



WASDOK NIUS



EYE WITHIN



March 2013 edition



Vote a good leader in the upcoming LLG election in June... More than 3000 people gathered at Baiyer station to welcome their local MPs to announce the restoration of the Baiyer Zoo in Western Highlands Province. OC's team Western Highlands took advantage of the occasion and carried out the 2013 LLG pre-election awareness.

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]

OC kicks off its 2013 pre-election awareness

The Ombudsman Commission has kicked off its 2013 nationwide pre-election awareness prior to the 2012 National Elections and the previous elections.

The Commission commenced conducting awareness programs in Western Highlands, Milne Bay, East Sepik and West New Britain provinces.

Officers in the Leadership Division with the assistance of a couple of officers in other divisions carried out the LLG awareness covering most parts of each province within two weeks.

The awareness drive is a similar exercise that the Commission carried out across the country

The aim of the exercise is to educate eligible voters of qualities and values of good leadership in order for them to make the best choice when they cast their votes. It will also make intending candidates and the public aware of the duties and responsibilities of leadership.

You will read in separate stories the experience from various teams that conducted the awareness in each province.

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Director Leadership leaves OC

While people still have different views and different ideas resulting in no job satisfaction, Ombudsman Commission sees one of its office director's Mr. Mathew Damaru leave.

Mr Damaru has resigned from the commission to join his former employer the PNG Royal Constabulary to be the Anti-Fraud Director.

Without fear or favour, he said OC is mandated to serve the people of Papua New Guinea. He added that there should be integrity to serve the interest of the people and encouraged fellow directors to keep working hard for the commission.

When recapping on the time prior to Damaru joining the Commission, Acting Chief Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari recalled that the leadership division always worked in isolation and having its officers work with intimidation.

Mr. Damaru came in with a new management style that transformed the working environment. He wasn't loud but he had a great impact by bringing about transparency within the division. Officers were free to discuss issues affecting them either it be personal or business related. While agreeing, Acting Chief Ombudsman said Mr Damaru changed the way of conduct in the Leadership Division and although he was here short term, he made a big impact.

The parting advice he left is cooperation and teamwork. and recognising the value of every team member will always keep you in a good stead.

editorial

*March edition of
Wasdok Newsletter*

Hello readers!

This month OC officers from the Leadership division and few from other divisions have travelled out to five different provinces educating eligible voters on how they can elect good leaders in the upcoming 2013 local-level government election in June.

In this edition of the Wasdok, we read about OC's awareness in the Western Highlands Province and other stories.

We also have one of our officer's share his moments with the late Counsel to the Commission Gregory Emilio.

We will bring you more stories in our April edition.

Cheers!
Editor



OC officers happy to meet former workmate Raymond Waingi (centre) while on the LLG awareness in Mt. Hagen.

OC educates eligible voters in WHP



A team of three officers from the Ombudsman Commission and two senior officers from the Western Highlands Provincial Administration did a two-weeklong awareness to local communities educating them on how they can elect good leaders in the upcoming 2013 local-level government election in June. The team was in the province from 10-21 March 2013.

The Ombudsman Commission promotes Good Leadership and Good Governance in Papua New Guinea, hence, a proactive approach was taken to educate eligible voters on how they can elect good leaders to their local-level governments. The general public was also made aware on the potential candidate's

roles and responsibilities in the government system. Many voters do not understand the roles and responsibilities of a ward member (councillor) and the local-level government president and so they put unnecessary pressure on them. This forces them to do different duties which often lead them to doing the wrong things just to please their voters. The team stressed to the people that they should not ask their leaders for personal handouts and leaders should not feel obliged to those demands.

In many of our locations, people were happy that the LLG Presidents will now be mandated by the people. They expressed satisfaction saying this change may see more transparency in the work of the presidents. Previously, local-level government presidents were elected by the LLG Council. Seating local-level government presidents in East New Britain, Manus and Milne Bay Provinces have been mandated by the people in the last LLG election and this is the first time Western Highlands and other highlands provinces will elect their leaders this way.

Robin Wamunge, a community member in Muglamp, Dei District said if the amended law now allows for presidents to be mandated by the people then the government should also amend the law on the election of the prime minister and have him or her elected by the people.

2012 third & fourth quarter PMR finally conducted

Like any other performance based organisations, the Ombudsman Commission reviews its performance on a quarterly basis each year.

The Commission held its two-day Performance Management Review (PMR) meeting for quarters three and four of 2012 from 6-7 March 2013 at the Head Office in Port Moresby.

Due to the loss of two of its senior personnel, Chief Ombudsman Late Chronox Manek and Counsel Late Gregory Emilio, the PMR meeting was disrupted and deferred indefinitely. The PMR meeting saw each division present to

the Members of the Commission and Senior Management performance reports of their teams for the last two quarters of 2012.

The overall performance of the Commission was satisfactory however; most of the matters did not see much progress due to no Commission meeting. According to Section 14 of the Organic Law on the Ombudsman Commission, Commission meetings are normally held every fortnight to deliberate and make decisions on Administrative and Constitutional matters.

The PMR meeting for the first quarter of this year is scheduled for May.



OC Fellowship

Easter Message

A Christian group once upon a time had planned an Easter Camp and in one of the study sessions the group was asked to go out, find and bring back to the class something that they could talk about with an Easter message.

When they had gathered again the teacher asked each of them to present what they have brought. Some brought back twigs, and some stones, some insects and some animals; some leaves of trees while others flowers.

The last to present was a small boy who had brought back an empty egg shell and when he walked up the stage, all attention was focused on him. Suddenly, there was a small giggle from the corner of the room and later it was followed by a loud laughter from the entire class. This however did not dampen the spirit of the small boy to explain what he had brought to the class. Some asked why he had brought back the empty egg shell and others ridiculed him for being naive and called him names.

The teacher intervened amongst the criticisms and comments and silenced the crowd, he encouraged the small boy to continue with his explanation. The small boy after clearing his voice, explained:

"The empty egg represents the empty tomb and that Jesus no longer lies in for He has risen from the grave. So Easter is not all about eggs but every time you see an empty egg, you know that the real stuff in the egg is what people eat and live is alive and walks and talks tomorrow".

Suddenly there was silence in the entire room and the teacher got up and said, "of all that you have brought to the class and explained I want to thank you all for your efforts."

But the real message of Easter for us all is to understand that Jesus is no longer in the tomb and the tomb is empty, He has risen. This message has been illustrated very well by the small boy. There was a standing ovation for the small boy who had touched lives that very hour.

QUESTION FOR YOU: "What then is your definition for Easter, as you and your family celebrate the day?"

Happy Easter Everyone

By Patrick Niebo

OC warns officers of outstanding acquittals

The Ombudsman Commission has come down hard on its officers who have not been acquitting for duty travels. Officers who have outstanding acquittals would not participate in any duty travel until they have their acquittal issues sorted out.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari issued this stern warning during the 2012 3rd and 4th quarter Performance Review Meeting (PMR) on 7 March 2013.

Acting Chief Ombudsman Sangetari sounded the warning following Finance Unit's report during PMR on outstanding acquittals which incurred quite a huge some of money towards the end of last year.

She instructed the Finance Unit to issue debit notes to the officers concerned and have the outstanding amounts deducted from their salaries.

The Finance Unit has already imposed deductions and as of January this year, there are three officers who inflicted more than K19 000 on outstanding acquittals. As a result, these officers were denied participation in the LLG awareness that is currently being conducted nationwide because of acquittal issues.

Ombudsman Commission is a public office that operates out of tax payers' money and officers should be accountable for the funds used on duty trips.



Re-living my last moments with Late Counsel Emilio...writes Nick Penpagarea

I am honoured to share my final moments with Late Counsel Gregory Emilio.

After lunch on Thursday 18 October 2012, Gregory was leaving the office to seek medical attention. As he was about to exit the Office of Counsel (OoC) glass door, he called me over. He was not confident of making the lift on his own.

I quickly rushed to his aid thinking he would send me to do his banking or attend to some other personal matter.

However, to my surprise I noticed that his head was slightly down with a hand on his chest. He quietly told me that he was not feeling well and he was on his way to the hospital as his heart had been troubling him all morning. He needed support down the elevator.

Mr Emilio's voice was quite cranky, dull and heavy. Seeing the painful look on his face, I offered that he lean on my shoulder and I would support him out to the foyer. But to avoid public attention, he cautioned that I just stay closer to him which I did with absolute attention.

As we descended the lift, I asked who was going to drive him to the hospital, and he said that one of his cousins was on his way to assist him.

When we were in front of Deloitte Tower (DT) building, I enquired about the colour of the vehicle and he told me to look out for a white double cab Toyota Hilux. It was then that he spotted his cousin. Descending the steps of DT next to my

boss, I summoned all my strength, very mindful of his weight should anything happen there. We crossed the road to the vehicle and as he opened the door he looked back at me with a dim smile, respectfully expressed his thanks, and hoped to see me the next day. I smiled back at

him, acknowledged his gratitude, and as if in sympathy with him, I encouraged Emilio to take the following week off to fully recover.

Though I may be acting as if I were his boss considering his fate then and there, I was strongly of the view that my words would do him well; that he would get well soon to resume official duties. But probably to ease my concerns about his health, Emilio tried to sound positive and hoped to be in office the following day.

However, he did not come to work the next morning nor the following week. That Thursday was to be his last day in office and my final chat with him.

After watching the vehicle drove down Douglas Street; I crossed the road and headed back to the office without the slightest idea that that had been my final moment with my boss, colleague, mentor and friend.

A week later, Thursday 25 October 2013 Emilio passed away at his home in the

presence of his immediate family members.

On the night of his passing, I was leisurely lying outside the yard staring at the stars as usual. It was between 8pm and 9pm. As if to signal his death to me, he appeared in a supernatural form in the sky as a huge black cross with legs apart.

In Mengen (Pomio, East New Britain) myth, a dark spot stretched across a fine star-lit sky called "saggaagga," symbolises the death of a family/clan member or a friend.

The symbol was unfortunately my friend Emilio's "saggaagga." Later that night he came to me in a dream requesting K80 from me, as we were ushered in through the OoC glass door, co-accidentally the exact spot where he called me for help a week before. I lied to my boss that I only had K20 to spare him. He accepted the amount anyway.

It was at the Hohola Pick-up point the next morning that a work-mate announced that Counsel Emilio had passed on. I could not believe at the first place, but as I recalled my last encounter with him that Thursday afternoon, memories of the dream and "saggaagga" came flooding in.

I silently uttered my last respects, bidding Gregory Emilio farewell.

He quietly told me that he was on his way to the hospital and that he was not feeling well, as his heart has been troubling him all morning.

I could not believe at the first place, but as I recalled my last encounter with him that Thursday afternoon, memories of the dream and saggaagga came flooding in.

<p>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</p>	<p>All opinions, statements and writings contained in the <i>Wasdok</i> are those of the relevant authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions, statements, writings or views of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea. The Commission issues no invitation to anyone to rely upon this newsletter and it intends by this statement to exclude liability for any such opinions, statements, writings and views.</p>
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