



WASDOK NIUS



EYE WITHIN



September 2012 edition



Ninth Parliament Induction ... North Bougainville MP Louta Atoi and West New Britain Governor Sasindran Muthuvel signing their Acknowledgement Forms prepared by the Ombudsman Commission's Annual Statement & Assessment Unit. Read more on page 3.

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]

Youth against corruption

More than one hundred students from the University of Papua New Guinea, Sogeri National High School and others around the Nation's Capital attended the fourth Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA) Forum at UPNG on 1 September 2012.

'Good Governance – Key to Sustainable Development' was the theme of the forum.

Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari when speaking to the participants said both Good Leadership and Good Governance must go hand in hand to produce sustainable development. She said if we get leadership right than governance issues will be taken care of.

While agreeing, President for YACA UPNG Eden Koti said one of the main problems currently faced by tertiary students in finding jobs is the act of favouritism and wantokism practiced in the workforce.

Ombudsman Sangetari responded saying there are already established guidelines, processes and procedures in place in the system of government. She added that if organisations do not follow these systems in place than they are bound to encourage corruption to creep in.

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Youth refuse to practice corruption

FROM PAGE 1

Ombudsman Sangetari said the Ombudsman Commission in its 2010-2015 Strategic Plan has awareness programs targeting young people in primary, secondary schools or tertiary institutions. She explained that this is the generation to talk to about the difficulties our country is going through because of corruption.

Corruption is not new to PNG and the excitement shown by these students is encouraging.

Mr Eden Koti said the YACA members refuse to practice corruption and rejects the attitudes that support and



allow corruption to happen. He added that the students are empowered by this group to express their concerns freely.

They are also committed to fighting corruption in order to achieve

- Good quality leaders
- Positive change in the everyday lives of PNG citizens through the changing of oneself
- To give youth a voice and the opportunity to be heard and; To lead positive community activities and services.

YACA was set up in 2002 by Fr. John Glynn at Jubilee Catholic Secondary School. Over the years it was introduced to other schools in the National Capital. It is essentially a membership based organisation that is run by youth who are committed to fight against corruption in oneself and rejecting the attitudes that support corruption as well.

YACA is supported by TIPNG.



editorial

*Welcome to August's edition of
Wasdok Newsletter*

In this issue read about the Commission's participation at the 9th National Parliament Members' induction program. Ombudsman Nero and Ombudsman Sangetari talked on the Leadership Code and its consequences.

Also, read about young people forming a group called Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA). YACA members have a Prayer and Pledge that they say everyday to help remind them to reject the attitudes that support and allow corruption.

Apart from Commission business, the OC ladies' enjoy a monthly get-together that seen as a positive way for women folks to share common interests and experiences with each other. This month, one colleague shares her experience with one of PNG's first prominent woman Late Dame Rose Kekedo. Read story on Pg .4

Happy reading

Editor

New MPs appreciate the work of OC

This special role defined under Section 219(d) of the *Constitution* is the most important function of the Ombudsman Commission and it relate to the enforcement of the leadership code prescribed under Sections 26-31 of the *Constitution*. The was made known to the Members of Parliament by Ombudsman John Nero during the 9th National Parliament Members' Induction Program held at the Parliament State Function Room in Port Moresby on 24 August 2012.



Ombudsman John Nero

Ombudsman Nero stressed that it was important to note that even in the exercise of its functions under this special role of enforcing the Leadership Code, the Ombudsman Commission is required by Section 25(4) of the *Constitution* to take the National Goals and Directive Principles fully into account in all cases as appropriate when investigating, referring and prosecuting matters under this jurisdiction.

During his presentation, he told the MPs present that the leadership code is a stringent code of conduct both ethical and moral on the part of the leader and much is expected from him or her in his or her conduct both in public and private.

“In fact the tone, style, mood and rhythm of the country’s development or the lack of it depend on how our leaders conduct themselves overall”, Ombudsman Nero said. He added that it is critically important for MPs being at the cream and at the apex of the Leadership strata.

With the current socio-economic situation the country is in, we cannot afford to have our leaders’ misconduct themselves. The People expect us to set proper standards of leadership.

Ombudsman Nero challenged the newly elected MPs that as leaders we have to ensure that we look after our conduct as leaders very dutifully and carefully each day.

Newly elected Governor for Oro, Gary Juffa told those pre-

sent that the 9th Parliament wants to be a vibrant Parliament. He said we do not want to tie the hands and legs of the Ombudsman Commission; hence, we want to embrace you for the sake of our people. He added that power should be given to OC to prosecute.

In response, Ombudsman Nero said OC does not want to interfere with the roles and responsibilities of the leaders. However, it is left to them to critically think and make their decision.

“We really appreciate this presentation”, said another new MP. He said we always looked at OC as our enemy but this presentation has made me to realize the importance of this body.

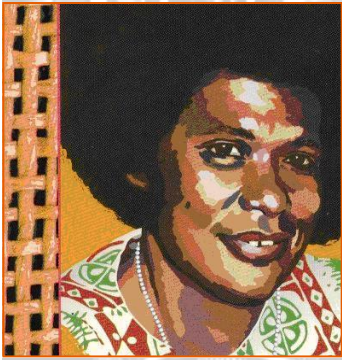
New officers go through Induction

New officers of the Commission including two from the regional offices have gone through a three-day induction program from 26-28 September 2012.

Ombudsman John Nero in his opening remarks told the inductees that induction is not just another exercise but it is important for the purpose of inducting new officers in the culture and work ethics of the organisation. Induction also determines officers’ permanency.

Ombudsman Nero added that officers should have pride in the work of the Commission because it has a special function. He urged them to see the organisation in a bigger picture and always have the people in mind. He said officers are stewards by delegation of the Commission for the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Ombudsman Nero stressed that officers should always think about the unfortunate ones in the remote parts of PNG in their work. He also challenged presenters in the induction to understand what they would talk about in their presentations.



An ordinary Woman with Extraordinary records

The OC ladies' monthly get-together is seen as a positive way for women folks to share common interests and experiences with each other.

The theme for this month was *'Development of Women in PNG after 37 Years of Independence'*.

It was interesting to hear from Mrs Lydia Mulina of her experience while a student at the University of Papua New Guinea with the Late Dame Rose Kekedo.

"During my university days Dame Rose was one of the council members of the University of Papua New Guinea before becoming the Chancellor" Mrs Mulina said.

"She was a mentor and an inspiration to me as a young woman then and she has made a lot of difference in many PNG womens' lives during her life time. She was one of the first PNG women who broke traditional/cultural barriers and paved the way for women after her to excel", Mrs Mulina said.

Even though she held a high position then, she would bring herself down to an ordinary woman and associate with them especially during sports. I remember during a softball training match, she walked up to me and held my hand up with the bat and said, "You can do it, left hand people are hard to beat". She was a very determined woman.

Dame Rose and a few other successful professional women in Papua New Guinea overcame prejudice and gained professional eminence in a male dominated society after independence.

She died at the age of 63 leaving behind a proud legacy, of hardwork and undivided attention to community development. She had exercised values of generosity, fairness and accountability. She was involved in the Kikori airport redevelopment project since 2001 as project manager. But due to her illness, she worked only on part time basis until May 2004. She was involved with Young Women's Christian Association, St John's Association for the Blind and

also in sports especially in softball. She also served on boards of institutions in the education sector.

After teaching in primary schools for four years, she was appointed to Port Moresby Teachers College as an assistant lecturer. In 1975, she was appointed principal of the college, becoming the first Papua New Guinean to be appointed and the first woman to head a national department.

During the crucial independent period, from 1974 to 1976, she was also President of the PNG Teacher's Association, and in 1979 was appointed to the Teacher's Services Commission.

Then in 1980, this woman who had achieved so much in record time was invited to become the first PNG woman to head a government department, as Secretary for the Department of Community and Family Services, and in 1982 as Secretary of the vitality important Department of Labour and Employment. Later in her life, she was appointed as the first female Chancellor of UPNG. In 1983, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Technology by the University of Technology and in 1986; she received an Honorary Doctor of Education award from UPNG.

Dame Rose was of mixed Milne Bay and Central Province parentage. She was born in 1942 in Abau where her father worked as a clerk with the district administration and her mother Mary was a teacher. The family moved to Kokoda in Northern Province when she was three years old and built their home. Her mum, Mary set up a school in the area and was actively involved in helping women improve their lives. She was second eldest in a family of 10 children, six girls and four boys. She was never married but raised three nephews and a niece.

Dame Rose was knighted by the Queen in 1995 for her contribution to education and the community. Her mother, Dame Mary was knighted in 1987 for services to the community and her sister Jean was awarded Order of British Empire (OBE) for services to the public service. Interestingly, Jean was also the first Papua New Guinean female Ombudsman.



Pic by JGemb

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* Pic by JMenei

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