



# WASDOK NIUS



EYE WITHIN



## July 2010 Edition

# Chief invited to observe Solomon Islands Elections

The Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek left for the Solomon Islands at the end of the month to participate in the Commonwealth Observer Group for the Solomon Islands Parliamentary elections on 4 August, 2010.

Mr Manek was invited by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to form part of a ten-men Commonwealth Observer Group for the 2010 Solomon Islands National Parliamentary Elections.

The Observer group is chaired by Dr Arthur Donahoe, Q.C., former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and is supported by a staff team of four persons, led by Dr Purna Sen, head of the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Chief Ombudsman said the Observers were invited in their individual capacities, including himself, from Commonwealth countries to participate in the elections.

He said as Observers, they formed an independent judgement and the views they expressed regarding the elections would be in the report that would be given to the Secretary-General to the Commonwealth.

Mr Manek said they would attend a series of briefings on their arrival in the Solomon Islands with various agencies including the Electoral Commission, political parties and civil society.

Observers will then be deployed across the 10 regions of the country 2 days prior to the Election Day and return to Honiara a day or two after the poll.

The group is also expected to write its report which will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who, in turn, will transmit the Group's report to the Government of Solomon Islands, the electoral commission, other stakeholders and all Commonwealth Government.

Mr Manek said the terms of reference are clear including acting impartially and independently in their conduct.

### VISION

The Ombudsman Commission's vision is to promote good leadership, good governance and good leaders.

### MISSION

The Constitution clearly states the purposes of establishing the Ombudsman Commission:

- To ensure that all governmental bodies are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people; and
  - To help in the improvement of the work of governmental bodies and the elimination of unfairness and discrimination by them; and
  - To help in the elimination of unfair or otherwise defective legislation and practices affecting or administered by governmental bodies; and
  - To supervise the enforcement of the Leadership Code.
- This constitutional mandate provides the Ombudsman Commission with its mission.

[Ombudsman Commission Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010]

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# Vienna Conference – HIV/AIDS

**Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari and Assistant Investigator Loraine Manua attended and participated in an international conference in Vienna, Austria on HIV/AIDS. Loraine Manua shares her experience.**

Firstly, the trip to Vienna started at Jacksons International Airport on 15 July about 6am in the morning. Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari and I transited through Brisbane, Singapore, Heathrow and finally Vienna. We arrived there on 16 July about 2 pm in the afternoon, 9pm PNG time. We proceeded to the Hotel Bristol via City Airport Transfer and then by Metro (underground train) to Karplastz station, about five minutes to the Hotel Bristol.

Saturday 17 July was a day for resting for both the Ombudsman and I. During the later part of the day, the Ombudsman and I left for the conference venue (Reed Messe Wien) for registration and to pick up the materials for the conference which started the following day.

The overarching goal of the conference (XVIII International AIDS Conference) in Vienna was to introduce a positive impact on the HIV/AIDS response globally, and in Austria and the neighbouring region of Eastern European & Central Asia in particular that underpins seven main objectives.

The official session of the conference was from 18 to 23 July. It was exciting with new wealth of information learnt, shared and exchanged during the main plenary and bridging sessions.

During the opening session, AIDS activists from Canada, Europe, Russia, Rwanda and Australia applauded recent progress in anti-retroviral drug treatments but expressed disappointment in the failure of the G8 and other international institutions to fully fund global AIDS relief (Global Fund).



**Ombudsman Sangetari and the author Loraine taking a break from the conference.**

Twenty-five attendees were also bestowed the Red Ribbon Award for their individual contributions to the fight against AIDS as part of the opening.

Panel discussions followed with Helen Gayle, CARE USA, and Ron Valdiserri, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, moderated two discussions on the U.S. HIV/AIDS Strategy. Other sessions focussed on women and girls reproductive rights in HIV/AIDS strategies; HIV in the context of the UN's Millennium Development Goals; and the Outlook for development of an AIDS vaccine.

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## editorial

*Welcome to the June edition of the Wasdok Newsletter*

Once again, I hope you have enjoyed reading the last edition of the Wasdok newsletter.

Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek left for the Solomon Islands end of this month to participate in the Commonwealth Observer Group for the Solomon Islands Parliamentary elections on 4 August, 2010.

And we bring you a feature by Loraine Manua covering the Global Conference on HIV/AIDS in Vienna, Austria, that Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari and her attended and participated in.

Happy Reading,  
Editor.



# Walk in my Shoes—Living with HIV

Continued from last month...

## ...How HIV Changed My Life

*I'm so tired....but so much to learn*

It's ten o'clock in the morning. I have to get out of this bed. Another working day missed. How do I explain my absence to the boss? I can't tell him the truth. I'm exhausted. Seems like I can never get enough sleep. This bed is soaked again. The night sweats makes it so hard to rest. I have my first doctor's appointment in the morning. I am afraid of what I may hear. Am I going to die? Will I have to take a dose of pills? How am I ever going to pay for all of this. I am so tired.

My doctor seems very nice but I didn't understand most of what was said. There is just too much information to remember. CD4, T-cells, viral loads...what does it all mean? The nurse is going to come in and tell me about some medicines I am going to take. I've heard some real stories about HIV medications.

Do I really need them soon? Other than being tired, I really don't feel that bad. But, I agreed to give it a try. I hope I made the right decision. Take with food...don't take on an empty stomach....three pills a day....or is it two pills three times a day. How am I ever going to remember all this? And so many side effects to worry about. I wonder if I have any problems? I hope I made the right decision.

Your friend.....

\*\*\* Meet me next edition where I share with you the mixed feelings I get being on medication... (*Motive behind this story: Our friend shares this information during the time when she starts recognising acute HIV and trying to know about ARV drug information*)

## "The Group has not executive role but to observe election process"

...From front page.

The Group has no executive role but its function is to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgement accordingly and it would also be free to propose to the authorities concerned such as action on institutional, procedural and other matters as would assist the holding of such elections.

The Group is established by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the invitation of the Government of Solomon Islands.

The Chief Ombudsman is expected back in the country on 13 August.

## Leadership instability ...cartoon corner





# Improve health and safety

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From my observation throughout the biennial conference for the global AIDS community, one could conclude that there is tangible progress in the HIV research and program, yet we face an urgent need for increased resources, the protection of human rights, and a broader use of scientifically sound prevention strategies.

Funding HIV Prevention programs in developing countries many times does not get full government support as the reason being the lack of funds. The challenge I see here is not finding money to fund such programs but the need to change priorities. When there is a natural disaster such as a volcanic eruption, tsunami or civil and tribal unrests, millions of kina can be quickly mobilized. Peoples' health deserve a similar financial response and a much higher priority.

In summary, the main highlights of the conference were:

1. AIDS 2010 Conference drew 19, 300 participants from 193 countries;
- 2.
3. The week-long Programme featured 248 sessions covering science, community and leadership;
- 4.
5. The conference was supported by 770 volunteers (mostly young people) from Vienna and elsewhere;



Venue of the Conference Centre



The close of the conference saw more than 12, 725 individuals sign the Vienna Declaration, the Official Declaration of the XVIII International AIDS Conference. The Vienna Declaration seeks to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. The Declaration was opened for endorsement by academics and members of the public on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Ombudsman Sangetari and some of the PNG delegates to the Vienna Conference

*Food for Thought*

## Education

**A** farmer came to the college president to enrol his son in the school. But he wanted him to be given a shorter course and not the regular one.

“The boy can never take in all that other material,” said the father. “He wants to get through quicker. Can you arrange it for him?”

The president answered, “Oh, yes. He can take a short course. It all depends on what you want to make of him. When the Lord wants to make an ironwood tree, He takes a hundred years. But it only takes two months to make a pumpkin.”

Saint Paul puts it this way in Galatians 6: 7— “A person will reap exactly what he sows.”

There are two kinds of education. One should teach us how to make a living and the other should teach us how to live. A person who is a good student is not necessarily a good person.

“Taken from a book titled Good Morning PNG! By Frank Mihalic.

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