



## EYE WITHIN

Welcome to the December edition of the Wasdok. As we have rolled over to the new year, the obvious cannot be avoided and that is the seasons greetings and a prosperous 2009 to our wonderful readers. The last 12 months of Wasdok have been very challenging but we are more determined than ever to brighten up the publication in general outlook and in content in the next 12 months.

In the final edition of the 2008 Wasdok we feature:

- *The Commission's 33rd anniversary, thanks to David Olley for mooted the idea and a little research on historical data.*
- *OC's Christmas party was full of fun—Full pictorial on page 2 & 5.*
- *Congratulations to Joseph Molita and Miriam Wawe. Both officers were nominated by MOC for the 2008 LJS Awards, Joseph in the male category and Miriam in the female category.*
- *OC news in brief highlighting temporary closure of our Lae office and the arrival of new publications for our purpose.*
- *The Commonwealth Ombudsman network news features Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Governance Officer Dr. Henry Ivarature meeting the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Prof. McMillan.*
- *We wrap up the year with photo montage of events in 2008. Have a happy reading.*

Editorial

## Ombudsman Commission pay tribute to pioneer Ombudsman

THE Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek has paid tribute to former Chief Ombudsmen, Ombudsmen and staff, who have worked tirelessly to uphold the integrity of the Commission, since independence, to what it is today.

In a small ceremony to commemorate the occasion, the Chief Ombudsman praised the work of those dedicated pioneer Ombudsmen, such as the late Sir Ignatius Kilage as the first Chief Ombudsman, the late Andrew Maino, one of the two first Ombudsman and Frank Hedges as the other first Ombudsman.

The Chief Ombudsman quoting from the first annual report of the Ombudsman Commission records said, "our appointments were made by the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea Dr. Sir. John Guise on 4 December 1975, and we were sworn in by the first Chief Justice, Sir. Sydney Frost, on 8 December, 1975," referring to the first appointments.

Mr. Manek said, 8 December 2008, was a very special occasion for the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea because it marked the Commission's 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in office, much to the sorrow of those officers who have since left the Commission.



Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek

He said the occasion was timely because it coincided with the Commission's 2008 Christmas get-together, which was celebrated on Saturday 13 December, 2008.

The Members of the Commission and staff witnessed the cutting of a cake to commemorate the occasion and the two most senior serving officers, Samoa Kede, Senior Manager Support Services and Margaret Kila, Executive Secretary to the Chief Ombudsman and a visiting Commonwealth Ombudsman officer, David Ward, to demonstrate our partnership with the Commonwealth Ombudsman and sister organizations were given the honour to cut the cake.



From L-R, Samoa Kede, Margaret Kila and David Ward cut the anniversary cake



# OC GOES INTO CHRISTMAS MOOD



- *Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek ( in Santa Claus regalia ) shares a joke with colleague Ombudsman, Ombudsman Nero and Ombudsman Sangetari.*
- *Children of OC staff greet Santa Claus.*

It was all fun for members of the Commission, staff and their families on Saturday 13 December, 2008, when they took to the Korobosea International School grounds for the 2008 Christmas party. Santa was on hand to add colour to the celebrations and it was none other than the man himself, Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek. The Chief, although not so much of the populous Santa outfit fanatic, he did manage to make everyone enjoyed the day as the

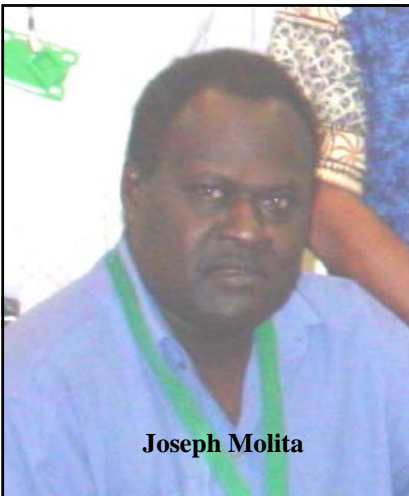
pictures above depict.

Officers who attended the party with their families enjoyed every bit of the celebrations and alluded this to the tireless efforts of the organisers, whom they say should be commended for a job well done. They say such social outings or end-of-the-year gatherings, as often called, should be maintained every year for staff and their families.

On the same token, the Chief Om-

budsman, after resuming duties on Monday 5 January, 2009, from the one week shut down period, greeted the new year 2009 with the following words of encouragement. "Welcome all after the Xmas and new year break. I trust it was refreshing. Thank you for your assistance last year and let us work towards a worthwhile and prosperous 2009 and no doubt we can do that with our God's guidance. I wish you all a happy and industrious 2009".

## OC—2008 STAFF OF THE YEAR



**Joseph Molita**

*MOC recommendation for the OC staff of the year in the male and female categories are Joseph Molita, Director, Complaints Administrative & Investigation Division ( CAID ) and Miriam Wawe, of the Government Bodies Liaison Program (GBLP). Both Molita and Wawe's nominations were forwarded to the 2008 LJS Awards Committee and subsequently announced with hosts of others by the Governor-General, Sir Paulius Matane on November 29 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.*



**Miriam Wawe**

# News in Brief

## Lae office close for business

An unfortunate incident occurred on 9 December, 2008, when headquarters had to sanction Lae Regional Office to vacate its premises for the safety of its officers. Aston Brunswick which manages Vele Rumana issued instructions to all its tenants including the Ombudsman Commission that the building was closed for an indefinite period while investigations were being carried out to determine the extent of damage caused by the fire.

The burning down of the Best Buy building next door had caused widespread toxic smoke creating havoc to occupants of nearby buildings. Reports from our Regional Manager, Nao Virobo indicated that the situation was serious with heat from the burn causing cracks to the brick walls of the two buildings placing many innocent lives at risk.

Acting Secretary, Allan Barilae was tasked to monitor the situation until it got back to normal for business just before new year. No serious damages were reported.

## Contract officers renew term

Eighteen senior officers of the Commission signed contracts of employment, most them renewal while a handful were new contracts on Friday 5 December, 2008.

The signing ceremony was presided by Chief Ombudsman, Chronox Manek, witnessed by two of the Commission members, Ombudsman John Nero and Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari while Counsel to the Commission, Virgil Narokobi

facilitated the swearing in of oath.

The Chief Ombudsman praised the efforts of individual contract holders for fulfilling their contract obligations during their tenure.

Mr. Manek acknowledged contract officers who held senior positions in various capacities in the Commission for their continued commitment.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Ombudsman, John Nero and Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari who gave supporting words of encouragement to the contract officers.

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

List of periodicals now available in the library. Officers are asked to find time to come and read them so that they are kept abreast of what is happening with the outside world.

1. **Forty-third general meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-table in Commonwealth Parliament, 2006/2007**
2. **International Policing Towards 2020**
3. **Laigaip District Five Year Development Plan 2008-2012**
4. **New South Wales Ombudsman Annual Report 2007-2008**
5. **Pacific Economic Bulletin Vol.23 No. 1 2008**
6. **PNG Quarterly Economic Bulletin June 2008 Issue**
7. **PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd 2007 Annual Report**
8. **Porgera District Five Year Development Plan 2008-2012**
9. **SSGM Discussion Paper 2008/1: One hand clapping: Reflections on first anniversary of Fiji's December coup**
10. **SSGM Discussion Paper 2008/2: The loneliness of the pro-government back bencher and the precariousness of simple majority rule in Tuvalu**
11. **SSGM Discussion Paper 2008/3: Outside-In: A volunteer's reflection on a Solomon Islands Community Development Program**
12. **Studies in State Audit 2007**
13. **Tok Taim: AusAID Update Edition 5 Jul-Sept 2008**
14. **UNAFEI Newsletter No. 124 October 2007**
15. **UNAFEI Resource Material series No. 73**

## PACIFIC OMBUDSMAN NETWORK NEWS

### NON OMBUDSMAN SMALL ISLAND STATE WORKING GROUP

The photo on the left shows Dr Henry Ivarature, the Governance Officer for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) meeting with the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Prof McMillan and the Director of the Alliance Secretariat, Dr Stephen Ranck on support for NOSISWG. Meetings were held all day, 20 November 2008.



From L-R : Prof McMillan, Dr. Henry Ivarature & Dr. Stephen Ranck

Non Ombudsman Small Island State Working Group is chaired by Niue's Crown Counsel, Sinahemana (Sina) Hekau. She is supported by Henry Ivarature (PIFS) and Stephen Ranck (Alliance). She is the Board representative for all the non ombudsman small island states. Do contact her for proposals, discussions or any other matters on this type of support. At the moment, the simplest is to contact her through the Secretariat. Proposals should be given to her before the end of February 2009 to ensure they are ready for presentation to the Board in March.

### Australian Government Solicitor pro bono legal services

The office of the Commonwealth Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) would like to advise all Pacific Ombudsmen of its Pro Bono Legal Services Program. Under this program, approved legal projects can be provided with free-of-charge AGS legal services up to a specified limit. In past years, AGS has undertaken pro bono legal work in Australia and overseas. AGS is conscious of its pro bono obligations and is presently seeking to expand the assistance it provides, including to the Pacific region.

AGS legal services cover an extensive range including:

- Legal training
- Administrative law
- Legal policy development,
- Legislative review, reform and drafting,
- Statutory interpretation,
- Commercial agreements,

- Litigation processes and procedures,
- Constitutional issues.

AGS understands that each Pacific Ombudsman will possibly be aware of areas within Ombudsman jurisdiction or more broadly which may be able to benefit from AGS legal assistance.

In relation to such areas, AGS would be happy to discuss possible legal services projects which any Ombudsman may wish to raise with us. From an AGS perspective, projects of a short to medium term duration would be most suitable, given that AGS pro bono funds are limited.

An initial AGS contact to facilitate the commencement of such possible discussions is Mr Tim Moe, Senior Specialist, AGS, who may be reached on email at [Tim.Moe@ags.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Moe@ags.gov.au).

The Chairperson of the AGS Pro Bono Committee is Mr Robert Orr, Deputy General Counsel, who may be reached on email at [Robert.Orr@ags.gov.au](mailto:Robert.Orr@ags.gov.au). The AGS thanks you for your consideration of this matter.

# 2008 Christmas in pictures



# REMEMBERING 2008 IN PICTURES



**Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea,  
 Ground Floor, Deloitte Tower, Douglas Street, PO Box  
 1831, Port Moresby 121, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,  
 Phone: 675-308-2600 Fax: 675-320-3260, Email:  
 ombudspng@ombudsman.gov.pg**

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