



# WASDOK NIUS



EYE WITHIN



## March 2012 edition

### Watchdog educates voters



Left: Ombudsman Sangetari seated, Roselyn Pochelep responding to a question by the students and Director Leadership Mathew Damaru awaiting his turn to speak to the Students of Papitalai Secondary School in Manus Province.

In preparation for the 2012 National Election, the Ombudsman Commission conducted a nation-wide awareness program on good leadership qualities. The aim of this exercise is to educate the public to vote for candidates who possess good leadership qualities and candidates who can bring services to benefit the people.

OC teams travelled to different provinces and conducted awareness in towns and districts mainly targeting schools. OC believes that students are future leaders of this country and they need to know good qualities of leadership at an early stage.

The were good feedback from those who attended

including the communities, teachers and students. The common issues raised centred mostly on lack of services reaching the communities; and how the District Support Improvement Program funds a managed at the district level. The people voiced their complains that despite so much money being allocated to the districts, there are barely any development at all.

Some people never heard about OC till awareness teams visited their communities. They thanked the OC for making time out to share with them qualities to look out for in candidates when casting their votes. The awareness was very well received by the participants and it was helpful to make people think carefully on whom to vote for in the coming National Elections.

#### VISION

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

#### MISSION

To promote and foster quality leadership and good governance and strengthen respect for Rule of Law in accordance with Section 218 of the Constitution.

The Ombudsman Commission is committed to (6) fundamental values in all dealings with government bodies, the private sector, members of the public and the leaders.

The values uphold are;

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

[ Ombudsman Commission Strategic Plan 2011– 2015 ]

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# 'It's not realistic to call ENB a model province'

**From page 5**

Indeed the maiden PEP trip to Pomio District after 36 years of OCPNG's existence in NGI Region and based in the province where Pomio is located is great a challenge.

A challenge because it now became common that many Government Bodies including political and appointed leaders have always been claiming that "East New Britain is a model province."

This phrase thus make many us to think that the people of East New Britain are well off in terms provision of basic government services but if fact it is not. Most of the improved infrastructure and social services were centred within one corner and if you like within one group, thus giving better economic advantages over the people of Pomio and as well as the Baining. For the last 36 years the people of Pomio including their brothers and sisters from Baining have been marginalized and left behind in the provisions of basic essential government services and economic development.

Therefore it would not be realistic to claim that East New Britain "is a model province" in terms of provision of basic government services and economic empowerment when the people of Pomio and Baining have not been equally benefiting from such essential basic human services. This is the challenge where OCPNG New Island Regional Office will critical put forward without fear of fear to the East New Britain Provincial Government and Administration in the next PCMC workshop to take ownership and provide equally services to its people.

## editorial

*Welcome to March's edition of  
Wasdok Newsletter*

Hi Readers,

This month's edition is a very interesting one with nearly everyone taking time out to educate voters of good leadership qualities in preparation of the 2012 National Elections.

OC conducted a nation-wide awareness in most of the provinces and it still continues till the first two weeks of April.

We are pleased to bring you stories of some of the awareness trips taken through the month of March.

The awareness programs were applauded by participants saying it would help them choose the right leaders to represent them in parliament and be able to bring services to them.

We will bring you a supplement of the awareness in different provinces that OC has visited. It will be a picture supplement.

Enjoy reading...

**Editor!**

## Welcome aboard!



**Right:** New Legal Officer, Cecilia Kore signing her oath of secrecy while Counsel Emilio looks on.

This month the Commission welcomed yet another officer to join the legal team in Office of Counsel.

Cecilia Kore joined the Commission as legal officer on 5 March 2012. Mrs Kore was working as a research officer with the Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management before joining the Commission

Office of Counsel has been under staffed for a while and finally it now has three new officers including Counsel Emilio and Mr Efi (Legal Officer) who recently joined the Commission in February 2012.

# Ombudsman referred for alleged misconduct in office

The Ombudsman Commission referred Mr John Nero, an Ombudsman and a member of the Commission to the Public Prosecutor for alleged misconduct in office on 16 March 2012.



Ombudsman Nero

Mr Nero's referral arose from allegations including unlawfully claiming leave fares for dependent children who are permanently residing in his home province, Eastern Highlands, thereby breaching SRC Determination G007-07 on Recreation Leave entitlements.

He was alleged to claim leave fares for a dependent child over the age of 18 years. He also failed to declare dependents in three (3) Annual Statements for

the periods 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010.

Mr Nero was issued his right to be heard notice on 19 December 2011 and he responded to the allegation on 8 February 2012.

The Commission deliberated on the matter and is satisfied, for the purposes of Section 29 (1) of the Constitution and Sections 179d0, 20 (4) and 27(1) of the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership (Organic Law), that there is a prima facie case that the Leader has been guilty of misconduct in office.

The Public Prosecutor has the discretion to bring or decline to bring proceedings under the Leadership Code for alleged misconduct in office in accordance with Section 177(1)(b) of the Constitution.

## Ask candidates for Work Plan: Chief Ombudsman

By Catherine Mamui

In it's endeavour to assist people vote good leaders during the 2012 National Elections, the Ombudsman Commission (OC) conducted a week-long election awareness program in Madang Province from 19 - 21 March 2012.

Awareness programs were conducted at Bogia Station, Malala Secondary School, Kubugam Market and Bates Oval in Madang town and during Talkback Show on NBC Madang. Other activities the group was engaged in were putting up posters around Madang town, and distributing as many posters to villagers that the group was able to reach.

Each program started off with the Momase Regional Manager, Mr Allan Barilae going through the 6 qualities of good leadership before allowing the Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek to give his awareness messages.

In Bogia, Chief Ombudsman told public servants and LLG presidents "to assess the candidates carefully before voting for him/her and do not be conned by someone living outside the province and only coming home to the district when it is election time. You must vote for someone who will bring service that will benefit everyone and not just the people who voted for him."

He said that above everything else voters should ask the candidates if he/she has a 5 year Work Plan for his electorate. Chief Ombudsman Manek urged the people not to vote for a candidate that has no Work Plan.

A lot of questions and queries were raised in all venues particularly regarding the use of District Support Grant (DSG) and District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) funds. A question was asked if OC has powers to reduce the MP's five year term to two years. Other queries were on leadership tribunals; and students wanting to know whether they would be given a chance to vote.

Responding to queries, mostly regarding DSG and DSIP funds, Chief Ombudsman Manek reiterated the same message telling the people to forget about handouts and think of community oriented projects that will benefit everyone. He told them that a good leader is someone who will look at these projects and keep good books. He said all districts should have bank accounts for project funds to be deposited into and normally coordinated by the District Administrators.

Chief Ombudsman Manek challenged the people that they do not need overnight money but investment money for schools, health, and infrastructure. He also told the people not to put pressure on the leader as it leads to the leader stealing public money to satisfy individual's requests.

## Your Health & Safety at Workplace

...with Augustine Grimbai

This edition is a continuation of the February OHS and briefly covers information on the three stages in Risk Management Process. These stages include Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control. This edition will cover Hazard Identification.

### Level 2 – Risk Assessment

The second level of risk management process is Risk Assessment or consideration of likelihood or probability that the accident sequence will follow to completion and result in injury or damage. This technique prepares for and facilitates judgement on the acceptability or otherwise of the risk compared to other risks.

Risk assessment will evaluate the identified hazards in terms of level of risk and the degree of existing control over each element. The establishment of risk criteria against which risk levels can be compared is fundamental to ranking of exposures and determining priorities for management action.

### Level 3 – Risk Control

The third level of risk management process is risk control, which involves:

- Identifying the range of options for dealing with the treatment or control of risks
- Evaluating these options  
Preparing risk control plans and implementing them

The range of workplace risk control and reduction measures are listed below in order of preference:

- Design – allows hazards to be designed out; and control measures to be designed in
- Elimination – modification to process method or material to eliminate the hazard completely
- Substitution – replacing the material, substance or process with a less hazardous one
- Redesign – redesigning plant or work processes to reduce or eliminate risk
- Separation – isolating the hazard from persons by safe guarding, or by space or time separation
- Administration – adjusting the time or conditions of risk exposures/probation/training
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – using

## OC participates in PCMC Workshop

By Anthony Champanien

The Commission's New Guinea Islands Regional Office was invited to take part in the Provincial Coordination Monitoring Committee Workshop from 26 – 28 March in East New Britain Province (ENBP). The workshop is part of the current reform process undertaken by the Department of Provincial & Local Level Government Affairs with the respective provincial administrations in the country. One of the main purposes of establishing the Provincial Coordination Monitoring Committee (PCMC) is to assist provincial administrations to foster networking with the national government bodies/agencies established their respective provinces.

OC was invited to attend this workshop as one of the national bodies established in ENBP. ENB is one of the few provinces that are now moving into this direction to create networking and partnering with the national agencies to provide improved and better service to its people. It was during this workshop that many of participants from the national bodies realised the importance of networking and partnering, as a tool to share information and resources that could better serve the people of the host province.

On the first and second days the national agencies were asked to present the brief of each of their respective organisation particularly the structure, main roles and functions and kind of services each of us provide to the people. OC was one such who made a 150-minute presentation and was included into one of seven sub-committees form by the organiser, the East New Britain Provincial Administration.

OC was included in the sub-committee called Compliance, Monitoring and Regulations together with the following National Agencies; Department of Treasury, Department of National Planning & Monitoring, Department of Labour & Industrial Relations, Internal Revenue Commission, Electoral Commission, PNG Customs, NAQIA and ICCC.

This sub-committee is led by PNG Customs. Participants have identified certain issues in the province and they have put in a work plan and submitted it to PCMC. Networking has already started and by next year participants should put the plan into operation. The main areas indentified to monitor in the province by the sub-committee are; logging sites, 4 districts, wholesales and retailers where the committee claims that there many illegal activities happening in these locations. Mainly illegal foreigners, especially Chinese citizens doing business bypassing the set laws of our country and this is evident in Pomio as you can read on the separate story by NGI Regional Office in this edition of the Wasdok News letter.



appropriate designed and properly fitting equipment where other controls are not practicable.

*Next edition will continue with Risk Control especially the application of the above risk control and reduction measures and the potential consequences posed. Enjoy reading this column.*

# OC visits Pomio District for the first time

By Anthony Champanien

Pomio is one of the four districts in East New Britain Province and it is the least developed when one wishes to make comparisons with its other sister districts of Rabaul, Kokopo and Gazelle. Pomio has five Local Level Governments (LLGs) and it has the biggest landmass and a wide-spread population compared to the other three. The people of Pomio are slightly different from the Tolais and Baining. Their physical features and cultural beliefs are more connected with the people of West New Britain Province. For example if one listens carefully to the traditional songs and beat of the kundu drums by the Pomios and compare that generally with the people of West New Britain Province, it is very similar. They also have strong cultural connections with the Baining people which are also a different ethnic group in East New Britain Province. The only means of transportation for ordinary people of Pomio is by sea using ships, and dinghies. On many occasions some have lost their lives in the sea. There are two airlines flying into Jacquinotte Bay Airstrip once in a week but it is only for Lihir workers and Rubanan Hijau (RH) employees currently engaged in the SABL project.

The people of Pomio are slightly different from the Tolais and Baining

OCPNG visited Pomio District for the first time from 17–28 February 2012. The Commission officers aboard MV Van Mak Tobby, a ship owned by the younger brother of the Governor of New Ireland Province, Honourable Sir Julius Chan on Friday 17 February at 4:30pm in Rabaul Wharf. This ship provides its services all the way to Kandria/Glouster District in West New Britain Province once every week. Messrs Champanien and Matalau spent a night on the ship and arrived at Palmalmal Station, the district's headquarter on Saturday 18 February at around 1:00pm. The officers checked in at Koki Women's Guest House, a business arm of Pomio District Women's Association. It is a very quiet and peaceful place. The Guest House is located at the beachfront and right in the centre of the district's headquarter.

headquarters of Pomio on the other side at Pomio Village.

OC Officers kicked off Public Education Program (PEP) on Sunday 19 February after attending the church service with the Catholic congregations at Talie Village at the fringes of the district headquarters. During the duration of our trip we conducted awareness with the following groups; the District Management Team headed by the District Administrator, Mr. Pomaleu Langisan who is from Manus Province, the general public servants, 3 primary schools and Palmalmal High School's students and teachers, health workers of Palmalmal Rural Hospital and three village communities. The last awareness was conducted on Sunday 26 February at Manginuna Village along the road leading to the current SABL project site. In this maiden trip we collected more than 50 complaints from the people. These complaints are both individual and general complaints.

The visiting Commission officers were highly commended during the maiden visit but also challenged OCPNG to make more visits to Pomio. Most of them requested that the next visits be conducted to the respective five LLGs in this disadvantage district for OCPNG to really see and experience how the people are suffering from lack of basic government services for a long-time. We took note of their concerns and comments and assured them that in the Commission's next visits, officers will visit the five LLGs, particularly in the inland areas bordering with West New Britain. This is to get a real experience and see for ourselves how the people are suffering in the Nakanai Mountain Ranges from lack of basic essential government services.

Some notable general concerns and observations gathered during the visit were; lack of infrastructures that has denied Palmalmal Station to have connection with the other three districts of East New Britain Province in the last 36 years, lack of constant electricity supply to public servants of the district headquarters, lack of punctuality and attendance of public servants in the district, illegal foreign citizens residing and operating business in the district some alleged of collaborating with the provincial and national authorities, non completion of Palmalmal Station market, harassments and intimidations of landowners by police in the SABL project area, and sub-standard buildings constructed for Palmalmal Rural Hospital and Palmalmal High School by a Chinese Company called China Jiangshu International.

Particularly for issues illegal foreigners, mainly the Chinese citizens we humbly request they could provide their passport and visas for us to sight and learnt that they do not have such important documents on hand. We further learnt that they could not speak and write in English and even the other national languages of Tok Pidgin and Motu. After our visit we made an appointment to meet with the provincial administration to bring their attention the general concerns and observations but the Provincial Administrator is still away in Singapore for medical check, thus prolonged the meeting. We discussed briefly with the Acting Provincial Administrator, Mr. Levi

The only means of transportation for the people of Pomio is by sea using sea ships and dinghies.

Mano during the Provincial Coordinating Monitoring Committee (PCMC) work-

shop that NGI Regional Office was invited and attended two weeks ago but he advised that we should meet with the incumbent;

Mr. Akuila Tubal when he resumes duty to further discussed the issues. Most of these general issues were also registered in the Wasdok CMS and Kokopo Office is now in the process of drafting letters to the respective Government Bodies.

Continued on page 2...

# Mould children to be good citizens: Fr Maka

The Ombudsman Commission successfully conducted awareness in Manus Province from 27 - 29 March 2012. This is part of the Commission's nationwide awareness program on good leadership qualities in preparation for the upcoming 2012 national elections.

The Commission sees the need to educate the public in order to vote leaders that have good leadership qualities and leaders who can bring services that would benefit the people.

The Commission is targeting secondary schools and tertiary institutions because it believes that the students are future leaders of this nation. Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari who was part of the team to Manus said students need to be equipped with good leadership qualities so that when they get into the workforce or become leaders, they would do the right thing.

Ombudsman Sangetari when speaking to the public at the Lorengau main market said the people have the power to make a difference through their votes. She challenged the people to observe



*Fr Dominic Maka making his comments during the awareness at Lorengau main market.*

intending candidates with an open mind and choose good leaders to parliament who will bring services to them.

Fr Dominic Maka, Dean of Lorengau Diocese was very supportive of the Commission's initiative and said parents have a responsibility to mould their children to be good citizens in the community. Fr Maka further stated that to be a good country we have to start from our nuclear families. He said if a mother or father is able to manage a family, we can be rest assured that he or she would be able to manage the country.

Awareness programs in Manus were conducted at Papitalai Secondary School, Manus Secondary School, Ecom Secondary School, Tingou LLG, Lorengau main market and also a talkback show on NBC Manus as well as talking to public servants.

The Commission has already done similar awareness programs in most provinces which involved Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek and Ombudsman John Nero. It will be covering the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, New Ireland, Western and Central Provinces as well by mid April 2012.



Seen left is one of the team on awareness program. The team conducted awareness in Kokoda, Oro Bay, Vudal University, Tufi and Wanigela in Oro Province.

**Left:** Julie Menei, Darusilla Wame, Gerega Asisi, Veronica Kumasan and John ToRobert ready to go to the next location, Wanigela in Oro Province.

# In case u fall victim....with Allan Barilae

It was Wednesday 21 March 2012 and at around 4:30 pm.

After the day's Leadership Awareness Program I was at the famous Krangket Market in Madang together with the Chief Ombudsman. I also bought some fruits from the main market which I shared with the Chief at Krangket Market.

Chief and I were conversing, when John Gemb and the team arrived heading straight to a lady vendor to buy soft drinks. John handed the lady a K50-00 note to pay for the three (3) drinks. While John was waiting to have his change back, the lady asked John to pay for the drinks. The exchanges of words caught the Chief's attention and asked what was happening. Realising what may have happened, I said; "the lady vendor is asking John to pay for the drinks and John is insisting that he has given K50 and waiting for his change." In the process, I saw the lady vendor emptying her purse to confirm that she has only received a K50-00 from a highlands man who bought drinks from her.

**But John calmly told her to keep it as she needs it more than he does.**

John shook hands with the lady vendor and asked for her forgiveness and we drove back to the hotel. John's afternoon was spoilt by the incident. The next day after the day's program, we went back to Krangket market for our favourites. The lady vendor called John over and they shook hands. She admitted that she had made a mistake and wanted to return the K50-00 to John. But John calmly told her to keep it as she needs it more than he does.

Good on you John!

For those officers visiting Madang in the future



**Left:** Allan Barilae, John Gemb and Ephraim Manhi stops for refreshment at a road side market. They were heading back to Lae city after conducting awareness at the Umi market in Morobe Province. Both Mr Barilae and Mr Gemb continued to Madang Province for the awareness.

and want to buy from Krangket market, take note. This lady vendor sits under the mango tree next to the boat stop. She specialises in selling soft drinks. She is short and fat with ginger hair, and has a high pitched tone voice.

Don't end up with a scenario as in the case of John Gemb and give in to this lady vendor to profit out of you.

You have been warned!



*John Gemb is all worn out after a long drive up to Bulolo from Lae. He wishes he could go to sleep in this haus-win at Pine Lodge in Bulolo but too bad, there is still work to do.!*



Left: Director Leadership Mathew Damaru, Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek far left and radio host Lahui Lovai going live on FM100. The OC team including Ombudsman Sangetari talked about good leadership qualities on FM100’s Community Corner program aiming to reach listeners far and wide the country.



Students of Hengonofi Secondary School comfortably seated on the lawn and are in full concentration during the awareness.

# Did you know?

The main function of the Ombudsman Commission is to...



...investigate complaints alleging wrong conduct by government departments, statutory authorities and other governmental bodies



...investigate discriminatory practices



...enforce and administer the Leadership Code. In PNG we expect our leaders to have high standards. The Leadership Code is a strict code of conduct to guide leaders so that everyone in the country can benefit from their work.



From time to time to time the Ombudsman Commission brings matters to the attention of the Supreme Court for legal interpretation.

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