



WASDOK

RELEASED FOR AUGUST 2008 BY THE
OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PNG



EYE WITHIN

- Welcome to the August edition of the Wasdok. As promised we have tried to give the publication a new facelift so we are in the running for best practice niche or are we?
- The New Zealand High Commissioner had a fruitful discussion with the Chief Ombudsman recently to reaffirm bilateral issues affecting OCPNG and the New Zealand Government's Technical Assistance Program.
- The Chief Ombudsman was special guest of honour at a media council breakfast held at the Holiday-Inn on Wednesday 20 August, 2008, and delivered the key-note address.
- Katrina Rajak from the Commonwealth Ombudsman spent two weeks with OCPNG assessing our human resource needs. Before leaving she gave a comprehensive briefing to members of the Commission who applaud her for a job well done. She says certain gaps needed to be filled to increase our competence level.
- Talking about human resource capacity building, the first of a series of awardees' under the OCPNG and CO Twinning attachment program has departed our shores for Canberra, Australia. Francis Koaba left on Friday 22 August. He will be joined by Daniel Taka later in the year. Tupela stap isi ah!

NZ HIGH COMMISSIONER PAYS COURTESY CALL TO CHIEF OMBUDSMAN



From L-R Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek, NZ High Commissioner Niels Holme and NZAid Manager, Pati Gagau.

The New Zealand High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Niels Holme paid a courtesy call to the Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek on Monday 11 August, 2008. His Excellency was accompanied by a senior Embassy officer and NZAid Manager, Pati Gagau.

The two leaders exchanged words of appreciation for mutual understanding and continued bilateral relationship between the two countries in terms of the

need for technical support where New Zealand was prepared to provide assistance; likewise the need for the Ombudsman Commission to tap into areas it wants assistance.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman of Australia is currently providing assistance through its Twinning Program and the same could be asked of the New Zealand Ombudsman through its Regional Technical Assistance Program.

In brief....

Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari left on Saturday 30 August, for UK to attend the 26th International Symposium on Economic Crime. The Symposium is being hosted by the Cambridge University in association with the International

Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities. She returns to PNG on Thursday 11 September, 2008.

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The Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek arrived back from Australia a very happy man. He has just attained a Master of Law degree from the prestigious Melbourne

University where he was attending a graduation ceremony. He was greeted with a congratulatory cake when he came for work on Tuesday 2 September.

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Policy & Planning Manager, Simeon Namunu has left us to take up a new job with the Australian High Commission.

The fight against corruption is everybody's business

That is the word from the Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek when addressing the Media Council breakfast at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday 20 August, 2008. Mr. Manek told the breakfast meeting that he would continue to fight corruption in all its forms and encouraged the people of Papua New Guinea to take ownership of the fight against corruption.

Mr. Manek said he wants to see corruption in the context of doing things the right way alluding to those in the workforce who were fortunate to be working to earn their days pay by doing what they are supposed to be doing.

“But for those who are making decisions affecting others, to do so with utmost balance in that decision making process, particularly if that decision is going to affect many hundreds of thousands of people who are illiterate and underprivileged.”

He said those who think that the Constitution can give them all the power and right to control and suppress others under the disguise of performing a lawful function, to remember that it is these peoples fundamental

rights that they are suppose to protect but are now about to or may have already infringed.

The Chief Ombudsman said those who think that they may have been forgotten through lack of governmental service delivery and want to demonstrate their anger



Chief Omb Chronox Manek

in a legal way to make ends meet. Mr. Manek said those who are being used by the “well to do” in engaging in crime and corrupt activities, to know that they are risking their lives and that of their families just for a few quick bucks while their “sponsors” are resting at their com-

reaucracy including heads of publicly funded and established statutory institutions that the “Door of the Ombudsman Commission is always open”. If you didn't know this then you are now told. Come and enquire and be assisted in your decision making process to benefit your electorate, clients and country. Don't see the Ombudsman Commission as your enemy but as your institution and friend who can assist you and guide you.”

Mr. Manek said for others including those that are not directly responsible in the decision making process but have witnessed corrupt deals and activities, the door of the OC is also open for them to come and tell their story adding that relevant laws on the Ombudsman Commission will protect their identity.

He added that another related aspect the Ombudsman Commission has and will through the Complaints and Administrative Division establish Internal Complaints Handling Mechanisms within governmental bodies to enable complaints from within are effectively dealt with by the respective responsible governmental bodies.



Some members of the media fraternity at the Media Council Breakfast Meet—Holiday Inn

and frustration by engaging in criminal activities, should remember that there are many others in the same boat who are doing it the hard way but

fortable homes or hotel rooms enjoying the luxuries of life.

He said decision makers (both in politics and bu-

GBLP TOURS WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE

The Governmental Bodies Liaison Program (GBLP), a section of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea, under the auspices of Team Leader Lydia Mulina is currently touring the West New Britain Province on an awareness drive.

The Team left for Kimbe, capital of the West New Britain Province, on Sun-

day 31 August, 2008 and will be in the province for the next five days.

While in Kimbe, the Team will be talking to the people about roles and functions of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea. The Team will also attend to general complaints from the public on matters relating to government business in a wide spec-

trum of areas. Five major target groups have been identified which consists of Leaders and Senior Government Officials; Local Level Government Presidents, Ward Councillors and District Managers; Law and Justice Sector Agencies; Women's Group, Youth Representatives, Non-Government Organisation's, Business Community and Secondary

Schools. The OCPNG team returns to Port Moresby on Saturday 6 September, 2008 and prepares for the Oro Province leg of the tour, which is expected to take them throughout the duration of the Independence Day celebrations commencing 15 to 19 September, 2008.

Pacific Ombudsman Network News

The Commonwealth Ombudsman of Australia has welcome the appointment of the Chief Ombudsman of PNG, Chronox Manek. In acknowledging the appointment, Dr Steven Ranck, Director International Program said they are confident that Mr Manek will have both a challenging and stimulating job.

Dr Ranck alludes that Mr Manek has been the Public Prosecutor for PNG and therefore was no stranger to the stresses of accountability institutions.

“I speak for all of us, when I say we look forward to working with him

and the other two PNG Ombudsmen”, he added.

He said for the Solomon Islands, it is a time of renewal after 23 months since the Appointment Committee met to appoint Ombudsman Joe Poraiwai to the substantive position in the Solomon Islands.

Dr Ranck said he has every confidence that Ombudsman Joe will demonstrate the relevance of his office to Solomon Islanders who have been kept waiting for so long, adding he has long experience with the office and a commitment to improve services.



Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek

Current Activities

The Commonwealth Ombudsman Director, International Program, Dr Steven Ranck has said that they are close to implementing Network placement activities and are about to shift from the Network to an Alliance with more formal structures and more direct Pacific Islander representation.

Dr Rack said they are in the process of completing two financial activities under the AusAID grant for the old network and will have Michael Wood head going on a placement to Samoa from September 13 to 14 December 2008 at the request of the Samoan Ombudsman.

As an investigation officer with the Common-

wealth Ombudsman, Michael will be tasked to work on the Complaint Handling Outreach and Reporting systems.

Dr. Ranck said they are still working to get the first placement to Tonga due to the recent political turmoil but plans to sent one of its own staff, Ron Ross, who has legislative drafting experience as well as direct ombudsman work in the not too far distance.

He said the government of Tonga has just established an Anti-Corruption Commission which has a temporary Commissioner soon to be replaced by a Tongan Commissioner.

He added that the Tongan Commissioner will share some facilities with the Commissioner; while the

Ombudsman functions will be independent.

He said new legislation were being proposed for this, with the appointment of Ron Ross, whose experience on legislative drafting and other ombudsman functions were an added bonus.

Dr. Ranck said this could be the last network activity as they prepare to move into Alliance Networking alluding this to the latest name to something formal such as the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance (POA).

He said the first interim Board meeting is expected to convene on 28 and 29 October, 2008 in Brisbane where all the interim Board Members are expected to discuss the governing arrange-

ments for the Alliance.

“By the time we hold this first meeting we should have a much clearer idea of funding availability. We also should have a robust document for discussion that meets the different needs of the various parties to the Alliance to include fair representation for all those small Pacific Forum states that have no Ombudsman”. Mr. Ranck added.

He said already the network Alliance has been providing resources to Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia as they explore improved means for complaint handling.

Staff News



- **Above left—Katrina Rajak from the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who successfully concluded a two weeks review of our Human Resources needs receiving a gift from Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek.**
- **Above right—Twinning Program awardee, Francis Koaba gets some tips from CO attachment officer to OCPNG, David Ward while Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari listens.**

Katrina Rajak is a Human Resources specialist sent by the Commonwealth Ombudsman of Australia to Papua New Guinea. Katrina spent two weeks with OCPNG assessing our human resources systems. She has accomplished the task given to her on time and flew out to Canberra via Brisbane on Friday 22 August, 2008.

Prior to her departure for Australia she held discussions with members of the Commission and provided preliminary results of her findings which was greatly appreciated. Her next task will

be to make her findings known to the Commonwealth Ombudsman of Australia in the hope that some assistance would be considered in areas of HR where we have been lacking. Many sincere thanks to the Chief Ombudsman who presented a small gift on behalf of the staff members of the Commission. Mr. Dick Morehari, the Human Resource manager is also commended for hosting Katrina during her short stay in Port Moresby.

In other news of interest involving staff, the Chief Ombudsman

Chronox Manek has acknowledged the twinning program initiative as a step forward that bonds a close working relationship between the Commonwealth Ombudsman of Australia and the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.

In farewelling the first batch of awardees, Mr. Manek encouraged Francis Koaba, Team Leader of Team 9 in the Complaints & Administrative Investigation Division (CAID) to learn as much as he can in areas of complaints and investigations while on the attachment program in

Canberra, Australia.

The Chief Ombudsman praised the initiative as a catalyst for developing the Ombudsman Commission's manpower resources to enhance the work of the Commission in carrying out its constitutional duties to meet challenges of the ever changing environment under which we work.

Mr. Koaba is the first of the two for 2008, who flew out of Port Moresby for Canberra via Sydney on Friday 22 August, 2008. The other officer is Daniel Taka who joins Francis later in the year.

Snippets—OC in pictures



Top right—Chief Ombudsman and a senior Solomon Islands delegate in talks.
Top left—Group photo of MOC, senior officers and the Solomon Islands delegation.



Middle left—Journalists at the Media Council breakfast



Middle—Omb Nero and Omb Sangetari at the Pubic Solicitor's 50th anniversary



Above—part of the Solomon Island Delegation



Middle—Huli dancer at the PubSol 50th anniversary



Right—OCPNG boys pose for Wasdok at the PubSol 50th anniversary

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