



# WASDOK NIUS



EYE WITHIN



## May 2011 Edition

### Ombudsman Nero re-appointed

The Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea is the first government organisation to have one of its ombudsmen sworn in by the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio after being knighted by the Queen last month.

Mr John Nero was sworn in to serve as Ombudsman for another six years by the Governor-General during a small but significant ceremony held at the Government House on 9 May 2011. The formal procedure was

witnessed by some senior officers of the Commission and Ombudsman Nero's son.

Mr Nero was re-appointed ombudsman on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 by the Ombudsman Appointing Committee (OAC), which comprises of the prime minister, opposition leader, chief justice, PSC chairman and the chairman of the parliamentary committee on appointments. His appointment was gazetted on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

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Congratulations...Ombudsman Nero (2nd from left) in a group photo with G-G Sir Michael Ogio and officers of the Commission after the swearing-in at Government House.

#### VISION

Fair, just and effective leadership and good governance in Papua New Guinea.

#### MISSION

Promote and foster good governance, enforce compliance with the Leadership Code and strengthen respect for the Rule of Law in accordance with Section 218 of the Constitution.

#### VALUES

The Ombudsman Commission is committed to a number of fundamental values in all its dealing with government bodies, the private sector, members of the public and the leaders.

The values we will uphold are;

- Impartiality
- Integrity
- Independence
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Respect

[ Ombudsman Commission Strategic Plan 2011 - 2015 ]

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## Health Watch

**B**reast cancer is a threatening disease that is common to women in Papua New Guinea.

According to a report by Departments of Pathology and Surgery, University of Papua New Guinea, the incidence of breast cancer in PNG women has steadily risen over the past 40 years and the highest age-specific incidence occurs in the 35-54 age groups. Tumours present late at an advanced stage. Clinical information on pathology request forms is poor and a prospective clinical audit is needed. Strategies need to be developed to detect breast cancer earlier in this population of women.

Here are some helpful information to help the women folk understand how breast cancer develops and how it can be detected at its early stages.

This is something men can also read about to help their wives seek medical attention at an earlier stage.

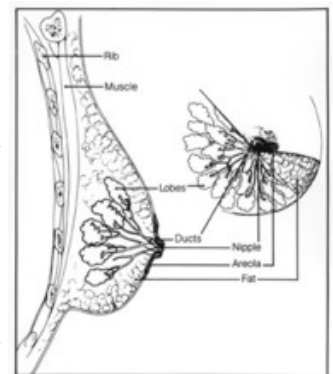
A breast is made up of three main parts: glands, ducts, and connective tissue. The glands produce milk. The ducts are passages that carry milk to the nipple. The connective tissue (which consists of fibrous and fatty tissue) connects and holds everything together.

### What Is a Normal Breast?

No breast is typical. What is normal for you may not be normal for another woman. Most women say their breasts feel lumpy or uneven. The way your breasts look and feel can be affected by getting your period, having children, losing or gaining weight, and taking certain medications. Breasts also tend to change as you age.

### Lumps in the Breast

Many conditions can cause lumps in the breast, including cancer. But most breast lumps are caused by other medical conditions. The two most common causes of breast lumps are fibrocystic breast condition and cysts. Fibrocystic condition causes non-cancerous changes in the breast that can make them lumpy, tender, and sore.



Cysts are small fluid-filled sacs that can develop in the breast.

### Tumors and Breast Cancer

Sometimes breast cells become abnormal. These abnormal cells grow, divide, and create new cells that the body does not need and that do not function normally. The extra cells form a mass called a tumor. Some tumors are "benign" or not cancer. These tumors usually stay in one spot in the breast and do not cause big health problems. Other tumors are "malignant" and are cancer. Breast cancer often starts out too small to be felt. As it grows, it can spread throughout the breast or to other parts of the body. This causes serious health problems and can cause death.

*In next month's edition we will look at the common kinds of breast cancer and some other useful information...*

# editorial

Welcome to this month's edition of Wasdok.

This month has been yet another busy month for all.

We had one of the Ombudsmen officially sworn into office by the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio. Ombudsman Nero was re-appointed to his post and will serve for another term and OCPNG is privileged to be the first government organisation for GG to conduct a formal procedure after being knighted by the Queen.

You will read about PNG's first ever UPR Report since Independence, presented to the UN Council in Geneva, Switzerland. OCPNG had two of its officers in the delegation that presented the Report.

We also bring to you stories from officers who attended training in the Solomon Islands and the LLG Training conducted by the ASAU team in WNB.

And for our health watch this month, we have provided some helpful information on breast cancer.

If you have any story tips please forward them to media unit. We encourage Regional Offices to send in stories as we do not want this newsletter to be head-office oriented.

Happy reading!



# PNG presents first UPR Report to United Nations Council

The review of Papua New Guinea, a member state under review (SUR) by the UN Council, was held at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Geneva Switzerland.

This review marks a milestone for PNG in presenting its first ever Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report to the United Nations Council. Papua New Guinea became the 175<sup>th</sup> UN member state (out of 192 UN member states) to fulfil its obligation under the UN General Assembly Resolution, A/Res/60/251.



*Participating country representatives at the United Nation Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Inset; PNG delegation lead by Peter Aisi (third from right) presenting the UPR Report.*

HIV/AIDS, climate change and cultural diversity.

PNG's presentation attracted more than forty questions and statements from the other countries. The two (2) recommendations which did not enjoy the support of Switzerland and France relating to the death penalty. It was recommended for PNG to suspend capital punishment by putting in place a *de jure* moratorium against executions and eventually abolishing death penalty in all circumstance.

The delegation of PNG was headed by Mr Robert G Aisi Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations in New York and other prominent PNG representatives including Joseph Molita, Director Complaints and Administrative Investigations Division and Patrick Niebo, A/Team Leader Anit-Discrimination on Human Rights Unit of the Ombudsman Commission of PNG.

The report outlined the human rights situation in PNG in an open and frank manner. It described how various human rights treaties to which PNG is a party to, were being implemented.

The report was compiled through a collaborative, country-wide consultative process. Mr Aisi highlighted that an inter-agency committee was formed to prepare the UPR Report which included Ombudsman Commission and other state agencies. He added that a smaller sub-group from this inter-agency committee, the National Task Force was tasked to compile inputs from stakeholders and prepare the UPR Report.

Mr Aisi stated that PNG like other countries, is faced with human rights issues and challenges. Most of these challenges were attributed among others, to the country's development; cultural diversity ( which though not an excuse is a very distinct feature of the country), lack of basic health, education and other services and inaccessibility of government services.

The UPR process and the presentation of the report to the UNHRC is PNG's effort to garner collective support of the international community. The Special Rapporteur on Torture signalled the country's willingness to be open and frank in dealing with the challenges PNG faces.

The critical challenges to be addressed include improvements in correctional services and rehabilitation, empowerment of women in politics and business, gender equality, lack of appropriate legal framework, lack of capacity, access to legal and justice services, lack of basic services, health and education related issues, infrastructure development,

PNG's response to executions and the abolishing of the death penalty pointed out that at present the death penalty is a part of the country's laws and that only at such time when Parliament repeals or amends the law will not be applicable. Courts have in some cases invoked the death penalty.

However, in all cases, the penalty has been commuted to life sentence through an appeal to the Supreme Court. It would therefore, be slightly erroneous to state that a moratorium exists. Sufficient to say the last execution was done in 1954 prior to PNG gaining its political independence.

Mr Aisi expressed his gratitude and thanked the Ombudsman Commission for its involvement.

The involvement of the Ombudsman Commission in the delegation portrayed a good image of the country and has conveyed a strong message to the Council and the world about the importance of human rights issues in the country and also the truthfulness of the State report.



## Combating the spread of HIV/AIDS at work

Showing video testimonies of PLWHIV/AIDS can be one way of helping to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic amongst colleagues at work.

OC's workplace HIV/AIDS coordinator Lorraine Manua has been running video show sessions for this purpose during lunch hours this month.

There were some notable comments and concerns raised by the viewers on these sessions as well as learning new things.

It was raised during one of the sessions that officers should be encouraged to attend as this would help them educate their own families about the virus. Video shows of this type are a good way to get children to be able to understand the virus and the impact it could have on families.

"As a concerned parent, it is good to watch and learn from

the testimonies shown in the video so that you will know how to react if a relative or someone close to you contracts the virus," said Abigail when giving her feedback after the video show.

One thing learnt in the video is when a couple is infected there is still a need for them to practice safe sex. This is to protect the more infected partner from off-loading more viruses to the less infected one. It has also been learnt that an infected mother should avoid breast feeding her child after giving birth as this is the most common way of transmitting the virus from the mother to the child.

A suggestion was also made for IT Unit to have the video uploaded onto the intranet for all officers to access and even make copies to show to their families at home.

In-house video show sessions will continue next month on nominated lunch hours.

## Media freedom is your right

Media freedom day is a celebration and promotion of free and open media, and related technologies.

The goal of this day is to educate the world-wide public about free media and open media of good quality in society, education, at the government and in business.

Every year, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is dedicated to World Press Freedom to remember, celebrate and emphasise the importance of press freedom, which is crucial for the functioning of a healthy democratic and free society.

This year World Press Freedom Day was celebrated in Port Moresby and Lae over a week and termed as "Media Freedom Week", where the central theme was "Media Freedom is your right".

With respect to governmental information, any government may distinguish which materials

are public or protected from disclosure to the public based on classification of information as sensitive, classified or secret and being otherwise protected from disclosure due to relevance of the information to protecting the national interest. Many governments are subject to sunshine laws or freedom of information legislation that are used to define ambit of national interest.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

*"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers (Wikipedia 13/05/11).*

The concept of freedom of speech is often covered by the same laws as freedom of the press, thereby giving equal treatment to spoken and published expression.



# Officers attend training in Honiara

Four officers from the Ombudsman Commission recently attended two separate week-long trainings in Honiara Solomon Islands, thanks to the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance for sponsoring and facilitating the program.

Tony Giro and Joycelyn Wasas attended Dreamweaver Training from 2 - 6 May 2011 held at the Solomon Islands Ombudsman Office while Samuel Moang and Stanley Hook attended Advance Investigators Course from 17 - 19 May 2011.

Dreamweaver is a web designing program and a very useful tool to manage websites. The training was conducted to help participants develop and manage websites at their specific offices.

The two officers attended with the aim of acquiring relevant skills needed to get OC's website going after its development has been left on hold for a while.

"The site has not been updated hence with this training we are hoping to get it out of its current stage and have it updated," said Joycelyn.

The Advanced Investigators training on the other hand was geared toward equipping and sharpening Investigators with skills, especially in identifying issues, conducting in-depth assessment and what information is relevant for use in conducting an investigation.



Tony (third from right) and Joycelyn (right) pictured with the other participants after the Dreamweaver training.

Samuel Moang said they did not only learn new skills but participants also exchanged knowledge and experiences with each other on investigative issues they go through in their own offices.

He said Ombudsman and Leadership Code offices of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are very small and still developing and they look upon OCPNG for inspiration and leadership in tackling some of the most difficult issues.

"The training has sharpened my investigative skills in particular my analytical and organisational skills and I am now able to analyse information and identify them as either information to note or evidence to work upon building a case," said Samuel.

The training has appeared to be very useful to investigators in the kind of work they do.

The Advanced Investigators training was conducted by Peter Edwards and Dr Geoff Airo-Fallah while the Dreamweaver training was conducted by Gaelian Ditchburn with the help of Carolyn Langley and Dan Thomas. All trainers are from the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Australia.

The participants included Ombudsman officers from the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.



Front row (L-R): Judith Waleanisia SI Ombudsman, Samuel Moang OCPNG, Stanley Hook OCPNG and Velma Karabani of Vanuatu Ombudsman with their trainers and the rest of the participants at the Advanced Investigators Training.



## ASAU conducts Leadership Training Workshop in West New Britain



*Councillors from Bialla LLG that participated in the Workshop.*

Representatives from the Ombudsman Commission and Department of Provincial and Local Level Government (LLG) were in Kimbe from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May to conduct an induction on capacity building to the West New Britain LLG leaders.

The Ombudsman Commission hosted and facilitated the training workshop at each of the five LLG's in the Talasea District.

1. Kimbe Urban Local Level Government
2. Talasea Rural Local Level Government
3. Mosa Rural Local Level Government
4. Bialla Rural Local Level Government
5. Hoskin Rural Local Level Government

The workshop aimed to educate the Councillors to better understand the roles and functions of the Ombudsman Commission of PNG. It will help empower them with vital information and skills to perform better in their conduct as elected and appointed leaders and make them aware of their leadership roles and responsibilities

under the Leadership Code.

When officially opening the first day of the workshop, Deputy Provincial Administrator for West New Britain expressed his appreciation of the presence of OCPNG and DPLLGA representatives. He said the training, although not too timely as election is just months away, encouraged councillors to learn to know their roles and responsibilities. He added that when leaders go beyond their roles and responsibilities that is when they fall in the wrong conduct.

A lot of concerns were raised by representatives of the 5 LLGs' over the five days. They generally expressed their appreciation of the Commission's initiative to conduct such a workshop, although a few of the councillors expressed that such training workshop should have been conducted straight after the Local Level Government Elections.

"You coming to our door step is very much appreciated," one councillor said. He added that it was a privilege for many of them because not all of them have the opportunity to attend such workshops held outside Kimbe.

President for Mosa LLG suggested for regular training like this. He said leaders in general do not know their roles and responsibilities.

In addition, President for Hoskins LLG said LLG members are marginalised. He said Provincial Government is a blockage for funds trickling down to LLG and added that with the current attitude, Vision 2050 will not be achieved.

While agreeing, a frustrated councillor said they are prepared to work, however, they are infuriated at the fact that they have not been paid for almost three years. He also expressed concerns about the lack of funding from the Provincial Government to resource LLGs. He said there is total absence of service delivery.

## Ombudsman Nero serves another term in office

From page 1

Ombudsman Nero from Kasena village in the Eastern Highlands Province is an accountant by profession and a member of the Certified Practising Accountants, CPAPNG.

He graduated from the University of Papua New Guinea with a bachelor's degree in Commerce and later a master's degree in business administration

from the Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia.

He had previously worked at the Rural Development Bank (now the National Development Bank), Finance and Planning Department and the Ombudsman Commission holding various senior positions before his appointment as Ombudsman in February 2005.



TRAINING UPDATE

Dreamweaver Training: 2 - 6 May 2011

IT Officer Tony Giro and Media Officer Joycelyn Wasas attended the program in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The program was facilitated by the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance (POA).

Advance Investigations Course: 15 - 21 May 2011

Investigators Samuel Moang from Team 6 CAID and Stanley Hook from Unit 3 Leadership attended the program in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The program was facilitated by the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance (POA).

PNGHRI Professional Development Update/Seminar: 17 May 2011

Human Resource Officers Abigail Wariambu and Augustine Grimbai attended the profession one-day update and seminar at Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The Update was on the *Work Permit Application, Processes & Procedures for Foreign Employment in PNG* which targeted employers who would like to employ foreign nationals to work in PNG. It was presented by the Department of Labour & Industrial Relations.

The Seminar focused on *Developing Your HR Policy in Line with Employment Act in Private Sector Employment* and was presented by the PNGHRI

PNGHRI Professional Development Update/Seminar: 24 May 2011

Human Resources Officers Abigail Wariambu and Bernard Alu attended the professional one-day updated and seminar at Ela Beach Hotel.

The Update was on Salary/Wages Tax Calculation and was presented by IRC.

The Seminar was focused on *Developing a Compliant Employment Contracts in the PNG Private Sector* and was presented by PNGHRI

Food for Thought

THE VALUE OF WORK

You say that you love me,  
but sometimes you don't show it.  
In the beginning,  
you couldn't do enough for me.  
Now you seem to take me for granted.  
Some days I even wonder  
if I mean anything at all to you.

Maybe when I am gone,  
you'll appreciate me  
and all the things that I do for you.  
I'm responsible for getting food on your  
table,  
for your clean shirt,  
for the welfare of your children,  
for the hundreds of things you need.  
Why, if it were not for me,  
you wouldn't even have bus fare.

I've kept quiet and waited to see how  
long it would take for you to realise how  
much you really need me.

Take good care of me  
and I'll take good care of you.

Who am I?  
I am your JOB.

*Work, even school work, is a strange thing.  
When we have work, we complain.  
When we don't have work, we complain even  
more. We spend our whole life working so that  
one day we won't have to work.*

**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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