stract investments overseas and that the wealth is accumulating there somewhere.

In January 2010 a David K J Solomon in Port Moresby wrote to the Solomon Star News stating that Musingku was seen in Australia buying real estate properties in Kempsey, Sydney, the Gold Coast and Brisbane and donating them to local churches and NGOs.

Such articles make an impact on the ordinary people who never go to school.

Such writing and information gets Papaala followers on their heels and keeps Noah Musingku active and hard to deal with.

In Arawa once I explained my observation of the many fast money scams in Bougainville to a bunch of young boys, who recorded the UV-Stract model as:

Investor A drops K1 into the UV-Stract money pool. Investor B adds another K1. With K2 in the pool they wait for Investor C. When Investor C comes with K1, Investor A walks off with K2 that is a 100% dividend windfall while Investors B and C now wait for Investor D. If D comes with K10, then B or C both walk off laughing, whilst D waits for someone or other to create him a K20 bailout.

This wait is a wait for eternity!

You can read more about this on [my blog here](#).

In these Papaala and UV-Stract stories I do not see any light of hope for the people of Bougainville. They fall victim and Bougainville suffers because of ignorance.

15.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM cancels Bougainville trip

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill's planned trip to Bougainville this week has been cancelled due to time constraints.

According to reports from the Office of the PNG Government Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc, the trip was cancelled because the Prime Minister was supposed to have spent a day in Bougainville before flying out in the evening to East New Britain province, to officiate in the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between the PNG government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

According to the prepared itinerary program for the PM's visit, Mr O'Neill was supposed to arrive in Buka tomorrow morning at 9am on the PNG government-owned Kumul aircraft.

Upon arriving in Buka, Mr O'Neill was scheduled to be met at the airport by the ABG leaders and Bougainville MPs in the National Parliament before traveling up to the ABG Parliament building in

Kubu, to pay a courtesy call on the ABG President, Chief Dr John Momis.

After the meeting both Prime Minister O'Neill and President Momis would have flown by chopper to Arawa to meet with the ex-combatant leaders there.

After their meeting with the ex-combatants, the two leaders would have flown back to Buka, and then boarded the Kumul aircraft to East New Britain province to attend and officially open the JSB meeting.

Meanwhile, the cancellation of the PM's trip is expected to disappoint some groups like the ex-combatants, who were prepared and ready to meet and voice their concerns to Mr O'Neill.

15.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-combatant's want results of petition

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

FORMER combatant's in Bougainville, led by those from North Bougainville, are unhappy with the non-attendance of the ABG President Chief Dr John Momis during their meeting last week.

The meeting which was held on Friday at the UBS compound in Buka town, was organised by a group of former combatant's, as a follow-up on their petition that was presented to Mr Momis on the 12 of September this year.

According to some of the members, they were looking forward to receiving some feedback regarding their petition.

The former combatant's said that the President could have sent his representative, if he was busy, to attend the meeting and advise them if the ABG had already taken steps in addressing their demands, presented to President Momis, during a peaceful protest staged last month.

The demand that they wanted President Momis to immediately address is for the ABG to request that the United Nations (UN) oversee the peace building process on Bougainville and not Australia through its international aid agency, AusAID.

They emphasized that Mr Momis should have addressed this issue within a week after the protest march. It is believed that President Momis was attending a cabinet meeting with members of the Bougainville Executive Council on Friday and was unable to attend the meeting.

The petition signed by Sam Kauona, Ismael Toroama, Ben Kamda, Albert Magoi, Chris Uma, Ben Malatan and Willie Aga and presented contains these eight demands;

nThe ABG President request the United Nations Political Office in New York within one week, through UNDP, to return to Bougainville and oversee the peace process and not AUSAID and a copy of the letter be given to the Ex-Combatant's Association Chairman;

nABG lawyers explain to the people of Bougainville where ABG is at legally;

nThe President and ABG explain why they brought the named Chinese Criminals wanted by PNG authorities to Bougainville;

nThe ABG President, the four Bougainville National members of parliament and the O'Neill-Dion government, convene and review the Bougainville Peace Agreement immediately;

nThat the main objective of the review be to remove all the terms and conditions imposed on the ABG under the BPA, including weapons disposal, PNG Parliament ratification of the referendum outcome, Autonomy drawdown and fiscal self-reliance etc...

nThe review be conducted within three months from the date of this resolution and petition;

nThat ex-combatant representatives be included in the Bougainville Peace Agreement review team; and

nIf the ABG President and the four Bougainville National MP's fail to effect this BPA review, then they resign immediately within the time given under the petition.

15.10.2012

Source: Pfarrgemeinschaft Bischofsheim/Rhön

Besuch von Bischof Unabali aus Papua-Neuguinea

von Marion Eckert

Mit dem 2. Vatikanischen Konzil (1962-1965) begann eine Neuausrichtung der katholischen Kirche. Unter anderem wurde auch die Einbeziehung von Laien (Nicht-Kleriker) in kirchliche Aufgaben neu betrachtet. Laien haben teil am Apostolat der Kirche selbst. Wie dieser Weg in der Weltkirche gegangen wird, war Thema in Bischofsheim mit Bischof Bernard Unabali aus Bougainville, einer zu Papua Neuguinea gehörenden Insel.



Bischof Bernard Unabali aus Bougainville, Papua-Neuguinea ist im Monat der Weltmission bei missio in Deutschland zu Gast. In Bischofsheim berichtete über die großen Herausforderungen und den Beitrag der Kirche vor Ort zum Aufbau einer neuen Gesellschaft. Das Bild zeigt von links: Pater Augustin Parambakathu, Pfarrer Manfred Endres, Diözesanreferentin Christiane Hetterich, Bischof Unabali, Dometscher Maximilian Schultes und Bürgermeister Udo Baumann.

Marion Eckert

Bischof Unabali hält sich anlässlich des Monats der Weltmission auf Einladung des Missionswerks missio in Deutschland auf. Bischof Unabali hat in seiner Diözese vor einem Jahr einen Erneuerungsprozess angestoßen, in dessen Mittelpunkt die Bildung von Kleinen Christlichen Gemeinschaften und Fragen der Spiritualität stehen.

Das kirchliche Leben, ohne die Annehmlichkeiten einer Missionskirche in Anspruch nehmen zu können, zu entfalten und mit eigener Initiative und neuen Wegen und Modellen weiter zu entwickeln; die Kirche auf Bougainville steht vor großen Herausforderungen. Um diese meistern zu können, unterstützt missio die pastorale Arbeit der Diözese.

Pfarrer Manfred Endres freute sich Bischof Unabali in Bischofsheim begrüßen zu können. Es sei spannend und interessant von einem Bischof zu hören und zu lernen, wie die Herausforderungen der Zeit gemeistert werden können, welche neuen Wege möglich sind, um Glauben zu lebendig zu gestalten und weiterzugeben.

Bischof Bernard Unabali gehört zu jener immer größer werdenden Anzahl einheimischer Priester und Bischöfe, die in der Kirche Verantwortung übernehmen. Rund 50 Prozent des Klerus sind heute Einheimische. Unabali wurde 1957 in Bolioko auf der Insel Bougainville geboren. Sein Theologiestudium absolvierte er unter anderem in Rom. 1985 empfing er die Priesterweihe. 1988 brach auf der Insel Bougainville der Konflikt um die Kupfer- und Goldmine Panguna aus, der bürgerkriegsähnliche Zustände heraufbeschwor. Die Bougainville Revolutionary Army kämpfte auch gegen die Zentralregierung. 15.000 bis 20.000 Menschen verloren ihr Leben. Für Unabali war klar, dass die Kirche bei der Versöhnungsarbeit eine wesentliche Rolle spielen würde. 2006 wurde er zum Weihbischof ernannt und empfing die Bischofsweihe. Seit 2009 ist er Bischof des Bistums Bougainville.

Unabali setzt auch auf die Verantwortung der Laien für eine zukünftige Entwicklung der Kirche. Bougainvilles Bischof ist Realist und Pragmatiker, er weiß um die Fragen und Probleme in Kirche und Gesellschaft – und dass sie nicht voneinander zu trennen sind. So gehören zum diözesanen Erneuerungsprozess auch Fragen der Auswirkung des Klimawandels, der Bürgerrechte und der Kultur dazu.

1901 begann die Mission in Bougainville, die sich zunächst auf die Einrichtung von Institutionen wie Krankenhäuser und Schulen konzentrierte. Das zweite Vatikanische Konzil brachte eine Aufbruchsstimmung mit sich, Laien und Kleriker wurden gleichermaßen in die Verantwortung genommen. Ohne die Hilfe ausländischer Hilfswerke, abgeschnitten von der Weltmission oblag es den Gemeinden die Verantwortung für ihre Priester zu übernehmen, sie zu bezahlen und zu versorgen. „Wenn eine Gemeinde Gottesdienst feiern will, muss der Priester abgeholt werden.“

Im Laufe des Abends in Bischofsheim stand auch immer wieder die Frage im Raum, wie Europa von Papua Neuguinea lernen kann. „Strukturen zurückfahren und aufbrechen, die den gelebten Glauben behindern“, ist der Rat von Bischof Bernard Unabali. Natürlich brauche es auch Struktur, aber eine gute Mischung, bei zu viel Struktur, verliere man sich in der Struktur und lebe nicht mehr aus dem Glauben heraus. „Europa braucht mehr Flexibilität, Bougainville mehr Strukturen.“

Die Kirche biete so viel für die Menschen an, der Mensch aber möchte selbstverantwortlich sein und sich aktiv an der Kirche beteiligen. Andererseits haben Kleriker oft Berührungssängste mit dem einfach Volk. Bischof, Priester und Ordensmitglieder sondern sich ab. „Sie wollen nicht mit ihm in Kontakt kommen.“ Bischof Unabali geht einen anderen Weg, in seinem Heimatland fährt er gerne per Anhalter. Steigt bei den Menschen ins Auto, kommt mit ihnen ins Gespräch, dazu braucht er keine Amtsrobe und Würdenzeichen. In Filmbeiträgen wurde sein Kontakt zum Volk eindrucksvoll verdeutlicht. Und er setze er in der pastoralen Arbeit eben auf die Gründung christlicher Gemeinschaften, die nach den bürgerkriegsähnlichen Zuständen der Vergangenheit Versöhnung, Neuausrichtung und Wiederherstellung des Gleichgewichts im täglichen Leben bringen. Ob wirtschaftlich, spirituell, sozial oder politisch, die Kirche spreche alle Aspekte des Lebens an. Mit einem Erneuerungsprogramm, das von 2013 bis 2020 angelegt ist, soll mit und für die Menschen durch die kleinen christlichen Gemeinschaften vor Ort, neue Lebensperspektiven erarbeitet werden.

Viel gebe es auf Bougainville anzupacken, Bischof Unabali rät sich auf die kleinen Dinge zu konzentrieren und dies anzupacken. „Groß denken und im kleinen umsetzen“, ist eines seiner Leitsätze. Trotz allem Realismus gilt er als Träumer, aber als ein Träumer mit Mut und Visionen, der die Menschen im Blick hat und mit ihnen sein Land aufbaut.

15.10.2012

Source: The National

Buka woman gets three months for drugs

A 19-YEAR-old woman in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has been jailed for three months for possessing marijuana.

Lucianes Kerry appeared in the Buka District Court last Friday where she pleaded guilty to possessing the illegal substance on Aug 21.

Magistrate Bruce Tasikul said the offence was stipulated under section 3(1)(d) of the Dangerous Drug Act.

The court heard police had received an anonymous phone call giving them the description of a woman carrying a bag suspected of containing marijuana. When police approached Kerry, she told them her bag only had cigarettes but, after a search, they found marijuana.

“This includes the seriousness of the offence and the effect that marijuana has caused to society,” Tasikul said.

“You have not given any reason why you decided to carry around such illegal substances.

“Drugs such as this have contributed to law and order problems in communities. Therefore, tougher penalties must be imposed to deter others from dealing with such substances.”

Tasikul said in the past few months, there had been an increase in marijuana cases brought before the Buka District Court. And although the court had imposed custodial sentences, “people still have not learnt their lessons”.

“As a woman, you must not expect the court to be lenient on you. Those who commit such criminal acts must be treated the same, especially where the offence carries mandatory penalties.”

14.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHIEF APPEALS

By Aloysius Laukai

Chief JOHN FABU this morning appealed to the young generation of Saposa island to uphold the work of the United Church into the future.

He was speaking at the thanksgiving service on the island.

MR.FABU said the United Church on Saposa was 84 years old since early missionaries arrived on their island.

He said the people are the church and they should contribute to the work of spreading the gospel to new areas.

MR.FABU said that the older generation have done their part to continue from where the missionaries left.

Today's fundraising was to raise funds to support missionaries serving in the highlands region.

The seventy six year old John Fabu said that contributions should be made with no reservations.

Meanwhile, their local ABG member for MAHARI, JOHN TABINAMAN also called on the islanders to work together to support their missionaries.

He said if everybody contributed to the work of the church they should be able to support church work on their island.

13.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Leaders called to be visionaries

By Tapo Tovilu

A political figure in Bougainville has challenged Bougainville leaders to be visionaries in the building of the Bougainville foundation for Bougainville's future.

The figure says that as Bougainville is going through the very important part of its build up, leaders must have vision also for Bougainville's future.

He called on all members to look ahead and not only of what is to be achieved today as this will strengthen the region.

He gave an example saying that Japan during its years of basic growth had put a lot into their visions of the future and today they are one of the greatest countries in the world.

He says that this all can be achieved if the leadership of the ABG today has a strong vision to push Bougainville ahead and to strengthen its future.

More must be done for Bougainville as this is a crucial time in its development and growth for the future.

13.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG to keep Open Campus building

By Tapo Tovilu

The Bougainville Executive Council announced that it would still be occupying the open campus building until a new Parliament building is built at the capital of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The cabinet decision now has backed up the proposal to construct a parliament in Buka.

It is believed that the BEC had sought final advice from the Buka Open Campus Director who approved the ABG to remain in the institutions building.

The advice defeats a petition received from the Buka Youth calling on the ABG to vacate the building with a report on the petition still pending.

13.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Crest to recruit in Buka

By Tapo Tovilu

The New Crest Mining Company which is currently mining in Lihir and Misima will be herein the region for a mass recruitment program next week.

The program helped at helping the unemployed in especially qualified persons now living in the rural areas.

Francis Posuana from the New Crest Human Resource and recruitment office will be heading the recruitment next week Thursday at Kenny's Hall.

He says that as part of their community work they plan on employing those who have qualifications but who are currently unemployed.

Posuana called on all Bougainvilleans to be prepared for next week as it will be a good opportunity for employment.

13.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Stealing on the rise

By Tapo Tovilu

Stealing in Buka town has been on the rise in recent weeks becoming a big concern for residents in Buka Town.

An elder in the Buka town residential area has called for something to be done to help cut down on the break and enter and stealing currently occurring.

He says that if the issue is not addressed stealing and theft might become very common in Buka town.

In recent weeks he says there have been a number of incidents where residents have reported stolen property from their homes.

Also many business men are complaining of numerous breaking of their containers at the main wharf in Buka town.

He added that with the town being a peaceful and safe place for all who commute to and fro this reputation must be upheld.

He called on community leaders and police to come up with a program to help youths and to cut down on stealing in the Buka Town area.

13.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

O'NEILL TO VISIT BOUGAINVILLE

By Gorethy Kenneth

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill hopes to visit Arawa this month when he makes it to Buka Town for the first time since being sworn in as the official chief executive officer of the country.

And he has appealed to the leaders of Bougainville not to spend the K100 million presented two weeks ago on claims or other related matters – but purely on developing infrastructure on Bougainville.

Mr O'Neill was asked to comment on the issue of referendum for Bougainville and where the PNG Government stood with two years away.

At FM 100 Talk Back Show last week, Mr O'Neill said that the National Government was fully committed to making sure development for Bougainville was intact.

He spoke about the K100 million which was officially handed to ABG President John Momis two weeks ago. Mr O'Neill stressed to the leaders of Bougainville

that the money was for infrastructure development and for the future of the children of Bougainville.

He said Bougainville leaders needed to work together to rebuild the island and take ownership of Bougainville Peace Agreement where it stipulates the road to referendum.

Mr O'Neill spoke about the weapons disposal issue which was taking a slow pace but assured that these would be the highlights of the Joint Supervisory Body meeting which will be held in Kokopo on the 17th of this month. The PM will visit Buka on the 16th.

He spoke about the Japanese Bridges that were built with the K90 million fund from the Japanese Government and the need to fix Aropa Airport, Kieta Wharf and especially the rebuilding of Bougainville to total normalcy.

13.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Linus Dino & the coming of BCL to Panguna

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

LINUS DINO WAS A YOUNG MAN when the CRA arrived in his Dapera village in the Panguna area in the 1960s.

He was employed by the company firstly to clear the Pangkirangkuu area (pegging with the surveyors) then later as a cook.

In its effort to accustom themselves, CRA and other sub-contractors took a participatory-action approach with the landowners. Employment was localised and the foreigners had a cordial and mutual relationship.

Every BCL camp mess or catering service had local garden produce from the Panguna area, Kieta and parts of South Bougainville. According to Dino, and many other old folks, every week BCL had pick-up trucks that travelled the villages to buy food to feed the company employees and also to stock the supermarkets.

The locals had a steady income from BCL that empowered them and built a business climate. In fact, the last North Solomons Province premier and first Autonomous Government president, the late Joseph Kabui, had his education funded under this cordial BCL-people relationship.

My late great-grandmother, Joseph Kabui's mother, earned a sufficient and steady income to pay for his education by selling her garden produce to BCL which enabled her son's political career.

She often sprouted lamentations that the BCL did us good earlier but later began killing us by systematically bringing non-Bougainvilleans into our land.

In the late 1970s this fine co-existence slowly ebbed for the ordinary people, but not for the educated elite of Bougainville who already held an upper hand in dealing with the company.

The Journal of Pacific History vol 33 cites that a 1964 patrol report described the people of the area [Panguna] as "among the least sophisticated in Bougainville". So, BCL's good relationship with the locals from the beginning was a time-buying period of stripping their conscience before imposing western conceptions of business administration without providing a concrete base of intellectual capacity-building.

Carefully, according to Dino, the BCL administration began to get rid of these local people to accommodate educated Bougainvilleans in its established offices.

The company also began importing food from Australia and Papua New Guinea and made greater use of more established non-Bougainvillean food growers around Arawa and other urban areas.

Local labourers in the mining operation were replaced with Papua New Guineans and whitemen. Instead of saving the company by localising the workforce through educating the locals to take ownership of the mining operation on their own land, BCL made Dino and other people jobless and nobodies in their progenitors' land.

Dino says there was no hope for our dream of being developed like the European. The dream was shattered. Many locals left school, especially in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and became involved in the 'art of crime'.

The conflict was now a blame game (sometimes true and sometimes not true) between the marginalized people like Dino and the elite locals who had permanent jobs with the company.

Dino was often caught up in boozing fights and brawls with local people who enjoyed steady company wages while he just waited for any part-time job opportunity from sub-contractors in repatching the roads with tar and so on.

The Journal of Pacific History says that there was "localised dispute amongst the landowner groups suffering from the destructive impact of the massive Panguna copper mine operated by BCL and precipitated violent attacks by some group members on the mine property". This supports the old man's story.

BCL was cunning. The people gave them sweets to build a mine on their land that would fund the development of others who were absolute strangers to the Panguna people.

The far reaching impacts the mine offered people like Dino were loss of land, limited and unfairly distributed compensation, diversion of social inconvenience compensation into a 'business arm' which delivered little [but benefited the elite], environmental degradation and poor standards of living for the relocated people.

This was what the ordinary people had to face. Before their eyes they were being raped to by BCL and foreigners.

And, in 1988, these people like Dino were to give their blessing to young men to join the militancy and help free Bougainville.

13.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA ON MINING

By Aloysius Laukai

Regional member for Bougainville, Chief JOE LERA wants the 300 thousand people of Bougainville to have money in their pockets first before any mining is started on Bougainville.

He said that although understands the need to raise funds for the Autonomous Bougainville Government, he still thinks Bougainville needs to develop other ways of raising these funds.

MR. LERA made these remarks during his awareness campaigns in South and Central Bougainville last weekend.

He said if mining is started only the educated and trained operators will find jobs whilst Bougainvillean youths will totally miss out.

The Regional member said however if Agricultural projects are encouraged everybody no matter if they are educated or not will have employment opportunities.

He said in his first ONE HUNDRED DAYS in office he wants to see some technical schools established on Bougainville.

MR. LERA will still cover the rest of Bougainville including the Atolls with his awareness campaigns before the end of this year.

12.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Athletics ready for PNG Games

By Tapo Tovilu

The Autonomous Bougainville Team to represent the region in the upcoming PNG National Games in Rabaul is in full training in preparation.

President of Athletics Bougainville, Coach and Trainer Toney Karau says that the Team Autonomous Bougainville Athletics squad has been hard at training for the last month for the PNG games.

He says that in track events his best runners have dropped their best times from 12.5 seconds to 11 and 10 seconds.

He also says that Bougainville has a very strong team in their bar jump and shot-put athletes showing promising results during training.

He says that this year's PNG National Games will be better for Bougainville as a strong side has been selected.

He encouraged all athletes to be faithful and put more into training for the upcoming games and to put Bougainville up there in sports.

12.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Miriki reveals plans

By Tapo Tovilu

The speaker of the House of Representatives for the Autonomous Bougainville Government has revealed plans by the ABG for additional infrastructure for its members and staff.

This decision came about after the Director for the University of Papua New Guinea Open Campus in Kubu, Buka put forward a request for the ABG to vacate their building.

Speaker Miriki in response has being compelled to put together a budget for additional infrastructure for the ABG.

He says that as the speaker he wants a building that is fitting for the ABG House of Representatives.

The plan will include a new wing to accommodate the Committee Secretariat, Finance and Administration and function rooms for members.

He added that the area will be completely fenced by 2013 and will also include a car park for staff and members.

He says he is also looking at the possibility of improving the House of Representatives sitting chamber

12.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Buka Celebrates eye care day

By Tapo Tovilu

For many today was a day to commemorate the gift of sight and what sight has given to the human race.

Bougainvilleans also commemorated this day with a half day ceremony held at the Bel Isi Park in Buka town.

Giving the opening remarks Dr Cyril Imako of the Buka Hospital encouraged people in Buka to look after their eyes as it was a very essential tool in life.

He says that sight being one of basic fundamentals in communication and generally life, people must appreciate their sight.

He added that without sight or without eyes people would not be able to contribute and accelerate in pressuring their ambitions in life.

He called on all young people to be extra cautious in today's busy life and to look after their eyes as without it their lives wouldn't be colourful.

The day also was a time to remember those who have no sight and also to continue the eye care awareness for the people of Bougainville.

12.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE SPORTS MUST PREPARE

By Aloysius Laukai

A certified Sports Administrator on Bougainville, JAMES HASUNN is calling on Bougainville's Sports Administrators to prepare sportsmen and women to be competitive in National and International tournaments.

He told New Dawn FM that Bougainville has been reversing in its placings due to no planning by these sports administrators.

MR. HASUNN said that because Bougainville sports selectors have been making kitchen selections the region will never be successful in future.

The sports administrator said that as planners for sports in the region the Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation must look at the science to find out which codes should be played in these National and International competitions.

MR. HASUNN said looking at the size of Bougainvilleans he does not think Rugby League and Rugby Union, Basketball and Volleyball has any chances in the competitions.

He said to make it worse many sports do not run competitions and yet will have representatives at the PNG Grassroots games in Rabaul.

MR. HASUNN's comments come at the time Bougainville is preparing to send 500 plus contingent to the Grassroots games in Rabaul in November this year.

12.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

PM to make maiden visit to ARB

By Gorethy Kenneth

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill hopes to visit Arawa this month when he makes it to Buka town for the first time since being sworn in as the official chief executive officer of the country.

And he has appealed to the leaders of Bougainville not to spend the K100 million presented two weeks ago on claims or other related matters – but purely on developing infrastructure on Bougainville.

Mr O'Neill was asked to comment on the issue of referendum for Bougainville and where the PNG government stood, with two years to its expiration.

At FM 100's Talk Back Show last week, Mr O'Neill said that the national government was fully committed to making sure development for Bougainville was intact.

He spoke about the K100 million which was officially handed to ABG President John Momis two weeks ago. Mr O'Neill stressed to the leaders of Bougainville that the money was for infrastructure development and for the future of the children of Bougainville. He said that Bougainville leaders needed to work together to rebuild the island and take ownership of the Bougainville Peace Agreement that stipulates the road to referendum.

Mr O'Neill also spoke about the weapons disposal issue, which was taking a slow pace.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WHO STANDS TO ASSIST

By Aloysius Laukai

World Health Organization Representative on Bougainville, DR.SALIM ,MOHAMMAD has vowed to assist the Health Division on Bougainville to carry out awareness on Eye Care throughout Bougainville.

Speaking at the World Sight Day in Buka this morning, DR. SALIM said that the World Health Organization has a mandate to assist in the improvement of health services for all and is ready to assist with any awareness in Eyecare on Bougainville.

DR. SALIM proposed that the Health Division in collaboration with PNG EYE CARE establish network with all the health facilities throughout Bougainville so that this services can reach the majority in the rural areas.

He said the biggest problem these people often face is in their ability to pay for glasses and he called on the health authorities to seek sponsorship in the purchase of glasses that they can be given to these rural population.

DR. Salim said that eighty percent of the world's population have problems with their eye sights.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MANAGE WASTES

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville youth leader FRIEDA BASSE is calling on the people of Bougainville to manage wastes to protect lives and also contribute to reduce global warming.

She told New Dawn FM this afternoon that the management of both human wastes and other hard factory made products must be disposed properly as it is contributing to the overall unmanageable climate change and also contributing to many health problems facing the region today.

MISS BASSE said that a lot of plastics and hard materials dumped into the sea was endangering marine lives and must be stopped immediately.

She said before we can blame industrial countries for the global warming, we must also do our part as a responsible people.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lera calls for unity

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA is calling on the people of Bougainville to unite and work together for one vision for Bougainville.

He made this call when talking to the people of Haisi in Siwai and Panguna at the weekend.

MR. LERA whilst explaining his vision to get Bougainville to independence in the next coming years said that this will only happen if the people of Bougainville can work together for one common good.

He said his vision and plans needs all Bougainvilleans to contribute their bit as stakeholders of the process.

MR. LERA said that he had accommodated Papua New Guinea's Vision 2050 and the Bougainville Autonomous Government President JOHN MOMIS's plan with his vision to move Bougainville forward.

The Regional member also announced projects that he intends to deliver in his first one hundred days in office.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lera initiated paramount Chief

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Tokunotui in the Haisi area of Siwai District, South Bougainville elevated themselves during a historical ceremony at the Haisi Catholic Mission Station to support their son, the newly elected Regional MP for Bougainville, Joe Lera in his five years of politics in the 9th PNG Parliament.

The ceremony began from Chief Lera's birthplace at Sumikatume village, where prayer warriors bestowed him God's Blessing, then his mother's relatives led him in a procession to the Haisi Catholic Parish and handed him over to the father's relatives who initiated him as paramount Chief.

Clan Chief Aloysius Luku performed the initiation ceremony and presented the Hon. Chief Joseph Lera to the people of Bougainville.

He said the people of Haisi had pride in their victory and pledged to support Joe Lera in providing leadership in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as a whole.

He said the ceremony was also the first of its kind performed during these modern days and children including students of Haisi Primary School and the people from the nearby villages of Rino Constituency had the opportunity to witness and learn about their culture.

Chief Lera also had time to educate his people about the National Government's priorities and his five year strategic plan for Bougainville.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE PREPARE FOR PM

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville is preparing for the first visit to the region by the Prime Minister Peter O'Nie I next week.

According to reports reaching New Dawn FM office, the Prime Minister will visit Bougainville next Tuesday.

He will be welcomed by ABG officials at the Buka airport and would then hold talks with the ABG Government officials.

The PM is expected to also visit Arawa in Central Bougainville before returning to Port Moresby.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arson attempt in Tung

By Tapo Tovilu

Buka Police are still investigating an arson attempt which occurred at Tung Village in West Buka last Tuesday night.

They say that the house belonging to a man that was suspected of practicing sorcery was torched by some village youths who were upset over some major issues with the victim.

Investigations revealed that a next door neighbour saw the fire starting and raised the alarm.

Police said also that the victim of the arson attack was also missed by an arrow fired by one his fellow villagers relating to the practice of sorcery.

The matter is being dealt with by Community Auxiliary Police members in Tung headed by Buka police officers.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

15 year old raped

By Tapo Tovilu

A 15 year old school girl was dragged from her home by her maternal cousin into the bushes and raped.

The incident occurred at 7:00 on Thursday the 4TH of October last week at Muire Village, in the Keriaka area of North-west Bougainville.

Police say that the suspect is still at large in the surrounding mountains of the area. The members of the public are urged to assist police in turning in the suspect.

In a similar incident also Buka police are investigating a 16 year old primary school student for the rape of 18 year old female from the Habung hamlet in Bekut Village on Buka Island.

Police say that the village girl was returning from doing her laundry at a nearby creek at around 11 am when the suspect grabbed her and later raped her.

Police investigations are continuing on this matter with the suspect claiming that the female had consented to having sex with him.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Family help desk for Buka

By Tapo Tovilu

Families in Bougainville now will have more help in addressing family issues especially family violence.

This has been made possible through the launching of a new help desk which will now assist families.

Acting judge for Bougainville Peter Toliken in his speech said that the desk will serve the purpose of helping those families in need of assistance in family violence issues.

“The idea of starting the help desk began in 2010 and was in response to the escalating issue surrounding family violence not only in the region but also the country as a whole.” Toliken said.

He further said that the setup of the desk was part of the nationwide campaign in the fight against violence against women and family violence.

The project which was funded by AusAid came at a cost of K32 000 with half of the money been given to assist the previously set up general help desk against violence against women.

Also present at the launch of the desk was representatives from AusAid, Bougainville woman's association, police, local chiefs and other stakeholders.

Judge Toliken also stated that the launch of the help desk was to help promote the ABG's constitution on the importance of strength and unity in the family unit.

He said the launch would be followed by more awareness on the roles of the family help desk and what services they will be offering to the families of Bougainville.

11.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Students begin exams

By Tapo Tovilu

Today marking the second day for the Higher Education grade 10 exams saw Hutjena high school students streamlined for Business studies undertake their business studies exams.

A total of 175 students began the two week long exams yesterday at Hutjena secondary school.

Visiting invigilators from Bishop Wade Secondary School revealed that not all students were present for the mathematics exams which kicked off the exams yesterday.

The four secondary schools along with the seven high schools in the region have all commenced examinations this week.

They say that the exams will be for two weeks and will end on Friday on the following week.

11.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Exams start well in ARB

by Winterford Toreas

THE 2012 National Grade 10 examinations in Bougainville are progressing well and without any hiccups.

Students from the four secondary schools and seven high schools located throughout Bougainville started on Tuesday with their maths papers.

Buin Secondary School principal, Tony Malamo, said that the 270 grade 10 students at Buin got off to a good start.

Bishop Wade Secondary School on the northern tip of Bougainville, which has a total of 207 grade tens, also started off well.

Only Hutjena Secondary School had six of their students missing out on the first day. But generally, no major problems were encountered.

Pictured are the students of Hutjena Secondary School in Buka, doing their business studies exams yesterday.

11.10.2012

Source: The National

Autonomous government reshuffles

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has a new minister for Women, Youth and Churches. In the reshuffle of the cabinet this week, Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches Rose Pihei was moved to the ministry for Culture and Tourism after the death of Joseph Egileo.

Member for Eivo Torao, Melchior Dare will take up her former post from Central Bougainville.

Chief Magistrate Bruce Tasikul swore him in this week at the Bougainville House of Representatives.

President John Momis, cabinet ministers, members and officers of the Bougainville House of Representatives attended the swearing-in ceremony.

House of Representatives Speaker Andrew Miriki congratulated the new minister, saying the realignment and changes were necessary as they strengthened the capability of the government to administer the region.

He reminded the new minister it was a sign of confidence by the government to be allotted the new mandate.

In his congratulatory speech, Momis acknowledge that the member represented his people well and made invaluable contributions to policies and legislations, and with his new appointment, he now had an added responsibility to execute and implement, and to make laws and decisions in accordance with this parliament.

He said being mandated as a member for the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) meant that he was now part of a body that was responsible for making good policies and to uphold cabinet solidarity as well as promote the best interests of the people of Bougainville.

Momis said he had confidence in the new minister as he had proven himself to be a good representative of his constituency and he looked forward to his contributions in the cabinet.

Dare pledged his loyalty and commitment to serving the ABG and the constituency

11.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

'Embassy' in Vienna

By KOLOPU WAIMA

IT would be useful for Papua New Guinea to open an embassy in Vienna, says Governor-General of PNG Sir Michael Ogio.

Sir Michael made this remark on Monday on the occasion of the presentation of the letters of credence by Dr Helmut Boeck, Ambassador designate of Austria to PNG. Dr Helmet is replacing former Ambassador Dr Hans Porias.

Sir Michael said the Austrian Government's hosting of the United Nation's Office in Vienna with several different offices present such as the international Atomic Energy Agency, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation, United Nations Office on Drugs, and Crime and the united Nations Industrial and Development Organisation, that collectively deal with challenges such as Climate Change, Nuclear Technologies, Terrorism, Disarmament and Developmental issues is commendable.

He said that was clearly an indicative of Austria's leadership on this issue on the international level and thereby the initial majority support by Member states of the United Nations for this subsidiary United Nations Organisation's headquarters to be based in Austria.

He said: "Given the long standing bilateral relationship between our two countries, the multi-dimensional role of the United Nations headquarters in Vienna, and PNG's emergence as a regional and global player, it would be useful to open PNG Embassy in Vienna. It would be better for PNG to consider carefully, as opening more overseas missions is a costly exercise in any particular country or region of the globe."

Sir Michael said it was an issue that the Government of PNG would at some point review as the nation's projected economic growth was set to boom after the sale of LNG gas to Asian markets, commencing in 2014.

He welcomed the new ambassador to continue to visit PNG during his tenure and enhance his vision to contribute to the development of relations between both countries.

Sir Michael said the bilateral engagements between the two countries had been one of mutual friendship and goodwill.

10.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

John Roka's sacrifice for the love of his Bougainville family

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

SINCE 1988 BOUGAINVILLE HAS SEEN many lives lost and much property destroyed in the name of 'freedom'. All the deaths, though unjust, may not be for naught if they result in the betterment of the future of Bougainvilleans.

In this article, I share the life and death of my father, John Roka [pictured], who was killed at the peak of the conflict in 1993. He died at 3pm on 18 March at the Kapanasi hamlet of Siae Village in the North Nasioi area of Central Bougainville.

My dad was born as John Kalago in 1954 at Manopo Village on Bali island of the Talasea district of West New Britain. Later he adopted the name John Roka.

He was educated at home and later was studying to be a Catholic missionary but, due to the economic boom in Panguna, he left for Bougainville. He was apprenticed at the Panguna Mining School and worked as an auto-mechanic at Bougainville Copper Limited's light vehicle workshop.

He met my mother Therese [pictured here with grandson Theophil], a blood niece of later rebel leader, Joseph C Kabui, whilst she was a student at Arawa High School in the late 1970s. They married in 1977 and I was born in Arawa in 1979.

In his own world-view, dad much loved Bougainville and did not even bother to take his family across to his relatives on Bali island. He enjoyed Kieta and the Kieta culture all through his working life and into the Bougainville crisis.

In the early 1980s we had our home in Kavarongnau hamlet in the Tumpusiong Valley of the Panguna District. But in later years our nuclear family, to the liking of my grandfather who was from Kupe-Topinang, resettled at Kupe on land purchased years back by my grandma from her in-laws.

Here we lived as the crisis unfolded in 1988.

My dad was always sympathetic to the early militants fighting in Panguna. He said their actions were good for our future. In the militancy, my uncles were in from the start.

In early 1990, the PNG Defence Force evacuated the Kupe villages to Kaino village, which had been turned a care centre. Here we lived.

And here my Bougainville Revolutionary Army relatives from Panguna came to visit for clothing, medicine and a break. The care centre assisted them (it was an all-Panguna affair then).

But, in late 1992, a radio message was transmitted through the Red Cross in Arawa for my dad to go home where his elder brother Joe and a brother behind him, Patrick, had been knifed to death defending their little brother over a sex-affair row.

So dad left through the Solomon Islands.

The night before he departed from Kieta, dad told my aunty Durinu with a laugh, 'I am leaving through Honiara and shall return through Buka. When I arrive here, it is you who will kill me'.

He was away when the PNGDF recaptured parts of Kieta on 21 October 1992. Without him, mom cared for us in the jungles of Kupe where the PNGDF mortar shelling was routine.

Then one day, dad got on the air. He sent a message (Toksave) through Radio Bougainville, then operating from Rabaul, East New Britain, that he was coming. Nobody knew which route he was following but the Toksave stated he was in Rabaul.

To our shock, he arrived home on 15 March 1993. A few BRA men from Kupe on patrol met him but ignored him for they knew the sort of a man he was. He came through Buka, Wakunai and Arawa. This was the coastal areas controlled by the PNGDF and BRF.

The next day, a self-appointed BRA colonel, BI, secretly wrote a letter to a BRA faction from Kongara calling on the faction to execute him as 'a threat to Bougainville freedom'.

BI could not do the killing for we shared the same patch, so he had to hide and get somebody else to do the act.

The next day, 17 March 1993, a bunch of men arrived at home and told dad that a BRA team was to interview him. Mom followed dad to Totaisii near the Rumba SDA mission station outside Arawa. He was interviewed by the late Otii, a BRA man from Kongara.

In the afternoon they returned. On their way home, mom told him she was not feeling well, thus they needed to get home quickly. So we escaped into Arawa. All dad said was, 'This is our home'.

Very early in the morning of 18 March 1993, dad prayed a prayer I had never heard before:

Lord, thank you for giving me my wife, Therese

and my children Leonard, Justin

Jessica, Dollorose and Theonilla.

Bless our home and the land

You gave us.

There are times I feel bad towards them. I say

Sorry for these moments

After praying, he ordered us to kill a pig. We did that. We were preparing and cooking this food until midday when a pair of errand boys arrived. One was armed but the order was given by a little kid who told mom that Ishmael Toroama (a BRA commando) wanted to interview dad.

So, dad lifted Theonilla, who was our last born, and held her tightly. He patted some of us and left without having the taste of the food he wanted. Mom and an uncle followed him to Piruana where the interview was to take place.

At Piruana, there was no sign of the popular Toroama. So they waited.

In the late afternoon, armed men arrived and went straight for a kill. People fled but mom stood back in defence near my dad. She brushed away punches aimed at my dad. She shielded him from the guns aimed at him so they had to aim again.

She, in a gesture of love in the face of death stood by in no fear of death. The BRAs struggled with her calling that, 'This [man] is not your father's nephew' as it is required under customary marriage in Kieta.

In the midst of this, a BRA screamed, 'Shoot them both!' But another BRA man from Panguna, not in that same company, called upon them to do away with that stupidity.

But then dad peacefully said to mom: 'Leave me to death. If we both die, what will happen to our children?'

With the power of these words, mom was swept away by the blood hungry men.

Then BRA 'C' Company commander Steven Topesi's brother, Diu'tepaa, fired a shot that penetrated dad's skull from the back and out of his face and dad landed heavily on a rocky lawn.

Seeing that he was still struggling in his last seconds, Henry Dupinu from Karikira fired a second bullet through his chest and rested was dad.

My uncle, Steven Perakai, got himself out of the bushes and held his elder grief stricken sister and ushered her home.

The BRA men got some bystanders at gun point and ordered them to bury dad a few metres from where he landed. We were not allowed to take the body home.

10.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rio plans to cut costs after saving \$0.5b

Mining giant Rio Tinto plans to cut costs further after making annual savings of A\$500 million.

Despite continuing short-term market volatility, the global miner said its business remained healthy.

Rio is planning further cost reductions in operating, evaluation and sustaining capital costs.

Chief executive Tom Albanese said while significant stimulus efforts had been announced in China, the US and Europe, the impact on Rio Tinto's markets was uncertain.

"Given this, and the considerable price fluctuations in recent times, we are somewhat more cautious on the outlook over the next few quarters," Mr Albanese said in a statement.

"Our business remains resilient in this environment and our operations are performing better than our peers, reflecting our consistent strategy of running long-term, cost-competitive operations."

The company aims to maintain its single A credit rating by driving cost reductions.

Rio also lowered its estimates for Chinese gross domestic product growth this year to below eight per cent as economic growth in China moderates.

The company said the short-term macroeconomic outlook remained volatile while increasing urbanisation in emerging markets meant the longer-term picture was positive.

Rio Tinto expects China's stimulus packages to take effect progressively after the Chinese leadership change.

Iron ore prices had partially recovered after a period of rapid decline, but they would remain volatile in the near future, the company said.

Analysis by the company suggested that around 100 million tonnes of primarily Chinese iron ore production had become unprofitable and there was also evidence that a large proportion of this had already been curtailed.

Rio Tinto expects to achieve a cumulative annual growth rate for copper of 13 per cent between 2011 and 2015.

10.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Lera: Learning lasts a lifetime

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

MORE than 380 students doing grades 10 and 12 at Buin Secondary School (BSS) in South Bougainville, have been challenged to value their education.

This call was made by Bougainville Regional MP Joe Lera's research officer Simon Korairove, during the school's graduation ceremony held last week.

Mr Korairove encouraged the students to set their goals with positive attitudes and strong spirits as they step out of their comfort zones and into the world.

Mr Korairove highlighted that favoured jobs were not found on the streets, but were attained through persistence and faith, and therefore should be looked after.

BSS Principal, Tony Malamo, also shared his reflections on during the graduation.

He said that the goal of education was the same as the goal of life — to help young people become more balanced, mature, effective, harmonious and happy — learning that lasts a life time. He also encouraged the graduating students to make the most of what they had learnt in BSS, to enrich their lives in the future, as they start another chapter in their life.

Mr Malamo said that the decision to have the graduation before the examination week was purely to keep the students and staff free for the exams.

The school was also proud to have produced three dux students grades 10 and 12. Kawa Joshua, who received 1st prizes in biology, chemistry and physics, was the grade 12 dux in Science. Mona Ben Davey received prizes in language and literature, advanced maths, economics, geography, accounting and information technology, was the dux in Humanities.

Kore Justina was the grade 10 dux of 2012, receiving the most prizes and in all subjects.

The graduation marked the school's sixth Grade 12 and 30th Grade 10 graduations.

10.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Business owners told to pay tax to ABG

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BUSINESS owners in Bougainville have been challenged to pay taxes to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

This is because the tax that they pay will help the ABG raise its revenue to carry out its development plans.

The call was made by a concerned youth, John Taipa, from Ipirai village in the Buin District of South Bougainville.

"If the business people do not pay their taxes to the ABG, then our government will not be able to raise enough revenue to carry out its identified development projects.

"We know that there are only a small number of companies like the Jomik Group of Companies and other good foreign investors operating in Bougainville who are paying their taxes to the ABG. Why can't other business owners also do the same by also paying their taxes to the ABG," Mr Taipa said.

Mr Taipa also raised complaints about some Bougainvilleans who always blamed the ABG President, John Momis, saying that he was responsible for inviting foreigners into Bougainville to do their business activities.

“We should not be blaming President Momis because many of these foreigners have been invited into Bougainville by some of us because we want them to come and provide their services to us.

“Sadly, some of us too, who are inviting foreign businesses, only care for their own pockets. That is why they are allowing them to come and settle on our island,” added Mr Taipa.

Mr Taipa said that President Momis’ dream was to invite foreigners, like those from China to come and start up big factories and investments in Bougainville, and not foreigners like those that were currently operating small trade stores in Bougainville.

10.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Seaweed farm to earn K1.5m for Carteret

By Joseph Morokana

SEAWEED farming in the Carteret’s Islands in Bougainville has been forecasted to earn K1.5 million a year for the 4000 plus remote Atoll Islanders.

“It’s forecasted to inject into the Carteret’s Islands, around K1.5 million,” said Mr Kenneth Kumul, a district primary industry (DPI) officer with the Atolls district office in Buka.

Mr Kumul said that such a prospective marine industry was timely for the Atoll Islanders, who had for a long time been affected by high sea waves that had eroded their food gardens and caused severe food shortages.

“Seaweed farming will have a great impact on socio-economic aspects of the lifestyles of the people on the islands,” said Mr Kumul.

Mr Kumul said that developing seaweed as an alternative source of income would greatly help the disadvantaged communities that were financially constrained due to them having no other means of income generation apart from the common sea cucumber and fisheries trade. He added that seaweed farming was feasible due to similar agro-climatic conditions as those in the Solomon Islands, where seaweed is farmed.

In May, 2011, the Bougainville Administration went on a feasibility study trip to Wagina in Choiseul and Rarumana in the Western province of the Solomon Islands to see and assess seaweed farms.

10.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Noro on youth

By Aloysius Laukai

The Executive Manager for Siwai, Joe Noro says there is no youth problem in Bougainville.

Speaking at the initiation ceremony of JOE LERA as the ordained chief of Tokunutui village in Haisi, Siwai South Bougainville, Mr.Noro said that strengthening the traditional system of governance and recognizing it was the way to go.

The Executive Manager said that Bougainville’s problem today was managing the communities and recognising traditional authorities.

He also thanked MR.lera for coming down to the roots level to accept the tradional ceremony which he said was the first of its kind in the region.

09.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ARB moves on reconciliation

By JOSEPH MOROKANA

THE recent handover of the remains of the former South Bougainville MP, the late Anthony Anugu, by the people of Panguna to his children in Siwai, signifies a major step towards peace and unity in Bougainville.

The remains of the late Anugu, was finally exhumed and handed over to his children by the Panguna people—showing a positive step in the reconciliation process, one of the five key areas the ABG is embarking on.

The other key areas are weapons disposal, good governance, referendum and autonomy.

The late Anthony Anugu was taken hostage by members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) in 1990 after a meeting with national government authorities in Honiara, that was intended, amongst other issues, for the return of basic services to South Bougainville.

His colleagues' graves are still to be unearthed.

Regional Peace Coordinator, Jude Aris, said that uniting the people of Bougainville was crucial as it would create an environment of peace, stability.

“There were outstanding reconciliations that needed to be done in the next five years. About 1400 reconciliations are yet to be done throughout the region – as it would need a substantial amount of funding by ABG,” Mr Aris said.

He said that the high impact reconciliation ceremonies were particularly in the Panguna, Buin and Siwai areas.

“Former ABG Presidents, the late Joseph Kabui and James Tanis, have achieved significant progress and we need to continue with that,” he said.

One of the major reconciliation ceremonies being planned for this week, is between ABG President John Momis and former combatants from Tinputz, who had taken Mr Momis hostage in Panguna in 1997.

The ceremony will be held at Tinputz this week.

Chiefs from Buin representing President Momis have arrived in Buka and are due to travel to Tinputz for the occasion.

09.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

LENAPE and ABG to develop Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera has again signed another partnership agreement with USA-based LENAPE Development Group last week.

The Agreement commits the LENAPE Development Group, which is based in Hawaii and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to initiate a co-operative arrangement to provide humanitarian and sustainable development on Bougainville.

“I am really confident that all projects outlined in my five-year plan will be achieved and Bougainville will also achieve its political future,” Mr Lera said.

He also had time to meet the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw to discuss the future of Bougainville in the content of his five-year plan and how best the plan can be implemented.

Mr Lera also met with the executives of the University of Papua New Guinea and an agreement was reached for UPNG to offer two courses which include the Plantation Rehabilitation and Tourism and Hospitality.

According to the Regional Member's five-year plan, the Buka Open Campus will be relocated to Arawa to provide space to establish the Institute of Higher Education, Science and Technology. This will cater for the seven universities in PNG and the other tertiary institutions to offer courses to the people of Bougainville.

Mr Lera's Higher Education Plan will be in three phases;

- Phase one is to kickstart UPNG courses at the Buka Campus and reconstruction of the Buka Open Campus in Arawa;
- Phase two is to pass legislation to the ABG to offer other courses in partnership with other tertiary institutions; and
- Phase three is the relocation of Buka Open Campus to the new location in Arawa.

09.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Lera seeks assistance for project

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera has big plans in place to fully develop the Bougainville Border Development Project at Kangu in the Buin district of South Bougainville.

He is now planning to seek financial assistance worth K19 million from his development partners to kickstart and fully complete this project.

"The Kangu Border Post is going to be a multi-border post or one-stop-shop border post that will provide all services that would be needed for people when travelling into Bougainville or to the Solomon Islands," Mr Lera said.

He said all designs have been completed and the commissioning of the two buildings in Buin will soon take place.

Meanwhile, Regional MP Joe Lera said his recent trip to the Wutung Border Post ground-breaking ceremony held about a week ago at Wutung in West Sepik province was a success.

Mr Lera said his trip gave him the opportunity to meet with the development partners, governors of other border provinces in Papua New Guinea and also learnt about the Deputy Prime Minister's Border Development Five Year Plan.

He added that because Bougainville is one of the border provinces in Papua New Guinea he will also be working round the clock to seek funding assistance to develop the Kangu Border Post.

08.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Nigel Lalai & the post-war effect: a Bougainville story

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

The said Bougainville conflict affected us in different ways and at different times as we grew up in the midst of the violence and bloodshed. Here I have a short gossip with first year Business Studies student at Divine Word University, Nigel Matte Lalai [pictured], from Buka and Kieta.



NIGEL MATTE LALAI (picture) was born during the peak of the first phase of the Bougainville crisis at Arawa in May 1989.

Homes were being torched and village Bougainvilleans and New Guinean laborers from plantations and squatter settlements were being rounded up by the North Solomons Provincial Government into care centres in Central Bougainville.

Four months after his birth, Nigel's dad was killed by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and dumped at Kivirai beach near Aropa International Airport. Without the love of his blood father, Nigel nevertheless made it through the crisis and, now, into Divine Word University.

According to Nigel, his father, Kevin Lalai, was from the Torauan village of Vito in Kieta and was aged 24 when he was killed. His father courted his mother, Delphin Matte, from Gogohe on the east coast of Buka Island and a 1988 graduate from Kaindi Teachers College in East Sepik.

In a short period of time they got married.

Then the new couple's life of love was cut short in late 1989.

Nigel recalls his mother's stories.

"My father and his siblings of Vito were often involved in village conflicts over land issues and other social problems. This led to some of their family's foes into reporting my father, falsely, as a Panguna militant's informant whilst he was working with a catering company so he was picked up by the PNGDF and killed."

The late Kevin Lalai was an employee to the Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) contracted catering company, SHRM Limited. He had no interest whatsoever about the militant activities in Panguna, being occupied with the welfare of his wife and the new born son, Nigel.

Whilst on duty at BCL's limestone mine at Manetai, Nigel's father was picked by a PNGDF vehicle that drove in from the direction of Arawa. The soldiers forcefully dragged him out of his workplace and, with a few punches, loaded him onto the pick-up, then drove him away as he shed a stream of tears of innocence and loss.

As his wife Delphin and extended family members were in shock at Vito village that same night, Nigel's father was undergoing torture on the trailer of a PNGDF truck driving from Arawa to Aropa in the middle of the night.

And it was at the Kivirai village near Arop, that Kevin Lalai's wail of agony was noted by the villagers.

The curious villagers watched the convoy as it passed and went out of sight. But they observed the moving headlights die, indicating the convoy had come to a halt.

Later the next morning they went to investigate, and saw the body of a Bougainvillean washed up on the beach with deep knife wounds to its chest. They called the Arawa General Hospital and an ambulance took him to Arawa.

On the day of retrieving the body from the morgue, his agonised mother scooped blood off her son's body and rubbed it over her face as she wailed. She was beginning to sip that blood but was held back by other relatives. (This story was also shared by the late Kevin Lalai's elder sister, Marceline Tunim, in Liz Thompson's film, *Breaking Bows & Arrows*.)

This tragedy of the murder of an innocent sibling motivated Kevin Lalai's elder brother, an auto-mechanic and naturally aggressive character, Justin Kokiai, to join the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

Justin Kokiai married his late brother's widow, Delphin Matte, and took responsibility for Nigel Lalai's up-bringing.

Justin Kokiai is noted as one of the only BRA leaders to maintain some sort of cordial relationship with the pro-PNGDF Bougainville Resistance Forces (BRF) of the Torau area in Kieta.

He used this BRF connection to gain a constant supply of ammunition and PNGDF high-powered weapons to wage war on the PNGDF until the Bougainville Peace Process came in.

Justin played a significant role in the initial stages of peace negotiations as a BRA commander, also assisting with the weapons containment efforts.

But leadership outside the family and leadership within the family are two different skills and often fail to unite.

To Nigel Lalai, his step-father was a hard-to-tame person in managing ethics in the family circle. As was the norm with many BRA big men, he became reckless. He was constantly engaged in a wild rage of extra-marital affairs, boozing and domestic violence.

But Nigel's mother Delphin was designed as a woman that nothing could ever distract from managing her family with pride. As a classroom teacher Bougainville schools she remained steadfast and at ease in her mind.

She managed her family alone when the father was out running after beer and women.

Nigel grew up watching all this social dirt and, along with his second born brother, even planned to kill Justin for all the bad treatment he was doing to his wife—their mother.

Justin knew he had created a risk for his life because his children had grown up in the gun-culture and knew how to squeeze the trigger.

Then in 2004 he was killed after a drinking brawl near the Manetai Primary School where his wife was teaching.

Nigel Lalai was again in the midst of a trauma. But his mother, so endowed with courage after a long history of nightmares, was always behind him and now he has just completed his first year of studies at Divine Word University.

His dream is to go back after graduating to help Bougainville gain peace and work towards independence that many of his loved ones had died for across the island.

08.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIPIRO WANTS SCHOOL

By Aloysius Laukai

MDF Panguna commander, MOSES PIPIRO (picture) has requested his people to be rehabilitated first before any development for Panguna is discussed.



Mr.Pipiro said that his people in and around Panguna must be educated so that they can be in a better to decide the type of development they want for their area.

He was speaking in Panguna this morning during the special meeting with Panguna landowners and the Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA.

The meeting was attended by Panguna district administration staff,chiefs,women,youths and the general public.



Member addressing the Panguna people

08.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA WELCOMED TO PANGUNA

By Aloysius Laukai

Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA was welcomed to the Panguna district administration this morning.

In a brief meeting with chiefs, women excombatants and youths, MR LERA said that he was carrying out awareness to all sections of Bougainville marketing his five year vision for Bougainville.

He said he was Bougainville's voice in the national parliament representing ABG President, chief JOHN MOMIS and the government of Bougainville.

He said that the Autonomous Bougainville Government was the only legitimate government of Bougainville

Regional member explained that his five year vision aims to address pressing issues which is affecting the people of Bougainville.

He said he wants Bougainville to develop a middle income society where all the 300 thousand citizens of Bougainville have monies in their pockets and food on the table for all the families.

This Panguna meeting is the 13th awareness meeting since the member was elected six weeks ago.

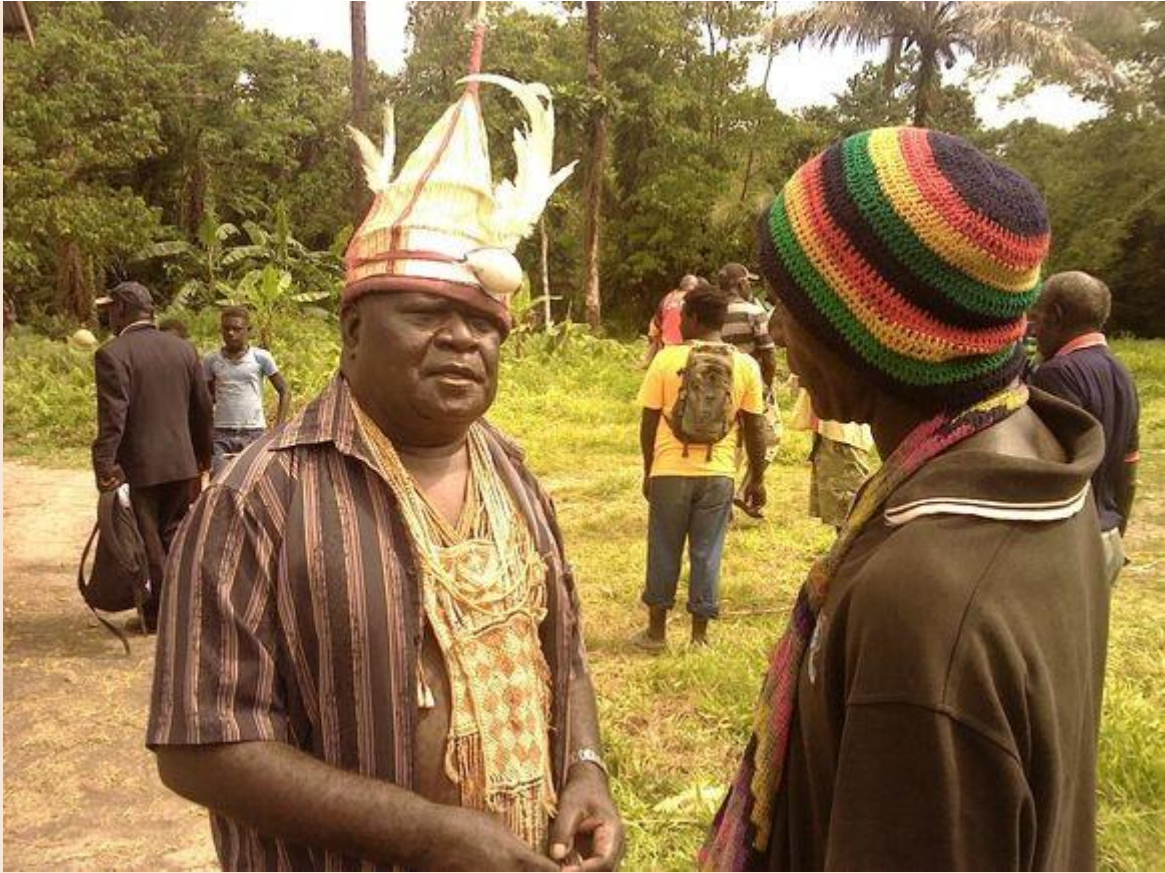


**Regional member pointing to damaged road near Sovele
Three months of rain has damaged this section of the main highway.
Member will see authorities to carry out emergency repairs of this roads.**

07.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lera meets people



Regional member talking to the people at Haisi

07.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Haisi primary school students



07.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Chief Lera supported

By Aloysius Laukai in Haisi

The people of Tokunutui in the Haisi area of Siwai, South Bougainville yesterday created history by committing themselves to supporting their son the newly elected regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA in the next five years of his reign as the representative of the 300 thousand plus people of Bougainville in the Papua New Guinea national parliament.

In a moving ceremony that started from his village, first the immediate family blessed him to go and serve the people of Haisi, then the clan installed him to be the chief to go and serve the region.

The procession started from the village and went to the parish area where the community witnessed the traditional ceremony in which he had to climb the traditional platform (lauku) for him to be ordained the the chief Aloysius.

The ceremony included traditional singing and dancing.

At the end of the 30 minute procession, students of Haisi Primary school sang the national and Bougainville anthems as the two community policemen present raised the flags.

The activity also had speeches from all sections of the community acknowledging their support for the new Tokunutui chief who was then send to serve the people of Bougainville with their fully pledged support.

06.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA WELCOMED

By Aloysius Laukai in Haisi

Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA will be made a traditional chief of the people of HAISI in Siwai today.

The ceremony will start with a procession from his SUMIKATUME village to the HAISI Catholic mission where the traditional ceremony will be performed.

Due to the network coverage, we will not be able to post pictures from the site.

06.10.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Panguna mine not an adequate account of Bougainville conflict

SIMON KENEMA | Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies

IN 1989 A GROUP OF DISGRUNTLED LANDOWNERS from Panguna hosting the giant Bougainville Copper Mine embarked on a violent sabotage of mine infrastructure.

Many reasoned that the violence was a failure on the part of the company and the government of Papua New Guinea to address outstanding landowner grievances.

Chief among these grievances was the view that the original agreement that gave effect to the establishment of the Panguna Copper Mine project was due for review. This agreement was made while PNG was still a colony of Australia.

But, just as plans of the need to renegotiate and review the agreement were being swivelled through the political and bureaucratic machinery of the government and the company, an undercurrent of inter-landowner tensions was swirling on the horizon.

And before any amicable solution could be reached to defuse the situation the disagreements flared into a violent conflict between the landowners themselves and the company.

It is widely accepted within post-conflict discourse that the tension and conflict was perpetuated by a combination of intergenerational differences between the elderly and young landowners and a range of different factors perceived by the locals to be the source of their exploitation and marginalisation.

This paper analyses these perceived causalities and how aspects of local cosmological reasoning can help us to understand the tensions that culminated in the violence....

An encompassing and detailed investigation of these tensions would require an extensive ethnographic investigation. Only such an investigation would adequately map the often divergent and conflicting sources of tension in the group dynamics of the landowners that eventually led to what became a full scale civil conflict.

The main aim of the paper is therefore to analyse the different causal explanations of the conflict. The analysis is centred on a dichotomy between post-conflict causal analyses and the existential experience of everyday life in the mine-impacted communities of Nagovisi and Nasioi.

I argue that the concept and value of 'post-conflict' in the subsequent proliferation of academic literature canvassing the conflict and its array of perceived causes is based on little substantive ethnographic data.

While it is not easy to discretely separate the historical continuity of events into 'post-conflict causalities' and 'pre-mine existential experience of social life', an attempt will be made here in spite of the complications rather than in ignorance of them.

This paper is an analysis of the post-conflict explanations of indigenous dissent that are primarily viewed as the object or catalyst for the mining-related conflict on Bougainville.... The four major explanations are presented through an analytic discussion of the different views about the social origins of the conflict as posited by various commentators and academics and my own

interpretations of indigenous cosmology as a person from Nagovisi, and partly as an insider who lived on the island during the conflict.

It looks at the different theories about the origins of the Bougainville conflict and explores divergences in notions of indigenous dissent – as informed by post-conflict literature and the ethnographic conditions of social life before the mine.

The paper also looks at aspects of sociality among local communities within the Panguna mine area and the nature of their extended relations with other adjacent communities in Nasioi and Nagovisi.

It is not my intention to discredit any of these past interpretations. But I hope the analysis clearly suggests how interpretations inclusive of, and informed by, indigenous modes of thinking could be more effective, persuasive, and encompassing in describing the complex origins of the conflict.

My intentions are to provide an analytic description of the numerous, but sometimes conflicting causalities of the same phenomenon – the Bougainville Crisis. These have become mutually constitutive, in deploying core notions of resource development, political activism, mineral resource extraction and human rights, and indigenous dissent and conflict within the Panguna Copper Mine Project.

Simon continues in his paper to consider five possible causal phenomena: which he terms the environmental destruction paradigm, the mine-induced social disruption paradigm, the unequal benefit distribution paradigm, inventing the economic landowner and the political secession paradigm. He concludes:

Throughout this paper I argued that the conflict between Panguna landowners and the mining company (Bougainville Copper Limited) is immensely complicated. I have emphasised continuously that reducing the locus of indigenous tensions to an a priori set of mine-generated grievances does not adequately account for the reasons for the conflict.

I have also argued that an encompassing analysis of the conflict is one that draws on insights from local cosmology. The primary question the analysis has tried to address is how can the sources of indigenous disaffection be theorised without generating a reductive analysis that unnecessarily privileges some causes over others?

Clearly the paper is about how the conflict had multiple causes. They were not just multiple in the sense that the conflict had complex origins but also in the sense that different people tended to offer different explanations. This paper is no exception. Moreover, I hope my analysis does not yield a view that we must 'choose' one explanation as 'the explanation'.

The juxtaposition between causal explanations that trace their origin to the existence of the mine and its negative impacts illustrates how imported concepts like landownership can be easily misunderstood where there is a lack of conceptual equivalence in local experience.

What I have also tried to argue is that the life-world of mine-impacted regions operates according to pre-existing systems of cultural logic. We cannot fully comprehend how and why the conflict eventuated without understanding such local logics.

Simon Kenema, 'An analysis of post-conflict explanations of indigenous dissent relating to the Bougainville copper mining conflict, Papua New Guinea', Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies, Issues 1.2 and 2.1, April 2010

Simon Kenema is a PhD student in the Department of Social Anthropology at St Andrews University, UK. His first degree was in using communication for development, from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology. He is now studying mineral resource development and the nature of economic, social and political relations between host communities, governance institutions and other special interest groups in PNG. Simon has five years experience of working with communities in the oil, gas and mining industries in PNG. He is interested in seeking how the 'actors' in the industry pursue and attempt to establish sustainable relations

05.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville in need of more help

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE negative impact of climate change is being felt in many parts of Bougainville, resulting in the Bougainville Disaster and Emergency Services being stretched to its funding limits to meet the increased number of requests for relief assistance.

The Disaster and Emergency office's monthly report, highlights that in September alone, relief supplies had been distributed to the following districts badly affected;

- * Selau – 75 bales of 20 kg rice
- * Pororan – 445 bales of rice
- * Atolls – 2210 bales of rice
- * Melelup (Tosuit village and surrounding areas) – 222 bales of rice
- * Torokina – 500 bales of rice
- * Amun – 85 bales of rice.

Funding for the relief assistance was sourced through the Office of the Chief Administrator.

The chief administrator is also the chairman of the Disaster Committee.

Meanwhile, the Disaster and Emergency services through the office of the LLG has established 13 District Disaster Committees to manage disasters in each of the respective districts.

The committee comprises the Executive Manager as chairman of the committee and includes respective Council of Elder's chairmen, the Officer in Charge of Health, Technical Services and Police as members and other NGOs as co-op members of the committee.

04.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Lera, Rotary sign MOU

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PNG and Australian Rotary Club to ship six containers containing library books and hospital beds from Australia to Bougainville.

Mr Lera said the signing of the MOU which took place last Friday in Port Moresby came about as a result of his partnership with the Rotary Club. He added that this project was one of his goals that he plans to achieve during his first 100 days in parliament.

He added that he cannot deliver services to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville single-handedly but requires the support from friends and development partners.

"Once the shipment arrives in Bougainville, I will present those containing the library books to the Division of Education to distribute to schools with libraries and the containers with hospital beds to the Division of Health to dispatch to health centres throughout Bougainville," Mr Lera said.

The library books and hospital beds are being funded by Mr Lera.

Meanwhile, scoping for the power lines to be run from Malasang to Kesa and Lonahan to Gagan villages on Buka Island is currently underway.

These projects are also being funded by Mr Lera.

Meanwhile Mr Lera is continuing with his community visits to carry out awareness and also communicate his plans and visions to the people of Bougainville.

04.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RD TUNA HERE

By Aloysius Laukai

A strong team of investors from the owners of RD TUNA based in the Philippines arrived in Buka this morning for a brief visit to the region.

The team was welcomed at the airport by a Cultural group from Ieta village.

The team were welcomed by the ABG Minister for finance and planning, ALBERT PUNGHAU.

03.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Former combatants to form association

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

FORMER combatants in South Bougainville will soon be establishing their ex-combatants association.

The decision to form this organisation follows a meeting which was organised by the South Bougainville former combatants and held on September 20 in Buin, South Bougainville.

This former combatants association will be formed to assist in addressing law and order issues arising in the area.

An interim executive is already in place to oversee the formation of this association.

Former BRA commander Thomas Tarii and Michael Komoiki were elected as the interim chairman and interim vice chairman of this association.

Further discussions on the formation of this association will again be discussed this Friday at the Buin district office.

The former combatants' corporate plan and other social issues affecting South Bougainville will also be discussed during this meeting.

The current law and order issue in Bougainville will also be discussed during the meeting.

South Bougainville's former combatants' representative in the Bougainville House of Representative, Michael Laita is now calling on the constituency members from South Bougainville in the Bougainville House of Representatives to also attend the meeting.

An invitation has also been given to the Bougainville Regional MP Joe Lera to also attend.

Meanwhile, former combatants in the area have voiced concerns that they also want to be involved in any discussions concerning the Bougainville Copper Agreement review.

They said they want to be considered as a party to the on-going dialogue between the landowners, the ABG and BCL.

03.10.2012

Source: Islands Business / Post-Courier

ABG Cabinet reshuffle

Bougainville House of Representatives Speaker Andrew Miriki will soon be advised on the ABG President Chief Dr John Momis' decision to do a reshuffle in the Bougainville Executive Council.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (POST COURIER) --- Bougainville House of Representatives Speaker Andrew Miriki will soon be advised on the ABG President Chief Dr John Momis' decision to do a reshuffle in the Bougainville Executive Council.

The two ministries that were affected are the Ministry for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches and the Ministry for Culture and Tourism.

Former Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches and women representative for South Bougainville, Rose Pihei was moved to the Culture and Tourism portfolio.

Pihei takes over the responsibility following the death of the former minister and member for Rau the late Joseph Egilio.

Member for Eivo/Torau Melchior Dare now takes over the Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches ministry.

Momis while advising Pihei on the reshuffle said: "This change was necessitated by the need to improve the ministerial responsibilities in directing the two divisions, Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches and Culture and Tourism to achieve the objectives of the Government by mobilising the youth, women and churches to work together, to build a fair and just society and to promote tourist attractions to overseas tourists," President Momis said.

He added that the ABG wants to generate much needed revenue for the Government and income for the people of Bougainville.

The same message was also conveyed by President Momis to Minister Melchior Dare.

"As Ministers, we are required to demonstrate solidarity in Cabinet/BEC. I have every confidence in you as ministers that you will provide creative and proactive leadership through your respective divisions," President Momis said.

He also congratulated both ministers on their new appointments.

The Bougainville Constitution requires that when the appointments are finalised, the President then advises the Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives on the appointments of the members of the Bougainville Executive Council.

The letter of notification of the appointments to the Speaker, the Instruments of Appointments and the Determination of portfolio responsibilities are then published in the Bougainville Gazette.

02.10.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORLD VISION ASSISTS

By Aloysius Laukai

The use of the river system as toilet in villages as being blamed as the cause of the outbreak of dysentery in the inland areas of Tinputz in north Bougainville.

And health officials have been working around the clock to contain the situation since last month.

It has been reported that eight people have died due to the dysentery outbreak.



Pictured is Robin Wesley from World vision (centre) with Moses Tupah and Philip Kobua cutting roofing iron for water catchment to provide clean rain water. World vision will distribute tanks to the affected community.

02.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Pihei applaud BWF

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

WOMEN in Bougainville have been applauded following the election of the Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF) and the adoption of the BWF's Constitution.



According to the former Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches in the ABG Rose Pihei (picture), the election of BWF executives and the adoption of their Constitution was a milestone achievement which all women should be proud of.

Mrs Pihei, who was also a former president of the South BWF Sub Region before being elected into the Bougainville House of Representatives, said she had a special reason to applaud women in Bougainville on their accomplishment.

"I have witnessed these historic and necessary proceedings with great joy. Having been a former president of the South BWF Sub Region before I entered parliament, and before that, a member of the Working Committee that began the whole process, I have a special reason to applaud my fellow sisters on all their accomplishments. Only women know the struggle it took to birth this precious organisation," Mrs Pihei said.

"I am proud to commend every single woman...for standing up to your standard and expectation to achieve this milestone. We fought, humiliated ourselves and named us names during the course of establishing the foundations of what we are celebrating today, but what did they matter as compared to our dreams and aspirations to create a just and peaceful society for our future children," Mrs Pihei added.

Mrs Pihei also challenged the executives of BWF and all women throughout Bougainville to work together for the betterment of the organisation.

She said there was no time for petty politics especially when BWF had just elected its executives and endorsed its Constitution.

“We are spiritually armed for battle and we will fight every battle that confronts us on the way because peace on Bougainville is the final agenda women desire to establish in Bougainville, because God gives perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in Him,” Mrs Pihei said.

Mrs Pihei also congratulated all those that had made it their business in ensuring that the election of the BWF is conducted, and also for the drafting of the BWF Constitution.

Mrs Pihei is now calling on the other ABG parliamentarians to seriously consider future partnerships with the Federation and to assess the merit of increasing budgetary allocations to BWF and women’s projects.

The above statement was delivered by Mrs Pihei during the swearing in of the BWF executives and the launching of their Constitution on Tuesday evening.

01.10.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-combatants join Just Play

THE power of sports has made a big impact on the lives of people in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, after the conflict destroyed lives of the people on the island.

Cletus Noibio is a young man who was once a student before the conflict in the Konnou constituency of the northern tip of the Island of Bougainville.

As a result of the crisis, Cletus became part of the freedom fighters which saw families fighting against each other with many torn apart.

He was a commander but realised that there was no future for him fighting against his own family and decided to contribute to the sports activities organised as a way to attract his fellow rebels to reconcile with each other in their community.

Cletus is not the only one from the Konnou area to be involved in this community sports program.

Chris Mota, a village elder has a similar past story as Cletus but has now come forward to help his province and people come out of a dark past.

In November 2011, elders in the area proposed a ceasefire ceremony which eventuated later that year.

Ex-combatants, leaders and government officials from the ARB Government were part of the ceremony.

The UNDP saw the importance of the activity and quickly stepped in, proposing a sports competition where youths will be involved to help bring peace amongst each other.

The main idea was to engage the young people in the games which will change their mindset and be part of the program.

This also led to an invitation to take part in the selection trials in Arawa for the PNG Games.

Soon after, Pikinini Sports was also introduced and children also became part of the sports program.

Proving their ability in staging the children’s games, Bougainville Football Association invited two of the many Konnou people to attend the Just Play Program workshop in Buka last week.

The Just Play program is the latest of the children’s program which only entered the ARB this month.

It also aims to encourage sports participation, gender equality and community involvement through football clinics and coaching for children of ages six to 12. After the workshop, the participants should be able to implement in the grassroots program in their respective communities involving children to prepare them for their football career in future.

Developed by the OFC social responsibility and technical departments, Just Play is designed for children aged six to 12 and promotes physical activity while encouraging community involvement and healthy living.

The results of the grassroots program shows that students who participate in Just Play are more motivated to go to school, improve their academic performance and develop positive citizenship skills while many of the volunteers have demonstrated strong leadership within their communities.

OFC has worked closely with UEFA, the Australian government and Football Federation Australia to implement the program across the Pacific over a three-year period between 2009 and 2012.

It was launched in Tonga and is now also running in American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu.

The confederation has also been working in New Zealand with Special Olympics on a Just Play program for people with mental disabilities and has launched the same initiative in Samoa and Fiji.

Just Play has reached more than 100,000 children – 43 per cent of whom are female – across the Pacific and trained over 2000 teachers and volunteers.

News 11.2012

30.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

OPEN PANGUNA

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS (picture) wants the closed PANGUNA Copper mine on Bougainville island to reopen to support the ABG with much needed funds to deliver much needed services to the people of Bougainville.

Speaking on his weekly Radio Talk on Radio New Dawn on Bougainville FM, chief Momis said that PANGUNA was a single impact project that can bail out Bougainville from its financial problems.



He explained this however would happen after a completely new agreement is negotiated with BCL and other stakeholders like the landowners. ABG and the PNG government.

ABG president Momis said that with the draw down of powers to the ABG it was becoming evident that only PANGUNA mine can provide that sort of funds.

Last week the deputy president of Meekamui unity government, PHILIP TAKAUNG called on President Momis to continue his work as they were behind his leadership.

And the MOU Awareness workshop in Tarlena was told by all the presenters that they could not fast track preparations for the draw down due to funding constraints.

NEW DAWN FM understands that most of the funds allocated under the ABG 2012 appropriation arrived this week with only two weeks remaining to the close of all Government Accounts.

And most funds would be carried forward to next year or returned to the National Governments consolidated funds as un-used funds.

30.11.2012

Source: ESBC

[ESBC press release 20121129_EN](#)

Reuters to decorate ESBC

Today, the European Shareholder's (ESBC) homepage www.bougainville-copper.eu had been recognized by international news service provider [Reuters](http://www.reuters.com). As long as Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) does not provide an own investor relations site the news network will refer to the ESBC's site as research source for investors. Currently the official site of Bougainville Copper Limited www.bcl.com.pg is under construction due to major technical problems of its IT service provider. During this period of time the ESBC homepage provides the only information pool worldwide on BCL. The homepage contains 700 pages with comprehensive updates on news and documents.

The image shows a Thomson Reuters Eikon interface with two main sections. The left section displays corporate information for Bougainville Copper Limited, and the right section shows a browser window of the ESBC homepage.

TR BUSINESS CLASSIFICATION

TR Business Classification	Name
TRDC ECONOMIC SECTOR	Financials
TRDC BUSINESS SECTOR	Investment Trusts
TRDC INDUSTRY GROUP	Investment Trusts
TRDC INDUSTRY	Investment Trusts

CORPORATE INFORMATION

FOUNDED: 1870-12-31
 COUNTRY: PNG
 NO. OF EMPLOYEES: 0
 SHARIAH COMPLIANT: Not Certified
 Headquarters:
 G
 PO Box 2975
 Port Moresby, MO, 3901
 Papua New Guinea
 +675 (3) 092800
 FAX: +675 (3) 213634

SCHEMES AND CODES

Scheme	Code
ISIN	PO0000520520
BEOCL	6113013
WERTPAPIER	852852
ASK	BOC
EXCHANGE	Australian Stock Exchange Ltd

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SHARES OUTSTANDING

Category	Shares
Fully Paid	
Issued	401,082,500.00
Listed	401,082,500.00
Outstanding	401,082,500.00
Closely Held	292,351,898.00
Free Float	108,730,602.00
Book Amount	
Nominal Value	0.00
Fully Paid	BOC.AX

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The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper

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30.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

World Vision launches BEIP

By Tapo Tovilu

With the high rate of illiteracy in the Autonomous region of Bougainville and especially in the Central Region Manetai was fortunate enough to have launched a new Basic Education Improvement Plan.

The program initiated by World Vision is a way communities plan their own ways of creating programs to help the illiterate both young and old learn the basics of numeracy and literacy. Untara community learning center were the Basic Education Improvement Plan was launched will be were the learning center will be based.

When opening the center Education Project Coordinator with World Vision Helen Teviri told people present that the BEIP was aimed at improving basic education skills like reading and writing which

many in the community lacked mainly due to the Bougainville conflict which made many school aged children miss school.

She says that all plans were drawn up and carefully put together by the communities themselves with funding and assistance coming from World Vision.

The center now caters for 40 plus students who have been enrolled to begin with BEIP training. Mrs Teviri challenged the community of Untara to work together to maintain the learning center and to help it grow.

She recalled that other similar programs started by other NGO's in the area had failed earlier due to the non-cooperation of people in the communities.

The launching ended with a feast and songs and dances presented by the people of the Manetai area.

30.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HAGO FOODDAY

By Aloysius Laukai

The women groups from the Hagogohe Constituency on Buka island celebrated their deffered WORLD FOOD DAY yesterday and today at the Hoko Sports Field.

The women's groups yesterday marched in a float in their colours and displayed their items and stall which they decorated according to their colours.

The women used this year's world food day to show off their garden produce addressing food security in their area. We will show you some of their presentations

30.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Scared out of my wits: A redskin on Small Buka

by KELA KAPKORA SIL BOLKIN

THIS MONTH I WAS ABOUT to make my maiden trip to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. I entered the airport boarding lounge and found a seat beside some young men from Divine Word University who were on their way back home for holidays.

In the midst of the students was Bougainville's most creative writer, Leonard Fong Roka. He greeted me and asked where I was going. 'Bougainville, with you,' I said.

He was surprised upon hearing this. 'What are you doing there?' he asked. I said 'I am going with UNFPA for a HIV prevention and sexuality education program for out-of-school youths.

The boarding call disturbed the rest of our conversation and we joined the queue.

At Buka Passage, Leonard hopped on a dingy and was off to his village. I wanted to meet him and chat with him at the Kuri Guest House and quench our thirst with a few stubbies but that was unlikely.

He said land and sea transport fares were sky high so he couldn't come back and forth. He went his way and I told him we might meet again at the 2013 Crocodile Prize literature awards.

I settled into the Malabolo Guest House run by one of Bougainville's renowned leaders, Martin Miriori. The rest of the team slept at the Kuri Guest House.

Malabolo Guest House is just above Hutjena Secondary School on Small Buka. At Malabolo one has a good view of the entrance to the Buka Passage to the east. The sunrise from Malabolo is a breathtaking experience.

The waves crashing on the coral reefs and limestone walls to the north-east were awesome as well.

Martin Miriori from Kavarongnau in South Bougainville has settled amicably at Malabolo and consistently provides guests with absolute comfort and tranquillity while away from home.

He was formerly secretary of the Bougainville Interim Government, based in the Solomon Islands and later in the Netherlands, during the crisis. He was also once the secretary and international representative of the Bougainville People's Congress.

Brothers Martin and Kabui have been actively involved in Panguna landowners' issues against the mining giant Rio Tinto since 1982. That is the reason I decided to sleep at his guest house, so I could have the opportunity to chat with him.

During the crisis, PNG politicians called for the Miriori brothers to be hanged or shot.

Martin told me about his dreams for Bougainville and about the late Joseph Kabui, who he said succumbed to lifestyle diseases.

Martin, as wise as he is, did not tell me directly that Bougainville will one day be independent from PNG but I could decipher from our conversation that one day they will not be part of PNG.

I also noted in our conversation that most of Bougainville's leaders, politicians and businessmen were all taught and educated by the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore rationalisation, debates and critical analysis of any situations are first and foremost in their daily endeavours. Martin himself is an ex-seminarian.

Furthermore, I met five Bougainville politicians; one of whom was a woman. They all look forward to one day running a country called the Republic of Bougainville.

They have a right to a referendum on the issue but must remember that PNG is a nation-state and their destiny ultimately lies with the wishes of the government of PNG. This is something that you and I don't want to go into.

Then all these good experiences vanished and I was confronted with a scary situation. The episode at Kuri Guest House made me recall the tone of Leonard's writings in PNG Attitude. The thought that some Bougainvilleans do not like redskins was brought home that evening.

I sat with two gentlemen from Bougainville and soon another highlander who has been living and working in Bougainville joined us.

We had a few stubbies and talked about Obama and Mitt. Suddenly one of the three Bougainvillean women sitting at the opposite table and who was really drunk approached our table.

She was about 55 years old and yelled with ferocity at one of the Bougainvillean men, shouting, 'You are not supposed to be with redskins'.

She repeated this over and over between sobs and occasionally punched the man on his shoulders and arms.

The gentleman replied calmly, 'Enough! Go back to your friends.'

The other thing I noticed in the fiasco was that the guest house security guards did not remove her, which was a bit strange.

That was enough of a sign of danger for a Simbu man who is familiar with tribal warfare. I cordially excused myself and left them.

Just a minute after I left I heard a thud and, when I looked back, the other highlander had blood gushing out of his right eyebrow. He had been hit by the other Bougainvillean man who was with us.

I was perplexed whether to betray my fellow highlander and go my way or to come back and help him.

I had pain in my heart and returned for my wantok. The culprit yelled, 'If I like I can kill you right now. I am used to killing.'

Sadly, the hotel security guards didn't help to quell the situation. I stood helpless and watched with tears rolling down my cheeks for my bleeding wantok. My wantok and I conceded defeat.

The experience at the Kuri Guest House scared me to bits and I cancelled my trip to Arawa to see my father-in-law's house so I could take a photograph of it, if it still existed, and take it back for my mother-in-law and my wife. That was their request but I couldn't fulfil it due to that horror.

Maybe my father-in-law is dead because my mother-in-law hasn't heard from him since the crisis. You see it is only human to reconnect with those loved ones who have departed from us or are separated.

My father-in-law decided to join his countrymen in the fight and my mother-in-law took her daughter when she was five years old and left for the Aroma Coast where she belongs.

That small girl who left with her mother leaving their husband and father behind in Arawa is now my wife.

I have had five children with her and, without any further information, have concluded that her father and the children's grandfather must have been killed during the war.

My redskin family and I in many ways were hurt as much by that headstrong lady at the Kuri Guest House as was my wantok.

She might have lost some relatives as well but it is painful to the heart to be treated that way, especially since she had not one iota of an idea about who I was.

Also, from the outset, the man who gave blood to my wantok looked well-polished and intelligent and I couldn't fathom why he did what he did.

The indiscriminate hatred of innocent redskins on Bougainville is totally irrational. I don't think the Bougainvilleans dislike the Australians or the Kiwis who roam freely around, including on Small Buka and at the Kuri Guest House.

Yet they see fit not to give the same consideration to the natives of the island of New Guinea.

Nobody now bashes a German anywhere in the world because of the Nazis and their Aryan ideology.

I have a Bougainvillean family living up the road from where I live in Morata. I wouldn't confront them and intimidate or punch them for the treatment I got at the Kuri Guest House. They are absolutely innocent.

I hope the headstrong couple in Bougainville will one day have the foresight and commonsense to respect all innocent redskins that go there.

Their indiscriminate hatred of redskins is totally uncalled for.

29.11.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Minewatch

Two parts to Bougainville Copper Agreement review

The Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) review process will take on two phases as explained by the legal brains behind the planning.

Autonomous Bougainville Government legal chief executive officer and Tony Reagan, the Australian legal adviser in a recent meeting on the review of the BCA, explained that phase 1 would include preparation now until 2013 and this would involve the following:

- Incorporation of individual Lease area associations and the umbrella landowner association;
- Conflict resolution work in central and south Bougainville;

- Conduct of baseline studies on Environmental, social, health and other baseline studies in the Mine Lease areas;
- Public Awareness throughout the region and development of appropriate capacity and negotiation position by each party including a joint position by the ABG and Panguna Landowners Association and;
- * Reaching an agreed process for conduct off negotiations and conclusion of agreement.

Phase two (2) will include Conduct of Review and negotiations which will also include:

- Each party to be represented by a negotiating team, led by an appropriately authorized lead negotiator;
- ABG/PLA joint negotiating team;
- Each team to be supported by appropriate technical advice;
- Separate negotiation tables to deal with environment, social, and the financial aspects of negotiations.

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AWARENESS CLOSE

by Aloysius Laukai

The three-days MOU Awareness workshop for COE Chairmen and officers in North Bougainville district ended this afternoon with COE Chairmen's feeling satisfied at the contents from this workshop.

The workshop amongst other this allowed ABG divisions to present their papers to the COE chairmen's outlining their own preparations for the draw-down of Powers from the National Government.

This has now created a good position for the Local Level Government leaders to appreciate how far Bougainville has gone in so far as the preparation for the draw- down of power is concerned.

The leaders told New Dawn FM that there must be continuous awareness so that the people know how their Government was addressing these issues.

The participants also called on the Human Resources Division to make sure that training for officers including COE members are trained to carry out their work.

They claimed that they have not had any induction into the government since they took over as members of the COE's. The workshop was organized by the Autonomy Division of the ABG

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PUBLIC AWARENESS

By Aloysius Laukai

With only two years left to Referendum in 2015, the Papua New Guinea National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government Referendum Committee have already requested that a review be made to the arms disposal program, one of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed by leaders on August 31st,2001.

And an International team of United Nations experts are already in Bougainville to conduct an evaluation of the arms disposal program on Bougainville.

The team is visiting every district to hold consultations with Government, Chiefs, Youths, Women, Former Combatants, Me'ekamui and other such groups.

The ABG has communicated and directed all district administrations to facilitate the exercise in their respective districts and to ensure that all relevant stakeholders have this opportunity to share their views to the team.

The experts are tasked to conduct consultations and make recommendations to the ABG and National Government Referendum Committee for its immediate engagements in light of the 2015 referendum and beyond. The team will be in

Arawa, Central Bougainville on November 28 and 29th.

Buin on 29th November to First of December,

Siwai from 2nd December to 3rd December.

Bana district from 3rd December to 4th December.

Panguna and Kieta from 4th to 5th December.

Wakunai, Kunua and Tinputz between December 5th to 8th December, 2012.

Torokina on December 9th.

Buka, Nissan and Atolls from December 10th and 11th.

And final briefing between the ABG leaders on December 12th December, 2012.

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG BUDGET SESSION

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government will sit for the 2013 Appropriation Budget on Monday 17th December, 2012 starting at 2pm.

The ABG speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI announced the date on 21st November stating that this would be the final sitting for this year, 2012.

According to a memo from the ABG Parliament speaker, the house is also expected to deal with other executive Government Business and Parliamentary Committee reports.

As usual, New Dawn FM will carry the budget session live to its Buka listeners.

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LANDS MOVE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Division of Lands and Physical Planning office is to move ahead of all divisions to Arawa the former capital of Bougainville.

This was revealed by the Officer in charge of Customary land, SAMUEL ROROGA yesterday during the presentation for the lands division at the MOU awareness workshop at the Bishop Wade Secondary School.

MR. ROROGA said that Lands division was one of the first powers to be transferred to the ABG however due to no accommodation and office space they are unable to transfer these powers.

He said that despite these difficulties, his division has already gone ahead to prepare lands policy to be approved by the ABG Parliament early next year.

On the keeping of title for lands he said that until such time they have a secured room for safe keeping files, all files will still be kept in Port Moresby.

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DAL VISIT

By Aloysius Laukai

A high level team from the Department of Agriculture and Livestock is in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to discuss and promote Agriculture development initiatives.

The department of Agriculture and Livestock officers are holding discussions with officers from the Primary Industry division and other related divisions and would also meet the chief Administrator and ABG Parliamentarians.

This follows the recent visit to DAL headquarters by a team from Bougainville seeking national government support on a number of issues, from the Agriculture rehabilitation to finalization of the ABG Agriculture structure and preparation for the Memorandum of Understanding.

The issues to be discussed include finalization of a working group and its terms of reference, the proposed organizational structure for the division of Primary industry's proposed agricultural plans and strategies, establishment of the agriculture commodity boards and the finalization of the MOU.

The DAL team led by Acting deputy secretary for corporate services, MR. MAWE GONAPA is also expected to visit a number of cocoa and coconut plantations and other impact project sites in Bougainville.

The team comprises of agriculture project advisors from the DAL Islands regional office in Rabaul and DAL headquarters in Port Moresby.

The team arrived the morning November 28th and will spend three days before returning home.

29.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Call for Coordinated efforts

by Aloysius Laukai

Unity and team work is the key to strengthening the Autonomy process and development throughout Bougainville according to the Acting Deputy Administrator operations, Paul Kebori.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the MOU awareness workshop in Tarlena this afternoon.

Mr. Kebori said that all persons including the COE chairmen's and their village assemblies are part of this government system.

He said because Autonomy is a new philosophy with no guidelines from anywhere in the world, we are going through trials and errors but eventually we will get there.

Meanwhile, the ABG member for Selau, TERRY MOSE who attended the workshop fulltime said that he had gain wealth of information from presentations from the various divisions.

He said that as a member he was now in a better position to debate on issues in parliament.

The member said that the workshop has cleared alot of mis-conceptions on the issue of autonomy implementation process by individual divisions.

The workshop was officialy closed by the ABG member for Selau, TERRY MOSE.

29.11.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia Network

PNG PM wants more Australian investment, China aid

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, says Australia and China should examine each other's models for assistance to the Pacific.

Jim interviews Peter O'Neill, the current Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

They discuss the recent policy changes which have been introduced in PNG.

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, says Australia and China should examine each other's models for assistance to the Pacific.

PNG is the second largest recipient of Australian aid after Indonesia, with the majority of it spent on good governance and health programs.

Mr O'Neil says most of the Australian aid currently goes towards health and education, while China's model of low-interest loans tends to target infrastructure.

He's told Australia Network's Newsline both countries could learn from the other's model.

"China doesn't invest in education, China doesn't invest in health programs in our country," he said.

"They invest in infrastructure through a loan scheme, which we need to build infrastructure...so I see these two programs as two separate programs.

"But I'm also trying to encourage the Chinese to engage in more aid."

Australia gives \$500 million in aid to PNG each year.

Mr O'Neill says he wants Australia's aid program to reflect his government's focus on rebuilding the country's crumbling infrastructure, including roads, airports and ports.

"We see that the Australian taxpayers also wanting some accountability and the AusAid program in Papua New Guinea, and they want to see visibility in the projects that they have done through these funds," he said.

"So we are talking to the Australian Government that we become partners in some of these major infrastructure programs that we are embarking on, so Australian taxpayers and also the Papua New Guineans can see projects that are visible.

"We are spreading the development program too thinly and although the program is very much appreciated, the effect of it is not being felt by the population of Papua New Guinea."

Mr O'Neill says while there's substantial Australian investment in PNG's mining sector, he'd also like to see investment in sectors where there's little competition, like agriculture and construction.

He says he would also like to see more of the money and ownership from those projects stay in PNG.

"In terms of resource development, we would like to encourage partnership, rather than investing directly and taking full ownership of those programs and projects themselves," he said.

29.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG to review deal

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government may have erred in its decision to invite a wholesale company from China to come and start up their business in Bougainville.

The above revelation was made by the ABG Minister for Trade and Industry Wilfred Komba while delivering his speech during the launching of a new vessel, the MV Kute Trader in Buka last Friday.

Mr Komba said the ABG had initially invited Chinese investors to come and establish their business whether wholesaling or manufacturing on Bougainville.

One of the conditions outlined by the ABG was that these companies should concentrate on selling their products at wholesale prices, while the retail businesses would be reserved for Bougainvilleans. However, instead of honouring the condition outlined by the ABG, the Chinese company concerned has been selling their products at retail basis.

It is also understood that the company was supposed to have leased out its shares to Bougainvilleans so they too can become shareholders in the company, which also did not eventuate.

The ABG Division of Commerce, Trade and Industry is currently going through a restructure process to change these original shareholding arrangements.

Meanwhile, the announcement by Mr Komba has drawn support from many Bougainvilleans.

Many said they have been confused because instead of this company operating as a wholesale supplier, it is operating as a retail business.

29.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Training program aids prisoners

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

TWENTY prisoners who have previously been locked up at the Buka police cell but were later released into their communities to serve their terms, are now equipped with skills on how to look after their small cocoa blocks back home.

Thanks to the Law and Justice Sector Project (LJSP) office for funding a week-long cocoa training program which was recently attended by these prisoners.

The training which was facilitated by officers from the Bougainville Cocoa Board and the Cocoa and Coconut Research station based at the research station at Kubu, was coordinated by the officer in-charge of Community Base Corrections (CBC) in Bougainville, Martin Tisivua.

The twenty prisoners who come from villages in Buka and other villages in North Bougainville include ten who were released on parole, 3 juveniles and seven who have been placed on probation.

The prisoners were taught skills on budding, cloning, pruning, nursery and cocoa pod borer (CPB) management.

Mr Tisivua said the aim of having this training is to impart knowledge and skills on cocoa management to these prisoners so they can return to their village and utilise them at their own cocoa blocks.

He said these skills will help them concentrate on their small cocoa blocks so they would forget about engaging in criminal activities again.

Mr Tisivua said this is the second time for his office to organise such a training for prisoners. The first one was held last year and was also attended by other prisoners.

He said he has plans to have another training program next year, adding that it will be better organised and will be attended by prisoners from all the regions of Bougainville.

28.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

New library for Bougainville

Celebrated New Zealand author Lloyd Jones was in **Arawa** on Monday to raise awareness about Bougainville's new public library set to open next March.

Jones, best-known for his Bougainville-based novel [Mister Pip](#), first came up with the idea of a new public library in Arawa more than four years ago. But he says even now that the building is almost complete, most Bougainvillians still don't know the library is for everyone.

"People aren't aware that this building is for them. That's the first task, to make them realize this is their place. They can walk through that door in the same way they can walk through the door at home," said Jones.

Part of the problem is the library's location is behind a fence on the grounds of Arawa Secondary, which has given up its sports field for the building.

"There will always be that fence around it for security reasons, but I would like the metaphorical fence, that is there right now, not to be there," said Jones.

All Bougainvillians will have access to the library's 15,000 books, large haus win, and five outdoor reading rooms.

Barry Binding, with New Zealand's Volunteer Services Abroad, has led construction of the building and has long been trying to get that message out.

"All the time I'm trying to get across that it's a public library," said Binding. "So many people still think it belongs to this high school but it doesn't.

Jones and Binding met with regional school principals Monday to help spread the word that everyone is welcome.

James Koibo, Regional Commissioner for the ABG, chairs the Bougainville Heritage Foundation that will take control of the project once construction is complete. He says the building could become the cultural heart of Arawa.

"This building doesn't only house the books. It will have stories. It will have artefacts. It will be a stage for performances so that young people can be educated on the traditional ways and cultures of Bougainville itself."

The new building comes at a cost of about K350,000. Most of the money comes from fundraising efforts in New Zealand. But Jones has also put in K60,000 of his own money.

Still Jones maintenance of the library won't be a typical Western library, and instead will takes on a shape that is uniquely Bougainvillean.



James Koibo (left) and Lloyd Jones at the entrance to the new library.

28.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville all set



The Bougainville Red Cross Branch is gearing up for a big day this Friday. Preparations are already underway for the annual world Aids Day-Wear Red Day, which falls on December 1. Pictured are Red Cross volunteers in Bougainville, making sure that everything is set for this major event, so wear red and join in the celebrations.

28.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kokopau today

picture by Aloysius Laukai



Kokopau in the strait between
Buka Island and Bougainville



28.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AGYENTA CALLS FOR DISARMAMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

The UN Special Project advisor on Bougainville, ANTHONY AGYENTA (picture) has called for the removal of all arms of destructions from Bougainville.



Speaking at the reconciliation ceremony in Tinputz last week, MR. AGYENTA questioned why former fighters were still holding on to their weapons.

He said that the fight was over and the fighters must now go back to their respective communities and assist with the reconstruction of the region.

The UN Chief said that if the former fighters were still terrorizing communities he wonders how Bougainville will attain full autonomy and independence in future.

On the soldiers who kidnapped PRESIDENT MOMIS, MR. AGYENTA called on them to go back and support their families in developing the region.

He said they should not be celebrating with alcohol as Bougainville has been celebrating very small achievements and slowing the overall peace process.

28.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

THE DAY HAS ARRIVED

by Aloysius Laukai

The day former public servants have been waiting for has finally arrived with Christmas.

Reports reaching New Dawn FM office says that the much talked about HARSHIP Allowance for

former public servants who risked their lives to deliver much needed government services during the Bougainville conflict has now been set to Monday December 3rd, 2012.

According to the Chief Executive Officer for the Human Resources Division, PUARA KAMARIKI a programme has been set to fast tract the payments.

He said they will make payments districts by districts starting with Buka district.

MR. KAMARIKI said that those people whose names are not on the list will also be paid after they have completed names that are on the lists.

New Dawn FM understands this news comes as a relief as many former government workers have been calling for the payment to be made quickly.

28.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PRESIDENT ON ROLES

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says every Bougainvillean has a role to play in the development of the region.

He was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony in Tinputz last week.

Chief Momis said that Bougainville has a special opportunity because of the Autonomous arrangement but the people must all play their part in contributing to the development of Autonomy.

The Chief said that Bougainville needs the combined effort of all players including former combatants, Chiefs, Politicians including youth, women and children.

On the question of leadership role by leaders, Chief Momis said that elected leaders are supposed to be servants of the people and they must always put the people as their priorities in the cause of their duties.

27.11.2012

Source. Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEVEN MOU'S

by Aloysius Laukai

In preparedness for draw down of powers from the PNG national Government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Seven MoU's have already being signed.

PAUL KEBORI Deputy Administrator Operations revealed this at the opening ceremony of MoU's awareness workshop in Tarlena this morning.

He said that all the ABG divisions are working to make sure that they have the capacity to perform their duties once powers have been drawn down to them.

Mr. Kebori said that the Autonomy Implementation division has held two workshops in Arawa and Buin and this was the 3rd workshop on Autonomy Implementation.

27.11.2012

Source. Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORKSHOP OPENED

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG member for Selau, TERRY MOSE this morning officially opened the MoU Awareness workshop being organized by the Autonomy Implementation Division at the Bishop Wade secondary hall.

The workshop aims to make COE chairmen's and their officers aware of how the ABG divisions are gearing up for draw down of powers to their various divisions.

The workshop this morning received presentations from Law and Justice divisions, Health, Primary Industry and fisheries.

This has opened the eyes of the COE members and the officers asked alot of questions on these presentations. The workshop will end thus Thursday.

27.11.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville to look to training aspiring politicians

The government in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is considering training aspiring politicians.

A former rebel leader, Ishmael Toroama, made the call during a reconciliation ceremony for the province's president, John Momis, who 15 years ago was held hostage for a month by rebels. Mr Momis has embraced the call and says it is incumbent on leaders to pass on their experience and guide younger leaders. He says in this way they will understand why certain actions have been taken.

"The need for democracy, for negotiations, for empowering people in a structural way and giving them a voice and I think the call by Ishmael Toroama is a good one and we will very seriously, not only seriously consider it but in fact I believe we should budget for it, if we have the money budget it for it and start next year."

Bougainville President John Momis.

27.11.2012

Source: EMTV News

Negotiations underway for Panguna Mine reopening

Strong recommendations have been made by the North Bougainville Panguna Mine Negotiations Forum, for the world's largest open cut mine, to be reopened.

All three districts in North Bougainville are supporting the mine's reopening, but that must proceed only, if proper negotiations are completed.

The Bougainville Copper Limited will be the first partner.

It was also recommended, that all parties be represented fairly, in negotiations between the Bougainville Copper Limited, Autonomous Bougainville Government, and the PNG Government including the Landowners.

27.11.2012

Source: EMTV News

Momis reconciles with Bougainville Revolutionary Army

Bougainville President Chief John Momis has reconciled with former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) combatants of Tinputz in the North Bougainville area.

He reconciled with the BRA soldiers who nearly killed him 15 years ago.

27.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville youths commended for deciding to quit marijuana

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A SMALL but important reconciliation ceremony was held last Friday in the remote village of Ivu in the Wakunai district of Central Bougainville.

This ceremony saw the surrendering and accepting of 28 marijuana-consumption youths back into the community by the Ivu villagers especially the chiefs, parents and citizens of the area.

The event was witnessed by the Wakunai rural police commander Sergeant Oscar Tugein and the media personals.

Speaking during the reconciliation event, women representative Rita Martin commended the youths for the bold move taken.

“You must not smoke marijuana because you will hurt me. We should all live together in peace and harmony. If you do wrong you will hurt my feelings,” Mrs Martin said.

Ivu council of elders’ representative in the Terra COE assembly, Amfri Poukato, also congratulated the youths for their decision.

Mr Poukato then called on the Wakunai district administration to recognise the Ivu youths for their initiative and assist them with whatever projects that can keep them occupied.

Sergeant Oscar Tugein also congratulated the youths for their initiatives taken in giving up on the consumption of marijuana and locally brewed alcohol.

He highlighted to the youths and people of Ivu that the consumption of marijuana and alcohol was the main cause of all the problems currently happening in Wakunai district.

“You must change your mind-set. When you are selling marijuana to others, you are killing them. Marijuana is like sorcery,” Mr Tugein said.

Mr Tugein also revealed that many youths are now traveling to the Solomon Islands to exchange marijuana with other items like keyboard, generators and radios.

Mr Tugein concluded his speech by challenging the youths to be faithful to their decision.

Some of the youths from Ivu revealed to this paper that they have been acting as “middle men” by getting the drugs from Aita village and supplying it to the other nearby villages.

27.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude / Business Advantage International

Oz mining conference: Industry to meet PNG govt

SENIOR PNG FIGURES will come face-to-face with members of Australia’s largest industry for the first time at the Papua New Guinea Mining and Petroleum Conference in Sydney next week.

“It’s the perfect venue for the new O’Neill Government to present itself internationally and to provide the industry with an understanding of the range of new policies and proposals it is considering,” said Greg Anderson, executive director of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum.

PNG’s prime minister Peter O’Neill is scheduled to address the conference on Monday morning with Mining Minister Byron Chan and Petroleum and Energy Minister William Duma also on the program.

While Mr Anderson noted “the Government’s attitude to the industry is key”, the conference’s principle function is to act as a showcase for the developments in the industry, with all major producers and exploration companies expected to provide an update on their PNG activities.

“We want to show the investment community how much progress has been made, both in terms of current projects but also the emergence of interesting new prospects. There have been very substantial achievements both in hydrocarbons and mining,” said Mr Anderson.

There should be particular interest among the 1,100-plus delegates in the future of two high profile resources projects—Nautilus Minerals’ deep sea mining project in the Bismarck Sea, which appears to have come into difficulty, and InterOil’s long-anticipated Gulf liquefied natural gas project, which has just received Cabinet approval.

Mr Anderson said he is hoping that both companies will be able to provide ‘more clarity’ on their contrasting situations.

26.11.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Reconciliation for Bougainville leader 15 years after he was taken hostage by rebels

The president of Papua New Guinea's autonomous Bougainville Government, John Momis, says a reconciliation for him, held over the weekend, was vitally important for the province.

In 1997, during the Bougainville Civil War Mr Momis was taken hostage by rebels allied to the separatist leader, Francis Ona, and held for about a month.

At the time he was Bougainville's regional member in the national parliament and Mr Momis says the rebels held him responsible for the PNG Defence Force being used to put down the insurrection.

Mr Momis says he forgave his captors long ago but the weekend's formal ceremony at Tinputz was important.

"The leaders wanted to have the reconciliation soon after I was released but it took such a long time because the member who represented them, for some reason or other, was not really committed, so it was important that this public demonstration of reconciliation be held and in a formal way and also in a traditional way, following the traditional ritual."

26.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-BRAs say sorry to Momis

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A HISTORIC and significant reconciliation ceremony took place last Saturday in the Tinputz District of North Bougainville between the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Chief Dr John Momis and the former combatants from the area.

The ceremony which took place at the Tinputz Catholic Mission follows an incident that occurred in 1997 involving Mr Momis and the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) members from Tinputz.

At that time, President Momis who was then the Bougainville Regional MP was conducting his campaign during the National Election at the Tinputz Catholic Mission when he was kidnapped by the former combatants and taken to the late Francis Ona's Guava village in the Panguna District of Central Bougainville.

During his stay at Guava village, Mr Momis was continuously questioned by the late Mr Ona regarding his stand and position on the crisis issue and on other issues concerning the political future of Bougainville.

Mr Momis was later released by Mr Ona after staying at Guava village for nearly a month and continued with his campaign trail resulting in him retaining his Regional MP seat.

Speaking during the reconciliation event, President Momis thanked all the leaders, especially those from Tinputz for arranging this ceremony.

He said this event had taken place because of the collective will of the people.

Mr Momis said during his stay at Guava, he had found Mr Ona as a man of integrity and understanding.

He said he had come to realise the late leader as someone who orchestrated the crisis because he had visions for the future of Bougainville.

President Momis also thanked his kidnappers for treating him well during the duration of his captivity.

Former BRA commander Ismael Toroama, who was also present to witness the event, said he was happy to see that the Tinputz chiefs had finally returned the authority back to President Momis.

He said this incident had come about as a result of politics in Bougainville, adding that this event marked the progress of Bougainville politics to new level.

Mr Toroama, who spoke on behalf of the former combatants, said this reconciliation would lead them to work together with Mr Momis.

Other leaders present to witness the event included the ABG leaders, vice president of the Me'ekamui Government of Unity Philip Takaung, Bougainville Police chief Thomas Eluh, UN representative in Bougainville Tony Agyenta and other chiefs from Bougainville.



A HISTORIC and significant reconciliation ceremony took place last Saturday in the Tinputz District of North Bougainville between the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Chief Dr John Momis and the former combatants from the area. Pictured is ABG President Chief Dr John Momis being led to the stage by the BRA members who had kidnapped him in 1997.



< Some of the youths and a police officer who were present at the gathering.

26.11.2012

Source: The National

Mining, oil info package targets policy decisions

AN information package on the mining and petroleum industries' contributions to the economy that was released to members of parliament was aimed to influence government decisions on the industry's activities, a senior mining official says.

The package provides specific information on different projects such as production levels, the revenues they make, how much tax they pay and number of employees.

"We are quite pleased with this information pack and we are hoping that it will provide useful information to the members of parliament," PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum president Dr Ila Temu said.

Temu is hopeful that the information package will inform the members in terms of their responsible duties and the decisions that they will make regarding the activities in the industry.

Some of the information that was presented to the MPs will also be discussed during the PNG Mining and Petroleum Conference in Sydney, Australia from Dec 3-5.

He said the information package was given to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill ahead of the MPs.

25.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ME'EKAMUI RECOGNIZE ABG LEADERSHIP

By Aloysius Laukai

The Vice President of the MEEKAMUI UNITY Government in PANGUNA, PHILIP TAKAUNG (picture) yesterday called on the ABG President Chief John Momis to stand firm and lead Bougainville into the future as the people of Bougainville including the MEEKAMUI were behind him.



Speaking at the reconciliation ceremony. MR. TAKAUNG said that it was very critical for all Bougainvilleans to work together as they have only one goal at the end of the day.

He said that his group recognized his leadership and also called on other factions to rally behind this leadership to see Bougainville achieve its goals.

Before speaking, The Vice President of the Mekamui group showed remorse at what his soldiers did to the leader and bowed at the foot of President Momis in front of an very emotional crowd.

At this some people shed tears as this was one high level reconciliation since all reconciliations began.

This ceremony was arranged by the chiefs from Buin and Tinputz and was the first district to district reconciliations.

25.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Forum says re-open Panguna mine with BCL

by ALOYSIUS LAUKAI | Radio New Dawn

A TWO-DAY PANGUNA NEGOTIATION forum held at Hutjena Secondary School in Buka has strongly recommended that the closed Panguna copper mine be reopened by the former partner, Bougainville Copper Ltd.

The regional forum for the North Bougainville districts of Buka, Atolls and Nissan ended with all three districts supporting the reopening of the mine.

In a seven point recommendation, the three districts said the mine should reopen only after a new deal has been negotiated between all parties.

They called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to make sure all parties are represented when the new deal is negotiated between BCL, ABG, the PNG government and the landowners.

The Division of Mining organised the meeting to get the views of the leaders and people of North Bougainville, Nissan and the Atolls District that includes the islands of Carteret, Motlock, Tasman and Fead. The forum was hailed a success.

Three more forums will be hosted in Central Bougainville and South Bougainville to get responses from other districts.

24.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS FORGIVES

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President, Chief John Momis today forgave former BRA soldiers who nearly killed him 15 years ago.

In an emotional speech in front of more than 5thousand people who gathered at the Tinputz Catholic Mission to witness the reconciliation ceremony he said that he has no hatred for these young soldiers who did this to him.

Mr. Momis was given the chance to speak if he so decided to as this part was the most emotional part of the reconciliation process announced the Master of Ceremony, LEONAS SAMBURE.

The President then explained that he was well looked after during his nearly one week walk up the hills from Tinputz to Panguna to meet the late FRANCIS ONA (picture).



He said that after a lot of discussions with Mr. Ona and his group he was then allowed to return home after a month.

MR. Momis also described the late FRANCIS ONA as a man of intergrity and respect who also realized that the best option to persue his goal of attaining independence was to work with all Bougainvileans on both side of the conflict.

And the road map to reach this goal was through the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the vehicle was the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

President Momis was captured when he was campaigning to defend his Bougainville Regional seat in June 1997.

People from South Central and North Bougainville all gathered to witness this very important ceremony including representatives from the United Nations in New York and local NGO's and development partners.



President Momis pictured giving his speech:

24.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ISHMAEL ON RECONCILIATION

By Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz

Former Bougainville Revolutionary Army General. ISHMAEL TOROAMA (picture) today congratulated the people of Tinputz and Buin for initiating the peace reconciliation between the people of Buin and Tinputz district.



He said for Bougainville to move forward it must complete all outstanding reconciliations and work with their mandated government, ABG.

On the ABG, MR TOROAMA called on the President to establish a political school where aspiring Bougainville politicians can be trained to replace aging politicians.

He said now that traditional ceremony has reinstated his chieftian leadership removed when they captured him by the fighters fifteen years ago he should prepare to pass on this leadership to the young generation.

On the law and order, MR TOROAMA called all former combatants to respect and look after government assets and properties.

He warned those still seizing vehicles that this year should be the end of these activities as this is not the reason for fighting this revolution.

Mr Toroama was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony in Tinputz today.

24.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CEREMONY TO START

by Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz

Reconciliation ceremony between ABG President Chief John Momis and the Tinputz former combatants starts shortly.



Pictured are UN team ready to witness the traditional ceremony at the Tinputz Catholic Mission. This is where the President was taken hostage by the BRA members in 1997.

23.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville has economic capability with cocoa, copra

by LEONARD ROKA

BOUGAINVILLE IS SAID TO BE the largest and richest island of the Solomon archipelago. In the dream days, oral history claims that traditional trade goods from as far as Malaita Island ended up in Bougainville.

In fact, this is still a mutual practice today for the people divided between two countries. There are always traders from all over the southern Solomon in many Bougainvillean markets.

This is one indicator that, in economic terms, Bougainville has the potential—without a large scale mining project—to be an economic power house to its citizens and its sister islands.

In Bougainville's economic history, the year 1989 should be noted as the year that the island economy that was driving the state of Papua New Guinea came to a standstill due to the armed secessionist conflict.

This crisis was the outcome of the systematic denial of Bougainville freedom of decision-making; rather Bougainville was a slave to aliens that exploited her and gave back nothing tangible in economic terms.

To Bougainville and its people, subsistence economic activity was the mainstay through the pre-colonial days until today. Bougainvilleans live by tilling their customary land, growing food crops and domesticating animals for food in the ongoing art of survival.

However, for the sole benefit of PNG, colonialism introduced mining into the Bougainville psyche. This made many Bougainvilleans believe that a massive export-oriented resource extraction industry was the only way for economic progress.

Leaders in the ABG, and even external advisors, want to see the reopening of the Panguna mine as an impact project to kick-start the Bougainville economy.

But what most Bougainvilleans should learn is the massive scale of resource extraction industries in PNG that provide no physical evidence of positive change to the society and the people.

Everywhere one travels in PNG there is urban decay, pothole infested public roads and streets, fearful squatter settlements, massive unemployment, crime and an Asian takeover of cottage businesses.

But to Papua New Guineans this is positive development despite the fact that the economic growth rate is outstripped by population growth.

Bougainville's future economic success must solely depend on an agricultural base. This is well documented in W W Rostow's 1960's book, *The 5 Stages of Economic Growth*, that emphasises the significance of an agricultural base to kick-start economic growth and development in developing countries.

The Bougainville government and people should invest in any cash crop the land of Bougainville can support. Two such crops that have long economic impacts in Bougainville are cocoa and copra.

In the 2008 research paper by Ian Scales and Raoul Craemer, *Market Chain Development in Peace Building*, it was noted that Bougainville was the major producer of cocoa for the PNG economy.

The paper noted that production ceased in 1990 with the spread of the crisis. But from 1997, as peace began gaining momentum, cocoa production rose significantly. By 2006 this growth had reached its average pre-crisis mark of 15,000 tonnes per year.

But to Bougainville's disadvantage this is recorded as East New Britain cocoa since all buyers of Bougainville cocoa are Rabaul based.

Among the most rascals of Bougainville cocoa and copra are non-Bougainville companies such as Outspan, Garamut and Agmark. They have local Bougainvillean agents who buy cocoa or copra under licence.

There will be significant revenue for Bougainville if Bougainvilleans can establish local companies for the direct export of their resources to international markets instead of feeding PNG's East New Britain province and others.

Bougainville's small scale alluvial gold mining industry is also not benefiting Bougainville but generating income for PNG.

According to Martyn Namorong's 2011 article, Bougainville's weak government unable to stop looting, an estimated K300 million worth of gold is leaving Bougainville illicitly.

This figure could be supported by a 2010 story by Satish Chand, *Bougainville bouncing back*, that noted a local assayer as smelting 1.5 to 2 kilograms of gold per week. This converts to up to US\$86,000 valued worth of production a week.

These natural resources are not generating socio-economic change for Bougainvilleans because Bougainvilleans are not working to take full entrepreneurial ownership of their labour and resources.

With full control of these few major resources, Bougainville could develop other still idle agricultural resources that are struggling.

All these problems are the fruit of our leaders playing Bougainville politics in Papua New Guinea shoes despite the fact that the island lost 20,000 people under PNG politics.

Bougainville does not really need a massive impact project to kick-start development. All Bougainville needs is responsible management skills and a visionary political leadership.

23.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FORUM ENDS WITH ONE MINDSET: BCL TO REOPEN THE PANGUNA COPPER MINE

By Aloysius Laukai

The two-days Panguna negotiations Forum held at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall this week has **strongly recommended that the closed PANGUNA Copper Mine be re- opened with BCL as their first partner.**

The Regional forum for the North Bougainville Districts of Buka, Atolls and Nissan ended with all the three districts supporting the **reopening of the Panguna Copper Mine by the old partner BCL**.

In their seven Points recommendations all three districts said they supported the reopening of the Panguna Copper mine only after a new deal has been negotiated between all parties concerned.

They called on the ABG to make sure all parties are represented when the new deal will be negotiated between the BCL, ABG and the PNG Government and of course the Landowners.

The Division of Mining organized this meeting to get the views from the leaders and people of North Bougainville, Nissan and the Atolls District that includes the islands of Carteret, Motlock, Tasman and Fead Islands. The forum was hailed a success.

Three more forums would be hosted in Central Bougainville and South Bougainville to get the responses from these other districts. The two-day forum was broadcasted live on New Dawn FM, Bougainville's Community Radio Network.

23.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FILM FESTIVAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Aloysius Laukai

Chairlady of the Bougainville Human Rights Committee, Helen Hakena (picture) is calling on the citizens of Buka town to attend the free Human Rights Films that would be screened to the public starting tomorrow.



The special screening would start at Kuri Village Resort tomorrow at 9 am to 5 pm, On Sunday 25th November Screening will be at the Hutjena Secondary School starting at 12.30pm to 5pm. And at the Kennys Hall between 9 am to 2 pm MRS. HAKENA said that all the screenings will be free and all are welcomed. She said that these special films are educational and promote human rights issues which are affecting Papua New Guinea and Bougainville. She said that this was the first time the festival is held outside Port Moresby.

23.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA UNITED

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Natural Resources which covers mining, MICHAEL ONI says **Panguna leadership is united and ready to negotiate an agreement with BCL on how the new mining agreement** will be made.

He made these remarks when responding to questions from the participants of the Panguna negotiation forum in Buka yesterday.

MR. ONI said that through the Panguna Communique signed by the late Kabui government the people of Panguna are now ready to discuss their differences and find a common ground to start negotiations.

Minister said that the ABG is looking with working with BCL as it knows the issues the people of Bougainville have been talking about in the few years. Minister Oni said other outstanding issues would be discussed during the negotiations.

He said that the ABG through the mining division has been having meetings with the landowners and would continue until everything is settled.

23.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS TO RECONCILE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS (picture) is showing example again by continuing his unification Programme which he announced at his swear-in ceremony at his inauguration ceremony in June 2010.



He will be reconciling with his captors in Tinputz tomorrow.

President JOHN MOMIS was captured by BRA members in 1997 when he was the member for Bougainville Regional in the National Parliament and was campaigning for the 1997 National Elections.

He was campaigning after church on Sunday at the Tinputz Catholic Mission station when he was captured by the rebels. Even all his close friends left him, but some brave women argued with the captors but to no avail.

He was then forced to walk the steep mountains for days to get to Francis Ona in Panguna.

He was later released from PANGUNA and was picked up by a chartered Helicopter from Panguna.

The reconciliation ceremony would be held at the Tinputz District office.

23.11.2012

Source: ESBC

BCL's IT PROBLEM RESOLVED !

Technical problems of BCL's internet provider in PNG caused major irritation to the markets during the last days. The current homepage crashed! Instead of putting online a simple **UNDER CONSTRUCTION** text, the technicians unfortunately uploaded an ancient version containing the absolute misleading phrase *"Company policy is still to ultimately divest the Bougainville assets"*.

This was absolutely wrong as BCL's management actually works hard to resume mining in Bougainville as soon as possible!

ESBC President Axel G. Sturm intervened promptly and asked BCL company secretary Paul Coleman to replace the PNG internet service provider immediately. Within one day only a new Australian based provider was found and an interim site (picture) went online. It reflects the positive progress on the ground that will lead to the re-opening in the near future.

Quite obviously such fatal crash was needed to replace the frumpy overaged BCL homepage by a contemporary and fresh version that will be online soon!

[Click on the picture to read the promising text:](#)



22.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE SHOULD UNITE

By Aloysius Laukai



ABG Minister for Culture and Tourism, ROSE PIHEI has called for unity of all Bougainvilleans to fulfill ABG President's number one pillar of unification of all Bougainvillean's despite of their affiliations.

She made these comments when she was speaking at the close of the two-days Panguna negotiations forum this afternoon.

She also said that culture and Tourism including Agriculture should also be given prominence by the authorities.

She said that Agriculture and Tourism can become Bougainville's biggest revenue earner if given the attention it deserves.

The forum ended this afternoon.

22.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PARIU THANKS PARTICIPANTS

By Aloysius Laukai



Panguna landowners representative, Michael Pariu says that this forum has helped the landowners to know where other Bougainvilleans are standing on the Panguna issue.

He said Panguna landowners are ready to work with the Autonomous Bougainville Government as the legitimate government for Bougainville and other factions are already working with them to join the team so that Bougainville can voice their grievances as one Bougainville.

He said Panguna mine will be opened as soon as all the negotiations are completed.

Mr. Pariu says that Panguna gave independence to PNG and should now be opened to give the necessary funds for Bougainville to move forward.

22.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AGRICULTURE FOR FUTURE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Primary Industry, NICHOLAS DARKU says that Bougainville must have an aim why it wants the Panguna mine will achieve if it is finally opened.

He says that Bougainville must now plan what it wants to achieve with all the funds it will get from the Gold and Copper mine.

The minister says that as the Minister for Primary Industries he wants Bougainville to invest in Agriculture with funds that will come out of the mine.

This would in turn address the long term sustainability of Bougainville as minerals are non renewable resources and would be depleted for good once operation starts.

He said that Bougainville needs to look and plan for the future generation now.

22.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COMPENSATION THREAT

by Aloysius Laukai

Assistant Commissioner for Police on Bougainville, ACP Thomas Eluh this morning warned Bougainvilleans on how the issues like Compensation and the first calm down payment could destroy Bougainville if not handled properly.

He was presenting Police's views on the Panguna issues.

ACP Eluh said that if looking at compensation there must be values put in for individual issues like death, person losing one eye, losing both legs etc.

He warned that if this is not handled properly Bougainville could get into much more trouble in future.

ACP Eluh said what's happening currently in Central Bougainville was illegal as more foreigners are involved with alluvial mining and scrap metals.

He said all these must be sorted out so that Bougainville can be united to work on the issue of reopening the mine.

ACP Eluh said that his team has been finding hard to address law and order issues in the central Bougainville and he wants this trend reversed.



Assistant Commissioner for Police in Bougainville Thomas Eluh talking to the Panguna Negotiations Forum

22.11.2012

Source: The National

Sydney mining, petroleum meeting

A GOVERNMENT delegation will meet members Australia's largest industry for the first time at the Papua New Guinea mining and petroleum conference in Sydney, Australia from Dec 3-5.

PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum executive director Greg Anderson told Business Advantage PNG that it is the right venue for the O'Neill government to present itself before the internationally community and the mining and petroleum industry.

"And to provide the industry with an understanding of the range of new policies and proposals it is considering – indeed, its aims for the industry for the next five years", he added.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is scheduled to address the conference on the first day of the conference.

Mining Minister Byron Chan and Minister for Petroleum and Energy William Duma are also on the programme.

The conference's main function is to act as a showcase for developments in the industry.

Since the last conference in 2010, all major producers and exploration companies expected to provide an update on their PNG activities.

"We want to show the investment community how much progress has been made, both in terms of current projects and also the emergence of interesting new prospects.

"There have been very substantial achievements both in hydrocarbons and mining," Anderson said.

"There should be particular interest among the 1,100-plus delegates in the future of two high profile resources projects – Nautilus Minerals' deep-sea mining project in the Bismarck Sea,

which appears to have come into difficulty, and InterOil's long-anticipated Gulf liquefied natural gas project, which has just received cabinet approval.

22.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

MSF work praised

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE medical service providing organisation, Doctors without Borders (MSF), has been highly praised for a tremendous job its staff had done in improving the health system in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

According to the Chief Executive Officer for the Division of Health in Bougainville Dr Anthony Pumpara, MSF had played a major role in the rehabilitation and improvement in the delivery of medical service in Bougainville.

Dr Pumpara admitted that it was hard for the Bougainville administration to improve the facilities and delivery of medical services at the Buin Health Centre in South Bougainville.

However, MSF came and addressed these problems after accepting an invitation given to them for assistance.

World Health Organisation country representative Dr William Adu-Krow also supported Dr Pumpara's call by praising MSF for their tireless efforts.

He said their assistance, especially at the Buin Health Centre had resulted in many developments taking place there.

Meanwhile, Dr Adu-Krow is calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to have a plan in place to pursue because MSF will be leaving Bougainville next year.

He said Bougainville should move on from where MSF had left, and not "sitting back" because it would affect the delivery of health services.

Dr Adu-Krow also pleaded with MSF to continue to provide assistance to Bougainville.

Both Dr Pumpara and Dr Adu-Krow had delivered these remarks during the launching of medical equipment donated by WHO to Buin Health Centre last week.

22.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

WHO helps health centres

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

TWO health centres in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville were proud recipients of medical equipment, thanks to the World Health Organisation for the timely help.

The more than 30 cartons of hematology equipment were shared and delivered to Arawa Health Centre in Central Bougainville and Buin Health Centre in South Bougainville.

These equipment were personally delivered to these health centres by the WHO country representative Dr Adu-Krow and other senior WHO officers last Friday.

Kieta District executive manager Lucy Traverts, when receiving the equipment for Arawa Health Centre, thanked WHO for the delivery of these much-needed medical equipment.

She, however, pleaded with the Chief Executive Officer for the Division of Health in Bougainville, Dr Anthony Pumpara, to ensure that there are specialists available to use these equipment.

Dr Adu-Krow, before handing the equipment to Mrs Traverts, said the cost of these equipment was not important.

He said what really mattered was that these equipment should be used in saving the lives of patients.

Buin District health officer James Roberts, when receiving the equipment for Buin Health Centre, also thanked WHO for the assistance. Mr Roberts said the quipment would greatly help them in providing medical help to their patients.

Apart from Arawa and Buin health centres, WHO also presented microbiology equipment to Buka General Hospital. These equipment cost more than K600,000.

21.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEGOTIATION STAGE

By Aloysius Laukai



The Director of Panguna Negotiations, RAYMOND MASONO (picture) has told the participants of the Panguna negotiations forum in North Bougainville today that the forum wants to get ideas from all Bougainvilleans on what issues should be covered or included during negotiation for the new Bougainville Copper Agreement.

He said that they were not talking on reviewing the Panguna Peace Agreement but on negotiating a new Agreement through negotiations between all stakeholders on Bougainville.

MR.MASONO said that this first forum was one of the several meetings that will be held throughout Bougainville.

He made these remarks when commenting on the aim and outcome they expect from this two-days Forum currently in progress in Buka.



21.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONSULTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Acting President, JOE NOPE says that the second phase of the Panguna negotiations is consulting the wider Bougainville community.

He was speaking at the launching of the Panguna negotiations forum on Buka island this morning.

MR. NOPE said involving the entire Bougainville region on issues that affected the region and continues to affect the region.



Pictured is Joe Nope at the Forum

21.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA NEGOTIATIONS FORUM OPENED

By Aloysius Laukai

The Panguna Negotiations Forum for North Bougainville region started this morning at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall.

The Forum was officially opened by the Acting ABG President and member for Kunua, JOE NOPE.

The forum will get views from the leaders of North Bougainville on what they think on the future of Bougainville including the negotiations for a new Bougainville Copper Agreement and the opening of the now closed Panguna Copper and Gold Mine.

21.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Health CEO: Achieve health plan

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has a health plan in place which needs to be achieved annually.

This health plan, if fully achieved, will result in improvements in the delivery of health services on the island.

Chief Executive Officer of the Division of Health in Bougainville, Dr Anthony Pumpara, said the only way to achieve this plan is for all health staff to commit themselves in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Dr Pumpara stressed that the onus was on the health officials to be faithful in their duties.

He said the division of health is aiming to achieve a certain percentage of the health plans already in place.

Dr Pumpara also warned the staff of the Division of Health that those who do not perform “should not waste their time but must ship out”.

Meanwhile, Dr Pumpara is congratulating those health officers in Bougainville who have tirelessly carried out their duties and responsibilities.

He said their hard work has resulted in Bougainville now being ranked third in the country in terms of medical service delivery.

This, he said is a great improvement. In 2006 Bougainville was ranked 12 in the country. Dr Pumpara said this improvement shows that health staffs are committing themselves to carrying out their duties. Dr Pumpara was delivering this speech during the presentation of hematology equipment donated by the World Health Organisation to Buin Health Centre, last Friday.

21.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Dancing dwarves



GOGOHE Primary School in Buka Island came alive yesterday as the students, teachers and the communities there celebrated the International Children’s Day in style. The students were able to showcase different types of activities like disco dances to commemorate the day. Buka-based NGO, Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency representative, Francis Semoso, while delivering his speech, challenged parents to take pride in their children by ensuring that their

children have everything they may need in school. He said parents should not bring their children to school and forget about equipping them with the basic needs they may need during the school year. Gogohe Primary School parents also participated in the celebrations by presenting different gifts to their children. Apart from Gogohe, other primary schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville also celebrated the day with different types of activities. Pictured are two students from Gogohe primary school performing an activity known as the ‘kirin (dwarf) dance’.

21.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

AROB aim to improve

By GRACE TIDEN

TEAM Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) wants to improve on their performance from the last PNG Games in Port Moresby.

They plan to win medals in the martial arts codes in the next few days.

The last time they went for the 4th PNG Games in Port Moresby in 2009, the team was placed 6th out of all provinces participated. AROB General Manager Willie Masiu said between 300 and 400 athletes and team officials were sent in 2009 but the number increased to 540 this year.

“We are one of East New Britain’s closest neighbours and it was easy to send in a large number of players and team officials for the games,” he said.

Team AROB is the second largest provincial contingent followed by NCD with 500. Host Team East New Britain has over 600 athletes and players.

Masiu said two ships were chartered to bring the team over from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

“We got two ships to bring the team over. One of the ships came from the Solomon Islands,” he said.

The AROB athletes will be participating in 17 sporting codes in the next couple of days and Masiu is confident, the team will perform exceptionally well.

“We hope to win medals in taekwondo, karate, boxing and kick boxing,” he said.

Team AROB is currently being accommodated at the Malaguna Technical Secondary School in Rabaul. During the opening ceremony on Monday this week, a total of 22 vehicles were hired to bring the team to the official venue at the new Kokopo Sports Ground.

The team looked spectacular in their sky blue official wear.

21.11.2012

Source: The National

Resource-rich provinces and landowners get K626 million

THE government has allocated K626 million to fixed commitments through the 2013 national budget handed down by Treasury Minister Don Polye yesterday.

Secretary to Treasury Department Simon Tosali said during the press budget lockup that the commitments were fixed grant allocations for resource-rich provinces and landowners.

He said in the 2013 Budget, the infrastructure development grants for the Southern Highlands, Hela, Gulf and Central provinces were K120 million.

He said the district support grants were K56 million and K86 million for the special support grants. The memorandum of agreement was allocated K27 million.

The other landowner grants are the Lihir IDG MoA of K3 million, the high impact projects as per the UBSA of K50 million, **an annual funding of K100 million plus K15 million restoration development grants for the Autonomous Bougainville Government.**

The government has also allocated K170 million as a loan counterpart funding.

20.11.2012

Source: The National - Reader's letter

Bougainville has final say on mining

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville, under President John Momis, is now writing a mineral policy and legislative regime to put the government and its people at the pinnacle of resource development.

This is a regime in which the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and its resource owners are equal partners.

The ABG is the ultimate authority in determining policy and legislative framework on resource development in Bougainville, including the future of Panguna mine.

The resource owners are ABG's cohesive partners in this regime, where they recognise and respect their government's authority and the government recognises the owners' rights through the constitutional framework.

There are important considerations and aspirations in the mineral sector which many do not understand.

Firstly, under the PNG constitutional framework, the ABG is fully mandated to exercise its mining, oil and gas powers from the national government, of which this process is actively under way.

During the Alotau Accord of 2008, the national government and ABG agreed upon 15 steps, which the ABG shall fully comply with.

In line with this, the national government has agreed not to assume mining, oil and gas powers in relation to Bougainville without ABG's request or agreement.

The 15 steps also include the reviewing of the Bougainville copper agreement and lifting the current blanket moratorium on any exploration in the autonomous region.

Secondly, the ABG is now in the process of legislating a Bougainville transitional mining arrangement act.

The main purpose is to monitor some of the recent activities where dubious foreign companies are mining in Bougainville by luring local resource owners through joint-venture companies.

In this instance, the ABG has a moral and legal duty to pass this law to protect its citizens from the sweet-talk by foreigners and their local cronies who go around misleading and promising landowners huge financial returns.

Whilst this law is temporarily in place, the ABG will continue its consultations with its people and mineral policy and technical experts to develop a responsible, sustainable mineral extraction legislative framework.

Thirdly, the future of Panguna mine will be determined after a full consultation with landowners, impacted communities and the people.

The ABG and its people will not accept any resource development deal struck outside the shores of Bougainville.

With the Panguna mine, the ABG is currently undergoing an unprecedented approach where consultations with landowners are winding down, consultations with ex-combatants have been completed and discussions and awareness with the people will kick off this month through regional forums.

To sum it up, the ABG is the legal authority to make decisions on mining and the Panguna mine.

It is currently in consultation with all stakeholders to develop a mineral policy and legislative regime that puts the government and its people in the forefront with responsible mineral extraction.

If investors are serious in contributing meaningfully to this process, they are invited to come to Bougainville.

Kearnneth Kolynnopo Nanei
Bougainville

20.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA FORUM

by Aloysius Laukai

The first Regional forum on Panguna negotiations for the North Bougainville districts of Buka island, Atolls and Nissan district is scheduled for Wednesday November 21st,2012 at the Hutjena secondary school.

The two-day forum is the first of a number of forums to be held in North. Central and South Bougainville.

For North Bougainville. there will be a second forum for mainland Bougainville of Selau/Suir, Kunua and Tinputz at a date to be set.

These forums are being organized from the office of the newly appointed Director for Panguna negotiations RAYMOND MASONO.

According to the programme the forum would be both informative and consultative in which presentations would be made by ABG officials and members of the house of representatives.

New Dawn FM will carry live some of the important sessions of the forum.

20.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DEADLINE LAPSES

by Aloysius Laukai

Business houses owed by the PNG Electoral Commission for services rendered in Bougainville during the June General elections have given the Bougainville Electoral Officials until tomorrow Tuesday November 20th,2012 to response to their demands or take other cause of actions if nothing happens.

A quick check by New Dawn FM this morning found out that Electoral Officials were still trying to communicate with Port Moresby to settle these outstanding monies.

Committee for the Business houses advised other members that tomorrows planned meeting has been post phoned until next week.

Their last meeting two weeks ago demanded that the Electoral Commission pay them by tomorrow.

If not they will not allow the ABG BY ELECTION to go ahead and that in any future elections. services must be paid for first as under the User Pay service.

20.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

OPENNING MARRED BY STORM

By Aloysius Laukai

The Opening ceremony of the 5th PNG Grassroots games in Rabaul this afternoon was marred by strong winds,lightning and rain which resulted in power outage.

NEW DAWN FM was monitoring the ceremony from Buka and could not get the Prime minister's speech as the power went off cutting off live broadcasts and disconnecting mobile phone service for several minutes.

19.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

AGB makes budget process arrangements

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government's Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) has already approved a budget process that will be used to deal with the Bougainville House of Representative's annual budget.

According to the ABG Members Update weekly newsletter, this budget process, when fully implemented, will separate debates on the House of Representatives budget from the administrative and development budgets.

ABG Speaker Andrew Miriki, who is also the PSC chairman, said the Commission noted that prior to each fiscal year, the PSC must direct the ABG clerk to prepare an estimated budget of the expenses of the House and its members during each fiscal year.

The Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) will also be informed on the estimated amount required to provide for the payment of the expenses of the House.

The Clerk must prepare the estimates for the House within the ceiling established for the House for each fiscal year which is approved by BEC.

The annual appropriation of the Bougainville House of Representatives will be the first budget to be tabled, followed by the administration and development budgets.

Meanwhile, the current ABG financial status is affecting the operations of the House and the parliamentary select committees.

The recurrent operations of the ABG are currently funded through revenue earned from sources like the group tax, general sales tax and the liquor sales tax.

It is predicted that the House will continue to face financial problems unless there is an improvement in revenues earned.

19.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Computers stolen at wharf

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

COMPUTER accessories purchased for the Bougainville House of Representatives by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) Education Trust Fund were stolen at the Buka wharf about a week ago.

The ABG Members Update states that the shipment included a HP computer monitor, two Microsoft Office software CDs, HP Desktop Hard Drive computer, two Kyocera printers, a HP laptop computer and eight tonners. The matter has already been reported to PNG Ports Corporation and the local stevedoring company at the wharf.

CPA Education Trust Fund, the organisation that supplied the computer accessories have also been notified of the theft.

CPA Education Trust Fund provides on-going support to the Bougainville House of Representatives in terms of equipment and staff training.

It has been providing assistance to the Bougainville House of Representatives since the ABG became a CPA member in September 2006.

19.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tonu receives ambulance

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

TONU health centre in the Siwai District of South Bougainville now has a new ambulance, thanks to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for funding and delivering the vehicle to the health centre.

The presentation of the ambulance, which took place at Tonu last Thursday, will no doubt improve Tonu health centre's medical service delivery programmes.

The ambulance which cost K100,000 was officially delivered and presented to the United Church Bougainville Bishop, Tim Arthur on behalf of Tonu health centre, by the WHO country representative Dr William Adu-Krow.

Invited guests present to witness the occasion included other senior WHO officers, Siwai District executive manager Joseph Noro, staff of Tonu health centre and the people living near the Tonu area.

Bishop Tim, before receiving the key of the ambulance thanked Dr Adu-Krow and WHO for the timely donation.

He said he hopes that the presentation of the ambulance will not be the first and last assistance that they will get from WHO, adding that he hopes to get more assistance in the future.

Bishop Tim further challenged the health staff and people of Siwai to look after the ambulance.

Dr Adu-Krow also challenged the staff of Tonu health centre and the people of Siwai District to take good care of the ambulance.

He said WHO will not hesitate to remove the ambulance if they learn that it is continuously misused.



Dr Adu-Krow (left) presenting the ambulance key to Bishop Tim Arthur while Siwai District executive manager Joseph Noro looks on.

Picture: WINTERFORD TOREAS

17.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RABAUl ITUT MULAI

By Aloysius Laukai

The remaining Bougainville team members who travelled on the second chartered boat MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLLS arrived early this morning at 1.30am.

According to the General Manager for the Team Bougainville, WILLIE MASIU, the team disembarked at 3am.

He expressed in Kuanua language Saying and I quote "RABAUl ITUT MULAI" which means that the sleepy town of Rabaul is alive again as participants for the games start arriving into East New Britain province from all over PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

MR.MASIU said that it seems that Bougainville has arrived with the largest contingent totaling 540 in total and only the host province East New Britain will field in more.

He said that Bougainville was confident of doing well at this year's PNG Grassroots games.

NEW DAWN FM understands that Bougainville came fourth at the Lae and Goroka games and came sixth at the more recent Port Moresby games.

16.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Olympus donate

by Aloysius Laukai

The **Buka general hospital** this morning benefited from a donation of a Surgical equipment worth One Million kina from Olympus Hongkong and China Limited.

The donation from Olympus was the second for PNG as the first was donated to the Port Moresby General Hospital eight years ago.

The donation this morning was witnessed by the Acting ABG Health minister, JOE NOPE who thanked olympus for the kind donation to the Buka District Hospital.

Ms AMY SHEK the company director told New Dawn FM that this is their first donation for the Buka Hospital.

She said the Buka Hospital was recommended by their network doctors from Port Moresby who have been working with them over the past years.

A doctor based at the Buka hospital will be trained to operate the equipment.

The latest laproscope will use a monitor to see inside the patients stomach without cutting the patient.

According to Dr.Joe Vilosi the Hospital's long serving doctors from the Buka hospital this equipment will greatly assist them at the theatre. pictured is Minister JOE NOPE cutting ribbon of the equipment.



16.11.2012

Source: The National

PM says K2-K3bil for infrastructure

By JEFFREY ELAPA

BETWEEN K2 billion and K3 billion of the 2013 Budget will go towards improvement of infrastructure, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said yesterday.

Addressing the provincial governors' conference at the March Girls Resort outside Port Moresby, O'Neill said the government was committed to improving infrastructure such as road network, bridges, telecommunication, and education and health facilities.

There was no mention of the US\$6 billion loan to be raised from China, which O'Neill earlier said was needed for the deteriorating infrastructure in the country.

Although the budget, to be delivered on Tuesday, is expected to be much higher than this year's K10.4 billion, the prime minister said for the first time, it would empower governors and the open members to focus on improving their districts and provinces.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Leo Dion, who is the chairman of the governors' conference, said the government would be committing K2 billion to development grants for provincial governments, where governors would have a lot of money to cater for their development agendas.

O'Neill said the provinces would be getting direct funding through the budget but it would come with strict guidelines to improve the government's development agendas such as education, health, law and order, infrastructure and small to medium enterprises.

He said the country had missed many opportunities over the years with good economic growth but, this government was committed to improving districts and provinces where the bigger population was based.

O'Neill said there would be a small deficit in the budget, but strategies were in place to address it. It was unlikely to have great repercussions on the economy and development of the country.

He also revealed that the economy was likely to drag when the PNG LNG construction phase scaled down before the export of gas.

He said the construction of the project had added 3% to the 9% increase in the GDP but that would decrease and affect the economy and many people would lose jobs. However, the onus was on the provincial and national governments to focus and plan long-term sustainable programmes, with emphasis on infrastructure.

The issue of autonomy for Bougainville would be considered but not before considering how it has progressed, O'Neill said.



Provincial governors with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his deputy Leo Dion at the March Girls Resort outside Port Moresby yesterday. Standing from left: Western's Governor Ati Wobiro, Jim Kas of Madang, Titus Philemon (Milne Bay), William Powi (Southern Highlands), Amkat Mai (West Sepik), Joe Lera (Bougainville), Havila Kavov (Gulf), Ereman ToBaining Jr (East New Britain), Noah Kool (Chimbu), Sasindran Muthuvel (West New Britain), Dr William Tongamp (Jiwaka) and Powes Parkop (NCD). Seated (left): Nuku MP Joe Sungi, Eastern Highlands Governor Julie Soso, Kila Haoda (Central), O'Neill, Dion and Enga Governor Peter Ipatas.

16.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Hospitals get equipment

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BUKA General Hospital, Arawa and Buin health centres in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are the proud recipients of microbiology and hematology equipments, thanks to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the timely donation.

The equipments, worth about K600, 000, were delivered to the hospital and health centres by the WHO country representative, Dr William Adu-Krow on Wednesday.

Buka General Hospital chief executive officer Dr Cyril Imako, before receiving the equipments for Buka hospital, thanked Dr Adu-Krow and WHO for the timely donation.

He said these equipments were greatly needed by the hospital.

However, he highlighted that the lack of a proper laboratory at the hospital to store these equipments was another immediate problem that they would face.

Dr Imako said he has already spoken to the chief executive officer in the Division of Planning in Bougainville to immediately release K150,000 to the hospital so they can construct a lab to house these equipments.

Dr Imako later assured Dr Adu-Krow that the lab should be ready by next year.

WHO country representative Dr William Adu-Krow said their donation stems from a visit they had made to Bougainville in 2010.

He said during that visit, they had discussed with the authorities concerned on what assistance they could provide to Bougainville, adding that the donation of these microbiology equipments is a result of that meeting.

Dr Adu-Krow also supported Dr Imako's call by calling on the ABG finance CEO to release the K150,000 to the hospital to construct the lab.

He also acknowledged the contributions from other WHO donor partners like AusAID, saying that their assistances has enabled them to buy equipments similar to the one they had presented.

Dr Adu-Krow also clarified that WHO will continue to have their office and representative on Bougainville.

He announced to those present that though they will also be supporting other provinces in the country, their main focus will be on Bougainville.

ABG vice president and Minister for Health Patrick Nisira, who was also present to witness the handover of the microbiology equipments also thanked Dr Adu-Krow for the timely donation.

Meanwhile, Mr Nisira is calling on the ABG chief administrator, ABG CEO for planning and the CEO for health to make up a budget that will address the needs and current problems that the hospital is currently facing.

Some of the immediate needs of the hospital that Mr Nisira highlighted include an intensive care unit (ICU), a lab and other facilities and services greatly needed to save lives.

16.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude / Catholic News Service

What a great idea: 10 trees to promote new life

WHEN BISHOP BERNARD UNABALI of Bougainville performs a baptism, confirmation or ordination, he asks churchgoers to plant 10 trees to promote new life.



Bishop Unabali (picture) considers the link between respecting the environment and the sacramental life of the church as inseparable. Tree-planting is one way the bishop encourages people to respond to the rapid pace of climate change.

He was the keynote speaker at a three-day symposium on climate change held last week at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Bishop Unabali spent two weeks with the Halia people in the Carteret Islands and saw for himself evidence of the rising ocean.

The Washington meeting highlighted urgent calls from Pope Benedict XVI for Catholics to respond to this planetary crisis.

15.11.2012

Source: INVESTOR'S DAILY

Australische Aktien: Sicherer Hafen

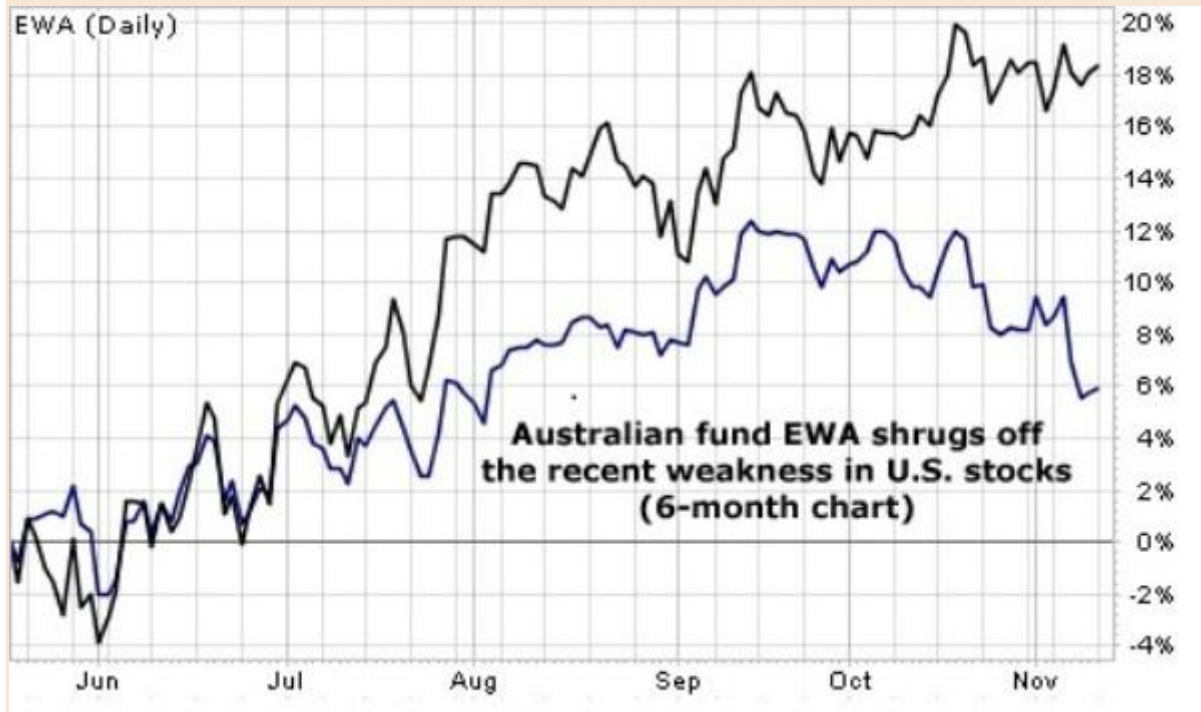
von Larsen Kusick

Während Aktien in den Vereinigten Staaten und Europa in den letzten Wochen gefallen sind, präsentieren sich australische Aktien als einer der wenigen "sicheren Häfen" auf dem Markt.

Vor einiger Zeit Früher schrieb Steve Sjiggerud, dass Australien weltweit "das letzte sichere Land für Ihr Geld sein könnte." Anders als die meisten anderen entwickelten Nationen hat

Australien wenig Schulden und eine gesunde Wirtschaftsentwicklung (das BIP liegt über 3 % jährlich).

Dies spiegelt sich auch auf dem Aktienmarkt wieder. Nachdem der S&P 500 in den ersten neun Monaten gut gelaufen ist, musste er in den letzten zwei Monaten mehr als 6 Prozent abgeben. Gleichzeitig konnte sich der iShares MSCI Index von Australien (EWA) dieser Marktschwäche entziehen. Dieser Fonds umfasst zum Beispiel große Anteile der Rohstoffgiganten BHP Billiton und Rio Tinto sowie der Commonwealth-Bank (Australiens größte Bank) und des Pharmariesen CSL Limited.



Wie Sie im heutigen Chart erkennen, sind australische Aktien in einem stabilen Aufwärtstrend (schwarze Linie). Noch wichtiger: Sie haben sich während der gegenwärtigen Korrektur des S&P 500 (blaue Linie) kaum bewegt.

15.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUNUA CONNECTED

By Aloysius Laukai

You may call it the LAST FRONTIER, Yes the KUNUA District will be connected to the entire world starting next week thanks to the private Mobile Phone company, DIGICEL.

This was revealed by the research officer for the Local Level Government and Communications division SAMUEL TORORIA this afternoon.



MR TORORIA said that the launching was to be have ocured today, !5th November however this did not eventuate as the contractor was required to complete the final touches to the tower.

MR TORORIA whilst thanking DIGICEL for making it possible by building a Tower for Kunua said that this was a relief for the people of KUNUA who have been disconnected to the world since independence. He said with the communication problem addressed the district would now focus on developing the road network in the district.

Digicel

PNG's Bigger, Better Network.

NEW DAWN FM understands that the ABG and the Kunua district administration would be happy with this development as they have been struggling to open up communications to the district for a long time.

Digicel network will now cover the West Coast of Bougainville (map) as Digicel as lately built three additional towers in Togarau, Wakunai, the Kunua district and the TOROKINA district which was commissioned last week.

15.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONE BOAT ARRIVES

By Aloysius Laukai

Only one ship carrying team Bougainville contingent arrived in Rabaul today.

General Manager for Team Bougainville, WILLIE MASIU told New Dawn FM from Rabaul at 5pm this afternoon that Solomon islands Chartered Boat, MV DAY STAR arrived this afternoon whilst the MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLLS is expected into Rabaul later tonight.



MR.MASIU said that those who arrived in RABAUL have already settled at Malaguna where they will be staying during the entire games.

He also stated that the visitors briefly visited some areas within East New Britain province this afternoon.

New Dawn FM will be providing daily updates of the games starting next week Monday.

15.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Investor breaches deal

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government may have erred in its decision to invite a wholesale company from China to come and start up their business in Bougainville.

The above revelation was made by the ABG Minister for Trade and Industry, Wilfred Komba while delivering his speech during the launching of a new vessel, the MV Kute Trader in Buka last Friday.

Mr Komba said the ABG had initially invited Chinese investors to come and establish their business, whether wholesaling or manufacturing, on Bougainville.

One of the conditions outlined by the ABG was that these companies should concentrate on selling their products at wholesale prices, while the retail businesses would be reserved for Bougainvilleans. However, instead of honouring the condition outlined by the ABG, the Chinese company concerned has been selling their products on retail bases.

It is also understood that this company was supposed to have leased out its shares to Bougainvilleans so they too can become shareholders in the company, which also did not eventuate. The ABG Division of Commerce, Trade and Industry is currently going through a restructure process to change these original shareholding arrangements.

Meanwhile, the announcement by Mr Komba has drawn support from many Bougainvilleans.

Many said they have been confused because instead of this company operating as a wholesale supplier, it was operating as a retail business company.

14.11.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

Bridging troubled waters



A BOUGAINVILLEAN couple has reportedly bought a freighter vessel to service the region, which comes after three ships were torched off neighbouring Buka Island a few months ago.

According to The National, Michael and Christine Boko paid 1.7 million kina (\$A790,000) for the MV Kute Trader using money they earned from selling petroleum products in Buka.

Michael Boko reportedly said he was confident the vessel would provide much-needed freight services at an affordable cost to the people.

Back in March the MV Solomon Queen, Kopra 3 and Kopra 4 vessels, owned by Rabaul Shipping, were torched at sea off Buka island by armed men (picture).

They were angered by the lives lost in the shipping company's MV Rabaul Queen ferry disaster the previous month.

14.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Day Star has left

Day Star has left for Rabaul..its gonna be a night star...



14.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Boat leaving

by Aloysius Laukai

The first 400 athletes from Bougainville are leaving for Rabaul tonight aboard a Solomon Island passenger boat MV DAY STAR.

The boat will make several runs in Bougainville whilst waiting for the ten day games in Rabaul.

The remaining 140 will travel on MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLLS tomorrow.

According to the Captain SAMUEL SULUKA they will be travelling on ten knots meaning they will reach Rabaul tomorrow morning.

Normally in Solomons the Day star runs between Auki and Honiara.



Pictured are members of the Kunua Cultural group loading their cargoes.

14.11.2012

Source: Mekamui News

PANGUNA MINE

by mekamui



There are still big talks going on in regards to the reopening of Panguna mine. The leaders who worry so much about the wheels to run the Island region are more into it.

Many people with the Top former Ex-Combatants come out in the media saying it is still a sensitive issue. The main focus now is to reopen the mine to bring much needed economy, which will make the Island Region enough to fulfill the peoples cry for political independence.

Yes mining can bring development like Hospitals, roads and schools but in many cases this development does not reach the rural people that need it most. It can bring money and give political independence to Mekamui/Bougainville as some leaders and ESBC are claiming, but the lesson learnt is that the effects of it are forever and can never be recovered or replaced. It outweighs the benefits too.



In the last environmental work carried out by BCL in 1988, their modeling indicated that river water quality, once the tailings were no longer in the river, would meet drinking standards below the Jaba/Kawerong confluence but would have sufficiently high copper levels and would be toxic to sensitive aquatic species.



With the God given wisdom and knowledge when we see a rotten frog, snake or human waste etc at the head of the stream we know we can't drink that water. The Panguna hole is like a big sore at the head, so people will not drink the river, which is tested ok with Western technology.

We live on the land and our future children will live on the land. We don't want to repeat the same mistake again and thousands of our people will die fighting to close it down. We don't want to be left with our Island turned into gravels and empty rusty skeletons, therefore Panguna mine should be out of mind and out of the lips of crazy greedy politicians and Rio Tinto BCL.

14.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville MPs to benefit

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE members of the Bougainville House of Representatives will soon benefit from the Parliamentarians Medical, Life and Personal Accidents Care scheme.

The establishment of this scheme is one of the initiatives currently undertaken by the Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives Andrew Miriki.

Speaker Andrew Miriki has already engaged a local consultancy firm, Para Projects Marketing and Management Consultants to consult and provide a report on the establishment of this scheme.

The ABG Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) has also been briefed early this month regarding the establishment of this scheme.

It is understood that this firm has already submitted a brief phase one report of this project which identifies which insurance firms are available and are able to provide the medical, life and personal care to the ABG leaders.

Phase two of this project will involve the registration of the ABG members, which will then be documented and submitted to the Insurance firm approved by ABG.

The ABG parliamentary staff will also be trained to manage the scheme under this phase two project.

This scheme will call for its own management within emolument services given the strong opinion in establishing a stand-alone finance and administration of the House of Representatives with the management of the health scheme as starting point. The PSC has already directed the ABG Clerk to include K200,000 for the medical, life and personal care for the members in the 2013 ABG budget.

And Information Paper on the scheme is ready to be presented to the Bougainville Executive Council for consideration.

14.11.2012

Source: The National

New ship to serve Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has a new vessel to transport goods from Papua New Guinea to the region.

Thanks to a Bougainvillean couple, Michael and Christine Boko, who after earning enough money from selling petroleum products in Buka, bought the freighter.

The mv Kute Trader was bought for K1.7 million and arrived in Bougainville last Friday to a warm welcome from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the Bougainville business community and people in Buka.

Owner Michael Boko said it was the proudest moment in the history of the company. He said his family had bought the vessel with some reservation as it was a new business environment they were entering.

But he was assured of the ABG and the Bougainville business community support, they were confident the vessel would provide much-needed freight services at an affordable cost to the people.

ABG Minister for Commerce Wilfred Komba thanked the Boko family for having the courage to venture into the shipping industry.

He described the couple as “patriotic” in their contribution towards building the economy.

“We need Bougainvilleans to start thinking along the lines of what can I do for Bougainville instead of relying on the ABG.

“Think of Bougainville as a child and you are the parents. The responsibility of building Bougainville belongs to every individual as well as the ABG,” Komba said.

13.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Trad troupe

by Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President chief John Momis has just launched team Bougainville team to take part in the PNG Games.

President Momis called on the team to represent Bougainville with pride and come back with medals.

He said that although the ABG had limited funds it gave FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA towards the team. Chief Momis said his government believes in its youth and committed funds to the TEAM BOUGAINVILLE. 540 participants will represent Bougainville at this year's game in Rabaul.

The team leaves Bougainville tomorrow on two boats, MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLL and passenger boat MV Kikori from the Solomon islands.



Bougainville team ready for the PNG GAMES in Rabaul. They are ready to sail tomorrow. They assembled for the ABG PRESIDENTT JOHN MOMIS to farewell them to Rabaul.

13.11.2012

Source: ESBC

Please help us to acquire more indepth information about the Bougainville Kina scam!

Please tell us...

...who told you about "Bougainville Kina"?

...where did you find promotional material or articles about "Bougainville Kina"?

...if you have contacted the fraudulent Bank of Me'ekamui (IBOM)?

...if you did contract in "Bougainville Kina"?

...if you did contact the police or other financial supervisory boards?

Please help us to dry out this scam and send an email to us:

[bougainville-kina-scam\(at\)bougainville-copper.eu](mailto:bougainville-kina-scam(at)bougainville-copper.eu)

13.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Independence - ARB not ready

A LEADING woman leader and founder of the Nazarene Rehabilitation Centre on Bougainville, Sr Lorraine Garasu, now claims that Bougainville is not ready for a vote on possible independence.

In an interview with Radio New Zealand, Sister Lorraine Garasu, who has been running a centre caring for victims of domestic violence in the province for more than 10 years, said that more education was needed as part of the peace agreement ending the civil war on Bougainville.

"...more education was needed as part of the peace agreement ending the civil war.

Bougainvilleans are to vote in a referendum after 2015 on whether to have full independence," Sr Lorraine said.

"It is a road Bougainville can walk, but first, what the people want is for the provincial government to show what can be achieved through the autonomy status in place since 2005.

"So that is what the people want. And also, the problem that I see in Bougainville today is that people have not been educated enough about autonomy and referendum. I don't think the government in Bougainville is ready for referendum because they don't have the means - there's no economic means to sustain what they need to do," she said. Sr Lorraine is very concerned about the way Bougainville is now being run. This woman, was awarded an Honor of Australia Award in recognition of her role in promoting rehabilitation and reconciliation throughout the years. The award is bestowed only to Australian citizens by the Australian government.

Sr Lorraine has been talking in many parts of the world, highlighting issues that must be addressed on Bougainville following the conflict on the island.

Her role in running the rehabilitation centre had given her the experience to claim that Bougainville is not ready for self-government.

12.11.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville not ready for independence referendum, says nun

There is a claim that the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is not ready for a vote on possible independence.

A nun, Sister Lorraine Garasu, who has been running a centre caring for victims of domestic violence in the province for more than 10 years, says more education is needed.

As part of the peace agreement ending the civil war, Bougainvilleans are to vote in a referendum after 2015 on whether to have full independence.

Sister Garasu says it is a road Bougainville can walk but first what the people want is for the provincial government to show what can be achieved through the autonomy status in place since 2005.

“So that is what the people want. And also the problem that I see in Bougainville today is the people have not been educated enough about autonomy, referendum. Also the government in Bougainville, I don’t think they are ready fo referendum because they don’t have the means - there’s no economic means to sustain what they need to do.”

Sister Lorraine Garasu from the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville

12.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Priest, seminarian die in car crash

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A MARIST Priest and a seminarian were killed after the vehicle they were traveling in overturned in Buka Island on Wednesday.

The vehicle, a two wheel drive fifth element single cab, was driven by the priest when the accident took place near Hakets primary school in the Halia constituency, resulting in the two deaths.

Another three passengers who were also on the vehicle also received injuries on their bodies, but survived the accident. However, one of the three had to be admitted to the Buka General Hospital after sustaining severe injuries to his head.

The priest from Tonga was the Parish Priest for Hanahan Parish, and was also looking after the Lemanmanu Parish at the time of his death.

Former Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso who was one of the first to arrive at the scene, transported the priest to the Buka Hospital but was pronounced dead upon arrival by the doctor and nurses on duty at the hospital.

According to an eyewitness, the vehicle was traveling at a very high speed when it hit a tree at the side of the road and then overturned several times resulting in the death of the priest and the seminarian.

The eyewitness said the survivors were lucky to be alive after jumping off the vehicle before it overturned.

He also confirmed that the five were alleged to have been drunk during the time of the accident.

The bodies of the late priest and the seminarian are still at the Buka hospital morgue awaiting funeral arrangements.

Police in Buka also confirmed that the priest was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, resulting in the accident. They are now appealing to vehicle drivers to be sober and to take extra precautions when driving. This is to avoid traffic accidents during this festive period.

Meanwhile, a man was struck to death by lightning yesterday.

12.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Nurses step up in faith

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PATIENTS at the Buka General Hospital can now expect to see some positive changes taking place in the attitudes of the nurses working there.

This follows a three-day session which was held at the hospital on how nurses can improve their performances both physically, mentally and spiritually.

The sessions, which were held over the weekend, was conducted by the executives of the Inter-Denominational Nurses Christian Fellowship (IDNCF) in the New Guinea Islands region.

According to the president of IDNCF NGI region, Diana Mavoko, the purpose of their trip to Bougainville was to encourage the nurses in Bougainville to join IDNCF.

Sr Mavoko stressed that the establishment of IDNCF is to promote spiritual approaches by the nurses towards their patients.

She said many a time nurses always showed negative outlooks towards their patients.

Sr Mavoko emphasised that in order for nurses to effectively carry out their duties, they should invite the Lord Jesus into their lives.

IDNCF NGI deputy president Rebecca Peneia also supported Sr Mavoko, saying that many nurses never showed any love towards the patients that they are treating.

She then invited the nurses in Bougainville to join IDNCF, saying that this would spiritually help them in carrying out their duties.

12.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, Chief John Momis will start a weekly radio programme on New Dawn FM starting this week.

The weekly talk program will address individual issues affecting the region.

The program will have the President addressing the people of the region and will also include several talk back shows live on New Dawn Fm.

ABG President chief Momis wants to interact more with his people as he wants the people of Bougainville know exactly what was happening in the region.

He said the local information office has not been doing enough to promote Bougainville although they have been around for a long time.

The program will be podcasted for our interested listeners overseas and the web address will be announced shortly.

NBC Radio Bougainville will be asked to also air this program.

11.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MATRONS ORBITS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's long serving Matron, FLORENCE KANAU has died after a long illness at the Buka General Hospital this afternoon.

SR.FLORENCE KANAU graduated from the Papuan Medical College 1968 as a Nursing Sister. She was first posted after graduation to Daru, Rabaul before coming to Bougainville.

She became the Matron for the Arawa Hospital in 1975 taking the position from an expatriate Matron Thompson.

Since then she has been the matron in charge of the Arawa General Hospital until the hospital closed at the height of the Bougainville conflict in 1990.

During the Bougainville conflict she went home to Buin but continued to help the communities on Buin.

When services resumed in Buka after the conflict, she started again as the Matron organizing and recruiting new staff for the SOHANO HOSPITAL now moved to the Buka town.

She retired as the matron for the Buka General Hospital in 2010 and was replaced but she continued working until she felt ill some months ago.

10.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bechdemer report

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Fisheries Division has just completed a survey to find out if the number of Sea Cucumbers have increased within the waters of North Bougainville since harvest of beachdemer were banned two years ago.

Officer from the Fisheries section, JINRO BOISEN revealed this to New Dawn FM this afternoon.

MR. BOISEN said that the survey was done in Nissan island, Catrets island, Pororan, Taiof, Ton island Saposa, Teop Island and Irue point in Tinputz.

He said that survey found out some improvements in number of Sea Cucumbers but still lack the size needed to reproduce.

MR. BOISEN said that the report has been sent to the National Fisheries office in Port Moresby for proper analyzing before any decision to remove the ban on the harvest of these marine products again.

He said that under the Bougainville constitution distance from the beach to 3 mile out to sea is under the Autonomous Bougainville Government's control however due to the non availability of manpower and policy they are still working with the National Fisheries Authority.

10.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

46 GRADUATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Another newly established private school in Buka town, KUMUL TRAINING INSTITUTE graduated its second batch of students this afternoon.

Forty six students from the Kumul Training Institute in Buka town graduated with certificates in eight disciplines.

They are Accounting, Diploma in Accounting, Human Resources, Office Administration, Information Technology, Computing and Sales and Marketing.

Last week more than 20 students graduated with certificates in Heavy Equipment Operators course from the Master Skills Consultants also based in Buka.

In this afternoon's graduation attended by parents and students of the school. All speakers spoke on the need to have skilled manpower to develop Bougainville.

They said that the School is committed to producing some skilled manpower who can contribute to the overall development of the region.

10.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS SENDS CONDOLENCES

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS yesterday send his condolences to the Speaker of ABG, ANDREW MIRIKI for the death of his daughter the late ELAINE MIRIKI who died in Port Moresby last week.

The late ELAINE MIRIKI was a student at a private school in Port Moresby at the time of her death.

Her body was brought to the Speaker's house for a brief stop- over before she was brought to Paghui village in South Bougainville which will be her final resting place.

Chief Momis said that he was saddened to see another young Bougainvillian's life end in a tragic way.

He said although we may have plans for the future the creator has his final say.

The body of the Late Elaine Miriki was laid to rest today.

10.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PAWA KAM

By Aloysius Laukai

New Zealand, Japan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have come together to help reach power to remote communities in Papua New Guinea's Northern Province, West Britain and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Last week, the three parties signed a grant agreement to support the Government of PNG, through PNG Power, to expand a community-based project, which will deliver electricity to remote rural communities for the first time.

The project will trial the use of labour from local communities to install power lines, and provide training to households on the cost effective use of power to support new livelihood opportunities. It will be co-financed by grants of \$2.5 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and \$2.5 million from the New Zealand government, with the Government of Papua New Guinea providing \$1 million.

Some 10% of PNG's population has access to electricity, with relatively fewer connections in rural areas. New hydro generating facilities and transmission lines are being rolled out by PNG

Power to provincial centers under a separate ADB-financed electrification programme, but the cost of linking rural communities remains prohibitively high, in part due to the expense of bringing in external contractors. The project aims to tackle the cost barrier by using local work teams to install distribution lines to remote communities.

PNG Power will provide training and supervision for local labor hired to do construction work under the project.

PNG Power will also conduct safety and energy efficiency campaigns targeting local people. A critical component of the project is the installation of prepaid power meters in about 4,500 households, as well as community training to raise awareness on income generating opportunities and how to access

microfinance. Workshops will be held on the safe use of power and effective budgeting, according to a media release from the Asian Development Bank.

The project is targeting new connections to about 4,500 households, 20 schools and 20 medical facilities in the three provinces by its completion date of 2014.

On Bougainville work has already started on the Togarau Hydro power project funded by the PNG Sustainable Development and PNG POWER is also working on the RAMAZON Hydro power near Tinputz which will provide power for Tinputz population and Buka island.

10.11.2012

Source: The Georgia Bulletin

Bishop links respect for environment to church's sacramental life

WASHINGTON D.C. (CNS) -- The link between respecting the environment and the sacramental life of the church is inseparable for one bishop overseeing a diocese that encompasses a collection of small islands in the South Pacific. Bishop Bernard Unabali of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, considers the link so unfaltering that when he baptizes a new member of the church or confirms someone or even when he ordains a priest, he asks individuals to plant 10 trees as a way to give rise to new life. Such an act of faith, he told Catholic News Service Nov. 8, is one way he prayerfully encourages people to pursue to help stem the rapid pace of climate change. "(I) use this situation, which is going to be affecting us more drastically than probably in the past, to help people recapture our relationship to the environment," he said. "We must entrench something in our lives to continue this environmental concern, respect and care." Bishop Unabali was in Washington to open a three-day symposium highlighting the urgent calls from Pope Benedict XVI on the importance of Catholics acting on behalf of an increasingly fragile environment in the face of climate change. The event, hosted by The Catholic University of America Nov. 8-10, brought together a dozen Catholic theologians and philosophers to discuss the implications of Pope Benedict's biblically-based ecological vision for the Catholic Church, particularly in the United States. The symposium was sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, and the university and its Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies. Bishop Unabali explained that care for the environment and encouragement of sustainable development for Bougainville have become priorities under the pastoral plan he developed alongside lay parishioners. The plan, he said, is helping foster a greater awareness of the generations-long relationship with the environment that he believes each person is responsible for maintaining.

09.11.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

ABG mining laws loom: report

TENSIONS seem to be arising between the Autonomous Bougainville government and the PNG government, with ABG president John Momis reportedly aiming to introduce mining laws before the end of 2012.

According to The National, Momis will not attend a PNG government proposed meeting in Port Moresby tomorrow over “matters related to reopening” the long-troubled Panguna copper-gold mine in Bougainville.

Momis told the newspaper that the ABG should initiate actions in relation to Panguna and warned the PNG government to “recognise that authority”.

He reportedly said the ABG had the clear moral authority to make all decisions about the future of Panguna.

“Further, we are far advanced in the process of transferring mining powers to Bougainville agreed in 2008,” Momis reportedly said.

“The ABG envisages passing its own mining law before the end of the year.”

Gaining community approval is a major hurdle that Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper needs to overcome to reopen the Panguna mine.

There were about 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine – providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

Panguna was the world’s fourth-largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989, with Bougainville Island subsequently embroiled in years of civil war.

The mine produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

The Panguna permits under the existing Bougainville Copper Act allow for mining up to 2032.

The orebody at Panguna is only partially mined, with large available reserves.

In the mine’s last year of operation, estimated mill feed was at 691Mt at 0.4% copper and 0.47 grams per tonne gold.

Rio Tinto owns about 54% of Bougainville Copper.

09.11.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville has legal power

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville says it has a legal and moral authority – not the national government – to make decisions on the Panguna mine.

ARB President chief Dr John Momis will not attend a meeting in Port Moresby tomorrow proposed by the national government to discuss matters related to the reopening of the mine in Bougainville.

Momis said because the Bougainville crisis originated from the conflict over Panguna, it was the ABG that had a “clear moral authority” to make all decisions about the future of the Panguna mine.

“Further, we are far advanced in the process of transferring mining powers to Bougainville agreed in 2008. The ABG envisages passing its own mining law before the end of the year,” Momis said.

He said the ABG should be the one to initiate actions in relation to Panguna and urged the national government to “recognise that authority”.

He said the ABG was building its capacity to deal with mining issues by establishing a mining department, an office for Panguna negotiations and a cabinet committee on Panguna negotiations.

“All decisions about the future of Panguna will be made utilising this home-grown capacity,” Momis said.

He said they welcomed any suggestions from the national government on the mine but any discussions on these should be held in Bougainville, not Port Moresby.

The invitation for the Port Moresby meeting tomorrow came from the Minister for Petroleum, Oil and Gas William Duma in collaboration with Bougainville Regional MP Joseph Lera, Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma and Minister for Communication Jimmy Miringtoro.

The discussions are expected to be on:

Possible Panguna mine ownership concepts; benefit-sharing models available for consideration by the ABG and the national government on the Panguna mine; and, options for possible mine developers from Brazil, Venezuela and other South American nations other than Bougainville Copper Ltd.

09.11.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville nun says abuse now gets to court

A nun running a centre caring for abused women and children in the Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says having access to the courts is a major breakthrough.



Sister Lorraine Garasu (pictured) of the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre in Buka says it has been providing a refuge for victims of domestic violence for more than ten years.

She says it remains a big problem but a programme called 'Women - Access to Justice' has had a major impact.

Sister Garasu says with the help of a legal advisor provided by New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad, the centre has been able to put the necessary legal infrastructure in place.

"So that now women can actually access justice. Like in the past when they were coming to us we were just providing care and counselling. And then they go back to the village, so they go back home and they face the problem all over again. Now women can

actually get protection, access protection from the courts."

Sister Lorraine Garasu says there are cases being taken to court every week.

She is in Wellington to give the keynote address at VSA's 50th anniversary Congress.

09.11.2012

Source: The National

Unreliable services affect Gr 8 exams on Bougainville atolls

UNRELIABLE shipping services to the atolls of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have resulted in Grade 8 students missing on the national examinations in the past four years.

Education chief executive officer Bruno Babato yesterday said the atoll schools affected were Carterets, Nuguria, Yiangain and Tasman primary.

Babato said instead, students from atolls were selected to Grade 9 based on their internal marks.

"This, however, is not fair to other students who have to sit for the exams and although we would like to give students on the atolls the same opportunity, we are not able to as we have no way of getting the exam papers over due to the lack of a reliable shipping service.

"This is a very serious issue that the government has overlooked in its priorities," Babato said.

He said over the years, government officers in the education sector had found it difficult to visit schools in the atolls.

“Teachers take the risk travelling on dinghies to Buka for holidays from Tasman and Mortlock islands, the journey takes about eight to 10 hours.”

Babato said there had been no reliable shipping service to the area and he called for attention from government authorities.

About 3,000 students in the region sat for the examinations early this week.

09.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEMBER COMMITS 5

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA has committed FIVE THOUSAND KINA to support the Buka women’s groups to stage their WORLD FOOD DAY celebration now postponed to the end of this month.

He made this commitment during one of his visits to the Hagogohe constituency recently.

During one of his COE visits and in the HAGOGOHE COE he was welcomed by the chairman PIO BISIA former ABG member LAWRENCE BELLEH, village elders and students from the Tahetahe Primary School.

MR. LERA has been using these meetings to communicate his five year development plan for Bougainville during his term as the Regional Member for Bougainville.

The two day Hagogohe World Food Day activities will be coordinated by ABG’s Primary Industry Division will be held at the HOKO Sports Field on 28th and 29th November, 2012.

This year’s theme is Agricultural cooperatives- is the key to feeding the world.

09.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Malamo supports Kapu

By Aloysius Laukai

The principal of the Buin Secondary School TONY MALAMO has supported calls made by Sewing Machine repairer and trainer, PIUS KAPU for funding support from the authorities.

MR. MALAMO made his comments on the New Dawn FM website saying that the School’s Home economic department has been utilizing MR. KAPU to repair the school’s sewing machines.

He said the person needs to be supported to carry out his work in other parts of Buin district and not just

Konnou.

MR. MALAMO said what MR. KAPU has been doing is really a individual effort to help the communities.

Last week, MR. KAPU called on the member for Konnou WILFRED KOMBA to give financial assistance so that his training can cover all areas of Konnou COE as a peace project for the Konnou COE.

He has already run trainings in Eight villages within the Konnou COE.

09.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

3 DEATH

By Aloysius Laukai

At least three passengers including the driver of the vehicle died yesterday near Hakets Primary School

near Hanahan parish on Buka island.

The car driven by a Tongan priest was driving at high speed and lost control of the car resulting in the

can overturning several times killing at least one passenger instantly.

The driver and the other passenger died on their way to the Buka General Hospital.

Just yesterday New Dawn FM released a Buka Police report on the increasing number of road accidents on Buka island involving drunk drivers.

Police believe the driver was also under the influence of liquor.

09.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOVEMBER 13 FALSE ALARM

By Aloysius Laukai

Public servants on Bougainville who have been waiting for their risk allowance have been told to remain calm as the date for payment is not yet confirmed.

Chief Executive Officer for the HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION, PUARA KAMARIKI today said that the final payments for risk allowance will be paid before the end of November.

He told New Dawn FM that he does not know anything about next Tuesday 13th November as the payment day.

MR. KAMARIKI said that all calculations have been completed but a date will be set once everything is in place. He said that he sympathized with the officers however this matter was beyond his control.

08.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Villagers urged to help catch escapees from Tinputz, Kieta

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

SEVEN suspects who escaped from the Buka Police cell a fortnight ago are expected to be recaptured and taken back to the cell today.

According to the North Bougainville Provincial Police Commander Senior Inspector Cletus Tsien, the escapees are currently camping at laun village in the Tinputz district of North Bougainville.

Mr Tsien said members of the community there have already organised themselves and will be moving into the area where the escapees are camping to recapture them.

The members had volunteered to assist police following a series of meetings Mr Tsien had with them over the weekend.

Out of the seven escapees, two are from the Tinputz area and the rest are from Kieta district in Central Bougainville.

They were earlier captured and locked up at the Buka police cell for alleged involvement in a series of arm robberies at one of the Chinese-owned stores (named) in Buka town.

Mr Tsien said he had received word that the seven prisoners had escaped because they did not want to be transferred to Kerevat Jail in East New Britain Province.

However, Mr Tsien said the decision to transfer them was because the Buka cell was meant for fresh cases only.

He added that such prison escapes would not have happened if the construction of the Bekut Jail had been fast-tracked.

Meanwhile, Arawa police station commander Senior Sergeant Herman Birengka is appealing to the communities where these escapees are camping to hand them over to police.

He said the escapees are a threat to the communities.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Nurses fellowship strengthened

By Tapo Tovilu

The Nurses Fellowship in the Buka General Hospital over the weekend completed a three day religious gathering.

The gathering which was attended by a small group of nurses from Rabaul and Kimbe was part of the Nurses fellowship group.

They came to Bougainville to help strengthen ties both in work as colleagues and in the spirit as fellow Christians.

They began with the arrival of fellow colleagues on Friday and closed on Sunday with a closing dinner at the Buka General Hospital.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Grade eights sit for exams

By Tapo Tovilu

Grade eights all around the country this week will be sitting for their exams to determine whether they get a space in grade nine.

Bougainville grade eights kicked off on Monday with language and will end on Friday with mathematics.

With the controversial Outcome Based Education curriculum in the region the outcome of this year's exams will be examined to better improve the education system in the region.

Education experts have called on a review of the OBE system in the region to better help in the education of the region.

The grade eight exams will end as of this Friday with the all primary schools to commence normal classes next week.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Chinese to respect culture

By Tapo Tovilu

Chinese investors in the region have been called on by NGO's to also recognize traditional ways of conducting their business in Bougainville.

From a meeting held in Fiji on Asian influence in the Pacific region a report was released outlining the ongoing non recognition of local and indigenous ways of conducting business by foreign investors in the Pacific.

From this NGO's in the region will be looking at better ways of incorporating the two in bringing out the maximum results in terms of revenue earnings from both sides.

The report released on the pacific watch website stated that mainly investors from the super powers failed to recognise local ways of conducting business.

Also there was an alarming rate of frustrated locals who were not happy with investors simply because they distanced themselves from the people of the land.

From this report Bougainville was a main area of concern due to its relations with Chinese and other Asian investors.

The report will be filed and presented to the ABG as to help in the proper establishment of investor groups in the region.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REITAMA DISAPPOINTED

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, and Provincial Returning officer for the 2012 National Elections, REITAMA TARAVARU has apologized to all Bougainville service providers in the 2012 National elections for the long delay in settling their bills.

He was speaking at a small gathering with Service Providers at the Lumankoa Guest House this morning.

MR. TARAVARU said that all bills have been calculated for payment however the funds from the National Government is yet to come.

He said that the National Government knows this shortfall in the funding for the 2012 National election but is very slow in funding all provinces who have outstanding bills. MR. TARAVARU said that Bougainville Service Providers are owed a total of ONE POINT SEVEN MILLION KINA.

MR. TARAVARU said because the National Government has not met all its commitment this will now affect the conduct of the ABG By election scheduled for December this year.

The By election is to replace members who resigned from the ABG to contest in the National Elections.

The ABG currently has vacant positions for the HAGOGOHE seat left by the former ROBERT HAMAL SAWA who vacated this seat to stand in the National Election.

The KONGARA seat was also vacated by the former member DOMINIC ITTA who resigned to contest the Central Bougainville seat in the last Election, the LULE seat was left vacant when the former member the late PAUL MITU died and the PEIT seat which is to replace the current member who is in ill health, DR. ALEXIS SAREI.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOVERNMENT CALLED

The owner of LUMANKOA Guest House, JAMES RENGET wants the governments to respect the business houses and pay them in time for services they provide.

He was speaking at the meeting between the Electoral Commission and Service Providers for the 2012 National Election.

MR. RENGET said that Business houses provide services to the government however the government takes months to settle these bills crippling the operations of small businesses.

He was commenting on bills that are yet to be paid by the Electoral Commission for services rendered by his company during the 2012 General Elections.

Lumankoa Guest House is owed more than ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND KINA by the commission.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOLE PROVIDER

By Aloysius Laukai

A Sewing Machine repairman who has been running trainings in the Konnou COE in South Bougainville, PIUS KAPU says that there is a need to train women's groups and other interested groups proper ways of caring for their Sewing Machines.

He said as part of peace bonus for the troubled Konnou COE he has been travelling to individual villages running trainings on repair and maintenance of sewing machines in the village.

PIUS KAPU there is a growing demand to carry out proper trainings in other areas of the region but he would like some financial support from the constituency member for Konnou, WILFRED KOMBA and other donors.

He said he has travelled to other areas in the Buin district and he has come to realize that some machines a thrown away due to no maintenance.

MR. KAPU said that he has been providing such services to the Buin Secondary School's economic department and the Buin Vocational centre.

He also stated that Sewing machines need small maintenance to keep them operational.

07.11.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SERVICE PROVIDERS PETITION

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Electoral office was yesterday served a petition by service providers for the 2012 General Election for non payment of bills for services rendered during the Election period.

The service providers mainly Guest Houses, Catering Services and Transport providers briefly met with the Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU to present the grievances at the Lumankoa Guest House this morning.

The three point petition demanded that the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission immediately pay the Bougainville Service Providers within the next two weeks as from today.

Second was that all bills from the 2012 National Election must be settled before the Electoral Office can run the ABG By election scheduled for December this year.and 3rd that all service providers be paid their invoices prior to getting services in all future Elections similar to the Government's User Pay Policy.

The two weeks demand would end on Tuesday November 20th, 2012.

New Dawn FM understands that Bougainville service Providers are owed a total of ONE POINT SEVEN MILLION KINA from the 2012 National Elections.

07.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Reopening of Panguna

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Chief Dr John Momis has been invited to attend an urgent mining meeting in Port Moresby this Saturday (**November 10th, 2012**).

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the issue on the possible reopening of the Panguna Mine.

This meeting has been organised by the National Minister for Petroleum, Oil and Gas, William Duma, Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma, Communication and Information Minister and Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro and Bougainville Regional MP Joe Lera.

The issues that will be discussed during this meeting include;

- ▶ The possible Panguna Mine ownership concepts.
- ▶ The benefit sharing models available for consideration by ABG and the National Government on the Panguna Mine.
- ▶ Options for possible mine developers from Brazil, Venezuela to see and consult with possible South American based developers.
- ▶ Other issues relating to mining.

According to the copy of the invitation letter which was given to President Momis by Mr Lera, the above issues that will be discussed is another alternative that the ABG and National Government can consider other than the one with BCL which the ABG is currently pursuing.

Mr Lera said this is an opportunity for the National Government and the ABG to explore other mining options available to PNG through partnership with other mining companies in other countries especially South America.

ABG Mining Minister Michael Oni and ABG Finance Minister Albert Punghau are also expected to accompany Mr Momis to this meeting.

ESBC: On November 12th and 13th, 2012 the Board of Directors of Bougainville Copper Limited meets in Port Moresby !

07.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Schools in Bougainville missing out on exams due to problems

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

GRADE eight students attending three primary schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will not be able to sit for their exams this year.

The examinations which started on Monday and ends tomorrow will see students from these three schools namely Sipi, Tsitovi and Torpanos primary schools missing out on their exams.

Both Sipi primary school which is located in the Bana district and Tsitovi primary school situated in the Torokina district are located in South Bougainville while Torpanos primary school is located in the Tinputz District of North Bougainville.

According to the acting chief executive officer for the division of education in Bougainville, James Salanin, Sipi and Tsitovi students will not sit for the exams because they did not have any grade 8 students.

“Sipi primary school missed out because they did not have any grade eight students. Though they had enrolled grade eight students at the beginning of the year, the number continued to decrease resulting with only three students left at the beginning of this term. But these three remaining students had also decided to leave the school.

“Tsitovi also has a similar case as Sipi. And because these students did not cover all the syllabus, they are not eligible to sit for the exams,” Mr Salanin said

Mr Salanin said Torpanos students will miss out because they did not have a teacher since the beginning of this academic year. “The teacher at Torpanos had left school since term one because of housing problem. The other reason why he left is because of the disturbances that those youths who consume marijuana and alcohol had been causing to the school,” added Mr Salanin.

Mr Salanin said the Torpanos primary school case will be decided by the Bougainville Education Board.

He said this is because the root cause of students missing out lies with both the teacher concerned and the communities.

He however stressed that these students too are not able to sit for their exams because their learning’s had been affected because they did not fulfil all the syllabus learning components.

Mr Salanin also added that students from the Atolls of Bougainville might also be affected because they have not yet received their exam papers.

This is due to no shipping companies servicing the atoll districts of Bougainville.

These atoll schools affected are Carterets, Nuguria, Yiangain and Tasman primary schools.

Mr Salanin said the atolls district education officer had earlier assured him that the North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi will be chartering a boat or ship to transport their exam papers.

However, by the way preparations are going, there is also a possibility that some of these atoll schools, especially Tasman primary school students will also miss out on their exams.

07.11.2012

Source: SCOOP New Zealand / Press Release: Asian Development Bank

ADB, Japan, NZ To Help Papua New Guinea Rural Power Up

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (31 October, 2012) – A grant agreement was signed today to support the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), through PNG Power, to expand a community-based project which will deliver electricity to remote rural communities for the first time. The grant will be financed by the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Japan through the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The signing ceremony was attended by Don Polye, PNG Treasurer, Murray McCully, New Zealand’s Foreign Minister, Satoshi Abe, Charged’ Affaires ad interim Embassy of Japan in Papua New Guinea and Marcelo Minc, Country Director of ADB’s Papua New Guinea Resident Mission.

“Helping communities tap their own resources to link to power grids and use electricity for income generating activities is critically important for stimulating growth and cutting poverty in rural areas,” said Anthony Maxwell, Senior Energy Specialist with ADB.

The project will trial the use of labor from local communities to install power lines, and provide training to households on the cost effective use of power to support new livelihood opportunities. It will be co-financed by grants of \$2.5 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and \$2.5 million from the New Zealand government, with the Government of Papua New Guinea providing \$1 million.

“New Zealand is proud to support this project which improves lives by delivering electricity to rural areas,” said Murray McCully, Foreign Minister of the New Zealand Government.

Around 10% of PNG’s population has access to electricity, with relatively fewer connections in rural areas. New hydro generating facilities and transmission lines are being rolled out by PNG Power to provincial centers under a separate ADB-financed electrification program, but the cost of linking rural communities remains prohibitively high, in part due to the expense of bringing in external contractors. The project aims to tackle the cost barrier by using local work teams to install distribution lines to remote communities.

“The use of local labor will contribute a direct injection of income to rural communities,” said Mr. Satoshi Abe, Chargé d’ Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in Papua New Guinea.

The project will take place in the provinces of Northern Province, West Britain and Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

PNG Power will provide training and supervision for local labor hired to do construction work under the project. PNG Power will also conduct safety and energy efficiency campaigns targeting local people.

An equally critical component of the project is the installation of prepaid power meters in about 4,500 households, as well as community training to raise awareness on income generating opportunities and how to access microfinance. Workshops will be held on the safe use of power and effective budgeting.

The project is targeting new connections to about 4,500 households, 20 schools and 20 medical facilities in the three provinces by its completion date of 2014. The goal is to increase the percentage of the population with access to electricity from 3% to 9% in Northern Province; 4% to 8% in West New Britain; and 1% to 5% in Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2011, ADB approvals including co-financing totaled \$21.7 billion.

07.11.2012

Source: The National

Chan eyes longer tenure for mining, exploration licences

INCREASING tenure of exploration and mining retention licences will make Papua New Guinea’s mining sector globally competitive, according to Minister for Mining Byron Chan.

Chan said he would propose to introduce changes to deal with these mining issues to enable the country to become globally competitive in the mining sector.

“Expeditious processing of tenement application and social mapping are some of the changes to be made to enable global competitiveness in the mining sector,” he said.

“I will be introducing amendments to parliament on the reviews to mineral policy and legislations to position PNG to be competitive globally in the mineral sector.”

These changes will include;

- ▶ Consideration to increase tenure of exploration licences to 3 or 5 year terms;
- ▶ Introduction of mining retention licences to enable developers to apply for land that will be required for their purpose; and
- ▶ Expeditious processing of tenement applications within a specified time frame that will be internationally competitive,
- ▶ social mapping and landowner identification to be included as a legal requirement.

Chan will also propose introduce an additional policy on relocation, offshore mining, coal seam methane and geothermal.

He also confirmed that further work has been done to improve the outlook on fiscal provisions, equity, royalty and compensation.

He said many of the additional policy initiatives which he is undertaking will be delivered over the next six to twelve months.

06.11.2012

Source: Me'ekamui

MINING DEVELOPMENT

I have travelled to PNG, Tabubil and Lihir and lately we talked with the three landowner associations in Guadalcanal province where there is the first and only Mine in the Solomon Islands.

Up in Ok Tedi, the biggest development that I saw is the road from Kiunga to Tabubil. I was told that before the mine was up at Tabubil there was no road and the people from those areas walked for days to Kiunga for basic needs. Kiunga town was a small government station. These days it is a busy and bigger town because it has become the Mining Port.

In Lihir it is the same story, it was a government station before the project. Now it's a busy island with a modern hospital and daily air service to the island from other major centres in PNG and Australia. In Gold Ridge, the wife of the chairman of the mining area told us that she is happy with the project because she now has a permanent house; before she lived in a leaf house.

In my Island yes the only development I see is the road to the mine site in Panguna which links the people from the Panguna area with the rest of Bougainville, otherwise they would walk for hours and days up and down the mountains. The conflict which started as Landowners differences, sharing of royalties and not reviewing the mining agreement became the war for Independence.

When the mine finally closed down in May 1989, the PNG security forces were fighting the offensive war to re-open the mine as their main objective. On the ground Bougainvilleans fought a defensive war for no more mining and breaking away from the rest of PNG.

Bougainvilleans are saying no to mining, for the simple reason that mining can come later, after the Independence, so that all the revenue from the mining will develop Bougainville and not go to PNG. As one writer stated in his article for the grassroots, Bougainvilleans think and believe that Panguna Kina developed Waigani and other parts of PNG.

This in fact is true because the PNG national government took the biggest cake; we will see that when we are independent the biggest cake will float around the island itself and that Promised Land someone talks about will come. But my instinct tells me that this is the Promised Land we are living in now, when the mine re-opens it will be wasteland.

ESBC: Me'ekamui are facing reality - even if they are slow. It is one step only to understand that independence depends on BCL!

06.11.2012

Source: The National

Chan: Mining driving PNG economy

MINING continues to be the driving force of Papua New Guinea's economy and it is important for the government to attend investment forums to attract investors.

This is according to the Minister for Mining Byron Chan (pictured) at the China Mining Conference and exhibition yesterday.



He said Papua New Guinea is a secure mineral investment destination because of the immense mineral and exploration prospects and opportunities in the country.

“Asia and particularly China are having a profound impact on the way business is being conducted globally.

“This is where mining investment and exploration funds are sourced to develop the resource sector globally and I am leading a delegation from PNG to position ourselves to be able to attract these investment funds here at one of the largest international premier mining events worldwide,” Chan said.

He held discussions with his Chinese counterpart – minister for Natural Resources – to discuss prospects for technical assistance and cooperation between China and PNG to further enhance the development of the mining and exploration sector through the exchange of knowledge, skills and technology.

Chan updated his Chinese counterpart on the operations of the Ramu nickel project and the opportunity to develop additional impact projects such as infrastructure to service both the mine and the Madang province.

He also witnessed the signing of the first of such technical cooperation between the China Geological Survey and the Mineral Resource Authority’s (MRA) geological survey which will allow for comprehensive assessment of the mineral potential of PNG.

Once the assessment is completed, it will enhance the understanding of the country’s mineral potential.

06.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Chan attends conference in China

MINISTER for Mining Byron Chan in his keynote address at the Ministerial Forum session at the China Mining conference held in Tianjin, highlighted the immense mineral exploration prospects and opportunity that PNG can offer the global market.

Mr Chan said that Asia and particularly China is having a profound impact on the way business is being conducted globally and this is where mining investment and exploration funds are sourced to develop the resource sector globally.

“I’m leading a delegation from PNG to position ourselves to be able to attract these investment funds here by one of the largest international premier mining events worldwide,” Mr Chan said.

Minister Chan is also scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with his Chinese counterpart Minister for Natural Resources to discuss prospects for technical assistance and cooperation between China and PNG to further enhance the development of the mining and exploration sector through the exchange of knowledge, skills and technology.

Mr Chan is expected to witness the signing of the first of such technical co-operation between the China Geological Survey and the MRA Geological Survey.

Among other co-operation activities, the MOU will allow for a comprehensive assessment of the mineral potential of PNG. This information is currently vague and once developed will no doubt enhance our understanding and appreciation of the country’s mineral potential.

He will also update his Chinese counterpart on the operations of the Ramu nickel project and the opportunity to develop additional impact projects such as infrastructure to service both the mine and the Madang province as a whole.

“The O’Neill-Dion Government now has a full five year term and is committed to enhancing the responsible development of PNG’s exploration and mining sector,” Mr Chan said.

“As Minister responsible for Mining, I will be introducing amendments to Parliament on the reviews to the mineral policy and legislations to position PNG to be competitive globally in the mineral sector and some of these changes will include the following

1. Consideration to increase tenure of exploration licences to 3 or 5 year terms.
2. Introduction of mining retention licences to enable developers to apply for land that will be required for their purpose.
3. Expeditious processing of tenement applications within a specified time frame that will be internationally competitive.
4. Social mapping and landowner identification to be included as a legal requirement.”

The Minister will also be introducing additional policy on relocation, offshore mining, coal seam methane and geothermal. The Minister confirmed that further work is being done to improve outlook on fiscal provisions, equity, royalty and compensation and work is in progress on many of these additional policy initiatives to be delivered over the next 6-12 months.

This is the third year in a row that the Mineral Resource Authority (MRA) has organised participation at the China mining conference and already there are indications that Chinese interest in the mineral sector in PNG is high evidenced by the number of official meetings that the Minister has held since arriving in Tianjin over the last two days.

“Mining continues to be the driving force of the PNG economy and it is important that the government is out here at investment forums such as this to attract new investors into the mineral sector,” Mr Chan said.

Prior to China, Minister Chan also delivered a similar keynote address at the Ministerial forum for the Asia Indaba mining conference in Singapore which was held from October 29-31.

06.11.2012

Source: Post-Courier

A sign of peace

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

KONNOU constituency in the Buin district of South Bougainville has always been viewed by many as an area where lawlessness is always rife.

This is due to the ongoing war in the area between the Me'ekamui soldiers, Buin Freedom Fighters (BFF), the Wilmo force and other factions that were formed in the area.

However, that in-fighting is now a thing of the past with the restoration of peace and normalcy in the area.

This follows a significant breakthrough in the form of a reconciliation ceremony held towards the end of November last year.

During that event, all the factions engaged in battle including the Me'ekamui soldiers converged at Mogoroi village to settle their disputes.

The occasion was a milestone achievement because it was the first time for these groups to come face to face with their enemies.

Many of these former combatants are now involved in church activities and have already started visiting communities in Bougainville to conduct church-outreach programs.

Another event signifying the return of peace, was a trip taken by the former combatants from Konnou to Lae, Morobe Province yesterday.

The group was led by the former Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute's (CCRI) accountant and chairman of the Konnou peace and reconciliation committee, Chris Mota.

These former combatants are traveling to Lae to witness the ordination of a priest from Tabago in Buin.



Former combatants led by Chris Mota (left), Martin Kongkei (second left), George Nabam (fourth from left) and other former fighters standing in front of the MV Marunga 2 before boarding the vessel to Lae yesterday. Assistant Me'ekamui commander Daniel Konnou who was also part of the group is pictured on the right.

06.11.2012

Source: Xinhua English News Service

China, Papua New Guinea pledge to boost cooperation

CHINA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA have agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in various fields. The pledge was made during a meeting between senior Chinese legislator Zhou Tienong and Papua New Guinea's prime minister Peter O'Neill.

Zhou, deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), said the two countries have broad prospects for reciprocal cooperation, given the fact that they share similar positions on political affairs, have a highly complementary economy and could learn from each other culturally.

He said the NPC is ready to work with its counterpart to let the parliamentary exchanges play an important role in boosting bilateral ties.

O'Neill said his country highly values its relations with China and regard Beijing as an important cooperation partner.

"We are pleased to see that the bilateral ties have developed smoothly and economic and trade cooperation has been advanced steadily," said the prime minister, who visited China this September.

Papua New Guinea, he said, is willing to strengthen bilateral exchanges and cooperation with China in all fields.

Zhou is visiting Australia and Papua New Guinea at the invitation of the two countries' parliaments.

05.11.2012

Source: The National

More girls leaving school

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the national government have vital roles to play if they are serious about addressing the increased rate in which girls are dropping out of school, ABG education head Bruno Babato says.

This was a cross cutting issue regarding the progress of the Universal Basic Education in Bougainville since the policy was introduced a few years ago.

“Although girls’ enrolment rates are similar to boys at the basic education level, they drop in higher grades,” Babato said

“Female admissions will continue to be closely monitored, particularly with regard to age.

“It is expected that female retention and achievement will improve as more girls enrol at the age of six and so are able to complete a full basic education before they reach puberty.”

Babato said inadequate water supply and insufficient toilets were often quoted as reasons for children, particularly girls, dropping out of school.

“There will need to be a large number of toilets constructed – about 270 in each district – in order to satisfy a ratio of one toilet for every 25 children.”

He said other issues were schools in remote parts were disadvantaged in staffing, professional development opportunities for teachers and the availability of school materials.

Babato said the Department of Education was applying for support from the Global Fund to further the progress being made in the implementation of the national HIV/AIDS strategic plan 2006-10 and HIV/AIDS and STI implementation plan 2007-12.

“Interventions would be in two areas - firstly, to strengthen the Department of Education’s HIV/AIDS response management and coordination, and secondly to accelerate the training of teachers in HIV/AIDS reproductive and sexual health.”

05.11.2012

Source: The National

Deaths raises concern

FORMER deputy speaker of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Francisca Semoso has raised concerns after the death of two Bougainvillean students this month, one of whom was her own nephew.



Semoso (pictured) was concerned at the way many students were socialising after the end of the academic year.

Her nephew was a student at the Madang Teachers’ College and was killed in Madang. Semoso did not know any details regarding the death.

The news of her nephew’s death came after she and her relatives completed a five-day ceremonial feast for another student who was killed at the University of Papua New Guinea last month.

“I urge all the students to take extra care when going out and drinking,”

Semoso said.

“We are not far from Christmas and we should celebrate in peace and unity, not by mourning.”

She reminded students that they were future leaders of the country and should keep themselves out of harm’s way.

04.11.2012

ABG prepares for Panguna Mine Negotiations

MUCH work has been done in preparing the ABG and landowners to negotiate the future of the Panguna Mine, said Bougainville President Chief, Dr. John Momis. In a ministerial statement presented to members of the Bougainville House of Representatives in parliament last month, Momis reiterated the need to have the Panguna Mine reopened as soon as practicable to support the government's economic development strategy and fiscal self-reliance.



[He said the Bougainville Administration and the ABG Mining Department has been preparing the ABG and the mine affected and impacted landowners for these negotiations.] “Work on preparing the initial six landowner associations are 98 per cent complete with only the Rorovana association still awaiting its certificate of incorporation. “An interim Umbrella Landowner organization, the United Panguna Resource Owners Association (UPROA) has also been established with the appointment of interim committees comprising of the initial six landowner associations as well as the additional three landowner associations,” said Momis. In addition, the President highlighted several progressive developments that have taken place including; the conduct of a workshop to evaluate ABG objectives and options on future mining development in Bougainville in March, 2011. This workshop was jointly facilitated by Bougainvillean and International experts in the mining industry. The workshop indicated widespread support to re-open the Panguna Mine. The appointment of one of the facilitators of the workshop, professor Ciaran O’Fairchealaigh of Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia) as negotiation advisor to the ABG. This person has been assisting the ABG steering group to ensure that the ABG and landowners are ready to negotiate with the National Government, BCL and other investors when actual negotiations start. The Bougainville Administration’s Panguna negotiating steering group has been to coordinate and manage ABG’s and the landowner’s preparations for the negotiations, along with and a two person secretariat to support the steering group. The development of a rolling work plan containing work streams emanating from the mining workshop on the steps required to progress ABG’s and landowner’s preparation for negotiations. The establishment of a BEC (Ministerial) committee comprising the President, Vice President, Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Finance, Planning and Treasury and the Minister for Works will oversee and provide political direction to the steering group. The agreement by the National

government to the ABG's request to establish the Panguna Negotiation Coordination Committee comprising the ABG, National Government, Landowners, BCL and other investors, to coordinate preparation for the negotiations, including the baseline studies on the environment, social and economic conditions in and around Panguna Mine. This coordination committee would be formally endorsed at the next JSB meeting. "Now that preparing the mine and impacted landowners is all but complete, the steering group in 2013 will focus on engaging with the wider Bougainville community including interest groups that believe that they also have a role to play in the negotiations," said Momis. He explained that three regional forums are planned for the latter part of the year in each of the regions of North, Central and South. "These forums are to inform the Bougainville population on what the government is doing to progress negotiations for the possible reopening of the Panguna Mine. "Further, the ministerial committee overseeing the preparations for negotiations is currently considering a draft negotiation structure, which it intends to put to the Bougainville Executive Council for deliberation and approval before the end of this year," said the President. He assured the people of Bougainville that he would continue to inform them on the progress of negotiating the possible reopening of the Panguna Mine. "This is because my government believes that as the Panguna Mine helped bankroll Papua New Guinea's independence in the 1970s, it too can again bankroll Bougainville's autonomy and independence," said Momis.

03.11.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Kamari nanka - the cold and cowardly people (Kieta)

This longish short story by LEONARD FONG ROKA tells the story of a military engagement during the Bougainville civil war. It contains language that may displease some readers. The story has been slightly abbreviated and lightly edited

THE CHOPPER LANDED in the heart of the square setting off a storm of spiralling dust. A dozen metres away the elephant grass that surrounded the PNGDF camp lay flat on the ground as if in fear of the spinning rotors.

'We had an hour of fire exchange, yesterday,' Nukuitu, a red eyed resistance commander chatted with the new PNGDF commander. 'They came hot for us and went away.'



'Did they get anyone?' the commander asked.

'No, but it was the worst screwing ever.'

By the look of him, he was from the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. The very people who the Kietas of Bougainville refer to as 'kau'mintung po'nanka' or 'legs with intestine'. This is because they have very large calves, they say. And his built was great. He was tall and built and comparing him to Nukuitu, the Bougainvillean was just a little child.

The commander stood up and took a stroll around the camp. He was amazed by the number of thatched huts across the little drop. Just a stone's throw away was the first hut. It was walled by government supplied blue canvass.

Every dawn in these homesteads you needed to have your chats with various gods quickly. For the home guards are not concerned about your gods; they just come waking you to cut grass till midday.

In the distance, but not too safe from the bullet's reach, is Taunu, Turiboiru's sister camp. With the dusty airstrip alongside her, she suffers from dust storms created by army planes and choppers.

Thus everywhere there are coughing children who play around the guns, telling the world that they are victims of this situation. Because of these free children, sometimes gossip floats through the air of these care centres that a particular couple have being interrupted making love by the children engaged in the game of hide-and-seek.

The space between the camps is very great. Covered with swaying elephant grass and criss-crossed by gullies that meet the Loruru river in the westward forest.

A gravel road runs through this land. From the north comes another road that links the latter in no-man's land and runs south to Taunu. People fear this land, as the rebels regularly set ambushes there.

The next morning the commander, christened Fatnose because of his large nose, woke with the cock at early dawn and marched into the hut of the civilian Bougainvillean cook, who was still snoring away.

'Hey you bastard, you suppose to be cooking,' he fired. 'You what, a fat lady? Fuckin' yu, go kuk.' The cook was following old rules, though he knew the Bible passage that read: 'The old has gone and the new has come.' With a new person you ought to apply new rules. He got the fire crackling under the black camp teapot.

'Thank you,' the Commanding Officer exulted, 'you Bougainvilleans have sweet hands, especially your black girls. You must arrange one for me.'

At the fringe of the camp perimeter a gang of teenage girls strolled pass as the sun reflected on their smooth skin.

'E, there they go again. The sun is also romantically inclined for them,' he told himself as he ran his tongue along the cup rim his mind full of kissing scenes.

'Girls here are unique,' he said to his batman, 'they are black, soft and cunning. What word can I use to describe their pubic?' They laughed.

As an afterthought, he added: 'Our relatives grow wrinkled too early whilst a Buin girl is still going strong even with five children.'

The cup of coffee was endless when his mind was clouded with a dozen girls making love to him, a middle aged Eastern Highlander. Though he was father of three back in his country, he believe it was worthwhile in Bougainville tasting a black woman's pussy, as the Americans call it.

As he drifted through his oblivion, an uproar of gunfire went off somewhere to the north. The OC spilled his coffee on his naked left thigh and it burned like fire.

'Cover up, you bastards!' he shouted as he dashed into the bunker.

'Those fuckin' waterproof rebels again,' Jimmy the batman said as they watched a pillar of smoke rising into the air. 'You see, another hut belonging to the people who love Papua New Guinea is down to ashes again. The bushmen attack us with kerosene.'

As the contact ceased the OC ordered his troops to inspect. They manoeuvred through the thousand eyes that were glaring at them as if saying, 'What are you looking for amidst our innocent presence? The ones you looking for are beyond Bogisago.'

Somewhere amongst the mass of terrified people, Private Robin spotted a familiar girl flat on the ground as they moved towards the envisaged battle front, her conical breasts prominent. He stared at her thinking the gun he held in hand would command the right for his gaze, but angry eyes scared him away.

The rebels were already gone in the bush and they were laughing, 'what are these cowards doing in the middle of us? The people often wonder.'

'Two brave fighters are down,' Nukuitu snarled and cursed the BRA men.

'From where, did they shoot?' someone asked him.

'The elephant grass.'

The two resistance fighters were on the ground, dead. Flies orbited around them as the women folk wailed over the lost children.

'Our brother will every day slaughter us,' cried old Kebau, in own language to keep the Ivitul in the dark, 'since we have built a shield for these pests. Damn dastards! A country's army for nothing; they are a personal security guards deployed here on a mission beyond their knowledge.'

Someone added: 'You see them; they are here while our children track the killers into the bush. Better for them to be in the bush where the BRA will skin them alive instead of acting like commandos in front of our girls.'

Later in the afternoon, the tracking resistance fighters returned with casualties.

'Two men have being lost and three wounded. Three issued rifles gone to the bushmen,' a PNGDF soldier reported to the OC.

'These idiots must have given those guns to their brothers and are telling lies around the place,' Fatnose said, ordering a bystanding soldier to call Loloho for a chopper.

An enormous colony of nimbus piled in the north-east as the buzzing sound of the flying machine made it for the camp. Eyes skimmed the clouds competing to see who would be the first to see the helicopter.

'Now you see those clouds there, the rebels are forcing their wives onto beds for sex,' Fatnose said to Minsipi as he stood looking for the chopper. What the OC didn't know was that Minsipi was a BRA insider.

'Yes, they are,' the rebel Minsipi snapped, and walked away.

The chopper, picked up the cargo and left for Buka as the people stood watching her fading towards Siwai.

The evening was fine. The sun was on the western horizon tired and sleepy. Far inland the Deu'ro range was wet but clear. Birds were high; warming up and hunting for the last meal of wild fruits and insects.

But the care centre was silent, she was in mourning and fear. Why do Bougainvilleans kill each other? The Kietas who started it should tell us. But they too are killing each other.

'Tomorrow, they'll bury the men,' said Major Mosi, who oversaw the care centre, 'so please take part in the funeral rituals. Many girls will be there.'

This did not interest Fatnose very much. 'Funerals are where boys and girls screw most of the time,' he said, sounding a tired man. 'These Bougainvilleans are too nasty for me. So many things are now in my head. Who are we fighting?'

'Why you say this chief?' the batman asked.

'Go back home and fuck your Sepik cunt, my partner,' the OC said and laid down for sleep.

Major Mosi was listening from his bed to the conversation. 'In the night there is high probability a bullet can give you a kissogram. Our government's divide and conquer is not working out.'

The night was cold and clear with the moon high in the sky. Fatnose could not sleep, and went outside.

Seated on a stool he stared into the dark, wondering what tomorrow could bring. Fireflies wandered here and there in the dark without bothering him. He sneezed, stood up and strolled into the open as a bat relieved its grip from a coconut frond and left.

Somewhere in the dark a stereo was playing local songs. Fatnose thought it was the sentry people, but it wasn't, it was the Mekeo Private Robin's bunk corner.

'Big ball, didn't you heard about the funerals,' the OC shouted, 'what will the people say to me and you? They won't tell us anything, but just pick up your gun, shoot you and off into the jungle they go.'

The music went off without hesitation followed by a weak echo of gunfire somewhere in the northern jungle. The rebels were celebrating their successes of the day just gone by. Was killing a human being worth jubilation? For Bougainvilleans it could be so because they are striving for their rights. And for PNG? Fatnose was lost to his questions.

A cool breeze consumed Fatnose as a straying firefly orbited him. 'What do you want?' he asked the insect as he approached the sentry. The distant chorus of traditional funeral songs was sweeping through the camp loudly enough to keep every one awake.

'What do think of those songs?' a sentry asked, as he welcomed him.

'They are best. Bougainville is best just like her sister islands in the Solomons.'

Nobody talked but kept silent as if consuming the OC's statement word by word.

Major Mosi was interrupted at dawn by the take-off blasts of the mortar cells. In his dirtiest dream since arriving in Bougainville he had been making love to a Buin girl. He eagerly rummaged his bed but nowhere was the girl.

'Fuckin' cells, kiss your operator's grubby arse,' he cursed after the reality got on him.

As the burial went on the mortar platoon was kept busy shelling the northern belt that was infested by BRA elements. This was in preparation for the operation to eliminate the regular attacks and infiltrations of the care centre. Fatnose had doubts: this is their home, with 'elimination' what do we meant?

Far inland, the resultant explosions were tremendous. A myriad of echoes swept across the plains. Scared were those innocent hearts; even nature wept in the sky. Is pain shared in nature?

It was a busy day for the occupying forces. A company just flown in from Kieta was preparing alongside their friends, the pro-PNG resistance groups.

Private Robin was refitting his M16 at the same time telling Minsipi tales.

'This brat once jammed as I was about to shoot down a BRA man upstream along the Bovo river,' he said. 'The beast got a lucky escape after sending a private from the Delta Company to heaven.'

'Why didn't the others get him?' Minsipi asked.

'The pricks were shocked; and stood there watching like boles. But thank heaven the bullets missed their big heads.'

Minsipi chuckled helping himself to more bullets. 'Years of the training and still you get shocked by terror.' Both men laughed at that.

Though prepared for the operation, Jimmy the batman kept his distance the whole day. Hardly, was he seen on the outside but remained in bed thinking about home. Only once in a while was he popping up to respond to orders from the OC.

Mosi watched him enter the dining area and took a seat next to him. 'Good afternoon, brother. Are you prepared?'

'Yes brother, going to put my best foot forward. And what about you, soldier?' The batman turned to face his mate who seems to be occupied with something bad.

'I am thinking about my wife?' Mosi said, swallowing a spoon of steaming rice.

'Why?'

'Well, decide whether you'll be—dead or alive.' Mosi's voice began trembling.

Tears rolled freely down Mosi's cheeks. Jimmy was surprised because this fellow always preached loyalty and bravery in the army. Anyway, people do change when faced with contrasting circumstances. So he just sat there for his friend.

'Brother, we'll be alright,' Jimmy said. 'You are not alone; we are all suffering that same pain.'

The night was very long for Jimmy. His mind was on the pendulum, moving back and forth. He was visiting his family in Kerema—chatting with them—and then back on Bougainville facing the BRA man who is rushing at him to have him dead.

'Wake up, men,' some sentry shouted. 'Take-off hour and where is that OC, still sleeping like a fat lady?' The voice of the sentry was more of a duty teacher in a high school down history lane.

The OC jumped out of his bed, shouting, 'Get moving. Move it!' without realising he was the last to disengage from his mattress.

'Fuckin' you!' someone scolded him out.

Realising that he was the last to leave the 'cool lady' he kept silent for he knew he had failed in his duty and if kept talking he would make it worse.

Major Mosi glanced at his wrist watch. It was 2am as the troops forced their way through to the main road. A wandering insect crashed into his neck and shocked him. 'Lucky not a human being we can sort out with our fists,' he told himself with a chuckle.

Some hours later the warmth of the sun poured on them in the thick undergrowth, off the north road.

'What is this river?' the OC asked Nukuitu.

'Loruru,' the resistance fighter said as he slowed his pace to decode the scout's gestures. Has he spotted something?

The wilderness was so sweet. High in the trees, birds sang morning songs. Somewhere nearby a hornbill, startled by the presence of human beings, left with a very heavy flapping of its wings followed by loud cackling of crows. All this made the OC frustrated.

'Shit, you bastards!' Fatnose, warned nature, 'get lost, you panty-less lunatics.'

Far across a fallowed area—the length of a soccer pitch—a young hunter aimed his catapult at a noisy party of parrots. To Fatnose, he was no ordinary man but a hardcore guerrilla fighter. He was alone and vulnerable to 120 men. But was he actually alone?

'Company split,' Fatnose instructed, 'one gets the rear and strike if he comes running into us.'

The orders were passed through the lines as the bushes behind the lone, bare-chested hunter came to life. Men were talking and smoke from a fire was visible as it crept under the shade of the canopy.

The scouts of the rear strike force led their men through a dense tangle, clearing their way with gun muzzles. They manoeuvred cautiously as insects shrilled in their ears, mosquitoes feasting on them in millions. But all they concentrated on was that they must get there and kill that problem to PNG.

A falling dried leaf spun and brushed the point scout's helmet, passed down his belly, recessed for a few seconds on the gun barrel and went on to the ground to rest. He eyed it suspiciously, but then forced himself to forget it.

Suddenly, a flapping sound intersected his route and off into the air it went—a megapod. After it came an exhausted mongrel, in fruitless desire to slaughter its prey. Here beside him were smells

he never came across. He halted and scanned the odours—they were new. To the death of the scout's consciousness, the dog watched him furiously.

'What is that?' the second scout asked through the tangle.

'That dog had me dead.'

It was still there watching the scouts. But, slowly it secured its tail to its abdomen and, to the men's heartache, it gave an angry bark and dashed into the tangle.

In the distance, the irate dog never ceased howling. The echo travelled and shook the entire jungle. The locale they were to attack was now where the dog sat and was calling to the gods that the ivitu are here with us, trying to kill us in our own land.

'My god, that dog,' Nukuitu cried.

Minsipi, who was not disturbed by all this, stood relaxed watching Nukuitu. 'Don't be bothered by a naked puppy, man.'

Someone in the midst of the targeted area gave a shout for withdrawal; the dog was also pacified.

'Thanks, Jesus,' the point scout relieved himself of the enveloping fear. He was an inmate walking to freedom.

The other troopers led by Fatnose crossed the cold Loruru and positioned themselves on the edges of the fallow area. For it was here that the enemy would come running when attacked from the rear.

They waited silently in anticipation for the moment to squeeze the trigger. Every soldier longed to kill one Bougainvillean rebel for the country. They have caused Port Moresby so much trouble.

They waited as the rear strike force struggled through a vast bamboo cluster. Evident was human activity. Ahead the land was getting higher so the soldiers edged forward more carefully so as not to be spotted.

To the left of the creeping government men, and amidst impenetrable undergrowth, were their enemies.

Nande, the point scout of Sepik origin who was renowned for his tales of training with Australian soldiers, sprang over a huge rotting log with deepening heartbeats after catching something with his sharp ears. He brushed past a spiky pile of pandanus leaves that were hanging loose on their mother palm to get a clear view of the rebel position.

With sweat dripping down his face and blood veins clear on his nose, he halted and gestured his second man forward.

A soft conversation was audible some 50 metres away under the thick undergrowth. A bluish fire smoke was also visible and smelling.

'They are here,' the scouts concluded and ordered the rest into position.

Overhead, a lone crow flapped its way through the shade of the canopy as Nukuitu took a few steps forward escorted by Minsipi, the wolf in sheep's clothing.

A light wind swept the jungle to life. Mosquitoes swarmed. In the distance, a branch cracked.

'The wind must be mad,' thought Nukuitu.

Cautiously, the soldiers moved forward in barricade formation for attack. With his heart pounding, Nukuitu didn't know who was minding the back, what he wanted was the blood that was in front of him. There they were talking without knowing that death crept in silently.

The wind allowed the shrubs to sway in a leisurely manner. Manu, a Morobe soldier serving his fifth year in the Defence Force, was hard hit by mosquitoes. The blood suckers were trying their best to attack his neck. Then he saw it—who? The rebel! He moved in a jerk to his right.

'There, he pointed! Shoot... shoot!' he ordered as he landed on the moist earth chasing away an army of moths. The troops fired heavily. Bullets had the leaves and tree branches fall like rain to the mother earth. To boost their bravery, not a response came.

Firing, the troops moved forward. Reloading and firing they went to see who the beast was there that cost them so much energy to get him down.

Minsipi, the end-man on the far left of the barricade and the first in front of the talking enemy, halted fire after hearing a radio playing. It was a broadcast on environmental issues from Australia.

Heart pounding to identify a gap for him to escape and meet his kinsmen, he swore at the radio loudly, 'Fuck you,' and switched it off. It belongs to his cousin—a resistance fighter turned rebel by the PNGDF.

On the other side, Fatnose and the men were firing into the fallow area. Yet it was clear that through this zone no being could cross without been spotted. Nothing but fear was taking a toll on this Australian-trained army. Good for nothing pricks!

'Keep shooting,' Fatnose ordered. 'These men are like ghosts, they can cross this way without you seeing them, boys.'

Under the deafening blast of guns and grenades, Minsipi stood still watching his mates. They without restrain kept wasting Australian ammunition on the innocent plants. While the bush boys had only one formula which was: 'One shot equals one kill' and then they were gone into the jungle.

As he stood lost in thought, a soldier kneeling before him was hit. He heard the piercing 'thud' of a bullet breaking through the human flesh and was shocked. What if they—my very relatives—took me down with their supply of ammunition still with me? My gracious God, don't you ever be so rude to me.

The ivitu landed on the ground; gave a struggle thinking he could still retain precious life but didn't make it. Minsipi just stared at the man hopelessly.

'Heaven; or hell, my friend' Minsipi prayed for him, 'is up to you and God, at least if He knows who you are, you bastard.'

This casualty, it was obvious to Minsipi and his uncle Kepa, was taken from the rear and to his, joy, no one minded the back except hi. He was the one controlling the backyard.

Minsipi eye-signalled Kepa to come forward to him as he fired their agreed pattern of shots to indicate to the rebels their presence in this operation and the exact position they were in.

'Hey, that one is shot,' Kepa said to Nukuitu and two other soldiers, who were so surprised and halted fire in perplexity.

The rest were, also shocked that one of their men was down without them even knowing from where the killer took this shot. Out of anger or sympathy, some of the men began shooting everywhere. On the other side, Fatnose, after a short radio briefing, kept shooting the trees.

Men gathered around the dead soldier. Some were weeping for the comrade; others kept shooting, just to drive the fear out of their spine.

'It won't be long,' Minsipi instructed Kepa on the steps they ought to be taking.

A sudden heavy round of gunfire came sweeping through the sad jungle. Missiles smashed rotting boles, tore through leaves and knocked down branches. Government men ran in all directions to save their lives and not the nation.

Amidst the muzzle smoke, a dreadlocked rebel stood up behind the line and shouted angrily at the redskins to return to PNG and fuck their mothers.

A dozen soldiers were lost in thought. Others sprinted off like wild pigs, crashing into giant boles, landing hard and then getting up and crashing off again. Not a soldier thought of the weapon in his hand when the rebels—so determined for a kill—jumped forward firing.

Some of the men were heard screaming 'mama' as they headed into the fallow ground.

'Where are they shooting from?' a soldier with blood bubbling out of one of his eye sockets, shouted as he landed on the ground before a resistance fighter who just laughed, 'Mate, you've been fucked.'

Minsipi and Kepa jerked away from the troop body under the cover of the bullets.

'Fire the pattern, again,' Minsipi ordered his teen uncle as he unveiled an ammo box of bullets for his jungle relatives. 'One shotgun round and two M16 shots. And please do repeat.'

As they waited for a response from the jungle men, they heard another death-scream from the men they had come with.

Seconds later it came, two dreadlocked men came running towards them whilst the rest kept pushing the government puppets towards the Loruru.

Minsipi admired them as they fought their way through the tangle. 'If only you were not my partners, you would be my catches of the day,' he thought to himself and laughed.

'Hey, you fuckers!' Minsipi's exhausted cousin almost shouted. 'So, it's you that my female dog nearly stripped.'

'Yes,' Kepa said laughing. 'Where is it so that I'll kick his arse.'

'No, not that way,' another rebel cried happily, 'that's my bodyguard.'

The rebels ceased firing but the government forces were so occupied with rage and carelessly attacked the bush.

Regularly the rebels ducked to the ground to avoid stray bullets from the Loruru.

'Brothers, you know we didn't come looking for you,' Ivini, the BRA commander said, nursing a captured rifle in hand. 'But as we were shooting, someone lost his senses and darted towards us; I got this rifle.'

'We need to disengage for the good of you brothers,' Ivini directed. 'We will fire shots over your heads and you run towards the Loruru.'

'That's it,' Kepa agreed, 'otherwise, Nukuitu beheads Minsipi.'

'Whether peace dawns or not, that's the man I want to kill,' Ivini hissed like a serpent. 'Okay, go men!'

Minsipi and Kepa sprinted like thieves. Overhead bullets smashed into the trees and wild bananas. Both fired into the air as they ran for the safety of the Loruru.

They crashed into the Loruru, speechless and exhausted; dragging with them shrubs and creepers.

'Boys, there are hundreds of rebels!' Kepa shouted at the positioned men. 'They are coming this way probably.'

The great resistance commander, Nukuitu, lay cold on the bank.

'Just answer confidently at the junction of heaven and hell,' Minsipi told Nukuitu's dead body, surrounded by buzzing flies and hungry ants. 'Never beat around the bush.'

The place was quiet. Only a few cicadas shrilled the bush as sat dreaming in wonder of the things unfolding before their eyes.

'See you sometime,' a rebel shouted from a hillock above them. The soldiers responded with fire and swear words.

'Are we fighting humans or ghosts?' the wounded Fatnose murmured in agony. 'Let's go, men.'

The company lay four dead resistance fighters and a soldier on stretchers and carefully tracked down the Loruru's sandy banks headed for the road further downstream.

Defeated and hopeless, Fatnose and his men—the good and the bad—staggered along the thick undergrowths of the river bank avoiding the road.

Far inland, shouts of jubilation and gun shots were audible answering the mortar explosions and concussion that rumbled the hideouts.

In camp, Minsipi sat quietly looking towards the Deuro ranges.

'This is my country, Bougainville, bomb her but you shall never get to her heart,' he said to himself and wiped tears from his eyes.

News 12.2012

31.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Happy New Year

by Aloysius Laukai

The Board Management and Staff of New Dawn FM would like to send Greetings of a prosperous 2013 to all our Bougainville listeners. Global viewers and supporters in 2012.

We would like to mention names of Worldwide supporters Axel Sturm from the European Shareholders of BCL in Andora, Germany for your financial support this year. And for the sponsorship for the upkeep of our site.

Paul Coleman and the Rio Tinto group in PNG.

Martin Hardlow at the University of Queensland for supporting us since 2008. Keith Jackson for your continuous support from Sydney Australia.

Researcher, Don Mitchel from the United States for also supporting us this year.

Ian Pringle and the Commonwealth of Learning based in Vancouver, Canada for providing trainings for our staff since 2010 and for supporting our weekly women's issue program, Bougainville Meri Tede.

Rita Narayan, Ruci Mafi and the staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SPC based in Suva, Fiji.

Dr. Morgan Warilu from the University of South Pacific, Josiah Maesua from UNDP in Honiara.

Back on Bougainville Greetings to the ABG president chief John Momis and family Vice President Patrick Nisira and the entire ABG cabinet and members.

Anthony Agyenta and the UNDP staff on Bougainville for supporting the program Connecting the Disconnected on Bougainville.

Tambolema Trading staff and Management for backing up New Dawn FM since the beginning and to you all a Happy New Year.

31.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainvilleans urged to welcome New Year peacefully

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLEANS have been urged to observe their New Year celebrations peacefully.

Buka police station commander, Sergeant Emmart Tsimes, while delivering his appeal, challenged all Bougainvilleans to observe a trouble-free celebrations.

"I am appealing to all Bougainvilleans to observe their New Year celebrations peacefully," Sgt Tsimes said.

"I understand that people will want to celebrate all their experiences, hardships and achievements for this year during this crossover period, but we must bear in mind that all our celebrations must be done peacefully," he said.

"We must enjoy in a good way and not to invite trouble during our New Year celebrations. Don't let our celebrations drive us into troubles," Sgt Tsimes said.

He said the Police, with the assistance of former combatants now living in Buka, will continue to monitor the situation in Buka town, Kokopau, Sohano and other nearby villages.

They will also be conducting their patrols into each constituency on Buka Island to ensure that people observe their celebrations peacefully.

Mr Tsimes also thanked Bougainvilleans for having a trouble-free celebrations during the Christmas period.

He said this year's Christmas celebrations was more peaceful than that of previous years.

He is therefore appealing to Bougainvilleans to do the same for the New Year.

31.12.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville to spend big on infrastructure as condition of Port Moresby support

The government in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says much of its record budget for 2013 will go into infrastructure development, because that is what the national government wants.

The budget of 186 million US dollars is up nearly 50 percent on the previous year.

This is largely because the bulk of additional special funding from Port Moresby for the current year is being carried over.

Bougainville's finance minister Albert Punghau says it is tied funding from the national government which wants the bulk of it spent on infrastructure development.

"Something that the people can see, that the national government can see and say that yes, that money that was earmarked for high impact projects like roads and bridges and airports has been spent on something that the people can see and says yes the money has been spent on that. Because they have been saying that for social services you can't really actually see the physical thing of education and health. So that is why they are saying it is good to have infrastructure like roads, bridges and airports."

29.12.2012

Source: Canberra Times

Mum's the word when it comes to selecting shares

You have to be choosy when picking stocks for parents, writes Madeleine Heffernan.

Phil Burgess, the outspoken former public policy chief at Telstra, famously said he wouldn't recommend Telstra shares to his mother.

Although Dr Burgess later said the remark was made to highlight that Telstra was "being smothered by regulation", the "mother benchmark" holds some appeal, particularly after recent rough-and-ready years on the sharemarket.

With the official cash rate slashed to 3 per cent and local shares delivering a "Santa rally" this month, hopes are rising that the \$67 billion pulled out of stocks by small investors between 2008 and 2011 will make its way back to the market.

But with sharemarket volatility doubling since the start of the financial crisis, it is still a case of buyer beware.

Fairfax Media has spoken to market analysts to find out which shares might pass the test for our nearest and dearest in the new year.

George Boubouras, the head of investment strategy and consulting at UBS Wealth Management, who has a Greek mother and Spanish in-laws, said shopping for mothers required deep pockets. The appropriate shares are defensive, therefore they are expensive.

"If they are approaching pension phase, income certainty is much more relevant," Mr Boubouras said.

"Given cash rates are falling and rates are expected to remain lower for longer, this generally makes investors seek other, riskier, exposures. So a low beta (lower volatile) dividend stock theme that utilises franking can work."

Mr Boubouras's list includes some of this year's big winners: healthcare companies CSL, Cochlear and ResMed, and Telstra.

He also recommends utilities such as AGL and Duet, and gaming companies, if they do not offend your ethics.

Then there are the shares behind everyday purchases or practices: toll road operator Transurban for regular users of CityLink, or Wesfarmers shares for people who shop at Coles supermarkets and Target.

Materials and energy companies should be in the mix too, but bigger is better here: Origin, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto are recommended.

"Never mid-cap, this is too volatile for mum," he said.

Mr Boubouras does shirk at one tipper's suggestion of Whitehaven Coal. "Most mums don't need a coal play," he said.

That tipper is Mark Fitzgibbon, the managing director of the listed health insurer NIB.

While Whitehaven has rallied recently, due to expectations of a deal with China Shenhua Energy Co, it has had a poor year overall. Its share price is down 28 per cent due to weaker coal prices and the troubles of its famous shareholder, Nathan Tinkler.

But Mr Fitzgibbon said Whitehaven was undervalued.

"I'm a big believer in the long-term coal story," he said.

He is also a fan of funds manager Perpetual, praising its "qualitative investment criteria", and the private hospital operator Ramsay Health Care, which has had a rollicking year.

"[It is] probably fully priced but [it] sails on the sea of private healthcare spending which will continue its GDP-plus growth trajectory," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

Alex Moffatt, the director of stockbrokers Joseph Palmer & Sons, said if you want income go for National Australia Bank and Telstra; if you are after growth, snap up resources, which have had a tricky year.

Other stocks on his "buy" list, some owned by his 81-year-old mother, include the fund manager Challenger and salary packaging provider McMillan Shakespeare.

Silex, which does research into the commercialisation of nuclear energy and solar energy technologies, is "one for the greenies".

And for people looking for an "in" into resources, **Mr Moffatt recommends Bougainville Copper, the Papua New Guinea copper, gold and silver miner, which is part owned by Rio Tinto.**

Elio D'Amato, the chief executive of fund manager Lincoln Indicators, is cautious on resources stocks for parents but keen on the engineering company Monadelphous. "It declared a pretty positive outlook at its AGM, and its dividend yield is 6.2 per cent, so it's the best of both worlds: growth and dividends," Mr D'Amato said.

With term deposits falling, dividends should be the focus, Mr D'Amato said.

There's the small childcare operator G8 Education - not to be associated with ABC Learning, the listed childcare company that crashed and burnt during the financial crisis.

"This is a good business with a grossed-up dividend forecast of 6.4 per cent," Mr D'Amato said. "And the number of dual-income homes is only going to grow."

Other recommendations for parents are travel group Flight Centre and car sales-cum-property group AP Eagers. Both capitalise on the record number of Australians heading overseas and buying new cars.

Then there's Fleetwood, the caravan manufacturer and seller which likely gets plenty of business from grey nomads. Fleetwood had a grossed-up dividend yield of 8.1 per cent, Mr D'Amato said.

28.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RESI FUNDS ASSIST BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai



Education projects on Bougainville will benefit with funds totaling SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA from the National Government under its REHABILITATION EDUCATION SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RESI).

The Regional member for Bougainville, JOE LERA made this announcement on New Dawn FM yesterday.

He said that Eight Schools have been identified and cheques would be raised to them in the new year.

The Schools that would benefit are as follows,

- > TINPUTZ HIGH SCHOOL who will benefit with ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.
- > HAKETS FODE School will get another ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.
- > BOKU PRIMARY SCHOOL will get SEVENTY THOUSAND KINA,
- > HAISI PRIMARY SCHOOL will get SEVENTY THOUSAND KINA,
- > HAKU DAY HIGH SCHOOL would benefit with another ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.
- > BOUGAINVILLE OPEN CAMPUS another ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

- > TOKAPINAHO ELEMENTARY would get FIFTY THOUSAND KINA AND
- > SININAI PRIMARY SCHOOL will get FIFTY THOUSAND KINA.

In making this announcement, MR LERA also announced extra contributions from the Bougainville Open members for the RESI program.

He mentioned THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA would come from the Member for South Bougainville and Minister for Autonomy and Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA,

Another THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA from the member for North Bougainville, LOUTA ATOI and ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA from the Member for Central Bougainville, JIMMY MIRINGTORO.

Regional member LERA said that he was happy that the four Bougainville members are now working as a team to develop Bougainville.

28.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE WANT PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service has praised the general public for celebrating Christmas peacefully. Acting POLICE Station Commander for Buka Police Station, SGT EMART TSIMES made this remarks on New Dawn FM this afternoon.

He said that all throughout Bougainville the people celebrated Christmas peacefully and called on the people to continue this attitude on to the New Year. SGT TSIMES said Police are happy that most of the Communities assisted Police in removing Homebrew brewing Gas bottles which resulted in the peaceful Christmas.

The PSC also appealed to the people of Bougainville to take extra precautions when doing last minute NEW Year shopping throughout the region.

He also appealed to drivers to make sure that they think safety when carrying passengers and not to overtake unnecessarily that can cause road accidents.

SGT TSIMES also wished the people of Bougainville a prosperous New Year.

28.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SMALL ASSISTANCE APPROVED

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville JOE LERA yesterday announced 38 approved requests under his TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA Discretion Fund under him.

In making this known, MR.LERA said that most of these small approved funds were to support in education and health related programs in the region.

He said that he was investing heavily in education as he believed that a well trained Bougainvilleans would steer the region in the future.

The Regional member also announced the Committee for the Provincial Support Improvement Programme's Non discretionary funds totaling another TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA would also be released in the new year. He said that a Committee to oversee these funds were sworn in at the Buka Court House last week.

28.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Change for Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai



ABG President Dr Chief John Momis is calling on all Bougainvilleans to use the christmas as a time of reflection and change for a better future.

Speaking on New Dawn FM during his christmas greetings to the people of Bougainville. President Momis called on all individual Bougainvilleans to be more patriotic towards their region.

He said with Referendum coming up between 2015 and 2020 we do not have anytime for playing games.

President Momis said that Bougainville needs the contribution of all its citizens to prepare the region for referendum.

He explained that weapons were not a condition for holding the referendum however weapons could make the results of the referendum questionable.

28.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Lera making progress

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera can proudly say that he has nearly achieved some of the projects he had planned to initiate during his first 100 days following his election victory in July this year.

According to Mr Lera, one of his immediate 100 days plans that had been achieved was uniting all Bougainville MPs in the National Parliament with their counterparts from the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

He said the success of this plan resulted in the recent drawdown of the long-awaited K100 million by the National Government to the ABG.

This funding is believed to have taken a long time to be delivered to the ABG coffers following disunity between the National Government, especially the Bougainville Open MPs and their ABG counterparts.

Another of his 100 days plans was to ship six containers of library books and hospital beds from Australia to Bougainville.

This initiative had come about with assistance from the PNG and Australian Rotary Club.

He said freight costs have already been allocated, however they are only awaiting the MOA to be signed before the shipment of containers can take place.

Scoping for the rural electrification and ring road upgrading on Buka Island has also been done. However he is only awaiting the contractor to furnish the scoping so his officers can draft the proposals to seek funding from his donor partners.

The relocation process of the Bougainville Open Campus from Buka to Central Bougainville has also begun.

28.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Grader working on feeder roads

THE Toisiko area in the Wakunai district of Central Bougainville has always been regarded as an area where life has always been hard for the people.

Their feeder road ends more than 10km from the nearest village, and travel and access to services has been problematic for the Toisiko people.

Every day, they could be seen carrying their cash crops and garden produce up steep hills and down deep gorges before arriving at the feeder road. They then would have to wait for a PMV to travel to the market. The outbreak of the cocoa pod borer has also damaged most cocoa trees, resulting in some of the people turning to marijuana cultivation as a source of income, despite knowing that it is illegal as it is their only way to earn some money. But, the Toisiko people's hardship of carrying produce for more than 10km will now be a thing of the past as MP Jimmy Miringoro has allocated funds for road upgrades.



27.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Bank for Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville could have a second Bank according to the ABG Minister for Commerce and member for Konnou, Wilfred Komba.

In his Ministerial speech to the Parliament last week, Minister Komba stated that the ABG was negotiating with another Commercial bank to establish itself in the region to support the only Bank which has been providing Banking services to the region most of the times facing criticism from the customers.

Mr Komba however did not mention the name of the bank but said that the ABG was looking at inviting another commercial Bank to operate in the region.

New Dawn FM understands, this move will ease the pressure currently faced by the only Bank in the region Bank South Pacific in providing banking service in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

27.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Alluvial Gold Mining a Concern

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis says that thousands of Bougainvilleans are into alluvial mining which could be either good and bad.



Speaking at the ABG House this week, President Momis named places that they are currently panning G

They are in Central Bougainville, Pakia, Kupei, **Panguna**, Moroni, Kitano, Kawerong River, **Atamo**, Karato, Loloho, Kongara and Paruparu.



In South Bougainville, President Momis names places like, Wisai, Deuro Jaba river and Torokina.

And in North Bougainville he mentioned Tinputz. Chief Momis said small scale is giving significant income to many Bougainvilleans. but can also cause, land issues, environmental destructions, damage to infrastructures, health problems due to the excessive use of highly toxic mercury in processing Gold and also the safety of miners can be compromised as mines collapse killing miners.



27.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville peaceful

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THIS year's Christmas celebrations in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville were observed peacefully without any major problems encountered.

This was not like in the past years where the celebrations were always marred by problems and troubles arising due to the consumption of drugs and alcohol.

Although there were people seen consuming alcohol and enjoying themselves, their party outings were done in a peaceful manner.

From the northern tip of Buka Island to the southern tip of Bougainville, people observed their celebrations in the true meaning of Christmas.

Wakunai police commander Sergeant Oscar Tugen said celebrations in the Wakunai district of Central Bougainville were trouble-free.

He said police were also invited to conduct awareness in certain parts of the district.

Mr Tugen said other areas of Central Bougainville also observed a trouble-free celebration this Christmas.

Reports from South Bougainville also stated that the festive season there was observed peacefully.

The former combatants from the area have been assisting police in carrying out the Christmas/New Year operations.

According to the former combatants from Buin, they have confiscated 20 cartons of alcohols smuggled from the neighbouring Solomon Islands.

They added that they will not be releasing these cartons of alcohol back to the owners because they understand that it was illegal to sell goods or alcohols bought from the Solomon Islands.

27.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

RESI funds allocated to projects

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Joe Lera will use K700,000 from the Rehabilitation Education Services Improvement (RESI) funds for nine projects in his electorate.

The projects have been identified and approved following submissions received from these institutions.

Mr Lera said other Bougainville open MPs which included Lautu Atoi (North Bougainville MP), Jimmy Miringtoro (Minister for Communication and Central Bougainville MP) and Steven Pirika Kamma (Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP) could also counter-fund some of the projects that he had already been identified in their respective electorates.

He added that their contributions would show that there was teamwork between the Bougainville MPs in the National Parliament, and that they were serious in bringing tangible developments into the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Mr Lera also clarified that these funding had been sourced from the previously allocated RESI funding which was halted a few years ago by the Government following misappropriation of funds by certain politicians and Government departmental officers.

The RESI projects that Mr Lera and the three Bougainville MPs will be funding include:

- Tinputz High School K150,000;

- Hakets FODE (Flexible, Open and Distance Education) Centre K150,000;
- Boku Primary School — K70, 000;
- Haisi Primary School — K70,000;
- Haku Day High School — 150,000;
- Bougainville Open Campus — K500, 000;
- Takapinaho Elementary School - K100, 000;
- Sininnai Primary School — K110,000;
- Admin fee — K50, 000.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEMBER MOSE ON CLEAN KOKOPAU

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG member for Selau, Terry Mose called on the people of Selau to take ownership of their Kokopau Town and make sure its clean and beautiful for the people to do Business in.

He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that he wants his people to assist with the up keeping of the Kokopau town,

The Member made these remarks after organizing a working bee with a womens group that cleaned the town this morning.

He said he had organized the group as the town was filthy and needed to be cleaned.

The member for Selau said that Kokopau was the entrance for Bougainville and needs to be looked after as the face of Bougainville Mainland.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STONE PRAISES BOUGAINVILLE POLICE

By Aloysius Laukai

A long term resident of Buka town, Peter Stone has Bougainville Police Service for making the Christmas festivities quite and peaceful.

He told New Dawn Fm that in his twenty years in Buka this year has been the only quite Christmas in which no drunkards were seen on the streets of Buka Town.

Mr Stone said this was a sign for Bougainville and the Police and the Veterans Personnel must be praised for taking the initiative to rid Buka town from drunkards who disturb women and children everyday.

He said that we talk about Tourism but we do not provide the environment conducive for Tourism by allowing drunkards on the streets disturbing the travelling public and visitors to the region.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA TO WORK WITH ABG

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville, Joe Lera says that he is securing a lot of projects that the ABG would be required to implement.

He made this remarks on New Dawn FM this morning.

The Regional member said that ABG was the government on the ground and would implement projects secured by him and the other three National Members of Parliament as they were only the spokesmen for the Autonomous National Government.

The Regional Member mentioned amongst other projects like the Bougainville Fisheries Project and other Education programs that he would be working with the ABG to implement.

He called on the people to assist the members and unite to develop Bougainville.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REGIONAL FUNDS

The Regional member for Bougainville, Joe Lera today praised the O'Neill/ Dion government for putting more funding into Provinces the 2013 National Budget.

Speaking on New Dawn FM talks program this morning, Mr Lera said that for the first time in the history of Papua New Guinea, Regional Members would get funding for developments in the Provinces.

He said, in the past Regional members were only allocated Five Hundred Thousand Kina whilst Open members were allocated Ten Million Kina each for projects in the Districts.

Mr Lera said that in the 2013 budget Regional Members would receive funds according to the number of Open Electorates In their Provinces.

He explained that for Bougainville, s three Electorates of South, Central and North Bougainville he would receive a total of Fifteen Million Kina at Five Million Kina for a single Electorate.

The Regional Member said that these funds would come under five programs

Education, Health, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Law and Order.

He said with these kind of funds a lot of projects would be implemented on Bougainville.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LERA ACHIEVES 100 DAYS COMMITMENT

BY Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville, Joe Lera (pictured) today announced that his commitments for the first one hundred days in office were fulfilled and was able to secure extra funds for Bougainville also within first one hundred days.



He made his comments at a press conference broadcasted live on New Dawn FM this morning.

Mr Lera said that he is satisfied with a short period of time he was able to organize the reconciliation of three Bougainville National Members and the ABG President Dr John Momis which paved the way for the release of the first One Hundred Million Kina promised to Bougainville by the National Government.

He said Library Books from Australia were just waiting for a MOU between the Regional Member and Lions Club to be completed before the Containers containing these Books are send to Bougainville.

The Regional Member said that he had already secured funds for the return of the Bougainville University Centre to Arawa in Central Bougainville.

He said other projects have also being indentified for next year and next five years.

26.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KOKOPAU CLEAN UP

By Aloysius Laukai

Members of Gohi SDA women's group were today caught cleaning Kokopau town on the Northern tip of Mainland Bougainville.

They told New Dawn FM that they wanted to use the public holiday to do some community work at the Kokopau town.



24.12.2012

**The European Shareholders of
Bougainville Copper (ESBC)
wish a Merry and Peaceful
Christmas to all Bougainvilleans,
to all stakeholders and to all
shareholders all over the world !**

24.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Carol by Candlelight

by Aloysius Laukai

Martha Barako the coordinator of the Carols by Candlelight program at the Buka Police Station cells to respect Business houses and their owners throughout the region.

She made these remarks at the Carols by Candlelight at the Buka Police Station last night.

The prisoners were singing Christmas Carols to the visitors at the cells.

Mrs.Barako said that the Business houses assist whenever they request for assistance and in return should be respected and protected.

She said that the Carols by Candlelight was a success because these business houses contributed with the staging.

She said that because the prisoners needed bath soap and loandry soaps and sleeping mats these business houses try to help whenever they are requested.

Over 60 prisoners participated in the Carols by candlelight which New Dawn Fm recorded and broadcasted at 8pm tonight.

24.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Buka Quite

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka town is quite after most of the town residents left for home to celebrate Christmas with their families and relatives.

And most denominations are combining to have combined services for Christmas.

Organizer for the SAPOSA island combined church service,, FRANCIS TONY told New Dawn FM today that three church denominations will be combining for the combined church service on Saposia island tomorrow.

He said that the three churches are Catholic,United church and SDA.

He said that they had originally prepared for a choir competition however this changed after they did not secure enough funds from the Sponsors.

The service will commence at 9am.

24.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis Call for Unity

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief Dr John Momis is appealing for the co operation of all Bougainvillians to see Bougainville attain full Autonomy.

Speaking in his Christmas and New Year message to the people of Bougainville. President Momis said that Bougainville needs to prepare the ground work for referendum sheduled at a date to be set between the years 2015 and 2020.

He said if the stage is not set properly then we have our selves to blame for the result of the referendum.

Chief Momis said that Bougainville at this time needs the contribution of all, its citizens to raise the required funds to sustain the operation of the ABG.

He said that currently Bougainville was relying heavily on the National Government with not much contribution from Bougainvilleans.

24.12.2012

Source: Foreign Policy Journal

Resolving hybrid conflicts: the Bougainville story

by TIMOTHY G HAMMOND

THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE, which includes the islands of Bougainville, Buka, and an array of smaller atolls, is located in Oceania just east of mainland Papua New Guinea, from which it is not yet fully independent.

Geographically, Bougainville is a part of the Solomon Islands and Bougainvilleans share more cultural and linguistic traits with the Solomon Islanders than they do with the people of Papua New Guinea.

Despite these facts, through colonization Papua New Guinea and Bougainville were administered together under the same colonial territory. So when Papua New Guinea gained its independence in 1975, Bougainville continued to remain politically connected to the country.

Home to an estimated 200,000 inhabitants, the island's population is far from being culturally homogenous. Similar to mainland Papua New Guinea, Bougainville is host to an impressive array of distinct languages (about 25, in fact), traditions, and cultural identities—all within the 9,438 square kilometers of the island.

Amidst such high levels of diversity, some common traits among Bougainvilleans include their skin colour, which is darker than that of most mainland Papua New Guineans, and a generally

strong Christian faith, which was blended with indigenous spirituality as a result of interaction with Catholic missionaries.

The igniting point that led many Bougainvilleans to come together to fight for independence from Papua New Guinea came from collective dissatisfaction with the management of the Panguna mine on the island (at one point the world's largest open-cut mine), which created many significant costs for Bougainvilleans while providing very few benefits. The Bougainville crisis began in 1988.

The Bougainville crisis was the most severe and chronic case of violence that had occurred in the Pacific since World War II. A decade of guerilla warfare, political struggles over identity, famine, and insecurity plagued the people of Bougainville from 1988 until 1997. Beyond the hundreds of soldiers who lost their lives, an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 civilians died either by direct fighting, disease, or deprivation of basic needs.

One false perception of the Bougainville crisis is that it was a case of warfare between the secessionists of Bougainville and the state of Papua New Guinea. This would lead observers to believe that the Bougainville crisis was a form of conventionally-understood civil war; however, the reality was that the violence was much more complex, as many intra-Bougainvillean conflicts commenced at the same time as the Bougainville-Papua New Guinea violence.

In terms of addressing violent conflict in the world today, the state and its formal judicial process (retributive forms of justice) is generally legitimized as the main provider of conflict prevention, management, and resolution (CPMR).

That is because violent conflict and warfare have traditionally been understood by policymakers and state-leaders as an activity that takes place between two or more state entities, pitting their militaries against each other in order to achieve some form of political gain and/or increased power.

Unlike the conventional model for understanding warfare, the actors involved in the Bougainville hybrid conflict were not limited to states' militaries; non-state private military companies, indigenous groups, and multinational corporations were also involved. In these forms of warfare, the presence of violent non-state actors (VNSAs), including terrorist groups, traffickers, and warlords, complicates our understanding of conflict since they are borderless threats.

In Bougainville, familial ties rather than political ideologies united groups together to compete for their own security. It is this form of violent conflict that is now considered to be the largest security concern in the agendas of the world's leading countries.

Some would consider these "new wars" as a sort of reversion in conflict—where violence breaks out over historically consistent issues such as access to resources, recognition of identity, and the assurance of basic needs.

The reality is that violent conflict in the world today has taken a hybrid form: blending state and non-state issues and actors together and combining both old (the conventionally understood) and new characteristics of warfare.

Hybrid political orders are defined by Volker Boege of the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management as those states (often labelled as "weak") in which diverse institutions (including non-governmental organizations, VNSAs, and multinational corporations) compete with state institutions, forming a country with a governing structure that does not match the conventional image of what a territorialized, Westphalian state looks like.

Boege notes that today's violent conflicts are often "hybrid socio-political exchanges in which modern state-centric as well as pre-modern traditional and post-modern factors mix and overlap. The state has lost its central position in violent conflicts of this kind...."

Further addressing the prevalence of hybridity, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that future threats were most likely to consist of a hybrid blend of conventional and irregular warfare, a term to describe the current complexity of violent conflicts and the requirement for an "adaptable and resilient response".

What should this adaptable response entail? After nearly a decade of warfare, the Bougainville peace-building process was largely successful due to the fact that indigenous customs and norms were integrated with conventional state procedures—a hybrid conflict resolution approach that was well suited for the complex array of state and non-state issues present in the crisis.

The story of the Bougainville crisis provides many lessons for understanding other violent conflicts that occur in the world today, especially those involving the struggles of indigenous populations.

It's a story that demonstrates the inherent interconnection between three key forms of security: the security of the natural environment, the security of human beings, and the security of the structure of the state.

Unfortunately the security of the state too often takes utmost priority in a manner that makes the other two key forms of security vulnerable—a clearly unsustainable condition as people will eventually revolt against the structures that create inequality within their governments.

For sustainable peace and stability to be achieved, all three forms of security must be addressed. The Bougainville crisis was sparked because the needs of the indigenous Bougainvilleans, as well as those of the natural environment upon which they were dependent, were placed to the side in order for the government of Papua New Guinea to acquire highest profits from the Panguna mine in Bougainville.

An ensuing period of warfare passed with human rights abuses occurring on all sides, as well as recurring failures to resolve the conflicts. Despite such virulent violence, the Bougainville story is ever more important due to the successes in peace-building that eventually emerged.

These are successes that should shine as examples that demonstrate the potential for protracted conflicts to be resolved, as well as to demonstrate the potential for communities to become self-sufficient and ecologically sustainable.

Maybe most importantly, the Bougainville story should be taken into consideration in order to preemptively avoid the outbreak of other violent conflicts, especially those involving minority populations, declining resources, and desires for autonomy.

Where the Bougainville crisis began due to an unstable focus on national gain over human rights and environmental sustainability, the situation today is one in which the political governance of Bougainville is better designed to address the needs of the community and their environment.

Short history of the Bougainville conflict

Social uprising began intensifying in Bougainville due to the negative social and environmental impacts caused by the Panguna mine. The Panguna copper mine was operated by Bougainville

Copper Ltd (BCL), owned by Conzinc Riotinto of Australia (CRA), an Australian subsidiary of the British mining company Rio Tinto-Zinc.

Drilling began at the Panguna site in 1972 in accordance with agreements made between the government of Papua New Guinea and BCL, despite opposition from indigenous Bougainvilleans.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Panguna copper mine remained one of the world's largest open-pit mines, bringing profits to Britain and Australia, and making up 44% of PNG's exports, as well as 17% of the country's state-generated revenue.

Despite such profit generation, Bougainvilleans received very few benefits from BCL, and the costs to the society were readily apparent. PNG and the mining company failed to respect or understand Bougainvillean customs or methods of land ownership.

Panguna was located on the Nasioi community's land—the ownership of which is passed down through matrilineal family lines. Without taking the initiative to understand the norms of the matrilineal society, Bougainville Copper Ltd failed to sufficiently or correctly compensate the rightful land owners.

Many Bougainvilleans were forced to be relocated and they also faced immense environmental and social damages that were directly caused by the Panguna mine.

Pollutant run-off, including poisonous copper, mercury, lead, and arsenic, destroyed entire river systems, leaving the water unlivable for plants and animals and unsuitable for human consumption.

According to Australia Parliament records, 99.4% of the 1.215 billion tons of land that was removed by the mining company was effectively turned to waste. While communities on Bougainville had many differences and old conflicts between each other, continued resentment for the mine spurred collective desires which further strengthened a sense of a more unified Bougainvillean identity.

Former employee of Bougainville Copper Ltd and Bougainville native, Francis Ona, came to lead a strong resistance against the Panguna mine and to further fight for independence from Papua New Guinea.

Ona stated that his people fight for their land, their culture, and their independence. After his demands to the Panguna administration were not met, Ona stole 50 kilos of explosives and sabotaged the mine, destroying a power-supplying transmission tower with the help of a few others in 1988.

Papua New Guinea, out of defence for their main source of exports, sent in riot police who overzealously burned natives' homes to the ground. This created an intensified backlash and under Ona's command, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) was formed.

The BRA would face the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), Australian assisting forces, and opposing Bougainvillean forces as well. Due to the island's geographical challenges as well as the complex array of actors involved, a militaristic stalemate eventually occurred.

A ceasefire agreement was signed in 1990, one year after the mine stopped operating because of the conflicts, and PNG's forces withdrew from the island. However, in this same year the government of PNG formed an air and sea blockade around Bougainville and Buka, prohibiting the flow of goods.

Bougainvilleans initially faced starvation and disease without the imported goods that are essential for life on an island, which includes food and medicine for infections like malaria. Bougainvilleans also lacked fuel and other items that would be necessary during wartime. At this point they had no choice, Bougainvilleans had to adapt or die, and so many turned their attention inward.

An acclaimed 2001 documentary by Dom Rotheroe titled, *The Coconut Revolution* helped spread awareness of the “world’s first eco-revolution” as it shed light on the self-sustaining efforts of the Bougainvilleans at this time in the conflicts.

The coconut revolution was an example of innovation birthed out of necessity. With the blockade in place there was no supply of diesel, so the Bougainvilleans learned how to extract oil from coconuts to fuel their vehicles. Herbal remedies for diseases and infections were discovered from plants on the island.

The soil of the land was rich and fertile, so when Bougainvilleans enhanced their cultivation techniques they were rewarded with bountiful amounts of food. Hydroelectricity even lighted their towns once rivers and streams were utilized for sustainable energy. The shut-down site of the Panguna mine even became a large resource, as Bougainvilleans used anything and everything they could to create something useful.

By focusing back on a subsistence-based livelihood that had nearly been lost, and by utilizing and reinvigorating indigenous knowledge of the environment, Bougainvilleans were surviving.

They largely owed their capability to survive off the natural environment to a higher power. Even through devastating times of war, a positive outlook was acquired through the act of thanking God for what blessings they were able to receive. Unlike countries in which the church and state are more clearly divided, spirituality in Bougainville is much more inseparable from the values and norms that provide the framework for the organization of their society. A lot was being proved about indigenous identity to the entire world.

It is important to be aware that the method of storytelling in the popular 2001 documentary may unintentionally paint an inaccurate and oversimplified picture in viewers’ minds that indigenous Bougainvilleans, through Ona’s command of the BRA, stood as unified secessionists against the mainland forces of PNG.

In reality, conflicts between communities on Bougainville also erupted and some Bougainvillean groups, including those on Buka, even received support from the PNGDF.

While localized groups were organized in ways that the documentary demonstrates, no organized form of centralized Bougainville government was able to get off the ground due to the amount of intra-Bougainvillean conflicts that were occurring. Inspiring ecological revolutions were underway, yet conflict between the many actors at play in the crisis continued to remain unresolved at the time.

Francis Ona put forth a unilateral declaration of independence after Papua New Guinea’s forces left the island in 1990. The UDI received no international recognition at the time.

While Ona was named president of the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG), support for the BRA and for the BIG declined among Bougainvilleans. Anthony Regan reports that with the threat of the PNGDF absent, and without any form of effective self-governance, many intra-Bougainvillean conflicts arose over issues such as land ownership.

While the south of the island remained in support of the BRA, Bougainville Resistance Forces (BRF) formed in opposition to the BRA groups and some were even supported by the PNGDF.

Australia, home to BCL who had supplemented PNG's forces, came to condemn the PNGDF due to many human rights violations that occurred. Yet the tipping point seemed to be after Julius Chan, the Prime Minister of PNG at the time, made agreements in 1997 with Sandline, an international military contractor, to enhance PNG's military strength.

After this, divisions grew in Papua New Guinea as General Singirok of the PNGDF led a rebellion that evicted the controversial contracted private military forces. Afterward, Bill Skate was elected as the new Prime Minister and opportunities for peace talks were seized.

The path to peace in Bougainville

The first rounds of peaceful negotiations were hosted in New Zealand beginning in 1997. Notably, peace between PNG and Bougainville would not be possible until the intra-Bougainvillean conflicts were resolved.

In 1997, opposing Bougainvillean groups successfully signed the Burnham Declaration, which committed them to pursuing peaceful negotiations. Later in the same year, the government of PNG joined the Bougainville factions to sign the Burnham Truce, agreeing to be monitored by an unarmed New Zealand peace monitoring group.

A continued "roadmap" to peace was signed with the Lincoln Agreement in 1998, which provided a ceasefire, continued external monitoring under Australian military leadership, and further agreed for reconciliation to take place between Bougainvilleans and between PNG and Bougainville.

Interesting to note is that Francis Ona, original leader of the BRA, stood as a roadblock for negotiations towards independence at this time due to the fact that he believed that his 1990 UDI was enough to solidify Bougainville's independence.

Finally, in 2001, the Bougainville Peace Agreement was ratified, providing autonomy for Bougainville, a position just short of full independence. PNG military forces were withdrawn, combatant Bougainvillean groups were disarmed, and a referendum was created so that the future political status of Bougainville may yet be decided.

There were several key factors that led to the successful implementation of these agreements in Bougainville. These include the role that women played for resolving conflicts on Bougainville, the inclusion and integration of indigenous forms of governance with formal Westphalian state procedures, collective perceptions responsibility, an emphasis on restorative justice, strong external monitoring and mediation, and the fact that the process of healing was emphasized without rushing or pushing for immediate outcomes.

An inherent danger exists with the agreements made that a lack of enforcing or implementing mechanisms may mean that the sources of the conflict could go unaddressed and conflict may re-emerge. The United Nations was aware of these complications and therefore aimed to design incentives for cooperation for all parties involved.

Boege writes that the New Zealand negotiations were effective because the New Zealand hosts were focused on the process rather than on the outcome. With long years of intense conflict, ample time is needed for any kind of healing to occur.

The 2001 peace agreement had built in mechanisms for ensuring that a long-term outlook was made, so that the final political status of Bougainville could be addressed down the road after a level of peace was restored.

Emphasizing the process rather than immediate outcome ensured that political decisions were given the time they needed to best suit the community's needs, which in turn prevents the re-emergence of conflict.

Another significant reason that the negotiations in New Zealand were successful was because the parties present were constructing peace from an already established foundation.

As early as seven years before the first rounds of mediated negotiations took place in New Zealand, Bougainvillean women, church leaders, and chiefs began taking advantage of indigenous customs designed for conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

The fact that warring factions in Bougainville chose to begin building peace on their islands by utilizing traditional indigenous means of CPMR demonstrates the significance of keeping indigenous knowledge alive in the world today. Women, church leaders, and traditional chiefs aimed to restore damaged relationships between warring communities on the island.

Restorative forms of justice aim at restoring relationships to promote peace between entire communities, while retributive justice (conventional legal forms) aims to punish or reward the parties present. Restorative justice has been used to prevent conflict by indigenous populations throughout the world.

In most cases the social foundations constructed by collective responsibility, restorative justice, and reciprocity were destroyed during colonization. It is here that the term "ethnic conflict" is often misleading.

Conflict did not erupt because of the presence of different ethnic groups; conflict erupted in Bougainville due to the presence of political structures that perpetuated inequality.

Many of the world's ethnic conflicts have ignited after colonizing forces disrupted the indigenous social fabric that had once maintained order. One Bougainvillean chief emphasized the importance of restorative justice for the people on the island, stating that it is what "our ancestors used for thousands of years to resolve minor and major disputes, up until colonial times."

The BRA strongly supported the strengthening of indigenous customs in their fight for independence; however, the councils of chiefs still faced many roadblocks to peaceful relations.

Adapting traditional indigenous customs to better suit the realities and challenges that Bougainville faced in the modern day, a system of councils of elders (COE) opened the door for elected church leaders and women to join the clan chiefs in their efforts to manage conflict.

Due to the matrilineal organization of society on Bougainville, there was strong potential for women, in particular, to influence the peace process. In terms of land ownership, Bougainvillean women reserve the right to designate land for personal or commercial uses.

As they do not typically fight in battles, women are viewed as more neutral parties who fulfill the roles of negotiating and peacemaking. By the end of the Bougainville crisis, hundreds of women put aside their diverse clan allegiances in order to come together as a more unified Bougainvillean force.

Saovana-Spriggs emphasizes the importance of the role that women played, stating that "women were the initial brokers" in the process of peace-building process.

Towards a transformed future?

More recently, controversy has sparked over talks for the infamous Panguna mine to be reopened. This time around, there are several key changes that suggest that the vehicle to peace and security remains on the correct tracks. John Momis, current President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, believes that reopening the Panguna mine will enable Bougainville to take a further step towards full independence, as well as strengthen health and education systems across the island.

Rose Pihei, Minister for Culture and Tourism for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), also voiced her support of the motion to reopen the mine. She explained that “Panguna landowners are ready to work with the Autonomous Bougainville Government as the legitimate government for Bougainville and other factions are already working with them to join the team so that Bougainville can voice their grievances as one Bougainville. The Panguna mine will be opened as soon as all the negotiations are completed. Panguna gave independence to PNG and should now be opened to give the necessary funds for Bougainville to move forward.”

Papua New Guinea’s leading newspaper reported that the right to choose their own future was what “every Bougainvillian has been waiting for”. Important measures were made in the motion that ensured that the landowners will maintain ownership of resources, and that mining policies are installed for wealth to trickle throughout the island, a clear difference from Panguna’s past.

No population on Earth today is left isolated from globalizing forces, from the flows of the global market economy, and neither are they excluded from the global challenges that the human community faces.

Having such valuable resources located on their island, Bougainvilleans must move forward carefully to avoid economic symptoms like the “resource curse”, where the gift of holding such valuable resources within one’s borders increases the likelihood of conflict.

The possibility also exists that if Bougainville’s economy does not diversify, future mining exports will out-compete all other sectors on the island. At the same time, Bougainvilleans are given an opportunity here to become further independent and to gain the funds required for their communities to prosper.

This is possible as long as rightful landowners are given due compensation and the Bougainville community as a whole, rather than the government of PNG, takes responsibility for the Panguna mine—ensuring that the environment is much better protected from dangerous chemicals and that the wealth created is used to enhance society rather than to form a new class of elite. In this year, 2012, developments are still ensuing.

Conclusion: balanced security, better Bougainville

The hybrid form of warfare that occurred in Bougainville is the most common form of warfare that has waged through the 21st century.

As resources continue to be depleted with a growing population and cultures of over-consumption, the risk is high that intra-state conflicts will continue to emerge across the globe, igniting over distributions of wealth and the assurance to basic needs, and involving governments, indigenous groups, multinational corporations, private military forces and more.

Amidst such complexity, the Bougainville story demonstrates that resolution of hybrid conflicts is possible and that situations of conflict can be transformed into times of peace as long as we remain innovative and dedicated.

The peace-building mechanisms that have proved to be the most effective and longest-lasting are those that are valued internally by the community members themselves. This means that the

community's voice is heard throughout the process, creating autonomy and solidarity, building collective responsibility, and legitimizing social identity.

Third-party mediators must consider the specific cultural and historical contexts of the conflict at hand if they are to help those caught in violence come up with solutions that suit their own needs. As Clements, Brown, Boege, and Nolan clearly depict, the success behind the achieved peace in Bougainville is due to the political order that has been developed that "combines elements of the western model of statehood (a president and parliament, a constitution, free and fair elections, a public service) and elements of customary governance (councils of elders and councils of chiefs, customary law and conflict resolution. This hybrid model is functioning well and enjoys a high degree of legitimacy...."

If conflict, and the states in which conflict occurs, are often hybrid in form, it would seem a logical necessity that conflict resolution efforts also take a hybrid form.

The victories within the Bougainville story legitimize grassroots movements as well as non-western or indigenous forms of governance and conflict resolution. The Bougainvilleans' solution was not to revert to the past, but rather to reinvigorate traditional customs and incorporate their own cultural norms and values into the conventional westernized methods of peace-and-state-building.

This ensures that the identities, needs, and livelihoods of minority communities are legitimized and respected while also making progress to ensure that they have equal access to the goods and services of the modern era.

It is through such innovative and integrative methods that populations who have suffered protracted conflicts may strengthen their own capability of breaking cycles of violence to ensure peace for the long haul.

24.12.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville politics & the characteristics of its people

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

HAVING LIVED ALL MY LIFE in Bougainville, and travelled extensively around the island, and growing up with the Bougainville secessionist conflict since 1988, there are certain things I have gleaned about my island.

Bougainville has 27 or more languages, which means there are 27 or more nations each having its own culture and independent way of behaving and thinking.

But there are also certain shared cultural traditions that bind these peoples in the geographic unity of Bougainville, uka and the Solomon archipelago.

My view is that the bloodshed since 1988 was the result of the long denial by the state of Papua New Guinea of Bougainvilleans' rights in their own geographical setting of the Solomon archipelago.

Colonialism - forced annexation by the Germans and British - had far reaching impacts in the Bougainville psyche. The acculturation since 1768, the year of the island's discovery by Louis De Bougainville, embedded certain significant characteristics that affect the political processes today.

In a geo-political interpretation, I could claim that, in Bougainville, North Bougainville has a population of 'feigning' people, Central Bougainville has a population of 'talkers' and South Bougainville has a populace of the 'practical'.

Many people, looking at Bougainville's problems, see the situation through Papua New Guinean lens, which to me is not the way to find an amicable solution. People must see the problems in a Bougainvillean way because we are struggling with Bougainville nationalism, not a Bougainville longing to be in PNG.

Bougainvillean resistance to foreign intruders was in evidence back in October 1768 when locals in north Bougainville marked their dislike of the navigator Louis de Bougainville and his men by shooting an arrow at them from a retreating canoe after an onboard gesture discussion with the European sailors.

This resurfaced in our conflict against Bougainville Copper Limited and the PNG government after 1988.

The 1979 book, Bougainvillean Nationalism by Alexander Mamak and Richard Bedford, said that in the 1960s the Napidakoe Navitu independence movement of central Bougainville claimed to have run a referendum for Bougainville independence.

South Bougainville claimed that secession for Bougainville was too early and the north Bougainvilleans sided with the south.

This contradicted the fact that it was the north that birthed the idea of Bougainville independence with movements such as John Teosin's Hahalis Welfare Society. The north denied the fact that it was it who influenced the central Bougainville resistance.

In the recent 1988-90 conflict, the problems caused by the 'opportunist rascals' in the name of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army was concentrated in the vicinity of areas around Buka town.

But the people in the far off Haku area of Buka island were quick to sail to New Guinea and forge an agreement in New Ireland to re-invite the PNG government back into Bougainville.

The north pretended that they could not address the situation in a Bougainvillean-to-Bougainvillean dialogue or resist the rascals in a collective north Bougainville coalition. So the north went ahead to seek help from the PNG government.

Culturally, north Bougainville is populated by people that hide the truth of their living standards. On the island of Buka, most village standards are similar to the squatter settlements of PNG's urban areas. Yet people act so westernised.

This can be also seen in the Bougainville's top cocoa producing district, Tinputz, which continues to produce the highest percentage of cocoa, but the money earned has not brought positive developmental to the villages as can be seen in central and south Bougainville in post crisis times. In Tinputz, despite the high cocoa generated income, housing standards are yet to be improved.

When travelling along the Kokopau-Arawa highway's Salau to Tinputz section, or around the island of Buka, it is noticeable that living standards are not economically consistent with the value of cocoa and copra produced.

Since the north is now the gateway into Bougainville, the development rate should be the highest. But in my analysis all key development in the north is controlled by the south Bougainvilleans with little doses from central Bougainville.

In Central Bougainville where the Kietas are politically and economically dominant, I see a lot of 'big mouths' that just cannot stop talking. Central Bougainvilleans are creative in exporting their dreams without testing the practical outcomes of those thoughts. But this population also readily absorbs change and adapts change to create results.

In Central Bougainville, nobody looks before leaping. There is also extreme stubbornness in this mountainous land that even the peace process or the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has not yet eradicated.

Before PNG independence in 1975 it was the Central Bougainvilleans that created a lot of anti-PNG noise with ideas they imported from the north. Through such organizations as the Napidakoe Navitu, they attempted to change Bougainville politically once and for all.

All this effort was done without proper strategizing. And in the 1989 conflict, this flawed approach was repeated by the late Francis Ona.

In today's Bougainville politics, Central Bougainville is where most hot politics is played with great spill-over effects.

From the mountains of central Bougainville the 1989 crisis was created; the problem of Meekamui was created and even the cult of UV-Stract and the Twin Kingdoms of Papaala, now based in Siwai, got start-up fuel from Central Bougainville.

Central Bougainville is blessed with dreamers with loud voices without any practical application of their thoughts.

Across many villages of Central Bougainville politics is present in every mouth of all ages. Bougainville political chit-chat is replacing the old tradition of myth telling in the night. Men and women discuss and condemn politicians—both Bougainvillean and Papua New Guinean.

This culture lacks the ability to heal political divisions. This is the problem for the loud talkers in—they lack the capacity to be practical. The late Francis Ona was a talking machine who lacked the capacity to navigate to create physical change for the benefit of the Bougainville people.

It can also be seen today in Central Bougainville's realm of politics: a Kongara man dreams of a Kongara influenced Central Bougainville; a Panguna man wants a Panguna controlled Central Bougainville; a Nasioi (Kieta) man envisions his Nasioi area to be masters of Central Bougainville.

A significant case can be seen with the Morgan Checkpoint to the old copper mine which is controlled by the rebel Chris Uma from Nasioi, who longs to have a say in all things happening in the Panguna District.

Central Bougainville is the home of 'big mouths', people with selfish hearts who do not

have the knowhow to achieve their dreams. I believe that this attitude developed because the area was the centre of the pre-crisis and post crisis Bougainville politics and pre-crisis economic development.

Because of this, people began to have the feeling that Central Bougainville is the natural leader.

Central Bougainville today is host to many developments that have the whole island and the ABG aching. People with characteristics of 'careless leaping' are inviting people into illegal business partnerships. They care nothing for who is the authority but fight for what they see will bring betterment to themselves.

In South Bougainville, the story is a bit different. The Napidakoe Navitu conducted a 'referendum' for independence in the 1970s and the voters in South Bougainville did not turn out. People in the south saw that Bougainville lacked skilled people to drive it forward but most in Central Bougainville were not bothered by this fundamental concern.

In most literature about colonial Bougainville, it can be noted that colonizers regarded South Bougainvilleans as people, especially the Siwai, with practical capabilities.

This was the direct result of two reasons: (1) the land in south Bougainville is not so fertile or productive; and (2) economic development came late to the region.

In so many political events of historical significance for Bougainville, it was the South Bougainville men who stood behind the 'big mouths' of Central Bougainville to bring about the wanted impacts.

For example, the 1970s Napidakoe Navitu group was effective because of leaders like the late Sir Paul Lapun from Banoni and, later, the shutting down of BCL's Panguna mine spearheaded by the late Francis Ona in 1989 was effective because of the direct involvement of South Bougainville leaders such as the late James Singko from Nagovis.

There is a trend here; problems are created in Central Bougainville and spill over to South Bougainville. For example, we have had the recent Konnou Crisis in Buin and the ongoing cult of the Twin Kingdoms of Papaala and the UV-Stract scam in the Siwai district.

In the economic arena, Bougainville is controlled by South Bougainville businesses. The Siwai people are now in charge of most business operations in Buka and a growing investment in Arawa. This is also the situation in non-urban settings.

Many South Bougainvilleans are sweating their guts to earn money for Bougainville or their own bread and butter as Central Bougainvilleans are occupied by the talks of reopening the Panguna mine and the north Bougainvilleans just relax to collect development as a by-product of their region being the current gateway into Bougainville.

One crisis event that should support my theory for the south Bougainvillean nature is the killing in Panguna of the late Anthony Anugu from Siwai.

In 1990 when the PNG government and the BCL left Bougainville, the late Francis Ona was in the hills of Panguna blinded by the joy of winning a confrontation with the PNG troops and BCL.

With his 'big mouth' he was not interested in the practical burden of providing the goods and services for the shattered people of Bougainville.

In the anarchy that was unfolding, the late Anthony Anugu from South Bougainville responded by creating the South Bougainville Interim Authority (SBIA) for the sole purpose of providing for basic services to the people whilst Ona was in Kieta ordering his BRA to persecute his enemies instead of bringing development.

This act of providing some service to the people was a threat to Ona, so he had Anugu killed.

With these observations I see that South Bougainville is where the practical people are. I can pinpoint this fact from the Konnou crisis in Buin. Here Damien Koike of Meekamui and Thomas Tari with his Freedom Fighters who are pro-ABG got into action.

This spirit of putting into practice what comes into mind cannot be seen in Central Bougainville and North Bougainville.

In summary, thinkers in the ABG should consider Bougainville along the lines of geo-politics when planning the development of the island: North Bougainvilleans as 'pretenders'; Central Bougainvilleans as 'talkers'; and South Bougainvilleans as the 'practical' people.

Through such observation and understanding of our people, I believe we can create realistic policies in government and also bring tangible development and positive change on the ground.

Furthermore, I see that my thoughts can be a resource in addressing many issues affecting Bougainville today.

21.12.2012

Source: The National

Bougainville hands down K390.8mil budget

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) Minister for Finance, Treasury and Planning Albert Punghau on Wednesday tabled a K390,773, 518 million budget for next year.

This is the highest budget since the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in 2005.

In tabling the budget at the ABG House, Punghau said it represented the largest budget that the ABG had passed in its short history.

He said the budget was K120 million more than the 2012 budget.

He said the increase was brought about as a direct consequence of the rollover of K94 million under the high impact project programme for this year, K15 million restoration and development grant, K30 million DSIP, K15 million provincial support improvement programme and the re-appropriated project funds of K17.9 million for 2011.

Additionally, K100 million representing the second tranche of the special financing package for high impact projects to be implemented next year is incorporated in the budget.

The members will debate the budget before passing it.

20.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HIGH IMPACT PROJECTS

BY Aloysius Laukai

The ABG has identified High Impact Projects under its 2013 Budget totalling ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA.

They include, the Buka Ring Road which has been allocated TWENTY MILLION KINA.

Kokopau to Buin road sealing which has been allocated EIGHTEEN MILLION KINA.

Provincial Trunk Roads Arawa, Buiwai, Bana TEN

MILLION KINA.

Feeder Roads TEN MILLION KINA and the Siara Korepovi road FIVE MILLION KINA.

Under sea transport, the ABG has allocated FIVE MILLION KINA for Atolls shipping.

Under Health and Sanitation Infrastructure a further TEN MILLION KINA has been allocated for Arawa and Buka water supply and sewerage.

Under Public Utilities a further FIVE MILLION KINA has been allocated for BOUGAINVILLE POWER UPGRADING.

And THREE MILLION KINA has been allocated for Communication Development project.

Under Economic Development a further FIVE MILLION KINA has been allocated for COCOA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT and COMMERCIAL FISHING has received TWO MILLION KINA.

For Law and Order a further FOUR MILLION KINA has been allocated for Law and Justice and THREE MILLION KINA for Weapons Disposal.

20.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONDOLENCES

By Aloysius Laukai

The Management and Staff of New Dawn FM would like to send in their Condolences to the NBC Radio Bougainville, families and friends of the Alama Marimeas who passed away last night.

In sending our condolences we would like to note that the NBC Radio Bougainville has lost another young Journalist a friend and a colleague who could have contributed more to the Communication Services on Bougainville.

Her sudden passing away has left a vacuum that would take the NBC time to fill.

The Management and Staff of New Dawn Fm wish that MAY SHE REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.

20.12.2012

Source: The National

New schools to lift Bougainville education

EDUCATION in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is expected to start on a high note next year, with the operation of 30 new schools.

Chief executive officer of the ABG division of education Bruno Babato yesterday said 30 new schools had been registered and would start operating next year.

He said that included the Bougainville Technical College, which would start off with 200 students and offer more opportunities for young men and women to undertake further training at the tertiary level.

“Plans are in place to carry out full upgrading of facilities and new buildings in line with the college’s five-year development plans,” he said

“This will bring the number of schools in Bougainville to 609 beginning next year.”

Similarly, the Bougainville education board has endorsed a submission from the United church education agency to establish a teachers’ college at Kihili, in Buin.

The submission will be sent to the Bougainville executive council for approval.

He said the Bougainville education board had considered a submission by a private education provider to establish a technical education institute, which would be offering university level programmes.

Babato said in universal basic education, elementary remained the most important sector in the system as it was the crucial stage at which formal education must begin for any child in the region.

“To realise the universal basic education in the region, there is a five-year ABG policy on the establishment of three new elementary schools each year for each district.”

He said the determining factor in where to build a school was population density and walking distance that children would be expected to cover daily and which should be no more than 20-30 minutes.

Babato said an education department report for 2011 found overall enrolment in basic education in Bougainville was 56,752, of which male comprised 29,331 (52%) and females 27,421 (48%).

He said the provincial distribution showed that the enrolment rate increased at an annual rate of 14.6%.

By contrast, district distribution indicates that South Bougainville has the highest annual increase of 22%, followed by North Bougainville with 13.8%.

In 2012, 3,436 students took the Grade 8 examinations, and 1,930 were selected to continue on to Grade 9 in 2013 which constitutes 58% and cut off mark was 50.

Babato said despite serious under-funding by the ABG, all education officers at the regional headquarters in Buka and districts-based personnel were able to visit all 13 districts, covering 70% of the schools, interacted with over 2,000 teachers and had direct contact with more than 70% of students this year.

19.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG TABLES 2013 BUDGET

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for finance, Treasury and Planning Albert Punghau this afternoon tabled the ABG'S 2013 budget totalling Three hundred Ninety Million Seven hundred Seventy three thousand and Five hundred eighteen kina, the highest since the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in 2005.

In tabling the budget at the ABG House this afternoon, MR.PUNGHAU this represents the largest budget that the ABG has ever passed in its short history.

He said that this budget is ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION in excess of the 2012 budget.

The Minister said that this increase was brought about as a direct consequence of the rollover of NINETY FOUR MILLION KINA under the high impact project programme for 2012, FIFTEEN MILLION Restoration And Development Grant, THIRTY MILLION DSIP, FIFTEEN MILLION Provincial Support Improvement Programme PISP and the reappropriated project funds of SEVENTEEN POINT NINE MILLION KINA for 2011.

Additionally, ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA representing the second tranche of the special financing Package for High Impact Projects to be implemented during 2013 is also incorporated in this budget.

The members will debate on this budget before passing it .

19.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HOLIDAY NOTICE

By Aloysius Laukai

All government offices in the autonomous region of bougainville will close for the christmas and new year period starting on monday december 24.

In a notice to all public servants today, Bougainville administration chief administrator Lawrence Disin said only staff working at public hospitals, police and correctional services will be required to work during the holiday period.

Government offices will open for business on wednesday January 2, 2013.

19.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville by-election dates yet to be confirmed

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE by-elections for the four vacant constituency seats in the Bougainville House of Representatives will be held next year, and not this year as was previously announced.

Bougainville Election Manager Reitama Taravaru, while responding to queries regarding the conduct of these by-elections, said there were a number of reasons which lead to these by-elections not taking place as planned.

One of the reasons which led to the postponement of the by-elections is because there was no time available to stage awareness and update the ABG Rolls.

Mr Taravaru said there was also no funding set aside and released by the ABG to conduct the elections, which saw the deferment of the elections.

Mr Taravaru had initially planned that these elections would have been held towards the end of this year.

The declared constituency members would have been sworn into the ABG parliament today when the House meets in its last session for the year before adjourning to next year.

Mr Taravaru estimated that it would cost the ABG more than K1 million to fund the by-elections.

He however added that he wants to conduct these elections at a minimal cost.

He said one way to achieve this is by increasing the number of polling teams so that there will be a one day polling schedule.

According to the tentative dates set by Mr Taravaru, January next year will be used as the month of preparations for the elections.

This month's identified activities include logistics confirmations, activity plan, budget preparation, LPV awareness and Rolls update.

The issue of Writs will take place on February 15, while close of nominations will be on February 22.

Polling commences on the 22 March and ends on 29 March.

The Return of Writs will be on the April 12.

However, Mr Taravaru said he will first of all have to present this tentative election schedule dates to the Bougainville Election Steering Committee for consideration and approval.

The constituencies that will be having by-elections include Lule, Rau, Hagogohe and Kongara.

Lule and Rau constituency seats became vacant following the death of their members (late Paul Mitu and late Joseph Egilio) while the Hagogohe and Kongara seats became vacant following the resignation of their members (Robert Hamal Sawa and Dominic Itta) during this year's National Election.

19.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Police, leaders set up festive campaign

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

POLICE personnel based in the Wakunai district of Central Bougainville launched their Christmas and New Year campaign operations against the cultivation and consumption of marijuana last week.

Themed "2012 Say No to Drugs, Save Wakunai and Bougainville Children," the campaign launching which was held last Friday, saw villagers from the nearby communities in the district converging at the Wakunai station to take part in the launching.

Many expressed their unhappiness and dissatisfaction against the cultivation of marijuana in the district.

The campaign was spearheaded by the rural police commander in Wakunai district, Sergeant Oscar Tugen and other community leaders from the district.

More than K50, 000 worth of marijuana plants were also put on display during the launching.

The drugs were uprooted by police after they visited and raided large plantations of marijuana in the Toisiko area last week.

Chiefs from the area had planned that these marijuana plants would be destroyed early next month.

19.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Tinputz police commence christmas, new year operations

By FABIAN GATANA

TINPUTZ Police in Bougainville launched their Christmas and New Year's operations on Tuesday last week.

Upon launching the operation, code named "New Dawn", Tinputz based police personnel together with community leaders, youths and ex-combatant representatives walked from Ramazon Bridge to Yokomori, conducting public awareness to the local communities along the route.

ABG member for Teonita-Tinputz, Micah Mose was also present to show his support and witness the launch of operation "New Dawn".

RPSC First Constable Roger Tarataon, said that local communities were strongly urged to refrain from consuming homebrew and marijuana adding that his officers will be coming down

hard on offenders who do not adhere to this. He said that roadblocks will also be set up along the Tinputz section of the highway to monitor overloaded vehicles, unlicensed drivers and unregistered vehicles, drunk drivers, drugs and homebrew and also to monitor suspicious vehicles that may be carrying illegal firearms. "Communities have given their support since the launch of the operation in providing food rations and agreeing to cooperate and assist officers carrying out their duties this festive season," he said.

He also added that two vehicles have been engaged to provide logistical support to the six regular and 16 auxiliary Police officers who will be conducting the operations.

The operation has already commenced and will go right through the festive season till January 9, 2013.

19.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka operations target use of illicit drugs

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

POLICE in the North Command in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville launched their Christmas and New Year police operations last Friday.

Code-named Operation Hamamasim Christmas, this operation will cover areas and communities in North Bougainville. Buka police station commander Sergeant Emart Tsimes said this operation will mainly be targeting the consumption of illicit drugs like marijuana and alcohol.

Mr Tsimes said apart from this, police will also be providing security and awareness on the consumption of illegal drugs like marijuana during this period.

Mr Tsimes is also appealing to the people in North Bougainville to ensure that they have a peaceful, enjoyable and trouble-free celebrations during this year's festive season.

Meanwhile, police in the Central and Southern Command in Bougainville have also launched their Christmas and New Year operations.

19.12.2012

Source: The National

Japanese plan K100m sewage project

By WANPIS AKO

THE Japanese government plans to undertake a K100 million sewage management project in the nation's capital soon, the Department of National Planning said yesterday.

"The Japanese government has funded 15 high-tech bridges on the island of Bougainville and a market in Wewak," department acting first assistant secretary, Reichert Thanda said.

"The other major project that it will undertake is the K100 million sewage management project in the city."

He did not disclose what the government counterpart funding would be.

"PNG is the recipient of K80-K100 million from Japanese aid per annum and this is the largest slice compared to those received by the other nations in the region," he said.

The Japanese Embassy handed over five vehicles to PNG as part of its grant aid component in Port Moresby yesterday.

Thanking the embassy at the presentation ceremony, Thanda said this assistance would further strengthen the cordial ties between the countries.

"I hope that these vehicles will be used and properly managed to perform those activities to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as logistics support in the health and education sectors," Japanese Ambassador to PNG, Hiroharu Iwasaki said.

He said the assistance was aimed at reviving the economy of Tohoku district and contributing to the development of PNG.

He said through the assistance he should remember the generous contribution by the people of PNG to the Japanese when was it hard hit by an earthquake and resulting tsunami last year.

The Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department of Education, National Capital District, Central and Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigration were given a vehicle each.

18.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Japan keen to expand economic ties with PNG

JAPAN intends to expand its economic relationship with Papua New Guinea in 2013.

Japan's Ambassador to PNG Hiroharu Iwasaki said this in a moving ceremony to celebrate the National Day of Japan, together with the 79th birthday celebrations for Emperor Akahito at his residence in Port Moresby last Thursday evening.

Ambassador Iwasaki said Japan intends to expand its economic relationship with PNG in other areas such as LNG related industries, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism among others for the long term.

The Japanese Government has already identified major environment impact projects that are operational, like the sewage project in the nation's capital, waste management and human resource project assistance, apart from the bridge programs in Bougainville and Lae.

"On economic cooperation, we continued dialogue with PNG side and implemented key infrastructure projects, such as the construction of 15 bridges on Bougainville and the project for the urgent rehabilitation of Markham bridge, while in the areas of environment, the provision of equipment for forest preservation on a nationwide scale in PNG was implemented," Ambassador Iwasaki said.

"As some of you would know, at the community level including Port Moresby, the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects was continuously delivered towards education and health.

"And on efforts on improving the environment in the city, a sewage project and a waste management project are simultaneously on-going through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"And I cannot forget to mention JICA experts and volunteers who consist of young and senior personnel, currently 41 volunteers, performing their respective duties in various fields of government and local communities of PNG. "And in a short while, based on the Investment Promotion Protection Agreement between PNG and Japan, our economic relations will be vitalised much further as seen together with the PNG LNG development through which the first supply of LNG is expected to start in 2014.

"Moreover, Japan intends to expand its economic relationship in other areas such as LNG related industries, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism amongst others for the long term development strategy (of both our countries).

"I wish our relationship will be further fostered in the coming years," he said.

18.12.2012

Source: PNG Industry News

Bad cop Chan

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill delivered a strong message on the importance of "investor confidence and certainty" but his Mining Minister, Byron Chan, read from a script that seemed destined to deliver the opposite.

In a wide-ranging speech to the 12th PNG Mining and Petroleum Investment Conference in Sydney last week, O'Neill told a record 1350 registered delegates: "The undertaking I give you today is this, there will be no drastic or radical change to the laws that exist today – and there will certainly be no immediate change."

In sharp contrast, Chan promised significant legislative changes in the coming year, including changes to the Mining Act, the Mining (Safety) Act and Offshore Mining Policy.

Chan's presentation, which set the program for the 2nd day of the conference back by almost an hour, gave mining company representatives a bit of an adrenalin rush when he said there were proposals for a mine closure plan to be submitted when a company applied for an exploration tenement.

The actual text suggested, more plausibly, that a mine closure plan would be required when an application was made for a mining lease.

It was not the only occasion the Mining Minister went off script. On the first occasion he quickly corrected himself after his reference to the O'Neill-Namah Government resulted in uncomfortable laughter breaking out among the audience.

In his introduction the Minister said mining had been the largest contributor to the PNG economy "for well over ten years". Maybe it was too hard to reflect back to the early days of independence when the Bougainville copper mine was a portent force in the PNG economy as the only major resource venture at the time.

One of the oddest plans put forward by the Minister was a suggestion that the revised mining policy would limit to ten the number of exploration licences "that any one person can hold at any one time", while at the same time increasing the licence term from two years to five years.

The maximum area for an exploration lease will also be reduced by half from the current allowance of 250 sq km or 750 sub-blocks. These are indeed groundbreaking ideas that could only stifle the all-important exploration sector. Unless this exercise becomes retrospective, which is unlikely because that would probably be illegal, it is largely academic since most worthwhile lease areas throughout the country are already accounted for.

Virtually all countries with any history of mineral exploration generally are more concerned with expenditure levels, and adequate activity, rather than the size of the lease areas granted.

For example, a recent release of mineral exploration acreage in South Australia provided for a number of leases that exceeded 1,000 sq km.

Minister Chan appears inclined to take a prescriptive approach to future exploration activity. Socioeconomic and environmental impact assessments would be made a requirement at the exploration phase, when explorers will have little awareness of the nature and scale of mineralisation they may discover.

In his address PNG's Minister for Petroleum and Energy, William Duma, was highly optimistic about the future for the oil and gas industry. He said total gas reserves could amount to 60 trillion cubic feet or more and provide the basis for LNG exports as well as creation of a domestic industry.

He hoped companies like InterOil, Talisman, Horizon and Eaglewood Energy develop discovered resources "quickly without further delays within the next three years".

Mr Duma also acknowledged that the government had an "abysmal" track record when it came to delivering on Memorandum of Agreements signed between the government and landowner groups.

To counter this, he said, there were plans to set up Expenditure Implementation Committees for each petroleum project to manage MoA funds as well as project implementation in these areas, an initiative that would be welcome news to the petroleum industry.

Mr Duma also announced that a Cabinet submission would be made in the New Year on the establishment of a Petroleum and Energy Authority that, he said, had been tailored to meet the requirements of both government and industry.

The government, he said, was concerned about companies that warehouse the license interests and would adopt a "use it or lose it" policy.

Industry leaders have indicated there have been minimal exchanges between government and industry on the proposed Petroleum and Energy Authority or the legislation that will be amended for the mining sector.

Prime Minister O'Neill, in reiterating plans for a wide-ranging review of the resource sector, inclusive of a corporate tax review, said this exercise was not just for "window dressing purposes...(as it) must be more than just very welcome contributors to the budget bottom line.

"They have to be imposed in a way that does not act as a significant disincentive to investment, and international competitiveness. We must have a modern and competitive resource tax regime," O'Neill said.

Other key messages delivered by the PNG Prime Minister included a strong case that political stability will be further strengthened in the country; that he has begun in earnest the fight against corruption and that the government was committed to ensuring the continuation of strong economic growth.

18.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG Sitting

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG House of representatives started the 2012 sitting at 2pm this afternoon the last for 2012.

Upon opening the session, ABG PRESIDENT presented his opening remarks to open this session of parliament, President Dr. John Momis highlighted the need for the ABG to make its own laws in which to operate with.

The member for LATO William Lavapua moved that the former North Solomons Provincial government laws be adapted by the ABG and in the process of implementation the house can ammend these laws to suit todays situation.

In response President Momis clarified that the process of drawdown of powers will address these issues and the ABG does not need to adapt laws from the old North Solomons Provincial Government.

He said that the ABG needs to make its own laws based on the Bougainville Peace Agreement, but lacked the capacity to prepare for these laws.

He said that the ABG was looking at one or two legal draftsmen to help the ABG to look into these issues.

Chief Momis said that there will be a Comprehensive participation by all stakeholders to gauge their views before the laws are enacted.

He said that he was also frustrated as the Law making body...which was moving very slowly.

Meanwhile government back benchers really challenged the Executive government to move the administration to speed up the process.

The President then promised to Create a parliamentary committee on legislators next year and further called 2013 as a legislation year.

18.12.2012

Source: The National

Ash emissions from volcano surprise Bougainvilleans

Mount Bagana, the only historically active volcano in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, emitted ash and vapour last week to the surprise of many residents.

Rabaul Volcano Observatory acting director Ima Itikarai confirmed yesterday that the volcano produced fumes and ash emissions last Wednesday and Thursday.

He said by last Friday the activity stopped again.

He said the active volcano 1,750m high was one of three large volcanoes along the region's northwest-southeast area.

Its eruptions in the past were typically non-explosive, producing thick lobes of lava that ran down the flanks of the mountain.

A Buka resident said the ash emissions took many by surprise but much of the smoke was blown away from residential areas.

He said an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale shook parts of the New Guinea Islands in the early hours of last Sunday.

The tremor struck 29km south and southwest of Taron in Kavieng, New Ireland. Other centres such as Kokopo, Kimbe and Arawa felt aftershocks.

As of yesterday, there had been no reports of damage.

14.12.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville's Bagana volcano lets off ash cloud

Ash emissions are being reported from Bagana volcano in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville.

Bagana is near the centre of Bougainville Island.

Ground reports say the nearby town of Arawa has a thin cover of volcanic ash from the moderate eruption.

Bagana has had a series of small eruptions in the last couple of months.

14.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka LOs want rentals

By JOE ELIJAH

A LANDOWNER group in the Tsitalato constituency on Buka Island is revisiting many of its land agreements that were signed by their chiefs and elders in the past.

The Yakakaputa landowners group from Ieta village owns three quarters of the land in and around the Buka town area.

They said many business operators have not been honouring the agreements by paying their rentals on time.

Clan leader Christine Semoso, when visiting a local businessman (named) in Buka last week said the landowners of Ieta village have had enough of the abuse done by the businessmen and women when they fail to pay their land rental arrears on time.

Mrs Semoso said many business operators owe them over K300, 000, with some dated as far as 1989.

She said while they appreciate foreign investors partnering with local business owners on their land, they are also concerned that they are now becoming spectators on their own land.

A quick survey carried out by the Commerce division in Buka showed that the Yakakaputa landowner group have signed land lease agreements with certain business owners in Buka town. However, these business operators are again sub-leasing the land they are renting with foreign investors.

The Commerce division does not have directives in place to control certain investors going into partnership with local business owners.

14.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville receive medical aid

By JOE ELIJAH

THE people of Australia, through AusAID, have once again come to the rescue of the people of Bougainville by delivering much-needed medical drugs to health centres on the island.

Program coordinator for the delivery of medical drugs on Bougainville, Joseph Tsikula said he has already made three visits to health centres in Bougainville to deliver the drugs.

He said before this initiative, many health centres were dishing out overdue doses to patients, which did not have any effect on their health.

AusAID airfreights the medical drugs to Bougainville via Post PNG.

Chief executive officers for both the Division of Health on Bougainville and the Buka General Hospital, Dr Anthony Pumpara and Dr Cyril Imako, thanked AusAID for their kind donation.

It is anticipated that this similar program will also be rolled out to other provinces in PNG once all logistic and assessment reports are completed and forwarded to AusAID for recommendation.

12.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rise in homebrew use by ARB women

By JOE ELIJAH

HOME BREW consumption by women in Buka is on the rise according to a recent survey.

The survey, carried out by chiefs of Buka, showed that about 72% of women especially young girls were consuming home brewed alcohol and going to parties and dances.

The survey also showed that domestic problems among families were also on the rise.

“Many young men and women are having sex outside of marriage, which has resulted in many broken marriages,” said Steven Kalana, who conducted the survey on behalf of the Buka chiefs.

Kalana said his team of researchers, mainly teachers, were very sad and shocked to see that the consumption of homebrew by young females was on the rise; and it is something that is unusual in Buka. Kalana added that many young women have gone backward by not respecting their customs, making it very difficult for parents to counsel them.

The survey, which is the first of its kind to be conducted in Buka, concentrated mainly on the heavily populated areas of Haku, Halia, Peit and Selau/Suir.

The chiefs hope to present the survey report to the ABG for a recommendation to be tabled in its next House of Representative seating to find ways to help young women get involved in small businesses or in doing something worthwhile with their lives.

“Once a clear directive is shown and given to women to set up small businesses in the village, it is anticipated that less women will engage in drinking homebrew,” Kalana said. It is also anticipated that a copy of the report will be given to relevant authorities who can provide counselling services to young single mothers or newly married couples to avoid broken marriages in future.

“While chiefs in Buka are combating the production of homebrew and the cultivating of marijuana, there has been little attention given to address the situation,” the report read.

Meanwhile, while many chiefs are taking measures to ban homebrew in Buka, young men are blaming it on gender equality, saying the chiefs should be held responsible for the issue for preaching about gender equality, giving women the right to drink alcohol and homebrew and thereby damaging cultural values and bringing shame to many families in Buka.

11.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Buka businesses dodge land rentals

By JOE ELIJAH

A LANDOWNER group in the Tsitalato constituency on Buka Island is revisiting many of its land agreements that were signed by their chiefs and elders in the past.

The Yakakaputa landowners group from Ieta village owns three quarters of the land in and around the Buka town area.

They said many business operators have not been honouring agreements by paying their rentals on time.

Clan leader Christine Semoso, when visiting a local businessman (named) in Buka last week said the landowners of Ieta village have had enough of abuses from businessmen and women when they failed to pay their land rental arrears on time.

11.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Ausaid delivers drugs to Bougainville

By JOE ELIJAH

THE people of Australia, through AusAID have once again come to the rescue of the people of Bougainville by delivering much needed medical drugs to health centres on the island.

Program coordinator for the delivery of medical drugs on Bougainville, Joseph Tsikula said he has already made three visits to health centres in Bougainville to deliver drugs.

He said before he was given the contract to deliver the medicines, many health centres were supplying out overdue medicines to patients, which did not have any effect on improving health.

AusAID airfreights the medical drugs to Bougainville via Post PNG, before they are distributed to the health centres.

Chief executive officers for both the Division of Health on Bougainville and the Buka General Hospital, Drs Anthony Pumpara and Cyril Imako, thanked AusAID for their kindly donation of the medical drugs.

They said patients now have access to these medicines, adding that many lives have also been saved following the delivery of these drugs to health centres, especially those in the rural and remote areas.

Dr Imako also thanked the ABG health division for making sure that the drugs reached their destinations without delay.

It is anticipated that a similar program will also be rolled out for other provinces in PNG once all logistic and assessment reports are completed and forwarded to AusAID for recommendation.

11.12.2012

Source: The National

ABG invited to operate from Buin

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

THE South Bougainville Veterans' Association last Friday officially invited the Autonomous Bougainville Government to make Buin its headquarters.

Association president and former Bougainville Revolutionary Army commander Thomas Tari handed over a letter of invitation and a monthly update of their work in South Bougainville to ABG President John Momis in Buka.

Tari told Momis the letter was in light of recent events that clearly showed a lack of respect for the ABG and the rule of law in North Bougainville.

"We are appalled and saddened to learn of the revolt by cohorts in the Hagogohe constituency, seizing government assets.

"That is criminal in nature and the actions of people who do not have any respect for the rule of law and the government of the day," Tari said.

He said everyone had made sacrifices and only saw the Autonomous Bougainville Government as the reward for what they had fought for.

He said they had volunteered and put their lives on the line not for money but for a new Bougainville.

Tari said the actions by former home guards were contrary to efforts the veterans were making in South Bougainville and tarnished the image of a place considered to have restored order.

He said that was anarchy and a threat to the political future of Bougainville.

Accepting their invitation, Momis thanked the veterans for their efforts in changing South Bougainville.

He said their initiative was a good example for Central and North Bougainville to follow and could fast-track a lot of development activities throughout the region.

Momis said Bougainville should do more to help make the region a gun-free society and peaceful for all to live in.

He said Bougainville needed all its citizens to contribute to boost the economy of the region.

Momis said he would present the invitation to the government.

However, he said the ABG was looking at developing all areas to avoid people squatting on other people's land.

11.12.2012

Source: The National

Firm: Storing goods at Buka wharf unsafe

THE Buka wharf in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has become an unsafe place where company's containers are constantly broken into and goods stolen.

This has been going on for a while now and many business and individuals, who use the port containers to store their goods, are concerned.

Area sales representative for SP Brewery Kelso Martin said one of their containers were broken into last month.

He said that beer cartons worth nearly K21,000 were stolen causing the company to lose business last month.

Martin said something must be done about port security at the Buka wharf.

He said it was not only SP Brewery that suffered.

He said other businesses were suffering but had not been reporting their losses.

He called on relevant authorities to fix the issue of stealing at the Buka port.

He said this must stop as it would hinder not only the business and the economy of the region but also put a drag on development.

10.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG told to shift

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has been urged to move its headquarter to Buin in South Bougainville.

The invitation was presented to the ABG president Chief Dr John Momis last Friday by the South Bougainville Veterans Association (SBVA).

SBVA had resorted to this decision following last week's incident which saw government vehicles forcefully taken by the former home guards from Hagogohe constituency over outstanding hardship allowances.

According to the request which was signed by SBVA chairman Thomas Tari and his executives, incidents such as the one which happened last week would destabilise and cripple the ABG and should not be entertained.

SBVA totally condemned the incident, saying that the ABG came about because of sacrifices and hardships that Bougainvilleans encountered during the crisis therefore they should be working together for the betterment of Bougainville.

SBVA said availability of land would not be an issue because there was a large area owned by the State in Buin town which was yet to be utilised.

Mr Tari, before presenting their invitation to Mr Momis, also highlighted that the law and order situation in South Bougainville had already been contained.

Mr Tari said the former combatants had been helping and working in partnership with police and other stakeholders in the area to enforce law and order, resulting in the improvement in the law and order situation in South Bougainville.

Mr Tari also condemned the action taken by the Hagogohe home guards, saying that what has happened is a criminal issue and should not be encouraged and entertained in other parts of Bougainville.

President Momis said he accepted the invitation, however, he would have to present it to the government to consider and make decisions.

But he added that he always wanted to see that government and private sector institutions are spread throughout Bougainville.

10.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Locals want more colleges

By JOE ELIZAH

PEOPLE of Haku constituency in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have called on education planners and other relevant authorities in the region to consider setting up more tertiary institutions in Bougainville.

These institutions will produce more human resource personnel who will help drive Bougainville towards its desired destination.

The Haku people decided to voice their concern after being assured that plans are already in place to establish more technical colleges in Bougainville.

They said they wanted to see these colleges being set up as soon as possible.

Speaking on behalf of the people of Haku, Mr Joe Kuk said the ABG should fork out some funding from the K100 million that was recently given by the national government to fund human resource-identified projects, like the establishment of technical colleges as an urgent priority.

He added that having colleges like the teachers, nursing and technical colleges and other community based technically oriented colleges will put Bougainville in a better position to achieve the national government's Vision 2020-2050.

Another community leader from Haku, Mr Vincent Batsi, also supported the statements made by Mr Kuk.

Mr Batsi said he understands that a number of colleges in PNG had already been approached by the ABG through the Bougainville education division, however his main question is when they will start offering their courses in Bougainville.

"Though we understand that health and infrastructure development projects are the ABG's priority, we would also like to see a portion of this K100 million being allocated to human resource developments for Bougainville," Mr Batsi said.

He said the people of Haku are willing to have these institutions being set up in their land if other areas in Bougainville are not willing to have these colleges on their land.

10.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Rural school's first graduation

By Joe Elizah

HAKU Day High School located in the Haku constituency on Buka Island, Autonomous Region of Bougainville saw its pioneer 107 grade 10 students graduate about a fortnight ago.

Since it is a new high school, these pioneer intakes from 2010 had to go through a lot of struggles and hardships, before finally completing their grade ten education this year.

Most school text books were borrowed from Hutjena secondary school. The students also had to get used to whatever resources that was available.

Speaking during the graduation day, head mistress Sr Elizabeth Rokope thanked all the students, staffs and the board of governors for all their efforts, which resulted in the successful graduation of the pioneer students.

She said although the school was located in a remote location, they had always put their trust in the Lord, resulting in the successful completion of another academic year.

"I am the captain, my staff and students are my crew and passengers, we have all sailed the rough seas together," Sr Elizabeth said.

"The school would not have successfully come this far if it was not for you teachers and students," she added.

Bougainville's Division of Education Planner Michael Meten, who was also present during the graduation, said he was happy to see many high schools in Bougainville adopting the ABG Education's 2050 Plan.

He added that more students should be enrolled in technical and other tertiary institutions throughout the country so they can return and help contribute to Bougainville's journey towards its future destination.

10.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Government vehicles returned

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

SEVEN government vehicles which were forcefully taken in Buka by former Hagogohe home guards last Tuesday, were safely returned last Friday.

The home guards had earlier made a stand that they will not be returning the vehicles unless they are paid their K1 million hardship allowance claim for protecting government properties and lives in and around Buka town during the Bougainville crisis.



However, they had decided to reverse their decision after being assured that their claim will still be paid by the ABG.

A letter of understanding was also signed between the chairman of the Hagogohe home guards, David Musein and the Bougainville administration working group tasked to look into this issue.

As agreed, chief administrator Lawrence Disin (pictured with blue shirt in the middle) and the administration's legal policy team will be sending a request to the Bougainville Executive Council tomorrow (Tuesday) to attend to the grievances of the Hagogohe home guards.

Out of this K1m demand, K100,000 will be paid out as ex-gratia payment for services rendered by the Hagogohe home guards during the crisis.

The remaining K900,000 will be spent specifically on community projects within the Hagogohe area through the framework of the ABG's budget, commencing in the ABG's 2013 budget appropriation.

It was also agreed that should the Hagogohe home guards wish to pursue their crisis-related grievances in future, it should be addressed according to the ABG's policy on Crisis Related Grievances.

10.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Headquarter will spread

by Aloysius Laukai

ABG President chief JOHN MOMIS says development on Bougainville would be spread in all regions to avoid unnecessary squatters by its own people looking for paid opportunities.

He made these comments when receiving the letter of invitation by South Bougainville Veterans Association in Buka last week.

President said that yes a headquarter will be announced sometimes in the future however development will reach all areas of the region and especially empowering the COE's as the government on the ground.

He said that the government cannot wait to work on the headquarter so if areas they are looking at are not ready they cannot wait for them...

On the invitation to Buin, President Momis promised to present it to the government for the members to deliberate on.

10.12.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Morumbi, Michael Aite & the Avaipa mining story

by LEONARD FONG ROKA

CANADA-BASED BUSINESSMAN Lindsay Semple is no new face on Bougainville.

During the formative years of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) he was in the province with his own company, Invincible Resources.

This is when he created the controversial Bougainville Resources Development Corporation (BRDC) which would own 70% of the island's resources.

But this time, he has come with a new face, Morumbi Resources Inc. But it's not so new because it has the same people clearing the path for Lindsay Semple: former Bougainville Revolutionary Army leader, Sam Kauona, and PNG Highlander and PNGDF soldier turned businessman, Philip Dari.

The attraction for these opportunists goes back to Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) days. Since the 1980s there had been a moratorium on exploration in Bougainville with the exception of the Special Mining Lease (SML) on which the mine is located.

As the crisis was erupting, the moratorium was extended over the whole island, and this has never been changed. So dangerous fools are now running after this opportunity, or perhaps mirage.

In the search for landowner approval, Sam Kauona and Philip Dari, have developed relationships and registered complicated landowner companies with the Isina, Kompani, Avaipa, Atamo, Kawasia, Karato and Korovi people.

In the Avaipa area, Sam Kauona connected with Michael Aite. Aite had been a government community affairs officer since the 1970s and, by the time of the peace process, he and Sam Kauona were members of the Bougainville Peoples' Congress (BPC) a political party led by the late President Joseph Kabui.

During the early days of the ABG - Invincible Resources relationship it was said that Lindsay Semple gave K20 million as a free gift to the people of Bougainville which was squandered within the perimeters of the BPC-controlled Bougainville administration.

But, to the surprise of the people, Morumbi Resources Inc is now running after this 'free gift'.

According to most Avaipa people, Michael Aite and Sam Kauona have formalised many things about mining in the Mainoki section of Avaipa - specifically Mt Sugarloaf locally known as Katavi.

The pair covered a large area from Katavi to the head of the Asimana River in their potential mining block. This is the whole mountain backbone of the Crown Prince Range behind Avaipa and nearly the size of the Panguna special mining lease. The intention is that it be explored and mined by Morumbi Resources Inc.

Without formally meeting the people in June 2012, Sam Kauona and Michael Aite had some locals from Siuema village clear a jungle land patch for an exploration camp in the mountains of Siuema near the head of the Asimana River. This sent shockwaves across Avaipa.

Later on Lindsay Semple and Sam Kauona visited Siuema to formalise agreements for land use in the exploration area. According to informants, the visit was unheralded so errand boys were ordered to fetch the chiefs to sign documents they knew nothing about.

On the next visit (still in June) came Semple and the New Guinean, Philip Dari, to formally sign agreements to give the go-ahead for Avaipa exploration.

But to the surprise of the gathering, Lindsay Semple asked the meeting to sign an agreement he said was to do with assistance to agricultural development in the Avaipa area.

A row broke out but the people were calmed and the paper was signed in the belief this was an agricultural development assistance agreement. Locals claim they are yet to receive a copy.

Weeks after the signing the paper with Semple and Dari, the people were told what they had signed was an agreement for the exploration and mining of their mountains by Morumbi Resources, for which Aite was the agent on the ground.

Michael Aite's committees were also surprised because they had been informed by Aite that they were working for an agriculture-oriented development project.

Aite was soon summoned to an all-Avaipa meeting in Paruparu to sort out the problem. The meeting was told the mining proposals by Morumbi were to reciprocate the K20 million given to Bougainville by Lindsay Semple.

According to Aite, his master Semple borrowed the K20 million from a Russian source as a loan and gave it to the ABG. Now the financier was running after the money and the government of Bougainville ought to repay it.

Since the ABG has no money, mining was the only way to help repay the loan as agreed by the ABG under the leadership of the late Joseph Kabui.

The gathering hit back, saying the K20 million, as all Bougainville knows, was said by Semple to be a 'free gift' to the people.

Aite was told he had no right ushering Semple, Dari and Kauona into Avaipa because he was not a chief.

There was no policy giving people like Aite and Kauona approval to drag foreigners into Bougainville.

To the people of Avaipa, where the late President was a citizen, Semple and Kauona are considered to be responsible for his death because of "their selfish hunger for money". Many harsh words were said about them and Philip Dari.

Later Aite was asked: "Have you people compensated the late President Joseph Kabui for killing him?"

Aite said nothing but broke into tears as his nephew rushed into the meeting with a tomahawk to behead him, but was stopped.

The meeting told Aite not to invite "the three rascals" into Avaipa for, if he does, he will rot in the Crown Prince Range with Semple.

So far, the Morumbi Resources team has been absent from the Avaipa because of the threat.

The people will not soon offer a welcome to any operations by Morumbi.

08.12.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

PNG mining conference made the right noises

by MIKE FOLEY | Australian Journal of Mining

PAPUA NEW GUINEA's developing resources sector was on show in Sydney this week, with a record number 1,400 delegates rolling up to the biennial PNG Mining and Investment conference. PNG prime minister Peter O'Neill outlined impending reforms, with legislation to halve the current size of exploration leases and a limit of 10 exploration licences for individual entities.

However, O'Neill, stressing he would work in consultation with resources companies, said he was receptive to the sector's needs, citing his corporate background.

"The undertaking I give you today is simply there will be no drastic or radical change to laws that exist today and there will be no immediate change.

“We will set up an independent panel to review the concerns that have been already expressed and the resource sector will be fully consulted in this process. We must get the balance right and we will only get it right through consultation and negotiation.”

O’Neill said LNG projects delivering domestic gas supply would be fast-tracked and encouraged resources companies to seek local partners for downstream services.

“We need projects totally focused on our domestic gas and energy needs, including gas capable of driving our rural and regional energy requirements and meeting the energy needs of the new projects that are now about to be developed.

“The challenge I want to issue you today to our investors and those who are thinking of investing in our country is to look at taking on board Papua New Guinean investors and partners from the outset. [PNG] has a rapidly growing number of companies and individuals who have been very successful in their business lives.”

Ok Tedi Mining, which delivers around 15% of the PNG government’s revenue, said it had secured permission to extend the mine’s life. It told the conference it has signed agreement with seven out of nine landowner groups.

Xstrata’s Frieda River mine told delegates it plans to deliver a feasibility study by the end of the year.

The conference was packed with presentations from exploration companies plying their wares. Gold and copper plays, the mainstay of PNG mining, dominated proceedings. Marengo Mining, Morobe Mining, Kula Gold, PNG Gold Corp, Gold Anomaly, Highlands Pacific and Harmony Gold all took to the podium.

Outside the gold and copper compendium, presenters included coal explorer Waterford, nickel hopefuls Suckling Resources and Niugini Nickel, polymetallic juniors Goldminex and Quintessential Resources and iron sands pioneer Foyson Resources.

08.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Heavy Downpour

by Aloysius Laukai

Just two hours of heavy rain has filled Buka town with more water nearly entering into our houses. Due to no drain on our street all the street water comes into our area.

For cars on the street it is like crossing a flooded river the Bus pictured is trying to negotiate crossing to the other side... No more Taxies on this street until tomorrow.



08.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

PRESIDENT SEES THE FUTURE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President says that Bougainville is ready to move into the development mode and no one will be left behind.

He told New Dawn FM last night that like the advent when Christians are preparing for the birth of Christ Bougainvilleans should also be preparing for referendum and start working towards what happens after the referendum.

The Chief said that all Bougainvilleans must work towards achieving this goal individually and in the end the collective work from all citizens will bring big results.

President Momis also called on others who are not contributing to the process to join the team be part of the winning team.

08.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Buin invites ABG

By Tapo Tovilu

Buin Ex- Combatants this afternoon at the president's residents handed over a letter officially inviting the ABG to make Buin as their headquarter.

The South Veterans Association headed by their president and former BRA commanded Thomas Tari handed over a letter of invitation and a monthly update of their work in South Bougainville to the president.

In handing over the letter Thomas Tari told president Momis that the letter was in light of recent events which clearly show the non-respect of the ABG and the rule of law in North Bougainville. He condemned the recent commandeering of government vehicles by the Hagogohe Home Guards adding that it was a criminal act.

He says that the fight during the crisis was a fight for a cause and a purpose and was not a fight where compensation was to be asked for.

President Momis when replying thanked the efforts and the change by the SBVA in South Bougainville and strengthened them.

He says that their initiative was a good example for Central and North Bougainville to follow and do similar.

He says Bougainville must do more to help make the region a gun free society and peaceful for all to be free in.

He says that more work is yet to be done in all areas of Bougainville but thanked the initiative of the Ex combatants.

08.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Buka Wharf becoming dangerous for business

By Tapo Tovilu

The Buka wharf has become a dangerous place where company's containers are constantly broken into and products stolen.

This has been going on for a while now and many business and private individuals who use the port containers to store their goods are becoming concerned.

Area sales representative for SP brewery Kelso Martin today revealed that one of their containers were broken into last month.

He says that beer cartons worth nearly K21, 000 were stolen causing them loss to business in last month's sales.

He says that something must be done about port security at the Buka Wharf as not only them but many other businesses are suffering.

He called on relevant authorities to fix the ongoing issue of stealing in the Buka port affecting them.

He says this must stop as it will hinder not only the business and the economy of the region but also put a drag onto development.

08.12.2012

Source: PNG Attitude

Migration control is vital for Bougainville's development

by Leonard Fong Roka

CONTROL OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT in and out of Bougainville is unvoiced by politicians because they are under democracy's spell.

It is also not mentioned in the Bougainville Peace Agreement or the Bougainville Constitution as a possible means into addressing the conflict in our trouble-torn island.

But the migration of so many outside workers was one of the main reasons that caused the civil war of the 1990s costing some 20,000 innocent Bougainvillean lives.

Before the dawn of the Bougainville conflict, elders often told us to be careful when passing by Arawa town when going to and leaving school because of the dangerous New Guinean thugs and harassers.

When the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) men were executing my New Guinean father in 1993, one of them shouted at my mother that my father was not my grandfather's nephew. This was a Bougainville for Bougainvilleans proclamation.

But watching the snail-like progress of my island, I see that once again the number of New Guineans and Papuans entering and leaving Bougainville is increasing each year.

These people know very well that they and their government have not yet, in what would be the Melanesian Way, compensated the Solomon people of Bougainville for the destruction of their lives and property from the 1960s to the late 1990s. Yet they shamelessly visit our island.

During the peak of the crisis, Bougainville, leaders (from both church and secular organisations) were vocally racist. They were killers of and discriminators against Redskins.

At every meeting in the hideouts of the Bougainville Interim Government there was condemnation of Papua New Guinea and prayers to God to help the BRA kill the Redskins of the infiltrating PNGDF.

When did we throw away that spirit of nationalist pride?

This is one of the controversial and unaddressed issues with which groups like the Meekamui on Bougainville have won peoples' hearts by claiming that the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is selling Bougainville back to the dogs.

And I agree with most anti-ABG groups that the leaders of the ABG and in Waigani's PNG national parliament are ignorantly selling Bougainville to the foe.

Many would argue that most Redskins coming to Bougainville are here to help rebuild since we are way behind in terms of human resources.

Such a notion supports the influx of Redskin teachers and missionaries and others; but does it justifies the increase in the number of Redskin street vendors, second hand hucksters, newspapers sellers, marriage hunters and holiday makers, especially on Buka island?

Is Bougainville willing to accept New Guinean and Papuan squatter settlements in the near future? I believe not.

The Bougainville people were offered a referendum as one of the three pillars in the Bougainville Peace Agreement by the UN Committee on Decolonisation. It is due in 2015 or some time soon after.

Sadly, elected Bougainville leaders in Waigani and the ABG are not at all vocal and active about protecting the unique Bougainvillean identity and culture and addressing problems on the ground.

They are out there running after money for their bellies and not the betterment of the people.

To most concerned but silent Bougainvilleans, it is about time our leaders thought outside the box of the peace agreement and Constitution and created laws to control the movement of educated Bougainvilleans out of Bougainville and Redskins entry and departure in and out of the island.

One critic, secondary school leaver turned Panguna businessman, Steven Domiura, 31, says the ABG and the PNG government should formulate laws to ban New Guinean and Papuan entry into Bougainville.

These people would enter Bougainville only with travel permits which would also help the Bougainville internal revenue collection effort.

To Domiura, Redskins were the instigators of the Bougainville crisis by being the benefactors of Panguna's wealth and illegally stealing our land for their settlements.

Later, with the secessionist revolt, they rejected a dialogue for peace but employed force to eradicate Bougainvilleans who were fighting for their rights.

Domiura's views prompt me to add an idea I have long thought about.

If there was creativity in Bougainville politics, the current ABG should have, jointly with the PNG government, created legal amendments to pave the way for denying the provision of employment for certain professions to Bougainvilleans outside of their homeland: nurses, health extension officers, outpatient staff, teachers, police, correctional service officers, accountants and so on.

Such an exercise would address the shortage Bougainville faces in back at home because many qualified Bougainvilleans are in different corners of PNG.

The ABG by now should have created laws with the blessing of Waigani to get graduating students from universities and other tertiary institutions to serve their first five or so years in Bougainville before going elsewhere.

To address our Bougainville problems, human rights must be defined in a way that Bougainville's needs are considered in order to bring about changes that uphold the dignity of Bougainvilleans.

Strict control of people's movement in and out of Bougainville is one gesture I believe can help address certain problems on the island and create the means to tackle other issues.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Logic Crew to visit Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

Logic Crew one of PNG's current leading music groups will be visiting Bougainville this weekend to perform to their fans here in the region.

They will be performing to raise funds to help the children's ward in Buka General Hospital with already 50% of their performance takings already committed to the cause.

Fans and those interested can see them perform live on Friday and Saturday at club Rondaveu from 7pm til late.

They have also planned a kids show to be performed to children and their interested parents during the day time on Friday and Saturday also at club Rondaveu.

The management of Logic Crew have called on all to attend to help raise funds to help the Buka Hospital in its work to serving the region of Bougainville.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lands calls for ILGs to be registered

By Tapo Tovilu

With development in Bougainville to boom in the coming years traditional owners of land in which project sites are to be, have been called on to register their land groups.

This message was issued after many problems due to the lack of knowhow on the right steps in land registration with the lands department.

An officer says that it is very important that land groups and land ownership is registered so that there are no problems later on if there is a project on site.

He called for land ownership and rightful land owner groups to come into the lands office to get proper direction on ways of registering land.

He says that many do not follow right steps leaving them lost when there is a problem with land ownership and registration.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis calls for rule of law

By Tapo Tovilu

President of Bougainville John Momis has called on Bougainvilleans to head to the rule of law in Bougainville.

He says that as the time for referendum draws near Bougainville can't afford to waste any more time on the law and order problems.

He says that the recent commandeering of vehicles by the Hagogohe Home guards was one example of people not respecting the laws of Bougainville.

He was speaking at yesterday's BEC meeting to sort out the grievances of the Home Guards.

He says that from next year onwards he wanted a stop to the trend of commandeering vehicles for the sorting of disgruntled groups.

He says that the rule of law should take its place in Bougainville and the people should also feel free and safe in their everyday life.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Elementary schools close

By Tapo Tovilu

As the school year wains down many students are looking forward to their holydays for the 2012 school year.

For many elementary school students school has just ended with many students leaving for their respective villages for the Christmas and New Year period.

Hahela Elementary school students on Tuesday concluded their 2012 school year closing with their annual grade three graduation.

A total of 42 grade 3 students passed out with flying colours on Tuesday from the Hahela Elementary school.

Many now are looking forward to their next level of education as they go into the primary level.

Elizabeth Reham from Buka was one of those who graduated on Tuesday and was very happy when receiving her prizes.

When asked she told New Dawn FM that she was looking forward to studies in grade 4 next year.

The day ended with items and dances form fellow students who were out in full colour to celebrate the end of another challenging and successful school year.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AUS ASSIST

By Aloysius Laukai

Australia has to curing at least 85 per cent of tuberculosis cases diagnosed each year Papua New Guinea's Western Province with an additional Au\$ 20 million (million) announced today by Foreign Minister Bob Carr to expand local and train medical staff.

Senator Carr said had the highest incidence of TB in the Pacific, including growing numbers of drug-resistant cases.

“Western Province has some of the worst health indicators in Papua New Guinea, including high maternal and infant mortality rates and low life expectancy.

“It is prime territory for an intensive health campaign to reduce TB rates by detecting cases early and ensuring high-quality local care.

“The Au\$20 million allocated will rebuild local TB clinics, improve medical training and ensure the easy availability of detection and treatment services.

“We’ re aiming for early detection of up to 80 per cent of infectious TB cases in Western Province, and a cure for 85 per cent of patients.

“Fighting tuberculosis in PNG also benefits Australia, including Torres Strait communities less than five kilometres offshore”.

The additional Au\$20 million (K43 million) in anti-TB funding is on top of an existing Au\$11 million AusAID commitment in Western Province, and includes:

Up to \$10m for new TB facilities at Daru Hospital;

Up to \$5m for new wards and treatment areas at Mabaduan Health Centre; and

\$5m towards primary TB care in small clinics in Middle and South Fly.

The expansion of local clinics would ensure the majority of local TB cases could be treated in their own communities, consistent with the World Health Organisation guidelines.

In 2012-13 AusAID will provide \$104 million (K226 million) to improve the PNG health system.

07.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE SPECIAL

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS today called on the people of Bougainville to realize that Bougainville is so special and has that exclusive right by law to establish its own government.

Speaking on his weekly radio Programme on New Dawn FM, President said as such he wants all Bougainvilleans to see that they are all part of this one team Bougainville.

Chief JOHN MOMIS said that all Bougainvilleans have to do their part in whatever activity they are in to contribute towards the common good for the region.

He warned if the people are divided and few individuals continue to destabilize the good work of the people the future of Bougainville is being threatened.

And if that happens it’s the people of Bougainville who will be ridiculed by the world for not utilizing the unique opportunity that the Papua New Guinea constitution had guaranteed them.

He called on the people to forget their differences and work together to build a better and prosperous Bougainville.

07.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Kiwi youth in Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A TEAM of youth ambassadors and film crews from New Zealand are in Bougainville to take part in the 40 Hour Famine campaign.

This 40 Hour Famine project is a fundraising initiative within participating World Vision support offices that engages youths in their areas, especially school children to identify themselves with their same age groups from the developing countries.

Back in New Zealand, the children there voluntarily go without certain necessities like food and water so as to identify themselves with the plight of those in the developing countries.

Now into its 37th year since it was first launched, this event is one of the largest youth fundraising events in New Zealand with over 20% of school age students taking part and almost 40% of all schools registering their students to participate.

The theme of this famine campaign in Bougainville is 'Gutpela Kaikai blong Halivim Grow blong Pikinini' (better foods to help a child grow).

This project, which will be observed in certain areas in the three constituencies in North Bougainville, will focus on maternal nutrition and child health (MCH).

The constituencies that these youth ambassadors and film crews will be visiting include Halia, Hagogohe, Selau and Suir constituencies.

Team leader of the youth ambassadors, Chris Jupp, said they are privileged to have travelled to Bougainville to meet and experience the culture and lifestyles of Bougainvilleans.

The team is interested in capturing the depth of human stories in these areas, which they can share back in New Zealand upon completing their 40 Hour Famine campaign in Bougainville.

07.12.2012

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Women are the peace makers - Bougainville negotiator

The role of women in the peace process and conflict resolution is often ignored or overlooked.

Their role was crucial in ending the conflict on Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

Sister Lorraine Garasu is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth and coordinator of their Centre for Rehabilitation on Bougainville.

She has participated in peace negotiations both in Bougainville and overseas.

Sister Lorraine in Australia to share the lessons she learned with humanitarian workers and military leaders.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Sister Lorraine Garasu, Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth & coordinator, Bougainville Inter-Church Women's Forum

Listen here !

06.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Business man calls for answer

By Tapo Tovilu

A Business man in Kokopau is calling on PNG power limited to give them an answer on where they are up to in their supply of power to the Kokopau Township.

He says that since the inception of the submarine cable and the beginning of the electrification project of the Kokopau Township, there have been many power disruptions.

He says that but up until recently when PNG power announced the damage of two of its generators in Kubu power has been disrupted on a regular basis.

He appealed to PNG Power to fix the problem or to notify them on power outage times so they protect business assets.

He says that many business houses in Kokopau have lost power appliances due to these disruptions causing loss to their business.

06.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arts road show in Bougainville

By Tapo Tovilu

Arts and crafts are one form of income and also a way of identifying our cultures and traditions. But for many in Bougainville arts is not well known as there are very few awareness on arts and its potential.

This however will change as the University Of Papua New Guinea is carrying out a road show in Bougainville.

University of Papua New Guinea Director of the Melanesian and Pacific Studies Center Dr Nicolas Garnier and Peter Tugan a second year Fine Arts students are running these road shows in Bougainville.

They say they have travelled to parts of South and Central Bougainville already giving road shows on arts to many communities.

Included in these workshops people are taught the basics of different art forms such as drawing and painting.

Mr Tugan added that there was interest shown by communities in which they visited throughout Bougainville.

He called on people in Buka to attend these workshops as it is important for people to know the different types of art forms.

06.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG RESPONDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government today made an undertaking to come up with a decision within one week, on the demand by the Hagogohe Home Guards for ONE MILLION KINA for what it calls "HARDSHIP CLAIMS".

The ABG made the undertaking following a special BEC meeting to discuss an incident yesterday when seven government vehicles were commandeered by members of the Hagogohe Home Guards on Buka island.

Led by DAVID MUSEIN, a large group of youths converged on the administration as a protest against what they claim to be non-payment of hardship allowance for services rendered as home guards for the period 1990 to 1997, a total of ONE MILLION KINA.

They forcefully seized seven government vehicles and at today's report, were now parked at Gogohe village.

The group claims that through its hard work, it had restored peace and normalcy in the community, secured the Buka township, prevented the destruction of properties, and prevented Buka elites from being taken to Panguna for interrogation.

Announcing the ABG's decision, President Dr John Momis expressed dismay at the manner in which the group had decided to come and expressed their demands.

President Momis said the government was ready to listen to reasonable claims and demands, but there were lawful means and channels through which these things can be done.

He said the ABG today decided to appoint a special committee to look into the Home guards demand before reporting back to the government.

The committee had been given one week to do its work. Based on the information collected and presented by the committee, the government will make its decision on the demands by the home guards.

President Momis said that in the meantime, he wants the vehicles commandeered returned to the government, and that normal police investigations continue into the incident. If it was found that there had been breaches of the law, appropriate legal action will be taken against those responsible.

He said it was high time that people, who broke the law, were made to pay for their actions. The manner of the people commandeering vehicles to press their demands without being punished had gone on for too long and must stop.

He echoed the statement made by former BRA General, Ishmael Toroama only a week ago, that the action of commandeering vehicles must stop this year. From next year onwards, there would be no more commandeering of vehicles for any reasons.

President Momis pointed out that time is running out for Bougainville to prepare itself for referendum.

Unless it can carry out more development in the short time available, the referendum will be threatened.

The ABG needed all the money it had at its disposal to carry out these developments.

If it had to give away money for excessive and unreasonable demands, many of their projects may not be carried out.

He assured the home guards that the government will seriously look closely into their demands and hopefully come up with a decision that will please all concerned.

05.12.2012

Source: Radio New Zealand International

World Vision in Bougainville develops basic education courses with community input

The non governmental organisation, [World Vision](#) says two new centres providing basic education in the Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville should succeed, because of community buy in.

Educational services are seen as vital for Bougainville because it is still recovering from the shut down of services that occurred during and after the ten year long civil war.

World Vision's project manager, Helen Teviri, says they will cater for children, and adults up to the age of about 25.

She says while other such schemes have failed on Bougainville, the community involvement is likely to be the critical factor in sustaining their Basic Education Improvement Plan.

"If the community can plan whatever programmes that they feel that the community would have in there, they can plan all that and they understand, the whole community understands the programmes and takes ownership of that and understands these things are to be met then I think that the sustainability of the project will be there."

World Vision's Helen Teviri.

05.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

ABG vehicles confiscated

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

MORE than ten government vehicles in Buka were forcefully taken by the former home guards from the Hagogohe constituency yesterday afternoon.

The disgruntled former home guards had decided to seize the government vehicles after seeing that the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Bougainville administration had failed to positively respond and address their submission by paying them their entitlements for services rendered during the height of the Bougainville crisis.

Their submission which was presented in 2006 calls for the government to pay the 762 home guards from Hagogohe, who had risked their lives protecting properties and lives in and around the Buka town area during the crisis days.

According to their spokesman, David Musein, they had been waiting patiently for the past six years but have not received any payments or positive response from the government regarding their payments.

Mr Musein said they were very frustrated after learning that the former home guards from Hahalis village in the Halia constituency in Buka will soon be getting their second payment.

This he said was very unfair to them because the Hahalis group had already received their first payment while his men are still waiting for their share.

He said their decision to seize the vehicles was because of the frustrations they had after waiting patiently for the past six years for payments to be made.

Mr Musein said the vehicles will be taken to Hagogohe, where they will be safely kept until they receive a positive response regarding their demand.

He added that any negotiations and discussions concerning the release of these vehicles will be held in their village, and not in any government offices in town.

Acting chief administrator Paul Kebori, while addressing the disgruntled men from Hagogohe, said their proposal has already been given to the Division of Law and Justice in Bougainville for consideration.

He also gave them the assurance that their issue will still be addressed, however it will take time considering the large amount of money involved that the former home guards are demanding.

The disgruntled Hagogohe men had demanded that their issue be addressed immediately, however they were told by Mr Kebori that he will not be making any immediate response regarding their grievances.

05.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Literacy an issue for Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

THE Division of Education in Bougainville will soon be conducting a baseline survey report on the literacy rate in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

This survey, which is yet to be endorsed and launched by the Bougainville Education Board (BEB), will cover villages starting from the southern tip of Bougainville all the way up to the northern tip of Bougainville.

According to the Bougainville Regional Literacy Coordinator, Emmanuel Rikaha, the purpose of this survey is to identify the literacy and illiteracy rate in Bougainville. The education division will then be using these reports gathered during the survey to identify methods and means to improve the literacy rate in Bougainville.

Mr Rikaha said at the moment there is an alarming illiteracy rate in Bougainville compared to its literacy rate.

Mr Rikaha said the illiteracy rate in falls into three categories.

The first category involves the pre-crisis days. Those in this category are the people that were born before the crisis but never had any changes to attain any form of education.

The second group consists of the crisis-created group, or those that were born and raised during the crisis period. The third group covers the post crisis group, or those that have not been able to further their education since the Bougainville crisis ended. Once this baseline survey report is conducted and completed, the Division of Education in Bougainville will then be in a better position to come up with methods on how to address and improve the literacy rates on the island. Mr Rikaha made this announcement during the launching of the Basic Education Improvement Plans (BEIP) for the children and adult literacy centres in the Manetai area of Central Bougainville last week.

05.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG SET

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for Autonomy Division and Acting Deputy Administrator for Operations PAUL KEBORI says that the ABG is slowly preparing to draw down powers from the National Government.

He made these remarks at the MOU Awareness workshop in Tarlena last week.

In his presentation to the Chairmen's of COE's and their officers, MR. KEBORI said that the implementation of Autonomy was a very complex issue however most of the ABG Divisions have gone ahead to enact policies in preparation of the drawdown of powers.

He said that since the establishment of the ABG, a lot of work has been done to build capacity to drawdown the powers.

MR. KEBORI said that the ABG Government was working with the National Government through the Joint Supervisory Body to fast track most of the activities.

New Dawn FM understands that the Education and Health Divisions are the first divisions to take on board new responsibilities.

05.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Disgruntled home guards stop RA payouts

By Tapo Tovilu

This afternoon saw the seizure of more than 8 vehicles belonging to the ABG administration and departmental heads.

Disgruntled members of the Gogohe Home Guards stormed into the administration officers this afternoon demanding vehicles as part of their protests at their non-inclusion in the risk allowance payouts.

A spokesman from the group says that it has taken far too long for the administration to hear their cries for their services rendered during the Bougainville conflict.

He says that no damage will be done to the vehicles taken but will remain in their custody until their demands are met.

In a struggle for control many officers in the administration were overpowered by the large group demanding for vehicle keys.

No official statement has yet been released by the ABG Administration and New Dawn FM will bring you up to date on any recent developments on this issue.

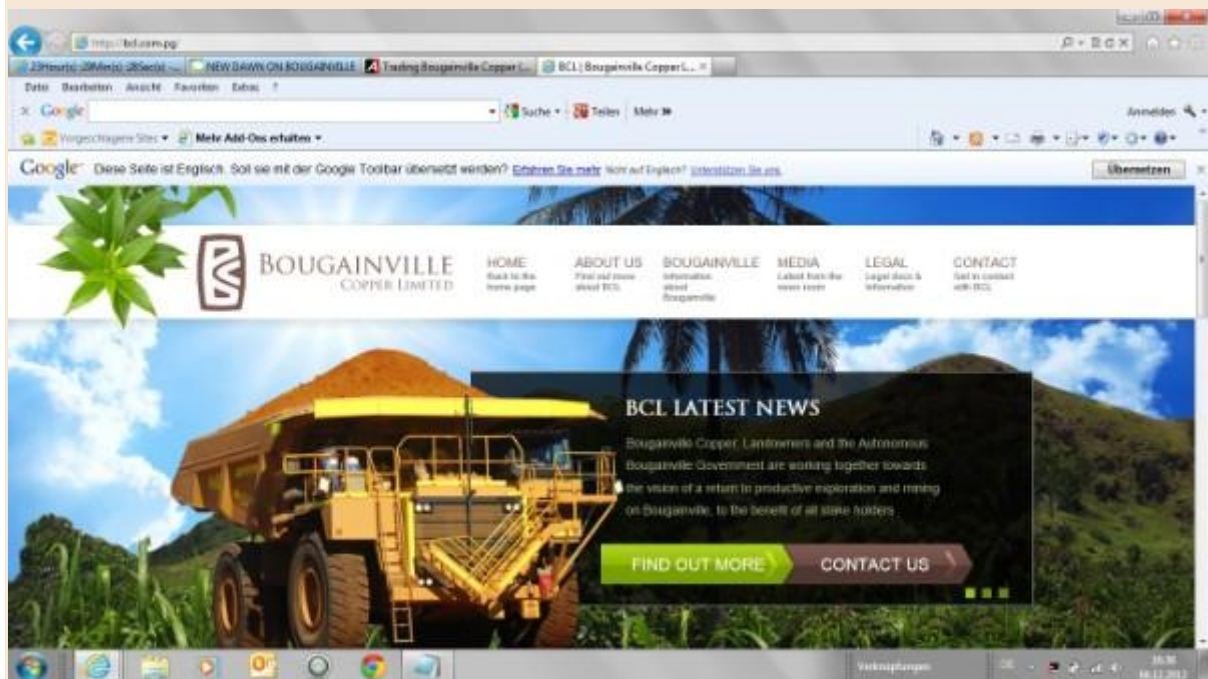
04.12.2012

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

BCL:NEW HOMEPAGE ONLINE !

After major technical problems in the past while the BCL homepage was hosted in PNG, Bougainville Copper presented their new Australian-made site today. Luckily it's more investor friendly - in a younger and fresher look.

Click on the screenshot to find out more:



04.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Toroama calling on Momis to start up political school on Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

A FORMER combatant in Bougainville is calling on the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Chief Dr John Momis to start up a political school in Bougainville.

Speaking during the reconciliation ceremony which was recently held between Mr Momis and his former kidnappers from Tinputz, former BRA commander Ismael Toroama said President Momis will be using this political institution to educate the future leaders of Bougainville.

Mr Toroama said this institution will help raise leaders who will be able to take over the leadership from President Momis in future.

Mr Toroama said he also wants the Autonomous Bougainville Government to allocate funding to kick-start this institution, adding that he really wants to see this idea becoming a reality.

“My dream is that you start up a political school so that you can teach all the children of Bougainville how to address politics,” Mr Toroama said.

Mr Toroama also mentioned that as a future and upcoming leader of Bougainville, he wants President Momis to fast-track the ideas that they want achieved.

Meanwhile, Mr Toroama is appealing to Bougainvilleans to put a stop to the criminal activities that they are currently involved in.

He also urged them to let the Bougainville Police Service carry out its duties and responsibilities.

Mr Toroama also challenged Bougainvilleans to ensure that this year should become the last year for them to take possession of any government-owned property.

04.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DISABILITY UNITE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Natural Resources which includes Mining, MICHAEL ONI says that Bougainville needs each and everyone to move the region forward.

The Minister was speaking at the International Day for People living with Disability and People with special needs in Buka yesterday.

MR.ONI said that as we begin the journey for the new Bougainville, we must all work together, meaning inclusive of all and everyone in our region even those living with disabilities.

He said that the ABG will and must be inclusive to services that can meet the needs of those living with disabilities. The Minister supported his remarks by saying that currently the Disability falls under three Departments, Education, Health and Community

Development.

He said this must not be the case, the issues for People living with Disability must be inclusive in all Departments so that when we plan for things to move forward in our region we also include people with

special needs.

The Minister was also happy to announce that two of the people living with disability who were members of the Bougainville Sports team at the RABAUL 'S PNG GAMES brought back a Silver and a Bronze medal from the games.

He commended their efforts and asked everyone in the region including the NGO's and other stakeholders to support people living with disabilities through partnerships and networking.

04.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kokopau Wharf reconstruction a relief

By Tapo Tovilu

The current reconstruction being carried out on the damaged Kokopau wharf is a relief for business houses in Kokopau.

After it was damaged a month ago many had to use alternative ramps to do their daily business to and fro Buka town.

However it is now being reconstructed to serve mainly the people of Kokopau in business and supplies.

The wharf was previously damaged by a shipping company when one of its vessels hit its supporting pillars sending the wharf into the sea.

This new wharf now will help the flow of business for many business owners and copra and cocoa dealers who use the wharf regularly.

04.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

World Disabilities day

By Tapo Tovilu

Today marked World Disabilities Day commemorating people living with disabilities around the world.

For children living with disability at the Callan Services center in Hahela it was a special day for them to showcase the different abilities they had.

ABG member for Ioro and minister for Mining Michael Oni while giving his speech told many that people with disabilities were ordinary people and had the right to be treated equally.

He says that many people usually mistreated them adding that as human beings they had all rights that normal people had.

He called on families who had people living with disabilities to not discriminate them as they were also human.

He added that unlike the rest they had special abilities to replace their handicaps like the ability to communicate in sign language.

The day also saw items like song and dances presented by children living with disabilities showcasing their special abilities.



04.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PAYOUT DISTURBED

By Aloysius Laukai

The two week payout of hardship allowance was disturbed today when former homeguards from Buka island took the keys of 8 ABG Administration vehicles this afternoon claiming non payment for their services.

The payout was going towards its second day when it was stopped.

New Dawn FM was called to check the story and would put a full detailed story later.

The hardship allowance was for government workers who risked their lives to deliver government services during the conflict.

03.12.2012

Source: EMTV

Momis - Panguna must reopen

Bougainville President Chief John Momis wants the closed Panguna Copper Mine to reopen. Chief Momis said the mine's reopening will support the Autonomous Bougainville Government with much needed funds, for the delivery of services.

Momis said the Panguna was a single impact project that can bail out Bougainville from its financial problems.

This will only happen after a completely new agreement is negotiated with Bougainville Copper Limited and other stakeholders including landowners and National Government.

03.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ramazon Project to start soon

By Tapo Tovilu

The Ramazon Hydro Power Project which will supply power to North Bougainville is nearing its construction stages.

It was revealed last week in an ILG formation meeting held in Suir last week by members of the ILG groups were the project will be set up.

They say that funding and other logistics are ready awaiting the formation of ILG groups in the Ramazon area.

Asian Development Bank representatives will arrive in Buka on Wednesday to finalize phase one of the project.

The people of the project area are hoping all goes well with the project as it will be a major development boost for the area.

New Dawn FM will follow up on the progress of talks towards the initiation and commencement of the Ramazon Hydro Project.

03.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Disability day

by Aloysius Laukai

People living with Disabilities and special needs took to the streets of Buka town today to mark the international day for People living with Disability.

The event was celebrated with the minister for natural resources and Mining, MICHAEL ONI and stakeholders, parents and families of people with special needs at Bel isi park in Buka town.

Most of the kids with disabilities displayed dances and other activities to commemorate the day.

01.12.2012

Source: ESBC

Agenda updated !

[Click here to find out what has changed !](#)

01.12.2012

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

PNG mining meeting just a neo-colonial propaganda festival

The Papua New Guinea Mining and Petroleum Conference in Sydney will be a room full of white men dicing and slicing PNG's assets with little or no participation or informed consent from the people of Papua New Guinea.

The smattering of Papua New Guinean faces will be from government departments and government regulatory bodies looking on benignly while the nations assets are stolen in front of their eyes.

It might be shocking, but it is the truth of the mining and petroleum industry in PNG – foreign companies completely in control of resources with Papua New Guineans either silently observing from the sidelines or being completely left out and in the dark.

Last time, the only landowner representatives were those brought by Sam Basil, MP for Bulolo, where two huge gold mines are being developed (Hidden Valley and Wafi) and the MP considered it fundamentally important that local leaders understand the framework of the developments and participate in discussions.

It won't be a conference. It is a public relations exercise/sales pitch by the mining and petroleum/gas companies. Presentations by the CEOs of these companies will be scheduled in groups of four with the chairperson of each essentially coming from the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum – the industry funded body that promotes mining and petroleum companies in PNG.

No questions will be allowed – none at all. It will just be propaganda speeches about how good each company is and how much money they are going to make out of someone else resources.

- There won't be any participation by landowners.
- No questions about what all these mining/petroleum and "investments" have achieved in terms of human or structural development of PNG.
- No acknowledgement or discussion of the disastrous environmental effects of mining in PNG.
- No discussion of rehabilitation or mitigation of environmental damage.
- No discussion of increasing PNG wealth or equity.

Just glowing report cards and predictions of massive profits into the future for the companies.