

Contract Signing Time

By Jack Sion

August saw the signing of contracts at the Ombudsman Commission for seven officers.

Those who signed their contracts were Mavara Sere who signed his new contract as Secretary to the Commission.

Others were Samoa Kede, the former Finance Manager and promoted to Senior Manager Support Services signed his contract along with Josephine Kilage promoted from Senior Investigator to Team Leader.

Daniel Taka appointed as Senior Investigator and Simon Kwalimu from Assessor to being a Senior Assessor

elevating both officers to senior positions.

The new Policy and Planning Manager Simeon Namunu of the headquarter and Steven Haibaku promoted to Senior Investigator in Mt. Hagen office were not available to sign their contract and will do so in due course.



Ombudsman Commission Officers signed their Contracts, (from right to left) Josephine Kilage, Team Leader, Daniel Taka, Senior Investigator, Samoa Kede, Senior Support Services Manager, Mavara Sere, Secretary to the Commission.



WASDOK

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Solomon Islands Watchdog visits

By Jack Sion

Two Senior Officials from the Solomon Islands had the opportunity of learning about the operations of the PNG Ombudsman visiting the Commission to study the way Papua New Guinea runs its Ombudsman Commission.

The Delegation consisted of Ombudsman John Smith Pitabelama and the Chairman of the Leadership Commission Mr Emmanuel Kouhota.

The purpose of their visit was to gain some in-depth information and assessment on the operations of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.

They were interested in the way OCPNG conducts its business in Leadership and Complaints.

Other areas of their interests were in the way PNG handles Leadership files and referrals to the PP office.



Solomon Islands Ombudsman John Smith Pitabelama (second from left) and Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission Emmanuel Kouhota (far right), pose for a photo with Ombudsmen Peter Masi, John Nero and senior executives of the Commission.



(Second from left) Mr Emmanuel Kouhota, Chairman of Solomon Islands Leadership Commission, (front right) Mr John Smith Pitabelama, Solomon Islands Ombudsman with meeting Mr Nemo Yalo, Counsel to the Commission and Tabitha Suwae, Assisting Counsel.

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Inside this issue:

Eye Within	Expert empress with OC Annual Report	Appointment of Logistics Manager	Ombudsman Nero attends crime symposium	Training by OC officers
p2	p3	p4	p6	p7

John Hevie returned from work and training attachment with the Commonwealth Ombudsman

John Hevie an Officer with the Ombudsman Commission has returned to OC PNG satisfied his work and training Attachment with the Commonwealth Ombudsman in Canberra Australia was worth the trip.

During his attachment he was able to understand and learn the way in which disciplined forces work closely with the Common-

wealth Ombudsman office in carrying out investigative work.

Currently, Mr Hevie is the activity manager of the Police Oversight Project as per recommendation of the Police Review which will allow the Ombudsman Commission to work closely with the police force in the receiving, handling and processing of complaints received by the police.

Liaison and Planning for the function with the stakeholders to enable it operational is underway.



John Hevie and Anthony Ives a Police Investigator with the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Ombudsman Commission on track with Annual Reports

The Ombudsman Commission is now up to date with its Annual Reports and hopes to maintain this output each year from now on. At the end of July 2006, it took delivery of its detailed 2003, 2004 and 2005 annual reports from the Government Printing Office, which has been printing the reports.

By bringing all its reports up to date, the Commission has set the pace for the rest of the Law and Justice Sector agencies and other governmental bodies and agencies. The detailed annual reports complement the 2003 and 2004 summary annual reports produced in November 2005 and the 2005 summary annual report produced in March 2006.

In addition, the latest Annual Reports, that is, the summary 2005 Annual Report and the detailed Annual Reports for 2003, 2004 and 2005, boasts of a new look cover and the contents of the report have been enhanced. These new changes or features are all part of modernization.

The Ombudsman Commis-

sion is required under Section 220 of the *Constitution* to present to the Head of State a report on its duties and responsibilities and its performance over a period of 12 months.

The Head of State then presents the report to Parliament for debate and deliberations.

Like other agencies, updating the Commission's annual reports were slow, prompting the Members of the Commission to make a firm decision in 2005 for its summary reports to be produced by March and its detailed reports out by June each year.

The Commission resolved that an annual report is an important marketing and information tool. Through an up to date yearly report, it can market its services to the public.

The annual report also gives a clear indication of the performance of the organization. The reports are read by Members of Parliament, heads of departments, students, media organi-

zations and others.

That is an important concept that line managers and senior officers need to understand. An annual report is not just a product of a unit or an Annual Report committee it is a product of all the various units or divisions in the Commission. The articles authored by various managers reflect what their units have achieved or not achieved in a year and when combined gives an overall performance of the entire organization.

At this juncture, thanks and appreciation go to all those managers who after numerous emails and phone calls from the Media Unit, submitted their write-ups, to the proof-readers who made time available to go through the drafts, Judith Sauto from Office of Counsel for assisting in the layout and design and other technical areas, and other officers who in one way or the other gave their assistance.

The Media Unit which collates, edits and designs the reports could not have done it without you all.



An Eye within

The Commission resolved that an annual report is an important marketing and informative tool.

Ombudsman Commission participated in HIV/AIDS workshop

In its efforts on public awareness on the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Ombudsman Commission participated in a workshop this month to explain to the public its position relating to the disease.

The Commission gladly accepted an invitation by the Poreporena United Cares Incorporated, a Community Based Organisation that has taken up the challenge of conducting public awareness on the HIV/AIDS.

The Commission was represented by Samuel Moang an Investigator who presented a paper on Human Rights and how HIV/AIDS affects each and everyone's rights in the families, communities and societies.

He also pointed out the relevant laws that deal directly or indirectly with people living with HIV/AIDS.

These include, the PNG Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (ICEAFRD), HIV/AIDS Management and Prevention Act 2003 and Discrimination Practices act.

Investigators attend training workshop



Mr John ToGuata, Director Operations presents Martha Martin, Assistant Investigator, Mt. Hagen Branch with her certificate.

By Jack Sion

August and September 2006 will be busy months for the Commission in training its Investigators and Assessors of the Complaints and Administrative Investigations Branch.

The first group of Investigators and Assessors from the regional offices and head office attended the first session of training which encompassed work processes and procedures of the Complaints and Administrative Investigations handling.

Other areas covered legal issues in relations to the handling of complaints and assessment that determines the merits and demerits of

complaints and the processes of investigations and writing reports.

The training workshop also became an induction session for new employees that were recruited in the middle of the year.

Speaking at the end of the first training workshop Director Operations John ToGuata urged the participants to make good use of the training they received in handling and assessing Complaints before conducting investigations.

"Officers must weigh all sides of complaints and settle to avoid costly investigations."

The way you investigate



Investigator, Mr Apeo Sioni receives his certificate from Chief Ombudsman, Ila Geno.

and assess cases for further decisions and actions by the Commission will be determined on the success and strong assessment investigators attach to a case.

The first session was held from 21 to 23 August while

the second training workshop will be next month.

The Chief Ombudsman Ila Geno and Director Operations John ToGuata performed the honours of presenting the certificates.



Iola Tamtu, Assistant Investigator with Kokopo Office received her certificate from Chief Ombudsman.

Ombudsman John Nero attends Symposium on Economic Crime in London

The Cambridge University extended an invitation to the Ombudsman Commission for a representative of the Commission to attend a high profile symposium on economic crime in the United Kingdom.

Ombudsman John Nero attended the 24th Cambridge International Symposium at the Jesus College, Cambridge University, United Kingdom on behalf of the Commission.

The British High Commission and the Ombudsman Commission co-funded his participation.

The annual Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime promotes greater understanding of the real and practical issues involved in preventing and controlling economic crime and abuse such as money laundering, proceeds of crime and 'e'banking.

The Symposium involved eminent persons and authorities from around the world with practical knowledge on economic crime and its implications and those who deal directly with the public and private sector in the control and prevention of fraud.

On receiving his travel documents on 31 August from the Acting British High Commissioner Alastair Dent, Ombudsman Nero extended his appreciation to the British High Com-



Acting British High Commissioner Alastair Dent presenting Ombudsman John Nero with his travel documents.

mission in Port Moresby at this time when the Ombudsman Commission is faced with a growing trend in economic and international crime, taxation fraud and criminal abuse in all sectors of public life in PNG.

The Commission appreciates the exposure to such international meetings to educate itself on the fight against crime and corruption.

Transnational crime is already at our doorsteps, in fact we are already part of it and it is good to know exactly what it is that we are faced with and appreciate the economic and often social implications that emanate from such scourge and how that can be contained.

Previous members of the Commission had attended such meetings in the past at the same University with the assistance of the British High Commission for which the Commission is thankful.

The Symposium will be conducted from the 3 September to the 10 with the Theme: **Price of Crime-The identification and Controls associated with the Enterprise of Crime and Terror.**



Ombudsman Nero chatting with Acting British High Commissioner Mr Alastair Dent.

Moves to amend Organic Law

Moves to amend the organic Law on the *Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* has progressed further with the proponent of the amendment Francis Kunai the Member for Jimi introducing it for the Second reading on 1 August 2006.

His proposed amendment relates to altering the Organic Law on the *Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* are relating to *Section 27(4) of the Organic Law on Leadership* when exercising its enforcement requirements.

Section 27(4) of the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership presently reads:

"the tribunal shall make due inquiry into the matter referred to it without regards to legal formalities or the rules of evidence and may inform itself in such manner as it thinks proper subject to compliance with the principles of natural justice."

The Member is proposing that his amendment to Section 27 Sub-section 4 should read:

"the tribunal shall make due inquiry into the matter required with, within legal formalities in strict compliance with the rules of evidence under the provisions of the Evidence Act Chapter 48."

Mr Kunai told parliament that the thrust of his amendment was to ensure that the tribunal considering evidence before it must be credible and substantive in nature as allowed in the Evidence Act Chapter 48.

He said currently we have tribunals considering evidences provided by the Ombudsman Commission which in many cases do not comply with the rules of evidence as stipulated under the *Evidence Act Chapter 48*.

Annual Report expert impressed

By Jack Sion

Mathew Forbes an expert on annual reports is impressed with the way the Ombudsman Commission has ensured that it is up to date with its Annual Reports.

Mr Forbes is a Consultant with the Law and Justice Sector Program (LJSP) who ensures organizations in the sector conducts their duties according to requirements.

Annual reports are one of the requirements which all Public and Constitutional offices are required to produce as performance report annually.

He was commenting in a

meeting with officers of the OC Media Unit which has been responsible for producing updated annual reports for the Commission.

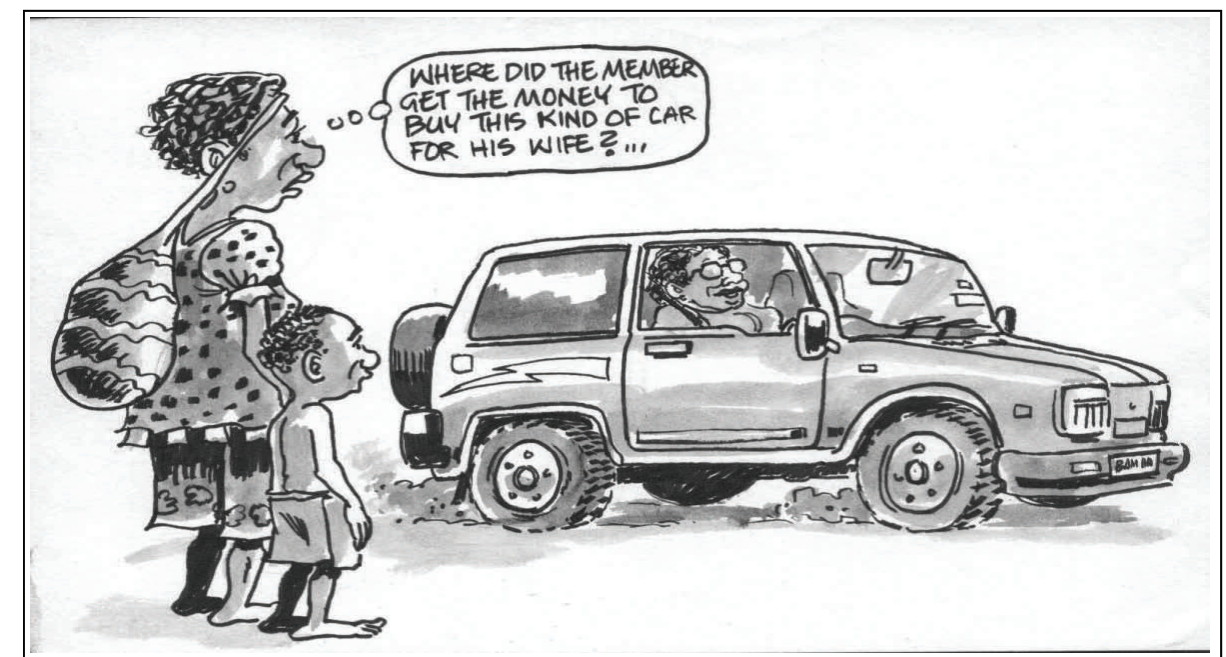
Today the Commission has all its annual reports produced until the year 2005 and shortly will move to 2006.

"Reports get people working," Mr Forbes said.

He said in studying the Auditor General laws, he discovered that the Auditor General has the power to withhold funding to government bodies and agencies that do not comply by producing annual reports.



Media Manager, Mr Bonner Tito discussing OC annual report with Mathew Forbes a specialist on annual reports.



Short Stay, yet important

By Jack Sion

Support Services Manager Victor Maggio has left the Commission after two months of his recruitment.

“Though it was a regrettable move, it was a gain for Mr Maggio to know what the Commission stands for in terms of promoting transparency in all sectors,” the Senior Support Services Manager Samoa Kedeia told a small gathering of staff that attended Mr Maggio’s farewell lunch on 9 August 2006.

Mr Kedeia believed Mr Maggio will extend the experience and knowledge he has gained at the Commission in his new work place, he told the gathering.

He said people come and go in any organization and officers leaving the Commission are no different so long as they use the experience to contribute to the development of the country and betterment of our people.

Also earlier this month long serving officer Clement Kandapi left the Commission to take up his new job with the PNG Law Society.



Senior Manager Support Services Samoa Kedeia shares a moment with outgoing Logistics Manager Victor Maggio.

New Logistics Manager



Appointed Logistics Manager, Genly Malawae.

The Replacement for Victor Maggio was Genly Malawae who took office on the 27 August three weeks after the departure of Mr. Maggio.

Genly joined the Ombudsman Commission with a wealth of experience having worked as an Officer with IRC, the Curriculum Reform Project (CRIP) an AUS AID related project with the Edu-

cation Department and Health Departments.

An Accountant by profession Genly had a short stint as well with Transparency International before taking up his job with the Commission.

Mr Malawae, from Mussau Island in the New Ireland Province, finds the work environment at OC challenging and transparent.

Solomon Islands delegation impressed with PNG LJS



Solomon Delegation posed a picture with the Hon Chief Justice, Sir Mari Kapi (second from left) and Justice Ambeng Kandakasi (left).

By Jack Sion

The Solomon delegation of two members that visited PNG was impressed with the administration of the law and justice sector and the judiciary after making courtesy calls to the different sectors.

The delegation comprising the Solomon Ombudsman John Smith Pitabalema and the Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission Emmanuel Kouhota ended their official visit by paying a courtesy calls to the Chief Justice Sir Mari Kapi and the Chief Magistrate John Numapo.

Sir Mari briefed the visitors on the administration of the judiciary in PNG.

He also explained the procedures under which Constitutional bodies as the Ombudsman Commission and the Office of the Public Prosecutor perform

their duties independently.

Another area the Chief Justice explained was the referrals of Leaders by the Ombudsman Commission to the Public Prosecutor and how it deals with leaders referred to the Public Prosecutor.

Expressing his personal views on the Ombudsman the Chief Justice said he was quite satisfied with the work carried out by the Ombudsman Commission especially the good investigative work that has resulted in many leaders referred to the Public Prosecutor.

Present during the visit as well was Judge Ambeng Kandakasi.

Leaving the National Court the delegation headed for the Magisterial Services in town where they met with the Chief Magistrate John Numapo and his Deputy Steven Oli.

The parties exchanged greetings and

provided an opportunity for Mr. Numapo to explain some bilateral magisterial work between PNG and the Solomon Islands.

The visitors were impressed with their calls, they learnt most Constitutional offices are independent in their operation especially in the area of finance where they are self accounting.

It was an observation they will take up with the Public Service and government of the Solomon Islands.

Their visit was not restricted to offices, they also toured Doa Plantation to gain some insights into some form of industry that contribute to the economy.

They were taken into the plantation to see the way rubber is prepared in nurseries, how it is grown and maintained.

They eventually saw the rubber products trapped and captured from the trees and taken for processing in the factory.