



# WASDOK NIUS



## October 2012 edition

### Chief Ombudsman Manek dies

The Ombudsman Commission and Papua New Guinea has lost a great leader who was in the forefront in the fight against corruption in the country. Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek passed away after a long illness in his home at Korobosea in Port Moresby on 1 October 2012. He had been ill since April this year and sought treatment overseas.



*Late Chief Ombudsman Chronox Dopeke Manek*

(IAACA). He was a member of the Papua New Guinea Law Society as well. Attorney General and Member for Sinasina-Yagomugl Kerengua Kua described him as a people's man. Late Manek dedicated his life serving the people right to the end. Thanks to his family and the people of Wambangan village of Boana District in Morobe Province for giving PNG such a leader. Mr Kua said late Manek's passing is

Late Chief Ombudsman Manek had a distinguished career. He held Constitutional Offices including Public Solicitor, Public Prosecutor of PNG and Chief Ombudsman until he met his fate. He was into his 5<sup>th</sup> year in Office when he succumbed to illness and passed away. Late Manek is the first serving Chief Ombudsman in the history of PNG to pass away during his term in Office.

In the course of his career late Manek was involved with a number of organisations both in country and abroad notably Co-Chairman of the International Association of Prosecutors World Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark; Director Asia Crime Prevention and Foundation; Director of the International Ombudsman Institute; Vice-Chairman of the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance and Executive Committee of the International Association of Ant-Corruption Authorities

a great loss to PNG and the world especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Late Manek hailed from Wambangan village of Boana District in Morobe Province. He held a Masters of Laws Degree from the University of Melbourne, Australia and a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea.

Late Manek was a prominent Papua New Guinean leader who fought tirelessly to minimize corruption. He was described as a very down to earth leader who came down to the lowest level. Late Manek is a great loss to his family, friends, colleagues and PNG as a whole. The Commission will greatly miss his leadership.

He is survived by his wife Vagi, children Sangrima, Emma, Mary, brother Buris and sister Lina. His body was laid to rest in Lae, Morobe Province.

#### 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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# LLG members privileged to learn process of writing project proposals

The Local Level Government (LLG) members of Angoram District in East Sepik Province were privileged to learn the process involved in project proposals.

Solomon Hakava of the Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD) when going through the process of writing proposals told the leaders; "This exercise can be very costly but I am going to help you write it for free." Mr Hakava assisted the leaders write a sample project proposal of a classroom in the Keram LLG.



*LLG members listening attentively as Mr Hakava takes them through the process involved in writing project proposals.*

A copy of the sample project was given to the Karawari LLG Manager John Kambak to print and provide copies to the members for future use.

The DIRD presentation cleared minds of most leaders on the processes involved in having funds allocated to intended projects. Mr Hakava explained the processes involved in public funds such as the District Support Improvement Project fund and the District Services Grant. It was gathered in the training that more than half of the leaders did not understand the government system. This is a contribution to no proper planning resulting in non-funding of some of the projects. It is because the projects planned are not in line with the district, provincial and national plans. This is one reason development is not penetrating to the village level.

Mr Hakava also stressed the importance of acquitting for public funds. The submission of acquittal to the DIRD is to show how public funds were used in order to get new funding. DIRD officers are sent to the ground to verify the project that was funded. He gave an example on the difficulties faced by some new Members of Parliament in trying to secure funding. It is complicated to get funding because their electorates have outstanding acquittals by the former members.

## editorial

*Welcome to October's edition of  
Wasdok Newsletter*

In this issue, we bring you stories covering a whole lot of happenings during the month.

We started the month of October with sad news and ended on a sad note as well. OCPNG lost its Chief Ombudsman on 1 October and towards the end of the month, it also lost its Counsel to the Commission.

A supplement covering Chief's funeral program and LLG Capacity Building Workshop in Rabaul District of East New Britain Province is coming out soon.

You will also read about Ms Sangetari's acting appointment as Chief Ombudsman and other stories.

Enjoy reading,  
**Editor**



# Angoram LLG members attend capacity building workshop

The Local Level Government members and presidents of Angoram in East Sepik Province for the first time went through training. The Ombudsman Commission with one of its stakeholders, Department of Implementation and Rural Development conducted a Capacity Building Workshop from 15 – 19 October 2012 in Angoram District.

The workshop was aimed at educating the leaders of their roles and responsibilities. It covered five LLGs including Angoram, Keram, Karawari, Yuat and Marienberg in the district. A total of 86 LLG councillors and presidents out of 158 attended the workshop.



*LLG members in full concentration to the workshop facilitators from OC and DIRD*

The members were very appreciative of the workshop saying it was the first time they were given such training. They said OC is doing a great job by going right through to the district level to educate the leaders.

However, the leaders were not happy with the department responsible for them, Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs (DPLLGA) for their unavailability in the workshop to hear some of their queries. One of the pressing issues was the non payment of members' allowances.

The LLG leaders raised complaints that payment of their allowances has been inconsistent and some have not received anything at all. They asked OC officers to relay some of the issues raised to the appropriate government bodies to address.

Another issue raised was that the councillors felt that they were useless claiming that they were not involved in the development process in the district.

James Ngune, a Senior Investigator in the OC Leadership Division in his presentation on the Leadership Code, emphasised on the importance of the leaders in the positions that they occupy as councillors. Mr Ngune told the members that they are elected leaders just like the Members of Parliament. "The people look upon you as leaders and your conduct has to be proper," he said. He challenged the leaders to perform their duties diligently. They were urged to use the Ward Development Plan/Committee to attract resource distribution into their communities.

Timothy Wrumongo, a Team Leader in the Complaints Division talked on the roles & functions of the Commission and touched briefly on the work of the DPLLGA. When responding to questions raised regarding Angoram District not seeing much development after Papua New Guinea's 30 years of independence, Mr Wrumongo urged the leaders to forget the past and participate meaningfully in decision making to bring much needed government services to the people in the coming years.



*As a token of appreciation, the LLG presidents of the five LLGs in the Angoram District presented Sepik baskets to the officers of the OC and DIRD after the workshop. Seen in this picture is Mr Wrumongo receiving baskets from LLG president of Marienberg while Mr Ngune looks on.*

## SANGETARI PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE MANEK

Mr Manek was an inspiring leader and a man of integrity who was dedicated and committed to his work. He fought tirelessly against crime and corruption and for the human rights of the ordinary people and lead by example. These were the words of acting Chief Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari when paying tribute to her colleague, the late Chief Ombudsman Mr Chronox Manek during the funeral service in Port Moresby on 9 October 2012.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari said the late Manek performed his duties in the various Constitutional Offices he held including the Public Prosecutor and Chief Ombudsman without fear or favour. He was a mentor to many aspiring young lawyers and an inspiring and courageous leader to those who worked with him.

Late Manek was a 'big man' with a big title yet so humble, very accessible, compassionate and generous. He was passion-

ate about educating the young people about good leadership and good governance because they would be the future leaders of PNG and need to be aware of these issues. He regularly attended TIPNG's Annual Youth Camp to talk to student leaders from schools around the country that were brought together at the camp.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari added that during late Manek's term as the Chief Ombudsman, he encouraged prayer and fellowship in the Commission for us to draw inner spiritual strength and guidance from God to be able to carry out the work required of us in the Commission. He always reminded the Members of Commission (MOC) and officers of OCPNG that the institution belonged to the people of PNG and that MOC and the officers were only custodians taking care of this Office to serve the interest of the people of PNG.

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## Counsel to the Commission passes on

The Ombudsman Commission (OC) has suffered yet another blow in the passing of another critical personnel required by law in its overall operational structure. Three weeks after the late Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek passed away, the Commission lost its Counsel to the Commission late Gregory Oaego Emilio to a short illness on 25 October 2012.

Late Counsel Emilio started work with the Commission in February this year and has been occupying the position of Counsel for a period of eight months until his death. He had applied for the position of Counsel on two occasions when it was advertised. His first attempt was unsuccessful as another candidate, Vergil Narokobi was appointed to the position. Late Emilio did not give up easily with his pursuit to work for the OC hence when the position was vacant after Mr Narokobi moved on, he applied again. Late Emilio was shortlisted and eventually appointed as the Counsel to the Commission.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari recalled when late Emilio signed the Oath of Secrecy he stated that he was ready to take on the task of Counsel and had been ready three years ago to do the job. Late Emilio thanked the Members of the Commission (MOC) for giving him the opportunity to serve in the Office as he believed in the principles and values that the OC stood for.

"The Counsel's position is very critical to the operation of the Commission as that is the clearing room for matters or decisions to be signed-off by the three MOC and late Emilio was

aware of the huge responsibility placed on him as Counsel," said Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari.

Late Emilio passed away four days before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and he was from Lalaura village in the Marshall Lagoon of Central Province.

His family described him as a very brilliant person. Late Emilio topped his Grade 10 class in the late 70s and won a National Scholarship to do Matriculation Studies at UPNG while the others went to National High School to do grades 11 & 12 in the early 80s. After successfully completing his studies he was admitted to undertake Laws Degree program and continued to the Legal Training Institute (LTI).

He was awarded the LTI prize for best researched paper.

Late Emilio had vast experience as a lawyer both in the private and public sectors, one of which, was his appointment as the General Manager of PNG Harbours Board now PNG Ports. He was very much involved in the initial discussions and formulation of plans for the privatization of Harbours Board.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari thanked late Emilio's family for sharing his life with the Commission for a brief period as he carried out his work as Counsel to the Commission. She said late Emilio's death is not only a loss to his immediate family and the people of Lalaura and Marshall Lagoon area and the legal fraternity but also a loss to the Commission.



## Woman Ombudsman appointed acting Chief Ombudsman



**Top:** Ms Phoebe Sangetari signing the Declaration of Office as Acting Chief Ombudsman before the Governor General of Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Sir Michael Ogio.



**Top:** Second left, Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari and next to her (third left) is the Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio flanked with OCPNG officers in a photo session after the signing of Declaration of Office.

Following the death of the late Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek, woman Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari has been appointed to act on the position.

Ms Sangetari was sworn in as the Acting Chief Ombudsman by the Governor General of Papua New Guinea (PNG), His Excellency Sir Michael Ogio on 10 October 2012.

In a press conference held after Ms Sange-tari signed the Declaration of Office as Acting Chief Ombudsman, she reassured PNG that she would carry on the work of the late Chief Ombudsman Manek.

Ms Sangetari told journalists that just because she is a woman does not mean she is incapable of leading the OCPNG. She said she would perform her duties in a manner that the late Chief Ombudsman Manek would have done.

Ms Sangetari added that her acting appointment was a plus to the womenfolk of this nation. Women of PNG are seen breaking barriers holding senior management positions in both the public service and private sector today.

She was appointed to act as the Chief Ombudsman earlier in the year however, the appointment expired on 15 July and she returned to her substantive position as Ombudsman.

Ms Sangetari is a lawyer by profession and is from Oro Province. She becomes the first woman Ombudsman to have gone as far as being appointed acting Chief Ombudsman. Never in the past has a woman Ombudsman been appointed to the post of Chief Ombudsman or acting Chief Ombudsman in the history of PNG.

Her appointment as acting Chief Ombudsman expires in December 2012.

**Congratulation!**

# PAU students educated on the importance of OCPNG

By *Anthonia Joy Kema*

One of several issues highlighted by students of the Pacific Adventist University outside of Port Moresby at a recent PEP organised by the R&ER Division was the importance to distinguish the role of the Ombudsman Commission of PNG and that of the Task Force Sweep, an operation sanctioned by the government.

This concern was raised by a student after Director, Regions & External Relations Nao Virobo made a presentation on the roles and functions of the Commission.

Director Virobo clarified that the Task Force Sweep is an initiative of the Government and its aim among other things is to investigate serious allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the country.



*Students and staff of PAU listening attentively to Director Virobo's presentation on the roles and functions of the OCPNG.*

"There is no issue of duplication of responsibilities as they perform distinctly different roles," he added.

Other issues raised by the students included the status of the Maladina Amendments to the Leadership Code, OCPNG authority to investigate Discriminatory Practices at work places and its effectiveness over the last 37 years after its birth or creation by the Constitution.

The visit to PAU is part of GBLP's Public Education Plan to promote good governance and quality leadership that will ultimately lead to efficient service delivery among students as they will be future leaders of this country.

Hundreds of students and staff including the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Ben Thomas and Director Student Services, Pastor Thomas Davai attended this meeting that was held at the PAU Chapel.

Educational materials on the OCPNG were also disseminated.

Our team for the day included Team Leaders Lydia Mulina, Laniet Tokiala, Gerega Asisi who were ably supported by Senior Investigator Samuel Moang, Miriam Wawe, Logistics' Ricky Nelson and Anthonia Joy Kema.

## Thank you family for the support given to Chief Ombudsman Manek

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"During his illness, he was very prayerful. Each time I visited him at the Pacific International Hospital in Port Moresby and in Cairns where he was medivac, he asked that I pray with him before I leave," acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari said. He was prepared for the life after death.

She thanked late Manek's family for the support they have given to him during his term as the 5<sup>th</sup> Chief Ombudsman of PNG. "We acknowledge the sacrifices you have made as a family to allow late Chief Ombudsman to perform his duties in Office in the manner that he did – working long hours. We are grateful to you," acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari said.

She challenged everyone to continue on the legacy left behind by late Chief Ombudsman Manek in the fight against crime and corruption which is eating into every fabric of the society and to safeguard the rights of the ordinary people for a better PNG.



# VOICE BOX

## What did you learn from this Capacity Building Training?

The Capacity Building Training Workshop for LLG Leaders is conducted annually to different LLGs around the country. It is facilitated by the Annual Statement and Assessment Unit (ASAU) under the Leadership Division of the Ombudsman Commission. Let us read what some of the Ward Members in the Rabaul District in East New Britain Province have to say on the training they received on the roles and responsibilities of leaders at the third level of government covered by the Leadership Code.



Joyce Tomaing,  
Ward 15 Councillor  
Rabaul Urban LLG

This training has enhanced my knowledge. I have come to realise that most of the information presented to us seemed new to our ears but these are things we should be knowledgeable about as ward members. I appreciate the Department of Rural Development and Implementation representatives for clarifying to us that “yes” large sums of money is injected to the districts of which we

are not aware of. Rabaul was destroyed by the volcano eruption in 1994 and we want to rebuild the district. We have plans to rebuild but we are always told *there is no money, wait*. Even requesting for the grader to scrape the volcano dust off the road, we are told *no money*. This training has brought to light many things. This clearly shows that there is corrupt practice at the District Office. We have never heard of the *DSIP Project Proposal Form* since its existence in 2007. Even our Town Mayor has never seen it.



John Milapapa  
Deputy President  
Balanataman LLG

Councillors always long for training so that we know our roles and functions in order to carry out our tasks responsibly. This is the first time we are having training like this and we really appreciate your coming. Capacity building at the third level of government is very important because this is where the bulk of the population live. The people look to us to implement projects at our level and when this is not done they lose

interest in us. The bottom up planning does not seem to work because there is a bottle neck somewhere along the service delivery line. On the other hand, we lose interest on our path as leaders because we are not remunerated properly. We are paid K50.00 each month. There is no reason why we should not be paid well because we are elected using the same process as the national leaders.



Samson Ma'ang  
Ward Councillor  
Talvat/Sikut  
Kombiu LLG

We are very thankful for this initiative by the Ombudsman Commission and Department of Rural Development and Implementation to come and educate us. The presentations have inspired us and also raised a lot of issues that are affecting us as LLG members. We request that you come again straight after the elections next year. I have observed and so as my other

colleagues that a lot of projects came up during the time of the National Elections.

We request other strategic partners like Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs to come together with this team. We have so many issues affecting us at the LLG level hence that is the department that's responsible for the answers to our problems.



Manu Tovue  
A/Ward Councillor  
Taranata  
Watom LLG  
Women's Representative

This is a real opportunity for me to attend this capacity building training. We always want to attend this kind of workshops to enhance our knowledge. Many of us do not have the capacity in terms of understanding national development planning and implementation documenting. Thank you to the Ombudsman Commission and the Department of Rural Development and Implementation. We are grateful we have learnt the difference of DSIP Funds and the Constitutional Grants.

As the women's representative in the community, there are no benefits to women at LLG level. This is the first time we are having this sort of workshop.