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News 01.2011

28.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Landowners set for Panguna

By Fabian Gatana

PANGUNA landowners are now incorporating their associations in preparation for the selection of their umbrella association to kickstart the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement and negotiations for the mine re-opening.

Two landowner associations from the six Panguna special mine lease areas have registered their associations with the Investment Promotion Authority. Special Mining Lease Osikaiyang Landowners Association and the Lower Tailings Landowners Association have incorporated their associations while the other four lease areas are still to register.

Landowner groups still to register include the Upper Tailings Lease Landowners, the Port-Mine Access Road Lease Landowners, Uruawa Lease Landowners and the Arawa Urban Lease Landowners communities. The associations were formed to promote peace and co-operation amongst landowners in the special lease areas. It should enable them to participate, encourage, facilitate and monitor the sustainable utilisation and exploitation of the natural resources in and around the Panguna mine area. It aims to provide for the collective benefit of all Panguna Landowners. The associations also intend to carry out education, training and awareness campaigns on environmental issues, development, human rights and land and resource rights for the Panguna people. The ABG Mining department is currently assisting the special mine lease landowners in incorporating their associations.

28.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UNSETTLED DEBT RAISES CONCERN

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLEANS have shed concern s over the unsettled debts and outstanding claims left behind by the former North Bougainville MP, Michael OGIO.

The unsettled debts and outstanding claims, which have allegedly been collecting dust in the member's office, have drawn a serious concern among the people of North Bougainville.

And they are questioning Mr. OGIO on how these funds would be settled.

They claimed he has not settled outstanding claims stemmed from projects not funded over the years since 2007 which also includes service providers' invoices.

A complainant said a lot of these projects with their allocated funds promised by Mr. OGIO were not fulfilled.

He said as a service provider assisting Mr. OGIO since he came into power as the member for North Bougainville, so far nothing has been done to settle debts.

He added many outstanding issues are yet to be settled and the North Bougainville people are still waiting patiently.
He said some of Mr. OGIO's special commitments including overdue claims still remain pending and this also includes the DSIP funded projects that has not benefited the people.

28.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE CHIEF ENFORCE LAW ON OFFICERS

By JOYCE TOHUI

ACP for the Bougainville Police Service, THOMAS ELUH has issued a stern warning to all police officers serving on Bougainville.

He said any member of the police service caught involved in police brutality and humiliation of any member of the public will be penalised.

ACP ELUH said zero tolerance will be given to police officers found in any form of brutality, humiliation and abuse to any member of the public.

Mr. ELUH said the police primary role is to protect life, property and to serve the community with utmost trust and respect under any circumstances.

He added the law only allows for reasonable force to be used in circumstances of imminent threat to life and property when in danger of permanent injury or death.

ACP ELUH said now is an opportune time to rethink our police approach to policing on Bougainville due to the painful lessons learnt in the Bougainville crisis.

Mr. ELUH strongly believes that a combination of traditional and community policing is the best way forward for the Bougainville Police Service.

28.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VILOSI CONCERNED

By Aloysius Laukai

A senior Doctor from the Buka General Hospital is calling on the people of Bougainville to eat good healthy food to remain healthy.

DR. JOSEPH VILOSI told New Dawn FM that diabetes was on the increase in young youths due to the heavy consumption of homebrew.

He said that the problem was on the rise and questioned how Bougainville will become independent without a healthy workforce.

DR. VILOSI also called on the leaders and chiefs to make sure that young under-aged are not allowed to drink any form of alcohol.

He said that the law to punish under-aged youths for drinking alcohol must be enforced on Bougainville.

DR. Vilosi said that he was very concerned to see young school-aged youths drinking alcohol and becoming a nuisance in the communities.

28.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

A NEW DAY HIGH SCHOOL TO OPEN

By JOYCE TOHUI

A New Day High School in the Haku area, North Bougainville will open its doors for the first time when School begins on 7th of February.

This was revealed by the ABG Minister for Education, JOHN TABINAMAN.

He said that Ninety students were selected from the six primary schools within the Haku Constituency to occupy two grade 9 classes, with four teachers appointed to facilitate learning in the new high school.

Last Tuesday Minister Tabinaman visited the school to assess whether infrastructure was in place for student intakes this year and also see the physical site of the total land area of the high school.

He was convinced that the new infrastructure was ready to cater for Haku Day High School.

Most importantly Mr. Tabinaman was impressed with the size of land allocated for the high school by the landowners of that area.

He said a four-in-one classroom building and two teacher's houses provided by the Tanamalo Primary School would cater for the first grade 9 intakes.

Mr. Tabinaman added little work is still needed on the current four-in-one classroom building to improve its condition.

He requested the people of Haku Constituency especially the communities who benefited from the high school to co-operate with the Education Division and complete the necessary preparation work to meet target date for 2011 classes.

The new Haku Day High School came as a request from the people of Haku Constituency during the first ABG and 2011 was earmarked for the commencement of the high school.

It is located within Tanamalo Primary School, a United Church Agency School.

27.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

BCL and ESBC investigate on algorithmic trading activities on the ASX.

Today BCL's company secretary Paul Coleman confirmed that Bougainville Copper Limited is aware of suspicious trading activities in BOC shares on the Australian stock market in Sydney (ASX). BCL and the ESBC took the necessary steps to investigate the actual situation. Mr. Coleman is confident that the ASX will find out if there is fraudulent market manipulation behind the algorithmic trading that made plunge the BOC share price sensibly within the last days.

Algorithmic trading is often an indication for Hedge funds activities. In consequence the volatility has nothing to do with any positive or negative facts from the ground in Bougainville! As only 27 percent of Bougainville Copper shares are in free float, the BOC share is an ideal target for share price manipulation – either UP or DOWN.

The ESBC invites all investors in Bougainville Copper shares to keep cool and not to panic. The experience shows that algorithmic trading can cause strong temporary losses but very strong gains as well. A turn-around to soaring share price may be very near.

[If you are interested to find out more about algorithmic trading please click here!](#)

27.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

BCL und ESBC lassen automatisierte Handelsaktivitäten an der ASX überprüfen.

Wie BCL Company Secretary Paul Coleman heute bestätigte ist Bougainville Copper Ltd. (BCL) bekannt, dass es verdächtige Handelsaktivitäten in BOC Aktien an der australischen Börse in Sydney (ASX) gibt. BCL und die ESBC haben die notwendigen Schritte eingeleitet, die aktuelle Situation untersuchen zu lassen. Coleman ist zuversichtlich, dass die ASX herausfinden wird, ob betrügerische Marktmanipulationen hinter dem automatisierten Handel stecken, der den BOC Aktienpreis in den letzten Tagen merklich fallen ließ.

Automatisierter Handel ist oft ein Hinweis auf Aktivitäten von Hedge-Fonds. Daraus folgt, dass die offenkundige Volatilität weder mit positiven oder negativen Nachrichten aus Bougainville selbst zu tun hat. Da nur etwa 27 Prozent der Bougainville Copper Aktien auf dem Markt frei zu handeln sind, ist die BOC Aktie ein ideales Angriffsziel von Preismanipulationen – nach oben, wie auch nach unten.

Die ESBC raten allen in Bougainville Copper Investierten, einen kühlen Kopf zu bewahren und nicht in Panik zu geraten. Die Erfahrung lehrt, dass automatisierter Handel sowohl große Verluste als auch große Gewinne zeitigen kann. Eine Trendwende zu steigenden Preisen könnte sogar unmittelbar bevorstehen.

Wer mehr über automatisierten Handel wissen möchte sollte hier klicken!

27.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEWS JUST IN

By Aloysius Laukai

Mekamui soldiers in the Konnou area of Buin this morning raided Mongai village killing one youth and wounding several others.

According to reports from Buin, the people of Mongai were having a soccer competition when they were attacked.

The South Bougainville Police Commander, Inspector Paul Kamuai whilst confirming the attack said that this localized fighting in the Konnou area must be stopped quickly before more deaths occur.

He said from Buin this afternoon, that there have been peace talks between the Mekamui and Freedom Fighters since the end of last year and today's killing has jeopardized this peace initiative.

New Dawn FM understands that nearly all killings by the so called mekamui in the Konnou area have been during peace negotiations.

27.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TARA RESPONDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Chief Executive Officer for Nissan District, GEORGE TARALA this afternoon thanked the Health Division for involving them in the Health Division's Five Year Plan 2011-2015.

He said that Health Division was the only division that was functioning well and performing its duties to deliver Health Services to the rural communities.

MR. TARALA said that by involving the CEO's from the Districts, it was making them more aware of the division's activities in the districts.

He says that the District CEO's will continue to work with the Health Division to make sure that Health service is delivered to the communities.

MR. TARALA was speaking at the closing of the Health Planning workshop on Sohano island.

He also called on other divisions to follow the example of the Health Division to involve other stakeholders in their programs.

27.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORKSHOP ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for Health on Bougainville, DR. ANTHONY PUMPARA today thanked participants of the HEALTH PLANNING WORKSHOP for their contribution towards setting the road map for the division.

He said that their contribution in putting flesh to the skeleton plan has made it possible for his office to finalize the Bougainville Health Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015.

DR. PUMPARA said that the draft plan would be presented to the National Health Department when they visit Bougainville on February 21st this year.

He said that the final draft for the plan would be completed by March this year.

The CEO for Health was speaking at the closing of the Health Planning workshop which started on Monday this week.

He also thanked Chief Executive Officers from the Districts for participating and contributing towards the Bougainville Health Plan.

DR. PUMPARA said the aim of involving them was to make sure that as heads in the districts, they must know how the Health facilities are operating.

27.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Safety first

By Aloysius Laukai

Safety Advisor on Bougainville, Ex Savior Tsiwa is calling on the residents of Buka Town to be safety conscious at all times.

MR. TSIWA who runs safety first courses in Buka town told New Dawn FM that he was very concerned at the safety standards being exercised in Buka town.

He said that the small town of Buka is packed by people especially students going back to school that they must think of safety when crossing roads and rushing to make last minute shopping.

MR. SIWA said that as a Safety advisor he wants to remind the public to be safety

conscious at all times.

He said that accidents occur because people do not adhere to small safety precautions.

26.01.2011

Source: Malum Nalu (PNG)

Nexus between Bougainville crisis and National Alliance Party crisis: Panguna Mine

By JAMES WANJIK

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Agreement (BCA) was entered into between Australian Government and Rio Tinto Zinc subsidiary Conzinc Rio Australia in 1969.

Many Bougainville leaders and people objected but the United Nations had wanted transfer of government rule to Port Moresby.

A major economic project was needed to underpin a new nation's economy. So was born the Panguna mine.

In 1974, only two years after mine production, Michael Somare led a team of young nationalist leaders in John Kaputin, John Momis and others to renegotiate the BCA.

Then after further 14 years new generation leaders from Panguna mine led a revolt on Bougainville.

It took 10 years of war for Bougainville leaders to make a stand.

A special regime for Bougainville was agreed to in 2001.

The significance of this Agreement was that Bougainville Government would be responsible for mines on Bougainville.

However, in 2005 National Alliance government enacted the Mineral Resources Authority Act 2005 that in essence took back the power the government of Bougainville had.

Now Autonomous Bougainville Government is lost and confused.

Somare and Momis are now on either side of the mining power divide on Bougainville.

In time PNG will come to know Somare well.

At independence he led Pangu Pati to national fame.

In the last 10 years of his political career he gathered a group of leaders who formed an alliance.

An alliance is not an entity at law.

It is a group of individuals coming together to share common interest.

In 2002 the National Alliance Party was born.

It was not out of necessity.

Rather it was out of convenience.

Pangu Pati had young leaders who resisted Somare leading it again.

He formed National Alliance Party and destabilised Pangu Pati.

Now he has destabilised the National Alliance Party.

By appointing Sam Abal who is not a deputy leader of National Alliance Party as the deputy Prime Minister, Somare has clearly rejected the deputy leaders of his party.

Somare's leadership is painted with leadership of lust for power.

Power play politics Somare used as his way of neutralising and ejecting leaders with potential Prime Minister material.

PNG is proud to have St Michael the Archangel as its Patron Saint.

He led an army of angels to defeat Lucifer in heaven.

Now he will see PNG being free of political power play and denial of development for all.

26.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

North Bougainville by-election set

By FABIAN HAKALITS

THERE will still be a by-election held for the North Bougainville Open Electorate seat, the office of the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) has confirmed.

The North Bougainville seat was left vacant by current Governor- General elect Michael Ogio after he was elected by Parliament on January 14.

PNG Electoral Commission by virtue of Section 106 of the Constitution is obliged as the election management body of PNG to plan and conduct a by- election for the vacant North Bougainville Open electorate.

Section 106 of the Constitution states that a by-election must be conducted as soon as a vacancy exists in the seat of a Member of Parliament which is now the case for North Bougainville.

This means that there is now a vacancy in the office of the North Bougainville MP in Parliament and Section 106 of the Constitution must now be given effect to and a by-election must be conducted.

The vacancy occurred outside of the 12 months period before the fifth anniversary of the date fixed for the return of writs for the previous general election which was July 30, 2007.

Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen who is on holiday said: "It is safe for PNGEC to conduct a by-election now for North Bougainville."

Mr Trawen has directed his senior officers to work out the costs involved and draw up a by-election program as well as communicate with the people on the ground in Bougainville on logistics.

Meanwhile Acting Bougainville Electoral Commissioner Mathew Kusa said they have already allocated a budget of K2.1 million for the by-election.

Mr Kusa said the Bougainville Electoral office has drawn up an election program that will be as follows:

nMarch 21: Issue of Writs

nApril 20: Nominations close

nMay 14: Start of pooling

nMay 20: End of pooling and

nJune 10: Return of Writs

Mr Kusa said Electoral Commission is an independent body that has to fulfil the law on National Elections and to maintain and protect the Organic Law of the National and Local Level Governments Elections.

26.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Mi Gat Pawa' a success in Bougainville

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE previous visits carried out by the Bougainville HIV/AIDS Task Force through the HIV Operation "Mi Gat Pawa" in the communities of Haku and Halia constituencies have been hailed a success which pushes for the continuation of such programs.

This is according to the HIV/ AIDS Response co-ordinator for the Bougainville Aids Committee Ray Himata

"Through positive responses received from the communities of Haku and Halia constituencies resulting in the number of people turning up for voluntary counselling and testing," Mr Himata said.

He said this paved the way forward for the HIV/AIDS Task Force to carry out more programs to help rural communities throughout Bougainville. "Bringing HIV mass testing

and counselling to their door steps gives the people more chance in receiving the service," he said.

He said during the last visits, they concentrated on the test for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).

He said this year they planned to include other health issues such as testing of sugar levels, Tuberculosis (TB) and provide family planning and dental services.

"These health services can be accessible and cheaper for people when put in one basket during the constituency visits where people in the rural communities have difficulty in seeking such services," he said.

Mr Himata said during Christmas they have carried out these combined health awareness in the Fead Island in the Atolls constituency.

He said this coincided with the HIV and Syphilis testing and it proved to be successful.

He said people in the Atolls appreciated the health services provided to them, saying it would have cost them K600-K700 for them to come to Buka General Hospital to receive such services.

26.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville visits

By Aloysius Laukai

The Division of Health on Bougainville is very concerned at the number of groups entering Bougainville either to carry out awareness on Health Issues and also to sell medical drugs to the stores.

CEO for Health Division, DR. ANTHONY PUMPARA says that his division is aware of these activities but cannot do anything about them until the Health Powers are drawn down to Bougainville.

He told New Dawn FM that many groups are coming from outside and going to the villages instead of reporting to the authorities the purpose of their visit to Bougainville.

The CEO said that once the powers are drawn down, they would make it their priority to make sure that all good friends of Bougainville and NGO follow strict guidelines on how they should operate on Bougainville.

26.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Put in second place

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville chief is calling on the Electoral office to use avenues available to declare the runner up for the last National Elections to temporarily take of office instead of conducting the By-election.

The Chief who wants to remain anonymous told New Dawn FM in Buka that when the LPV voting system was introduced there was a talk of saving expensive by-elections by appointing the runner- up if the member resigns or dies.

He said and due to the time in which the General Election will be conducted the best option is to appoint the runner up from the last election.

The chief said that the Electoral Office is yet to settle outstanding commitments from the ABG Elections and would find it difficult to get assistance until it settles these bills first.

New Dawn FM understands that the runner up for the North Bougainville seat and former National member died at the end of last year.

26.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BYELECTION ON

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of North Bougainville will be able to put in their new member to the National Parliament by June this year.

The Acting Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, MATHEW KUSA has announced. MR. KUSA said that he has already done costing for the North Bougainville seat By election at TWO POINT ONE MILLION KINA.

The Bougainville Acting Electoral Commissioner has also set date for the coming by-election.

He says that Writs would be issued on March 21st, Nominations will close on April 20th, May 14th start of polling and June 10th will be the return of writs.

Meanwhile, Outstanding from the last ABG General Election is said to be about TWO MILLION KINA.

And according to an Electoral office staff these out-standings must be met so that the coming by-election can run smoothly.

25.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

READY FOR DRAW DOWN

By Aloysius Laukai

Delayed Joint Supervisory Meetings between the Papua New Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government is further delaying draw down of powers and Health functions to Bougainville.

The CEO for Health division, DR. ANTHONY PUMPARA told New Dawn FM in Buka today that the ABG on August 24th last year gave notice to the National Government its intention to draw down powers and functions in relation to rural health services and HIV Aids.

He said that this was done after several consultations with their national counterparts which led to the development of a final draft of the MOU for presenting to the JSB meeting.

DR. PUMPARA says that the draft MOU is hanging waiting for the JSB meeting to see.

New Dawn FM understands that since the inauguration of ABG President John Momis in June last year, there has been only one JSB meeting.

This is the forum where major issues affecting Bougainville can be addressed.

25.01.2011

Source: ESBC

One year - one volume!

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25.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-rebel challenges government

By Peterson Tseraha

FORMER Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) Chief of Operations Peter Naguo has challenged the Autonomous Bougainville Government members to work together with President John Momis.

He said it was too early and not right for a lot of ABG members to form opposition groups within the government.

"This is very disappointing, especially with the new and second ABG house. I as an ex combatant don't want to see the President go astray without support from his members. They have to be in the same boat. The very important thing is the outstanding issue of the K50 million. If we all stick together, that money will come in," Mr. Naguo said.

Mr Naguo said the auditors have already done their job and which department that hasn't acquitted has to be dealt with accordingly.

"Everything the government does has to come out to the media so that everybody on Bougainville will know and understand the situation we are in. The National Government says we have to acquit funds so do it because it is a requirement and whoever does not acquit has to go to court. The time has come for us now to be transparent and committed," he said.

Mr Naguo said whoever is being investigated in government has to be suspended and if found guilty of wrong doings, they should be published in the media so that everyone will know the culprit misusing public funds.

"The President has got the mandate from the people of Bougainville and is trying his best for the people and deserves to be supported by his members who are his right hand men," Mr Naguo said.

"Even the national members of Parliament have to attend ABG sittings and know what is going on out here on Bougainville instead of hugging and embracing Waigani all the time," he said.

25.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Public Servants work together

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE'S New Bougainville Party (NBP) is ready to see that the region's public service undergoes a major overhaul.

Speaking in a recent article in the Post-Courier about public servants in Bougainville engaging in private business activities, NBP secretary, Chris Bengko described this act as "stealing" from the public and said Bougainville public service needed to be completely revamped for it to function better.

Mr Bengko said the public service was currently employing the wrong people in the various departments. People he says who are not qualified to be in those departments.

"The Bougainville public service needs a major overhaul starting from the HR department to the departmental heads right down to the people being employed in each department.

"A proper system of screening public service employees should also be established to ensure that the right qualified persons are selected to the right departments," he said.

He also added that the restructuring and overhauling of the public service was one of NBP's promises to the people when campaigning for Party Chairman and Bougainville President John Momis.

Mr Bengko said the NBP would like to see that this promises are carried through by the Momis government and a better and more effective public service is established in the region for service delivery.

24.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

31 ESBC members amongst the major shareholders!

[Find out here!](#)

24.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'North Bougainville needs MP'

By FABIAN HAKALITS

MORE than 104,000 people in the North Bougainville region have the constitutional right to have a representative in the National Parliament.

This is according to Mr Nixon Tamana, from Inus area in the Taonita Teop constituency in the Tinputz district, who thinks the majority of the people share the same sentiment. Representing the silent majority, Mr Taman said that the people in the North Bougainville will be like sheep without a shepherd over the next 18 months until its former MP, Michael Ogio the Governor General-elect of PNG is replaced through a constitutionally acceptable process.

"While we are proud of one of our sons putting the flag of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville on the world map, we feel very upset about not having a representative in the National parliament," said Mr Tamana.

"Unless we have a political leader to represent the 104,000 people, it is a denial of natural justice."

Governor General-elect Ogio was elected by Parliament to replace former G-G Sir Paulius Matane.

Many people from Bougainville including the regional member Fidelis Semoso congratulated Mr Ogio on his elevation.

However, there are still many people who believe the legislature in this country never critically considered the current Bougainville situation.

"With the national elections are just around the corner, most of us in the North Bougainville region believe that we need a member of our own in government to represent us over the next 18 months," he said.

"Furthermore we think and feel that conducting by-elections would be very expensive. The fact of the matter is that such an exercise has not been budgeted for nor appropriated by the National Parliament," Mr Tamana said.

"Therefore, it is important to critically consider other costs saving measures to ensure our people have a mouthpiece in the National Parliament.

"We the voters have been let down and denied by the action taken in the Parliament, suggest John Sisiesi who challenged to occupy the North Bougainville seat since he was the third runner up in the last national elections, trailing behind the late James Tegel despite the fact Sisiesi was a first time contestant in the national election."

Mr Tamana said if there was a by-election conducted; many think that Mr Sisiesi will be their choice.

"We strongly believe having John Sisiesi would make a very strong leader to continue from where Mr Ogio has left," Mr Tamana said.

"By doing what he did, Mr Ogio forfeited the mandate given to him by the 104,000 people of North Bougainville. There is still so much work left to be done and accomplished in the electorate. Therefore, keeping the entire population of North Bougainville in suspense by the national Government and ABG, for the matter was a slap on everyone's face, so to speak."

Mr Tamana called on the National Government and the ABG to fast-track the process of replacing Mr Ogio because "justice delayed is justice denied".

24.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso, Momis agree to work together

BOUGAINVILLE'S two key leaders last Friday came together and shook hands to show their people they were "one again" and working together to move Bougainville forward. Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis and Bougainville Affairs and Trade Minister Fidelis Semoso jointly held a press conference on Friday to tell the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville that they were together in moving the region forward this year and in the years to come.

Witnessed by divisional chief executive officers, ministers and Parliament members, the media was called in to a joint press conference to show the world these two leaders have made peace and that they no longer had any issues.

"We have a renewed partnership and friendship and we want to tell the people of Bougainville that we will now have a good working relationship to move Bougainville forward for the next five years," Mr Momis said.

"Mi nogat hevi long Minister Semoso. I want to tell the National Government that we don't have a hidden agenda. This year, we will now have to concentrate on the Bougainville Peace Agreement."

Mr Semoso said Bougainville had no choice but to honour the Peace Agreement and work towards it, Momis advised he now had a renewed working relationship with Semoso and basically the National Government to move Bougainville towards referendum and address the issue of the Panguna mine.

"We don't have a choice, we are bound by the Bougainville Peace Agreement," Mr Semoso said.

"We don't have much time anymore, we have a specific timeframe. Our core function is to discuss the delivery of goods and services to the people who gave us the mandate to lead them."

The National Government and the ABG are partners and they are bound by the BPA to move Bougainville forward.

24.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Court enters drugs fight

By VERONICA HANNETTE

COMMUNITIES in most parts of Bougainville are calling on authorities to address drugs and alcohol problems.

The abuse of drugs and alcohol is a major problem facing Bougainville, along with the weapons disposal program.

Authorities are providing awareness to curtail the problem.

Buka District Court senior magistrate Peter Toliken sentenced a man, Norman Kikiman, 28 from Koatoroi of Kunua North Bougainville for nine months in jail with hard labour.

The court was told that he had in his possession 51 rolls of marijuana reefers packed in bamboo tubes.

In similar case, Jephson Porep was also charged with possession of illicit spirit (JJ) and was fined K500 or 90 days imprisonment.

Mr Toliken said the court will come heavy on offenders to control the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

Mr Toliken said the court will jail young offenders but that will not help to rehabilitate them.

He appealed to the government and authorities to provide alternatives like the Nazarene Rehabilitation Centres to help young offenders.

23.01.2011

Source: Weekend-Courier

A breathtaking rest house:

Cultural Gem in Bougainville

By Jaive SMARE

The Manee Resource Center is a brilliant project in the middle of the Kongara mountain forests being built for the preservation of certain old traditional knowledge of people in this area. It is entirely self funded.

Two brothers David Onari and Leo Orino, felt that the young people and the generations after them would forget their culture and the importance of the forests and jungles, so they have been building this place to preserve what could easily be lost.

Their work began in 2007 and their father, Thomas Orino has also become involved, using his knowledge and memories and that of the older generation to construct the special traditional houses that you will see there.

I was invited by the local Elders (Council of Chiefs) to write about the center.

So on the last Sunday of November this year, I sat at the back of 4x4 open back PMV as we headed out of Arawa, past Kieta, taking a right turn before the Aropa airport and headed up into the mighty hills of Kongara.

It's a beautiful drive. A bit rocky and uncomfortable in places but you are over-compensated with the scenery.

Cold mountain streams, clear and fresh dash over rock beds awash with the colors of flowers. Birds sun themselves on rocks in the clearings. Lush green jungle, rich dark soil, and orange clay line the way. Panoramic views of the Arawa and Kieta bay suddenly appear out of the trees as you wind your way up the mountain side. (Sadly my trusty cheap digital camera had died by this time).

Forty minutes later, we reached our destination.

The Manee Resource Center is a clearing in the forest with a house on a shimmering large pond that looks like a miniature winding river-lake.

I could see two traditional houses further up the hillside, flower gardens and ferns, running water, kids swimming in the pond with large fish swimming around them, and birds fluttering about, two young boys paddling a bamboo raft on their own little journey, the whole area surrounded by a misty jungle.

The amazing thing is that this project is totally self funded by one brother and physically created by the other.

David, who has a small operation selling and renting CD's & DVDs in Arawa, funded the construction of the center, providing fuel and meeting other costs.

His brother Leo, did most of the physical work.

Beginning in 2007, they cleared some of the forest, blocked off an existing stream to form a pond in the gully and cleared the sites needed for the orchards, ferns and traditional buildings and traditional medicines.

They didn't clear more than they needed for their purpose.

Their father, with his traditional knowledge has taken over building the traditional houses on display.

The following is a description of everything there, beginning with the pond.

The fish pond is known as a 'Tavinara.' These ponds existed in traditional Bougainville societies. The Tavinara is well stocked with healthy and very large fish. The kids love swimming with them.

The house built on the pond is known a 'Waunava,' a shelter to rest in. Basically it is a rest house over the water. This house is built with a combination of old and modern material. It has thatched walls with sawn and nailed wooden floors. The Waunava is for the guests to relax in.

Up on the hillside are the two interesting traditional houses.

These are examples of houses that were built in the past as part of the initiation/rite of passage for the 'Chief Meri' (Female Chief) of Bougainville villages.

Bougainville is mainly a matrilineal society where women are chiefs. It's the first daughter of the chief who is next in line.

In the past, several special traditional houses like these were built for the young girl as she made the passage to woman hood and assumed the role as the chief.

The first house on the hills side at Manee is a 'Kongonava' (correct me if I spelt this wrong). This house represents the first stage of the young girl's passage. She stays here, growing up, learning and being a child, before her first menstruation.

After her first menstruation, she is moved to the second house, which is the second stage of her passage. This house is the 'Dorinava'. At this house, she will be constantly surrounded by older women. She will be kept hidden as much as possible. If she leaves the house she will be shaded with ferns. She will be fed good traditional foods such as 'Tamatama' and her skin will be oiled.

Here, she will also learn the traditions and responsibilities of being chief. When the time is right, a great feast will be prepared and she will leave this house for another house which has a kitchen.

This shows that she is ready to be married. She is already traditionally engaged at this point.

At Manee this house for the third stage was not yet constructed.

The houses for the 'Chief Meri' are built in a unique style. The houses are built around 2 meters of the ground and accessible by a wooden ladder. They use jungle ropes and stripped bark to lash the supports and frames together. The roof and walls are thatched sago while the floor is made out of 'limbum' from palms (I have no idea what the English word is for limbum).

The raised supports of these houses consist of intricate series of logs lashed together. You have to see the pictures to understand what I mean.

This design not only looks great, but also keeps anyone from sitting under the houses. They were in the process of building the other traditional 'Chief Meri' houses and more when I was there.

At Manee they have also planted traditional medicinal herbs, orchards, ferns and other plants both in the cleared places as well as in the forests around the center.

Many of the school children from Arawa and their teachers visit the center.

The children have a great time as well as learn new things.

David said they charge around K5 per head for visitors to spend a day.

This money helps improve the centre.

They plan to build a small guest house here to accommodate visitors who want to spend more than a day up in the cool climate.

It is their hope that the Government can provide tourism assistance, such as training or funding, to assist them to achieve the vision of an eco-friendly, cultural center that preserves and passes on traditional knowledge to both locals and visitors.

Visit www.myamazingparadise.com to see more of his adventures!

Halb so tragisch ?

Der Versuch eines Ausblicks auf die kommenden Monate.

von ESBC Präsident Axel G. Sturm

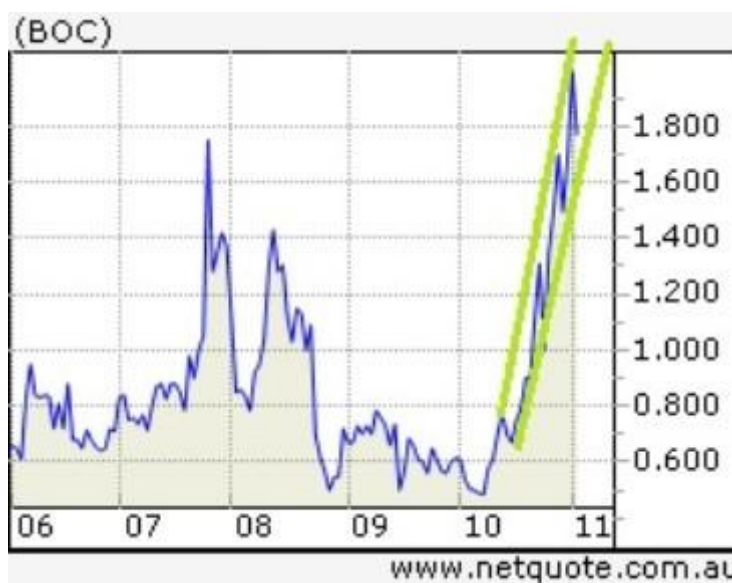
Natürlich, wenn Kurse binnen 10 Tagen um 25 Prozent abschnürten, kommt nicht gerade gute Laune auf. Besonders nicht bei den Investoren, die auf dem Scheitelpunkt gekauft haben.

Ein Blick auf den Chartverlauf der letzten 12 Monate stimmt dann doch eher positiv, um nicht zu sagen: euphorisch!

Die Gründe sind leicht zu finden: Seit circa einem halben Jahr hat Bougainville Copper einen eindrucksvollen Aufwärtstrendkanal ausgebildet (siehe Grafik). Zudem boten die 30-Tages-Linie (rot) wie auch die 60-Tages-Linie (blau teils vom grünen Balken verdeckt) bislang zuverlässige Widerstände, die nicht nach unten durchbrochen wurden. Im Gegenteil: Wurden sie touchiert, ging es steil bergauf.



Noch beeindruckender ist das Bild im 5-Jahres-Chart :



Schon mehrfach habe ich in der Vergangenheit darauf aufmerksam gemacht, dass wir - je näher wir der Wiedereröffnung unserer Mine kommen - mit zunehmender Volatilität zu tun haben werden. Dass solche Marktszenarien anziehend auf Trader wirken, braucht nicht weiter erörtert zu werden.

Doch, wohin geht die Reise ?

Momentan liegt der Kurs in Australien exakt auf der 30-Tages-Linie und damit auf seinem ersten Widerstand. Sollte dieser nicht halten, ist ein weiteres Abgleiten des Kurses bis auf ca. 1.60 AUD möglich, wo die 60-Tages-Linie verläuft. Ein Hinweis auf einen weiteren, kurzfristigen Rücksetzer auf dieses Niveau könnte die Kurshistorie der letzten Nacht sein: Dort sind nämlich seltsame Trades enthalten, die als eine Art „geheimer Code“ unter Tradern interpretiert werden könnten, den Kurs bis auf **1.601 AUD** fallen zu lassen Siehe Auszug aus ASX Course of Sales BOC 21.01.2011 :

Course of Sales for BOC
as at 1/21/2011 4:55:48 PM

Time	Quantity	Price	Reference
10:00:13	758	1.840	0
10:00:13	192	1.840	0
10:00:13	1,601	1.840	0
10:00:13	1,399	1.840	0
10:00:13	1,601	1.840	0
10:00:13	1,399	1.840	0
10:00:13	1,601	1.840	0
10:00:13	4	1.820	0
10:00:14	1	1.820	0
10:03:16	13	1.825	0
10:03:16	5,000	1.830	0

Danach allerdings bietet der dann immer noch intakte Aufwärtsskanal die hohe Wahrscheinlichkeit eines neuerlichen Ausbruchs in Richtung 2.60 bis 2.80 AUD.

Diese Wahrscheinlichkeit wird untermauert von den zu erwartenden positiven Nachrichten zu BOC:

1. Das JSB Meeting wird vermutlich im Februar stattfinden und den Weg zum Bougainville Copper Agreement ebnen.
2. Die Landeigner werden weitere Fortschritte hin zu einer gemeinsamen Vertretung machen.
3. Um den 20. Februar 2011 erwarten wir die Vorabzahlen zum Geschäftsjahr 2010.
4. Angesichts des allgemeinen börslichen Aufwärtstrends dürften die Investments von Bougainville Copper massiv an Wert gewonnen haben.
5. Um den 20. März 2011 dürfte dann der Geschäftsbericht 2010 vorliegen.
6. Die Hauptversammlung 2011 ist für den 19. April 2011 geplant. Das traditionelle Statement des Vorstandsvorsitzenden dürfte in diesem Jahr noch zuversichtlicher als im letzten Jahr stimmen. Peter Taylors Einlassungen im **THE AUSTRALIAN vom 28.12.2010** dürften nur ein Vorgeschmack gewesen sein.

Zudem: Wie ich diese Woche aus Port Moresby erfuhr, rechnet man dort sogar mit „dem besten Jahr“ für Bougainville Copper seit langem.

Aus all dem schließe ich, dass unsere Aktien etwa Mitte dieses Jahres zu 3.00 AUD gehandelt werden. Selbst wenn man technische Rückschläge einkalkuliert, ist der

heutige Preis immer noch interessant oder vielleicht gerade deshalb sogar ein „Schnäppchenpreis“.

Viele Indikatoren sprechen für diese These.

21.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HEAVIES RECOMMIT

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's heavies, Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and the ABG President John Momis this afternoon made a joint statement pledging full and united commitment for Bougainville.

In their speeches at a Joint Press conference they brushed aside past differences and vowed to work together for the development of Bougainville.

ABG President John Momis said that the Bougainville Peace Agreement is a joint creation of Bougainville and PNG and the National government cannot just walk away from its obligations.

Regional member, FIDELIS SEMOSO said that the people of Bougainville want to see development reach their communities.

They said that in politics they can have differences in ideas and opinions but these should not come to a stage that the people are denied from getting basic services which the governments must deliver to its people.

21.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOTHING TO RECONCILE FOR

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President JOHN MOMIS said that he does not have anything against the Regional Member, FIDELIS SEMOSO that he has to reconcile with him for.

He made these comments at a Press conference in Buka this afternoon.

ABG President was responding to comments made to the two to reconcile so that the people of Bougainville can see them as working together.

These follows media comments made against each other at the end of last year concerning the delay of JSB meetings.

MR. MOMIS said that the two can have different ideas and issues on matters of importance to Bougainville but this does not mean that the two are not working together.

21.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO ON FIFTEEN MILLION KINA

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO has assured the ABG President that he was working on the fifteen million kina still owed to the ABG by the National Government.

He said that he was hoping that the Treasurer could hand deliver the check during the Opening of the Buka market which is scheduled for the second week of February. Mr. Semoso made these remarks at the Joint Press Conference in Buka this afternoon. He said that he hoped that processes for the draw down of all powers needed by the ABG can be implemented this year.

21.01.2011

Source: The National

China's role more negative in Pacific, says think-tank

CHINA is no longer a force for good in the Pacific, including links with criminal activities in Papua New Guinea, according to an Australian think-tank.

The director of the Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney Jenny Hayward-Jones said that the negatives attached to Chinese involvement outweighed the positives. Speaking on Radio Australia on Wednesday, she added that her conclusion was based on her observations of Chinese activity during last year, especially in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

The Lowy Institute is an independent international policy think-tank whose objective is to generate new ideas and dialogue on international developments and Australia's role in the world.

"I previously thought that Chinese investment trade and aid was generally a good thing for the Pacific, but Chinese behaviour I believe has altered over the last year," Hayward-Jones said, making reference to the behaviour of the Chinese-owned and operated Ramu nickel mine in Madang where resentment had been growing over outstanding landowner demands.

"I believe this is a sign of a lack of Chinese control over its protection power in the Pacific, which is beginning to worry me."

On rising crime, she told presenter Jemima Garrett she was not sure if there was a link with the Chinese government, "but certainly there's a perception that a lot of the crime in Papua New Guinea is organised by Chinese gangs or triads or Chinese illegal immigration".

"While I don't believe this is coordinated actively from Beijing there, the failure or the lack of capacity of the government in Beijing to see the consequences of this and the damage to China's image, results in a widespread perception that this is Chinese crime, and a Chinese wave of crime that's affecting Papua New Guinea and some other parts of the Pacific which have suffered from trafficking from Chinese sources.

"So I think certainly it's incumbent on the government in Beijing to do more about its image."

On the economic front, she agreed that China had been increasing the amount of loan money it sends to the Pacific.

"China's preference for soft loans over grants in the Pacific, I think, has the potential to cause serious economic hardship for a number of Pacific Island countries," she said, adding that Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands in particular had high debt to GDP ratios as a result of the loans.

"The capacity of those countries to service those loans has to be questioned, given that they're not generating sufficient economic growth".

21.01.2011

Source: The National

Unresolved issues on mine reopening

Resolutions from recent talks on the reopening of the Panguna mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville between shareholders of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), the Panguna landowners and the state will not be pursued unless the Bougainville mining review is carried out and agreed upon.

Former mining minister and MP for Central Bougainville Sam Akoitai told reporters that only when the Bougainville mining agreement was reviewed could there be a possible reopening.

He said two important aspects of the BCL agreement review were the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the landowners' interest in the mining agreement. "At the moment, the landowners are not organised and formed their integrated landowner groups yet from the mine's impact area to be able to participate in the reopening negotiation," Akoita said.

He said although shareholder BCL operator Rio Tinto and the national government had said there was the possibility of reopening of one of the world's largest copper mines, there were very serious issues on the ground yet to be resolved.

They included issues such as landowners' participation, review of benefit sharing among impacted landowners, the ABG's stake, the Mekumai faction's resistance on the reopening and many more.

21.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mortlock Island needs help

By BOLA NOHO

Mortlock Island 180 miles east of Buka Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville desperately needs basic government services. A team of medical experts from Port Moresby who were on the island on a medical mission recently hardly saw any government services existing. The existing ones have deteriorated from bad to worse and abandoned. Only Mortlock Primary School and Telikom PNG's small aperture terminal system are serving about 600 islanders. Dr Momia Teariki-Tautea who lead led the team of medical professionals last week said the island was denied government services. "This was our second trip to the island. The first was in 1996. Four doctors and three nurses went there and spent 10 days on the island." He said they had the heart to do that and would become their ongoing program to provide medical services to the islanders. Dr Teariki-Tautea, his elder brother and relatives in Port Moresby funded the trip and also bought the medical supplies worth K10, 000.

20.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUMIS ON DSIP

By Aloysius Laukai

A Chief from Tinputz Gregory Kumis says that the move to make the former member for North Bougainville become Governor General was a good move but would affect the development of North Bougainville.

MR. KUMIS told New Dawn FM this morning that although he supported the move, his people were now realizing what this elevation of their member actually means to the North Bougainville Electorate.

He said that the promised and approved projects will not eventuate.

On the question of having a by election , MR. KUMIS said that due to the time remaining before the next General Election, the new member would not have time to deliver.

20.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Members questioned

By Aloysius Laukai

The former national member for Central Bougainville and Bougainville Affairs and Mining minister, SAM AKOITAI today questioned why Bougainville issues were not being raised in the National parliament.

He told New Dawn FM that as a former member of parliament he was also not happy that the four Bougainville members are not utilizing the Chamber and raising issues of National importance concerning Bougainville.

MR. AKOITAI said that the four members should be supporting the ABG and raising issues on the floor of the National parliament

He said that matters of National Importance must be raised in parliament by our representatives to move the Bougainville Peace Agreement and Autonomy implementation forward.

20.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AKOITAI CONCERNED

By Aloysius Laukai

Former National Member for Central Bougainville and Bougainville affairs and mining minister Sam Akoitai today called on the two mandated Bougainville leaders to forget their differences and work for the development of Bougainville.

MR. AKOITAI told New Dawn FM from Port Moresby that as a private citizen , he was very concerned at the current pace the Region was moving.

He said that there should not be any difference as their roles are completely different from each other.

MR. AKOITAI said that the position of Governor does not apply on Bougainville as Bougainville is operating on a separate National Government law from those applied by other PNG Provinces.

He said that the role of the Regional Member is to make sure that the National Government supports the ABG with funds and other issues concerning Bougainville whilst the ABG President Momis makes sure that the ABG is properly functioning and implementing its programs.

Mr.Akoitai also called on the Ombudsman Commission to investigate into the affairs and management of the Office of Bougainville Affairs (OBA).

He charged that OBA was not fulfilling its constitutional duties and functions.

20.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BCL agreement needs to be reviewed: Akoitai

By MOHAMMAD BASHIR

Only when the Bougainville Copper Agreement is reviewed to include parties like the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and landowners and a better understanding with the developer on benefits and addressing outstanding issues can the mine be re-opened successfully.

Regardless of the hype among shareholders and people sparked by Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's intention to see the mine opened, it will never happen until all parties are involved.

Former Mining Minister Sam Akoitai believes BCL, the National Government and the ABG, must assist the landowners to establish landowner associations to participate in the mine. Reports from Buka yesterday indicate that six landowner groups have already registered their associations.

"Landowners are willing to open the mine but the Bougainville Copper Agreement must be reviewed to involve all parties because that is the issue that sparked the Bougainville crisis," Mr Akoitai said yesterday, adding he was happy for the stand of ABG president John Momis.

He said economic recovery was paramount for Bougainville to take it to a stage of physical self reliance before issues of referendum can be discussed.

"Bougainville is not prepared well for referendum in 2015 because with about K30 million in recurrent expenditure from the national government and less than K10 million in internal revenue, we are nowhere close to physical self reliance and people must rise up to the benchmark," Mr Akoitai said. He said leaders and the people were relaxed after the ABG but those perception were wrong because recurrent budget will increase from K30m-K50m when Bougainville draws power as capacity will increase.

"It is time to take the bull by the horns with determination to raise Bougainville to a level of physical self reliance because we have a long way to go," he said.

Mr Akoitai also saluted the elders of Bougainville for imposing the moratorium on future explorations although there are more potential mines on the island.

He said BCL must be on the Government's radar because during pre-independence up, Bougainville alone kept this country growing into what it is today.

20.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville top cop on peace mission

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE'S Police Commissioner Thomas Eluh is on a peace mission to Kieta in Central Bougainville.

Mr Eluh has held serious discussions on resolving problems with ex-combatants and rebel leaders including former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) commander Ismael Toroama and Mekamui Defence Force (MDF) commander Chris Uma.

"The purpose of my peace vision is to negotiate for peace. Peace that can bind the Kieta people and also the rebel leaders together that will move Bougainville forward as one people, one Bougainville," Mr Eluh said.

Mr Eluh said two issues that threaten peace on the island are weapons disposal and general law and order, and they need to be resolved.

He said with many weapons still in the hands of people and the current law and order situation not improving, it is important peace negotiations continue in the Bougainville communities.

"What worries me is the handling of weapons and the current law and order in Bougainville. If the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) fails to address and implement these issues, then this puts a big question mark on the autonomy Bougainville is trying to achieve,"

"I am calling on the ABG and all bureaucrats to advocate for peace by going right

through the communities, consult the people, including combatant controlled areas and approach them in a cordial manner,” he said.

“We should not just sit in our office and wait for independence. It is our duty to reach out to our people and speak for what concerns our journey towards autonomy.”

He said before the clock strikes 2015, when Bougainville will decide on full autonomy, there has to be a massive clean-up of weapons and improvement if the law and order situation.

Mr Eluh said weapons disposal and law and order situation make up a component of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) which the ABG has to honour.

Mr Eluh said it is important that agreements are reached in conflict areas to allow lasting peace. He said weapons disposal and reconciliation are mutually reinforcing and necessary to lasting peace on the island.

“As Bougainvilleans we should corporate in promoting reconciliation among ex-combatants and in wider community, restoring our civil authority,” Mr Eluh said.

20.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville Education Dept prepares for new staff appointments

By Veronica Hannette

BOUGAINVILLE’S Education Department is preparing for new staff appointments this year.

One of the first of these appointments would be a permanent guidance officer. The position of guidance officer has been vacant since August last year when former guidance officer Kevin Marimias was made chief of staff in the office of the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The position is still vacant and two names of nominees have been submitted but an appointment is still pending.

It is understood that this and all other appointments would be made by the National Department of Education because Bougainville is yet to draw down powers for such appointments from the national Department of Education.

ABG Minister for Education John Tabinaman said another important position in the department, that of an examination officer, is being occupied by one James Salanin. He said the permanent appointment of the guidance officer will be made by the appointing authorities when the process is complete.

20.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Government officials off to Buckingham Palace

By GORETHY KENNETH

GOVERNMENT officials are flying to Buckingham Palace in England this weekend to present the Governor-General elect’s papers to Queen Elizabeth.

Cabinet has endorsed the official travel of the team to Buckingham Palace for the presentation of the papers to the Queen.

Govenor-General elect Michael Ogio will have his papers presented to Queen Elizabeth by next Monday, and it will take a week for the process.

Once papers are presented and the Queen officially signs them, Ogio will be made a Knight of the British empire, and will be called Sir Michael Ogio.

But the process will not end there, the Government will have to recall Parliament to

witness the swearing in of Mr Ogio as the Governor-General by Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia.

Private Secretary to the Governor-General elect Joe Elijah yesterday said preparations are still being arranged for the official presentation of Mr Ogio to the Queen.

He said Mr Ogio is still living in a private residence and is expected to move into the Government House next month because outgoing governor general Sir Paulias Matane is still moving out.

20.01.2011

Source: The National

Akoitai: Bougainville not ready for self-rule

By PATRICK TALU

FORMER Bougainville affairs and mining minister Sam Akoitai yesterday said the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will not become independent in 2015 because of the slow progress on work towards staging a referendum.

Akoitai said in-fighting between the regional member and the president would also take its toll on the agreed timetable of 2015.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) contains a clause calling for a regional-wide referendum to have the people decide their political future and set 2015 as the date for that ultimate decision.

Akoitai said: "I am very concerned about the way things are progressing on the part of the office of Bougainville affairs to fast track the BPA and the path to a referendum as agreed in the BPA.

"In the agreement, there are three pillars that form the basis of BPA. They are: weapons disposal, autonomy and a referendum," the former Bougainville resistance fighter-cum politician said.

Akoitai who now considers himself as a private and corporate citizen said the three pillars are not fully addressed and the weapons disposal is not complete and still needs to be addressed.

He acknowledged that the government has honoured the second pillar in granting Bougainville autonomy but work is yet to be done that would lead to a referendum.

Akoitai said the government through the office of the Bougainville affairs has an obligation to fulfill to the people of Bougainville to effect the referendum which is a prerequisite to independence.

"It is duty-bound under the BPA to prepare Bougainville for a referendum. I can't see and hear any progressive report on the referendum which is the most important pillar of the BPA.

"If fiscal independence is lacking, I don't see an independent Bougainville.

"ABG's internal revenue could be less than K30 million and that is not enough to be an independent nation.

He also said the infighting between current Bougainville Affairs Minister and Regional MP Fedelis Semeso and Bougainville president John Momis will drag the progress of the implementation of the BPA.

"It's a sad situation for the people of Bougainville when their political heads are fighting amongst themselves. I would like to see the two leaders come to terms to implement and fast track the BPA," he said.

Akoitai also called on the Ombudsman Commission to investigate into the affairs and management of Office of Bougainville Affairs (OBA).

He charged that OBA was not fulfilling its constitutional duties and functions.

He also alleged that there was double dipping and misuse of public funds by OBA.

19.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Made the ESBC's inquiry the ASX move?

In the past several months the ESBC repeatedly informed the ASX supervisory board about suspicious trades in Bougainville Copper. Within the last days (today included) such trades were visible in the BOC trade history. Today, an Australian member of the ESBC sent us this article that appeared yesterday in THE AUSTRALIAN:

18.01.2011

Source: The Australian

Sharemarket watchdog targets computer trading

by Andrew Main

RECENTLY appointed sharemarket surveillance manager ASIC is planning a crackdown on potentially dangerous algorithmic share trading as the worldwide trend to automated orders takes hold here.

In its first supervision report since taking over from ASX Limited on August 1, ASIC commissioner Shane Tregillis warned of "a number of potential market abuses" and noted that algorithms can damage the integrity of the market.

The regulator appears to be battling two problems as algorithmic trading spreads: incorrect orders, both deliberately and accidentally placed.

"We're working actively with people who we believe are using anything from inefficient to defective algorithms," said Greg Yanco, the former ASX executive who now heads ASIC's surveillance operation.

He said one defective order he had seen would automatically cancel itself, removing a trade and then re-ordering it, in a "feedback loop" at a rate of 1000 times a second.

The federal government is close to awarding a market operator's licence to international group Chi-X Global, which will specialise in algorithmic trades. The removal of ASX Ltd's real time surveillance responsibilities last year was a part of that process, since, if there is more than one sharemarket in Australia, it would be impractical and undesirable for ASX to conduct surveillance on itself and a new rival.

"What we want is for brokers to look at the procedures they're introducing for new algorithms and to make sure that they're not going to impact market integrity," Mr Yanco said.

The 15-page report says that if needed, ASIC will take enforcement action against any market participant whose trading system interferes with the market's integrity.

An unspoken element of ASIC policy is to avoid the notorious "flash crash" that struck US markets on May 6 last year when a carelessly priced "sell program" algorithmic trade made by a US institution on a bad trading day sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average down by over 1000 points, briefly wiping \$US1 trillion from the value of US stocks.

Elsewhere in its report, ASIC noted that although the number of suspicious trading alerts (about 300 a day) put up by surveillance staff since last August is in line with the previous ASX-managed regime, ASIC had been able to cut the amount of time needed to start investigations into suspicious market conduct.

About 25 surveillance staff were rehired in the move from ASX to ASIC, to maximise continuity. Under the old ASX-ASIC regime it took up to three months for ASX to send referrals to ASIC, whereas the regulator is now hoping to cut that time by 30 per cent, particularly as they usually refer to insider trading.

The Australian understands that because they are under the same roof, the surveillance and enforcement arms of ASIC can meet unofficially at least once a week to discuss possible and ongoing investigations.

19.01.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

China's role in the Pacific more negative than positive now

The Director of the Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, believes China is no longer a force for good in the Pacific.

Despite the truce with Taiwan in the destructive battle for diplomatic recognition, and growing Chinese investment, Jenny Hayward-Jones argues that the negatives attached to Chinese involvement outweigh the positives.

Ms Hayward Jones says the change in her thinking is based on her observations of Chinese activity during last year, particularly in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Jenny Hayward-Jones, Director of the Myer Foundation Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute, in Sydney

Listen here!

19.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO ASSURES

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO has assured the people of North Bougainville that their DISTRICT SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM Funds would not be affected by the recent elevation of their member to the Head of state.

He told a news conference in Buka that these funds would be made available to the electorate by the National Government for the remaining term of this parliament.

MR. SEMOSO said however the National government would establish a mechanism in which these funds would be dispersed to the North Bougainville electorate.

He said that in the meantime he would oversee the affairs of the electorate as the Regional Member for Bougainville.

On the question of having a by election for the North Bougainville seat, MR. SEMOSO said that it was up to the National Government to decide on that as the GENERAL election is just around the corner.

19.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POWER CALLS

By Aloysius Laukai

A call has been made today in Buka for the Autonomous Bougainville Government to

immediately follow up the recent agreements with the Chinese to improve and upgrade the electricity requirements for Bougainville.

The Businessman who traveled to China with the ABG delegation told New Dawn FM that the HUNAN HYDRO POWER DESIGN AND ENGINEERING Company was capable of providing reliable Hydro power if given the green light by the ABG.

He said that the recent extension of Power supply to Kokopau on mainland Bougainville has completely downgraded the supply level resulting in power load shedding being experienced in Buka town.

He says that the PNG POWER LIMITED should explain to the electricity consumers why there is continuous black outs in Buka Town.

Attempts by New Dawn FM to get some answers to these queries were referred to the head office in Port Moresby.

19.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NAS CALLS FOR SAFETY

By Aloysius Laukai

The General Manager for National Aviation Services, JOHN IMAKA is calling on the Bougainville Police to arrest people who running vehicles on the Buka airport runway. MR. IMAKA made these calls after seeing many private vehicles running on the runway. He said that these vehicles are unlawfully using the runway and under the Civil Aviation laws should be charged by Police and Civil Aviation Authorities.

Several months ago office of the Civil Aviation has been charging drivers for illegally driving on the runway.

New Dawn FM understands Buka airport does not have security fence around it and makes it difficult for authorities to stop illegal crossers on the runway.

19.01.2011

Source: The National

Ogio commended for GG job

PRIME Minister Sir Michael Somare has congratulated North Bougainville MP Michael Ogio on his appointment as the ninth governor-general of Papua New Guinea.

Ogio collected 65 votes to win the vice-regal post ahead of Sir Pato Kakaraya, who polled 23 votes, occupying the position left vacant by Sir Paulias Matane following a Supreme Court decision on Dec 22 last year.

Sir Michael said the government was confident that Ogio would serve the office of the governor-general well and would continue to uphold the integrity of this high office.

Meanwhile, Ogio had not moved to Government House to conduct official duties.

He had moved to Holiday Inn while awaiting his swearing-in expected in May when parliament resumes.

He would then travel to England to meet the queen.

Parliament would resume on May 10.

Government House secretary Tipo Vuatha said the clerk of parliament would set the date for the swearing-in which, traditionally, would be held in parliament during a sitting day.

19.01.2011

Source: The National

Five months without a GG

UNWITTINGLY, the opposition has forced a situation where the country will go for five months without the new governor-general, Michael Ogio, taking up office.

This is so because the threat of a motion of no-confidence forced the government to quickly move for parliament to rise as soon as the election of Ogio was concluded. Although elected, it is a constitutional requirement that “before entering upon the duties of his office, a governor-general shall take the oath of allegiance and make the declaration of loyalty and the declaration of office before the chief justice and in the presence of the parliament”.

Only during a state of national emergency can this mandatory provision of the constitution (section 90) be not complied with.

Should this, or any other governor-general discharge the duties of his office without being officially sworn in, he will be suspended from office until such time he does and, if he does not do so at the first reasonably available opportunity, he may be dismissed from office.

This also fits into parliament’s own timetable which was that it would have elected the GG when it met at its scheduled date in May.

Parliament’s hand might have been forced by the courts to meet and elect a governor-general, but he cannot take office until parliament has met and witnessed his taking the oath of office.

To have sworn the governor-general-elect in at the last sitting, it would have meant parliament would have had to sit for two weeks at the very least – enough time for the opposition to move a motion of no-confidence.

Parliament cannot just elect a GG and then swear him in on the same afternoon, or the next day, because the head of state, Her Majesty the Queen, will have to be informed and she will have to give her assent.

As you read this, the cabinet secretary is travelling to England to inform Her Majesty of the decision of parliament.

Only after the head of state has given her assent is the governor-general-elect eligible to be sworn in.

That being the case, a rather curious situation arises which the law is silent about and which is left to conjecture.

Is the governor-general-elect entitled to enjoy the privileges and benefits of the office to which he has been appointed but which, under the law, he is not yet fully and officially vested with the powers and functions thereof?

If the governor-general is prohibited by the constitution from discharging the duties of his office, by rights he should not be entitled to the benefits of that office.

He should not occupy Government House and he should not be paid. That will mean going five months without any official residence and without any means of income.

That has to be so because the provision for declaration of office is not sub-servant to the election of the GG. They are equal.

If a person is not elected by parliament, he will not be GG. If a person, who has been elected as GG by parliament, does not take his oath of allegiance and declaration of loyalty etc, he will still not be GG.

Both acts must be performed and one must follow the other to elevate a person to the vice-regal post.

That said, how long a time is it reasonable for a GG to wait before he is sworn into office to begin his duties.

Again, the law spells out that there shall be an acting governor-general only when there is a vacancy in the office of the GG which, in our case, there is not. There is a governor-general elected and waiting anxiously to serve his office.

There can be an acting GG also if the substantive office holder is suspended from office. Of course, Ogio is not suspended from office.

He is not absent from the country, which is another reason why there should be an acting

GG, or out of speedy and effective communication which, again, he is not. The only provision where he is eligible is flimsy to say the least. That states that an acting GG may be take office if the substantive office holder is "otherwise unable to perform, or is not readily available to perform the duties of his office". This is flimsy because Ogio is able to perform and is readily available. He just has not been sworn in. For all the forgoing concerns, it is incumbent that parliament meets earlier than May to ensure the governor-general is properly installed by swearing him in.

18.01.2011

Source: The National

Security command centre a must

THE impounded ship, UBT Fjord, a tanker which had allegedly been illegally shipping out crude oil from Bougainville, last week slipped out of Rabaul's Simpson Harbour and is said to be steaming towards Singapore.

There is little PNG can do except inform the Singaporean authorities of the fact that the ship has been detained by PNG Customs for alleged illegal activities.

The UBT Fjord was detained for up to seven months at Simpson Harbour while its owners fought a furious legal battle with the PNG Customs haggling over the amount it was to pay PNG.

It offered variously amounts in the vicinity of US\$600,000, we gather, but Customs was certain the ship was worth US\$5 million.

The haggling lasted seven months and, in the end, the ship slipped out without having paid a toea to the PNG government.

It paid, though, in every hour it was detained in the harbour. Boats and aircraft doing nothing in the water or on the ground always incur high costs.

ENB provincial police commander Sylvester Kalaut is decrying the length of time it took for the court matter to be concluded so that the state could be paid and the ship released.

He reckons that seven months is a long time for a case to be brought to conclusion. We agree.

Kalaut also described the slipping away on Jan 8 this year as "an invasion of the sovereignty of the country" and said it showed that PNG is unable to defend its borders. He said when the ship slipped from the harbour, there was nothing state agencies, including his own police force, could do to stop it.

"The point here is it simply shows that the country has a weak security response," Kalaut said.

Along with the runaway ship goes some K14 million worth of crude oil, the property of the people of PNG.

An important point is that there is no strategic command centre for response to security concerns.

Individual agencies handle their own emergencies and only come together with other security and border agencies on an ad hoc basis.

This must be changed. The national security council needs to set up a command centre from with police, defence, national intelligence organisation, customs and other agencies concerned with national security monitor events and issues 24/7.

After 34 years of independence, PNG deserves and should have such a centre. It deserves and should have a fully equipped military and police force to respond to emergencies.

Security concerns in the region, including multinational crime and terrorism, require that this be given top priority.

The other concern is the long delay in court cases. This will also require closer scrutiny and allocation of resources.

The onus is on the courts of the land to deal with matters efficiently and effectively so that justice is dispensed with speedily so that aggrieved parties are compensated for and those which run foul of the law can go back to business – hopefully having learnt from the experience.

Retiring court judge Justice Graham Ellis last week complained of the major court cases, including matters over leadership tribunals, which are being delayed in court for many months.

Ellis said the gag on the report of the commission of inquiry into the Finance Department, Arthur Somare and Patrick Pruaitch challenging the appointment of their respective leadership tribunals and Sir Michael Somare's Supreme Court appeal in the Motigate Affair were all gathering dust in Waigani.

These high profile cases require the courts to move decisively.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

Today we carry another retiring justice's regrets that he adds to the growing number some 40 cases which he will now not be able to hear.

Justice Mark Sevua, whose application to remain on the bench was refused by the judicial and legal services commission, has also said that matters are taking an unnecessarily long time to complete.

If it is additional judges that is required then an honest assessment must be made and new judges be added to the National and Supreme Court benches to cater for the increased work force.

As the country expands and more and more people are educated and become aware of and are willing to fight for their rights and can afford the legal fees the number of cases before the courts will increase.

18.01.2011

Source: The National

Buka soap maker returns to Moresby

AFTER a year of absence from the streets of Port Moresby, the only seller of the much sought after Buka soap has returned and is now offering his product to individuals and retail outlets.

John Tamaku from Bougainville, who is a familiar face in the city, said that as the only distributor of Buka soap in Port Moresby, selling his soap to interested buyers to resell was a way of reaching out to more customers.

Tamaku said interested persons could contact Buka Metal Fabricators and become financial members to sell the soap.

According to Tamaku, the soap which is made from coconut, lemon grass with traditional bush medicinal herbs heals common skin infections such as grille and rashes.

"Many people have come to me with testimonies of how the soap has helped them. I also sell the soap to try help promote PNG-made products," said Tamaku.

He said a carton, which cost around K140, would generate K60 in profit which Tamaku says was a good way to help sustain unemployed individuals like himself who had been in the business for 6 years.

18.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

Several people who have attended Business Meetings with the visiting Chinese

delegation are happy that Bougainville would greatly benefit from assistance by the Chinese people.

The CEO for Peace and Reconciliation, NICK PENIAI told one of the meetings that he was satisfied that China can assist Bougainville.

MR. PENIAI said that if China can assist with building materials and Business opportunities for the people of Bougainville then Bougainville should support the program.

He said that Bougainville desperately needed technical and financial assistance to move forward and China was one country that is willing to assist.

18.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

China meet ABG

By Aloysius Laukai

Since the seven MOU's between the ABG and China last year, Chinese companies are already visiting Bougainville to talk to possible Business Partners on Bougainville.

Last week the Owner of a Chinese Building Design Company visited Bougainville with two other team members.

They held several meetings with the Bougainville Administration Chief Executive Officers and Business Community in Buka before traveling to Arawa and Buin.

The Delegation is led by the ABG's Trade Representative in China JASON FONG.

The group would return to Port Moresby this Friday.

New Dawn FM understands that the ABG's policy on Investment is that NO STAND ALONE Business would be operated on Bougainville.

18.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISSAN AIRSTRIP OPEN

By Aloysius Laukai

Nissan airstrip became the 3rd airstrip to be used by the National Aviation Services since it started operating on Bougainville at the end of last year.

And Nissan could become the main port of operation as it has been facing transport difficulties since the end of the conflict.

Since there was no reliable and safe means of transportation many Nissan people have either lost their valuables at sea or even drifted for many days. Sometimes even for months.

Since President MOMIS came in he made this transportation a priority. And although the business is not good NAS has vowed to support the ABG to achieve its goals.

Recently the ABG delegation that visited China signed seven MOU's one for the Aviation Industry.

AVIC International a Aircraft builder has offered to give two planes on full loan to Bougainville.

A team from AVIC international are on Bougainville and would formalize this arrangement in Buka during this visit.



Pictured is ABG President Momis welcomed by Nehan Chief MICHAEL TITUS at the Nissan Aistrip.
Pic by Tapo Tovilu

18.01.2011

Source: The National

Ogio as GG a bonus for Bougainville

By SAMUEL RAITANO

THE election of North Bougainville MP Michael Ogio as Governor-General was according to an MP, a bonus for the people of Bougainville.

Member for Central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringtoro made the remark during a press conference over the weekend in Port Moresby.

Miringtoro said Bougainville was privileged and honoured to have one of its sons in the highly esteemed office.

He thanked the NA-led coalition on behalf of the people of Bougainville for nominating and voting for Ogio to be the ninth governor-general of the country.

Enga Governor Peter Ipatas, along with other leaders were, also thanked for nominating and

pushing for Ogio to be considered for the governor-general's post.

Ogio, who was the Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) Party strongman, has now left the political arena, consequently leaving his Higher Education, Science and Technology portfolio, along with the party leadership.

It was announced at that occasion that Obura-Wonenara MP John Boito would take up the leadership of PDM.

18.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso praises G-G Ogio

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE Governor and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso (pictured) has applauded Michael Ogio on his appointment as the Governor-General elect of Papua New Guinea.

At a press conference organised by the Governor on Saturday at the Buka Airport VIP Lounge, Mr Semoso told reporters that the Government caucus last Monday agreed to Mr Ogio as the final and only nominee for the vice-regal post.

He said the appointment of Mr Ogio as the head of the Independent State of PNG made history for PNG and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

"As the Governor and Bougainville Affairs Minister, it is fitting to see for one of Bougainville's own sons to be elevated to the G-Gs post. Bougainville deserves this recognition because it is always in the forefront of changes in development," Mr Semoso said.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Government, MPs for giving the recognition to Bougainville for Mr Ogio as G-G."

Mr Semoso said the appointment of Mr Ogio as GG strengthens the relationships between of Bougainville and PNG.

Responding to questions raised by reporters on the vacancy of the North Bougainville Open seat, Mr Semoso said; "With the General Election just around the corner, it is not clear whether or not a by-election would be conducted to fill the vacancy.

"The North Bougainville Open seat will remain vacant. To conduct a by-election is a very expensive exercise."

Mr Semoso has assured that funds for the North Bougainville Electorate projects will continue with arrangements with the National Government – either fund will be handled and dispersed by the ABG or the Bougainville Governor.

Meanwhile the K15 million Bougainville Restoration and Development Grant will not be released by the National Government unless the ABG and its administration acquit all funds to date.

It is understood that all financial accounts should be acquitted in line with the Public Finances Management Act.

Mr Semoso said that the National Government could have dispersed the K15 million, but because of the ABG's failure to produce and submit acquittals, the money still remains at Waigani.

"I am calling on all public servants to be 100 per cent committed to their duties and not to spend holidays in the office," Mr Semoso said.

"Public servants do the right thing now and get the acquittals ready to be dispatched to Waigani."

Mr Semoso said he will insist on Waigani to release the K15 million Bougainville Restoration and Development Grant.

18.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Alcohol and drugs cause problems'

By VERONICA HANNETTE

BOUGAINVILLE police chief, Assistant Commissioner of Police Thomas Eluh said resorting to drugs and homebrew will not solve problems but cause more problems.

Using drugs and homebrew to solve problems has been of great concern in the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Mr Eluh is taking a stand against this. He appealed to Bougainvilleans to find peaceful means to solve their problems. Mr Eluh was speaking at a Gospel Music Show conducted by former Bougainville Revolutionary Army commander Ishmael Toroama at the Bel Isi Park in Buka. Mr Toroama shared similar sentiments and urged Bougainvilleans to strengthen their faith in order for Bougainville to prosper.

"Bougainville, as a sinking ship, needs to be reconditioned through attitude and behavioural change – from bad to good," he said.

Mr Eluh said in order for Bougainville to achieve its dreams to gain full autonomy, the Bougainville population should be educated "first".

"Education is a way forward. We need to have an educated population so that we can prosper.

"I urge the National Government and the ABG to put education as the top priority for the future of the region's youth."

The top cop also challenged the youths of Bougainville to make 2011 a year of reflection and change for the betterment of Bougainville.

Meanwhile Mr Eluh was also disappointed that K6 million was not released by the National Treasury.

The K6 million should fund the initial phase of the Bougainville Police Service Restructure Program.

"The non-release of the K6 million kina is causing a set back to the Bougainville Police Service and we could not do anything," he said.

Mr Eluh called upon the National Government to seriously honour the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

18.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville welcomes new SDA leader

By FABIAN HAKAKLITS

THE Seventh Day Adventists Church in Bougainville has a new president to head the region for the next five years, starting this year.

President Kove Tau was appointed as the shepherd of SDA followers in the region.

He replaces former president Richard Rikis.

Last Friday, President Tau arrived in Bougainville to begin his mission.

He was given a gesture of welcome in the Bougainvillean way – tsutsu (or the washing of the feet in Halia dialect) which signifies his high status in the church.

The tsutsu is a traditional ritual performed to first time visitors mainly to those having higher status in the clan. At the Buka Airport he was met by Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representative Andrew Miriki, senior protocol officer Philip Kiha and members of the SDA church.

During a conference at the Buka Airport VIP Lounge, Mr Miriki welcomed President Tau to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

He said President Tau's mission to the region is part and parcel of the peace and reconciliation program leading towards Bougainville's dream to gaining full autonomy, achieving independence.

"President Tau, on behalf of the ABG and its people, we welcome you and your family and we hope your mission will greatly contribute towards shaping Bougainville," Mr Miriki said.

President Tau thanked the ABG and the Bougainville people for welcoming him to the autonomous region and said that he will mainly focus on ministry work.

He said for 22 years, he was not given such a welcome, and with such greetings with smiles from the people of Bougainville, this reveals a great challenge and work.

Mr Miriki also pointed out that in this referendum stage when Bougainville is still at the uncharted seas, undecided for full autonomy, it is important the Government has to collaborate with the churches and work together.

"It is important that the Government has a cordial relationship with the churches because churches guide and give direction to what is right and wrong." said Miriki.

17.01.2011

Source: Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG's vice-regal election accused of being politicised

A Papua New Guinea politician is calling for the removal of powers to nominate and elect a Governor General from politicians and parliament.

PNG's Supreme Court, on December 10th last year, annulled the re-appointment of Sir Paulias Matane and ordered the election of a new GG this month.

Parliament on Friday elected the ruling National Alliance party's favoured candidate, Michael Ogio,

The Governor of Port Moresby city, Powes Parkop says the integrity and the reputation of the vice regal's office has being politicised and eroded.

He says he will ask parliament to amend the laws on the election of the Governor General so as to remove the powers and vest it in an Eminent Persons Group soon.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Port Moresby city Governor, Powes Parkop

[Listen here!](#)

17.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Ban partially lifted

BY SONIA KENU DWU Journalism Student

The ban on the sale of ice-blocks will soon be lifted by the Buka Urban Council and the Regional Cholera Task Force.

The Environmental Health officer with Buka Urban Council Deluts Semoso says they will partially lift the ban as the team is looking at regulating the sale of ice-blocks.

Ms Semoso says the regulation will help them monitor the sale of ice-blocks.

She adds that with the regulation, they aim to issue trading license to 10 suppliers of ice-blocks.

She says those interested in supplying ice-blocks are expected to meet certain health requirements in order to get a trading license.

Ms Semoso says that ice-blocks will only be sold at designated market areas.

Meanwhile, she says a meeting will be held by the Buka Urban Council and the Cholera task force including other stakeholders and individuals on the lifting of the ban.

17.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA WELCOMES GG

By Aloysius Laukai

The Buka chiefs and the people of North Bougainville electorate last Saturday commended the National Government for appointing MICHAEL OGIO as the head of state and Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

Chairman of the Buka Council of Elders Chief ROMEO TOHIANA in a press statement said that the people of North Bougainville were very happy and want to commend the Somare-Abal led government for choosing MR. OGIO.

Mr. Tohiana said that the Buka chiefs see this as another historical achievement for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and also strengthens the relationship between Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

17.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO APPEALS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO is appealing to the people of North Bougainville not to disturb the new Governor General elect.

MR. SEMOSO said in Buka that the position of Governor General does not have any funds for handout and the people must stop calling the former member.

He said that people who have been associating with the former member for North Bougainville for projects should stop calling MR. OGIO as he is no longer the member for North Bougainville.

17.01.2011

Source: The National

Ogio elected as new GG

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE National Parliament has elected Member for North Bougainville and Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology Michael Ogio as the ninth Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Voting for the new GG went ahead last Friday despite a notice of appeal being served to the acting speaker, the clerk of parliament, the acting Prime Minister and the state solicitor.

The government, with its strength in numbers, elected Ogio defeating his rival Sir Pato Kakaraya 65-23 while another eight votes were declared informal.

Before taking the vote, Western Governor Bob Danaya raised a point of order if Ogio was going

to vote himself, but the speaker ruled it out of order after giving several references of the elections of Sir John Guise and

Sir Wiwa Korowi who were elected governor-general while being members of the House of Assembly and parliament.

Deputy opposition leader Bart Philemon also raised a point of order, asking the acting speaker if he was aware of any notice of appeal documents being served but the acting speaker Francis Marus said he was not aware of any court proceedings or order being served.

Vanimo-Green MP and PNG party leader Belden Namah also asked the chair to explain if Sir Paulias Matane qualified to be voted, but the acting speaker said he did not qualify. As the vote was about to be taken, Ogio upon the point order raised on his eligibility to vote, sought leave of parliament and walked out of the chamber. Before he takes up his post as GG, Ogio will travel to England to meet the Queen. However, it is not known when this will happen. This now leaves a vacancy in the ministry of higher education and the office of the member for North Bougainville. A by-election is likely to take place as 18 months remains before the general elections next year when the writs will be expected out in May.

17.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainvilleans applaud gesture

By FABIAN HAKALITS

THE Buka chiefs and the people of North Bougainville Open Electorate have commended the Government for appointing one of Bougainville's very own sons Michael Ogio as the Head of State and Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. For the first time in history a Bougainvillean Michael Ogio, the Member for North Bougainville and Minister for Higher Education, has filled the vice-regal post. Buka Council of Elders chair-man Chief Romeo Tohiana in congratulating the G-G elect, expressed his gratefulness and support shortly after the appointment and announcement of Michael Ogio as the new G-G. "The North Bougainville Open Electorate chiefs and its people take this opportunity to commend the National Executive Council and the Somare/Abal led Government for the appointment of Mr Ogio as the new G-G of PNG," Mr Tohiana said. Mr Ogio as a former teacher and politician contributed enormously to PNG and his electorate through his services. "The people of Buka would once again commend the National Government and its people for having the confidence in bestowing Mr Ogio the role, as the PNG Head of State," he said.

17.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ogio is new G-G

By JONATHAN TANNOS

MICHAEL Ogio on Friday became the new Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. The North Bougainvillean mustered the support of 65 Members of Parliament through a secret ballot which saw just 23 votes for only rival and former politician Pato Kakarya. There were eight informal votes from the conduct of the secret ballot which to many people was only a formality as the Government had maintained its numerical strength from Monday when nominations opened. Mr Ogio now becomes the ninth Governor-General of the country since Independence. Not only that but he is now required to vacate his North Bougainville seat in order to take up his new position. It is not clear at this stage whether or not a by-election can be held to fill the vacancy, considering the next national elections are less than two years away now. Other potential candidates for the post failed to muster the required support of 15 Members of Parliament in order to be eligible for the election.

They included former governor-general, Sir Paulias Matane, who did not get the required support despite the serious efforts senior members of Government had earlier sought his concurrence to re-run for office.

This was unlike the previous June 25, 2010 election when Sir Paulias initially got the support of MPs who voted him to qualify to run for another term.

However, a snap declaration of his eligibility for office without having to formally be voted through the required secret ballot caused an uproar resulting in a Supreme Court reference taken out by the Morobe Provincial Executive Council, which overturned the appointment on December 10, 2010.

The Court then ordered Parliament's recall to elect a new governor-general within 40 days from its decision date.

The Government caucus had on Monday agreed to Mr Ogio as its final and only nominee for the vice-regal position, rejecting Sir Paulias.

Acting Speaker of Parliament, Francis Marus, presided over the election and wasted no time in its conduct as it was the only official business of Parliament.

Earlier, a point of order was raised questioning claims that a court order had been taken out preventing Parliament from progressing the secret ballot.

Mr Marus said his office and Parliament had not received any such orders or documents and as far as he was concerned the secret ballot would progress as scheduled.

Mr Marus also explained that Sir Paulias had not mastered the required 15 MPs' support to be considered eligible for the secret ballot following a point of order raised by PNG Party Leader Belden Namah.

Following his announcement of the result of the secret ballot, Mr Marus declared Mr Ogio the new Governor-General.

Leader of Government Business and National Planning Minister Paul Tiensten then successfully moved for adjournment of the House to May 10.

As a formality Mr Ogio will be inaugurated by the Queen who is symbolically the Head of State as PNG is a member of the Commonwealth of nations.

A date is yet to be finalised for the event.

17.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka effects tax scheme

By FABIAN HAKALITS

ALL public and private sector businesses operating within the boundaries of Buka Town have been issued with notices to pay their corporate and personal head tax starting this month.

The notice was issued by Buka Urban Council and serves all business houses, companies, Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) administrative divisions, Parliamentary Services and National Government agency offices operating in jurisdictional areas including Buka Town (CBD, Manguru, Katsinkuri, Ieta, and Airport Area), Sohano Island, Kokopau, Kubu, Hahela and Hutjena/ Tsonmona.

Buka Urban Council Town Manageress, Brenda Tohiana told the Post-Courier that the ABG Corporate and Personal Head Tax (2006) is the enabling Act that empowers Urban Councils and Council of Elders (COE) to impose and collect tax within the areas of their jurisdiction.

Mrs Tohiana said COEs Head Tax Rule 2009, of Buka Urban Council was approved by the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) and gazetted in the Bougainville Gazette number ABG 2 (2009) dated Friday May 15 2009.

The rule, she said, empowers Buka Urban Council to impose and collect head tax from eligible tax payers.

"Buka Urban Council has taken the initiative issuing public notices to all these public and private sectors operating in the jurisdiction areas of Buka Town commencing this month,

January to pay their corporate and personal head tax.” she said. Tohiana said; “If they fail to pay these taxes, a grace period will be given and they have to inform the office of the Buka Urban Council.”

“If the grace period expires, penalties will apply if they continuously fail to pay.” Tohiana said.

n CORPORATE Head Tax: A fee of K100 on any business that has been operating in Buka Town and areas stipulated in the jurisdictional boundary of Buka Town including the Kokopau Growth Centre for six months or more to pay a head tax to the Buka Urban Council

n PERSONAL Head Tax: K20 per fiscal year by any persons who is 18 years or more either male or female who has resided in Buka Town and its ward areas for more than six months.

Mrs Tohiana said for the purpose of Personal Head Tax, business and Government entities are directed to provide to the office of the Buka Urban Council a list of all their employees, their residential and their dates of employment by the company.

A fee of K100 for the Corporate Head Tax should be directly paid to the office of the Buka Urban Council.

Meanwhile all COE in Bougainville are qualified under the Corporate and Personal Head Tax Act.

17.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Leaders be disciplined

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE leaders have been urged to instil good discipline and behaviour in their communities. A concerned Bougainville citizen who wanted to remain anonymous told the Post-Courier that leaders should uphold laws and integrity of their leadership roles under the code of conducts through leading by example. She said leaders sometimes “step out of their leadership shoes” and act silly in public places.

“It is frustrating seeing leaders acting like small kids when they are drunk in public places. Or involving themselves in conflicts where they (leaders) should be neutral and making decisions that should benefit both parties.” she said.

She said some leaders have to grow both in person and mind as they still had childish manners.

“As a leader of any organisation, especially in the Government hierarchy, it is very shameful seeing leader’s activity like this in public areas.

“If leaders do not uphold their leadership quality, they deserve disrespect from the communities.”

She said such practices in public places was illegal and leaders found doing this should be dealt with accordingly under the law.

“Leaders must abide by laws and not breach them.”

Meanwhile leaders have also been urged to be servant leaders. She said there is no cordial relationship among the leaders and people because there is no bottom up approach.

“Always consult and work with your people in that way you will be accorded the respect and trust,” she said.

“Leadership is about “having a listening heart” and this, she said requires patients and time.

“I am calling on all Bougainville leaders, please work together with your people for the benefit and development of Bougainville, she said.

17.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Torokina booster

By FABIAN HAKALITS

IT'S a timely New Year gift for Torokina Primary School in Bougainville.

The school is located in one of the most remote parts of Bougainville was the proud recipient of a K50,000 donation, thanks to the National Education Department .

The K50,000 will go towards funding the new school library that will help students with their reading skills, knowledge and scientific research methods.

Officer representing Education Department Marie Muganawa last Tuesday presented the cheque to headmaster Melchior Sebelei.

Mr Sebelei upon receiving the cheque thanked the Education Department for the donation as "it was first of its kind" for the school.

He said the library was one very important facilities in learning institution and with the timely gift of K50,000, this would boost the children's' learning ability.

"Torokina Primary School has always been left out.

"In our submission to the Education Department, we asked them if they could assist us with funding to build a library. And upon our request, we were given a blessing with a New Year gift of K50,000.

"This money will cater for materials to construct the library building and other facilities required, including books,

"Our school's Board of Management will open a Trust Account and deposit the money into this account. The money will only cater for library materials and other facilities and nothing else, making sure that we acquit for the money. Our aims and objective is to complete the library by the end of this year so it allows us to look at other needed projects within the school area." Mr Sebelei said.

Meanwhile Torokina Primary School chairman Paul Damo thanked the Education Department and appealed to Torokina communities to work together to achieve the project.

17.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

System Okay

By Aloysius Laukai

The Telikom System that New Dawn FM uses to update online viewers came on last night.

The system has been off for more than two weeks resulting in us having difficulty updating our site.

Reports from the Local Telikom office said that the system failure resulted from a error message coming from their main system in Port Moresby.

Our Online team will update the site as of today.

16.01.2011

Source: Goldschmiede Zeitung

Papua Neuguinea

Hoffnung auf Wiederaufnahme der Arbeit in der Panguna-Mine

von Peter Henselder

Frankfurt/M. – Die nördlich von Australien gelegene, 8800 Quadratkilometer große Insel Bougainville, die politisch zu Papua Neuguinea gehört und rund 200 000 Einwohner hat, musste die hier befindliche Panguna-Mine seit 21 Jahren aus politischen Gründen geschlossen halten.

In den Jahren 1972 bis 1989 zählte sie zu den größten kombinierten Kupfer- und Goldminen der Welt. Die noch nicht geförderten Reserven von 3 bis 3,5 Millionen Tonnen Kupfer und knapp 13 Millionen Unzen Gold sind auf Basis der aktuellen Rohstoffpreise rund 50 Mrd. US-Dollar wert. Die jährliche Förderkapazität wird auf 170 000 Tonnen Kupfer und 500 000 Unzen Gold geschätzt. Auf Basis dieser Annahmen könnte die Mine noch rund 20 Jahre betrieben werden. Ende 2010 haben sich die in sechs Gruppen zusammen geschlossenen Landeigentümer nun darauf geeinigt, die Verhandlungen über eine Wiederbelebung von Panguna voranzutreiben. Ende Januar sollen die Gespräche beginnen. Getrieben werden sie von Spekulationen über noch nicht bekannte, in der Mine vermutete Reserven. Bislang wurde hier ausschließlich im Tagebau gearbeitet. Bei einer Wiederaufnahme der Produktion könnte auch eine ergänzende Untertageerschließung mit Hilfe modernster Verfahren zum Zuge kommen. Auch gehört zur Mine noch Land außerhalb der bis jetzt erschlossenen Vorkommen, in dem sich ebenfalls Rohstoffe finden lassen dürften.

15..01.2011

Source: Canadian TV

Copper Market

The commodity cycle speeds up

BRENDA BOUW, DAVID EBNER

Nothing remains of the peak of Copper Mountain in southern British Columbia, destroyed by decades of mining that have left behind three gaping pits about 1,000 metres above sea level.

But it's been quiet up here since the mid-1990s, when the last operation was shuttered because of low commodity prices.

That's about to change, thanks to a roaring comeback in the price of the main metal produced here. Copper, used in everything from construction and cars to telecommunications and power, is on a record run.

This week, amid blustery winds and a fresh blanket of snow, the trucks and shovels rumble again at this site, home to the Copper Mountain project, located 270 kilometres east of the Port Metro Vancouver, where copper concentrate will be shipped to Japan for smelting.

Sparks from welders' torches crackle and fly inside the massive hangar-like processing mill that stands 10 storeys tall. Outside, several 240-tonne, seven-metre-tall trucks – price tag \$3.5-million each – bump along at 15 kilometres an hour, hauling away waste rock from the once-prolific pit 3, to once again get after the suddenly valuable copper-speckled ore.

"The best copper is the copper that has already been found," says Bill Dodds, the mine general manager. "And it's where you probably find more of it."

The Copper Mountain mine is one of a growing number of old, shuttered mines around the world that are being revisited, refurbished and reopened by companies hoping to cash in on the current surge in prices for copper, gold, nickel and a host of other metals.

The revival of old mines is part of the industry's push to meet soaring demand from China and other fast-growing nations that use the various metals in their surging industrial exports and to build out their own infrastructure.

Mining companies are spending billions to boost production, in a race to meet that demand as quickly as possible before the next downturn hits the notoriously cyclical industry.

Today, with copper trading comfortably above \$4 a pound, it appears that the comeback of the Copper Mountain mine couldn't have been better timed.

"We are extremely excited to be starting production this year," says Copper Mountain Mining Corp. chief executive officer Jim O'Rourke, who was also head of the former company that made the decision to shut the mine in the mid-1990s.

Copper Mountain has a rocky history. Ore was discovered by a father-and-son prospecting team in the 1880s. The first claim staked at Copper Mountain was by a fur buyer, R.A. Brown, in 1895, but it wasn't until 1920 that the first ore was shipped out from a mine. Low copper prices forced the nascent operation to shut down just two months later - the first of four times in the next eight decades that whipsaw commodity prices closed the doors.

When the mine officially reopens this summer, after some \$438-million of reconstruction spending, it will be the first commercial production to come out of the site in 15 years. When the mine last closed in 1996, copper was struggling to stay above \$1 (U.S.) a pound, making it difficult to not only turn a profit but replace the 20-year-old trucks and aging infrastructure.

Around the world, old mines like Copper Mountain are new again. Mine reopenings are running at a brisk clip - an average of about two per month over the past 21 months worldwide, according to Halifax-based Metals Economics Group. That includes four reopenings in March last year and three in each July and April.

The revitalization is bringing a variety of mines back to life. Once-dormant gold mines have been restarted in several resource-rich locations, including Northern Ontario, as the soaring metal trades near record highs. Canadian mining giant Teck Resources Ltd. is considering reopening an old metallurgical coal mine in B.C. amid relentless demand for the raw material used in steel making. **In Papua New Guinea, talks are under way to reopen the massive Bougainville copper mine, closed for 20 years, at a cost of \$3-billion.** Old uranium mines are reopening in parts of the western United States after years of sitting idle, as the price of the metal used as fuel for nuclear reactors climbs alongside rising global demand for energy.

While old mines reopen, mining companies are also furiously consolidating, in order to combine resources and capital to speed up development of new mines. In the past week alone, four substantial mining deals involving Canadian firms were announced, all with the goal of rapid growth.

Inmet Mining Corp., for example, characterized its merger with Lundin Mining Corp. as a must to "survive and thrive" in the copper business, while Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.'s \$4.7-billion bid for Consolidated Thompson Iron Mines Ltd. opens the door for Cliffs to the crucial Chinese market. HudBay Minerals Inc. is hoping to revitalize its growth plans by reaching into copper-rich Peru with a \$520-million deal for Norsemont Mining Inc.

But the rush to get bigger, faster brings risks. All the new waves of supply from reopened mines and new projects are likely to weigh on the market in coming years, some industry experts warn. Prices for copper, aluminum, nickel, coal and iron ore may still rise for a year or two, but amid the fast growth in supply, many predict demand to level off, followed by prices. The possibility of a slowdown in China, as the country takes steps to rein in inflation and credit growth, adds to the risk.

In the case of copper, "as more supply comes on, the price will slowly come down," says Peter Campbell, a mining analyst with Jennings Capital. After a near-term rise, he sees copper prices tumbling back down to about \$2.50 a pound by 2015.

As prices decline, higher-cost producers will be hurt "because the margins are just too skinny," Mr. Campbell says.

"They don't call it a commodity cycle for nothing," he says. "Sometimes it ends in tears."

Mine values

Old mines, though, can become company makers.

Vancouver-based Quadra FNX Mining Ltd. got its start from a once-shuttered mine discarded by mining giant BHP Billiton Ltd.

Australian-based BHP closed the Robinson copper mine in Nevada in 1999, when the 70-cent copper price meant the open-pit operation was no longer making enough money to satisfy its growth plans.

The state's Robinson Mining District had been producing copper since the early 1900s, and Quadra, confident copper would eventually rebound, bought the mine in April, 2004. Production began a few months later and has been operating since, with an expected mine life until 2016.

Today, Quadra FNX has mines and development projects in North America, Chile and Greenland.

"Robinson was a great starting project for a new company at the time," says Quadra FNX CEO Paul Blythe. But timing is everything, and Mr. Blythe says valuations of mine projects today have soared. Mines for sale today "tend to be sold by auction and they tend to command a price that would make a person cautious, I think, as to whether you wanted to get into a bid situation or not."

Consider Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s Mary River iron ore project in Canada's high Arctic. Construction hasn't even started and it already has sparked a bidding war between steel giant ArcelorMittal and a U.S. private equity firm. On Friday, the two companies came together to make a joint offer at \$1.50 a share, which is nearly double the original bid price made last fall.

Seizing the advantage

Copper Mountain Mining's Mr. O'Rourke has lived through a number of commodity cycles in his more than 30 years of operating and developing mines across North and South America.

It's knowing just how quickly prices can fluctuate that has Mr. O'Rourke and his team working around the clock to ensure that the Copper Mountain mine is completed on time and on budget. With copper currently trading around \$4.30 a pound and forecasts it could surpass \$5 next year as demand outstrips supply, the months ahead could be the company's best chance to reap rich profits.

"If we take advantage of the time, take advantage of the revenue, do lots of exploration, the mine could be there for 15 to 20 years," says Mr. O'Rourke, who came out of "retirement" to make the project a reality.

Copper Mountain Mining is far ahead from where it started after buying the mine in 2006. Its production decision was based on a price of \$1.80 a pound.

"The extra \$2.50-per-pound margin on our planned 100-million-pound-per-year production provides huge upside for the mine," Mr. O'Rourke says.

What's more, the company is estimating production costs at the mine of around \$1.30 a pound. At today's prices, that's a gain of \$3 a pound, or about \$300-million a year in cash flow. While the company still has to pay off debt and other expenses, the higher the margin the more money it can set aside for future growth, including possibly a future acquisition.

"It's a great base for a junior company – to form the base for us to grow from," Mr. O'Rourke says.

Time pressure

If the commodity picture plays out as some predict over the next few years, Copper Mountain Mining has about 18 months to squeeze higher profits out from the revival of its B.C. mine. That's if there are no problems and production begins on time.

At the Copper Mountain site, about 350 construction workers are busy on the sprawling 18,000-acre property (7,300 hectares) amid the undulating mountain top above steep slopes.

The concrete was first poured last February. Crews know the pressure is on to make sure the June 1 opening date is not missed. "Getting it going June 1 is the minimum," says mine general manager Mr. Dodds.

One great advantage of resurrecting a dead mine is that some important infrastructure is already in place. Copper Mountain was already connected to the BC Hydro grid and, much more importantly, already had a tailing lake. At three kilometres long, this key but often controversial storage pit for mine processing waste – some 34,000 tonnes of ground ore dust each day – was the huge stumbling block that eventually sunk Taseko Mines Ltd.'s proposed Prosperity copper-gold mine in B.C. last fall.

While much of the work is done at the Copper Mountain mine, there are "lots of bits and pieces to go." Pieces come from everywhere. The shovels from Germany, the trucks from Illinois, loaders from Japan, the 34-tonne grinders in the mill made in Paraguay.

Seven of the big 240-tonne Komatsu 830E trucks are on site, with the other half dozen to arrive by February. They show up in pieces and are assembled on site. Stacked piles of \$40,000 tires, haul boxes in two, and truck chassis/frame/engine sit in the snow outside a maintenance shop. The trucks are part of 23 pieces of heavy equipment, worth a total of \$85-million.

On the precipice of pit 3, across the 200-metre deep chasm, drillers are at work to poke holes to fill with explosives to blow away waste rock, the last preparations for mining. It is on this flat ground, above the pit, that once existed the town of Copper Mountain, back when Granby Consolidated Mining operated an underground mine below. There's no hint left of the buildings that housed the men who toiled below ground, the first to haul copper ore out of here.

The current plan calls for the mine to be in business until 2028. There's already hope for longer production, particularly after more positive exploration results were released on Thursday. Pits 1, 2 and 3 are individual gashes in the land; when Copper Mountain Mining Corp. is done, it will be one massive superpit.

Looking at the hardrock below, Mr. Dodds says: "In 17 years there'll be no trace of it."

15.01.2011

Source: the star online

Reminiscence

Jungle paradise in the South Pacific

By Tan Wee Kiat

An old-timer reminisces about an engineering assignment he took on once upon a time in the South Pacific.

The South Sea island in question is Bougainville, which was part of the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific before World War I. From April to October 1966, it was my highland paradise.

I was hired to work there as a mining engineer. To get to Bougainville, I was given a long and curious route — by plane from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore, and then on to Perth. Then by rail for two days across the continental desert from Perth to Melbourne.

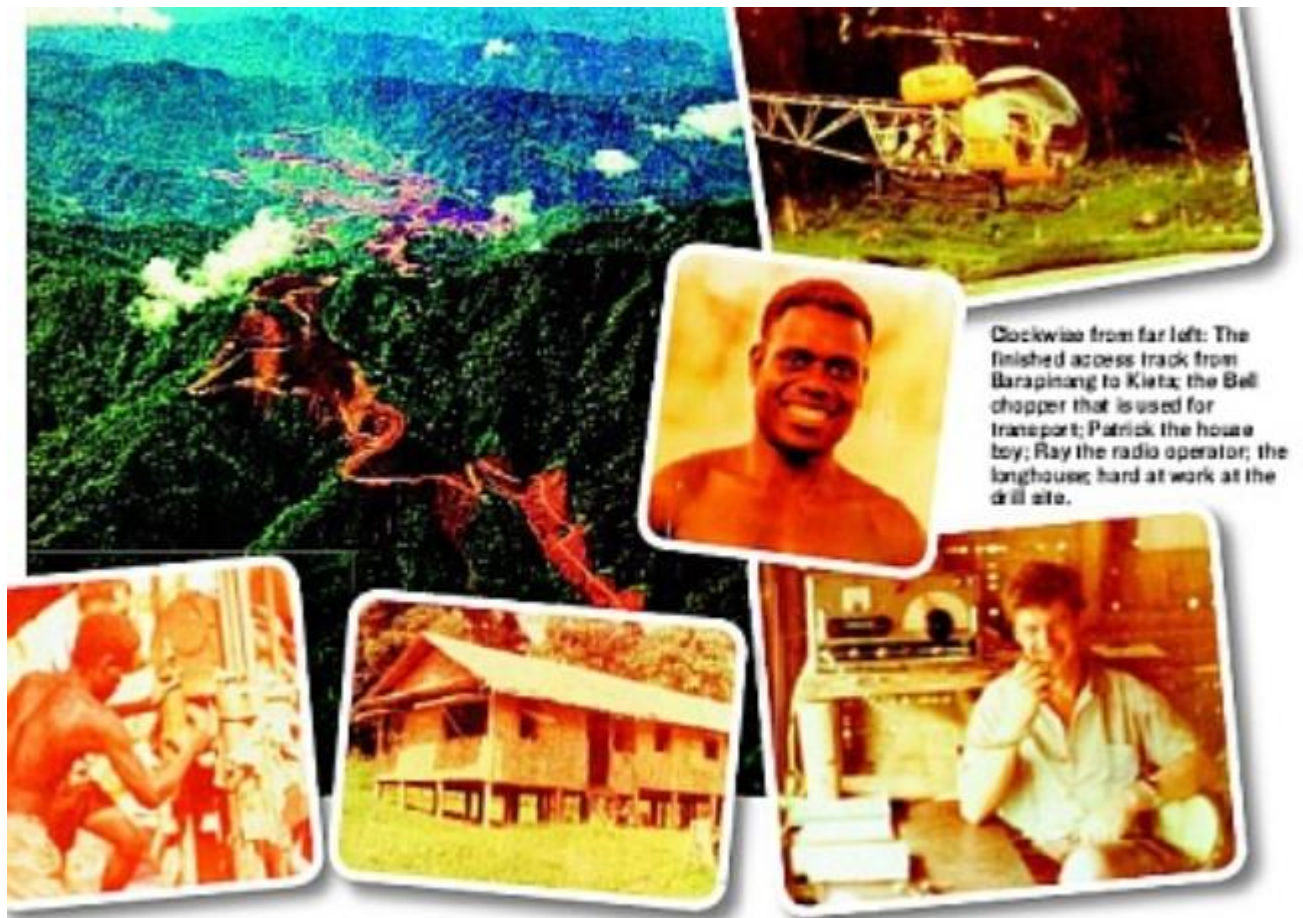
Here, I had to admit my four-year-old daughter into the ICU of Melbourne Hospital because the trans-continental train gave her gastroenteritis. Afterwards, I got my wife and daughter settled down in an apartment.

Then it was on with the journey: a plane to Sydney, then a commercial flight to Papua New Guinea, landing in Kieta on Bougainville. During my winding journey there, I got hold of Nietzsche, a 700-page volume called *The Portable Nietzsche*. It was lying on a seat, discarded or forgotten by a traveller departing Sydney airport.

So with only Nietzsche in my hand, I left Australia and headed northeast into the relatively unknown Papua New Guinea — and cannibals!

The plane landed in the late afternoon on the airstrip of Kieta. Very early the next morning, Rio Tinto's Bell helicopter whisked me — a sole passenger — off towards the mountains and away from the many conventional “wants”. Once in the aircraft, I was totally in the “Rio Tinto system”. No one told me where I was being taken or what I would be doing. It was thrilling — actually unnerving — to be helplessly lifted off the ground and flown above the fast-rising mountains.

I could see all this because the chopper had a see-through bottom. After a “long” time and many miles, it became apparent we were heading towards a large clearing. It was a welcome and beautiful oasis in the midst of a dense jungle. I got out of the helicopter and, with body bent low to avoid the whirling blades, headed for the main building.



It was a neat thatched hut like all the others, but larger and with a verandah. The chopper, the instant I was clear of its blades, rose from the ground and departed. Once it disappeared, the loud silence and the cool spring-fresh air hit me — pleasantly.

Ray, a genial and always-smiling German, was engaged in short-wave radio talk when I entered the “mess”. He was the 24-hour-guardian of the radio. He was also the de-facto camp supervisor. During a break in his radio talk, he gave me a quick “briefing” on the place.

Patrick, the “Number One and also ever-smiling House Boy”, carried my things to the long house and dropped them in my room. There were altogether some 14 rooms in the longhouse, and they were only for diamond drill operators. Patrick also showed me the camp facilities: food store, kitchen, hot showers, laundry, etc.

This oasis, called Barapinang, was the base camp established to support and service the men who operated the diamond drills in the area. Within two years, up to July 1968, over 64km of holes were completed by the men to bring up, from deep in the ground, data

sufficient to change the status of the copper-gold ore-body from “prospect” to “potential mine” with proven ore reserves.

The first drill was human-carried to site in 1965. Soon after that, choppers were hired to move heavy equipment.

When I was at Barapinang, I found the services excellent. Even the scenery, nearby and distant, were beautiful. The Barapinang base-camp facilities were set up adjacent to a long-existing native village. It was a natural meeting place in the forested mountains. It was also a walk-through “highway” in the jungle.

Diamond drilling was carried out deep into the ground to bring up rock-cores to be evaluated according to type and metal (gold and copper) content. The men operating the diamond drilling operations were a hardy and special breed. They were focused only on getting out as much successful rock cores as possible. They did not want unnecessary talk. They were after good “footage” and the better money that came with it.

They got up very early in the morning, walked along jungle tracks to their own drill sites, finished what drilling they had to do . . . and I don’t know what they did after that.

Perhaps they retired to bed in the long house. I never saw them hanging around. I saw them only when I went out of the way to seek them as part of my work. I respected their need for privacy.

Even in the long house which we shared, I never went or looked inside beyond my front room and the entrance. This privacy was also what I liked.

Transportation at Barapinang was restricted to steep jungle tracks — always kept in good repair — and log-bridges across streams. Only for long distance travelling and moving heavy equipment did we use the hired Bell choppers, which cost Rio Tinto a pile, on an hourly basis.

While I was still there (mid-1966) a huge Sikorski helicopter was used to bring up the dismantled parts of a bulldozer. The parts were put back together while still in the chopper pad.

The Caterpillar then started bulldozing a temporary access track down to the coast. This was completed in mid-1967. The result can be seen in Rio Tinto’s magnificent photo. It shows the completed temporary access track and the spectacular nature of the terrain at Bougainville about mid-1967.

But Barapinang, the oasis, was swallowed up by later mining activities. My highland paradise was no more. I hope it remains a treasure in the hearts of the others who also enjoyed Barapinang.

14.01.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG elects Ogio as Governor General

The Government’s candidate, Michael Ogio, has been elected Papua New Guinea’s new governor general.

The vote comes after the Supreme Court ruled in December that the June election of Sir Paulias Matane was unconstitutional.

Our correspondent Alex Rheeney says one of the candidates who didn’t manage to secure the required 15 MPs’ signatures for nomination had threatened court action, but the vote went ahead.

“He is currently the minister for higher education in the Somare Cabinet, and he is also the North Bougainville MP. Now that he has been elected by the PNG Parliament to be PNG’s next Governor General, it subsequently means that he has to resign from office and there has to be a by-election for the North Bougainville open electorate.”

Alex Rheeney says Michael Ogio will now fly to London to receive Buckingham Palace’s approval, and is expected to take up the appointment by March.



**New PNG Governor General:
Michael Ogio from Bougainville**

14.01.2011

Source: Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG elects new Governor General

Papua New Guinea's parliament has elected a new Governor General.

The ruling National Alliance party's favoured candidate, **Michael Ogio** (Bougainville), has overwhelmingly defeated the opposition's nomination, Sir Pato Kakaraya, by 65 votes to 23.

Radio Australia reporters in Port Moresby say parliament was adjourned until May the 10th immediately after Mr Ogio's election.

The new Governor won't be sworn in till then.

Our reporter in Port Moresby, Liam Fox, explains why a new Governor-General was needed in the first place.

[Listen here!](#)

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: PNG correspondent Liam Fox

14.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Islanders get help

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is now working on the final draft for an agreement which will enable part of more than 2000 plus Carterets Islanders resettle in their new location.

The Agreement, which is still being finalised by the ABG resettlement team led by Ephraim Eminoni will allow the islanders to build new homes and settle at Karoola Plantation.

This month the team is working together with local people of Halia and Peit Constituencies to finalise the arrangements.

This is the ABG's resettlement part of carterets, where about K10 million was needed to complete the full resettlement - but the first five families moved to Tinputz in 2009 under the non-government organisation Tulelei Peisa arrangements in conjunction with the Catholic Church.

Chairman of the Carterets Resettlement committee – Halia Constituency- Maurice Hotsia told the Post-Courier the Carterets Resettlement Integrated Program Report 2010 is already complete and should be available for implementation once a final agreement is signed. This will allow about 100 families from Carterets Island to make their new homes in the once famous Karoola Plantation – at Hanahan in the Halia Constituency but also falls within the Peit constituency in Buka.

“The Carterets Resettlement Integrated Program Report 2010 is another world major project falling in the hands of our government to closely analyse and create its domestic resettlement programs which would address this unique natural disaster to its minimum requirement,” Hotsia said.

Hotsia, the appointed person with the mandatory functions and responsibilities heading a committee from one ethnic part of Buka, started all resettlement program work in March 2010 and is now coming to an end, which will see new comers into their land.

“As far as my committee is concerned, K4 million has been disclosed for this special project according to the ABG associated project officer at our right hands. AusAID also poured in some million kinas towards the exercise likewise the European Union organisation. The monies are now accessible to the appropriate manpower whom the ABG continually and co-operatively supervises for the great and successful results.

“I pledge to the ABG, church communities, businesses, ethnic Bougainvilleans and individuals to signify their humanitarian support aligned with the United Nations Charter on Human Rights as well as the divine nature.”

14.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

World Vision to bring water to ABG

By JOYCE TOHUI

WORLD Vision is helping rural communities throughout the Autonomous Region of Bougainville through its Water and Sanitation (WAS) Projects initiated in various communities in the region.

The Water and Sanitation Projects (WAS) by World Vision are hygiene projects providing clean and safe drinking water closer to homes; building proper toilets and giving trainings hygiene to educate people more on healthy living.

The current World Vision Buka was Project Manager Gail Pigolo told the Post Courier that before implementing a project, assessments are carried out in communities and the project is designed accordingly to the assessment reports then a proposal is written up to seek funding from World vision donors overseas such as World Vision Australia, World Vision New Zealand and World Vision Japan just to name a few. These donor agencies fund the projects through the World Vision office in Bougainville.

“Through the funding then we carry out these projects with the support of the communities contributing 5 percent and World Vision itself provides 95 percent,” said Ms

Pigolo.

“And since World Vision established its office in Bougainville in 2003, Water and Sanitation hygiene projects are of paramount concern and in 2004 these projects were carried out to many parts of Bougainville. Mainly we have covered areas in North Bougainville including parts of North East side of Buka and areas in the West coast of Buka covering the Peit and Tonsu constituencies and currently we are working on projects in the West Coast of Bougainville”, she said.

“The projects in the West coast of Bougainville covers three constituencies and that is Mahari, Teua and Torokina constituencies, in these constituencies 18 communities are covered and because these are 3 year planned projects so we started the projects in 2009 and its nearing its completion in June this year (2011),” added Ms Pigolo.

“When seeing projects successfully rolled out into communities of Bougainville, I strongly believe that this will have a great impact on the lives of people, improving their standard of living and promoting good hygiene and the general well being of every human being. Even though Bougainville is blessed with rivers and water to drink however mothers walk long distances to fetch water to sustain their daily needs. Also we are not really sure if the water is safe for drinking and cooking. So World Vision aims to help the people to have access to proper water and sanitation in maintaining good health ,” Ms Pigolo explained.

The Project Manager said similar projects will be carried out in ten communities of Central Bougainville. Work will commence this year. Several visits have been carried out to the project sites.

Meanwhile the projects currently underway are funded by World Vision Australia and World Vision New Zealand.

14.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Workers to work and not business

BOUGAINVILLEANS want authorities on Bougainville to explain why senior public servants were defying their the Public Service Act and engaging themselves in business deals.

These concerns were raised by the Bougainville public that a lot of public servants including senior ones were running businesses and spend more time in these businesses and do not give 100 per cent to their duties.

Two elite Bougainvilleans, one from Buka and another from Central Bougainville said these responsible people should make up their minds whether they want to serve one master or two. They also have to face justice for breaching their own oaths they swore when assuming public offices.

“We are questioning why many serving Bougainville public servants are running businesses at the same time working. We don’t mind them running businesses but they chose to be public servants. They can’t risk having businesses unless they are absolutely clear and they have signed declarations with due respect to following the process,” the concerned Bougainvilleans said. “We know very senior public servants have their businesses. They’re no threats to us but we all have to abide by the laws we signed to follow. I am a public servant too and I want to start my business in Kieta but I cannot because I chose to be a simple public servant, to serve the people and not cheat on them.”

14.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

VSAT links up PNG

By BOLA NOHO

EARLY warning system to warn people of approaching disasters is still being researched, says the National Disaster and Emergency Centre Director, Martin Mose. Mr Moses was grateful for Telikom PNG Limited's very small aperture terminal satellite (VSAT) communication system being installed in various disaster prone sites in PNG. He said it has been difficult for the centre to immediately inform communities of approaching disaster and mobilise people to move to safe ground has been difficult for the centre for some time with HF radios.

"Given the country's rugged terrain and isolation of some island communities, communication is vital for early warning and VSAT systems installed by Telikom PNG in various disaster prone sites in PNG will help the centre," he said.

Mr Mose said VSAT service was to help disaster and emergency response communication but communities where the systems were installed could also use that to enrich their lives where basic services and infrastructure were lacking.

He said Suddest, the furthest island in Milne Bay Province, was one of the communities that was far from Alotau but takes a day to reach once in a fortnight to replenish stock back home.

The Rural District Officer in Milne Bay, Miriam Wanye said the rising sea level was eroding the coastline affecting livelihood of the islanders while the closest district to access basic goods and services was a six-hour dinghy ride to Misima.

"To communicate their needs and order supplies or schedule appointments with those in town for a trip once a fortnight is now convenient and save cost for the islanders when planning their trips to town," Ms Wanye said.

About 31 from 44 identified sites had been installed with VSATs last month.

The sites installed in March in Madang Province were Manam, Karkar, Bagbag and Gaubin and on Tunnel Hill in East New Britain in April.

The sites where VSAT systems were installed in Manus Province in April were Bundrahi, Bundralis, Baluan and Lou Islands and later in Makiri and Ula Mona in West New Britain.

The Tasman Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville had theirs installed in May connecting the islanders to the outside world.

VSAT was also installed at Emirau and Tigalop in New Ireland in September while the communities in Ambasi, Oro Bay, Wanigela district office and Kira Health Centre in Northern Province got theirs installed later in the same month.

In October Kobalu, Magarima, Dauli Teachers' College and Hewaii Falls in Southern Highlands together with Lengdati and Fasu in Morobe Province had their VSATs installed.

The other sites that were installed earlier in the year were Bjem Island in East Sepik Province.

About K13 million was earmarked by the Minister for Inter-Government Relations, Job Pomat to fund the installation of VSAT satellite systems in his province in 2009.

The Telikom CEO, Peter Loko said the objective of the project was to ensure modern communication systems were available to communities in remote areas.

He said this would be to report any national disaster and emergency cases quickly to NDES office in Port Moresby.

Mr Loko acknowledged Mr Pomat for funding the successful implementation of phase one of the rollout while Telikom was awaiting funds to be released by the ministry to complete the second phase of the program for the remaining 13 sites.

14.11.2011

Source: The National

Sir Pato tipped for GG post

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

STATESMAN Sir Pato Kakaraya is tipped to become the new governor-general as parliament meets this morning to conduct a secret ballot.

Sir Pato now has a supporter from Sepik in Wewak MP Moses Manwau.

A statement from Manwau appealed to members of parliament not to vote on party lines. Manwau is a member of Enga Governor Peter Ipatas' People's Party, who had refuted claims that he joined the opposition.

Manwau's statement spoke volumes although critics had accused Ipatas of not supporting Sir Pato in the past.

Ipatas said last night that he would be happy if Michael Ogio or Sir Pato wins the race.

He said it was the government caucus decision to support Ogio as the Speaker of Parliament Jeffrey Nape, Chief Justice Sir Salamo

Injia and the acting Prime Minister, Sam Abal, were from the highlands.

He said as governor, he was also a national leader and member of the government coalition to support the government position on a candidate.

"We did not want to embarrass ourselves again and, when the caucus made the decision, I picked up the form and automatically the sponsor."

Ipatas said the government caucus decided that for the sake of stability, and considering that Bougainville referendum is coming up, decided to nominate Bougainville's very experienced leader Ogio.

"Bougainville is part of the country and the government caucus made a commitment that Bougainville will still be part of PNG."

Ipatas said he had reasons why he should not be supporting a highlands candidate as the three Sir Pato, Ronald Rimbao and Sir Matiabe Yuwi were Hela brothers and his support for one would not go down well with the other two.

Manwau stated that the governor general's office was the highest office in the land and it should be accorded respect, dignity, integrity and principle, and he appealed to members of parliament voting today to vote on conscience and not on party lines.

"The office of the governor-general is the most neutral office for all citizens, and must be kept above party politics.

"Party politics has been responsible for a lot of problems and inefficiencies in the government delivery mechanism in recent times.

"It is not difficult for members of parliament to see that there are certain candidates with distinguished credentials who are vying for the vice-regal office. They do not necessarily align with parties, and we must respect that and not drag their candidature into party politics.

"The vice-regal office must be kept above dirty party politics. It should not be dragged down," Manwau said.

13.01.2011

Source: The Profit Hunter

Increasing speculation sends Bougainville Copper shares flying

Lastly today, we notice that shares in Bougainville Copper BOC.AX have been very volatile in the last few weeks. They hit a high of A\$2.15 on 6 January, rising more than 20% on the day and taking out previous highs from November 2007.

The reason is simply increasing speculation. This follows further discussion of the possibility of the huge Panguna copper and gold mine re-opening. Several newspapers

have recently written articles about the mine and Bougainville Copper's chairman, Peter Taylor, has painted a more and more positive picture of the situation.

It looks like slowly but surely all parties are coming closer to an agreement. This is exciting to see and is what everybody is waiting for. There are still plenty of outstanding issues, though. These include profit sharing, ownership, environmental issues, finances, feasibility studies of the mine, etc. It's a long list and there will be more news flow to come for sure. With that will come more volatility, so be prepared.

13.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pic of these trio who left for China on Monday.

They went as far as Buin and came back before returning to Beijing
Picture of Raymond and Wife Hellen with Kristoff taken just before they boarded the Airniugini flight to Pom on Monday



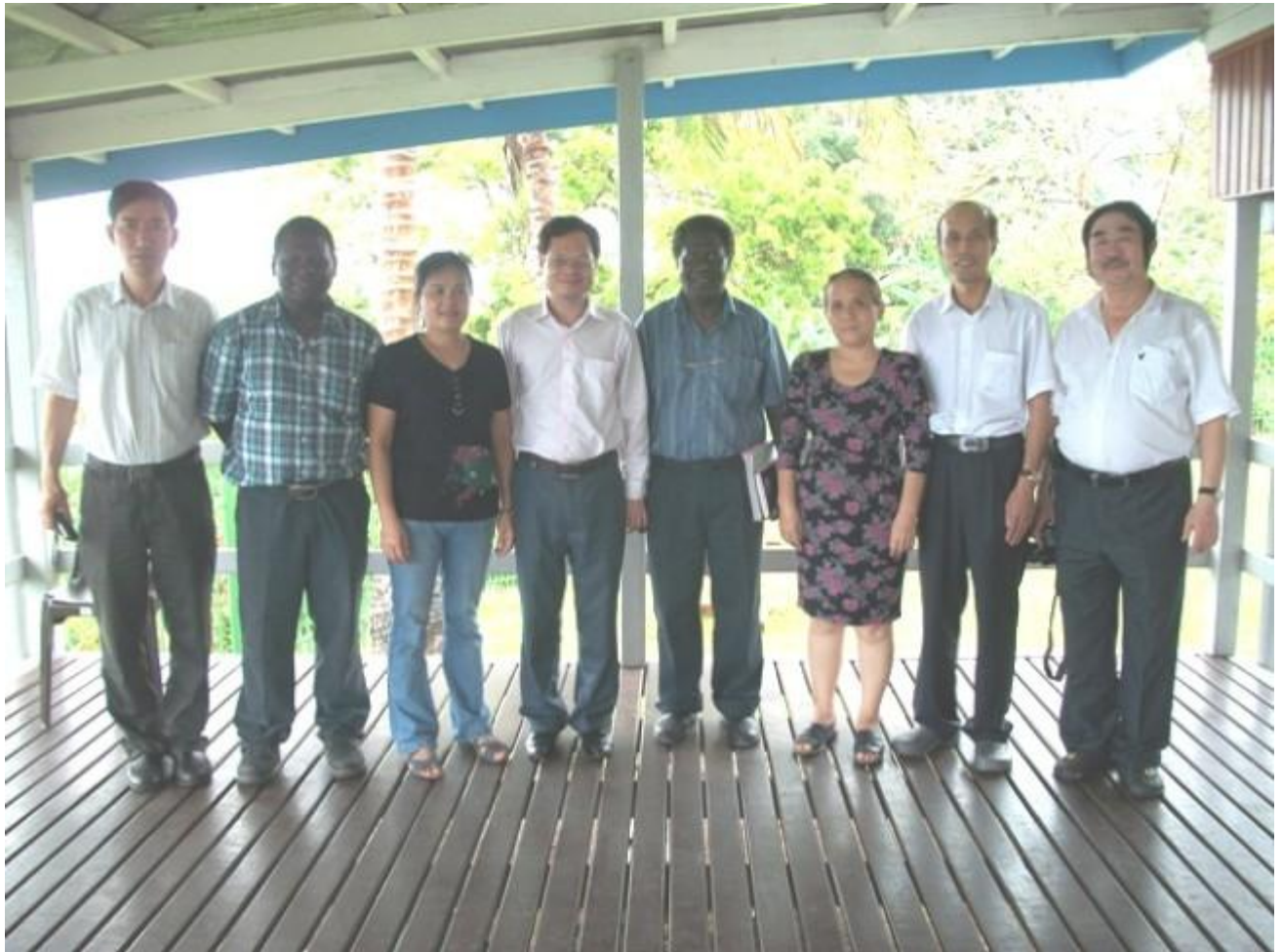
They pose for this AL picture with Member for Hagogohe Robert Hamal and the President of New Bougainville Party Linus Sahoto and Mrs Momis

13.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHINA HERE

By Aloysius Laukai



Jason Fong and his delegation pose for this AL Picture with Businessman WILLIAM NAKIN and Member for ABG Franco Hoping member for Ex Combatants for North Bougainville

13.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHINESE COMMITTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Chinese Businessmen are committed to partner with Bougainville Businessmen and have made several visits to Bougainville since the ABG Delegation visited China at the end of last year.

The ABG Special Business Representative to China, MR. JASON FONG and another delegation arrived in Buka this morning to have several meetings with the ABG and local Business groups to discuss how the two groups can work together in Business as partners.

According to their Program, the group would meet with the Bougainville Administration tomorrow morning and in the afternoon they would meet the Business Community.

They would visit Pororan Island on Saturday.

The group would then travel to Arawa on Sunday and meet with the Administration and the Arawa Business Community before traveling to Buin.

In Buin they will see the Kangu wharf and also visit the Likui farm in Siwai.
The Chinese delegation will return to Port Moresby on Friday January 21st.

13.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Leaders cite funds misuse

By GORETHY KENNETH

ONE constituency in north Bougainville has raised major concerns over the manner in which a National Parliament Member's District Service Improvement (DSIP) funds are being used in the region.

Teua Constituency leaders and elites yesterday told the Post-Courier the report on a particular MP's DSIP funds for Bougainville that was missing was only the tip of an iceberg.

The leaders said yesterday that all appropriations for the Teua Constituency by the North Bougainville Budget Committee were not being honoured and it had been three years since empty promises were entertained.

"Enough is enough," they said.

"Projects for our Teua constituency are long overdue. Every time we visit the office of the MP they tell us next week, next week and again next week and this next week never comes. This is people's money and the committee members are not supposed to suppress our communities with these projects that we have applied for and that we legally and by right are entitled to. These actions warrant further investigations and those or whoever is implicated must be brought before justice, they should face the full force of justice.

"We are now dealing with a new Bougainville, the paradigm shift of a new Bougainville and these type of actions are uncalled for and not welcomed in our region, this is Papua New Guinea's politics brought into Bougainville and should immediately be banned from being entertained.

"For so long we've been suppressed by these coward acts.

"The Teua people have been deprived for so many years...and you know what, because of the actions by the committee members on a district level, the particular leader's mandate becomes meaningless.

"Bougainvilleans, let's think twice before we do something, let's not create another war, it's our responsibility to serve with utmost respect and loyalty and to the MPs, all of them in the National Parliament, we the people voted you in, not the committee members, so think twice before you do anything because the 2012 elections is just around the corner."

13.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Lack of funds affects police

By Fabian Gatana

BOUGAINVILLE's top cop Thomas Eluh has strongly raised his frustrations over the manner in which the Police force in Bougainville is being left to "fend for itself" under harsh conditions.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Eluh said he was very frustrated that he could not move his operations in Bougainville forward because of financial stringencies.

Mr Eluh, who looks after a young and aspiring police force, trained under the PNG Government specifically for Bougainville, but who has a big task ahead of him – with the serious crack in the law and order in the region said that he needed all the funds

earmarked for his Bougainville Police Service to basically move the force effectively and forward.

"I am already frustrated and I can't just sit down and do nothing. I want to do many things that will benefit the force in the long run, but I can't because there are no funds to work with," an irate Mr Eluh said.

The Bougainville Police Service still has to receive millions of kina including the K6 million earmarked for the force last year for the work to begin this year.

Mr Eluh said that he seriously wanted to work on training his policemen further, build and commission many more police posts in the region especially in central and south Bougainville and most of all renovate police houses so that his policemen can give 100 per cent of their time to their duties in the region.

Bougainville is now faced with a serious law and order ordeal – the issue of guns and drugs.

13.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sir Pato vs Ogio for G-G seat

By yehiura Hriehwazi

FORMER Wapenamanda MP and Knight of the realm Sir Pato Kakaraya appears set to become the next Governor-General if Clerk of Parliament, Don Pandan, is persuaded to reject North Bougainville MP Mr Michael Ogio's candidacy.

Sir Pato was nominated by the Opposition members of Parliament yesterday after failing to get more MPs to sign up for women leaders Enny Moaits, Winnia Kiap and Sir Makena Geno.

They went through an elimination process within their offices yesterday in which they dropped nominations which had only a handful of MPs signed up and eventually Sir Pato came out with more than 15 signing up for him.

Four Morobe MPs Sam Basil (Bulolo), Vincent Michael (Tewai-Siassi), Tony Iguan (Markham) and Theo Zurecnuoc (Finchhafen) told the media they had to withdraw their support for Mrs Moaitz and apologised to her because they were not supported by Morobe Governor Luther Wenge, Defence Minister Bob Dadae and Health Minister Sasa Zibe who had signed up for Mr Ogio with the government.

The 4 MPs and their deputy Opposition leader Mr Bart Philemon (Lae) all signed up for Sir Pato, along with Sir Puka Temu who had to drop his nominee Sir Makena because he could not get any more MPs to back him. Mr Philemon had initially nominated and supported Ms Winnie Kiap but he only got nine MPs to sign in for her and therefore had to drop her and shifted their allegiance to Sir Pato.

Sir Pato and Mr Ogio were the only two candidates at close of nominations yesterday. Mr Ogio was nominated by Enga Governor Mr Peter Ipatas and seconded by Maprik MP and Commerce and Industry Minister Gabriel Kapris during the government caucus on Tuesday.

Inside sources told Post-Courier that a total 43 candidates signed on Mr Ogio's nomination form.

Mr Ipatas' support for Mr Ogio, instead of his fellow Engan candidates Ronald Rimbao and Sir Pato, is expected to cause some political under-currents in their province.

And the Opposition's backing of Sir Pato could be tactical move to sway Engan and Highlands support to the Opposition in the event of a no-confidence motion against the sidelined Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, according to a political observer last night. The Opposition was yesterday very critical of the government's handling of nominations for vice regal office.

Opposition MPs led by leader Sir Mekere Morauta fired a broadside at the government accusing it of politicising the office and undemocratically and unnecessarily signing up more MPs than was required and leaving out the other candidates.

An MP is allowed to sign up for only one nominee and not withdraw their name after it was handed in to the Clerk. The government lock-up the MPs which otherwise could have offered support for other candidates.

If the Clerk refused to accept Mr Ogio's nomination based on allegations raised by the Opposition, Mr Ogio would be given the right to appeal to a court of law which was now in recess until early February.

If Mr Ogio accepted his rejection as a candidate, then Sir Pato would be declared the Parliament's nominee and would be sworn into office as Governor-General Elect until Buckingham Palace is notified and formal appointment is made by the Queen. That done, PNG will have an Engan GG, Engan Acting PM, Engan Chief Justice and Engan Clerk of Parliament.

13.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ogio not 'fit and proper' for G-G post

By Yehiura Hriehwazi

The Government candidate for the position for Governor General— Michael Ogio — is not a "fit and proper person" for the post, according to the Opposition.

By close of nomination for the G-G's office, the Opposition was to have delivered a letter to the Clerk of Parliament pointing out reasons why Mr Ogio should not be a nominee.

Among reasons stated were Mr Ogio's alleged controversial decisions as Forest Minister in 2002 relating to the Wawoi Guavi Timber Permit, Kunga Aimbak logging project, Josephstaal logging concession and Timber Authorities 1-8 in Western Province.

PNG Party leader Belden Namah, immediate past Forest Minister, told a media conference that Mr Ogio did not have the credibility and respect of the community. He said investigations into controversial timber permits, licences and concessions issued during Mr Ogio's term as Forest minister were still ongoing and he should not be elected into the G-G's office.

Opposition leader Sir Mekere Morauta, Sir Puka Temu and Mr Namah urged all MPs to vote for a candidate whose standing and integrity is above the level of Prime Minister.

The leaders noted that the Constitution was explicit on this and stated that those seeking the vice regal office must be "a mature person of good standing who enjoys the general respect of the community."

This qualification implied that the nominee was not meant to be a political nominee, in any way the National Alliance party has "unashamedly" declared its allegiance and signed up 43 MPs on Tuesday for Mr Ogio. They said with Mr Ogio's alleged history of controversial decisions in logging he therefore failed to qualify for the "very important and high office"

Deputy Opposition leader Bart Philemon said those embroiled in controversy "past or present" should not be nominated or even act in it temporarily.

"Parliamentary process and Parliament's nominee must reflect the dignity and decorum associated with Queen Elizabeth II. We must not be seen to be rewarding or promoting the worst among ourselves instead of the best among our citizens."

He said when he was Treasury and Finance Minister, the World Bank used 30 timber and logging cases as a bargaining point for PNG to correct the wrongs before it bailed out PNG. Those timber issues related to the time when Mr Ogio was Forest Minister.

12.01.2011

Source: The Straits Times

ANALYSIS: Minefield at PNG copper mine

SINGAPORE, Jan 12, 2011 (The Straits Times - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) --

Will Rio Tinto, the major investor in one of the world's richest copper mines, get it right this time? Spiralling global copper prices are prompting investors to consider reopening a controversial copper mine on Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Bougainville Island that triggered almost a decade of civil war in the 1990s.

The closure of the Panguna copper mine run by Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) in 1989 led to important changes in the way large mining companies deal with host communities all over the world. Current moves to reopen it are therefore likely to be closely watched.

Located off the west coast of PNG, Bougainville Island is rich in copper and gold. It is also geographically and ethnically distinct from the rest of the country, a factor that has long encouraged secessionist sentiment.

Disputes over the mine date from the late 1960s. At the time, Australian colonial officials actively encouraged Rio Tinto's endeavour, believing the mine would become an important source of revenue for the soon-to-be-independent nation. In this at least, it had some success. From 1972 to 1989, the mine contributed about 44 per cent of PNG's exports and about 17 per cent of the government's revenue. Bougainvilleans also enjoyed the highest living standard in the country.

But the mine had been built in the face of strong landowner opposition. Tensions simmered throughout the 1970s as women -- through whom land in much of Bougainville is inherited -- lay down in front of bulldozers. Widespread violence erupted in 1988, forcing the mine to close the following year.

By 1990, the situation had deteriorated into a full-scale civil war. Hostilities ended with a truce in 1997 and a peace agreement in 2001. Under current arrangements, the government in Bougainville is responsible for all activities except defence and foreign affairs. A referendum on independence is scheduled for some time between 2015 and 2020. The mine remains closed.

But with the global copper price now four times higher than what it was in the late 1980s, the pressure to reopen the mine is growing. Along with BCL's shareholders, company chairman John Taylor agrees. But his cautious tone and reluctance to provide a timetable reflect the company's bitter experience.

"We must ensure the landowners retain No. 1 importance," he said. "And the Bougainville government's support is also critical," he told the Australian media last month. Mr Taylor also acknowledges the fact that everything will need to be renegotiated, including issues such as ownership, the employment of local people and tailings disposal.

Bougainville's new president, Mr John Momis, elected for five years in June, also wants the mine opened. But he may impose tough conditions on the company. Campaigning during the PNG elections in 1987, he demanded that BCL hand over 3 per cent of its gross income to the Bougainville provincial government. BCL's subsequent refusal contributed significantly to the tensions that triggered the civil war.

Several disagreements among Bougainvilleans regarding the conditions under which they would accept the mine's reopening also need to be resolved.

Some activists have been insisting that all demands made by the rebels during the fighting, including those involving environmental compensation, must be met before the mine is opened.

On balance, however, the outlook seems hopeful. Apart from the current focus on the concerns of landowners, technological developments now allow tailings to be stored more safely. Previously, they were dumped in the Jaba River, a practice that triggered considerable controversy.

The World Bank is also funding a programme to help the Bougainville government develop the necessary regulatory environment.

Meanwhile, with the nation's attention focused elsewhere, there is less likelihood that politicians in the capital would attempt to interfere. Economic planners are currently preoccupied with a huge multi-billion-dollar ExxonMobil project to pipe natural gas from

the Southern Highlands to Port Moresby for export to Asia.

All that remains is to raise the estimated US\$3 billion that reopening the mine is expected to cost. That should not be too difficult.

Resource-hungry China is widely believed to be interested. And anyone seriously considering reopening the mine would surely be aware that the project already has access to a port via a 30km access road. There is also a reported 200 million tonnes of pre-stripped ore ready for extraction.

Reopening the mine would also help cement investor confidence in the rest of the PNG economy, which is already on the cusp of a resources boom as a result of other mining-related projects. Last year the PNG economy grew by 6 per cent. It is expected to expand by another 8 per cent this year.

For BCL, however, the Bougainville landowners remain key. Nothing will happen, Mr Taylor told Australian radio last month, "until they say to BCL, as a united group, 'We want the mine and we want you to run it'".

It is hard to disagree with that.

12.01.2011

Source: The National

Govt settles for Ogio

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

THE government will endorse North Bougainville MP and Higher Education Minister Michael Ogio for the position of governor-general.

The parliament resumed yesterday afternoon and called for nominations.

Soon after, the government caucus met and penned 47 signatures on the nomination form for Ogio to contest as its candidate for the GG's post.

Parliament was recalled to vote in a new governor-general following a Supreme Court ruling last month declaring the reappointment of Sir Paulias Matane as unconstitutional. If Ogio wins the secret ballot election, he would automatically resign as member for North Bougainville and lose his ministerial portfolio.

Names of three other candidates – Sir Paulias, Sir Makena Geno and Winnie Kiap – were also tossed in alongside Ogio for the caucus to consider, however, they would now have to look for support elsewhere to nominate.

Acting parliament Speaker Francis Marus fixed Friday at 10am as the time and day for the secret ballot to be conducted.

The clerk's office was swamped with more than 15 candidates rushing to obtain the nomination forms to be filled and handed in by 4pm today after complying with all the requirements.

Those seen in the clerk's office included Sir Makena, Sir Matiabe Yuwi, Sir Pita Lus, Akoka Doi, Ronald Rimbao and Kagul Korowa.

Marus said while the Organic Law did make provisions for the proposal forms to be returned at anytime before the start of voting, as a matter of good administrative practice and taking into account the Supreme Court interpretation of the law, it was recommended that the forms be submitted to the clerk in sufficient time.

"This will allow him to scrutinise the forms and make informed decisions on the requirements under the Organic Law.

"Should a proposal for nomination be rejected, the aggrieved person will have sufficient time to appeal to the National Court."

Under law, a candidate must have no less than 15 members of parliament supporting him.

"If we comply with all the requirements, I expect no more than six proposals to be handed to the clerk by tomorrow (today)," the acting speaker told parliament.

"Similarly, I urge all members to act responsibly when proposing or signing on behalf of a candidate.

"Careless writing on these forms will have dramatic consequences," he warned. On Dec 10 last year, the Supreme Court declared the June 25, 2010, election of Sir Paulias null and void. The bench also ordered the acting speaker, in accordance with section 88(4) of the constitution, to call a meeting of parliament to elect a new governor-general within 40 days of the order.

12.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt names Ogio as G-G candidate

By SIMON ERORO

THE Somare Government has unanimously endorsed Minister for Higher Education and Member for North Bougainville Michael Ogio as its candidate for the vacant Governor-General's seat.

The decision was taken in a caucus meeting after Parliament was adjourned yesterday at the B3 Conference room.

The Post-Courier understands that the leader of the Peoples Party and Governor for Enga Peter Ipatas was the proposer while Minister for Commerce and Industry and Maprik Open MP Gabriel Kapris seconded it.

Sources in government also confirmed last night that 15 members of the coalition parties in government endorsed Mr Ogio's application for the GG post.

However, the insider said Governor Ipatas move to propose Mr Ogio for the job has not gone down well with his other Highlands colleague MPs within the government when their own man Sir Pato Kakaraya has made his intention known to contest.

Sir Pato was a former politician and Cabinet Minister who contested the previous elections for Governor-General in 2004 against ousted GG Sir Paulias Matane.

Meanwhile, Vanim Green MP Belden Namah who leads the largest party in the Opposition, the PNG Party last night said there are reputable and capable citizens in the country who can occupy the Vice-Regal position.

Mr Namah said the country should do away with the idea of electing current and former politicians for the post.

He said such decision by the government was unhealthy and its actions show they are desperate to serve their own interests. "Are there no more credible Papua New Guineans left that the government decides to nominate a serving politician for the Vice-Regal job?"

Mr Namah asked.

Mr Namah said Opposition believed retired Supreme Court Judge Mark Sevua, former secretary to the Prime Minister and National Executive Council (NEC) Winnie Kiap and Sir Makena Geno were more suitable for the job.

"We have already made a mockery of ourselves when the Supreme Court found many breaches of the Constitution by the Government."

12.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LOW POWER

By Aloysius Laukai

A Buka Businessman is calling on the PNG POWER LIMITED to upgrade the KUBU Power House instead of lighting up new places.

The Buka Businessman who wants to remain anonymous questioned why PNG Power continues to connect into the rural areas when it can not provide adequate electricity to

Buka town, Hutjena and Kubu.

The Businessman said that since power was connected to Kokopau and Sohano island the main power house at Kubu has been facing continuous blackouts which is a major concern to the Business community.

Our attempts to get comments from the local PNG POWER office were referred to their Headquarters.

Meanwhile, the Businessman also called on the member for North Bougainville to use funds from the rural electrification program by the National Government to get a bigger Generator for Buka.

He said that it was illogical for the members to pay for Power Poles and Power Lines instead of fixing the source of power first.

12.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police Chief New Year Appeal

BY SONIA KENU DWU Journalism Student

Bougainville Assistant Police Commissioner Thomas Eluh appeals to all Bougainvilleans to find peaceful solutions to their problems instead of resorting to marijuana and homebrew.

Mr Eluh gave this message during a gospel Music Show conducted by former Bougainville Revolutionary Army Commander Ishmael Toroama at the Bel Isi Park in Buka Town last Friday.

He says marijuana and homebrew does not solve anything but brings more problems into the society.

He describes Bougainville as a sinking ship that needs to be reconditioned by way of change from bad to good attitude.

The Police Chief urged the National Government and ABG to put education as the top priority for the future of the region's youth.

He also challenged the youth of Bougainville to make the New Year 2011 as a year of reflection and change for the betterment of Bougainville.

Meanwhile, Mr Toroama shared similar sentiments and urged Bougainvilleans to strengthen their Christian faith in order to prosper.

11.01.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville to get air service

A SERVICE to restore air transport in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is expected to be up and running within the next two to four weeks.

Radio New Zealand International this week reported that the president's office said Bougainville had been without a domestic air service since 1989.

Its chief of staff, Kevin Marimyas, said the initiative was part of the goal of president John Momis to restore many services the province had been without for a long time.

Marimyas said the private company, National Air Services, would provide the service in a joint venture arrangement with the government, which would also be a share holder in the company.

He said the much needed service should begin once airstrips were upgraded.

"Most of the form of transport at the moment is either sea transport, big vessels, rigger boats or outboard motors and we'd like to change that so people travel a little bit more in comfort rather than travelling in those oily boats or bumpy roads."

Marimyas said people had little money at the moment but he was optimistic that people would chose air transport as it would be quicker.

07.01.2011

Source: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)

Das Drama von Bougainville

Die Panguna-Mine ist seit 21 Jahren aus politischen Gründen geschlossen. Das könnte sich ändern

gb. FRANKFURT, 6. Januar. Der Ort: die nördlich von Australien gelegene, 8800 Quadratkilometer große Insel Bougainville, die politisch zu Papua-Neuguinea gehört und knapp 200000 Einwohner zählt. Die Zeit: Mitte Mai 1989. Das Unternehmen Bougainville Copper sieht sich gezwungen, die von ihm betriebene Panguna-Mine zu schließen. Der Grund ist ein auf Bougainville ausgebrochener Bürgerkrieg. Aufständische, die für die staatliche Unabhängigkeit der Insel eintreten, stören den Betrieb der Mine, die ihnen unter anderem wegen extremer Umweltverschmutzung und ihres ausländischen Großaktionärs unwillkommen ist.

Seit gut zwei Jahrzehnten wird in der Panguna-Mine nun nicht mehr gearbeitet. Die teure Infrastruktur ist verrottet oder zerstört. Dabei zählte Panguna in den Jahren 1972 bis 1989, in denen sie in Betrieb war, zu den größten kombinierten Kupfer- und Goldminen in der Welt. In der Weltrangliste der größten Minen befände sie sich heute zwar nicht mehr auf einem vorderen Platz. Aber die auf 3 bis 3,5 Millionen Tonnen Kupfer und knapp 13 Millionen Unzen Gold geschätzten Reserven wären auf der Basis der aktuellen Rohstoffpreise rund 50 Milliarden Dollar wert. Die jährliche Förderkapazität wird auf 170000 Tonnen Kupfer und 500000 Unzen Gold geschätzt. Selbst wenn keine zusätzlichen Reserven entdeckt würden, ließe sich die Mine auf der Basis der aktuellen Reservenschätzung rund 20 Jahre betreiben.

Die alte Betreibergesellschaft Bougainville Copper existiert immer noch. Ihre Aktie wird in Australien und in Deutschland gehandelt. Wer hier einsteigt, baut auf eine Wiedereröffnung der Panguna-Mine. Es handelt sich somit um ein extrem spekulatives Papier mit der Gefahr starker Kursschwankungen, da das Unternehmen derzeit nichts produziert, sondern nur ein geringes Restvermögen verwaltet und der Börsenwert überwiegend von der Hoffnung lebt. Das Kapital von Bougainville Copper befindet sich zu 54 Prozent im Besitz des Rohstoffriesen Rio Tinto. 19 Prozent hält die Regierung von Papua-Neuguinea. Die verbleibenden 27 Prozent gehören Privatanlegern, darunter nicht wenigen Bewohnern Bougainvilles. Der aktuelle Börsenwert des Unternehmens beträgt 645 Millionen Euro.

Die Panguna-Mine war für die Wirtschaft Papua-Neuguineas einmal sehr wichtig. Nach ihrer Schließung gingen die Staatseinnahmen um immerhin 20 Prozent zurück. Ein Grund des Bürgerkriegs bestand in der Praxis der Zentralregierung Papua-Neuguineas, die von Bougainville Copper seinerzeit ausgeschütteten Dividenden nur zu einem sehr geringen Teil nach Bougainville umzuleiten.

Spekulationen über eine Wiedereröffnung von Panguna hat es in früheren Jahren mehrfach gegeben. Diese Spekulationen sind daher mit Vorsicht zu genießen. Seit einigen Wochen sieht es nun so aus, als sollte ein neuer Vorstoß beginnen, begünstigt durch den Rohstoffhunger Chinas und die Erkenntnis der Politik auf Bougainville, dass ein Minenbetrieb die wohl einzige Möglichkeit für die bitter arme Insel darstellt,

nennenswerte Einnahmen zu verbuchen. Zudem sind die alten Bürgerkriegskämpfer entweder nicht mehr am Leben oder müde geworden. Bougainville besitzt heute den Status einer autonomen Region innerhalb Papua-Neuguineas. Die Bevölkerung kann bis zum Jahr 2015 in einer Volksabstimmung über eine vollständige Unabhängigkeit entscheiden.

Vorbedingung für eine Wiederaufnahme der Förderung ist jedoch eine vertragliche Vereinbarung, der auch die bis vor kurzem ablehnenden Landeigentümer rund um die Mine zustimmen müssten. John Momis, der Präsident von Bougainville, sagt: "Wir wollen Panguna wieder eröffnen und reden darüber mit den Landeigentümern." Der Vorstandschef von Bougainville Copper, Peter Taylor, meint: "Der Schlüssel befindet sich bei den Landeigentümern."

Ende November 2010 haben sich die in sechs Gruppen zusammengeschlossenen Landeigentümer darauf geeinigt, sich an Verhandlungen über eine Wiederbelebung von Panguna zu beteiligen. Diese Gespräche könnten Ende Januar beginnen. Um das Projekt voranzubringen, erwägt die Regierung von PapuaNeuguinea, ihren Anteil von 19 Prozent an Bougainville Copper an die autonome Regierung in Bougainville und die Landeigentümer zu übertragen. Der Ausgang der Gespräche über ein neues Förderabkommen muss derzeit als offen gelten, zumal abzuwarten bleibt, welche Forderungen die Landeigentümer stellen werden.

Auch hat sich Rio Tinto noch nicht erklärt. Zeitungsberichte, wonach sich Rio Tinto hinter verschlossenen Türen um eine 21 Jahre währende Förderlizenz bemühe, wurden bislang nicht bestätigt. Momis berichtete nach einer Reise nach Peking von chinesischem Interesse an der Mine, allerdings scheint es, als bevorzugten die Landeigentümer Rio Tinto als Hauptaktionär. Die Entwicklung des Aktienkurses von Bougainville Copper in den vergangenen Wochen zeigt eine wachsende Hoffnung von Privatanlegern auf einen glücklichen Ausgang der Gespräche. Hin und wieder werden von interessierter Seite auch astronomische Kursziele für die Aktie genannt.

Getrieben wird diese Spekulation natürlich von den in der Mine vermuteten Reserven. Bislang wurden die Rohstoffe ausschließlich im Tagebau abgebaut. Bei einer Wiederaufnahme der Produktion könnte auch ein ergänzender Untertagebau mit modernsten Verfahren erwogen werden. Zudem gehört Bougainville Copper auch noch Land außerhalb der Mine, unter dem sich eventuell ebenfalls Rohstoffe befinden. Der Grundbesitz beläuft sich auf 57000 Hektar Land; zuzüglich besitzt das Unternehmen noch sechs weitere Explorationslizenzen auf der Insel. Insofern ist Bougainville Copper zweifellos ein potentiell reiches Unternehmen.

Neben der Aktivseite existiert allerdings auch eine Passivseite. Die Kosten einer Wiederaufnahme der Produktion werden auf 3 bis 4 Milliarden Dollar geschätzt. Im Falle einer - vollständigen oder teilweisen - Finanzierung durch eine Kapitalerhöhung käme es daher zu einer massiven Verwässerung des Aktienkapitals. Zudem könnte die Mine frühestens im Jahr 2012 in Betrieb gehen. Bis dahin wird sich allerdings auch das Angebot an Kupfer aus anderen neuen Quellen erhöhen, so dass eine Fortsetzung der Hausse des Kupferpreises nicht selbstverständlich erscheint. Schließlich bleibt auch die Stabilität der politischen Lage in Bougainville zu hinterfragen. Nach Statistiken ist die Korruption dort sehr hoch.

07.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Peaceful celebrations

By Veronica Hannette

CHRISTMAS and New Year celebrations in Bougainville was peaceful due to the hard work of the police force.

Police Station Commander Alex Gunan said the police festive operations were launched during the first week of the festive period and the operations took on a community approach. He said the operations helped in slowing down public drinking and he commended the people of Bougainville. "So far so good. The celebrations in Bougainville were peaceful," he said. There was only one attempted murder and one murder case reported.

A suspect from Telatu village in Peit constituency of North Bougainville was under the influence of alcohol and argued with another friend over homebrew and he punched his friend who died instantly.

Meanwhile, the people of Selau have been commended for co-operating with the people of Bougainville for their behaviour during the festive season which has resulted in a peaceful celebration. Assistant Bougainville Police Commander Thomas Eluh thanked the people for their behaviour during the festive season.

He said this was a good sign and gave credit to the people and urged them to continue to work together with the police to create a peaceful society.

07.01.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Escapees cause fear in Buka

By FABIAN HAKALITS

ASSISTANT Commissioner for Police in Bougainville Thomas Eluh is calling on all communities in the region to forward reports of prisoner's roaming freely, to the police. Mr Eluh made the appeal following recent complaints from the communities in Buka and mainland Bougainville to the media, that some of these prisoners were roaming freely in public, including villages.

It is understood that detainees at cell one in Buka are kept there to await their trial while those in cell two are the convicts, where the court have already sentenced them and are serving their terms behind bars.

Whether convicted or not, these prisoners are not allowed out of the prison cells until released in court.

Because of this, concerned mothers said they were seen waking around in the villages and town areas at their own will.

These detainees, they said, were causing great fear in the communities particularly the safety of young girls. A policeman said they had send orders for these prisoners to return, but they have not done so.

He said this meant that their stay would be extended in the cells.

How these prisoners were released is not known and ACP Eluh assured the police would investigate the matter and provide a full detail.

Mr Eluh said, after investigations a police team would be sent to recapture the prisoners. He urged all communities throughout Bougainville to feel responsible and report any prisoners roaming freely in their villages, communities and even the towns.

06.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Still off

By Aloysius Laukai

Sorry, we are still off Maybe tomorrow we will come on line.

Some news

The body of the late William Takaku arrives in Buka tomorrow morning at 10 am. Then straight to Arawa.

Our system is playing up and we are unable to get comments online.

We will continue to try to post your comments tonight.

05.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Dawn FM has switched off for urgent Maintenance and upgrading.

Repairs are being made to the Antennae this morning by Technicians from TE PNG.

05.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

New Rules!

Bougainville Copper Limited applies the Rio Tinto Group's

**RULES FOR DEALING IN SECURITIES OF RIO TINTO, ITS SUBSIDIARY AND
ASSOCIATED COMPANIES AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARDS ON 4 AUGUST 2009**

[see here: PDF file \(301 KB\)](#)

05.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Positive Panic !

ASX: BOC UP 28.4 Percent !

Market Depth for BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

as at 12:57:25 PM Wednesday, January 5, 2011

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Indicative Open Price 2.170 Volume Surplus 0

Last Change % Volume Trades Open High Low

2.170 0.480 28.40 318,741 103 1.720 2.200 1.720

Last Traded 12 @ 2.17 - 11:57:08

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers

Level Buy Quantity Price

1 1 12 2.160

2 1 12 2.140

3 1 14,400 2.000

4 1 30,000 1.900

5	1	2,365	1.780
6	1	10,000	1.750
7	1	30,000	1.720
8	1	30,000	1.710
9	2	55,000	1.700
10	1	5,000	1.670
11	1	13,244	1.650
12	1	3,000	1.620
13	1	8,000	1.610
14	1	500	1.600
15	1	12,500	1.590
16	2	30,000	1.560
17	1	500	1.550
18	2	11,724	1.540
19	1	7,000	1.510
20	1	3,000	1.500
21	2	10,000	1.450
22	1	3,000	1.430
23	3	5,200	1.405
24	1	6,000	1.400
25	2	34,500	1.395
26	1	10,000	1.350
27	1	2,000	1.280
28	2	24,000	1.250

BOC Sellers

Price Quantity Sell Level

2.170	1,652	1	1
2.200	4,375	1	2
2.300	13,000	2	3
2.500	40,000	1	4
9.000	5,000	1	5
15.150	663,000	2	6
15.990	30,000	1	7

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Successful festive ops

By Veronica Hannette

The Christmas and New Year operation carried out by the Bougainville Police service has been hailed a success.

Acting Police Station Commander, Alex Gunan says, the festive operations through out North Bougainville was satisfactory.

He says that the operations were launched during the first week of the festive season which resulted in a good Christmas and New Year celebrations.

He added that during that time alone, police carried out 25 arrests and reported more than 50 minor cases.

Meanwhile the people of Selau have also been commended for being cooperative in handing over a fire arm to the police during the festive celebrations.

The Police are now in possession of the weapon which, Mr. Gunan says; is the type of response they want communities to exercise.

The Commander also congratulated the Bougainville police and the general public for the quiet peaceful celebrations.

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ACP thanks people

By Tapo Tovilu DWU Journalism student

Assistant Police Commissioner Thomas Elu today thanked the people of Bougainville for the peaceful trouble free festive celebrations.

In making the comments Commissioner Elu confirmed that there were no major cases from North Central and South Bougainville during the festive celebrations.

He says that through the help of the people and their cooperation the police were able to carry out their duties effectively.

Commissioner Elu says that police during the New Year celebrations carried out their usual police checks, setting up roadblocks and checking vehicles.

He says unlike the past New Year celebrations this year was the quietest.

He thanked the business houses general public and people of Bougainville for the support during the Christmas and New Year period.

He says this has shown that the people have celebrated the festive season in its true sense despite hiccups in police manpower during the operations.

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS' CONCERN OVER POSITION OF G.G.

By Tom Kathoa

Several ABG Members from North Bougainville including village chiefs and influential leaders are conducting separate meetings with the voters to gauge their opinion on the future of their Member and Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology, Hon Michael Ogio.

The National Executive Council has recently appointed Mr. Ogio as the Acting Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

He will act on that position until the new Governor General is elected, next Tuesday, 11th January 2011.

Whilst, they appreciate the national government's recognition of Mr. Ogio to hold such a very important position of Vice Regal, they are not happy with the move to make him permanent in that position

Upon learning of the government's move to support him for the GG post, they immediately mobilised and held discussions with the voters to get their views on this.

Leader of the group and Chairman of the ABG Northern Committee and also Member for Hagogohe Constituency, Hon Robert Hamal Sawa people were briefed on the advantage and disadvantages of their member becoming a Governor General.

It is the common view of the majority of the voters of North Bougainville that the region stands to lose more than gain from Mr. Ogio becoming the Governor General.

Mr. Sawa says the people of North Bougainville are worried about what would happen to their projects.

They are worried that many impact projects in the areas of Education, Health, Road infrastructure and the proposed Ramazon Hydro Power may not eventuate without Ogio being around.

Voters have asked their member to reconsider his position and stay on as their elected member of parliament and Not as Governor General.

Mr. Sawa said attempts have been made for the acting GG to come to Buka and hear for

himself what his voters want him to do.

But, due to his busy work schedule a delegation is expected to travel to Port Moresby to relay the people's views to him.

Mr. Sawa said people are entitled to express their views and the delegation would present this to Mr. Ogio who will make the final decision.

He said the final decision rests with Mr. Ogio himself and the voters would respect that decision.

Meanwhile, the group has also been scouting for a possible replacement for Mr. Ogio should he decides to take up the government's offer of the Vice Regal post.

They have already identified several possible names as potential candidates to replace Mr. Ogio.

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BGH sent patients home

By Joyce Tohui

The Buka General hospital is facing water shortage problems.

The Acting Director Medical Services, Dr. Joe Vilosi says starting today sick patients with minor illnesses are being sent home.

He says the hospital will only cater for emergency cases as to the availability of water at the hospital.

He adds the operating theater will attend only to emergency cases.

Dr. Vilosi says admissions are to be cut down due to poor sanitation at the hospital because toilets are blocked.

He is calling on patients with minor illnesses to refrain from going to the hospital as admissions will receive only urgent cases.

The doctor says water is very vital for the hospital because it is needed to carry out its work.

And since the hospital has no water supply it will only return to its normal service with the blessing of rain water.

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls for development

By Tapo Tovilu DWU Journalism student

Calls have been made to the ABG to improve its service delivery into the Wisai area of Konou Constituency in South Bougainville.

The call was made by John Tonilau a village elder in the Wisai area.

Mr Tonilau says he has seen very little development over the years since Bougainville got its Autonomy.

He says many of the basic services like health and education and infrastructure like good road networks to the area are lacking.

He says for too long the area has been neglected and has made the call to improve service delivery in the area.

Attempts by New Dawn FM to contact the Member for Konou for comments were unsuccessful.

04.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BPS awaits funds

BY SONIA KENU DWU Journalism Student

The Bougainville Police Service re-structure program in plan to start off this year is awaiting funds from the National Government.

The Bougainville Assistant Police Commissioner Thomas Eluh says they're still waiting for the K6 million to begin work on the initial phase of the impact project.

Mr Eluh says the initial phase includes training of managers and supervisors for managerial capacity positions, specialist training for CIDs and Prosecutors and recruit training for policemen.

Mr Eluh says that the delay of funds will only slow down the progress of the re-structure program.

He adds that it would be a serious setback for the Bougainville Police as it's a major infrastructure program.

The Bougainville Police Service re-structure program is a four phase program which begins this year with the initial phase and ends in 2020 with the final phase.

Meanwhile, Mr Eluh says they hope the funds come in quickly so they can proceed with the restructure program.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEWS JUST CAME IN THIS EVENING

TAKAKU ORBITS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainvillean actor who acted in the Robinson Crusoe film man Friday died in Port Moresby today.

Reports reaching our office said he died from heart attack.

He was on the Buka Port Moresby flight when he developed severe chest pains which resulted in his death.

More report would be made available once we get some more reports.

New Dawn FM wishes to send its condolence to the family and relatives of the late William Takaku.

The late William Takaku has been very vocal of the preserving of Bougainville's culture and started Training School for culture in Arawa.

His trainees then performed at the REEDS Festival which was becoming very popular.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KETSIMUR CUP

By Tom Kathoa

The Member for Taunita/Tinputz in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Hon Carolus Ketsimur has made available a Cup to the Tinputz Soccer Competetion.

The cup which bears the name Ketsimur Cup engraved on it is worth more than K800. It will be presented to the champion soccer team every year for five years.

The first soccer team to win the Ketsimur Cup is Under 16 boys 'White Wave' of Teabes village who defeated Island a team from neighbouring Taunita/Teop Constituency by one goal to nil.

Minister Ketsimur explained that the Cup would be awarded to the top soccer team in the competition every year for five years.

He said the team that winners it for 5 years would keep it for itself.

The minister told the people who witnessed the grand final matches that he would continue to assist sports because the majority of our young people are engaged in sporting activity.

The ABG Government also sees sports as a to promoting peace and unity among the people of the region.

Mr. Ketsimur commended business houses and individuals who contributed towards the successful staging of the soccer tournament and hopes the competition would get bigger and better each year.

He presented the three top soccer teams with cash prizes and of course the Ketsimur Cup.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

QUIET TINPUTZ

By Tom Kathoa

The people of Tinputz District in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been praised for celebrating the Christmas and New Year festive periods peacefully.

ABG Member for Taunita/Tinputz and Minister for Works Transport and Communication, Hon Carolus Ketsimur commended the people for their behaviour in ensuring a trouble free festive period.

Addressing the closing a week long soccer tournament at Tinputz station on Sunday, Mr Ketsimur said the people of Tinputz have shown others that they can be trusted as law abiding citizens.

The Member for Taunita/Tinputz also praised for Police in the areas for a job well done over these two periods.

Meanwhile, Police in Tinputz have reported a trouble free Christmas and New Year period.

There are three regular police personal on the station assisted by fifteen Auxiliary members.

Police say the whole Tinputz District was throughout the festive periods.

There were two deaths recorded, but these were not related to any trouble.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Doctor Appeals for change

By Joyce Tohui

A call has been made for young Bougainvilleans to take responsibility and change for the betterment of Bougainville.

A Senior Health Practitioner with Buka General Hospital, Dr. Joe Vilosi told New Dawn FM News that this year 2011 must be a year of change for youths.

He appeals strongly to young women to be mindful of their sex life to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Dr. Vilosi says abortion is illegal by law therefore doctors are not allowed to carry out

abortion.

He says careless sex life leads to unwanted pregnancy and increases the risk of contracting STI and HIV.

The doctor says family planning service is provided and urged young women to get help from the clinics.

Meanwhile, he is calling on youths to stop smoking marijuana as many young men are mentally affected.

Dr. Vilosi says more youths involved with marijuana are from the Wakunai/Tinputz and Kunua/Kereaka districts.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NAS RESPONDS

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile the General Manager of National Aviation Services, JOHN IMAKA says that flight costs will be reduced once the service is fully restored throughout the region. He was responding to calls by Lawyer Joel Minsipi to reduce the airfares throughout Bougainville.

MR. IMAKA said that since the resumption of flights to Bougainville, National Aviation service has been flying to Buin airstrip.

The General Manager says that negotiations for the use of the Aropa Airport is in progress with Nissan and Torokina as the next airstrips the company is looking at. New Dawn FM understands the first flight into Aropa airport was also made last Friday.

03.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REDUCE FEES

By Aloysius Laukai

The move to restore Air Services to all parts of Bougainville is a positive move in the restoration of services to Bougainville according to a Bougainvillean Lawyer based in Port Moresby, Joel Nava Minsipi .

Mr. Minsipi told New Dawn FM that This shows that the ABG under the Momis is moving forward to deliver and restore much needed services to parts of Bougainville such as Nissan, Buin, and Torokina - areas that have been missing out on services for too long. However, on the other hand, he says that Bougainville still remains as one of the MOST expensive places in PNG.

The prices of goods in shops are very expensive. The cost of road transport from Buka to South Bougainville is also very high.

It costs K120. per passenger to travel to Buin from Buka. K100 to travel to Siwai from Buka and K50 from Buka to Arawa.

He said that with Bougainvilleans still struggling to recover economically, the high cost of road transport is still far from reach.

This cost in road transport is still too excessive compared to other provinces in PNG. We hope that upon the completion of the 15 bridges by the Japanese Engineers, the cost of road transport particularly on the Mainland Bougainville is going to drop.

With the arrival of the National Air Services to Bougainville bringing with it an even high cost of air fare within Bougainville, Ordinary Bougainvilleans surely can not meet the cost of air fare.

For a passenger to travel to Buin from Buka, he/she has to pay K600. This amount is even too excessive compared to that of other provinces operated by other aircrafts. For example, From Port Moresby to Lae on an Airlines PNG, one has to travel so many kilometers compared to traveling from Buka to Buin. It costs only K300 to travel from Port Moresby to Lae on Airlines PNG.

National Air Services has to justify to Bougainvilleans as to why its proposed air fare within Bougainville is too excessive.

However, while the National Air Services and the ABG are commended for taking the move to provide much needed air services in Bougainville, I am calling on them to also liaise with the Civil Aviation Authorities to open up Tonu Airstrip in Siwai, South Bougainville.

The Tonu Airstrip is located on a State land and as such the airstrip should be cleared quickly by the Government to provide the Air Services in South Bougainville said MR. NAWA.

02.01.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Visitors Worldwide on the ESBC Homepage (within the last 30 days)

Germany	2,133	48.28%
Australia	480	10.86%
United States	393	8.9%
United Kingdom	307	6.95%
Austria	165	3.73%
Switzerland	151	3.42%
Belgium	121	2.74%
New Zealand	119	2.69%
Luxembourg	68	1.54%
Papua New Guinea	65	1.47%
Laos	51	1.15%
Thailand	44	1%
Netherlands	31	0.7%
Spain	29	0.66%
France	27	0.61%
China	20	0.45%
Chile	18	0.41%
India	15	0.34%
Taiwan	15	0.34%
Italy	14	0.32%
Liechtenstein	13	0.29%
Canada	13	0.29%
Russia	10	0.23%
European Union	9	0.2%
Pakistan	9	0.2%
Japan	8	0.18%
Singapore	8	0.18%
Ireland	6	0.14%
Sri Lanka	5	0.11%
Poland	5	0.11%
Malaysia	4	0.09%
Vanuatu	4	0.09%
Hong Kong S.A.R., China	4	0.09%
Andorra	3	0.07%

Norway 3 0.07%
 Indonesia 3 0.07%
 Denmark 3 0.07%
 Slovenia 3 0.07%
 Peru 3 0.07%
 Oman 2 0.05%
 Bulgaria 2 0.05%
 Czech Republic 2 0.05%
 Philippines 2 0.05%
 Cameroon 2 0.05%
 United Arab Emirates 2 0.05%
 Sweden 2 0.05%
 Egypt 2 0.05%
 South Korea 1 0.02%
 Panama 1 0.02%
 Jamaica 1 0.02%
 Samoa 1 0.02%
 Ukraine 1 0.02%
 Iceland 1 0.02%
 Israel 1 0.02%
 Vietnam 1 0.02%
 Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 0.02%
 Solomon Islands 1 0.02%
 Croatia 1 0.02%
 Greece 1 0.02%
 Mexico 1 0.02%
 Fiji 1 0.02%
 Ghana 1 0.02%
 Ivory Coast 1 0.02%
 Senegal 1 0.02%
 Brazil 1 0.02%
 Macedonia 1 0.02%

01.01.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HORRAY ITS ANOTHER YEAR

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Bougainville celebrated New Year peacefully.

Reports gathered by New Dawn FM team states that the streets of Buka town were deserted just before midnight and the noise made at 12midnight was not so loud as in past years.

Police fired some flares into the sky to mark the arrival of 2011 as people shouted from their homes.

The weather was just fine with new moon just coming up.

New Dawn FM put in ABG President live ON AIR from Port Moresby who said that there was thunderstorms and blackouts in the city of Port Moresby last night.

MR. MOMIS wished his people Happy New Year and called on all Bougainvilleans to put their differences aside and work to develop the Autonomous Region of Bougainville President Momis is returning from a private trip to Singapore where he went for medical check.

He returns to Bougainville this Wednesday.

News 02.2011

28.02.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

[Preliminary 2010 Annual Figures \(click here\)](#)

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VEHICLE OVERTURNS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police have reported that a Government Plated vehicle belonging to Bougainville Regional Member, FIDELIS SEMOSO overturned at a curve near Hangan village near the Hutjena Government Station on Buka island.

The vehicle was travelling at high speed when the driver failed to negotiate the curve. The driver who was the only one on board, escaped from the scene soon after the accident.

Police visited the crash site and found the vehicle with all wheels in the air.

Buka Police are investigating the incident.

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONMAN HUNTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile Buka Police are looking for a Professional Conman who stole a Boat on false pretence.

The man identified by Police as PETER PEKA dressed in Police uniform conned a boat owner from Kereaka that his boat was needed by Police for a special operation around Bougainville.

He was told that the boat would be returned once the mission is completed.

According to Police report the owner willingly gave the boat to the conman and has not seen it since.

Police has also received reports that the suspect is trying to sell the boat across the border in the Solomon Island.

Authorities in Solomon Islands have been informed to be on the look -out for him.

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONCERT ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Peace and Unity Musical Concert ended last Saturday with all 35 bands receiving certificates of participation.

The concert attracted bands from South Bougainville, Central and North Bougainville. According to the initiator, MARCHELLIN GETSI, they hope to host another big one in April this year.

He thanked all participants for their contribution towards peace building through music.

MR. GETSI also thanked sponsors and the public who made the show a success.

The concert was Liquor and Drug free.

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DROUGHT HIT ATOLLS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's Atolls islands of Carterets, Nissan, Nuguria, Motlock and Fead are in dire need for food and water due to the long dry spell these islands are going through in the past three months.

Chairman of the Carterets COE, BENARD TUNIM told New Dawn FM at the weekend that his people have been hard hit by the drought and could not hang on further.

He said that he has approached the officers from the Bougainville Administration including the local disaster office but they have no funds to assist.

MR. TUNIM said that the fact that the island is not serviced by a regular shipping service the people cannot really help themselves.

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tunim on Resettlement

By Aloysius Laukai

The chairman of the Carterets COE BENARD TUNIM wants the ABG to fast-track the Carterets Resettlement program by allocating funds.

He said that the resettlement program was moving at a snail pace due to lack of financial support from the government.

MR. TUNIM also questioned where funds allocated for the program has gone to.

The COE chairman made these comments when commenting on the NGO Group TULELE PEISA for their efforts in securing funds for the program.

He said without the efforts of TULELE PEISA the Tinputz resettlement program could not have started.

MR TUNIM also thanked the Catholic church for allowing them to resettle on their Tinputz Plantation land.

28.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIHEI'S FUTURE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth and Churches, ROSE PIHEI wants all Bougainville families to take part in meaningful economic activity.

The Minister was speaking at the official closing of the Bougainville Peace and Unity Musical concert last Saturday afternoon.

She said that she was working on including Music with other activities like sports so that our people are given the opportunities to expose their talents.

MRS.PIHEI called on parents to make sure their children are brought up properly and not left to wander around like no one cares for them.

She said that peace and harmony starts from the home and parents as the first teachers must play their part in making sure that kids grow up well.

The minister called on parents to be role models and not to show bad examples to their children.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville speaks on by-election

PUBLIC servants who plan to contest the north Bougainville Open Seat by-election this month should resign as stipulated in the Public Service Act.

And they should face the full force of the Public Service Act when they lose any elections and return to their respective villages but in Bougainville this has not been the case.

Bougainvilleans have raised serious concerns on public servants in the region who have contested previous elections but were still on the payroll and easily return to their substantive or respective duties after having lost the elections.

Former Bougainville Revolutionary Army Commander Ben Kamda has challenged the Bougainville Administration and the Autonomous Bougainville Government together with the Electoral Office to address this matter seriously.

Mr Kamda said over the weekend that there were evidence of public servants currently serving who have stood for previous elections, both for Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Elections and lost but they still occupy their substantive positions.

"This has to stop and we want the authorities to look at this very seriously because it is not right.

"As I understand this is already a breach of the Public Service Act. "We have to be transparent on these issues.

"For example, these public servants who now intend to contest this by-election should have resigned last week or this week before the nominations and when they lose they should return to their villages," Mr Kamda said.

He said the previous errors may have been ignorance by the administrators as they were definitely and fully aware of the law.

Mr Kamda said it was now time for all those in power to act on this matter as it was a serious case.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Car accident claims

By Alex Munme

THE Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade Fidelis Semoso has lost one of his state issued vehicles in an accident yesterday morning just before reaching Hutjena High School in Buka.

Former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) commander Ross Vavioi was driving the vehicle alone, believed to be at high speed when he ran off the road uphill towards Hutjena High School and crashed into the hillside, causing irreparable damage to the Toyota Landcruiser. The vehicle overturned on impact and landed on its side.

The BRA commander was employed by the Minister to rehabilitate former combatants.

The ex-militant abandoned the vehicle and fled before anyone got to the scene.

The cause of the incident was not known and the police were investigating.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Carterets up for award

A BOUGAINVILLE documentary based on Carterets Island is up for an Academy Award in the United States this month.

In June 2008 filmmakers Jennifer Redfearn and Tim Metzger learned of the refugees' plight and headed to the Carteret Islands. They came with video equipment hoping to share their story with the world. Their documentary "Sun Come Up" was released last year. This Sunday night it's up for an Academy Award in the best documentary short category. Carterets Islanders have been called the world's first climate refugees. Their homeland, a remote chain of six small islands is fast losing ground to rising sea levels. The 1000 or so people whose families have lived there for dozens of generations have made an agonising decision to relocate their entire community before it disappears beneath the rising waves.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Plane wreck believed to be Earhart

THE discovery of an aircraft wreck at the depth of 70 metres north-west of Buka in Bougainville may hold some answers to the 74-year mystery of the disappearance of world-famous aviatrix – Amelia Earhart.

There are strong indications that the aircraft is a Lockheed Model 10 Electra which took off from Lae on July 2nd 1937 destined for Howland Island. The crash site is in direct alignment with Earhart's flight path out of Lae, past north of Buka Island in a straight northeast direction to Howland.

Information emerging from Buka say that certain interested parties were in the process of engaging the services of a professional diver with appropriate diving gear from overseas to help in the recovery process.

A mining company in the area is said to be helping with the exercise. Local authorities and the villagers do not wish to go public on the discovery because of a reported gold bullion sitting in the aircraft which was difficult to pull out of the wreck.

The left side of the plane is covered in coral and divers have had difficulties clearing the coral from the plane. Divers also detail there is a six metre snake guarding the wreck.

A local group from Buka Island have been working with a local businessman to ascertain the remains and the confirmation of the wreckage since 2005. This is because some other "valuables" have been found on the wreck.

Initially, the wreckage was found in 2002 when fishermen from the region dived for beche

de mer to sell. But local and old men and women from the island have their stories of this wreck since it crashed in strong lightning and bad weather which hit its left wing forcing it into the sea, nose first. The oldest man alive said he was 10 in 1937 when the plane with two people went down just off their reef.

The Post-Courier had known about the plane wreck since 2004 but has been collecting information and also because perhaps this was too true to believe, as the greatest mystery in aviation history was the disappearance of Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan in 1937. Numerous theories attempting to explain what happened to the flyers have emerged over the decades. Among these are crashing at sea, being marooned on a remote island, or becoming a Japanese prisoner. No conclusive evidence has ever been found to confirm or refute any of the leading theories or like the Howland Island theory – the Japanese capture of Earhart and Noonan, the Kiribati story and the East New Britain theory. Bougainville's theory has now emerged and will soon be known once the last piece of confirmation is collected.

There were two different groups of villagers investigating this wreckage after divers found an aluminium box allegedly containing valuables in the wreck. But the legal group has now taken the stance since it has been communicating directly with a group in Maryland, USA since 2009. One group engaged several divers who failed to complete the task because of its difficulty. The other group has engaged another Pacific island diver (named) who has been investigating since 2006.

The theory remains – a six metre snake guards the wreckage, there had been 10 professional dives so far since May 2010 but the setback has always been fast sea current, very strong tide, dust on the seabed and heavy rain.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Governor General sworn in

By JONATHAN TANNOS

PAPUA New Guinea's ninth Governor General, Michael Ogio was officially sworn into office on Friday by the country's Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia in Parliament.

The formal ceremony was witnessed by senior government executives, resident ambassadors, high commissioners, senior ranking diplomatic corps and close government aides. The ceremony occurred barely 24 hours after a three-men Supreme Court bench threw out an application by an aggrieved party Ronald Rimbao who was seeking redress, claiming that he had not been given a fair chance to nominate for the vice-regal post.

In a ruling handed down on their behalf on Thursday by the Deputy Chief Justice Salika Gibbs, they said the application was frivolous as Mr Rimbao had no standing and was also not a nominee for the post and his action was an abuse of process. The Supreme Court upheld all arguments on behalf of the State by counsel Kerenga Kua of Posman Kua Aisi Lawyers.

Following the ceremony Mr Ogio, who is yet to be knighted by the Queen was invited by the Speaker of Parliament for morning tea at the Parliamentary C Block that was attended by Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, all Members of Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps and senior departmental heads.

However, it is understood arrangements have already been made for him to travel to London, United Kingdom, for the formal ceremony but a date was yet to be confirmed. Soon after he inspected a military guard of honor and the PNG Police band at a formal ceremony in front of the Parliament entrance. He was then driven down to his official residence at the Government House for the first time and shown around by staff.

Mr Ogio until his election, was the Member for North Bougainville whose seat is now vacant with a by-election to be held.

28.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebel hits out against mine talks

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE'S feared rebel Me'ekamui hardliner Chris Uma has lashed out at the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Panguna landowners for talking about the mine re-opening before addressing outstanding issues.

Mr Uma, who still has a big following in Bougainville said this was not the time to talk about the mine re-opening but speak on issues at hand.

He said the responsible authorities should address the issue of compensation, and sorting out all other outstanding issues before speaking of re-opening of the mine.

Mr Uma claimed all authorities concerned have erred in their move to progress the talks on the mine re-opening because the "paitman" or rebel fighters had been left out of the talks so far.

"We the fighters and I am speaking on behalf of all of us from Buin, Kieta and Buka are not happy with the current talks on the re-opening of the mine," Mr Uma said angrily.

"We should address the problems we faced during the crisis and the outstanding issues.

"We should not go straight to opening the Panguna Mine.

"Lives were lost, damages done and we can't ignore these things and pretend that we are okay.

"Bougainville is not yet normal, there are still issues we still have to sort out first.

"Things like compensation, I also want the mine pit measurement looked at and people compensated fairly for the damages done to this hole.

"We have to address and settle this before we can start talking about mine re-opening."

Mr Uma was claiming that they were deliberately left out of the meetings but said if this continued they'll be just happy to fight as they were fighters without real jobs.

28.02.2011

Source: The National

Ogio sworn in as GG

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

MICHAEL Ogio was sworn into office as the ninth governor-general of Papua New Guinea in a colourful ceremony at parliament house last Friday.

Ogio made his entry to the front of parliament to a guard of honour by the PNG Defence Force with the combined band from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and Correctional Services pipes and drums.

His arrival followed that of PNGDF Commander Francis Agwi, acting Speaker Francis Marus and wife, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, Opposition leader Sir Mekere Morauta and Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare.

The dignitaries were invited to the Speakers Lounge before being led to the parliament chambers.

The chief justice was then invited by the acting speaker into the chambers to conduct the swearing-in ceremony.

Vice-regal elect Ogio was then invited into the chambers where he placed his hand on a Bible to take his oath of allegiance, declaration of loyalty and declaration of office.

Immediately after his swearing-in Parliament Speaker Jeffrey Nape, who had been acting GG until Friday, took up his chair in the chambers.

Nape offered his congratulations and wished the new GG every success in the high

office that he has been elected into.

The leader of government business then moved that parliament at his rising be adjourned to 2pm on Tuesday, May 10.

It was a snap session for the swearing-in that took about 30 minutes to end for parliament to go into recess for two months.

Conspicuous by their absence was a large number of Opposition MPs.

All the invited guest and dignitaries, including heads of diplomatic missions, were then invited to the State Function room where they offered congratulations to Ogio as the 9th Governor-General of PNG.

Ogio will be travelling to Buckingham Palace next week to present his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II as her representative in PNG.

The ceremony went ahead without any hitch after attempts to block the swearing-in was thrown out by the Supreme Court last Thursday.

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal by Ronald Rimbao to prevent the swearing-in ceremony after it was found that the appellant had no legally arguable case and that the court was satisfied that there was an abuse of process by the appellant.

First Bougainvillean sworn in as Governor General of Papua New Guinea:

Michael Ogio



25.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Landowners keen to start mine talks

By Fabian Gatana

THE six Panguna mine lease area landowner associations will address outstanding grievances with the Autonomous Bougainville Government in preparation for the re-opening of the Panguna mine.

An agreement is expected to be signed with the National Government before the end of November this year if outstanding issues such as compensation, the drawing down of mining powers to the ABG Government and the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement are addressed by the National Government.

These decisions were reached in a consultative meeting between the Panguna landowners association, ABG vice President Patrick Nasiria and Minister of Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso on Tuesday this week.

The meeting was held to seek ways to revive Bougainville's economy, which has suffered immensely.

While explaining the island's weak economy, Mr Semoso told the meeting that the National Government, the ABG Government, the Council of Elders and the people of Bougainville were committed to move Bougainville forward and the re-opening of the Panguna mine was the most feasible way to revive the economy.

25.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sisito lauds joint meet

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Minister for Veteran Affairs in the Autonomous Bougainville Government David Sisito has expressed his gratitude over the outcome of the recent Joint Supervisory meeting in Port Moresby with the national government.

Mr Sisito said it was the best meeting Bougainville ever had with the National Government.

"I would like to thank Michael Somare and the National Government for honouring their commitment to Bougainville and for allocating K500 million for Bougainville, that is the best thing they have done for us," Mr Sisito said.

"We ex combatants now trust PNG because the allocation of K500 million will relive us from some of our financial constraints.

"The controversies on financial commitments to Bougainville have been sorted out and the Bougainville administration has now got a big responsibility to facilitate and utilise the funds from the national government.

"This is a major step we have now taken and that is because of commitment and we put our hands and hearts together in our aim for a successful Bougainville," he said.

Mr Sisito said he had the onus now to spearhead the weapons disposal program and to update the ex-combatants about the national government's commitment to Bougainville because it cared for them.

25.02.2011

Source: The National

Momis for NI's autonomy plans

By JEFFREY ELAPA

AUTONOMOUS Region of Bougainville President John Momis has pledged his support for New Ireland to also reach autonomy.

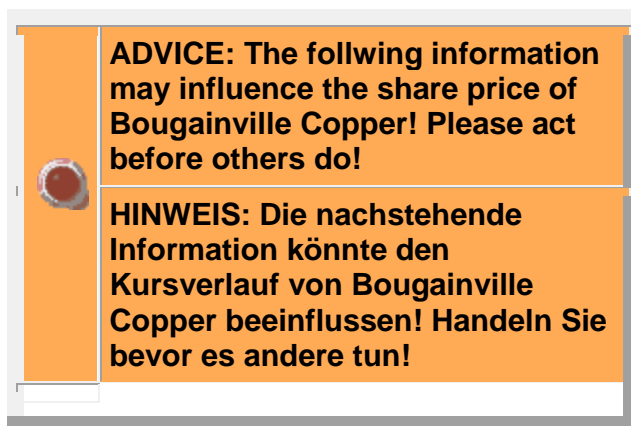
He made the commitment during a family reunion at Matanakala village in Namatanai, New Ireland, district yesterday.

Momis, who was in his mother's village to reunite with his brother and relatives, also paid homage and visited the cemetery of his mother, Helen Shoonwah Pang, and his stepfather Peter Chin Hong.

He said, as a constitutional father of PNG, he does not see any reason why the national government should be sharing and delegating powers to the people at the provincial level.

Momis said he would support and assist New Ireland attain autonomy so that the people actively take part in the decision making and development of their communities through the provincial government.

Momis, who also planted a tanget together with New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan, said the event signified the relationship and commitment to assist the province seek autonomy.



24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS CONTRIBUTE FOR PANGUNA

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville leaders this week made pledges and commitments to fund the activities of the Panguna Landowners in preparation for the Bougainville Copper Agreement Review. From the THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA Commitment made by the Regional member, FIDELIS SEMOSO he presented a FIFTY THOUSAND KINA Cheque as his first contribution.

The ABG Acting President also renewed his earlier commitment of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA as ABG's contribution.

He explained that now the ABG has received the much politicized FIFTEEN MILLION KINA funds they will make the payment soon.

AND the member for Central Bougainville, JIMMY MIRINGTORO also pledged FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA towards the same cause.

The member for South Bougainville is also expected to make some financial commitment as the Lower Tailings group come under his South Bougainville electorate.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA LANDOWNERS UNITE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Panguna Landowners have shown again that they are united and want to move the Bougainville Copper Agreement Review as soon as possible.

Reports from a meeting held in Arawa on Tuesday between the Acting ABG President, PATRICK NISIRA and the Regional member, FIDELIS SEMOSO says that the Landowners want the process to move forward.

Both leaders told the landowners that only Panguna can raise the revenue needed to get Bougainville prepared for the referendum.

The landowners' meeting was held to find ways to resuscitate Bougainville's economy which was destroyed during the Bougainville conflict.

24.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Reconciliation by big business vital to peace on Bougainville

Updated February 24, 2011 18:16:46

Big corporations have a crucial role to play in building and maintaining peace on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville, according to an Australian academic who's involved in research there.

Bougainville is still trying to rebuild its infrastructure and economy after the civil war in the 1990's.

The Rio Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper, is hoping that will mean the re-opening of its Panguna copper and gold mine.

It was landowner grievances over benefit sharing from the Panguna mine that ignited the civil war.

Kylie McKenna, a Phd student at the Australian National University, has just completed her research on how major resource companies can avoid conflict with landowners.

She says companies need to look at their project through the eyes of the local community.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Kylie McKenna, from the Australian National University

Listen here !

MCKENNA: Often in major resource development projects the emphasis is on what the state thinks, what the corporation thinks, but I think the key aspect is really to get behind what the local community see that they want to get out of the resource project, the broader fears or concerns that they might have for that project and then how the company might respond to those fears and concerns.

GARRETT: Well, Bougainville Copper has said nothing is off the agenda for the negotiations. How do they actually get down and find out what the people are really thinking?

MCKENNA: In Bougainville, it's quite easy at the moment, because everybody is keen to talk about the mine, everybody has a view or a perspective on what happened before the conflict arose, so everybody now is quite excited, but a bit concerned about what might happen with the mine. I think for a company it would be quite easy to go in and get the perspective of a lot of different people in Bougainville. But probably the biggest concern for the company might be how are they going to decipher what voices to listen to and who to leave out of that negotiation. Obviously that was a big concern before the conflict occurred in terms of different landowners and generation disputes within the landowner organisation, so that would probably be the biggest problem for the company going in.

GARRETT: What's your assessment so far, is it possible to see how they're doing on that at this stage?

MCKENNA: From what I hear, the autonomous Bougainville Government is doing quite extensive work in terms of trying to set up representative bodies for the landowners, so that different landowner organisations in different vicinities to the mining project will have a voice in what happens, but also what is going to need to be reconciled as well is getting the voices of Bougainville as a whole, not just those landowners, so that the company and also the government itself can contribute to equal development on Bougainville and not just those landowners.

GARRETT: You'll never get 100 per cent of the people behind the big project, especially something like a mine, and there still are some strong opponents among landowners. How can the company deal with that?

MCKENNA: Well, I think what the company really needs to do is as much as it can to go into Bougainville and to reconcile with the local people and clearly state what they have learnt from the past and what they hope to bring to Bougainville into the future. So I think there's always going to be people who are going to be opposed to the mining project, and rightly so. It's a major part of Bougainville's history and you could never guarantee that something like that isn't going to happen in the future. But I think for me what I learnt from my time on Bougainville was that there's a deep wish for something, a very rest odious ? about the mine coming into reopen in terms of the James Tanis argument about reopening the mine, because it's taking the conflict back to where it started. So I think if that's the model they're going to reopen the mine through, then the company needs to be very clear about the lessons they have learnt from the past.

GARRETT: You argue that in fact material benefits, concrete things are not as important as some other approaches the company can take, tell us a bit more about that?

MCKENNA: Well, my research is partly on Bougainville and partly on some resource projects in Papua and what I find is that companies like Bougainville Copper in Bougainville. The company could have been commended for many of the community projects that the company had the time that the mine operated. It was also quite a leader in terms of those projects, but despite that, things went terribly wrong. And what I've been finding through my research is that some of the concerns that local communities have are much deeper than what material benefit like schools and hospitals, although they are really important resources aren't going to solve those broader grievances. So that might be about how a company might symbolise colonial oppression in Bougainville, so when you've got an Australian company going in there, doing a colonial agreement,

then that's something that can't be solved through the creation of a hospital or a school. It's much broader and deeper than that.

GARRETT: The Bougainville autonomous government has yet to develop all its mining rules and regulations. Can those be used to try and solve at least ameliorate that sort of problem?

MCKENNA: Oh well I think the people that I spoke to within the ABG Government are now thinking in terms of reconciliation with landowners and Bougainvilleans generally. I think so far the peace process has been between Bougainvilleans and Papua New Guineans and then between Bougainvilleans and Bougainvilleans themselves and now there are some people within the government thinking how are we going to do that between the mining company and Bougainvilleans. So that's part of a strong argument for why Bougainville Copper Limited might be a preferred company to come into Bougainville, as opposed to a Chinese company or one of the smaller companies that have been suggested, is that strong sense that we can bring a company in, we could invite them to participate in local reconciliation ceremonies and do it our way.

GARRETT: How important is it that executives, top executives of the company get out on the ground and talk to Bougainvilleans themselves regularly?

MCKENNA: I think it would be very, very important, particularly in a place as small as Bougainville and the cultural misunderstandings, the grape vine, I think would be really important for the company to go in with a clear message about what they want to do and how they want to do and then to be backed up on that by the ABG Government.

GARRETT: When you talk about reconciliation, often the people involved, the individuals are very important. Does that make it more important that you do see those top executives down there on the ground?

MCKENNA: Definitely, definitely and even if those executives are not executives who are involved in the mine when the mine was still operating obviously. Some of those executives might have passed away or have retired now. But I think the importance of what they might represent as individuals of that company is important for them to go into and some people are also expecting the same in terms of the Australian Government, whether people from the Australian Government could go alongside those executives and say hey look, we've made these mistakes and we recognise them and want responsibility for them.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONSA WANTS PANGUNA FASTTRACKED

By Aloysius Laukai

A Buka businessman, HENRY ONSA wants the PANGUNA COPPER agreement review fast-tracked.

He told New Dawn FM today in Buka that only Panguna can truly assist the people of Bougainville in terms of employment opportunities and real economic development for Bougainville.

MR. ONSA said that other proposed impact projects like the Chinese investment on Bougainville will not benefit the majority of Bougainvilleans.

The Buka Businessman said that the invasion of Chinese Business to Bougainville will only kill the local business activities currently operating in the region. He said that Bougainvillean Businesses do not have the financial capacities to invest Millions of Kina for a joint venture. Meanwhile MR. ONSA also called on the ABG to help the Bougainvillean companies to beef up their capacities.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MUSICIANS INDEPENDENT

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Musicians have been praised for continuously promoting peace and unity through their music.

And they have continuously promoted and put Bougainville Music on the map without any assistance from the Government.

These were the sentiments made by the former Ex combatant member for North Bougainville and a musician himself, MARCHELLIN GETSI.

He was speaking at the official launching of the Peace and Unity musical concert in Buka this morning.

MR. GETSI said that although music contributes to creating peace and unity like sports, the government only puts money for sports.

He praised the musicians for taking the lead in staging the concert without any government support.

Bands from all the three regions of South, Central and North Bougainville would be performing at the concert.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EDUCATION TOP

By Aloysius Laukai

The former CEO for Education on Bougainville and Regional Advisor to the Teaching Service Commission, TONY TSORA says that Bougainville needs to establish more education institutions to prepare Bougainville for the future.

MR. TSORA told New Dawn FM last Saturday that he wants to see a Teacher's College and a Technical School established on Bougainville.

He said that Bougainville needs to train new teachers to replace aging teachers who were still teaching.

And technical school is needed to train tradesmen and women who can take up jobs if the Panguna mine is re-opened in future.

Mr. Tsora was on Bougainville to inspect new Haku Day High School and the Bougainville Technical College in Tinputz.

He said that he was happy that the ABG was moving forward with its plans to establish specialized educational institutions on Bougainville.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN CAN ASSIST

By Aloysius Laukai

The Special Advisor for UNDP on Bougainville, ANTHONY AGYENTA Says that music is another way of creating peace and development and must be supported.

He said that since he was posted to Bougainville last year, he was looking at several options that can be used to create peace and normalcy on Bougainville.

AND music can be that option.

The UNDP Special Project Officer said that he would like to work closely with the Bougainville musicians on musical programs that can create peace and unity on Bougainville.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONCERT KICKS OFF WITH AIDS FUNDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Peace and Unity concert needs financial support from the Buka Town Community.

This was the message made at this morning's official launching.

One of the Organizers RAY HIMATA said that most of the donations made towards the concert were made in kind and no cash.

He said that DIGICEL has sponsored prizes and T Shirts whilst Tony Luwong , Robert Hamal Sawa and Model Zero band contributed band instruments.

MR. HIMATA said that the only cash contribution of TWO THOUSAND KINA was donated by the Bougainville Aids Committee.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KEEP CULTURE

BY Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Culture and Tourism, JOSEPH EGILIO wants Bougainville musicians to maintain the identity of Bougainville culture by blending Cultural Music with modern Contemporary music.

The Minister was speaking at the Official opening of the Bougainville Peace and Unity Musical Concert in Buka this morning.

MR. EGILIO said that Bougainville culture includes traditional music which our musicians can promote by continuously performing local style music.

Minister EGILIO said that he supported the staging of the concert and called on the groups to enjoy the music in the next three days.

The minister also officially opened the three-day concert this morning.

Meanwhile Bands showed their talents at today's rehearsal with the competition officially commencing tomorrow.

24.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Sawa's Music

By Aloysius Laukai

The former ABG minister for Peace and Reconciliation and member for Hagogohe, ROBERT HAMAL SAWA also acknowledged the personal contributions by former Combatants to establish peace on Bougainville with music.

He mentioned several musical concerts in the past where former Commanders like ISHMAEL TOROAMA a musician himself came out to perform for peace and unity.

The member said that Music will continue to be used to create an environment for peace and unity on Bougainville.

MR. SAWA personally contributed his instruments to the three day musical concert.

23.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Crisis claims hit Bougainville

By Gorethy Kenneth

Bougainville is faced with a K1.3 billion crisis-related bill from local, national and foreign businesses including individuals.

And a total of 9676 registered claims are with the Bougainville Administration of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, currently under pressure to pay up.

These are the claims incurred during the 1996 Bougainville crisis which destroyed Bougainville, specifically central Bougainville, Kieta, Arawa and Panguna.

But the Bougainville Administration has advised that the combined cost of the crisis-related claims has decreased drastically to K245 million, significantly less than the K3 billion previously quoted. ABD Administration managed to work out the CRGs under four main categories — unpaid salaries and wages, goods and services rendered to the Government, damage and loss of property, physical injuries and deaths and unlawful arrest and imprisonment.

This is from an information paper from the Administration after a group of landowners from Wakunai marched to the office to complain about unpaid crisis-related claims by the Government now that the ABG had received the K15 million. They are claiming more than K1 million for damage to shops, houses and schools in their area.

“Nevertheless, still out of reach of the ABG’s resources and thus the need for alternative policy options to address the issue of CRGs the information paper detailed. “We have three policy issues with regard to these options and they include, setting some claims, settle no claims, and find alternative to settlement and the issues to consider would include the liability of the ABG and the PNG Government, the existence of legal and political precedents, expectations held by claimants and the lack of records on those issues.”

CRGs is an issue that the new ABG should be aware of, as it continues to place unnecessary demands on the ABG. Its policy will assist the ABG deal with the issue on a more systematic manner and this policy will spell out who is responsible for which claim and thus the liability to settle,” The paper quoted.

23.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Termites put Bougainville schools under seige

By FABIAN GHATANA

ABOUT nine secondary and high schools in Bougainville are under serious threat from termites attacking classrooms and teachers' houses.

And the cost of rebuilding may exceed K10 million if both the National and the Autonomous Bougainville governments do not immediately address the issue.

Hutjena Secondary School has 74 buildings under threat – classrooms, boys and girls dormitories and a teacher's house – some buildings are seriously affected by termites, resulting in the houses falling apart.

Bishop Wade/Tarlana Secondary School has 70 buildings under threat; Buin Secondary School 50, Bana and Nissan are also badly affected. There are five other high schools in Bougainville having the same problem and teachers are now worried the issue may affect classes if not addressed immediately. Protex Pest Control, a locally owned company, had taken time out of its busy schedule in Bougainville to look at these issues and report to the respective schools. Operations manager of the Protex company, Bernard Namun, a professional pest controller, said to save these schools the ABG or the national government will need to spend K3 million to completely overhaul the buildings.

The termites they suspect may have come from Lae through the timbers bought from there.

"They could be northern termites and these are very dangerous. They live in colonies and the termites lay 1500 eggs per day," Mr Namun said.

"This could be the biggest threat to the entire school buildings in Bougainville and we can help save them if we address them on time."

23.02.2011

Source: The National

Momis in Kavieng

By JEFFREY ELAPA in Kavieng

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis yesterday arrived in New Ireland for his first official visit to the province since he became president.

He was received at the Kavieng Airport by New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan and members of the provincial and Namatanai district administration, including Namatanai MP Byron Chan and Deputy Governor Florence Stocken, and school children.

Accompanying Momis was his wife and members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Other visiting politicians currently in the province are Western Governor Dr Bob Danaya and Sumkar MP Ken Fairweather. Both leaders were expected to join Sir Julius, Momis and the Namatanai MP in their tour of the province.

However, their trip could be cut short due to Friday's one-day parliament sitting to swear in Michael Ogie as the ninth governor-general of Papua New Guinea.

Momis and his delegation met with Sir Julius and members of the New Ireland executive council yesterday evening. Today, they would attend the second council of elders (village chiefs) meeting in Kavieng.

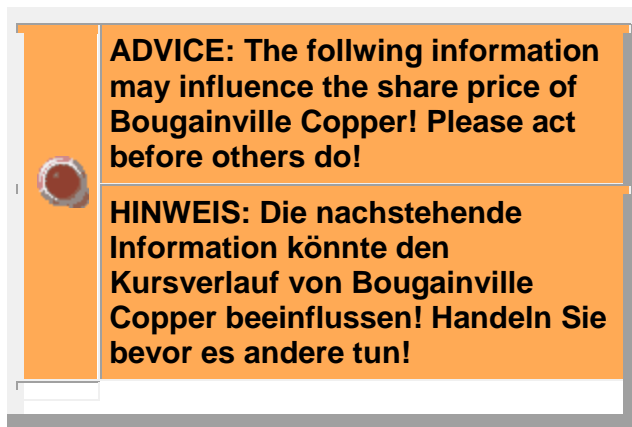
They then leave for Namatanai with local MP Chan to launch and deliver several projects in the district.

They will also witness the delivery of three vehicles to Lahur Primary School, police and the courts.

Two LLG buildings and the local MP's official residence at Namatanai station will also be launched.

Tomorrow, the group will travel to Matanakala village where Momis will reunite with some of his relatives and friends.

Another three vehicles will also be delivered to Panaras, Kulot and Mercy primary schools on Saturday.



22.02.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Major Breakthrough !

Despite the absence of ABG President John Momis, the today's meeting between the Panguna landowners, the representatives of ABG and National PNG Government became a major breakthrough and a success for Bougainville's economic future as reported here:

We had a very good meeting today. All the Resolutions have been accepted by ABG and Minister Semoso. Funding secured as follows;

Hon Semoso first K50,000.00 paid-cheque handed over to Deputy Chairman Mr. Michael Pariu. K250,000.00 yet to come.

Acting President, Hon. Patrick Nisira (Vice President) committed K300,000.00 to PLOA and the six leases Associations establishment

Hon Jimmy Miringtoro committed K400,000.00 to the work of PLOA and the six lease area Associations

Minister Semoso will approach South Bougainville Member for another K400,000.00 for the same.

MOU to be signed next week in Buka to formalize all the resolutions.

Acting President will facilitate for our reconciliation between President Momis and Interim PLOA Executive plus the Chairs of the six leases after 7th March when the President returns.

Draft MOU is here for your information. Final MOU will be signed in Buka next week after it has been finalized by PLOA Secretariat.

Here some photos of the meeting:



Arawa on February 22nd, 2011: The Panguna landowners assembly.



Lawrence Daveona, spokesman of interim Panguna landowner association addresses to the audience.



ABG Vice President explains the ABG's position.



Strong support from the National PNG Government: Minister Fidelis Semoso



Theresa Jaintong from the Arawa Customary Lease



Bernardine Kiraa speaks for the lower tailings lease (on the left: PLA Chairman Chris Damana)



PNG Minister Fidelis Semoso hands over the K50,000 funding cheque to PLA Vice Chairman Michael Pariu

22.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-combatants in league revival

By REUBEN KALAUNG in Buka

IT was a major breakthrough for rugby league in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville when a team from Arawa led by ex-combatant commander Ismael Toroama, Dominic Torona and Mark Niniku, took part in the round 1 clash of the Bougainville Rugby Football League (BRFL) pre-season last Saturday at the Hutjena Oval, Buka.

In the name of Peace through League, the Arawa Team had to cross 17 rivers without bridges to participate in the rugby league clash. The pre-season is also the selection trials for the NGI 9's Challenge slated for Kokopo next month.

Agmark Gurias coach Michael Marum recently announced that the Gurias are recruiting players in the NGI region to make the Gurias' lineup for the PNGNRL Digicel Cup this year.

The PNG Kumuls assistant coach also donated 10 rugby league balls courtesy of Agmark Limited to BRFL, which were distributed to all clubs who took part last weekend. Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade Fidelis Semoso, who returned that Saturday from the Joint Supervisory Meeting in Port Moresby, was impressed with the number of clubs and the level of performance.

He wasted no time in committing K25,000 to facilitate travel arrangements for the

Bougainville representative team to Kokopo for the NGI 9's Challenge.

A mid morning downpour did little to dampen the spirit of the round one clash as supporters turned up in numbers to support their teams.

Buka's Tsitalato Warriors led by former inter-city player Jerome Sahin went straight to work upon the opening hooter to nail Arawa 30-nil in one of the A grades clash.

A fiery clash was witnessed in the main game when Haku Hawks locked horns with Newtown Knights.

Spectators were on their feet throughout the full 80 minutes encounter as both teams battled it out neck-to-neck. The Hawks soared over the Knights at the end of the fast and furious episode with a 16-12 victory.

Other matches were also played in the B and reserve divisions to allow selectors to observe potential talents from all divisions that should make the Bougainville Team for the 9's competition.

The Tsitalato Warriors will travel over to Arawa this weekend for an exchange match with the Arawa side.

The Arawa team management and players have given the Warriors their assurance on ground security and hospitality. Former BRA Commander Dominic Torona has pledged his support to BRFL president Micah James to unite Bougainville through rugby league and urged corporate partnership from Ela Motors, SP Brewery, Agmark and other major investors to support the code development in Bougainville.

BRFL President Micah James says season proper will also be played in Buin, Torokina and Nissan Island to promote 'Peace through League' to compliment the Bougainville Peace Agreement through sports.

Meantime, Buin has been challenged to register a team with BRFL for the competition this year.

Clubs that are currently participating have been urged to pay up their club affiliation fee of K350 and K10 player registration to qualify for selection into the Bougainville team.

22.02.2011

Source: The National

JSB resolution signed

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE PNG-Bougainville joint supervisory body (JSB) joint resolution was signed by the co-chairs yesterday evening after it was delayed for five hours.

The signing was scheduled for 2.30pm yesterday but was delayed and the event's location was moved to the Golden Bowl Restaurant.

The joint resolution held at the Holiday Inn in Port Moresby last week was signed between the Deputy Prime Minister and Works Minister Sam Abal and president of Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis.

Among the resolutions were the progress report on the implementation of stages two and three of the indicative strategic framework for the transfer of mining, oil and gas functions and powers.

It was agreed as proposed by Mining Minister John Pundari that a baseline study be conducted immediately, preceded by a preliminary assessment of certain factors such as environment around Panguna and the lease areas including land and marine environment.

It was resolved that a term of reference was to be developed in consultation between the Pundari and Momis after receiving advice from the technical team from both governments.

It was further resolved that an independent facilitator was appointed with consultation of the minister and the president and a heads of agreement be tabled for endorsement by the JSB.

Other resolutions passed and signed were the powers to transfer education, teaching

service, health, lands, forestry and agriculture to Bougainville.

It was also noted that the additional police powers would be signed at the earliest opportunity when the commissioner of the Royal PNG Constabulary was available. New notices had been served on the national government at the JSB for the transfer of fisheries, commodity boards, forestry and health.

The JSB also noted that progress has been on developing MoUs covering the department of works and community development.

The JSB also endorsed the joint weapons disposal and reconciliation programme by the two governments which includes the financial commitment of K500 million for the next five years starting next year.

Abal said the signing reflected the national government's commitments to develop Bougainville, an indication of a new chapter that will foster and establish the continuing relationship between Bougainville.

He also called on the public servants to improve if they have not been performing so that the whole restoration and reconciliation process and the development process was elevated to another level.

21.02.2011

Source: The National



Living dangerously or living stupidly ... Driving into Arawa town in Bougainville, A group of visitors passed this very slow and cautious truck with oil drums stacked about 3m high going to the wharf last Wednesday. Not the kind of vehicle you want to be trailing, considering the repercussions if the drums suddenly come loose.

21.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HEADQUATER MOVE

By Aloysius Laukai

Plans are underway to finally move the Bougainville Head quater to the former capital ARAWA.

And to see this become a reality the National Government has agreed to fund infrastructures in preparation for the move.

Under the MOA signed in Port Moresby last Friday night, funds would be made available for the rebuilding of the ARAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL which was destroyed during the Bougainville conflict.

Funds would be made available for the upgrading and opening of the Aropa International Airport and the Kieta main wharf.

New Dawn FM understands that the issue of security would also be addressed before the move is finally implemented.

21.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO is calling on the people of Bougainville to cooperate and assist the ABG to develop Bougainville.

He says that he wants to see Bougainville move into the development stage under the current MOMIS leadership.

MR. Semoso made these calls at the Press conference to welcome the Bougainville delegation last Saturday.

He said that he was happy that the National Government under the leadership of CO-CHAIR and deputy Prime Minister SAM ABAL had made a big undertaking to financially support the ABG.

MR. SEMOSO also thanked the members for South and Central Bougainville in the National Parliament for also attending the last JSB meeting in Port Moresby.

He said that it was very important for all Bougainville leadership to work together for the good of the Region.

21.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA Welcomes

By Aloysius Laukai

The Acting ABG President, PATRICK NISIRA last Saturday thanked the National Government for finally handing over the cheque totaling FIFTEEN MILLION KINA.

He said that the ABG would be able to fast track some projects which have been left hanging on for a long time.

The Acting President made these comments during a press conference to welcome the Bougainville delegation at the Buka airport.

He said that the latest JSB was the best JSB in which a lot of issues were discussed and approved for implementation.

Mr. Nisira said that the ABG had a big task of completing outstanding reconciliations, the

removal of the remaining weapons and the strengthening of autonomy implementation in preparation for referendum.

21.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COMMITTEE SET

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville China Co-operation Committee has been set up in the Autonomous Region to fast track the seven MOU's signed in China by the ABG delegation that toured China at the end of last year.

Such a committee shall focus on developing a strategic partnership with China in order to attract Chinese Investment in Bougainville on a large scale basis.

And Source and secure Foreign aid from the Chinese Government.

And to promote mutual understanding and support friendship between the people of China and Bougainville.

The committee membership would include Government and Administration officials and including private sector and community group representatives.

The final committee would have to be presented to the Bougainville Executive Council for approval.

21.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

President reflects on progress in Bougainville peace process

A high level meeting of the PNG and Bougainville Joint Supervisory Body aimed at reviewing the Bougainville peace process and autonomy has just taken place in Port Moresby.

Items on the agenda included the transfer of powers, national government grants, restoration and the disarmament processes, which are all under review after the JSB's first meeting in 2008.

The meeting was co-chaired by PNG's Deputy Prime Minister, Sam Abal, and the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, John Momis.

Mr Momis spoke to Pacific Beat about the outcome.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Listen here !

MOMIS: The Bougainville peace agreement specifically calls for the people of Bougainville to have a clear choice between a full autonomy and independence and that is their prerogative when they exercise their right between 2015 and 2020 and I as President of the autonomous region of Bougainville see my responsibility as preparing the people of Bougainville to exercise their prerogative in an atmosphere of freedom and security, and that is why it's imperative that the National Government and the Bougainville Government collaborate to create an atmosphere conducive to this kind of exercise of free choice.

COUTTS: You're also a bit dubious about it, because you've been quoted as saying in the press that autonomy and independence must be made attractive for the people to make a choice, that the National Government has failed to meet these requirements contained in the agreement?

MOMIS: Yes, as you know, the national government has for sometime now failed to release the 15 million to Bougainville as stipulated under the Bougainville peace agreement, and they also made it very difficult for the autonomous government of Bougainville to carry out its responsibilities, with respect to restoration of services, delivery, creation of a stable society and empowering people to generate revenue for the government, as well as income for themselves and that sort of frustrated the people of Bougainville, because they knew that the national government they felt was renegeing on a public commitment made in the Bougainville peace agreement.

COUTTS: President Momis, you've also expressed your frustration at the slowness of the process that's been happening at the moment. You say that the clock is ticking away and the implementation of Bougainville process agreement was proceeding at a snail's pace, the disposal of arms is slow, the draw down of power has been slow and capacity building is slow. Why is it so slow? Why isn't it progressing on a much bigger and more appropriate scale?

MOMIS: For my perception and the people of Bougainville's perception, the political leadership in Port Moresby is sensitive and is committed to ensuring that draw down the powers and release of funds as per the Bougainville peace agreement, and done as expeditiously as possible, so that the people of Bougainville would feel that they are in a position to prepare themselves for the time when they have to make a decision one way or the other. But when funds and powers that have been stipulated to be drawn down are slowed down by bureaucratic inertia or by some court that's in Port Moresby at the bureaucratic level, that annoys the people and this doesn't create a culture of cooperation on the ground.

COUTTS: Well, what will it take to speed up the process, what do you think it needs now?

MOMIS: What the government has done in the last couple of days I think is a breakthrough, really so the 15 million which is according to us a constitutional requirement and the government's undertaking to pledge 500 million for the next five years to deal with impact projects on the ground, rebuilding infrastructure, rebuilding Arawa town which is the capital of Bougainville, dealing with weapons disposal, dealing with major infrastructure, that is very important, because I personally believe that the best way of bringing peace and reconciliation and stability and predictability on the ground is to involve the people in a creative manner in economic activities and that is why we have called for a joint venture business with foreign investors and the people of Bougainville and also to adopt a new approach of drawing down powers, because the powers that have been demarcated for Bougainville have been determined by the Bougainville peace agreement and it is up to the National Government and is now the responsibility of the National Government and the Bougainville Government to take the necessary measures to draw down those powers and not sit on them. So the new approach is to draw down powers en masse, package drawing down the powers, then once the powers are drawn down, it is the prerogative of a responsible government and I believe we will be responsible, to pick and choose which powers and functions are immediately needed and capacities must be developed to use those powers. They can stay on the drawing board as long as they belong to us and they are accessible to the Bougainville leadership.

COUTTS: President Momis, just one of the sticking points as we've already mentioned and you've mentioned the arms disposal, it's very slow. You've also said that the children were born and grew up during the crisis period were the ones who were still holding onto the guns, because you see it because of the lack of education, but you also think that they are still mistrustful of the process?

MOMIS: Yes, these young people, though these people have grown up during the space of the war, have had no basic education, they have no experience of other ways of life. The only life they've experienced is the life under the rule of the gun and that is why we need to embark on a massive program of creating awareness, instilling democratic values, rule of law and also creating an atmosphere in which they would be involved in practical things like skilling them with technical skills, on skills, and giving them opportunities to participate at their level in economic activities in what I call subsidiary economic activities that will come to Bougainville when the Panguna mine is open.

COUTTS: You're coming to Australia shortly for a week's tour, being sponsored by DFAT. What's the point of that tour as far as your concerned?

MOMIS: Australia has played a major in role in bringing about the Bougainville peace agreement and Australia is one of the main stakeholders in the Bougainville peace agreement. I believe it has a right to be well informed by those of us who are now on the ground, who are working to implement the Bougainville peace agreement. Australia must be well informed of the challenges and the difficulties and the prospects of the Bougainville peace agreement. If the Bougainville peace agreement is fully implemented, then all of us benefit, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Australia, New Zealand, the United Nations, because the Bougainville issue is not just the Bougainville issue. It's a national issue, in fact I think it is a regional issue, because all of us, different stakeholders like Australia, New Zealand, and United Nations, PNG and Bougainville are heavily involved and if we get it right, I think it will be a feather in all our caps, because it will demonstrate what can be achieved to bring about regional peace, stability and a good system of government in the region in a collaborative way.

COUTTS: Will you be asking Australia for the funding that you need to speed up the process of independence from autonomy?

MOMIS: I'll be discussing a number of issues with the Australian Government, especially with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Kevin Rudd and the Secretary for Pacific Affairs, Mr. Marles. I will brief them well on the challenges, the financial challenges, the administrative challenges and the challenges of creating a culture of democratisation in Bougainville and the challenges of empowering the people economically.

COUTTS: Will you be asking the government though for funding to help you with the process?

MOMIS: I will discuss that issue, yes, definitely with the Australian Government.

21.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Return 0

By JOHN PANGKATANA

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) Minister for Veteran Affairs and Weapons Disposal David Sisito says it is important that the National Government sees the seriousness in the disposal of weapons to make further progress on the peace and reconciliation process on Bougainville.

Mr Sisito said: "I want all the guns to come back."

He confirmed there were a significant amount of weapons in the hands of ex-combatants.

"We can't have this if we are to bring back investor confidence to return to our once thriving economy.

"We must be able to live freely again," said Mr Sisito.

He said a large number of ex-combatants would appreciate something tangible in return for their services during the war.

"A rehabilitation program where they are re-educated...you must remember most of these young people had no formal education for over 11 years," he said.

Mr Sisito said this following the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting last week where the National Government committed K500 million over the next five years in a proposed new package to invigorate their gloomy economy.

Mr Sisito said: "I'm happy with the outcome of the JSB as it will finally allow the ABG to focus on their outstanding projects.

"However, I want to be insistent with the fact that weapons disposal for peace reconciliation must be given a priority in the budget," he said.

Mr Sisito was formerly the Defence Minister in the late Francis Ona's Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) self-styled government.

21.02.2011

Source: The National

BCL stands ready to talk with investors

by SINCLAIRE SOLOMON

BOUGAINVILLE Ltd's door is open to talks with investors, including the Chinese, about the possibility of reopening the Panguna mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, BCL chairman Peter Taylor said.

"The company has the legal rights to the lease and to the infrastructure, so anybody who is interested in getting involved will have to deal with the company and our door is open to that," he told a Radio Australia programme.

Taylor was responding to a question by presenter Jemima Garrett that Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare recently had talked privately about the possibility of re-opening the mine with Chinese investment rather than with Bougainville Copper Ltd.

He said he had not been approached about any plan for the Chinese to open the controversial mine in the autonomous region of Bougainville which was closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a 10-year civil war.

Taylor was asked: Does Bougainville Copper have something to worry about in terms of Chinese interests wanting to take over Bougainville copper?

"Well, as I said, there is nothing necessarily wrong with Chinese investment in Bougainville Copper.

"There's been no formal approach to the company directly from Chinese interests or from Sir Michael or President Momis with a plan to include the Chinese but as I said I am willing to listen to any proposition.

"At the end of the day the investors in the company will have to decide whether they want a partner or not."

The Chinese already have substantial investments in two upcoming mines in PNG, both in Madang - the K1.3 billion Ramu nickel and cobalt mine and the nearby Marengo

Mining copper and molybdenum prospect at Yandera.

Taylor told the radio programme that he wanted to see Panguna landowners and the Bougainville government take an equity stake in the mine, alongside the PNG government and the majority shareholder Rio Tinto.

He said he expected to meet Bougainville president John Momis in Sydney early next month to discuss this.

Taylor said he was confident, from the company's side, the mine could be re-opened, but added that the ultimate decision rested with the landowners and the Bougainville government.

He told Radio Australia that nothing was off the agenda for talks aimed at reopening the controversial mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

"My approach is to allow the landowners, or in fact encourage the landowners and the Bougainville government to set the agenda," Taylor said in an interview with presenter Jemima Garrett.

"I would expect that there would be shared ownership in the mine with the landowners and the government."

He said he was willing to talk to opponents of the mine as well as supporters.

"I am confident that as far as the company is concerned it can be done (re-opened), that it can be done economically.

"The real issue is whether the landowners at Panguna and the government want the mine re-opened.

On the opposition, he said he did not think any major infrastructure project, whether mining or otherwise, opened without some people objecting to it.

"It is always a balance between what I might just loosely call the economic gain and benefits you can get from these sorts of projects and the social disruption that is inevitable."

Taylor said his approach to negotiations would be to invite everybody to the table.

"We've got quite a way to go in terms of working out the regime under which the mine will re-open.

"As far as Bougainville Copper is concerned, the invitation is there for all interested parties to be there at the table to put their points of view to all of the people around the table and, hopefully, we'll be able to work out a workable compromise."

21.02.2011

Source: The National

'Bright future for a revived Panguna'

by SINCLAIRE SOLOMON

A RE-OPENED Panguna mine will produce around 170,000 tonnes of copper a year and half a million ounces of gold.

Given that prices of both metals are high it would be a welcome addition to the Bougainville Copper's Rio Tinto stable.

BCL chairman Peter Taylor acknowledged this during an interview on Radio Australia, but added that it would be at least three-five years before the mine could be operating again.

He said that a lot depended on the permitting because it was as good as starting again.

"There will be a new regime. I expect by the time it opens Bougainville itself will be administering the mining regime, rather than the national government, but none of that legislation is in place yet, none of the regimes there, so its going to take time to do that.

"The company itself will have to do a feasibility study that is acceptable to lenders.

"That typically takes about a year and it's a very expensive process so we don't want to commit to that until we know what the new mining regime will look like; what the tax regime will be, what the royalty regime will be, compensation and so on.

"We need to have all those in place before we can do that study.

“So while the time frame might be around the three to five year mark, when we get started on it is a question I can’t answer because I am not the only one involved.
“There are the landowners, the Bougainville government and the national government to be considered.”
On the question of what sort of progress Taylor would regard as “positive” this year, he said it would be formally start the negotiation process.
He said this was feasible, even likely, because the Bougainville reconciliation process was progressing well among the landowners.

21.02.2011

Source: The National

Include Panguna landowners from start

COPPER has hit US\$10,000 per metric tonne last week - a new record high, putting pressure on copper producers worldwide to produce maximum tonnage.
Demand for the metal is surging in China and India as both countries expand their infrastructures. Copper miners worldwide, including PNG, are struggling to keep with the insatiable demands for the metal from the heavy industries of the two economies, especially China which is responsible for 35% of global copper consumption. Compare that with Europe, Japan and the United States which, combined, only account for 30% of worldwide demand.
At present rates of consumption, it is expected that copper should top US\$5 per pound this year or next year, triple its previous high water mark in 2008.
It makes sense, therefore, that the Bougainville copper mine should be re-opened at the earliest opportunity to capitalise on the booming price for the metal.
BCL chairman Peter Taylor told Radio Australia last week that BCL’s door is open for talks with investors, including those from China, about the possibility of re-opening the mine.
Other proven copper mining prospects such as Wafi in Morobe and Frieda River in East Sepik must be encouraged to move to construction and production at the earliest opportunity.
Economic expansion, which drives commodity prices, always comes in cycles. Boom days are often followed by bust nights so it is best to strategise to capitalise on the boom to prepare for the bust times.
Chinese companies already control some important mining ventures in the country and, with the demand in China, it makes sense to deal with investors out of China to reopen the Panguna mine.
The Autonomous Bougainville Government and Panguna landowner groups are equally anxious to get the mine re-opened to provide much-needed capital to re-grow the Bougainville economy which, today, lies crumbled.
The critical issue is to ensure all parties are engaged in the moves to reopen the mine. It might well be correct that the company has the legal rights to the lease and the infrastructure, whatever remains and is salvageable, but the company cannot and must not go out on its own to invite and deal with future investors.
The mine lies mothballed today because landowners took exception to what they felt was violation of their rights and neglect by both the company and government.
While, in the end, it will be the company and the state which draw up any agreement that needs to be signed with third parties from outside, it does not hurt to involve landowner groups in extensive discussions now to gauge their needs, their concerns and how they can be involved meaningfully in a future mine.
A re-opened mine must not repeat the mistakes of the first regime and that goes for both company and government at both national and the autonomous region level.
In that regard, it is heartening to hear Taylor say that he wanted to see Panguna landowners and the Bougainville government take an equity stake in the mine alongside

the PNG government and majority shareholder Rio Tinto.

These issues are likely to be discussed when Taylor next meets Bougainville President John Momis in Sydney next month.

Taylor was asked: Does Bougainville copper has something to worry about in terms of Chinese interests wanting to take over the Bougainville mine?

"Well, as I said, there is nothing necessarily wrong with Chinese investment in Bougainville copper.

"There's been no formal approach to the company directly from Chinese interests or from Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare or Momis with a plan to include the Chinese but, as I said, I am willing to listen to any proposition."

The Chinese already have substantial investments in two upcoming mines in PNG, both in Madang – the K1.3 billion Ramu nickel and cobalt mine and the nearby Marengo Mining copper and molybdenum prospects at Yandera.

Taylor said he was confident, from the company's side, the mine could be reopened, but added that the ultimate decision rested with the landowners and the Bougainville government.

He told Radio Australia that nothing was off the agenda for talks aimed at re-opening the controversial mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

A reopened mine will produce around 170,000 tonnes of copper a year and half a million ounces of gold.

At the kind of prices both metals are fetching, a reopened mine would make a killing. It is expected copper will hit the US\$5 per pound mark and gold which is trekking at a high US\$1,372 per ounce is expected to trek further towards the US\$2,000 mark.

A reopened mine is definitely an event that the landowners, and the Bougainville and PNG governments, can look forward to.

21.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

High level talks on Bougainville peace process

The PNG and Bougainville Joint Supervisory Body met to review the Bougainville peace and autonomy process last week.

The high level delegation met in Port Moresby to discuss the transfer of powers, and successfully resolved the contentious issue of non-payment by the PNG government of the restoration and development grants as described in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Anthony Regan, an advisor on Bougainville affairs says the meeting was overdue.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Anthony Regan, advisor on Bougainville affairs, author and academic, Australian National University.

Listen here !

21.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

In-depth with the Chairman of Bougainville Copper Ltd

The Panguna copper mine on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville was closed in 1988 after landowner anger over the share of benefits from the mine and its environmental impact, boiled over into a bloody 10-year civil war.

Much has changed since that time, Bougainville has more autonomy now and it is scheduled to have a referendum on independence between 2015 and 2020.

The mine could provide Bougainville with the economic resources it needs to make independence a viable possibility.

Peter Taylor worked at Panguna in the late-1980's, and is now Chairman and Managing Director of Bougainville Copper which owns the mine

Jemima Garrett asked him how confident he is that he will be able to get the mine up and running again.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Peter Taylor, Chairman and Managing Director of Bougainville Copper.

Listen here !

21.02.2011

Source: The National



Autonomous Region of Bougainville President John Momis (right) presenting a Bougainville canoe and basket to Deputy Prime Minister Sam Abal after yesterday's signing of a K500 million financial assistance package for major infrastructure project development in the strife-torn region. – Nationalpic by AURI EVA

19.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Onsa welcomes

By Aloysius Laukai

A Buka Businessman, HENRY ONSA today welcomed the FIVE HUNDRED MILLION KINA funding assistance promised to the ABG by the National Government.

He told New Dawn FM in Buka that what Bougainville needed was the 30MILLION KINA outstanding since last year.

MR. ONSA questioned if these outstanding funds were handed to the ABG delegation or they will continue to live on un-fulfilled promises.

He also called on the National Government to fast track the implementation of this latest agreement to March this year.

He claimed if these funds were starting next year then this is a purely campaign money aimed at winning votes in the coming General Election.

19.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President JOHN MOMIS last night welcomed the FIVE HUNDRED MILLION KINA development Grant in Port Moresby.

He told the gathering last night the FIVE HUNDRED MILLION KINA was welcomed news to the people of Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS said that Bougainville needs big amount of funds to fast track a lot of activities that had no funds in the past.

Meanwhile, Co-chair and deputy Prime Minister Sam Abal when announcing the 500 Million Kina package said that the agreement signaled a new chapter for PNG and ABG to develop the region.

19.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

METEN ON UNDERAGE DRINKERS

By Aloysius Laukai

Under-aged drinking is becoming a serious problem in the Autonomous Region according to Constable LESLIE METEN from the Bougainville Police Service.

He told New Dawn FM that Police has been carrying out a lot of awareness's but it seems that the people are not listening.

Constable Meten called on parents to make sure that they control their children not to get into these activities.

New Dawn FM understands that a Doctors from the Buka General Hospital, DR. JOE VILOSI also made similar sentiments last month.

18.02.2011

Source: The National

Whooping K500m for Bougainville

By JEFFREY ELAPA

BOUGAINVILLE has received a massive K500 million from the national government to use in key infrastructure projects over the next five years.

The government's assistance was aimed at reviving the economy of the strife-torn region.

An agreement was signed in Port Moresby yesterday between the Autonomous Bougainville Government and PNG government to seal the deal.

Also included in the agreement were resolutions to transfer several national government powers, including education, health, lands, forest, agriculture and teaching service (see story Page 2).

Earlier, the ABG had demanded that the national government pay the K30 million (K15 million each) for the 2009 and last year's budget allocations before they could agree to sign the agreement.

However, an agreement was reached and the K500 million financial package would be paid to Bougainville starting next year in K100 million per year installments. The arrangement was outside of the national government budget.

Projects to be covered under the restoration and development financial package included the reopening of the Aropa airport, Arawa hospital, Buka airport and the relocation of the administration headquarters from Buka to Arawa.

Co-chair and Deputy Prime Minister Sam Abal, when announcing the K500 million package, said the agreement signalled a new chapter for PNG and the ABG to develop the region.

He said the Bougainville people had suffered a lot during the 15-year crisis and the PNG government was doing what it could to restore peace and harmony through this infrastructure financial package.

Abal also invited international donors and investors to provide counterpart funding to also assist Bougainville through its restoration period.

President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis, as co-chair, said the meeting was a success which had dealt with situations confronting Bougainville.

"Today can be described as a cultural paradigm to mutual understanding and, if we can manage the cultural momentum, then we can address the challenges faced by Bougainville and the K500 million financial package is welcome news in Bougainville."

18.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Chinese interest in Bougainville Panguna Mine

Listen here !

The chairman of Bougainville Copper, a subsidiary of the Australian-British mining giant Rio Tinto, says he's not opposed to Chinese investment in the proposed re-opening of the Panguna mine on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville.

The controversial mine closed in 1988, after it sparked a 10 year civil war that left thousands dead and communities torn on Bougainville.

PNG's prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, has talked privately about the possibility of reopening the mine with Chinese investment.

Bougainville Copper owns the lease on the site and chairman, Peter Taylor, says while he's had no formal approach from the Chinese, he's willing to listen to any proposition.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Peter Taylor, Chairman and Managing Director, Bougainville Copper

18.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BAD ROAD

By Aloysius Laukai

This section of the Lonahan to Gagan road is at dire need of maintenance.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai



18.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Participants

UN Sponsored Human Rights Workshop pose for the AL picture at Tsiroge last week.
Telikom systeme is okay now so we can put more pictures and stories.



18.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DESPERATE FOR SIGNAL

By Aloysius Laukai



Participants of last week's UN Sponsored Human Rights Workshop stand at one end of the building where they could get the Digicel Signal. The area outside Tsiroge does not get good coverage.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

17.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville Copper boss ready to talk to mine opponents

Updated February 17, 2011 18:46:37

[Listen here !](#)

The Chairman of Rio Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper, says the controversial Panguna mine on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville, can be re-opened.

The mine closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a 10-year civil war that left thousands dead and communities torn assunder.

Bougainville Copper Chairman, Peter Taylor, says he will welcome all parties to negotiations for the the re-opening of the mine ...even opponents of mining.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Peter Taylor, Chairman and Managing Director of Bougainville Copper

GARRETT: After the war ended, Bougainvillians signed a peace deal with Papua New Guinea which gave them a new autonomous government in the lead up to a referendum on independence between 2015 and 2020. Many believe that for that referendum to be a success, Bougainville must be close to economic self-sufficiency. That is where the Rio Tinto-owned Panguna copper mine comes in. It is the only project with prospects of providing that sort of revenue but, with its history, getting it up and running again will be a complex task.

Peter Taylor, Chairman and Managing Director of Bougainville Copper, believes the mine can be re-opened.

TAYLOR: I am confident that as far as the company is concerned it can be done, that it can be done economically. The real issue is whether the landowners at Panguna and the government want the mine re-opened.

GARRETT: Public opinion towards the mine has changed dramatically on Bougainville but there are still small but strong pockets of opposition, including from crucial landowner leaders such as Damian Dameng, who was a mentor to the 1980's rebel leader Francis Ona.

That does not seem to phase Peter Taylor.

TAYLOR: I don't think any major infrastructure project whether it be mining or otherwise, or even a road in Sydney, for example, opens without some people objecting to it. It's always a balance between what I might just loosely call the economic gain and benefits you can get from these sorts of projects and the social disruption that is inevitable.

GARRETT: How will you approach people like Damien Dameng who are against the reopening of the mine?

TAYLOR: My approach is to invite everybody to the table. I mean we've got quite a way to go in terms of working out the regime under which the mine will re-open. And as far as Bougainville Copper is concerned the invitation is there for all interested parties to be there at the table to put their points of view to all of the people around the table and, hopefully, we'll be able to work out a workable compromise.

GARRETT: The Bougainville Copper Chairman says he wants to see the landowners and the Bougainville government take an equity stake in the mine, alongside the PNG government and the majority shareholder Rio Tinto. But other more powerful forces are in the wings. Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, has talked privately about the possibility of re-opening the mine with Chinese investment rather than with Bougainville Copper. Peter Taylor says he has not been approached about any plan for the Chinese to open the mine.

TAYLOR: The company has the legal rights to the lease and to the infrastructure, so anybody who is interested in getting involved will have to deal with the company and our door is open to that.

GARRETT: John Momis, the President of the autonomous Bougainville government was ambassador to China. Australia's former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, has well-known links with business in China and, in November, both of those men met with Prime Minister Somare. That's a pretty high powered triumvirate. Does Bougainville Copper have something to worry about in terms of Chinese interests wanting to take over Bougainville copper?

TAYLOR: Well, as I said, there is nothing necessarily wrong with Chinese investment in Bougainville copper. There's been no formal approach to the company directly from Chinese interests or from Prime minister somare, or President Momis, with a plan to include the Chinese but as I said I am willing to listen to any proposition. At the end of the day the investors in the company will have to decide whether they want a partner or not.

GARRETT: The Bougainville mine would produce around 170,000 tonnes of copper a year and half a million ounces of gold. With prices of both metals high it would be a welcome addition to the Rio Tinto stable. But, Peter Taylor says, it will be at least 3 to 5 years before the mine could be operating again.

TAYLOR: A lot depends on the permitting because you know this is almost ..well it is as good as starting again. There will be a new regime. I expect by the time it opens Bougainville itself will be administering the mining regime, rather than the national government, but none of that legislation is in place yet, none of the regimes there, so its going to take time to do that. The company itself will have to do a feasibility study that is acceptable to lenders. That typically takes about a year and it's a very expensive process so we don't want to commit to that until we know what the new mining regime will look like; what the tax regime will be, what the royalty regime will be, compensation and so on. We need to have all those in place before we can do that study. So whilst the time frame might be around the 3 to 5 year mark, when we get started on it is a question I can't answer because I am not the only one involved. There's the landowners, the Bougainville government and the national govt to be considered.

GARRETT: What sort of progress would you regard as positive this year?

TAYLOR: Well, if we can actually formally start the negotiation process this year and I do think that is feasible, and indeed perhaps even likely, because the reconciliation process on Bougainville generally is going very well. Amongst the landowners it seems to be going very well. They've agreed on a process to elect their representatives. I'm not sure how long that will take. I know President Momis was hoping that that would have been done by the end of last year. Time has slipped a little bit but we are certainly moving in the right direction and we are certainly moving a lot faster than has occurred in the past.

17.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

'Nothing off the agenda' for Bougainville mine talks

Bougainville Copper will hold talks with landowners about reopening the Panguna mine, in Bougainville.

by Jemima Garrett

The Chairman of Rio Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper, says nothing is off the agenda for talks aimed at reopening the controversial Panguna mine on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville.

The mine closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a 10-year civil war. Bougainville Copper Chairman, Peter Taylor, says he is confident, from the company's side, the mine can be re-opened, but he says the ultimate decision rests with the landowners and the Bougainville government.

"My approach is to allow the landowners, or in fact encourage the landowners and the Bougainville government to set the agenda," he said.

"I would expect that there would be shared ownership in the mine with the landowners and the government."

Mr Talyor says he is willing to talk to opponents of the mine as well as supporters.

He is expected to meet Bougainville President, John Momis, in Sydney early next month.

17.02.2011

Source: The National

Govt, ABG meet starts

By JEFFREY ELAPA

A HIGH-level PNG and Bougainville Joint Supervisory Board (JSB) meeting aimed at reviewing the Bougainville peace process and autonomy started at the Holiday Inn in Port Moresby yesterday.

Among some of the issues to be discussed are the transfer of powers, national government grants, restoration and disarmament processes.

They are being reviewed after the first meeting in Milne Bay in 2008.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Works Minister Sam Abal and Autonomous Region of Bougainville president John Momis.

Although the programme started on Monday, the actual review and JSB meeting started yesterday with the signing of several MoUs and joint signing of the resolution by the co-chairs today.



State ministers present were Peter O'Neill (Finance and Treasury), Paul Tiensten (National Planning), Sir Arnold Amet (Justice and Attorney-General), Moses Maladina (Public Service), Francis Potape (Transport and Administrative Services), John Pundari (Mining), while Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fedelis Sesemo joined later in the day. Also present were MPs from Bougainville, ABG ministers, chief secretary, departmental heads and senior bureaucrats.

In his opening remarks, Abal said Bougainville was a major issue for both the national and Bougainville governments.

He said this year was a year for implementation and that both governments needed to make some progress to achieve major milestone under the peace agreement processes. However, he said so much had been achieved, and therefore, everyone should thank God for the positive results so far.

Meanwhile, Momis said intellectual encounters like the JSB was essential to find concrete and tangible result to the Bougainville crisis.

He said Bougainville peace agreement was not an isolated case that should only be solved by Bougainville but it was a bilateral system that could find way out to address the issue by all intellectuals from both PNG and Bougainville.

Momis said people had suffered long enough and therefore, his government was committed to achieve results for Bougainville and most of those will be addressed in the JSB meeting which is likely to review agendas discussed earlier.

17.02.2011

Source: The National

Parliament to meet for a day

By JEFFREY ELAPA

PARLIAMENT will be recalled for a day's sitting next Friday to swear in the governor-general-elect, Michael Ogio.

Cabinet sources said the government's only agenda would be the swearing-in of Ogio. The house would then adjourn to May.

At the moment, Ogio could not assume the office of the governor-general or present his credentials to the queen until he had been sworn in.

This will be the second time parliament would be recalled, since it was adjourned (to May 10) last November, to deal with matters concerning the office of the governor-general.

Parliament was first recalled on Jan 11 after the Supreme Court voided the election of Sir Paulias Matane and ordered parliament to meet within 40 days to elect a new governor-general. Ogio was elected on Jan 14 beating rival Sir Pato Kakaraya 65-23. Eight votes were declared informal.

Parliament was ill-advised and elected to resume in May. However, realising that Ogio could not take up office until he was sworn in, arrangements had been made for the house to meet next Friday.

Speaker of parliament Jeffery Nape is acting governor-general.

Upon his election as GG, Ogio automatically lost his political representation as member for North Bougainville and minister for higher education, science and technology in cabinet. The ministerial portfolio had been vested in the Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare.

17.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG revenue predicted to grow

BOUGAINVILLE economist and cocoa farmer James Rutana estimates that the Autonomous Bougainville Government revenue will grow from K189.5 million this year to K374.8 million in 2015.

In his Bougainville economy case study paper titled "cocoa farmers perspective and prospects", Mr Rutana details in his research the estimated revenue to ABG from 2011 to

2015.

In the same study paper, Mr Rutana details that the ABG has already spent K500 million "in the name of aid money and it is spending more in the name of rebuilding peace

His summary of estimated revenue for the ABG is as follows:

- * 2011 - total estimated revenue to ABG - K189.5 million;
- * 2012 - total estimated revenue to ABG - K249.5 million;
- * 2013 - total estimated revenue to ABG - K279.5 million;
- * 2014 - total estimated revenue to ABG - K374.8 million; and
- * 2015 - total estimated revenue to ABG - K374.8 million

"The estimated generation of cash income from developing all land resources in agriculture of K3.5 billion should earn a 10 per cent tax income of K350 million per year to the ABG so that it can provide all basic goods services to its people," Mr Rutana stated in his study.

"Therefore, by the end of five years from now, Bougainville will be able to raise its own revenue to sustain itself. The present time frame of the remaining five years is good enough to establish a strong economic base for Bougainville to be financially self reliant.

"It should also be pointed out that this estimated levels of internal revenue are not abstract, but based on current experience that is now available on the ground.

17.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Aliens' invade Bougainville for scrap metal

By GORETHY KENNETH

FOREIGNERS entering Bougainville is a major concern for the Autonomous Bougainville Government, especially in the central part of the island.

The foreigners are attracted to the lucrative scrap metal business of buying and selling the remains of the now defunct Bougainville Copper Limited - what's left of the Panguna mine after the 1989 Bougainville crisis ended the multi-billion mining operation.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is also faced with a serious dilemma to sort out the issue and could not handle it independently because it is understood that an ABG minister, several MPs and some public servants and ex-combatants are involved in this business.

Reports reaching the Post-Courier indicated that some Americans are camping in Panguna and Arawa while other foreigners also understood to be involved in the scrap metal and oil trade are frequenting Loloho and other areas in central Bougainville.

It is understood that last week a turbine estimated to have cost millions of kina was sold to an African company without the knowledge of the ABG.

The ABG was later made aware of the sale and has set up its own independent committee headed by vice president Patrick Nisira to address the issue.

Mr Nisira confirmed that the ABG was having problems sorting this issue immediately but said they were seriously and immediately addressing the matter so that all foreigners coming into central Bougainville will be monitored.

17.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka Town roads falling apart

Town authority still seeking funds to upgrade all existing roads

By Joyce Tohui

THE Buka Town roads are in a very bad state with potholes looking like craters.

Road users are affected and have called on the town authority to take actions and fix the roads.

People face difficulty doing their daily work as roads are muddy, a usual scene on all the streets of town and vehicles splashed dirt and murky water on people walking along the roads.

Buka town manageress Brenda Tohiana told the Post- Courier that all efforts to get the Autonomous Bougainville Government to fund the upgrading of these roads were still pending due to funding constraints. "Some year's back an agreement was signed by the former Buka town manager for the government to carry out all the upgrading work on the roads.

"Once completed it will officially hand over the roads to the town authority to look after its maintenance.

"I want the good citizens of Bougainville to understand and bear with me that the upgrading and maintenance of the roads need a lot of money and the town authority is not able to carry out the work itself," Mrs Tohiana said.

Meanwhile, she explained that in a standard practice when the National Government declares a location as a town under the Towns Declaration Act, it usually puts aside a package to fund infrastructure in that town.

But that did not happen for Buka due to the Bougainville crisis. Buka was declared a town in 1987. She said the town authority is endlessly seeking funds to fix the roads.

17.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Parliament recalled

By SIMON ERORO

ACTING Governor-General Jeffery Nape has recalled Parliament for the swearing - in of the former member for North Bougainville, Michael Ogio, as the 9th Vice-Regal and Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

A copy of the Gazette obtained by the Post-Courier confirmed the Parliament will sit on February 25, 2011, at 10am. The decision was reached last Wednesday at a National Executive Council (NEC) meeting upon receiving advice from the Government House that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had no free schedules this month to allow for the swearing-in of the new GG. The Gazettal notice dated February 11, 2011 stated that the Acting GG, Jeffery Nape, has recalled Parliament by virtue of powers conferred by Section 124 of the Constitution and Section 2(1)(a)(iii) of the Organic Law on the Calling of Meetings of the Parliament. It stated that in accordance with all other powers enabling the Acting GG, acting with and in accordance with the advice of the NEC, being of the opinion that exceptional circumstances justify the urgent recall of Parliament.

Mr Ogio from Bougainville was born on July 7, 1942.

Before his election as GG, he was the Minister for Higher Education and Leader of the People's Democratic Movement party (PDM) and previously Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Forests.

He became acting as governor-general on 20 December 2010 when Jeffrey Nape resigned after one week without explanation.

Mr Ogio easily won by defeating the only other contender, veteran politician Sir Pato Kakaraya by 65-23 on 14 January 2011, who has been contesting the vice-regal post since 2002.

17.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JSB ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The first Joint Supervisory Body meeting under President JOHN MOMIS ended this afternoon.

Reports reaching New Dawn FM states that the JSB meeting went well.

And after the meeting the leaders had a press conference in Port Moresby on the outcome of the two-day meeting.

Attempts by New Dawn FM to get a copy of the media statement were unsuccessful however, New Dawn FM was informed that the FIFTEEN MILLION KINA could be presented at the farewell function tonight.

The team return to Buka at the weekend whilst the President will remain in Port Moresby until next week.

17.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

30 INTEND

By Aloysius Laukai

The small island of Buka is gearing up for the North Bougainville seat By election which is scheduled for next month.

The seat was left vacant when the former member, MICHAEL OGIO was voted as the next Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

According to reports reaching New Dawn FM office, the number of intending candidates could become the highest for the North Bougainville seat since independence.

The Intending Candidates list is more than 30 for this by election alone.

Meanwhile the total budget for the coming by-election stands at 2.4 Million Kina.

This includes the outstanding claims from the last ABG elections of 2010.

16.02.2011

Source: Focus Money

Titel -Gewinne im Feuergürtel

Auf der anderen Seite des Pazifiks drängen sich ebenfalls Kupfer- und Goldminen.

Eine der größten Kupfervorkommen befindet sich auf der Insel Bougainville.

Dort begann vor 39 Jahren der Abbau. Doch seit 1989 ist die Panguna Mine wegen politischer Konflikten geschlossen. Rio Tinto und Partner BCL wollen Panguna aber wieder in Betrieb nehmen.

16.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE AWAITS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainvilleans could pressure the ABG President JOHN MOMIS to take legal actions if funds from the National Government is not received at the end of the JSB meeting

currently in progress in Port Moresby.

Reports reaching New Dawn FM office says that the people are frustrated at the delay tactics being played by the National Government by not paying the ABG on the yearly FIFTEEN MILLION KINA development grants.

A Buka Businessman, HENRY ONSA last week called on the ABG President to boycott all meetings with the National Government if it continues to frustrate the democratically elected Government of Bougainville.

16.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JSB IN PROGRESS

By Aloysius Laukai

The long awaited Joint Supervisory Body Meeting started in Port Moresby this morning with all parties from both side attending.

The meeting was delayed for several months last year raising concerns of the genuineness of maintaining the Bougainville Peace Process.

The ABG President, JOHN MOMIS and his Bougainville team is adamant at making some progress on draw down issues at this meeting.

Regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs joint the meeting after arriving from Buka at lunch time today.

Reports from Port Moresby says that a joint media statement will be made at the end of the meeting.

New Dawn FM understands the meeting could end tomorrow afternoon with the media release straight after.

16.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Analysing the Bougainville peace process

A new book has just been launched which analyses the Bougainville peace process and looks at how local actors largely controlled the process.

Light Intervention: Lessons from Bougainville by Anthony Regan says international intervention in Bougainville achieved the much-desired 'light footprint', marked by less activist international involvement and more control by parties to the process.

The peace process brought an end to the violent and deeply divisive separatist conflict that destabilised both Papua New Guinea and the wider Pacific islands region for much of the period from 1988 to 1997.

Anthony Regan has advised Bougainville parties in the peace process since 1994 and been involved in the Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka peace processes and the constitution-making process in East Timor.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts.

Anthony Regan, author and academic, Australian National University.

Listen here!

16.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG Speaker outlines 5 year plan

By Fabian Gatana

ABG Speaker Andrew Miriki last week outlined his plan for the next five years. In his first meeting with the Clerk and officers of the ABG House of Representatives, he said he wanted the Parliament to run and outlined changes he would be implementing. "My aim is to strengthen parliamentary service to fulfil our vision, to accomplish our mission and to reach our goals." He said these values were in the Parliamentary Service Strategic Plan for 2010-2014 and stressed the importance of implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement; Bougainville Constitution; Revised Standing Orders of the House; Parliamentary Services Act 2009; Office of the Clerk Act 2009; and the Parliamentary Strategic Plan. He will look at staff establishment and the recruitment of key positions like Finance Director, Building Service Manager and IT Manager and relocation of the Parliament House. Mr Miriki challenged his staff to take the House of Representatives to the next stage of development.

16.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville offsets CPA debts

By Fabian Gatana

THE suspension on Bougainville as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has been lifted. This was announced last week by the Speaker of ABG House of Representative Andrew Miriki. He said the suspension was lifted after the Bougainville government paid all outstanding membership fees from 2008 to 2010. "The lifting of the suspension means that members and staff will once again actively participate in CPA sponsored programs," he said. "I would like to thank the President Hon. John Momis for approving funds for this purpose." He said Bougainville is likely to join other parliaments in London this year for the centenary celebrations.

16.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Frustration over developments

By Fabian Gatana

KUBU-Kukul landowners in Buka have voiced their frustrations over the proposed multi-million kina development project in Hahela. This is the land the Catholic Church and Asian tycoon Sir Henry Chow have agreed through an MOU to build a five star hotel, 40 houses and office buildings. Landowner spokesman Aloysius Sami said the site, portion 92, is traditionally owned land leased by the Diocese of Bougainville under a 99-year lease agreement however, to date no money has been paid. Mr Sami said there were no government or Diocese records indicating any payment.

Therefore landowners want the land transferred back to them.

“The landowners have an executive committee that the ABG Government, Bougainville Administration, Lands department and the Diocese should mediate with them to agree on any development plan. The people’s right have been deprived when forceful surveying had been taking place resulting in food gardens being destroyed and notices of removal served on those living and around the portion 92.”

He said damages to gardens are yet to be assessed and valued by the owners.

15.02.2011

Source: Islands Business

POLITICS: Countdown begins for Panguna mine reopening

Bougainvilleans key to mine’s success

Rowan Callick

Plans are under way for the opening of one of the world’s biggest copper and gold mines, with resources worth about \$US50 billion, as the China-driven commodities boom keeps rolling on.

So far, so predictable, if awesome.

But few people expected ever to hear of this vast pit ever again—except those canny investors who hung on to their shares for decades.

It is the Bougainville copper mine in Papua New Guinea, where production was suspended—the owners insist, not closed—on May 15, 1989.

Bougainville Copper Ltd—which is 53.58 percent owned by British-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto Ltd, 19.06 percent by the Papua New Guinea Government, and 27.36 percent by other shareholders—believes it will cost about \$US3 billion to reopen the mine.

The vast trucks and electricity pylons may have been blown up or rusted or cannibalised, but the resources in the mine have not, of course, been damaged or diminished over the last 21 years.

It contains 3.5 million tonnes of copper, worth today about \$32.4 billion, and 12.7 million ounces of gold, worth today about \$17.8 billion.

It is capable of producing annually up to 170,000 tonnes of copper and 500,000 ounces of gold.

The copper price has risen four times since the mine closed, the gold price seven times. The two metals’ values have usually run counter-cyclically. This year, they have been peaking together.

But the cost of capital is also high and is likely to come at a premium given the tumultuous history of the mine.

Peter Taylor, who has been chairman of BCL since 2003, managing director since 2000, and who worked on Bougainville as the company secretary from 1985-87, says his focus is not on the hardware or the engineering or on raising the \$US3 billion.

“The key to the door,” he says, “is the landowners. Until they say to BCL, as a united group, we want the mine and we want you to run it. Then, I’ll focus on the process that would follow.

“But we must ensure the landowners retain the number one importance. And the Bougainville government’s support is also critical.”

So far, in this direction, so good.

Taylor says: “All the signs are that the leaders on Bougainville want the mine open—and as soon as possible, rather than just ‘some day.’ And the national government agrees.”

The overwhelming focus on the mine as a national economy maker or breaker, that provided maximum pressure as it opened 40 years ago, is no longer present.

It remains the crucial income earner for Bougainville itself, but for PNG, the spotlight has shifted to the \$16.5 billion ExxonMobil-led venture piping gas from the Southern

Highlands to Port Moresby, where it will be liquefied for export to Asia—by far the biggest project ever conceived in the Pacific islands.

In this context, Port Moresby might more readily contemplate transferring its 19 percent ownership of Bougainville Copper to the island itself—where preliminary discussions have contemplated the autonomous government retaining 60 percent, and landowners taking on 40 percent.

On a pro rata basis, the owners of this 19 percent share would have to raise \$570 million towards the mine's reopening.

It is possible that Chinese entities, eager to obtain reliable sources of resources, may be prepared to help fund it, either in return for some equity themselves, or for future copper output.

Bougainville's new president, John Momis, elected for five years in June, recently led a group of 34—including former combatants in the civil war—to China, where Momis recently served as PNG ambassador.

He said: "The Chinese have expressed an interest in the mine, but we are keeping all our options open."

Former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke, who has strong Chinese commercial connections, also discussed the re-opening of the mine in late November, in a meeting in Port Moresby with Momis, in the office of veteran PNG Prime Minister Michael Somare. Momis, a former Catholic priest and deputy prime minister, had presented a letter to the then BCL managing director Paul Quodling in 1987, while he was campaigning for the PNG election. That letter demanded that the company give three percent of its gross income to the Bougainville provincial government.

During the civil war, a leading rebel attempted to shoot Momis at close range from behind, but the pistol jammed.

He says now: "We are keen to reopen the Panguna mine, and we are holding talks with the landowners."

"Of course, Bougainville needs the mine to be reopened under a new regime. All parties should learn lessons from the crisis, and collaborate to build a better future."

Under the peace accord with PNG, Bougainville has the right to administer its own mining and land laws.

The World Bank has been funding a programme to help Bougainville draft its own mining regime.

Taylor hopes this will complement the PNG mining legislation, which has helped facilitate a massive resources boom there.

Since BCL suspended the mine, numerous other groups, some of them extremely shadowy, have attempted to insinuate themselves into this hugely prospective mining zone.

But Taylor says, "The Bougainvilleans have seen them come to the island and haven't in the end liked them."

"Thus they have come back to BCL, the devil they know, despite all their past disagreements. The rogues have done BCL a favour."

There is no timetable for the mine's reopening. But once an agreement is reached with the landowners, a feasibility study is approved and finance in place, it will take a further 2-3 years to get mining under way again.

The lengthiest part of that process would be caused by the lead-time needed to order the huge trucks and other new equipment to operate the mine. But Rio's size would enable it, if it chose, to push Bougainville higher up its priority chain and so receive equipment already ordered for other projects.

Taylor says BCL will facilitate landowners' meetings and help ensure the reconciliation process goes ahead. "But we're mindful we should not be seen to influence the proceedings."

He says: "Everything needs to be worked out as the agreement is renegotiated—including environmental issues such as tailings disposal, revenue sharing, ownership. And the landowners need to be resourced to participate effectively."

All in marked contrast with the lead-up to the first incarnation of the mine, when the company was not permitted by the Australian government to negotiate directly with

landowners.

“The situation is quite the reverse this time,” says Taylor. “The landowners are setting the agenda, though everyone will put their wish-lists on the table.”

He wants to see the landowners obtain equity in the project because it makes them “part of your business,” as well as giving them a share of the income stream.

“The balance needs to change in favour of those who are giving up the most, and they are the landowners. To make the project successful and saleable, they have to be part of the company.”

Compared with such an achievement, raising the \$US3 billion will be a minor challenge. The redevelopment of the mine could involve the present BCL components raising their own funding, borrowing the money from banks, forward-selling production, or bringing in new partners, or any combination.

Three big selling points of the project, are that it already has a port at Loloho, an access road winding up 30km of rugged terrain, and most importantly, has pre-stripped ore ready to extract, with 200 million tonnes available immediately.

“They give us a big leg-up,” says Taylor.

Technology has improved since the mine was suspended, he says—showing for instance, that tailings can be safely stored even in a seismically active area. “The landowners have to say which method they prefer,” Taylor says. Previously, they were disposed of in the Jaba River, a cause of controversy during the period of strife.

They will also discuss whether, or to what degree, workers fly in and fly out to the island, or are based there, as they were before in the largely destroyed town of Arawa.

Taylor says that the more workers can be recruited locally, the better—though “we have received numerous inquiries from ex-employees asking when we are re-opening.”

As the Ok Tedi mine—which has become hugely profitable since BHP-Billiton quit it—prepares to scale down as the resource declines, that would be an obvious source of skilled staff.

All such elements of the reopening require feasibility studies, says Taylor.

The other big factor exciting interest in the reopening of the Panguna pit, is the likelihood that it will lead to the end of the moratorium on exploration that began in 1971, as a result of the controversy over that first Bougainville mine.

Seven exploration licences covering 20 percent of the island are held by BCL and the potential to find new orebodies near the existing pit are considerable, which would take that mine well beyond its projected mine life of up to 20 years.

No one else holds any other exploration permits—as yet, though a German funded aeromagnetic survey 25 years ago revealed many highly prospective zones. Through the last 21 years, the principal owner, Rio Tinto, did not close down BCL—it has remained listed, playing a low-key role waiting for the climate to change.

But the share price has doubled since August and tripled since May, as the likelihood of a reopening dawned on investors—rallied in Europe by Axel Sturm, the energetic German president of the European shareholders of Bougainville Copper. The company has even made a profit most years, from placing its remaining cash in Australian listed investment companies.

Taylor says that even since the mine closed, the BCL Foundation has continued to fund 100 scholarships a year.

He says: “A generation of Bougainvilleans has missed out on employment.”

As an intriguing sideshow, a case has been winding its way through the American courts in which Bougainvilleans have claimed damages from Rio Tinto over the operation of the mine.

This has become a test case for the American jurisdiction, and ultimately the Supreme Court there is likely to rule on whether its jurisdiction stretches overseas. It is now unlikely to do so until some time after the mine has reopened.

But as Taylor says, the key remains the landowners—though others, such as former Bougainville Revolutionary Army “general” Ishmael Toroama, are insisting that all the demands made by other Bougainvilleans during the fighting, remain extant.

“Panguna—after the war—now belongs to all Bougainvilleans,” he says, insisting that the original claims for environmental compensation remain extant.

The recently elected Bougainville government, however, and the Panguna Landowners Association, have begun a series of intense discussions in order to move the process forward towards reopening.

Lawrence Daveona, the interim secretary of the PLOA and one of the long-standing leading figures on the issue, congratulated the Bougainville affairs minister in the national government, Fidelis Semoso, for his recent role in bringing together the leaders of the six mine lease areas, in a way unprecedented in the association's 38 years.

No one is publicly talking timetables yet. But in the minds of most of the stakeholders, the countdown has already begun.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tech meet

By Aloysius Laukai

Technical teams for both the ABG and the National Government met in Port Moresby today to prepare the agendas for tomorrow's Joint Supervisory Body meeting.

According to reports from Port Moresby the team had two separate meetings.

New Dawn FM understands that among the pressing issues, the ABG President also wants to discuss issues relating to the Bougainville Copper Agreement Review.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JSB MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President John Momis and his delegation left Buka this morning to attend the long awaited Joint Supervisory Body Meeting in Port Moresby this week.

This will be the second JSB meeting under ABG President John Momis since taking office at the President in June last year.

The meeting would discuss issues affecting Bougainville and other matters of importance.

Tomorrow the technical team will meet before the meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday this week.

New Dawn FM understands that the most pressing issue now on the ground is the outstanding Fifteen Million Kina which the National Government continues to delay the payment to the ABG.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REVEALS CRACK

By Aloysius Laukai

The Assistant Commissioner for the Bougainville Police Service, THOMAS ELUH has revealed cracks appearing within his Police service.

He says that the Bougainville Police Service needs a complete overhaul to make it serve its purpose.

The ACP made these comments in Tunuru , Central Bougainville recently.

He said that the Bougainville Police Service was set up quickly due to the need to have Bougainville's own Police service and normal protocols were not followed at the initial recruitment stage.

The ACP said that the Service needs trained members to work on specialized areas such as Criminal Investigations and Prosecution sections.

He however said that he would be working on addressing these areas to improve the performance of the Bougainville Police Service.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RABAN Concerned

By Aloysius Laukai

Chairman of the Bougainville Business Association, THOMAS RABAN yesterday called on the Bougainville Administration to speed up the payment of outstanding claims by Business Houses for Services rendered to the ABG.

MR. RABAN blamed what he termed as public servants incompetence as killing Bougainville business houses.

He was talking on New Dawn FM's talk back program.

MR. RABAN said that the ABG owes a lot of money to Business Houses for services already rendered to the government.

On questions of the constant power outage in Buka town, MR. RABAN said that the government must make funds available to get new and bigger Generators to service the growing Buka town, which includes, Kokopau and Sohano island.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE GLOBAL ISSUE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Chairman of the Bougainville Business Association, THOMAS RABAN says Bougainville issue is a global issue because of the Peace Agreement that was signed by the people of Bougainville and the Papua New Guinea National Government.

He said that this agreement was witnessed by the United Nations and including Governments in the Pacific and the world.

MR. RABAN said that the office of Bougainville Affairs is responsible to make sure all funds allocated to the ABG are being accessed by the ABG.

He said that if these funds are not coming, they are the ones that must do the follow up and not the President of the ABG.

MR. RABAN said that it was an administrative matter for the Administration to sort out.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Funds delay affect

By Aloysius Laukai

As the two Governments continue play their politics people on Bougainville are already feeling the pinch of these delays.

Already Bougainville Businesses who service the ABG are starting to tighten their credit facilities with huge outstanding bills whilst the Education Institutions have called on parents to pay all their School fees.

Calls from the Schools is that they did not get subsidies from last two years and this year they would like the parents to pay the full fees.

Bougainville Businessmen Association Chairman Thomas Raban today called on the Bougainville Administration to speed up payments.

He said that it was not the job of the President to press for these funds.

MR. RABAN said that it was the duty of the administration to work on these outstanding funds.

15.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Concert uphold peace and unity

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Musicians in Bougainville are gearing up for a musical concert to be held in Buka next week.

MARCELINE GETSI says the concert aims to promote peace and unity among musicians in Bougainville.

He says music and sports have positively contributed to the peace building in Bougainville.

He adds advocacies on social issues affecting youths in the region such as drugs and alcohol, HIV and STI will also be discussed during the event.

The HIV voluntary testing and counseling will also be open for people to check their HIV status.

MR GETSI says there can be short term effect on the young people such as peace talks but it can lead to long term effects of weapons disposal and peace building established in the communities.

Meanwhile, he says the Vanimo Green MP BELBEN NAMAHA and his delegation will also be present to launch the musical concert.

15.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

NIP backs Bougainville Independence

New Ireland supports ABG President John Momis taking Waigani to task over its handling of Bougainville affairs and all Bougainville peace agreements aligning Autonomy and the question of Referendum.

Responding to the statement by President Momis in the media, New Ireland Deputy Governor Florence Stocken said New Ireland was sympathetic to the struggles and frustration of Bougainville with lack of support and consistency coming from Waigani in the disbursement of powers and functions and the budget to implement them.

"President Momis made bold statements signifying the mood of restlessness and questions in the minds of Bougainvilleans that deserve to be answered," said Mrs Stocken.

She said the Bougainville peace agreement is binding on the ABG and the National Government to sustain and nurture but the open challenge by President Momis goes to show yet again the failures by the National Government to honour legally binding commitments made with our own people as with the case of the Lihir MOA with the New Ireland people.

"In view of the treatment New Ireland is getting from the National Government, we fully support Bougainville independence as the way forward for the people of the autonomous region to determine their own future."

She said. "The treatment currently given to the Bougainville people goes to show that the National Government cannot be trusted.

"And New Ireland has continuously signaled this scenario out and stands along side Bougainville to seek more freedom to govern its people," said Mrs Stocken.

15.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville launch season

By Reuben Kalaung in Buka

Bougainville Rugby Football League (BRFL) president, Micah James has thanked all parties that attended the corporate launch of the 2011 rugby league season in Buka early this month.

Up to a hundred partners of rugby league attended the event which included representatives from the corporate sector, public service, and individuals.

Former PNG Kumuls and Inter City players who were present to show their support include Lautu Atoi, Oti Asotau, Chris Siriosi, Joe Gatana and Jerome Sahin.

The occasion proved a success and a positive head start for the BRFL 2011 League Season, with cash donations and financial commitments reaching up to K33, 000.

Local businessman Lautu Atoi and his spouse Pamela Atoi of Bougainville International Link sponsored the corporate launch and committed another K10, 000 towards the league season. Former champion boxer Damien Kora of Go Well Holdings Limited also threw in his support with a cheque presentation of K10, 000.

Kora will also be assisting with a full set of player jerseys for the Bougainville representative team and also a full set of referees attire, balls and whistles for the Bougainville Referees Association, which arrived over the weekend in Buka for the pre-season kicked off last Saturday at the Hutena Oval in Buka.

The Minister for Bougainville Affairs & Trade Fidelis Semoso was overseas on official engagement but his office committed K5000. Minister Semoso has made a commitment to support the Bougainville Representative Team to compete in the NGI G4s Cup Challenge this April in Kokopo. Financial support was also received from various divisional heads of the ABG administration and individuals.

Proper Rugby League competitions in Bougainville were not fully active for the last three (3) years and President Micah James is adamant to get the league off the ground this year.

"Like other sporting codes, BRFL will use rugby league to compliment the reconciliation and peace process in the region of Bougainville."

BRFL is currently drafting attractive partnership proposal for corporate sponsors to be partners of BRFL and the region's representative team, which is yet to be formally announced.

During his brief speech at the launch, BRFL Patron Patrick Koles said BRFL is working on a corporate plan which should be launched next month (March 2011).

The plan will highlight key development areas including school boys' rugby league.

Club affiliation and player registration forms have been distributed to all existing clubs and prospective new clubs throughout small Buka Island and the mainland Bougainville including North and Central Bougainville.

BRFL have received overwhelming support from the league fraternity including ex-combatant Ismael Toroam, who have shown enthusiasm in registering clubs from Arawa for the season 2011.

The ABG through the Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation (ABSF) is continuing to use sports as a 'unifying force' amongst all Bougainvilleans. That strategy has proven

successful at many sporting events in the region.

BRFL is now finalising club registrations for the pre-season which is set to kick off this weekend. The pre-season will also be the selection trials for the NGI G4's clash in March in Kokopo, East New Britain.

The G4's competition resembles the Four (4) Governors Cup Challenge sponsored by the four Governors of Islands region and mobile telephone company Digicel.

The revived Bougainville Rugby Football League is adamant to send a side for that challenge, and is inviting corporate partnership for the Bougainville representative team.

15.02.2011

Source: The National

33 cops graduate in Bougainville

THIRTY-three police officers graduated with basic community auxiliary policing (CAP) certificates at Tunuru Catholic Mission near Arawa, central Bougainville, last Thursday. The graduating officers were recruited from north, central and south Bougainville. Most were from Me'ekamui-controlled area ruled by rebel leader [Damien Koike](#) in the southern district of Bougainville.



Bougainville police chief ACP Thomas Eluh, senior provincial magistrate Peter Toliken, acting New Zealand police commander Claire Starr, Kieta district executive manager Lucy Traverts and a representative from the Me'ekamui faction William Mungta were all present to witness the event.

Also present were Bougainville police personnel from Buka, Arawa, Bana and Buin police stations.

Eluh told the officers that their passing out was only the first phase of their ongoing training, adding that the importance of self discipline for both regular and auxiliary police officers.

The recruits, who were sworn in by a senior magistrate, were urged to be faithful to their duties as "servants of the law".

Meanwhile, New Zealand police commander Claire Starr congratulated the officers for completing the first phase of the programme and stressed that further training would be

available for them in the near future.

Two female members beat their male counter parts in the training programme.

CAP Anastasia Tologina from Buka, northern command, was awarded dux of the intake for excellence in academic studies while CAP Belinda Eric from Wakunai, Central Bougainville, took out the most outstanding recruit in drill award.

15.02.2011

Source: The National

NIP backs Momis, Bougainville

By ELIZABETH VUVU

NEW Ireland has thrown its support behind Bougainville president John Momis in putting Waigani to task over its handling of Bougainville affairs and all important Bougainville peace agreement aligning autonomy and the question of referendum.

Responding to the statement by Momis last week, New Ireland deputy governor Florence Stocken said

the province was sympathetic to the struggle and frustration of Bougainville for lack of support and consistency from Waigani in the disbursement of powers and functions and the budget to implement them.

"Momis made bold statements signifying the mood of restlessness and questions in the minds of Bougainvilleans that deserve to be answered," she said.

Stocken said the open challenge by Momis showed the national government's failure to honour legally binding commitments it had made such as the Bougainville peace agreement between the national government and the Bougainville government and the Lihir memorandum of agreement with the New Ireland people.

"In view of the treatment New Ireland is getting from the national government, we fully support Bougainville independence as the way forward for the people of the autonomous region to determine their own future."

She said the treatment given to the Bougainville people showed the national government could not be trusted and New Ireland has continuously signaled this scenario and would stand alongside Bougainville to seek maximum freedom to govern its people.

"In fact, the state gives more time and hearing to big foreign-owned and controlled companies like ExxonMobil, Lihir Gold, Ramu NiCo and forest industry players in a country of immense diversity and strong ethnicity differences," the deputy governor said.

14.02.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Meeting planned by Panguna landowners for talks with Bougainville leaders

A meeting is planned next week in Arawa in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville to discuss landowner concerns around the upcoming review of the Bougainville Copper Ltd agreement.

Some landowner leaders say the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government John Momis has not been consulting them over the bid to secure the transferral of the PNG government's 19 percent share in BCL to the ABG.

Theresa Jaintong from the Arawa landowners association says a meeting is scheduled for February 23rd:

"And we would like to see all the leaders, including the national parliamentarians and ABG, our members on Bougainville and also the president and also the regional member Fidelis Semoso. We'd like them all to come to Arawa so we can strike a... you know, instead of fighting in the media because it won't work that way."

President Momis denies that he's not consulting landowners. He says the bulk of the people on Bougainville want the mine to be reopened, and that the ABG is working to ensure equitable sharing among landowners.

14.02.2011

Source: The National

North Bougainville by-election in May

ELECTORAL Commissioner Andrew Trawen has announced the dates for the North Bougainville by-election will be in May.

The vacancy followed the election of Michael Ogio as governor-general last month. Ogio would be sworn in as the 9th governor general in May when the parliament resumes.

Trawen told the first election managers meeting at the March Girls Resort last Friday that acting Governor-General Jeffery Nape had approved the by-election schedule for North Bougainville.

He said the writs would be issued on March 21 and nominations would close on March 28.

Polling would start on May 14 and would end on May 20. Writs would be returned on June 10.

Sources said K4 million would be needed for the by-election and was not included in the budget.

Trawen also said the Hela and Jiwaka would have their own elections as a province. However, the electoral boundaries were yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, Trawen said the first election managers' meeting focused on the preparations for the electoral roll updates and awareness.

Trawen also revealed that the update and maintenance of the electoral roll would start next month and the old enrolment form would not be used.

He said that recruitment of all returning and enrolment officials, 33 casual staff for all provincial electoral offices, training of returning officers, enrolment agents and civil society organisation under the roll improvement training would start next month.

13.02.2011

Source: Bloomberg

Rio Tinto's Albanese Forecasts Continuing 'Strong' Copper Price

By Wendy Pugh

Rio Tinto Group, the world's third- largest mining company, forecast high copper prices will continue before supplies from new projects damp the market.

"We will see a continued period of strong copper pricing, largely because many of the large mines, including our own, are seeing declining grades, deepening pits," Tom Albanese, chief executive officer of London-based Rio Tinto, told Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s Inside Business television program.

Copper in London surged to a record last week and gained 52 percent in the past year as the global economic recovery gathered pace. The global supply deficit will reach 822,000 metric tons in 2011, more than double last year's shortfall, Barclays Capital said on Jan. 20.

"We're working on several new projects around the world and I know, certainly our competitors are working on their own projects," Albanese said in a transcript of the

program, which was broadcast today. The longer that copper prices stayed at high levels, the more new supply would be induced, he said.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange gained 0.2 percent to close at \$9,961 a ton on Feb. 11 after rallying to an all-time high of \$10,160 on Feb. 7. Rio Tinto rose 1.6 percent to 4,623.5 pence at the 4:30 p.m. close of trade in London.

Rio Tinto's expansion plans include the Oyu Tolgoi copper project in Mongolia, while the company also had "additional opportunities" in South America and North America and at its Northparkes mine in Australia's New South Wales state, he said.

Record Profit

Rio Tinto posted record 2010 net income of \$14.3 billion on Feb. 10, boosted by iron ore and copper prices. The company raised its dividend and announced a \$5 billion share buyback.

The 2010 global refined copper deficit is expected to increase through 2011 and 2012, leading to more talk about substitution with other materials, Rio Tinto Chief Economist Vivek Tulpule said in a report released with the earnings.

"The prospects of rapid and significant material switches are expected to be limited in the near term given the substitution that has already taken place," he said. The introduction of exchange-traded funds in copper could also have a "significant impact" on copper prices in the coming year by adding to investment demand, Tulpule said.

Consumption trends over the next 15 to 20 years would lead to a doubling in demand for iron ore, copper, aluminum and other commodities, Albanese said in a results briefing on Feb. 10.

13.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOTE FROM Radio New Dawn

Telikom System that we use to feed this site is out for a month thus making us finding it difficult to file to the site daily.

We hope this problem would be settled soon - Always There.

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13.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PRESIDENT ON PANGUNA

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President JOHN MOMIS clarified that his requests for the NINETEEN PERCENT share from the National Government was for and on behalf of the people of Bougainville including the Panguna Landowners.

He told a Press conference in Buka this morning, that as the President of Bougainville he was mandated to speak on behalf of his people.

And that include the Atolls, Buka, Siwai, Kunua and others districts.

MR. MOMIS was also responding to calls made by a Landowner based in Port Moresby, LAWRENCE DAVEONA.

MR. DAVEONA wanted the President not to talk on this issue which is only for the landowners.

MR. MOMIS said that any negotiation on the future of Panguna would be addressed by

all Bougainvilleans, including our former combatants.
He called on MR. DAVEONA not to use the issue for his own gains.

13.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERED

BY JOYCE TOHUI

A Toyota Land Cruiser owned by Japanese Bridge Construction Company Kitano Engineering was recovered by South Bougainville Police from a hidden location in Laguai area in Buin.

Buin police recovered the vehicle and a bulldozer belonging to South Bougainville Engineering on Sunday night at approximately 9:00 pm.

Buin Police Station Commander Sgt John Popui confirmed that the vehicle which was stolen two weeks ago by criminal elements was returned to the Japanese Contractors. The contractors are yet to confirm if the vehicle was damaged or parts removed after a thorough mechanical check.

Sgt Popui said that Police in partnership with law abiding members of the public, the Bougainville Administration and former combatants helped to ensure the safe return of the vehicle.

13.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WARN DAVEONA

By Aloysius Laukai

A call has been made to MR. LAWRENCE DAVEONA to compensate Bougainvilleans who were killed and properties destroyed during the Bougainville conflict.

A senior Bougainville citizen, who wants to remain anonymous told New Dawn FM that MR. DAVEONA 's challenge to the ABG President did not go well to many citizens of Bougainville.

The citizen said that Panguna issue is for all Bougainvilleans including our former combatants who fought to defend Panguna.

He called on MR. DAVEONA to apologize to the ABG President for unnecessarily attacking him on the media.

13.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS PLEADS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, JOHN MOMIS is calling on the people of Bougainville to co-operate and assist their government.

MR. MOMIS said that although the Autonomous Bougainville Government did not have the funds it was still their government.

He called on the people who have grievances to see the government and find ways of solving their problems and not to seek assistance from outside.

MR. MOMIS said that any outside investor who wants to do business on Bougainville must come through the ABG and must not go directly. He said that he was very concerned at certain people talking directly with outsiders and moving equipments and workers to Bougainville. MR. MOMIS made this comments at a Press conference in Buka this morning.

11.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

President Momis defends himself

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE'S long time politician John Momis has spoken to defend himself on allegations he was responsible for the 10-year civil war that killed more than 20,000 people in the region.

Mr Momis who is now the Autonomous Bougainville Government President has been accused of starting the 1989 Bougainville Crisis as that year he was the Regional Member for Bougainville in the National Parliament. He is now out to demand an explanation from the accusers to detail where all the millions of kina belonging to landowners and the Bougainville people went to and why they were still benefiting from millions even after the Bougainville Crisis.

In a press conference at his Kubu office yesterday, Mr Momis maintained that he fought for issues and fairly represented Bougainville as the leader in the National Government in those years. He made reference to 1972 where he was the first and only MP in PNG's history to have fought for and moved a motion for and on a mining policy, especially when the Bougainville Copper Mine was in operation and also for a policy to re-negotiate the Bougainville Copper Agreement as years passed.

He explained that he never intended to join politics or to be a politician but was "pressured" by the Napidakoe Navitu Association, a strong movement that talked strongly about autonomy in the early years, which he eventually succumbed to.

Mr Momis gave his explanation amid allegations that he was responsible for the Bougainville Crisis and touched on the issue of the PNG Government failing to listen and adhere to him and the leaders on behalf of the landowners to review the Bougainville Copper Agreement. Every seven years, there should be a review of the agreement but the PNG Government did not review it for 14 years.

11.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis: Don't sell Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has appealed to all Bougainvilleans not to "sell their birthright" to the outside world.

Mr Momis also wants all Bougainvilleans and PNG to be reminded that the newly established Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is the only legitimate government in place, with the responsibility to promote a collective interest of the people of Bougainville.

Mr Momis' appeal comes after reports of "so called tycoons" from all over the world making attempts some already here on Bougainville under the pretext of joint ventures with locals or "given payment" to them to do business in the region.

And the businesses detailed range from scrap metal, education, mining, agriculture, tourism, plantations, trade stores and many more ventures they claim to be impact

projects for Bougainville.

Mr Momis alluded to Africa having a failed state because people did what they wanted eventually leading to that.

He said Bougainville does not want to go that far especially with what is happening right now.

Certain “tycoons” who claim to be legitimate coming into Bougainville have to be screened and Bougainvilleans have to be very careful in dealing with this lot as it will undermine the ABG if care is not taken.

“Bougainville I am begging please, don’t ever sell your birthright to an outsider,” Mr Momis stressed in his statement during conference at Kubu.

“Whether you like it or not, this is your legitimate government. We are at the mercy of this animal we created.

“ABG is our legitimate Government. People can criticise us, it doesn’t matter as long as yumi yet ronim long save blong yumi ... there is only one legitimate government on Bougainville and it is the ABG. ABG has the responsibility to promote a collective interest of Bougainville.

“People all over the world are coming to Bougainville - whether they are investors from US, China, Japan, Australia – if they are genuine, they have to be transparent and come through the front door.”

11.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Stolen vehicle found

A land cruiser owned by Japanese bridge construction company Kitano Engineering, was recovered by South Bougainville police at Laguai in Buin.

Buin police recovered the vehicle and a bulldozer belonging to South Bougainville Engineering on Sunday night.

Buin police station commander Sergeant John Popui confirmed that the vehicle which was stolen two weeks ago by criminal elements. It was returned to the Japanese contractors.

“Police in partnership with law abiding members of the public, the Bougainville administration and former combatants helped to ensure the safe return of the vehicle,” said Sgt Popui.

Meanwhile, reports from Arawa police state a vehicle belonging to a leading business house in Buka was involved in a fatal accident at Tokunari near Arawa on Monday. The brief report confirmed that a seriously injured passenger was rushed to Buka Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

10.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis blasts critics

By GORETHY KENNETH

PANGUNA still remains a very sensitive issue for Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and the rest of the world but cannot be delayed or dragged.

And the sooner an agreement is reached, the better. Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis lashed out at the two dailies for not including his response on reports this week about his alleged bid hitting a snag and especially his meeting privately with Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare on the issue of Panguna mine. It was reported this week that President Momis had encountered resistance from the

Panguna Landowners Association over his efforts to obtain PNG Government support for the re-opening of the Panguna Mine.

They claimed Mr Momis' personal representations to Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare so far had been made without their official endorsement.

But Mr Momis denied that was not the issue but remained optimistic that his administration, the Mining Division (ABG) and the ABG leaders were working hard to address the issue singling out the effort put in by the ABG on the mine issue.

Mr Momis also lashed out at individuals from the Panguna Landowners Association who allegedly put out this statement in the paper for not factually putting out the right information.

The reports irked Mr Momis who eventually said he did not trust any of the papers anymore.

He said he was aware of certain individuals who were also pushing their own agendas on the matter.

"I don't trust the National, I don't trust the Post-Courier. They have their own agendas. We have to start our own newspaper," Mr Momis said.

"Panguna is a sensitive issue, we can't procrastinate. The sooner we have an agreement, the better.

"But in any case we will not submit to any fool," Mr Momis said.

He will be making a proper statement to the people of Bougainville today.

10.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Committee to continue operation

By Joyce Tohui

OFFICERS of former North Bougainville MP Michael Ogio have created a committee to continue implementing approved planned projects and fulfill commitments made for North Bougainville.

The projects were left unattended to when the former Member for North Bougainville Open electorate was elevated to become the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. According to former first secretary Joe Elijah, the committee headed by Patrick Koles, will try to complete the commitments and projects initiated for the electorate up to 2012.

"The administration office under the leadership of Mr Koles and his committee including the chairman of Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) in Bougainville, Joseph Vaito, will ensure that these commitments were fulfilled and projects to be completed.

"The North Bougainville people will see the completion of impact projects which includes the Buka passage pontoon, additional markets for the electorate, feeder roads, rural electrification programs and the continuation of the water and sanitation programs to purchase more water tanks in preparation for the drought in 2012," Mr Elijah said.

"PNG Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare gave His Excellency Michael Ogio a golden hand shake when agreeing last week to pay off all outstanding projects and impact programs, including commitments made by His Excellency for North Bougainville. I will not disclose the amount of money allocated," said Mr Elijah.

He also said K4 million was already allocated in this year's supplementary budget for North Bougainville to complete projects initiated by the former member.

He said any person with queries regarding this can contact him directly on these phone numbers: Digicel# 730 77077 and B mobile# 766 92600 to be well informed of the proceedings of the committee as they were ready to withdraw K2 million from the supplementary budget towards the completion of the projects.

In assuring the people of North Bougainville of the by-election, Mr Elijah said PDM wanted to maintain the PDM seat in Bougainville so that good funding can be received through the government as coalition partners.

10.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Security to be paid

By Joyce Tohui

SOHANO Home Guards are demanding payment for the security services they provided at Sohano Island from 1991-1997 during the Bougainville crisis.

According to Home Guards chairman Raka Benson, they worked hard to take care of all government assets such as the power house, school, and an airplane signalling beacon, government houses and Sohano Hospital.

“Joel Kehan, who was the provincial police commander at that time, who with his colleagues including a defence commander promised employment for these guys and tasked them to safeguard the island during the crisis.

However, due to the passing of Mr Kehan, concerns raised have been unheard and we are endlessly waiting for the payments.

“Numerous calls have been made to the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the Defence Force and the Police Department that the money must be paid as a token of appreciation for looking after government properties on the island because through the effort of these people, Sohano has its properties intact until today,” he said.

He said a total of K317,300 is needed to pay the 138 people who looked after the island without guns but with Chief Raphael Karapoi and commanding officers stationed on each section of Chebu, Compound, Hausik and the Sohano Hilltop.

ABG had approved K100,000 in its budget last year but due to funding constraints, these funds have been budgeted again for this year.

10.02.2011

Source: The National

Plans to reopen Bougainville copper mine

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

THE Bougainville copper mine maybe be reopened in the next two to three years, ABG President John Momis said.

“My view is that for the re-opening of the mine, the bulk of the people on Bougainville want the mine to be reopened.” Momis said in an interview with The National on Tuesday.

“We want empowerment. Political power without economic power is nothing. Bougainville copper mine must open under a new regime.”

He said the ABG was working together with various landowners to form an umbrella association to start talks on the future of the mine.

Momis said this when responding to Panguna landowners who claimed they were not consulted by the ABG president in making approaches to the prime minister for the PNG shareholding interest in Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) to be transferred to ABG.

“This accusation against me by somebody who claims to represent landowners of Panguna is misrepresenting my position and a deliberate effort to mislead the public,” Momis said.

“Everybody knows that of all the leaders I have been the most consistent one who has defended and protected the rights of landowners.

“The Bougainville Initiative was my effort to fight for equitable distribution from the development of Panguna mine.

“In that statement, I was reflecting the concerns of landowners and young workers for the

government and BCL to review the Bougainville Copper Agreement and that must be reviewed every seven years.”

Momis said BCL and the national government had failed over a 14-year period.

“The North Solomons’ government in 1991 told the national government that it was sowing the seed of a bloody revolution.

“I merely predicted.

“I read the sign of times and I was trying to alert those in power, my words of warning fell on deaf ears.”

Momis said he had absolutely nothing to do with mothers, aunties and sisters marching to the Pink House (BCL head office).

Momis was one leader who consistently raised issues of detrimental effect of mine cause on the environment especially Jaba River and total lack of equity that the agreement gave to the people of Bougainville and landowners.

“We could have come up with good things if landowners listened to us and not take up arms.”

Momis said he wrote to the prime minister to ask him as they had been discussing before he became president to transfer 19.06% of PNG shareholding interest to ABG.

He said the ABG was a legitimate government that would ensure equitable sharing by landowners and people who shed blood to have a fair share in the shareholding.

“I represent the people and I have a duty and responsibility to talk with the national government to transfer shares as we have consistently shown, we will equitably share.”

He said the self-appointed spokesman and absentee landowner Lawrence Daveona must not make false accusations.

10.02.2011

Source: The National - a reader's letter to the editor

On dangerous grounds all right

I read your editorial “Treading on dangerous grounds” (Feb 8) with interest and the report “Panguna leaders warn Momis” regarding the sensitive issue of reopening the now mothballed BCL’s Panguna copper mine.

I had prophesied back in 1988 that John Momis and Francis Ona were “prophets of doom” who incited the people of Bougainville to take up arms against BCL and the national government to vent their grievances over royalty payments and other spinoff benefits and to resort to sabotage of the mine and taking up of arms against legitimate rule of law.

Today, this is all history, and if there’s anyone to be blamed for all the upheavals that culminated to what it is today, it should be squarely placed on no one else but Momis himself, the ABG president.

This is because this leader is the very person who incited the people of Bougainville to rise up against BCL and the national government by calling BCL the “wild boar” who raided and destroyed the people’s garden (land).

Following his recent election as ABG president, he is once more in this game by negotiating with the PNG government and/or other would be interested partners to reopen the mine and leaving out the landowner leaders of Panguna from participating in direct and renewed negotiations of shareholding structures, etc.

It is obvious from the outset that Bougainville is again heading for a collision course since the six landowner groups who made their stand known that they do not want anyone else beside BCL to return whilst Momis is leaning towards China to operate the mine, as he recently took a delegation to visit China as part of his campaign to gain support from members of his ABG cabinet.

I must say that the Bougainville crisis had been an eye opener for many people except one particular thing; the people have failed to elect someone with a real vision to lead Bougainville to new level of nation-building, nationhood and prosperity for its citizens who

suffered for last 23 years.

Instead they have entrusted their future to this sombre leadership!

Momis, please take heed of the people's sensitivity and do not tread on the live wires!

The seer

Via email

09.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS RETURNS

BY JOYCE TOHUI

The ABG delegation led by President Chief JOHN MOMIS returned from Port Moresby today.

Upon arrival, President MOMIS told a media Conference that they came with no cheque. MR MOMIS says the unchanged dilemma is still faced in trying to get hold of the K15 million restoration development grant from the National Government.

He said that talks were held with the Primer Minister and other National Ministers over the issue but nothing has changed.

He said that even directives from the Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir MICHAEL SOMARE have not been implemented.

The Prime Minister had made it clear that the grant was guaranteed under the Bougainville Peace Agreement and he did not know why there was delay in making the payments.

Meanwhile President MOMIS assures Bougainville that he will make every effort to ensure the National Government pay up the K15 million kina to the ABG as stated in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

09.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERED

BY JOYCE TOHUI

A Toyota Land Cruiser owned by Japanese Bridge Construction Company Kitano Engineering was recovered by South Bougainville Police from a hidden location in Laguai area in Buin.

Buin police recovered the vehicle and a bulldozer belonging to South Bougainville Engineering on Sunday night at approximately 9:00 pm.

Buin Police Station Commander Sgt John Popui confirmed that the vehicle which was stolen two weeks ago by criminal elements was returned to the Japanese Contractors. The contractors are yet to confirm if the vehicle was damaged or parts removed after a thorough mechanical check.

Sgt Popui said that Police in partnership with law abiding members of the public, the Bougainville Administration and former combatants helped to ensure the safe return of the vehicle.

09.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN WORKSHOP ON

By Aloysius Laukai

Participants from all over Bougainville are attending a one-week United Nations organized workshop on Human Rights Issues at Tsiroge outside Buka Town. The Workshop is aimed at equipping Human Rights defenders on Bougainville ways of investigating cases for reporting to Authorities for compliance or possible addressing them.

The workshop started yesterday and would end this Friday.

A New Dawn FM reporter who is attending the workshop says that the workshop is good and more should be done in other districts.

The Workshop is being attended by members of the Bougainville Human Rights Committee, NGO Groups, Police, Media and office of the Public Solicitors Office.

09.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis' mine bid hits snag

By JONATHAN TANNOS

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has encountered resistance from the Panguna Landowners Association over his efforts to obtain PNG Government support for the re-opening of the Panguna mine.

They claim his personal representations to Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare so far have been made without their official endorsement.

In a February 2 official letter to Mr Momis, the landowners called on him to meet with them officially next Thursday in Panguna to explain his actions which they claim include his latest talks with Sir Michael at the end of January.

Chairpersons of the six mining lease areas of Panguna signed the letter including Chris Damana (interim chairman), Philip Pariu (Upper Tailings), Bernadine Kiaa (Lower Tailings), Tarcisius Karuai (PMAR), Therese Jaintong (Arawa) and Jude Genu (Uruawa). They want Mr Momis to explain the consultation process with Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) in regards to the mine re-opening, the latest on the Bougainville Agreement review, their intention to slice off equity from the State's 19.06 shares, funding assistance for them and their umbrella landowners associations, a proposed Middle Tailings Association, outstanding compensation, Bougainville Mining House and other matters. They said they were at a loss for words as to why the President was approaching the Prime Minister without first consulting them.

They said while they appreciated his efforts, it was not advisable for him to do so without first consulting them.

They said they understood Mr Momis' intention was to seek the Government's agreement to transfer the State's equity in BCL to the landowners.

However, they said it was a concern to them that the President has not met with the landowners of Panguna to discuss issues affecting them even after his election into office.

09.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BSP explains cash shortage

THE shortage of cash at the Bank South Pacific's Buka branch has irked major businesses operating in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

These businesses, who have BSP accounts, cannot continue with their daily operations because of the cash crisis.

One of the copra buying company in Buka - the first to come out publicly against the kind of service BSP offers was Olbert Copra Buyers.

Philip Betson, the manager for Olbert Copra Buyers said the shortage of cash is affecting his company's normal business operations.

"We deal with customers' every day and directly paying out cash for their produce.

The sellers are people from the villages, who want cash and we run out of cash to pay them because there is not enough at the bank," Mr Betson said.

"It is very disappointing for BSP, telling us that cash has run out and we have to wait until other business houses deposit, then we could perform withdrawal."

However, BSP issued a statement yesterday stating that in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, they plan to expand the Buka branch by the year end 2011 and open a new branch in Arawa and set up two new ATMs in Kokopau.

"In regards to cash handling BSP charges 2 per cent on cash handling. This is for every over the counter withdrawal at a branch. It should be noted that the costs of operating a branch are extremely high considering BSP has to transport money to remote locations, additional security costs from lawlessness, the need for better systems and so forth," BSP said.

BSP said to get cash to centres such as Buka, the aircraft charter cost alone is approx K40,000 ex POM and a charter is required monthly. Then there are other associated costs such as security that goes with cash movements (Armored vehicle etc).

"To ensure that businessmen, such as commodity buyers get the cash to pay growers, there is a lot of costs and resources involved and BSP covers these costs through cash handling fees.

"Cash shortages are extremely unfortunate but are sometimes caused by commodity buyers who place pressure on the branch with unscheduled withdrawals. To avoid such instances, it is normal protocol for commodity buyers to ensure sufficient notice is given to branches."

BSP encouraged their retail customers to use the SMS banking, ATMs and Eftpos for banking which is far more convenient, safe and accessible.

By using Automated Telling Machines (ATMs) and EFTPOS machines in shops and using SMS banking, BSP customers can actually reduce their annual banking fees if the customer manages their banking needs correctly.

The SMS banking initiative allows customers to do banking 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Through SMS banking, customers can transfer funds to nominated accounts, check the last three transactions, top up their Digicel mobile phones and change their PIN numbers.

BSP has also launched the BSP Rural initiative with new Rural Agencies already opened in six centres. The centres are Kwikila, Lufa, Henganofi, Banz, Minj and Kerowagi. BSP expects to open 100 Rural Agencies in the next 18 months.

09.02.2011

Source: The National

Momis warns of independence for Bougainville

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

UNLESS autonomy is made attractive by the government, the people of Bougainville will choose independence, Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis warned yesterday.

Momis said while the "clock is ticking" away, the implementation of the Bougainville

peace agreement was proceeding at a snail's pace.

He said autonomy and independence must be made attractive for the people to make a choice, but the national government had failed to meet these requirements contained in the agreement.

"That is the legitimate way to go but the government has not given the K15 million Bougainville restoration grants for last year and this year.

"The government has not allocated money to reconstruct Bougainville."

He also warned government that bureaucrats would be taken to court for failing to meet the requirements of the peace agreement.

He said arms disposal was slow, drawdown of powers was slow and capacity building was slow due to lack of national government funding.

Momis said if the time came for referendum, autonomy must be attractive to the people or they would choose independence.

"The Bougainville peace agreement is very slow. We need a little bit of money to move it forward."

He said children that were born and grew up during the crisis period were the ones who were still holding onto guns because of their lack of education.

"We need to give incentives such as the buy-back of guns or K1,000 for a gun or create opportunities for the young people to set up furniture industry, brick-making, agriculture and animal husbandry. These are subsidiary economic activities but shortage of funds is a big problem."

In order to get away from the heavy dependence on national government, Momis was pressing for the Bougainville copper mine to be fast tracked and re-opened under a new deal.

He said the drawdown of powers was slow while the clock was ticking.

He said there was a need to improve the administration and the ABG was working hard to develop capacity.

"AusAID is helping in capacity building and we are asking AusAID and the national government to strengthen our police force.

"I am telling them – no law and order, no referendum. It is best to promote the rule of law for a fair referendum to be conducted."

The president was also moving for policemen to be armed in order to enforce the law.

Carriage of arms by police was prohibited under the terms of the Bougainville agreement.

Momis said the Bougainville agreement was a way to stop the war and entailed both parties to make certain compromise and the rebels demanded referendum to be included in the agreement.

He said between 2015 and 2020, referendum could be conducted and weapons disposal and other issues contained in the peace agreement must be met.

"In my inaugural speech, I said the people of Bougainville must have a real choice.

"Independence and autonomy must seem to be working together and must be attractive for the people to make that choice."

Momis said the K15 million restoration grants was a legal requirement the national government must give without conditions attached.

08.02.2011

Source: The National

Panguna leaders warn Momis

LANDOWNER leaders in Panguna have slammed requests by the Autonomous Bougainville Government for the PNG shareholding interest in Bougainville Copper Ltd to be transferred to ABG.

Chairpersons of six Panguna mine lease associations said in a joint statement yesterday that they were lost for words over ABG President John Momis' direct approach to Prime

Minister Sir Michael Somare without consulting them.

The six mine lease associations were set up by the ABG.

Chairpersons Chris Damana, Michael Pariu, Bernadine Kiraa, Therese Jaintong, Tarcisius Karuai and Jude Sirinai said in a first-ever gathering in Buka in late November last year, it was agreed that as a major partner in the BCA review process, Panguna landowners would have a stake in the national government's 19.06% shareholding in BCL.

"As part of our consultations on the benefits sharing arrangement (BSA) with other BCA review stakeholders, the issue of shareholding in BCL is crucial to people in the six mine lease areas.

"We have planned for each of the six leases to have a proportionate shareholding in BCL, with ABG taking up a majority of the shares on behalf of the people of Bougainville including ex-combatants."

The leaders advised the president to consult Panguna landowners before approaching the prime minister.

"He must be careful with his direct approach as some of us still remember his pre-crisis (1987) Bougainville initiative and the number of demonstrations that he organised where our ignorant mothers, sisters and aunties were used to demonstrate in front of BCL's pink palace.

"We also believe that he played a part in the Bougainville crisis and, to date, he has not come out publicly to explain the part he played just before the crisis with the launching of his Bougainville initiative."

The landowners said since taking office in June last year, Momis had not met with them or with the interim executives of Panguna Landowners Association.

"We just want to be consulted in everything to do with our mine lease areas. This is our plea to our leaders," the statement read in part.

08.02.2011

Source: The National

Threading on dangerous grounds

THE Bougainville crisis is clear in the minds of all and, not the least of them, the people of the Autonomous Region themselves.

Perhaps, one of the deep-rooted and primary reasons for the crisis was equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the Bougainville copper mine.

When, in the perception of the Panguna landowners, their rights were trampled and their cries went unheard for a review of the BCL agreement when it fell through twice, they took up arms. This was a fundamental neglect by both the government of PNG and Bougainville Copper Ltd.

Any building of a new Bougainville must be based on the principle of equity and of consensus and consultation – principles which are close to the heart of ABG President John Momis – or, so we think.

Yet, a dangerous confrontation is in the making in the Autonomous Region with Momis being accused of neglecting the people.

Panguna landowner leaders are incensed at a purported move by the ABG president to transfer PNG state shareholding in Bougainville Copper Ltd to the Bougainville government.

Momis appears keen to see the Panguna mine revived quickly in order to provide much-needed revenue to ABG coffers to prepare for that eventuality when Bougainville marches to a referendum to decide whether or not to remain a part of PNG or gain independence.

But, is he willing to forgo consultation and consensus which is what he has always stood for in his Melanesian Alliance party?

Chairpersons of the six Panguna mine lease associations said in a joint statement

yesterday that they were lost for words as to why Momis chose to approach the prime minister without consulting the six mine lease associations set up by ABG itself.

The chairpersons Chris Damana, Michael Pariu, Bernadine Kiraa, Therese Jaintong, Tarcisius Karuai and Jude Sirinai said the issue was discussed at a first-ever gathering in Buka in late November last year.

It was agreed at the meeting that as the major partner in the BCA review process, Panguna landowners must have a substantial stake in the national government's 19.06% shareholding in BCL.

The leaders' statement reads in part: "As part of our consultations on the benefits sharing arrangement (BSA) with our other BCA review stakeholders, this issue of shareholding in BCL, among many other issues, is crucial to our people of the six designated mine lease areas.

"We have, in fact, planned for each of the six leases to have a proportionate shareholding in BCL along with ABG taking up the majority of the shares on behalf of the people of Bougainville, including the various factions of the ex-combatants."

The leaders said while they appreciate the president's direct approach to the prime minister, it was not advisable to do so without first consulting Panguna landowner leaders.

They were venomous and become bitter and personal – referring to Momis' own part in the events leading to the 1987 general elections, following which the province dissolved in violent uprising.

This might explain how angry the leaders are and should give Momis reason to review his position.

The statement by the Panguna leaders added: "He (Momis) must be careful with his direct approach to the prime minister as some of us still remember his pre-crisis (1987) Bougainville initiative and the number of demonstrations that he organised during which our ignorant mothers, sisters and aunties were used to demonstrate in front of the BCL pink palace.

"We also believe that he had some part to play in the Bougainville crisis and, to date, he has not come out publicly to explain the part he played just before the crisis with the launching of his Bougainville initiative."

If, indeed, the information provided by the leaders is correct, there is good reason for Momis to take stock of his approach and, perhaps, go back to the Panguna landowners; after all, they are a creature of the ABG itself.

Failing that, the prime minister ought to take cognisance of the landowners' position and provide for their group to be a party to any attempt to revive BCL or to divest state holdings in the mine.

08.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Wisai gets new police post

By Jacob Potoura

MORE than 2000 people from Wisai and central Bougainville flocked into Oria village in Buin last Wednesday to witness the opening of the new Wisai police post.

The police post was opened by ABG president John Momis and witnessed by Assistant Police Commissioner, Thomas Eluh and other ABG Ministers.

President Momis described the opening and establishment as historic in one of the problem areas in South Bougainville.

He said the people of Bougainville had opted to build a new Bougainville and there is a need to have the rule of law and order to rebuild the economy.

The people of Wisai highlighted the need to revive economic activities and pledged to cooperate with police in the new post in order to curb law and order problems in the area and in the communities. Spokesman Philip Pusua assured the ABG team the Wisai

Liberation Movement (WILMO) has resolved to wind down following the opening of Buin highway and establishment of the post.

The police post was jointly funded by ABG and South Engineering Ltd following request from communities due to serious law and order problems since 2004.

08.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Homebrew use high in Buka

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BREWING and consumption of homebrew is high, raising serious concerns among community leaders in Buka.

The concerned leaders said people in the communities in Buka Island are illegally brewing the illegal alcohol.

Homebrew can be bought for K10 to K20 per bottle at dances.

“Awareness after awareness have been carried out and yet nothing sinks into the brain.

This is sickening and we do not know when the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will start to take this seriously. Even though the Bougainville Police Service raised awareness on the banning of homebrew, still the message does not get through,” one said.

Most of the consumers are teenagers, girls and boys, of primary and secondary school age and is a threat to their health.

Halia Council of Elders women’s representative Eve Betson said the culprits have violated laws and should be dealt with accordingly when caught.

“When there was a ban on homebrew, communities were trouble free, living in peace and harmony,” Mrs Betson said.

She said COEs have failed to use their power as agents of law to monitor such illegal activities in the community.

07.02.2011

Source: ESBC Research

ASIC Starts Investigation!

ASIC accepts the ESBC's complaint on probably fraudulent market practises on Bougainville Copper shares on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and starts investigation immediately.

Australische Finanzaufsicht wird aktiv!

Die ASIC, die australische Finanzaufsichtsbehörde akzeptiert die Beschwerde der ESBC über den Verdacht auf betrügerische Marktpraktiken in Bougainville Copper Aktien an der Börse Sydney (ASX) und hat eine sofortige eingehende Untersuchung des Falles angekündigt.

07.02.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Momis Meets Panguna Landowners

On Thursday February 17th, 2011 ABG President John Momis will meet with representatives of the Panguna Landowners in Arawa. This meeting will also be assisted by the National Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso, the ABG Minister for Mining, Michael Oni, two National Members of Parliament whose electorates cover the Panguna mine lease areas. It was organized on invitation of the Panguna Landowners.

[Find out more on the Meeting Agenda here!](#)

Momis trifft sich mit Panguna Landeignern

ABG Präsident John Momis trifft sich am Donnerstag, den 17. Februar 2011 in Arawa mit den Panguna Landeignern. Ebenfalls bei dem Treffen: ABG Mining Minister Michael Oni, der nationale Minister für Bougainville Angelegenheiten, Fidelis Semoso sowie die beiden nationalen Parlamentsabgeordneten, in deren Wahlkreise die Pangunamine liegt. Die Zusammenkunft wurde auf Einladung der Panguna Landeigner organisiert.

[Lesen Sie hier die Originaltagesordnung des Treffens!](#)

07.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Food, water in short supply

By JOYCE TOHUI

A LONG dry season which began last year is hitting Nissan Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, resulting in the shortage of food supplies and drinking water. When the Post-Courier spoke with one of the islander, Carmelius Bina, he said; "Nissan Island is experiencing food shortage" because the soil to replant food garden is very strong.

He said the soil was heated by the strong heat from the sun and therefore did not allow any more food products to be planted.

He said the islanders were only depending on fish with the small amount of food left in their gardens.

"Currently the islanders are drinking well water – the last remaining source of water available on the island. The well water is also a health risk as it makes the people more vulnerable to diseases,

"Disease such as diarrhoea which is a good recipe for cholera since the outbreaks of cholera is still going strong in many parts of Papua New Guinea," Mr Bina said.

He said the Nissan Islanders were struggling for food and water and were calling on the office of National Disaster and Emergency Services for assistance.

Meanwhile, President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, John Momis, has donated K20,000 towards relief food supplies.

The first 300 bales of rice were already purchased and will be distributed to the affected areas.

07.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Lone farewell for Takaku

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLEANS have questioned why the Papua New Guinea Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) did not accord one of the country's international actors - the late William Takaku, a State funeral.

Speaking on behalf of the other Bougainvilleans, was a long time friend of William Takaku, Albert Toro – who with Takaku were professionally involved in movie making and preserving the culture.

Mr Toro said the late Takaku's stewardship in regard to the culture of PNG and Bougainville for the past 37 years passed by without appreciation from the Governments, adding this was evident in the way his death was treated.

"Even the National Cultural Commission whom we've both served for nearly 30 years, our immediate steward and patron were not even able to accord the late Takaku - an ambassador and senior statesman in Arts, a respectful funeral and burial ceremony fitting for a man that has promoted the positive images of PNG and Bougainville over 30 years," Mr Toro said while shedding tears.

He said Mr Takaku promoted PNG and Bougainville – raising the country's flags higher through songs, theatre, dance, film, literature and associations with international agencies in the campaign against the degradation of Mother Nature.

Mr Toro said during the arrival of the casket, no ABG members were present at the Buka Airport to welcome Mr Takaku's body.

However, only individuals who had hearts were able to welcome the body. They gave money from their own pockets to ensure the casket of Mr Takaku reach his Pidia village in Central Bougainville.

"This truly proves that the Government does not support arts in PNG," Toro said.

Meanwhile Mr Toro said the late actor committed himself to explore and protect the cultural diversity of PNG and Bougainville and his philosophies about the genesis of mankind and religion, the environment and nature.

He said Mr Takaku was a committed advocator of his principles as evident in his production of the Nasioi folk opera, EBERIA in 1978.

In 1998 Mr Takaku and Mr Toro assisted Professor Matubuna Tahun with his book of poetry - Tsomi. Mr Toro said in 2004 a project proposal was submitted to the late Joseph Kabui for funding of K150,000 to fund a 12-month youth training on acting, film-making and Research into the Bougainville cultural heritage and arts. In part Mr Takaku wrote, "We have offered 80 per cent of our professional lives to PNG Arts and Theatre and we would want to offer the remaining 20 per cent of our time now to a new breed of professional artists from Bougainville."

Mr Toro described the late Takaku as a simple servant of hope for many young men and women. "We have lost a simple but yet, a great man who left a simple person and was farewelled in a simple but yet sad and selfish manner."

"Similarly, on behalf of late Willie and his good wife Maria, and children and his relatives, I thank the National and ABG Governments for having trained him, myself and every PNG artists," said Mr Toro.

06.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier Weekend

Cowboys rule West Buka

AFTER A grueling four hours journey on the deteriorating West Buka feeder road, "Beharos Trans" the sole passenger carrying vehicle from Tung Village slowed down and pulled up next to a mango tree at a plantation near the Buka Airport, just a few metres away from the sealed section of the main Buka Highway.

The driver, Lesley Kapurou got out of his cabin and started collecting the PMV fare.

As the passengers dug into their purses, bilums and trouser pockets, a garbage open back vehicle owned by a company in Buka swept past in the opposite direction headed

for the Karanas Dump along the West Buka Road.

Some of the rubbish, mainly plastic wrappers, found their way out of the back of the speeding vehicle and this caused some of the passengers on the PMV to sing out after the offending vehicle, "Mipela ino rubbish dump blong yu !" (We are not your rubbish dump)

Ironically, the feeling of being treated like garbage has been on the minds of the people of the Tonsu Constituency, West Buka for the last 10 donkey years or so.

One of those who feels like he's have been trampled upon is Jerry Kavop.

A balding and bespectacled pioneer UPNG student of the colonial days, Jerry told me he wears a couple of hats like being a chief of his clan, a court officer in the Tonsu Council of Elders area and in addition, he is a Senior Church elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the West Buka area.

"For the last 27 years I have been working with the people of Tonsu before the crisis, through the crisis up until today I am still involved in the peace process on Bougainville. One of my major achievements was in helping to reestablish the village court system on Buka after the years of war," Mr Kavop said.

"The views that I want to express here are practical and not theoretical."

Mr Kavop first of all praised the Council of Elders, Council of Chiefs and the Autonomous Bougainville Government system as a good relevant system which is legally enshrined and a God given way of Governance on Bougainville.

However Mr Kavop claims that there is rampant corruption within the system.

He said that financial empowerment of the Tonsu people over the last five years has been zero and people have not felt any impact from the so-called and much talked about impact projects.

"Even monies allocated by our National MP (Mr. Michael Ogio) have not reached the people at village level. So can someone tell the Tonsu people what's been happening and what is still going on today?"

Mr Kavop went on to say that the Council of Elders political direction on Tonsu has been one of a cowboy style.

"We are being run by cowboys with no five year plan, no vision statement, and no mission statement so where are we going? Hello?," the elder made his point peering at this writer from above the rims of his glasses.

"The Council of Elders political leadership will end in April 2011 but there has been no clear leadership in the political level in the Tonsu COE.

"When I speak of corruption a clear example is the Tonsu COE Administration. The Tonsu Administration is a Cowboy Administration.

"The majority of people from Tonsu don't even know why there has been no development taking place in their area and where their head tax money has been going since 2008. People are confused they have seen nothing at all whatsoever."

In addition the Council of Chiefs in the villages is mere flower pots.

"The chiefs have been neglected, they don't know their work and they have not even been complimented. No gratitude has been shown to them by the ABG and COE Administration," he said.

Mr Kavop added by saying: "I can no longer close my mouth but will speak out for the grass roots people of Tonsu.

"I speak on behalf of the young people of Tonsu who are the leaders of tomorrow. The silent young generation of Tonsu really wants answers to their questions of where we're heading."

The question of where Tonsu is heading is a good one. Crime is steadily increasing in this once peaceful constituency of West Buka.

There are unsolved willful murder cases, the recent looting of a Chinese logging vessel by Petats Islanders and just the other day a fight over relief supplies took place at Poka Village.

Due to lack of proper medical services people are now seeking out the witch-doctors and their controversial methods of curing illness.

When you come to think of it, the given examples paint the real picture of Tonsu today, said Jerry Kavop as he thoughtfully fondled his beard.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG PRESIDENT RETURN

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, JOHN MOMIS will return to Bougainville tomorrow after he was out of the region for more than a week.

MR. MOMIS was in Port Moresby to meet the Prime Minister, Chief Somare concerning many pressing issues affecting the region including the THIRTY MILLION KINA still owed to the ABG by the National Government.

New Dawn FM understands that his trip also paved the way for the Joint Supervisory Board Meeting to start this again this year.

The meeting was only held once since the inauguration of the second Autonomous Bougainville Government last year.

The delayed meeting was the reason for the two Bougainville's Heavies, ABG President JOHN MOMIS and Regional Member FIDELIS SEMOSO to be at loggerheads several times.

They have since reconciled and hoped to work together again this year.

The first JSB meeting would be held in Port Moresby this month.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FARES SET

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Aviation Service has finally set its fares for flying in Bougainville.

When they started they were flying to Buin from Buka at SIX HUNDRED NINETY KINA.

According to the chief pilot, [Marcelline Ampa'oi](#), The fare for Buka to Buin is FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY KINA.

Fare from Buka to Aropa is THREE HUNDRED NINETY KINA; Buka to Nissan is THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY KINA.

Since establishing in Buka, the National Aviation Service is landing in Buin, Buka, Aropa and Nissan.

He said the next airstrip that they have already inspected is Torokina.

MR. AMPA'OI also said that their office is situated at the Buka Airport and can be contacted on wireless phone number, 9482230.

For more information Joyce Saara can be contacted at the Buka Airport Office.

The chief pilot said that for flights to be secured all seats must be fully booked including return.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NINE HOUSES

By Aloysius Laukai

The Carterets resettlement program in Tinputz wants to build Nine Houses this year according to the Tulele Peisa's Coordinator, URSULA RAKOVA.

She told New Dawn FM that these nine houses would house the nine families that would

be moved this to the resettlement centre.

Ms. Rakova said that building materials including Roofing Iron and Nails were donated last year by CPL group of companies.

She said that after the ten families are moved they would then prepare for more families to move to the relocation centre.

MS. RAKOVA said that the Caterets resettlement scheme has secured two more locations in Tearouki and Mabiri.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEO HANETT TALKS

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG minister for Justice and member for Nissan, LEO HANNET wants the people of Nissan to fully participate in the development of their resources.

Mr. Hannett told New Dawn FM yesterday that he wants the people to benefit from their marine resources.

He said he was looking at Fishing Venture that can make the people participate and benefit from.

The Minister said that at the moment he was looking for some good reputable investors to support his proposals.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Education must

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG minister for Justice and member for Nissan, LEO HANNET wants his people to invest in education.

He says due to the size of the island Education can become the commodity for his people to market.

MR. HANNET was talking with New Dawn FM yesterday.

He said that he wants all his islanders to look at education as another commodity that can help the people of Nissan.

The member said that if many Nissan Islanders were educated and had jobs they would definitely assist their other families on the island.

He said that he was already looking at ways in which this can become a reality.

05.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

System bad

New Dawn FM was not able to upload news due to Telicommunication problems being faced by Telikom for nearly three weeks.

04.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Support urged for child protection

By FABIAN HAKALITS

CHILD protection is becoming a complex and cross cutting issue and to make it work, this requires the stakeholders support and commitment.

Senior Child Protection Officer with the Department of Community Development Terry Lui said this while officiating at the opening of a child protection training on Monday at Arawa in Central Bougainville.

The training was held at the Arawa Women's Training Centre on Monday.

Twenty participants, mainly child protection officers and community child protection volunteers attended the training.

Mr Lui said Bougainville was a way ahead with more training apart from other provinces. He said the training was to equip skills and knowledge of the participants on how to handle child protection cases.

Mr Lui said the objective of the training to prepare child protection officers and delegated directors of the Lukautim Pikinini project to carry out their jobs effectively.

He also said that is was to familiarise major stakeholders in responding to children in need of protection and their families with roles of child protection officers.

Participants looked at the operational manual for the child protection officers giving them clear policies and procedures to carry out their functions as established under the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2009.

He said the implementation of the child protection policies would come under the of the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2009 and would enable the participants to understand what is meant by rights and particularly the rights of the child.

Meanwhile Mr Lui said that implementation of the Lukautim Pikinini Act would depend on the Governments support and commitment.

03.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP wants to help youths

By VERONICA HANNETTE

DEVELOPMENT in the Taonita/Tinputz constituency of North Bougainville has progressed well over the past six months.

Taonita/Tinputz MP and Works, Transport and Communication Minister in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Carolus Ketsimur said.

"So far in the Taonita/Tinputz constituency, there have been slight improvement and this shows that there is a good working relationship between the service providers and the people." Mr Ketsimur said.

He said empowerment programs were carried out in the constituency, mainly targeting the youths and this covers areas of spiritual, physical and intellectual.

"Youths are the foundation of the society and they have to be equipped with lifelong knowledge and skills to help them restrain from criminal activities,"

"It is our duty as members of the community to empower our youths and providing for their needs." said Ketsimur.

So far the youth empowerment program has produced positive outcomes and Mr Ketsimur said he was pleased.

Mr Ketsimur said major issues in the constituency was crime. However, with more awareness, this has helped the community to make moral decisions of what is right and wrong.

He said with law and order taking its tough stand, the number of criminal activities has also decreased and this shows that people are taking the law seriously.
Mr Ketsimur added that as a member he will continue to assist the people.

03.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP hands out project funds

BY PETERSON TSERAHA.

THE people of South Bougainville celebrated a happy Christmas and New Year. thanks to their South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

While the rest of Bougainville were looking for funds for Christmas and New Year activities, South Bougainville MP in a no nonsense manner dished out K373,661 in his electorate for projects ranging from feeder roads, water supply, reconciliation ceremonies to funding sports associations.

A lot of people in his electorate approached the Post-Courier to express their gratitude for what their leader did.

He The following are list of his donations during the New/Christmas period:

Takemare peace and reconciliation ceremony(Bana district) K14000. Biros Aid post (Bana) 5000, Moratona Health centre (Bana) K80,000, Iru aid post (Siwai district) K9000, Hurai aid post (Siwai K5000, Siuru Primary school (Siwai) K2000, Tuguioqu Primary school (Buin district) K2000, Murua Primary school (Bana) K5000 and Koruma Elementary school(Bana) K1000.

He gave Biros Primary school (Bana) K20,000, Tugui (Buin) K1661, Mukukuru Sports association (Siwai) K5000, Rataiku sports association (Siwai) K10,000, Makis sports peace tournament (Buin) K17,000, South Bougainville leaders reconciliation K20,000, Siwai Crisis leaders reconciliation K14,000, CLC Regional youth convention K20,000, ABG games K100,000, Bana district sports council K10,000, Siwai district sports council K14,000, Torokina sports council K10,000, Buin sports council K14,000 and Bolave sports association K5000.

03.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bridges to serve people

By VERONICA HANNETTE

A MAJOR road and bridge construction project is set to progress on Bougainville.

The Japanese company Kitano engaged to build bridges is currently constructing five bridges in the Tinputz constituency covering the Rawa, Wutsun, Iurun, Ruatove and the Kaskurus bridges.

The five bridges are planned to be completed by end of this year.

Autonomous Bougainville Government Transport and Works Minister Carolus Ketsimur expressed gratitude as these bridges will make it possible for travellers during bad weather in the region.

"We have been faced with a lot of problems associated with rivers within the region causing vehicles to overturn and these bridges will improve the transport system." said Mr Ketsimur.

Plans are currently underway for the first stage of road sealing from Kokopau to Rawa under a K20 million allocation from the National Government.

"I want the allocated K20 million for road sealing to be strictly put aside for the road

sealing, to complete the whole sealing and not to be misappropriated as ABG budget cannot meet the amount of money needed to rebuild the roads infrastructure.”

02.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa finally gets electricity services

Words and Picture: FABIAN HAKALITS

AFTER 22 years, the former capital of then North Solomon Province and now Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Arawa will soon light up with electricity supply, thanks to PNG Power. Arawa was the profit centre for PNG Power and that is where they generated more profit. PNG Power is working to bring back electricity services to the area. This would boost businesses in Bougainville. The 500 KVA generator will be installed once the lines are pulled. The PNG Power office is located where its former office was at Baroku. Pictured are PNG Power employees working to install power supply. Pictured from left are Pius Moresi, Michael Bivi, Henry Pupuan and Joe Meni.



02.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Music for peace and unity

By FABIAN HAKALITS

A three-day music concert to promote peace and unity in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be staged in Buka.

The concert will be held under the theme: “Promoting Peace and Unity through Partaking in Music” will begin on February 23 to 25 and attract a large number of people from North, Central and South Bougainville.

The initiative is from former North Bougainville ex- combatant member in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Marceline Getsi who aims to unit all Bougainville musicians and promote other issues set to target mainly youths.

According to organising committee chairman Ray Himata, the concert will also highlight social issues that poses threats to the livelihood of the Bougainville communities.

He said the concert will be held as a competition to meet the costs. Key activities have been categorised which includes choir competition, free style dancing with music, string band with bamboo band and a rock show.

He said prizes will be awarded under each category with K500 for the first prize, K300 second prize and third prize of K150.

02.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K30,000 for AIDS

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE HIV operation "Mi Gat Pawa" has been supported with help from AusAID who gave K30,000 to help Bougainville HIV/AIDS Task Force carry out their HIV mass rapid testing and counselling in rural Bougainville.

The funding was made available with help from Bougainville AIDS Committee Chairman Raymond Masono, according to Ray Himata HIV Response Co-coordinator with the Bougainville.

Mr Himata said the monies given by AusAid under the Governance Implementation Fund (GIF) will see Bougainville HIV/AIDS Task Force rolled out similar programs into the next two constituencies of North Bougainville, Hagogohe and Tsitalato.

"Part of the monies will cater for revisits to the Haku and Halia Constituencies as follow-ups of the previous programs to ensure that people who have been diagnosed are keeping up to their dosage and their health including more awareness," Mr. Himata said.

02.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Catholic Church Bougainville projects

THIS year will be a big year for the Bougainville Catholic Church as they embark on multi-million-kina projects to develop Bougainville.

Their projects will centre on the education of elites of Bougainville, especially the gap created between the fighting years from 1989 to 2001 when the ceasefire agreement was signed and children started going back to school.

The projects also include shipping, agriculture, plantations and civil society organisations mainly to help Bougainvilleans.

Late last year an agreement was signed between the Catholic Church and a renowned PNG company to develop a 25 hectare piece of land in Buka, specifically Hahela where 40 houses will be built under the real estate project.

Bishop of Bougainville Bernard Unabali confirmed that the church was in a joint venture with a renowned businessman Sir Henry Chow who has businesses throughout the region. An upfront payment of K20 million to kick start the project has already been made.

Bishop Unabali said that this will also include a five-star hotel to be built at Hahela and many more projects yet to be announced.

According to the project executives, a tender process is now in place before the construction phase can begin.

The Catholic Church will also go heavy on shipping in Bougainville. A yacht to be used throughout coastal church areas should be expected in two weeks and the organisation will also look at purchasing passenger boats to ferry passengers to and from Buka and Rabaul.

02.02.2011

Source: The Australian / THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Row flares over PNG Customs seizure of a tanker

by Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific editor

A ROW has flared between Papua New Guinea's customs service and international shippers after a new \$5 million oil tanker escaped seven months detention.

The vessel had obtained, under the guns of former Bougainville combatants, \$5.6m worth of fuel oil originally imported for the Panguna copper mine, which closed 22 years ago -- and which is now expected to reopen.

The ship, UBT Fjord, was halted by a PNG patrol boat in June and escorted to Rabaul harbour, but is now sailing home to Singapore despite appeals from PNG Customs for fishing boats and other vessels to intercept it.

A spokesman for the owner, Norwegian-run and Singapore-based shipping corporation Thome, which has more than 100 vessels, said following the escape: "Foreign shipping has a strong incentive to avoid PNG altogether.

"PNG Customs appear to be a law unto themselves."

The Customs Act, as amended six months ago, says the customs commissioner is "subject to this act, not subject to direction and control of any person or authority". The prospect has been raised of the International Maritime Organisation and the Baltic and International Maritime Council, the largest international shipping association, becoming involved.

The concern of international shippers comes as PNG is in the midst of a massive resources boom, led by a \$16.5 billion liquefied natural gas project under construction -- a boom that is also boosting growth in Queensland.

The concerns of the shipping industry were also raised when the customs department took action against PNG-based Pacific Towing for removing oil from a tanker that had run aground on a reef near Manus Island -- in a successful operation to help it to float free -- and for boarding the tanker, both without permission from PNG Customs.

After the Thome tanker UBT Fjord left Rabaul, two PNG staff of the shipping agent, Inchcape, were arrested at gunpoint and held in a tiny cell in nearby Kokopo for four days without being charged, before being released on bail after 12 days.

The PNG constitution requires police to release people after 24 hours if it fails to charge them.

The two Inchcape staff, Tumari Davis, 42, and Puipui Jack, 37, were eventually charged on Friday with stealing 14.5 million kina (\$5.6m) worth of fuel oil, "the property of the independent state of PNG".

The two claim in affidavits that they were assaulted by police and their possessions were illegally taken, but they could face seven-year jail sentences

Inchcape Australia vice-president Royce Brain said: "Our people were incarcerated just for doing their job -- looking after the crew and the vessel while it was in Rabaul harbour, supplying food and water, and bunker fuel to keep the generators running.

"I don't know the motivation of the officials for picking on our people. I'd love to understand what's going on there"

The ship was chartered to pick up fuel oil intended for power generation, that had been

kept in tanks at Loloho wharf on Bougainville since the mine there had closed down during an insurrection that lasted for another 12 years.

In March last year, a local business, Asatume Scrap Metal, owned by 300 ex-combatants in the civil war, was -- according to James Tanis, then president of the autonomous region of Bougainville -- given "exclusive title and right of ownership to the fuel oil".

Mr Tanis said "the neglected fuel oil in question has been leaking for many years, posing a huge environmental hazard for the island and its people".

The UBT Fjord was chartered to pick up the oil by Singapore firm Integra, which had developed a relationship with the Asatume ex-combatants.

After the tanker arrived, the oil was heated to enable it to flow into the vessel, and the process was supervised by a group of Bougainvilleans associated with Asatume, dressed in fatigues and armed with automatic weapons.

The ship owner's spokesman said the issue of ownership of the fuel oil was a civil matter between Bougainville copper, Asatume, and the ultimate buyer, and "the vessel was not under arrest or detention", with a temporary order having been lifted.

He said: "The ship was just being used as a storage facility by PNG Customs while (costs) of \$9000 per day were being incurred".

The ship owner is now seeking, through the National Court, compensation from the customs department for its loss of profits.

Customs Commissioner Gary Juffa told the PNG Post-Courier that "at no time had PNG Customs approval and direction been given for the loading and shipment of the fuel oil". He said the "purported customs clearance" was obtained under "duress and threat by armed men".

Foreigners who lived in PNG must, he said, not treat the country as a "banana republic" that could be taken for a ride.

Those who thought in such a way should "pack up and leave for the galaxy you belong to", he said.

Large amounts of scrap metal from the mine have also been shipped out of Bougainville in recent years.

An expert on the situation told The Australian: "It's a pretty free run there, Bougainville Copper can't do anything about it."

The destruction of records on Bougainville has made it difficult to discover whether duty was paid on the fuel oil when it was imported, but Bougainville Copper frequently imported large amounts of such inputs and paid excise, as agreed with PNG Customs, as they were used.

Customs Commissioner Mr Juffa did not respond to calls.

01.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Missing two rescued at sea

By FABIAN HAKALITS

TWO Bougainvilleans, who went missing for a week at sea were finally brought home on Sunday morning from Kessa in the northern tip of Buka by a fishing vessel operated by the Solomon Fishing Company.

The two men Peter Gimots and Martin Mas, reportedly went missing while they were out fishing near Taiof Island for five days on a 15 horse powered banana boat due to changes in weather pattern.

Disaster Coordinator Franklyn Lacey said the Bougainville Disaster office was on high alert when the boat was reported missing.

Mr Lacey said the office was working around the clock, monitoring the position and location of the boat.

He said a 'look out' notice was issued to all local and international ships to keep track of any missing speed boat by the Maritime Safety Authority and the safety security operations in Queensland – Australia.

The floating boat was located and rescued in the Solomon Sea by the fishing vessel last Monday at 6.26am after it encountered a shortage of petrol. Last week Wednesday the Bougainville Disaster Office kept contact with the captain of the fishing vessel for the rescue operation however the decision to bring the survivors ashore became pending because the ship had to complete its fishing operations. A brief notification was received on Saturday for the survivors to return however that did not eventuate because the captain of the fishing vessel failed to issue the coordinates.

Responses from the captain said: "We are afraid to enter Bougainville waters."

01.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

People express worry over debts

BOUGAINVILLEANS have expressed concern over unsettled debts and outstanding claims left behind by former North Bougainville MP Michael Ogio.

The unsettled debts and outstanding claims, which have allegedly been collecting dust in the MP's district office, have drawn serious concerns among the people of the North Bougainville Open Electorate. And they are questioning Mr Ogio how these debts will be settled. The outstanding claims stem from projects not funded over the years since 2007, which also includes service providers' invoices he has not settled. Damien Hanette, on behalf other people in the North Bougainville region who shared similar sentiments, said a lot of these projects with their allocated funds promised by Mr Ogio were not fulfilled.

01.02.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville has 24-hour power

UNTIL recently Buin only had power for four hours a day, and even that was dependent on private generators which many locals could not afford to purchase or run.

Now thanks to a joint initiative between the Australian and New Zealand governments, in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the small town on the south-east tip of Bougainville has 24-hour power for the first time since much of its infrastructure was destroyed during the crisis years.

AusAID's programme manager in Bougainville Roselyn Kenneth said, at the opening

ceremony, that the restoration of power and the hosting of the games were important peace and development milestones for Bougainville.

"It is an important day because the games are being held here in South Bougainville which, until quite recently, was considered an unstable conflict zone.

"People from all over Bougainville were able to come together in Buin and experience the powerful uniting force of sport. And the games definitely wouldn't have been possible without 24-hour power.

The restoration of power also improved the ability of local government officers to get more done and local businesses are looking forward to growing their interests.

The joint initiative has so far seen 24-hour power restored to many of Bougainville's major centres, including Buka, Kokopau and Sohano.

In Arawa, residents were excited about 24-hour power to be switched on in coming months.

AusAID's development specialist in Bougainville, Madeleine Moss, said it was clear that the absence of power had a detrimental effect on health, education and economic opportunities.

"But equally as important, the restoration of power here is seen by the local community as a visible symbol of progress," she said.

Australia and New Zealand also provided funding for the third Bougainville regional games last December where teams were encouraged to participate more as in friendly games than in competition.

01.02.2011

Source: The National

Buka has new day high school

THE new Haku Day High School in Buka district in Bougainville will start classes for its first intake on Feb 7, according to the autonomous region's education minister and Mahari constituency member John Tabinaman.

Ninety students from the six primary schools within Haku constituency were selected for two Grade 9 classes.

Four teachers were appointed to facilitate learning in the new school.

Tabinaman said he visited the school last Tuesday to check whether infrastructure was in place for the student intakes this year; and also see the physical site of the total land area that the school would occupy.

"I had to be convinced that the new infrastructure was ready for Haku Day High School.

"Most importantly, I was very impressed with the size of arable land allocated for the school by the landowners," he said

He said a four-in-one classroom building and two teacher's houses provided by Tanamalo Primary School would cater for the first Grade 9 intakes of the day high school this year.

Tabinaman also said that little work was still needed on the current four-in-one classroom building to improve its condition.

He requested the people of Haku constituency, especially those who would benefit from the high school, to co-operate with the education division and complete the necessary preparation work to meet the target date for this year's classes.

The new Haku Day High School came as a request from the people of Haku constituency during the first Bougainville government's meet and this year was earmarked for the commencement of the high school.

The new high school school is located within Tanamalo Primary School, a United church agency school.

News 03.2011

31.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville Copper

CHOLERA PANIC

By Aloysius Laukai

New Dawn FM has been receiving calls from the public concerning not enough awareness concerning the Cholera outbreak in Lontis, Buka island.

They said that more awareness on prevention must be quickly carried out throughout Buka island and mainland Bougainville.

Chairman of the Cholera Task Force, PATRICK KOLES says that while the figures had risen to 65, the task force assures the communities that attendance at Lemanmanu health centre and at the advance medical post in Lontis had actually declined indicating the episode is now being controlled," said Koles.

"The public is also advised that while there were reported cases at Hutjena and Gogohe, the public health team had actually acted very quickly and had sent these cases back to Lemanmanu where they had initially migrated from," said Koles.

He added that CTF has already effected the following measures:

- Total ban on sale of cooked food and homemade ice block at public and road side markets,
- In relation to schools in affected areas, the task force feels there is no need to close down schools unless schools report any episode of diarrhea and
- The task force will conduct massive awareness among communities and encourage the school teachers to ensure school children receive the message on basic hygiene measures which is the most important factor in controlling cholera.

"Basically, the community must take ownership of their health by practicing basic hygiene rules," said Koles.

31.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville Copper

MINING ISSUE

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis said that, Bougainville leaders were the first people in Papua New Guinea to be confronted with the difficult issue of allowing foreign exploitation and development of their resources.

He was speaking at the Mining Brainstorming workshop in Buka yesterday.

He said that Bougainvilleans were in a dependent position, which means important decisions were made for us in a belief that those decisions were to secure the best interest of the landowners, resource owners and the people at large.

Mr. Momis said that unlike today, we did not have too much access to expert information

and knowledge to the difficult issue of mining.

He said that PNG and Australian government were looking for ways of convincing Australian Tax Payers and Papua New Guineans that it was time to have Independence. And Pangunamine was obviously the resource that was perceived to bring great wealth or generate revenue for the government and thus relieve Australian colonial government of its responsibilities to provide goods and services to the people of Papua New Guinea. He said that the people of Bougainville were never fully consulted and Bougainville's leaders advice was ignored.

MR. MOMIS told those gathered that today is different and based on those past mistakes, Bougainville need to be well informed on which steps to take to develop the economy of Bougainville.

31.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville Copper

MARKET OPENING

By Aloysius Laukai

The long awaited opening of the Buka Town will happen tomorrow.

And according to the programme, speakers would include the Manageress of Buka Urban Council, BRENDA TOHIANA, The Regional member for Bougainville, FIDELIS SEMOSO, ABG President, Chief John Momis, National Planning Minister, Paul Tiensten and the National Minister for Finance and Planning, PETER ONIEL.

The market would be opened by the National Planning Minister, PETER ONIEL.

New Dawn FM understands the Buka market upgrading was done for SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

31.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville Copper

PIRIKA TO DELIVER

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for South Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA will officially deliver three Police vehicles to the Commander of South Bougainville Police, PAUL KAMUAI in Buin this Saturday.

The three vehicles will serve the three areas of Siwai, Buin and Bana districts.

The member made the announcement in Buin during the South Bougainville games at the end of last year.

Commander for South Bougainville Police Service, PAUL KAMUAI told New Dawn FM that the member's contribution will greatly help the mobility of South Bougainville Police in attending to Law and order cases.

The three vehicles were bought for Three Hundred Thousand Kina.

New Dawn FM understands the former member for North Bougainville also bought vehicles for the Buka and Tinputz Police stations last year.

31.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aust to help rebuild Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

AUSTRALIA stands ready to assist and rebuild Bougainville as it had been since the crisis broke out in 1989.

But before Australia does just that, Bougainville will have to provide specific requests or projects to the Australian Government on priority or urgent areas that needs immediate financial help.

Over the last 10 years Bougainville has been receiving direct funding from the people of Australia through the Australian Government's AusAID program valued at more than K500 million since 1997.

Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles said in Arawa yesterday that Australia was ready to help Bougainville but leaders needed to provide the specific request in order for assistance to flow.

Mr Marles made three commitments of over K1 million to the people of Bougainville, they are K700,000 for the Bougainville Police Service, K60,000 to fight the cholera outbreak and K250,000 for the Koromira Technical School.

On top of that, Australia is funding the Trunk Road maintenance of Arawa at K7 million and helping to rebuild Arawa on a need basis.

Mr Marles, who was pleased to be in Bougainville, singled out the relations his father had in colonial war era.

He said his visit was to see how the Australian aid was helping Bougainvilleans, where they could help more and how the relationship between Australia and Bougainville could be further progressed.

"We are here on Bougainville to show the significance of our commitment to the people of Bougainville.

"Australia is ready to assist Bougainville but we need to have the specific issues needed to be addressed in order to assist.

"I guess we are interested in specific projects we can participate in," Mr Marles said in Arawa.

He said Australia had helped in building the capacities of the public servants, the Bougainville Public Service, the health sector, education and the weapons disposal program.

Mr Marles visit to Arawa was very significant as he arrived in Buka on an Australian Defence plane accompanied by his team from Canberra, Australian High Commissioner to PNG Ian Kemish and his officers on the ground. He was well received by the people of Kieta, Koromira and Arawa. Marles also met with Panguna landowners executives and hosted a dinner for all the ex-combatants, the Panguna landowners and women of Arawa.

31.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier - The Drum

what a coincidence

Funny how things turn out. Former Prime Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu was this month appointed to the Board of Bougainville Copper. Sir Rabbie was PM when the bloody crisis started over issues with BCL. Now there is talk of the mine reopening...co-incidence?

31.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville consultations on mine re-opening set to widen

Bougainville has witnessed another milestone in its peace process with a reconciliation ceremony between the President of the Autonomous Government, John Momis, and the landowners from the six lease areas around the Panguna mine. The ceremony has set the stage for wider consultations on re-starting mining operations.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Patrick Nisira, Bougainville's Vice President

[Listen here!](#)

GARRETT: Discussions on the re-opening of the Rio Tinto owned Panguna copper mine have picked up pace in the last few months.

The man on the frontline for the Bougainville Autonomous government is Vice President Patrick Nisira.

He believes the re-opening of the Panguna Mine could be as significant for his government as it was for the Papua New Guinea government in the lead-up to its independence in 1975.

NISIRA: Since December last year there have been big movements between the Autonomous Bougainville government engaging with the Panguna landowners and people surrounding the Panguna copper mine because we believe very much that Panguna will play a crucial role in the recovery of the autonomous government. As we all know, in the 1970s the Panguna copper mine was the only mining operation in Papua New Guinea at that time. The Panguna copper mine then got PNG independence since it became operational. We believe the Panguna copper mine can also do the same for our fledgling Autonomous region so with that in mind the President directed me to engage with the people of Panguna and meaningfully involve the people there, especially the left wing organisations and the former combatants and the Panguna landowners.

GARRETT: Bougainville is heavily dependent on financial assistance from Australia and from the Papua New Guinea government.

Vice President Nisira is grateful for that assistance but he says it cannot go on forever.

NISIRA: We appreciate the goodwill of international donors but as we, as Bougainvilleans, we believe we can once again walk tall. And to walk tall, as a people, we have to drag away from this dependency that we are currently at the moment. So the President has directed me to move into Panguna and tell all the people there, talk to them, get them to understand the importance of Panguna in the peacekeeping process. Because of Panguna, Bougainville went down the drain and we believe that if we can fix Panguna, if we can stabilise Panguna, we can help Bougainville on its two feet again.

GARRETT: The reconciliation ceremony between Bougainville President John Momis and Panguna landowners, last Friday, means the consultations on re-opening the mine can gear up a notch.

Vice President Nisira says that after many months the six Panguna landowning groups have agreed to work together.

NISIRA: There is really great movement now. In our consultation the people want the mine to be open. There is some hesitation from former combatants who really feel we should engage them too, but within the next 3 weeks.. We have consulted with the

people of Panguna, we have engaged the Mekamui, they are formally in the process now. Within the next few weeks we will be holding three big forums: one in North Bougainville preferably in Buka, one in Central Bougainville earmarked for Arawa, and one in South Bougainville. I think it will be scheduled, maybe, in Siwai. At these public forums we will gauge the Bougainville people's view on mining, on re-opening of mining. Today the official ABG position is not yet to re-open the mine. We still await the thoughts of the landowners, the ex-combatants and also the people of Bougainville to speak out through these Forums and then after this consultation with our people, ABG will be able to make a formal announcement on the re-opening of the Bougainville copper mine.

30.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K500,000 needed to contain outbreak

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE Bougainville Cholera Task Force needs half a million kina to fight the cholera outbreak in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Chairman of the task force, Patrick Koles revealed this on Monday afternoon during a press conference with the media in Buka.

He said that AusAID had given K10,000 in total under the Governance Implementation Fund (GIF) to help the task force with its planned programs to address the issue while the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) had allocated K50,000 from the ABG budget to help with treatment.

Mr Koles said that the National Government would also help Bougainville through the Health Department with some funding to help contain the cholera outbreak.

Meanwhile the task force is carrying out awareness in schools in the affected areas of the Haku constituency to inform students and make them aware of the situation in the area.

Children from 10 to 15 years old are being affected.

Also the Bougainville Cholera Task Force has imposed a total ban on the sale of cooked and home-made ice block in markets throughout Bougainville.

He appealed to the people of Bougainville not to panic, however, they must practice good hygiene in their homes.

30.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Practise basic hygiene'

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE outbreak of cholera in Lontis Village, Buka Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) has been confirmed.

The result of the samples of stools sent to the Central Public Laboratory in Port Moresby last week confirmed the cholera.

Chairman of the Bougainville Cholera Task Force, Patrick Koles on Monday confirmed the outbreak in the Haku constituency.

He told a press conference in Buka on Monday afternoon that a total of 65 patients had been treated with two confirmed deaths. There were no deaths reported.

He said that most of the cases that were treated had mild symptoms of diarrhoea. He said most of them received treatment and were discharged while 15 of the reported cases required admission to the health centre for fluid replacement with IV fluids.

Mr Koles said those worst hit were children between 10-15 year old school children and

most cases revealed that more girls were affected as women and children of that age group were doing a lot of work in the villages.

He said however that health authorities moved quickly into the area and managed to contain the situation before it got out of control.

He said that while the figures had risen to 65, the task force assures the community that attendances at Lemanmanu Health Centre and the advanced medical posts had declined and was under control.

Similar cases have been reported in the Hagogohe area and the Hutjena however health workers have already moved into the area to help contain the situation.

The task force would conduct awareness and encourage school teachers to ensure students got the message on basic hygiene measures.

Mr Koles appealed strongly to the public to take ownership of their health by practicing basic hygiene rules.

30.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville consultations on mine re-opening set to widen

Last Friday, Bougainville witnessed another milestone in its peace process - a reconciliation ceremony between the President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville, John Momis, and the landowners from the six mine lease areas around the Panguna mine.

That ceremony has set the stage for wider consultations on the re-opening of the mine.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Bougainville's Vice President Patrick Nisira

[Listen here !](#)

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NISIRA: There is really great movement now. In our consultation the people want the mine to be open. There is some hesitation from former combatants who really feel we should engage them too, but within the next 3 weeks.. We have consulted with the people of Panguna, we have engaged the Mekamui, they are formally in the process now. Within the next few weeks we will be holding 3 big forums: one in North Bougainville preferably in Buka, one in Central Bougainville earmarked for Arawa, and one in South Bougainville. I think it will be scheduled, maybe, in Siwai. At these public forums we will gauge the Bougainville people's view on mining, on re-opening of mining. Today the official ABG position is not yet to re-open the mine. We still await the thoughts of the landowners, the ex-combatants and also the people of Bougainville to speak out through these Forums and then after this consultation with our people, ABG will be able to make a formal announcement on the re-opening of the Bougainville copper mine.

30.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville on course for independence referendum

Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles, says he gets a strong sense that the Bougainville peace process is on track and that conditions will be right for a referendum on independence when the target date is reached.

He is on an official visit to Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, where he's held talks with the president of the autonomous region, John Momis.

And Mr Marles says it's vital for PNG and the whole region, that the terms of the peace deal are adhered to, as a fitting tribute to the 15 thousand people who lost their lives during the civil war in the 1990s.

Presenter: Richard Ewart

Speaker: Richard Marles, Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs

[Listen here !](#)

30.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KOROMIRA BENEFIT

By Aloysius Laukai

The St. Gregory Technical High School, Koromira yesterday benefitted from another donation from Australia totaling TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND KINA.

And this was announced by the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Affairs, RICHARD MARLES at the ground-breaking ceremony in Koromira yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was witnessed by ABG the member for Central Bougainville in the National Parliament, JIMMY MIRINGTORO, ABG Minister for Finance, ALBERT PUNGHAU and the veterans Affairs Minister, DAVID SISITO.

According to the school's principal, MR. MIHEN this would be the 3rd time the school has received assistance from Australia through its aid agency Ausaid.

MR. MIHEN said that earlier Ausaid had contributed with the Workshop building and a Generator worth more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

Yesterday, MR. MARLES Scooped the first soil at the site the new Science Lab will be built.

30.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Pictured is the RAAF Plane that brought the Australian Delegation to Buka and back.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

30.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AUS SUPPORT

By Aloysius Laukai

Australia has responded positively to requests made by the ABG President John Momis in Australia last month.

The visiting Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific States, RICHARD MARLES told reporters in Arawa last night that Australia is ready to assist Bougainville if requests for prioritized specific projects are made by the ABG.

He said that Australia has long relationship with Bougainville going back to world war 2.

MR. MARLES also announced approved funds for certain projects on Bougainville.

For the Cholera outbreak at Lontis village, Buka island they have approved SIXTY THOUSAND KINA including the TEN THOUSAND KINA already used for helping in containing the situation.

For the St. Gregory Technical School in Koromira they would give TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND KINA for the school's Science lab.

AND another SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA has been approved for the Bougainville Police Service's Housing Project.

Richard Marles and his delegation over-nighted in Arawa and returned to Australia this morning.



Pictured is Richard Marles digging the first soil out for the Science Lab.
Abg Minister for finance Albert Punghau is at his side.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

30.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Include women'

By JOYCE TOHUI

MEMBER for Selau in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Terry Mose has challenged the members elected to the village assemblies in his constituency to include women in their work.

He said village assemblies is the government of the people on the ground and the views of women must be included in their decision making.

He said the views of women must be considered as they are also chiefs in their clans. Mr Mose said as Bougainville is a dominantly matrilineal society, women must be recognised and urged the village assembly members to work closely with the people. Meanwhile an officer from the Local Level Government, Sione Nash told the people of Selau that his division was happy with the progress they have made so far to appoint their village assembly members.

30.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aust to help ABG combat cholera

AUSTRALIA will provide K60,000 to respond to a cholera outbreak in Bougainville. The Department of Health in PNG has confirmed that two people from Lontis village have died from cholera.

In response to a request for assistance, AusAID will provide K10,000 in initial funding to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Division of Health for fuel for emergency supplies and non-medical supplies such as disinfectant, buckets and mops. The remaining K50,000 will fund urgent maintenance of the Lemanmanu Health Centre, which is the closest clinic to the outbreak.

This funding will repair the generator, and upgrade water and sanitation facilities.

An AusAID adviser is also working closely with the ABG Division of Health to assist in the response.

AusAID officials in Bougainville have already assured the Autonomous Bougainville Government that Australia was ready to help. Australia has provided approximately K5.5 million to assist Papua New Guinea respond to cholera outbreaks in eight provinces, including for procurement of oral rehydration salts and technical support for co-ordination surveillance and response.

The funding for this latest assistance package is being sourced from the Governance Implementation Fund, which is a joint initiative between Australia, New Zealand and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

30.03.2011

Source: ABC Australian Broadcasting Corporation - 24H dans le PACIFIQUE

UN CHOIX DE FAÇON IMPASSIBLE

À l'occasion de sa visite d'une journée dans la région autonome de Bougainville en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, l'ambassadeur américain, Teddy Taylor, a déclaré que l'accès à l'indépendance ou le maintien du statut d'autonomie de Bougainville est une décision qui appartient au peuple de Bougainville. Toutefois, a-t-il souligné : « Les gens devront regarder [la situation] sans trahir d'émotion car si vous devenez une nation indépendante, comment allez-vous générer des revenus pour soutenir votre indépendance ? » L'ambassadeur s'est positionné en faveur de la réouverture de la mine de Panguna pour reconstruire l'économie de cette région. Rappelons que le mécontentement des propriétaires fonciers concernant le partage des revenus de cette mine a mis le feu aux poudres et déclenché 10 ans de guerre civile. Un accord de paix a ensuite été signé avec la Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée. Cet accord prévoit un référendum sur l'autonomie ou l'indépendance entre 2015 et 2020.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Swearing in of VA members completed

By JOYCE TOHUI

Swearing in ceremonies of the members from the four Village Assemblies in the Selau constituency have successfully been completed.

The VA members from the SIARA, HANTOA, SOROM and RAPOMA were sworn in starting from last week and ended yesterday with the RAPOMA ceremony.

During the swearing in ceremonies, Member for Selau, TERRY MOSE called on the people of his constituency to support the elected VA leaders.

He urged the VA members to have the courage and commitment to help the people of SELAU.

MR MOSE assured the VA leaders that he will work closely with them to serve the people.

And he appealed to everyone to support each other and put efforts together and work for the common good of the people.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Cholera needs half a million kina

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Bougainville Cholera task force needs half a million kina to fight the outbreak of cholera in Bougainville.

Chairman of the task force, PATRICK KOLES revealed this yesterday afternoon during a press conference in Buka.

He told the media conference that AUSAID has given ten thousand kina under (GIF) Governance and Implementation Fund, also ABG has put out fifty thousand kina in its budget to help the task force carry out its planned programs.

He said that the task force has already started awareness into schools in the affected areas of Haku.

MR KOLES said that there was awareness already carried before and now they are continuing again.

He also said that the National Government will also help with some funding through the National Department of Health to help contain the spread of cholera in the region.

He however called on the people of Bougainville not to panic as the episode is now controlled.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

IT'S ATOLLS TIME

By Tom Kathoa

The people of North Bougainville are being urged to support a candidate from the Atolls in this by-election.

Special mention is being made for candidate, LOUTA ATOI to be the new member for North Bougainville in place of Mr. Michael Ogio who is now Papua New Guinea's Governor General.

Mr. Lauta is being supported by the New Bougainville Party (NBP) headed by the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Hon Chief John Momis. Mr. Atoi was the first Papua New Guinean to play international rugby league in Australia and is also a successful businessman.

It is high time the people of the mainland of North Bougainville support the Atolls people by mandating one of their sons, Mr. Atoi to lead the region and be their representative at the national parliament.

This by election is a great opportunity for the people to do this by voting for Mr. Atoi. His election victory would not be a win for the Atolls people only, but for the region and Bougainville in general as a whole.

Mr. Atoi's campaign team has been to Tinputz, Kohin in the Solos area, Halia on awareness and campaigned at Haku this week.

The team will now be moving into other areas as of this week.

Meanwhile, a one week polling program would begin on the fourteenth to the twentieth of May with election writs to be returned on the 10th of June 2011.

Every eligible voter is asked to exercise his/her right by voting in the coming election.

Remember your vote is very valuable and you must not waste it.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville is progressing towards referendum and eventual independence and therefore your votes for a good leader is a must.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHOLERA VS ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By Tom Kathoa

The conformation of the presence of CHOLERA disease in some areas of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is of great concern to the election campaign. Chairman of the Bougainville Cholera Task Force, Mr. Patrick Koles said the disease has already been confirmed in the Haku, Hagogohe and Tsitalato constituencies.

Reports reaching New Dawn say a 19 year old girl from Suhin Village in the Hagogohe Constituency is the latest victim of Cholera.

Meanwhile, candidates and their campaign managers are taking every precaution when going about their campaign.

These candidates cannot provide food to their supporters openly as in the past elections due to fear of the spread of the disease.

Health Authorities and the Bougainville Cholera Task Force are appealing to people to wash their hands while preparing food and before taking their meals.

Special appeal is for mothers to look after their children.

Elementary and Primary Schools in the Hagogohe Constituency were empty as many students stayed home following news of the presence of Cholera in their area.

It was earlier reported that there were three cases of cholera in the area and the news caused many to stay home yesterday to clean their homes and build toilets.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CAMPAIGN HEATS UP

By Tom Kathoa

Campaigning by candidates for the North Bougainville Open Seat By-election has begun in earnest.

At the close of nominations yesterday, a total of twenty-one candidates have nominated to

Contest the by election caused by the elevation of the former member for North Bougainville, Mr. Michael Ogio to the Vice Regal position or Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

Among the twenty-one candidates are, five former ABG Members including former Vice President in the last government, Ezekiel Massat.

Mr. Massat has resigned from his Tonsu Constituency Seat last month to run for the vacant North Bougainville Open Electorate seat.

Other former ABG Members are, Joseph Watawi who was former Vice President to the late president, Joseph Kabui, Pais Taihu, Marceline Getsi Laris and Lawrence Kabul Belleh.

While candidates Joseph Watawi, Marceline Getsi and Taihu Pais lost their seats during the second ABG Election last year, Candidate Lawrence Belleh did not defend his Peit Constituency seat.

A medical officer, Dr. Joseph Velosi Poten and two former senior public servants in Mr. George Manu and Charry Napto are also vying for the vacant post.

Bougainville's film actor and play-writer, Albert Toro is also putting his claim for the job.

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Upgrade Tech

by Aloysius Laukai

The principal of the Gregory vocational school, GLEN MIEN this afternoon welcomed the Australian delegation into his school.

In his welcome remarks, MR. MIEN said that the school was fortunate to get assistance from the people of Australia through Ausaid to improve the capacity of education facilities on the island.

He said this was not the first time the school has received such assistance from the people of Australia through their aid organization Ausaid.

He said that the school was privileged to get such a visit from the Parliamentary Secretary and his team which included the High Commissioner to PNG, Ian Kemish and also the ABG Finance minister ALBERT PUNGHAU

29.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Marles in Arawa

by Aloysius Laukai in Arawa

The Australian Parliamentary Secretary Pacific Affairs, Richard Marles and delegation today visited Arawa in Central Bougainville.

They arrived from Buka on a chartered Helicopter and were welcomed in Arawa by students from the Tupukas Primary School in Arawa.

After lunch they visited the St. Gregory Vocational Centre and officiated at the ground breaking ceremony of a Science lab to be built by Ausaid at this school.

The science lab is to cost TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND KINA,

The team then saw the now abandoned Aropa Airport before driving through Arawa Town.

They also visited the Loloho wharf and saw the activities happening there with the scrap metal business.

They are having dinner in Arawa tonight.

29.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Me'ekamui insists on proper burial

By GORETHY KENNETH

The Me'ekamui tribal government says it wants responsible governments to pay K40 million for the proper burial of the 20,000 lives lost during the 1989 war.

The Me'ekamui government, headed by Philip Miriori, and supported by Raymond Hakena, Thomas Rabanz and others, held a press conference in Buka yesterday to announce their grievance.

Miriori, younger brother of late Francis Ona, said the mine can re-open but not until a proper burial of all the lives lost is done. He called on the Bougainville, PNG and Australian governments to immediately address and begin the negotiations to do this but wants the process to start in three months.

"Until all political leaders sign, endorse and support our human rights declaration, our ability to proceed with economic growth will remain tarnished," Mr Miriori said.

"This is a curse and the ABG has to seriously address this because if we do not address this, nothing will work out. This proper burial, I am asking the PNG Government and Australia to come in because this is no longer our own issue.

"As the president of the Me'ekamui tribal government I must now share with all of you of my fellow Bougainvilleans the cause that has been mandated for us to take by our culture, our heritage and our tribal constitution which was there from the beginning.

"The Me'ekamui are designing a living memorial to all of our brave and courageous souls who have sacrificed their lives during the human rights struggle.

"The 15 to 20,000 lives who fought so our human rights would be protected deserve our recognition and the recognition of all nations of the world. From the bottom of my heart and soul and with every fibre of my being, I ask you all for your support."

29.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Florists tour Buka

By Alex Munme

FLOWERS are normally considered valueless and good for decoration and beautification compared to cocoa, copra and other cash crops.

But that concept will soon be an idea of the past according to florists Bertha Kamit and Louisa Setavo, who are currently in Bougainville.

Mrs Kamit is manager of East New Britain Women and Youth in Agriculture and Mrs Setavo is president of Warangoi Corporative Society in floriculture, taro-culture and agriculture. Mrs Kamit has been in the industry since 2007 when it was launched in Port Moresby.

The two experts in the floriculture are in Buka on an invitation from Alma Getsi from Malasang village and are hosting courses on the industry. The first of a series of courses was held this week in Buka and the next one to be held at Malasang village on Saturday.

Mrs Kamit said there are many reasons why we should plant and look after flowers. "We need flowers for beautification, weddings, funerals, graduations and so on but above all it is now a recognised commercial commodity."

She said floriculture is a business and her trip here is on her sister's invitation, an opportunity to share the knowledge with her and other Bougainvilleans to promote and extend the industry.

The course will cover planting and managing, flower knowledge, flower arrangement and other topics.

29.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cholera in Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

TESTS in Port Moresby have confirmed a cholera epidemic in Bougainville, particularly the northern tip of Buka Island.

Already 65 cases have been treated at the Lemanmanu medical command post.

Fifteen cases required admission and have already been treated and discharged. The death toll still stands at two but the disease has spread across Gogohe and Hutjena and those affected were sent back to Haku, where the disease started.

The Cholera Task Force is now looking at strict measures to contain the epidemic from causing more deaths and to further prevent it from spreading all over Bougainville.

The age group most affected are between the ages of 10-15 year olds and most cases reported revealed that more girls are affected.

Chairman of the Cholera Task Force in Bougainville Patrick Koles announced yesterday that tough measures had been handed down and they are seeking legal clarification on certain issues like quarantine, closure of schools and others. But the task force made decisions today which include:

- * A total ban on cooked food, and homemade iceblock.

- * In relation to schools in affected areas, the task force felt that there is no need to close down schools unless schools report diarrhoea cases.

- * The task force also made a decision to conduct a massive awareness among communities and encouraged school teachers to ensure students get the message on basic hygiene measures which is the most important factor to controlling cholera.

"While the figures had risen from 65, the task force wants to assure the community that attendances at Lemanmanu Health Centre and at the advanced medical posts had actually declined indicating the outbreak was under control," Mr Koles said.

More reports will be detailed this week.

29.03.2011

Source: The National

Task force confirms cholera cases in Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BOUGAINVILLE cholera task force (CTF) has confirmed cholera is now in the autonomous region after stool samples from the area were tested positive at the Port Moresby General Hospital pathology laboratory.

Sixty-five people from the Haku constituency had been treated and discharged with two deaths reported.

Bougainville CTF chairman Patrick Koles yesterday said that of the 65 cases, 15

required admission to the Lemanmanu health centre for IV fluid replacement and had been discharged.

"While the figures have risen to 65, the task force assures the communities that attendance at Lemanmanu health centre and at the advance medical post in Lontis had actually declined indicating the outbreak is now being controlled," Koles said.

He added that the group most affected, according to statistics, was between the ages of 10 and 15 and the majority of cases were females which Koles said was not unusual as women and children of these age group were responsible for most of the chores at home.

"The public is also advised that while there were reported cases at Hutjena and Gogohe, the public health team had acted very quickly and had sent these cases back to Lemanmanu where they had migrated from," Koles said.

He added that the task force had put into effect a total ban on sale of cooked food and home-made iceblocks at public and roadside markets and is planning to conduct an awareness programme among the communities and schools to observe basic hygiene measures which were the most important factors in controlling the spread of cholera.

"Basically, the community must take ownership of their health by practising basic hygiene rules," Koles said.

The task force informed the schools to remain open unless there were reports of diarrhoea.

29.03.2011

Source: The National

Aussie rep on island affairs tours Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

AUSTRALIA parliamentary secretary for Pacific Islands Affairs Richard Marles arrived in Bougainville yesterday for a three-day official tour.

The visit follows an invitation from Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis during his visit to Australia last month to seek financial aid for the next three to five years which included;

- * A\$50 million (K131.8 million) to assist and restore Arawa as the economic hub and service delivery centre for Central Bougainville and also as the administrative capital of Bougainville,

- * A\$3 million (K7.9 million) to engage experts to help the ABG in its options of mining in Bougainville; and

- * A\$2 million (K5.2 million) per year over the next five years to resettle Carteret and other atoll islanders on mainland Buka and Bougainville.

Marles said he would have further discussions on ABG's request for assistance during his courtesy call to Momis today before the Australian delegation, including Australian High Commissioner Ian Kemish, departs for Arawa.

"We are here on principle, to see progress of the Bougainville peace agreement to which Australia was a key participant to the achievement of this very important document.

"We will meet with ABG and the national government to get their sense of how they have progressed in ensuring the agreement is followed," Marles said.

During his stay in Bougainville, Marles will also meet with ABG Mining Minister Michael Oni and Bougainville ACP Thomas Eluh.

He will also officiate at the ground breaking ceremony for Koromira Technical High School in Kieta after meeting with ABG Primary Industry Minister Nicholas Daku and Central Bougainville leaders.

28.03.2011

Source: Australian Government

Australia reinforces commitment to a better Bougainville

Media release

28 March 2011

Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles will visit Papua New Guinea, including Bougainville, from 28-31 March.

This will be Mr Marles first visit to Bougainville as Parliamentary Secretary and he will meet with the Autonomous Bougainville Government President (ABG), John Momis, and key members of the ABG to discuss the Bougainville peace process and related issues.

"This visit is an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to helping Bougainville to get back on its feet after so many troubled years," said Mr Marles.

In Port Moresby Mr Marles will meet with PNG Ministers and attend a roundtable on the National Advisory Committee on Disability.

Mr Marles will visit Port Moresby General Hospital and tour the PNG Eye Care clinic.

The Parliamentary Secretary will visit Papua New Guinea's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in the Southern Highlands and reinforce Australia's commitment to supporting the project.

Australia's support to the PNG LNG project includes providing advice on the establishment of sovereign wealth funds and the modelling required to assess the project's likely impact on PNG's economy.

Discussions during the visit will also progress the agreement between Australia and PNG to reposition the aid program to give priority to education and health, transport and law and justice.

28.03.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville woman MP says reserved seats have changed attitudes

A politician in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, Elizabeth Burain says special women's seats in parliament have helped change attitudes and represent a victory for women.

Ms Burain was elected last year to one of Bougainville's three reserved women's seats, brought in under the constitution in 2004.

She's told a gathering of Pacific women politicians in Wellington that the special seats have meant it's increasingly recognised that women take on public roles.

She says the MPs are now spearheading a move to have women contest all thirty three open constituencies at the next election.

“That’s our aim. We are leading this move and hopefully in the next house we will maybe have a quarter or half of the population inside the house of representatives”

28.03.2011

New Job on Bougainville ! [Click here !](#)

28.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RICHARD MARLES IN BUKA



Picture of the students from Hutjena Secondary school pictured dancing to welcome HON Richard Marles
All Pictures by Aloysius Laukai



Picture of Richard Marles and ABG Vice President Patrick Nisira(left)
(Far left ABG protocol Officer P Kiha and in the middle is the ABG Finance Minister Albert Punghau)

28.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MARLES IN BUKA

By Aloysius Laukai

the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, RICHARD MARLES MP arrived in Buka this afternoon for a three-day visit to Bougainville.

He was met at the Buka airport by the ABG Vice President PATRICK NISIRA and the Administrator of Bougainville, LAWRENCE DISIN. and members of the Bougainville Administration.

A traditional welcome was performed by students from the Hutjena Secondary School.

In welcoming MR. MARLES at the airport, Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA thanked Australia for its continuous support to Bougainville through its aids programs provided by Ausaid and for Australia's contribution to re-establish peace and normalcy on Bougainville by contributing to the Peace Keeping Mission on Bougainville.

In Response, MR. MARLES thanked the students for their warm welcome and said that Australia has long history starting from during the world war 2 and most recently its mining interest on the island.

The ABG President John Momis is hosting a official dinner for Hon Richard Marles and his delegation at the Kuri village resort this evening.



28.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOMINATION CLOSE

By Aloysius Laukai

Nominations for the North Bougainville By-election closed this afternoon with a total of TWENTY ONE candidates nominating.

The final names after the close of nominations are as follows,

George Manu, Justin Helele, Lautu Atoi, Albert Toro, Joseph Watawi, Michael Hamon Ross, Dr. Joe Poten Vilosi, Marchellin Getsi Laris, Joseph Gatana, Damian Kora, Clarence Kosun, Peter Mactobara, Lawrence Kabul Belleh, Charry Napto, Syslvester Niu, Pais Taehu, Joseph Baito, Rachel Opeti Konaka, Ezekiel Masatt, Donald Hamau, Professor Matabuna Tahun.

Campaigning will be carried out in the next two weeks.

Polling commences from May 14th to May 20th, 2011.

And counting will begin immediately after May 20th, 2011.

Writs will be returned on June 10th, 2011.

28.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ORDER OF DRAW

By Aloysius Laukai

As usual order of draw was done this afternoon after the close of nominations.
And this would be the numbers candidates would be listed under in the official ballot box.
Ezekiel Masatt would be number TEN
Justin Helele Number ELEVEN
Albert Toro Number 12
Joseph Watawi 13
Donal Hamau 14
Lauta Atoi 15
Professor Matabuna Tahun 16
Michael Hamon Ross 17
Marchelline Getsi Laris 18
Joseph Gatana 19
DR. Joe Poten Vilosi 20
Damian Kora 21
Clarence Kosun 22
George Manu 23
Rachel Opeti Konaka 24
Joseph Baito 25
Pais Taehu 26
Sylvester Niu 27
Charry Napto 28
Peter Mactobara 29
Lawrence Kabul Belleh 30

28.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt, ABG aim to sign agreement

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are aiming to sign the Panguna Mine Heads of Agreement by end of November 2011.

Bougainville Affairs and Trade Minister, also Regional MP Fidelis Semoso announce recently in Panguna and Arawa during his meetings with rebel hardliners that he plans to have responsible authorities sign the Panguna Heads of Agreement by November 2011. ABG vice president Patrick Nisira also told the Post Courier it is possible to sign the HOA in November and if that is the plan by the National Government, ABG is in full support and would work together to implement it. Nisira was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony between ABG president John Momis and the representatives from the Panguna landowners in Buka last Friday.

The HOA is part of the four steps agreed during the recent Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting, and is the last of the four to set the pace for the beginning of the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

The steps include social mapping, environmental impact study, baseline survey and eventually the HOA.

"I want the Heads of Agreement by November 2011. By doing this, it basically means we can now begin the Bougainville Copper Agreement review," Mr Semoso said in Arawa.

"Basically the issue means that we will commence the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement once the HOA is signed....the heads of agreement will decide...it's like a playing field. It will decide what is inside and what is outside.

"Bougainville, we are not like other provinces, Bougainville we have a time limit, we don't have the time anymore. We don't have time to waste.

"As the National Minister responsible I want to make sure we get the heads of agreement

signed by November 2011.

"The National Government is fully committed and I want to see the HOA fully complied with.

"I believe all these things can be done in three months but only if the responsible authorities like the ABG, National Government and basically the PNG and Bougainville Mining Divisions work together to make this happen.

"I am sure if we all work together we can actually achieve this ... That's an issue I want to discuss with Ishmael (Toroama), Chris (Uma) and Moses Pipiro.

"I am now issuing a challenge to the ABG, and specifically the Department of Geohazard and Mining plus the Mining Division in Bougainville to progress the resolution.

"The onus is now on the technocrats with the drive from the responsible leadership.

"The people of Bougainville don't need an open ended negotiations. The process of the review is very important and the people need to be fully informed on what is happening. I am more concerned about the review and focus on when the first gold will be produced," he said.

28.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso puts foot down on 'influx'

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea's Bougainville Affairs and Trade Minister Fidelis Semoso has put his foot down against the uncontrolled influx of foreign businesses into Bougainville, specifically Buka.

The regional MP for Bougainville, Semoso has cautioned the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) against allowing well established businesses to operate in the region especially in Buka. He has called on the ABG to better manage the influx of large business companies.

Semoso's caution comes after a well established Asian company (named) set up its offices and constructed billboards all over Buka, Kokopau, Arawa and in Buin. "As a young Bougainvillean leader I will not allow this to happen. I will not allow such large businesses to come in and take over businesses that struggling local businessmen are currently in. If they want to come in, they come in as partners of local businessmen," Mr Semoso said. He said if large businesses want to set up in Bougainville, they should come in under a joint venture agreement as stated in ABG's economic policy.

28.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Landowners make peace over mining issues

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE witnessed another milestone achievement last Friday — the reconciliation to end issues, differences and misunderstandings among landowners of the now defunct Panguna mine and the region's president John Momis.

President Momis and the Panguna landowners' association executives created a breakthrough in the history of the region and reconciled for the first time since the crisis. The reconciliation ceremony between President Momis and the representatives of the six mine lease areas led by interim chairman Chris Damana and Lawrence Daveona paves the way for Bougainville's prosperity and easy access to negotiations of re-opening the Panguna Mine.

The ceremony was two-phased; a meeting at the Parliament's Executive Council room at

Kubu with Momis and his Cabinet and later the reconciliation ceremony at the Bougainville Administration conference room in Buka. Head of the six mine lease areas took their seats. Chris Damana as the interim PLA chairman, Theresa Jaintong as the interim chairperson of the Siokate lease which covers Arawa urban, Benedine Kira as spokesperson for the Lower Tailings, Scholastica Meuka led the Port Access Road Mine, Severinus including those of the Upper Tailings and the Special Mining Lease and Tarciscius Karuai of the Port Access Road Mine. Momis was happy to hold the hands with leaders again and shake hands. All present shed tears during the ceremony. ABG vice president Patrick Nisira, at the forefront of this ceremony said he started working on the reconciliation plans since December 2010 and last Friday, he was proud to see the fruit of his work. Before the ceremony Nisira announced it would only be refreshments served and that there was no pig feast to celebrate. "The size of the pig doesn't matter, the size of the occasion does," he said. This ceremony now paves way for us to further our negotiations on the re-opening of the Panguna mine."

Momis congratulated the leaders for coming together to negotiate the mine re-opening and other issues. He spoke of the wealth of experience Bougainville enjoys and has appealed for unity to move Bougainville forward.

Chris Damana who spoke on behalf of the landowners said he was a happy man as it singled out the way forward for the ABG and the people of Bougainville. He said the ceremony will now pave way for economic recovery on Bougainville. He appealed to the media to report the truth and be sensitive to the Panguna issues. He also challenged the landowners to take the reconciliation from their hearts and to work with ABG for prosperity on Bougainville.

26.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier Weekend Courier

Bougainville turning into tourist hotspot

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE is a paradise, sometimes called "the land of black of flowers" in many song lyrics. The island is slowly developing into a tourist hotspot after attracting tourists from all over the world.

Recently, an Australian tourist vessel based in Cairns, briefly visited Buka last Wednesday with more than 40 Australian and European tourists.

Ocean Explorer arrived in Buka just before midday and was in Buka for the whole afternoon before leaving for Rabaul in the afternoon.

For the short stop over in Buka, the tourists visited the Rahats Botanical Garden at Hutjena, the Japanese Bunkers at Hahela and also the ABG Parliament House at Kubu. The ABG House of Representative was temporarily suspended to allow the tourists to have a tour of the Parliament chamber.

ABG House of Representative Speaker Andrew Miriki welcomed the visitors and said that Bougainville is keen on promoting tourism in the region and welcomes all visitors to the island's sandy shores.

The tourists, mostly elderly pensioners, were happy at the special reception given by the Bougainville's leadership.

They were also able to buy some souvenirs from the Buka market.

The tour organiser, Lawrence Belle said that Bougainville is an untapped tourist destination that is slowly developing.

And he said that this was Ocean Explorer's fourth visit to Buka.

The ship came from Gizo in the Solomon Islands and was cleared in Buka by Customs authorities before travelling on to Rabaul and continuing its destination onwards.

25.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Woman nominates

By GORETHY KENNETH

A WOMAN is among 14 candidates that nominated for the North Bougainville Open Seat.

Rachael Opeti Konaka, from Tinputz is booked to officially nominate today as advised by the Bougainville Electoral officers yesterday.

Ms Konaka and her male counterparts started nominating since Monday when the issued writs was.

People's Democratic Party candidate Damien Kora was one of the first to nominate apart from People's National Congress candidate Donald Hamao and PNG Constitutional Democratic Party candidate Dr Joe Potten Vilosi.

Sylvester Niu was the only one that nominated yesterday. The others are Justin Helele, Marceline Getsi, Joseph Watawi, Pais Taehu, Lautu Atoi, George Manu, Joseph Baito and Joseph Gatana.

This is the by-election timetable for the North Bougainville seat:

- Issue of Writs Monday March 21;
- Nominations close on Monday March 28;
- Polling starts Saturday, May 14;
- Polling closes Friday, May 28; and
- Return of Writs Friday, June 10

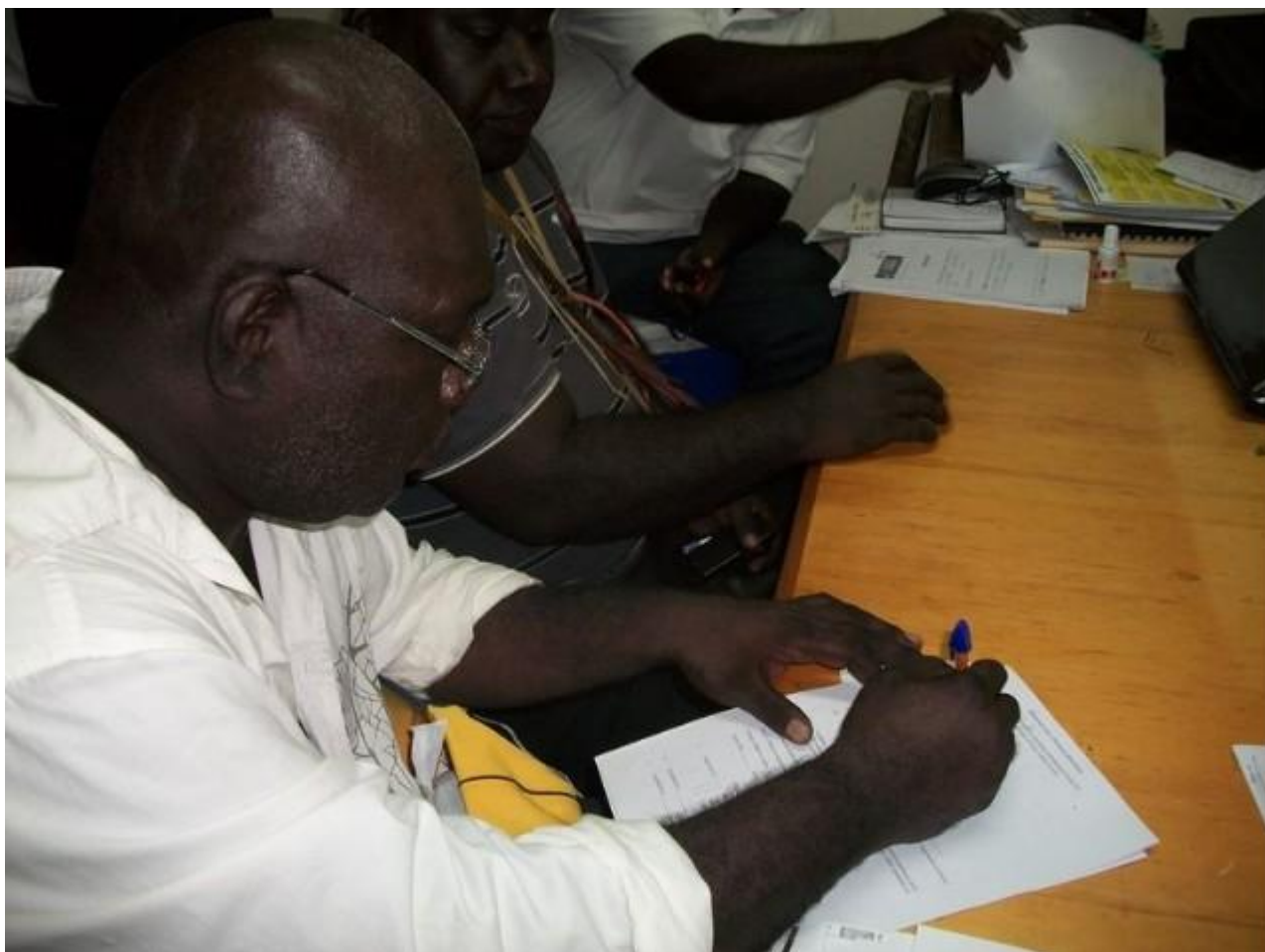
The results of the seat would be made known five days before the celebrations of the ABG anniversary on June 15.

25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

250311 MASATT

Former ABG Vice President former ABG member for Tonsu, Lawyer Ezekiel Masatt signing nomination documents in Buka this afternoon.



25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BELLEH

Bougainville's tour operator, LAWRENCE BELLEH Pictured also nominated .



25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pics

Picture of Candidate Rachel Opeti with her supporters at the front of the Buka Electoral Office this afternoon.



25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LLG happy

By JOYCE TOHUI

An officer from the Local Level Government, SIONE NASH told the people of SELAU that his division was happy for the progress they have made so far to appoint their Village Assembly members.

He made these remarks during the swearing in ceremony for the members of the HANTOA Village Assembly yesterday.

MR NASH said that this was the first recognized established Village Assemblies by the LLG Division in the SELAU constituency.

He said this was what the officers from his division have encouraged other Village Assemblies to do.

He told the people that the program must continue because this was where the people will receive information about the work of the government.

He added that if the Village Assemblies work together, proper service delivery will reach the people.

MR NASH urged the members elect to believe in themselves and have the courage to serve their people.

25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMAN ENTERS ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

The first woman candidate nominated today for the North Bougainville Open seat by-election.

The woman candidate RACHEL OPETI KONAKA dressed in traditional clothes pulled quite a crowd as her supporters started their procession from the Boat stop right to the Buka Hospital and then to the Electoral Office.

Four more male candidates also nominated today bringing the number to Sixteen candidates with more to nominate before nominations close at 4pm on Monday March 28th, 2011.

Those who nominated today included the former ABG member for Tonsu, EZEKIEL MASATT who resigned last week to contest the by-election.

Other was the former member for PEIT and strong Tourism promoter, LAWRENCE KABUL BELLEH who also came with a large crowd which included Bamboo Bands on trucks.

Former Educationist PETER MACTOBARA and former Chairman of the Tsitalato COE, JOSEPH GATANA quietly nominated with only their witnesses.

25.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POPULATION INCREASE

BY MARIA LAUKAI

Lack of Family Planning Awareness has been blamed for the increasing population on Bougainville.

This was revealed by Chief Maika, on Wednesday this week.

Mr Maika, told Bougainville meri programme team on New Dawn FM that the people living in the remote areas of Tinputz, know nothing about family planning.

Maika said, not enough health facilities and health personnel in the area, was making the situation worst.

With bad road conditions, they have to travel along way to seek medical treatment at the nearest Tearouki health centre.

Chief Maika told the Bougainville meri tete team, that the health services were very good during colonial days.

The Catholic Nuns would travel by foot to villages, further inland or mountainous areas, and visit the people. Teaching and treating. The seriously ill were referred to the health centres or straight to the Arawa general hospital.

He said today young people were marrying and bearing children at a very early age, As young as 15 years old.

MR. MAIKA called on the ABG to quickly reverse this situation.

24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COOKED FOOD BANNED

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka Urban Authority has banned the sale of cooked food as from today as a temporary precautionary measure.

This follows the outbreak of severe flu in the Lontis village of Buka island this week.

This was revealed this afternoon by the Health Inspector for the Buka Urban Council, LAWRENCIA KUMIS.

She told New Dawn FM that the situation at Lontis was serious and people must not take it lightly.

MISS KUMIS was speaking on New Dawn FM this afternoon with the Division of Health's Environment Inspector, FRANCIS TOMI.

They said that the symptoms collected from the people affected was similar with those of Cholera but the laboratory test will confirm it.

Samples have been sent to Port Moresby and the result could be known by tomorrow.

24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FUNDS DIVERTED

By Aloysius Laukai

The extension of the Division of Primary Industry Office in Buka has come to a complete stop following the diversion of funds earmarked for the building.

The half completed House which is funded from funds from the Governance Improvement Fund (GIF) has been left incomplete since funds were diverted for other programs under the Primary Industry Division.

A frustrated Contractor, HENRY JOHN from the HATSITOAKA PAINTERS AND DECORATORS told New Dawn FM that he had stopped work on the building because a total of TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND KINA for the building was removed from the project.

He said he was now waiting for the Bougainville Administration to refund these monies from the division's allocation.

New Dawn received copies of correspondences between the Deputy Administrator's Office concerning the use of these funds.

According to the letter from the Technical Division, Funds totaling K24,200 was used to pay for DPI Offices Office Equipments Laptop and Printer K7,200

And K14,000.00 was used on fumigation.

These expenditures were not included in the scope of work for the said building.



Pictured is the contractor Henry John outside the building in Buka Town
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture of Candidate LAUTA ATOI FILLING nomination forms.
AL



24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Some Pictures from Nomination week

This is one of the crowds that brought in three candidates by PDM Bougainville Branch.
There Candidate is Damian Kora
AL



24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELECTION PEACEFUL

By Aloysius Laukai

The North Bougainville By-Election has been reported as peaceful since campaigning started this week.

Election Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU said that campaigning is progressing well with no problems between candidates.

He assured all Bougainvilleans who have outstanding claims from the last ABG elections that funds were in the process for payment.

MR. TARAVARU said all genuine claims would be paid.

On the ABG Byelection to replace the member for Tonsu who resigned to contest the National Elections, he said that TONSU By election would be held by September.

And that if September is passed it would have to wait for 2013, after the 2012 National Government Elections.

24.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELECTION UPDATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Eleven candidates have nominated for the North Bougainville By election since the Nominations opened on Monday this week.

And out of the eleven, Three PNG Parties have nominated candidates to run under their tickets.

The Peoples National Congress has nominated DONALD HAMAU, People Democratic Movement has nominated DAMIAN KORA and PNG Constitutional Democratic Party has nominated DR.JOE POTEN VILOSI as their candidate.

AND independent candidates are, JUSTIN HELELE a former staff of the Bougainville Regional Member, Former senior public servant in the Bougainville Administration, GEORGE MANU, Former Kumul, LAUTA ATOI, former staff of the member for North Bougainville, JOSEPH BAITO, former ABG senior Minister, TAEHU PAIS, Former Ex-combatant member for North Bougainville, MARCHELLIN GETSI LARIS former ABG Vice President JOSEPH WATAWI and Businessman SYLVESTER NIU.

Meanwhile two more intending candidates have booked to nominate tomorrow morning. The two yet to nominate include the first woman candidate in the North Bougainville seat By election.

24.03.2011

Source: The National

US ambassador visits Bougainville

ATTAINING independence or maintaining an autonomous status for Bougainville will be a decision that the people of Bougainville will have to make, United States Ambassador Teddy Taylor said.

The ambassador was speaking during a one-day visit to Bougainville this week in which he was asked on what he thought of Bougainville's move towards a referendum for independence or continued autonomy in 2015.

"People have to look at this in an unemotional way. It is great but, once you become an independent nation, how do you generate revenue to support being independent?" Taylor asked.

In response to the issue of re-opening Panguna mine, the ambassador said it made sense, especially in rebuilding the economy of the region.

"The mine means jobs, it means income and that's real revenue."

During his short visit to the autonomous region, Taylor, who was accompanied by his wife Antoinette and public diplomacy officer Brian Asmus visited UNDP officials and met with Bougainville NGO groups after paying a courtesy call on President John Momis and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso.

This was Taylor's first official visit to Bougainville since he became US ambassador to PNG on Sept 21, 2009.

24.03.2011

Source: The National

Mine landowners and ABG reconcile

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

LEADERS of the Panguna landowners Association (PLOA) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) have resolved to work together in handling the Panguna

mine issues.

This pledge was sealed with a handshake between both parties and witnessed by the media last Friday in Buka town, Bougainville.

ABG President John Momis expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the lease holding groups of Panguna and said he was grateful for the initiative taken by PLOA to iron out differences and misunderstandings between both parties as a lead-up to the reconciliation ceremony.

Momis said when all parties were happy to work together, "then the common goal has already been achieved".

"That is why we have to work together to make that linkage of ownership and benefits.

"Let us not fear, let us move forward."

He added that the revolution was over and all stakeholders were on the next phase which was the development phase.

PLOA interim chairman Chris Damana also urged the media to report accurately on events in the region, especially on the sensitive issue of re-opening Panguna mine and challenged parties to the reconciliation to be genuine in their move to reconcile.

He added that for the purpose of transparency, any parties including the national government and ABG who had business with PLOA must initially go through a process of talking with three identified PLOA liaison officers including Lawrence Daveona of Kuranbang clan.

24.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Diarrhoea hits Buka

By GORETHY KENNETH

THERE is an outbreak of diarrhoea epidemic on the northern tip of Lontis, Buka Island, with a strong suspicion it could be cholera and already 35 cases had been reported with two deaths.

Clinical reports detail that the symptoms were that of cholera but a full confirmation from the laboratory at the Port Moresby General Hospital was yet to be received and should be made known by Saturday.

A state of emergency has been declared effective as of yesterday and would continue for the next three weeks. Acting chief administrator and chairman of the Cholera Task Force Raymond Masono announced this yesterday during a press briefing which also included donor partners specifically AusAID, WHO, Red Cross Bougainville, World Vision, health advisers, the provincial health executives and Buka General Hospital. A massive awareness was undertaken by the Cholera Task Force to contain and address the outbreak.

The membership of the CTF was drawn from all sectors including PNG Ports, Buka Town Authority, Media Division of the AROB, Church Health Services, National Broadcasting Corporation, AROB administration, AROB health, Buka Hospital, Chamber of Commerce, NAQIA, media representatives, education and other NGO representatives. The public was advised to take precautionary measures such as boiling water before drinking, washing hands before handling food and after using toilet and ensuring food were cooked properly before eaten.

The public was also advised to come to the nearest health facility for treatment and for information or guidance if they experience any acute episode of diarrhoea. The areas that come under Lontis include Opaha, Tanurongu, Gogonua, Tegese, Soena, Pipisu, Rekrek, Kokobul, Putu and Moni.

Those mostly affected were from Opaha, Gogonua and Tegese.

The population in that area was over 2000 and the nearest health centre was Lemanmanu. Quarantine had been issued as a medical command post set up at Tegese

village.

“The suspected cases of acute diarrhoea outbreak being reported through the health facility level including the Buka Hospital and based on the reports submitted to the AROB Health Office stands at over 35 cases with two deaths,” Mr Masono said.

“This week the technical support from the Department of Health, WHO and AROB Health officers have put in place the structure of the Cholera Technical Response Team to co-ordinate the five key areas in responding to the outbreak.”

Mr Masono challenged the CTF committee to work together to contain the outbreak.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pictured is the type of Crowd these Candidates are attracting in Buka Town.

This was taken from the PDM Party procession outside the Electoral Office in Buka.

DAMIEN KORA is their Candidate

AL



23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TEN SO FAR

By Aloysius Laukai

Ten candidates have nominated for the North Bougainville By election since the Nominations opened on Monday.

And out of the ten, Parties that have nominated candidates are, Peoples National Congress, People Democratic Movement and PNG Constitutional Democratic Party whilst the other seven are standing as independents.

The names of the candidates that have nominated so far are, JUSTIN HELELE a former staff of the Bougainville Regional Member, Former senior public servant in the Bougainville Administration, GEORGE MANU, Former Kumul, LAUTA ATOI, former staff of the member for North Bougainville, JOSEPH BAITO, former ABG senior Minister, TAEHU PAIS, Former Resistance Force Chairman, DONALD HAMAU, a Doctor from the Buka Hospital, DR.JOE POTEN VILOSI, Former Ex-combatant member for North Bougainville, MARCHELLIN GETSI LARIS former ABG Vice President JOSEPH WATAWI and Businessman DAMIAN KORA. More are expected to nominate just before nominations close next Monday.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHOLERA POSSIBLE

By Aloysius Laukai

Health Authorities have not ruled out CHOLERA outbreak in the Lontis area of Buka island.

And a press conference this afternoon was told that confirmation would be made known once laboratory tests are completed by tomorrow.

A brief from the Cholera Task Force chairman, RAYMOND MASONO called on the public to take precautionary measures such as boiling water before drinking, washing hands after using the toilet and also washing hands before eating.

He said that the Cholera Response team which was established when cholera hit New Guinea mainland has been re-activated to help contain the situation at Lontis village.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SIARA VA

By Aloysius Laukai

Twenty- four members of the Siara Village Assembly were sworn in as members of the village assembly this morning at Siara village.

The ceremony was the first of four ceremonies scheduled for the Selau Village Assemblies.

Next village assembly is Hantoa which members would be sworn in tomorrow.

Today's ceremony was witnessed by the Chairman of the Selau Quigen Council, the LLG office and the ABG member for Selau TERRY MOSE.

Member for SELAU, TERRY MOSE in his speech vowed to work with the village Assembly on all development issues in the area.

He said that he was happy that now he can work with a Government Authority within the village.

MR. MOSE said that he would assist the Assembly with trainings so that the Assembly can function as expected.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TWO DEATH

By Aloysius Laukai

Two people are confirmed dead and thirty-five affected by the severe diarrhea at Lontis village on Buka island.

This has made Health Authorities on Buka island move quickly to identify the problem and contain it before more death occur.

Chairman of the Cholera Task Force, RAYMOND MASONO says that his team has already moved into the area to contain the sick from spreading.

He said that people around the area have already undergone preventive medication whilst his team are investigating the problem.

MR. MASONO thanked the Health Division and the World Health Organization for responding quickly to the problem.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Picture of US Ambassador's wife Antoinette Corbin Taylor welcomed at the Buka Airport by Ms Kazuho Ito a mixed parentage from Buka/Japanese.

US VISIT

By Aloysius Laukai

The US Ambassador to PNG, TEDDY TAYLOR and wife Antoinette Corbin Taylor arrived in Buka yesterday for a one day visit to Buka.

He told a Press Conference at the Buka airport that his brief visit to Buka was to see for himself what was happening on Bougainville in terms of development after the Bougainville conflict.

He said he was to have travelled from Buka to Kavieng but due to the Kavieng airport closer they will now visit the West New Britain Province.

Whilst in Buka the Ambassador had a courtesy call to the ABG President, JOHN MOMIS and also met with women groups and the UNDP team on Bougainville.

He left Buka today for Kimbe.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SELAU SWEARS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Selau Constituency will see four of its Village Assemblies have their Swearing In ceremonies starting tomorrow Tuesday.

According to their official program, SIARA village Assembly will have its swearing in ceremony on Tuesday 23rd March.

Hantoa Village Assembly on 24th March, Sorom Village Assembly on 25th March and the Rapoma Village Assembly on March 28th, 2011.

New Dawn FM understands that under the Local Level Government system the ABG supports Council of Elders and Village Assemblies as the lowest form of Government for the people.

And most of the time they are the only form of government which the ordinary villagers deal with to solve problems in the villages.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PAYOUT STARTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainvilleans who have outstanding claims from the last ABG general Elections have been assured that their payments would be made.

Yesterday the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU told a News Conference that he was happy the ABG has finally put in the money to pay these outstanding.

He said that this would now make the work of running the North Bougainville seat by-election without any problems.

A quick check by New Dawn FM saw claims being processed through the normal financial system of the government.

And Checks could be ready starting next week.

23.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEVEN NOMINATE

By Aloysius Laukai

Seven candidates have so far nominated for the North Bougainville seat by-election since nominations opened yesterday afternoon.

The Seven are, JUSTIN HELELE, GEORGE MANU, JOSEPH WATAWI, LAUTA ATOI, JOSEPH BAITO, TAEHU PAIS and DAMIAN KORA.

The first three nominated immediately after nominations opened at 4pm yesterday.

Joseph Watawi nominated at the Kokopau District under Assistant Returning Officer Julius Kaiae whilst Justin Helele and George Manu nominated under the Returning Officer, REITAMA TARAVARU.

This morning, LAUTA ATOI nominated after a long procession with supporters starting from the old Buka market to the Electoral office which located on Matanei building, back street Buka town.

Then a much bigger crowd with Bamboo and flutes came the PDM party group which had their main candidate, DAMIAN KORA and two PRO PDM independent candidates, JOSEPH BAITO and TAEHU PAIS.

Out of the seven only one has been officially endorsed by the Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) in which the former member and now Governor General was a party strongman.

Nominations will close next Monday March 28th, 2011 at 4pm.

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Radio Bougainville to go on air

ABOUT 250,000 people in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will soon get reliable information service through their local radio station, Radio Bougainville.

PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd and the Autonomous Bougainville Government recently agreed to co-fund the purchase of a new Short Wave transmitter for Radio Bougainville which will improve the transmission of the radio signals.

Radio Bougainville is the provincial radio station of the National Broadcasting Corporation.

Director of PNGSDP Don Manoa presented a cheque of K50,000 to ABG in Buka last week.

The ABG's counterpart funding for the project is K42,000. The cheque presentation ceremony was witnessed by representatives from ABG, UNDP, AusAID and staff from NBC's Radio Bougainville.

"Radio Bougainville (Maus Bilong Sankamap) is one of the oldest radio stations in PNG, started broadcasting in Kieta from 1967 until the time of the conflict (1988-1990)," said Mr Manoa.

He said the radio service has been an important source of communication for communities in north, central and south Bougainville including the atolls but it was off air for almost a year due to the break down of the transmitter.

Mr Manoa said although PNGSDP's funding component was not as significant as other projects it supported in Bougainville, the level of impact would be high considering the population in Bougainville who would benefit from the program broadcasted daily.

Bougainville President John Momis said as a result of the civil war, Bougainville has been reduced to basics.

"Such initiative encourages empowerment of the people as it will help to inform and educate the society," he said.

He said without that people would become victims of dependency syndromes so they become vulnerable to manipulation.

Mr Momis said it was disappointing that Radio Bougainville was not adequately funded by the National Government.

He said he was grateful to PNGSDP for recognising this need.

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'ABG must serve people'

By JOYCE TOHUI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government members were urged to carry out their obligations and responsibilities as mandated by the people to parliament.

This was the message given by the former Member for Tonsu, Ezekiel Massat during parliament sessions recently. Massat resigned his Tonsu seat under the ABG to contest the North Bougainville MP seat vacated by Governor General-elect Michael Ogio.

He challenged the ABG members and ministers of the ABG Government to find ways to help their people and not do it for money.

He said members must have aims to achieve and not use the lack of money as excuse.

Mr Massat said this when commending the ABG President John Momis on his ministerial statement.

He said that there were potentials available and if the opportunities were not taken, there would be no help received from outside.

He said the ABG must not wait around for help.

The ABG member for Atolls Frank Pasini thanked Mr Momis for including his people in his request of financial assistance from the Australian Government.

He said that the \$2 million requested per year over the next five years to implement the ABG Atolls integrated development policy for resettlement would really help his people.

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Give us a judge: Semoso

BOUGAINVILLE is now serious about bringing in a full time resident judge to service the region this year.

Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade Fidelis Semoso has pledged his support and wants to be committed to the establishment and financing of a resident Judge on Bougainville.

Justice Sao Gabi is on circuit on Bougainville. He arrived on Saturday in Buka where he was welcomed by a traditional Hangan women's group and ABG Minister for Police, Law and Justice Leo Hannett together with Administrator Lawrence Disin, deputy administrator Patrick Koles, resident magistrate Peter Toliken and Mr Semoso.

Bougainville ACP Thomas Eluh was also present to receive and welcome the judge.

Justice Gabi told a press conference that Bougainville was one of the five provinces that still had no resident judge but said the judiciary was seriously looking at these provinces.

Mr Toliken said the responsibility under the Bougainville Constitution to set up and

provide funding for a resident judge was Bougainville's and that preparations were already in place to accommodate that.

He said the Buka courthouse was already partitioned to separate district and national court registries as it was one of the criteria for bringing a resident judge to Bougainville apart from accommodation and office set up.

Mr Toliken said land has already been allocated and they were working on a submission for funding.

But Mr Semoso said there was a bit of funding to cater for the matter and requested for costing and other information so work would progress. Mr Semoso said: "Bougainville needs a resident judge and the political will to drive this is there."

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

IT at schools

STUDENTS and teachers of Hutjena and Tarlena Secondary schools in Buka got new computers from the Department of Education.

Twenty new computers were installed at the schools respectively.

The computers were supplied by Able Computing and were installed by Mr Thomas Podarua from the Department of Education's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) unit and Mr Karl Turnbull from AusAID.

The installation included networking the computers and running in-service training sessions for teachers.

The principal of Tarlena Secondary School, Lucy Oata said the students had graduated from Tarlena Secondary School with no computing skills which made it difficult for them at universities or find employment.

She was very grateful that her students would now have access to the latest technology to prepare them for the future.

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG members told to work for the people

By JOYCE TOHUI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) members have been urged to carry out their obligations and responsibilities as mandated by the people who voted them into Parliament.

This was the message given by the former Member for Tonsu, Ezekiel Massat during the ABG's first Parliament session last week. Mr Massat resigned his Tonsu seat to contest the North Bougainville seat vacated by Governor General Michael Ogio.

He challenged the ABG members and ministers of the ABG Government to find ways to help their people and not go after the lure of money.

He said members must have aims to achieve and not use the lack of money as their excuse.

Mr Massat said this when commending ABG President Chief John Momis on his ministerial statement.

He said there were opportunities available but if they are not taken seriously, there would be no assistance from outside.

He said there were a lot of criticisms on trips by the Government but the ABG could not wait around, longing for help.

Mr Massat said although stated in the Bougainville Peace Agreement that the National

Government will provide funding for Bougainville, the autonomous region must not only depend on that.

Meanwhile, the ABG member for Atolls constituency, Frank Pasini thanked President Momis for including his people in his request of financial assistance from the Australian Government.

He said the request for K2 million a year over the next five years to implement the ABG Atolls integrated development policy for resettlement would really help his people.

Mr Pasini told the House that this was good news for his people. He said his people were the first refugees of climate change in the world and the ABG must help them.

23.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Villagers destroy marijuana plants

KUNUA DISTRICT in the north-west area of Bougainville is one of the region's least developed areas. However, people from villages like Tohein and other areas near the Kunua District Station have finally put their heads together to eradicate cannabis or marijuana from their area.

North Bougainville Regional Police Commander Inspector Cletus Tsien and his New Zealand Police Advisor Inspector Andrew Smith with a team of community policing officers from Buka Police Station were at Kunua last Saturday to witness the second marijuana uprooting and burning event in the Teua Constituency.

The ABG member for Teua Constituency, Joseph Nopei, Kunua Executive Manager John Sisiasi; Council of Elders representative, John Siriri and various youth and women's representatives were present. The program began last month at Tohein Village and continued at Ubuyopei Village last Saturday.

Kunua Police Post Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Donald Boire with the help of Community Auxiliary Police Officers, youth, teachers and students from two primary schools in the area all helped in the uprooting of plants from a mountainside farm. Police and leaders encouraged the youth of Kunua to keep up the good work of freeing their area from marijuana.

22.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

US envoy coy on wreck

United States Ambassador to PNG Teddy Taylor says he has not been officially notified by the government of Bougainville and PNG on a plane wreckage on a Buka Island reported to be that of Amelia Earhart.

Although US public diplomacy officer Brian Asmus said in an unofficial note that the wreckage was not likely to be Earhart's plane, Mr Taylor refused to comment.

Mr Taylor said he had been kept abreast by newspaper reports and that if the plane wreck was found to be that of Earhart's, it would be an interesting aeronautical discovery and that would also further strengthen ties for PNG, Bougainville and the US.

Mr Taylor, who is on a quick visit to Bougainville with his wife Antoinette Corbin, was met by ABG ministers and Acting Administrator Raymond Masono, and welcomed by Kamarau Inter-national School students.

In a press conference, Mr Taylor's focus was centred on the US\$60 million aid America gives to PNG and the regional assistance program that Bougainville benefits from through the UN's HIV/AIDS programs.

He also spoke about the Panguna mine re-opening but said he could not imagine independence for Bougainville without it.

He said autonomy and independence were domestic issues for consideration.

22.03.2011

Source: The National

Writs issued for North Bougainville by-election

By JEFFREY ELAPA

WRITS for the North Bougainville by-election were issued in Port Moresby yesterday.

Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen presented the instruments for the by-election to Governor-General Michael Ogio at Government House yesterday.

The North Bougainville seat was left vacant following Ogio's election, by parliament, in January as the ninth governor-general of PNG.

The writs were signed at 10am yesterday.

Intending candidates have seven days, starting today, to nominate.

Nominations will close at 4pm next Monday.

Trawen said polling was scheduled from Saturday, May 14, to Friday, May 20. Writs will be returned on June 10.

Trawen said all nominations must be registered with the returning officer, Reitama Taravaru, at the Buka Electoral Commission office or with the six assistant returning officers in the six districts before March 28 (Felix Sarimu for the Atolls; Henry Taul for Nissan; Tommy Samson for Buka; Julius Kaiae for Selau; Garry Ariran for Kunua; and Peter Kutandeo for Tinputz).

He said 51 polling teams with five members each would be engaged in conducting the by-election.

He said while the commission was awaiting a response from finance and treasury for its K3 million request for the whole by-election operation, LPV awareness activities and trainers' workshops were currently underway.

Trawen said the North Bougainville electoral roll was being finalised for printing.

22.03.2011

Source: The National

Kunua community work together with police to fight marijuana

KUNUA district in the northwest area of Bougainville, is one of the region's least developed areas.

However, people from villages like Tohein and other areas near the district station have finally put their hands together to eradicate cannabis or marijuana from their area.

North Bougainville regional police commander Insp Cletus Tsien and his New Zealand police adviser Insp Andrew Smith, along with a team of community policing officers from Buka police station, were at Kunua last Saturday to witness the second marijuana uprooting and burning event in the Teua constituency.

ABG member for Teua constituency Joseph Nopei, Kunua executive manager John Sisiasi, council of elders representative John Siriri and various youth and women's representatives were also present.

The eradication programme began last month at Tohein village and continued to Ubuyopei village last Saturday.

Kunua police post officer in charge acting Sgt Donald Boire, community auxiliary police officers, youth, teachers and students from two primary schools in the area all helped in the uprooting of plants from a mountainside farm which they carried for 3km to Ubuyopei

where the plants were burnt after a short ceremony.

A primary school teacher, Michael Sition, who, along with fellow colleagues and students who lent a hand in the exercise, said marijuana was a drug not worth taking as it was a contributing factor to many social ills in the community.

He said when he was younger, he used to smoke marijuana but quit because he found out that it was very harmful to one's well-being and not worth taking.

Police and other leaders also expressed similar sentiments and encouraged the youth of Kunua to keep up the good work of freeing their area from marijuana.

21.03.2011

Source: ESBC / Bougainville Copper Limited

ESBC published the questionnaire for 2011 Annual General Meeting !

[Read all ESBC questions here!](#)

[Download here the official invitation to the 2011 Annual General Meeting and the Proxy Form!](#)

[Downloaden Sie hier die offizielle Einladung zur Hauptversammlung 2011 sowie das Proxy Formular!](#)

21.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNTDOWN BEGINS

By Aloysius Laukai

Out of the Thirty or so Intending candidates to stand for the North Bougainville By election, three have nominated after the nominations opened this afternoon.

Two candidates nominated under the Returning Officer, REITAMA TARAVARU whilst one more candidate nominated at the Kokopau District Office under Assistant Returning Officer Julius Kaiae.

The former ABG vice President under late President KABUI, JOSEPH WATAWI nominated to contest in the by election.

According to bookings already made to the Returning Officer Four more are nominating tomorrow.

Nomination closes next Monday 28th March at 4 pm

21.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WRITS ISSUED

By Aloysius Laukai

Writs for the North Bougainville Open Seat by election was issued today by the Governor General, SIR MICHAEL OGIO.

And following the issuing of the writs after four pm this afternoon three candidates nominated to contest the election.

The three candidates are, JUSTIN HELELE the former staff of the Bougainville Regional Member, nominated after nominations opened after 4 pm.

The other candidate that nominated this afternoon was, MR, GEORGE MANU the former Peace and Weapons Disposal officer under UN and longtime senior public servant.

Both candidates are running as Independent candidates.

21.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TARAVARU HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

The North Bougainville By election Returning Officer, Electoral Manager, REITAMA TARAVARU says with the payment of all outstanding bills from the last ABG election he hopes the by-election would be trouble free.

He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that he was happy that the ABG has agreed to settle all outstanding bills from the ABG elections.

MR. TARAVARU said that since the issue of writs to the close of nominations next Monday he expects many candidates to enroll for the election.

On the Common Roll update, MR. TARAVARU says that nearly all the Constituencies have been completed.

He said Common Roll update for the Atolls were done by Telephone and would be tidied up before the polling begins.

On the By election for the TONSU seat left vacant by the resignation of IZIKEL MASAT, MR. TARAVARU said that this would take place after September this year.

21.03.2011

Source: The National

Bougainvilleans claim existence of cult group

POLICE in Central Bougainville are closely monitoring activities of a cult group existing in the Aita area of Wakunai district.

According to station commander Oscar Tugein, concerned local groups in the area have been calling for investigating into activities of a certain cult group (named).

Tugein said church leaders, village chief, school management boards and other law-abiding citizens in the Aita and surrounding areas have called on police to immediately move in and arrest the cult leaders who are alleged to have been misleading the locals for years.

It is believed that those involved in the cult movement are ex- followers of two mainstream churches located in the Aita area.

Tugein said police reinforcement teams from other districts have been put on standby to assist.

Police reports revealed that the group has cleared a pathway leading from their "headquarters" near Kukuavo village to a location adjacent to two schools.

This was in preparation for the arrival of "the black king" who they believe would bring

them goods (cargo) and free services.

Cult members had reportedly stopped their children from attending school for fear that their children might be brainwashed.

A source said that some teachers had fled in fear for their lives and due to harassment by marijuana addicts from the area.

Former members of the sect (who are now under police protection) said that the “king and queen” of the group have urged their followers to participate in a “human sacrifice” ceremony in which two children would be offered as burnt sacrifices to their god.

21.03.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville schools struggling

MANY schools on central Bougainville are struggling to get by while others are turning to six or eight-in-one classrooms to ease the students learning capacity.

Schools up in the mountains of Kieta and in the bushes of the central Bougainville once benefited from materials supplied by Bougainville’s education authorities but most of them have been torched during the crisis and are now starting from scratch.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has only recently earmarked 10 per cent of its budget for schools on the island.

Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso, who has been preaching that he only received K500,000 grant a year, took a trip down to central Bougainville on his electoral runs, and like he always does, took time to visit almost all schools and parishes, church, women and youth groups in that area. Teachers, parents and school boards from all the schools that were visited shared the same sentiments – they are in dire need of funds to maintain their classrooms, build new ones and purchase uniforms or desks and stationeries for their schools.

It has been a struggle for the province that once took pride in the way its education was run.

Mr Semoso took time out last week to visit schools in central Bougainville and presented K10,000 cheques to churches, some to very run down schools, K5000 to most schools and K3000 to women and youth groups.

Most of the schools raised concerns about the District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) funds disbursed through their MPs and denied having had a share of these monies.

21.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STRONG WINDS

By Aloysius Laukai

There is very strong winds blowing at this very moment in Buka Town
1am PNG TIME.

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BDA DELIVERS

By Joyce Tohui

The Border Development Authority has been involved in assisting Communities throughout PNG with Ships and small projects that they can help themselves with. Since the Authority moved into Bougainville it has already contributed in giving out Saw Mills on Loans so that they can built their houses whilst at the same time repaying their loans without any interest.

Last week,BDA's Executive Chairman,POMAT MANUAI presented another sawmil to the Chairman of Tulele Peisa Inc an NGO group that is helping to resettle Caterets Islanders to mainland Bougainville.

The Mill will be used to cut timber for the resettlement program and at the same time it will be expected to repay its loan.

An Lease Agreement for the Mill will be signed in Buka later.

The mill was officialy received by the Chairman of Tulele Peisa Inc ALOYSIUS LAUKAI.



Pictured is MR. POMAT MANUAI shaking hands with TP Chairman MR. LAUKAI in Buka

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



A tourist trying to test a Bow on Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 at the Buka market.
AL

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Nago man MR. WATE selling local Buin Basket to the Tourists.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Sales at the Buka Market had alot of varieties for the Tourists.
Picture of Solomon Islanders displaying their items.
By Aloysius Laukai

21.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Pictures from the Tourist Boat visit to Buka last Wednesday, March 16th, 2011.
A Tourist is being welcomed by a Hangan villager at the Kuri village Resort.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

20.03.2011

ESBC Research

Panguna Landowners: Speech of Chairman Michael Pariu



Michael Pariu

MICHAEL PARIU RECONCILIATION WITH HON. JOHN MOMIS MHR. SPEECH DOT POINTS

1. Welcome and thank you –Vice President for arranging this reconciliation with our President Hon John Momis.

We are here today to reconcile with our President and as such I as a Member and past Chairman of Old PLOA would like to point out some of the reasons as to why we have had these differences over all these past close to 30years.

2. Historical records of why Old PLOA has never been attended to by Hon John Momis while as a Member of National Parliament.

- Since 1975 BCA review and the subsequent years, Hon Momis did not raise the issue of BCA review on the floor of Parliament to alert the National Government on the review of BCA provisions, unlike Sir Paul Lapun who got us 5% for Royalties;

- In 1981 PLOA approached Hon Momis with the concurrence of North Solomons Premier than, Leo Hannet to assist us with the BCA review;

- In 1982 Because of the absence of any assistance from Hon Momis with respect to the BCA review, Old PLOA began negotiations directly with BCL and came up with what we know as “Supplementary agreement between BCL and the Panguna Landowners Association. (show a copy) . This agreement has been reviewed twice, in 1984 and in 1986.

- Hon John Momis’ “Bougainville Initiative”. Old Panguna Landowners were described as being too close to BCL and not doing much for our own people and the Panguna demonstrations where our women folks were organized to demonstrate against BCL;

- 1988 November Landowners and Bougainville Crisis-

- 1989 Peace Package Ceremony – Arawa High School Oval on the 27th October 1989. OLD & NEW LANDOWNERS RECONCILIATION WERE CARRIED OUT AT THIS RECONCILIATION CEREMONY WHERE THE PEACE PACKAGE OFFER TO PANGUNA LANDOWNERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WORTH K780 MILLION OVER 5 YEARS WAS ACCEPTED. ALSO HERE WAS THE OFFER BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ON SOME SHAREHOLDING IN THE 19.06% SHAREHOLDING IN BCL.

- 1989 –December Rabaul “Hamamas Hotel Resolution” Meeting of all Parties, Provincial Government, Churches, PLOA & National Government. Hon John Momis was not present at this important meeting.

- 1990 Counter Offer negotiations-Port Moresby. PLOA team went to Minister’s Momis office in Waigani and wanted to see him and his officers told us that the Minister does not want to see us as we have not made any prior arrangement.

- Many times over the years Hon Momis has always talked in the media about the Old Panguna Landowners Executives as being responsible for the crisis because of our relationship with BCL at that time. That Old landowners have stolen millions of kina belonging to the Landowners (referring to RMTL) with no real facts to base his accusations and the latest is about three or four weeks ago over a news paper item that the executive placed over his request to the Prime Minister of the 19.06 % to transfer to ABG.

- Panguna October Reconciliation-President Tanis’ABG Government arranged for Old & New Panguna Landowners. This was completed successfully and witnessed by Ministers from his Government at that time. After this reconciliation we form the new Interim PLOA Executive with Mr. Chris Damana as the Chairman and you as the his deputy Chairman and Lawrence Daveona as the Interim Secretary.

- Also his reference to some of us PLOA members who live outside of Bougainville as “ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS” without due regard to all the work that some of us have done over the past 30 or so years for our Panguna Landowners.

Dispela e mol sampela hevi bilong mipela ol lain member I stap yet long Olpela Panguna landowners Association.

Em tasol.

Michael Pariu
Interim PLOA Executive

20.03,2011

ESBC Research

Agenda of Reconciliation Ceremony etween ABG President John Momis and the Panguna Landowners on Friday, March 18th, 2011 in Buka Town

**PLOA AND PRESIDENT MOMIS RECONCILIATION PROGRAM
RECONCILIATION CEREMONY**

10.00 – 11.30 am Meeting between Parties-BEC Conference Room

Venue: Conference Room

12.00 Noon Welcome Speech by Vice President

12.10 pm Speeched by PLOA Representatives

- PLOA Women's Representative
- Chief Michael Pariu
- Interim Chairman-Chris Damana

12.40 pm Parties to Reconcile with Hon Chief John Momis -led by Michael Pariu

• Old PLOA

1. Mr. Michael Pariu-Basikang Clan
2. Mr. Lawrence Daveona-Kuranbang Clan
3. Mr. Severinus Ampa'oi-Bakoringku Clan
4. Mr. Tony Anung-Basikang Clan
5. Ms Maggie Clason-Kuranbang Clan
6. Mr. Bernard Devata-Kuranbang
7. Mr. Tony Tapakau

12.50 pm Speeches:

1. PLOA

- Chief Severinus Ampa'oi

2. ABG

- Chief John Momis

1.30 – 2,00 pm Refreshments-End of Program

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Picture of Lawrence Daveona and President Momis with a Panguna Landowner (lady) Putting the traditional shell money on Momis on Friday March 18th, 2011.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

20.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Picture of A Panguna Chief Reconciling with the ABG President John Momis on Friday March 18th, 2011
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

19.03.2011

Source: The National Weekender

A stroll through Panguna mine

There has been much talk lately about reopening the Panguna mine which closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a 10 year civil war and left thousands dead and communities torn, reports BURL MOSES

WHEN Western mining operations seek resources in foreign lands they are signing up to face unthinkable cultural obstacles.

With the connection of the mining company and the resource rich nation's government having a strong business bond, the locals on the mining sight may get left out of some detailed operations and plans. Whatever goes wrong with mining operations, whether it is landowner payment disputes, government corruption, racial discrimination between foreign and local workers, mining chemicals causing problems with soil fertility and ocean marine life, the problems will most likely affect the people that live on the land the most. Exploring the crisis-affected lands of the Panguna mine site I often felt like an intruder in some strange neglected neighbourhood.

Almost all the mine site buildings have been burnt and the ones with solid foundations are now serving as food shops and homes to some of the original landowners.

There are at least 10 people who live on the site now that also worked there during the mines operation more than 20 years ago.

A 58-year-old local, who wished to remain anonymous, worked on the mine site in the laboratory building and now lives in one of the old hardware warehouses with his family expressed his views.

“The mine should benefit people for longer, for generations to generation.

“The money just goes back to the (mining company’s) country.

“After they open supermarkets (at the mine sites), it left little money for the landowners.

“We stopped the mine, now it’s really quiet.”



Panguna Mine

Young children walking past the old married quarters.



A lone copper dump truck that was completely burned out during the crisis.



Twenty-seven large copper dump trucks that were burned to the ground. Nature is slowly growing around the rusted bodies.



The largest open-cut mine



Clothes lines and gardens. The village life has reclaimed the land that the modern mine was operating in.



The old recreation pool for the mine workers



Broken down toilets in the Panguna pool bathrooms



Clothes hanging outside the old fuel station. According to a local, there are at least ten people living in the mine structures that also worked for the mine.



Philomina, Natalie, Alison (2 year old in lap), Katherine and their dog Peter. Passing time on the front porch of what used to be the fuel station. There are ten people that live in this building.



Scrap metal everywhere in Panguna

19.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS RECONCILE

By Aloysius Laukai

Landowners of the now closed giant Bougainville Copper Mine in Panguna today reconciled with the ABG President, Chief John Momis in Buka today.

The reconciliation ceremony was witnessed by the Panguna Landowners and Members and ministers of the ABG House and including administration staff.

The Reconciliation was following outburst by one Panguna leader, Lawrence Daveona questioning why the ABG President was calling for the 19 percent Shares on BCL now owned by the Papua New Guinea National Government.

This is now a thing of the past as the leaders today reconciled and vowed to work together for one united Bougainville.

Speakers at today's ceremony included senior Panguna Landowner SEVERINUS AMPOAI, Landowners Interim Chairman, CHRIS DAMANA and the ABG President Chief John Momis.

MR. MOMIS in his speech said that the situation on Bougainville was like kids fighting for an empty pot of rice already eaten by dogs.

He said instead we should work together and cook a new pot of rice which all of us can enjoy.

MR. AMPOAI just thanked the organizers for uniting them with their government.

AND MR. DAMANA called on the people to support the Panguna landowners in their bid to fast-track the re-opening which can benefit the region.

19.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE TO INVESTIGATE CULT GROUP

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Police in Wakunai, Central Bougainville have been called to investigate the activities of a cult group operating in the Aita area.

Reports received from Buka police said that police reinforcement's teams from the three regions of Bougainville have been urged to help police in Wakunai to investigate the matter.

Wakunai Police Station Commander, Sergeant Oscar Tugen said that concerns have been raised by the people in the area for police to move in immediately and arrest the cult leaders.

They said that the cult leaders have been misleading the local people for years.

18.03.2011

Source: The National

'Taylor-made' for a new

Rio Tinto's record on Bougainville is nothing to be proud of

reports SINCLAIRE SOLOMON

AS talks resurfaced in the past few weeks about re-opening the Panguna copper mine, so too have the critics of Bougainville Copper's environmental record.

One of the most vocal critics is London-based activist and researcher Roger Moody.

"Tayloring a new Panguna mine for Bougainville," was how he described the re-opening move being spearheaded by BCL chairman Peter Taylor who detailed the plans recently on Radio Australia in an in-depth interview.

According to Moody, the various comments Taylor made are breathtaking in their complacency.

The BCL chief had maintained that: "There was never any toxic material put (into the Jaba River below the mine site)". He also claimed that: "Gold and copper were never produced at the mine; only a concentrate".

Referring to accusations that cyanide was used in gold processing at the mine, Taylor adds: "(So) those sorts of chemicals were never used."

"This manifestly self-serving statement is disingenuous, to say the least," Moody tells The National by email from London last week.

He says that while there has been no proof that Panguna used cyanide, the predominance of sulphides in its ore necessitated employing flotation technology to which the addition of enormous quantities of lime was essential.

"A report published by Applied Geology Associates of Australia in 1998 – a decade after militant actions by the nascent Bougainville Revolutionary Army closed down the

Panguna mine – also pointed out that the copper concentrator had spewed out many thousands of tons of tailings each year which included toxic metals such as mercury, lead, zinc, cadmium, arsenic as well as residual lime.”

Taylor, he maintained, conveniently does not refer to the impacts of these tailings, dumped into the Jaba River system, as they reached the river’s outlet to the Empress Augusta Bay.

“No competent authority has doubted this resulted in massive sedimentation although for many years there has been scientific dispute over whether these wastes may be termed ‘toxic’ to marine life.”

In 1983, one authority declared that “Benthic (bottom dwelling) organisms are being continually smothered by tailings and even after mine closure they may continue to suffer because of toxic concentrations of copper in bottom and interstitial waters. Re-establishment of a bottom community may therefore be slow and limited”.

Another study, a year before which was commissioned by BCL itself warned: “There is evidence to suggest that levels of copper in interstitial waters of submarine tailings deposits (>166 ppm) will be toxic to more sensitive benthic organisms resulting in impaired recolonisation of tailings in the longer term by bottom dwelling animals”.

Moody notes that since no further scientific survey has been done on this aspect of the Panguna operations, it is impossible to judge whether such a disaster (to give it a realistic title) has in fact occurred..

“But that only serves to compound alarms that BCL may now be contemplating using submarine tailings ‘disposal’ (STD) should the mine re-open.”

Moody says in fact the option of piping tailings directly into the ocean is not a new one. This was mooted by BCL-Rio Tinto a quarter of a century ago, proving to be one of the triggers for the first Bougainville revolt – one that became the most devastating mining-related conflict ever suffered by peoples in the South Pacific .

Moody championed the Panguna landowners’ cause in his 2007 book “Rocks and Hard Places” where he maintains that Rio Tinto has never apologised for its wrongs on Bougainville where its prowess as the most diversified of global miners is based.

“The nearest it has come to contrition was an expression of vague regret for its stark neocolonial stripping of a huge copper and gold deposit on Papua New Guinea’s island of Bougainville.

“Leased in 1966, when the territory was under Australian control, and within six years the Panguna mine had become the most commercially successful of all the company’s operations.”

“Costs were savagely cut by dumping all the mine’s waste (tailings) into the nearby (Jaba) river. By 1988 a few of the Panguna landowners, led by a former Rio Tinto mine worker, Francis Ona, demanded US\$10 billion compensation for the ruination of their gardens, forests and waterways.

The company jeered at the claim and refused to negotiate. Ona stepped up a nucleonic “Bougainville Revolutionary Army”, declaring independence from PNG.

Backed by helicopter gunships, PNG troops invaded the island. In the bloody civil war that ensued up to a fifth of the island’s population (between 15,000 and 20,000 villagers), many of them women and children, were to die before peace was reached in early 1998.

Rio Tinto belatedly confessed that it could have “done things otherwise” regarding Bougainville and, over the succeeding eight years, broadly hinted that it would never resume mining on the island.

Then in 2006, as copper and gold prices reached a record high, rumours began spreading through the mining media that the company was planning a possible return – it is now no longer a rumour.

18.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis: Media is vital

By Joyce Tohui

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis says Bougainville really needs good sources of media and communication to get information to the people.

"Before the Bougainville conflict, we were one of the provinces in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with good media sources however this collapsed during the crisis," he said. In a speech during the presentation of K50,000 by the Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program (PNGSDP) Limited to NBC Bougainville, Mr Momis said that with a lot happening in the region, the people must be informed of the changes and have their say on these issues.

He said as an autonomous government and the clock is ticking for referendum, the people of Bougainville must be made aware of what to come ahead and be prepared to accept these changes.

Mr Momis appealed to the media to feed the people with the right information and not mislead as Bougainville has a lot factions and groups that are yet to come together. ABG minister for media and communication and Member for the Taonita/Tinputz constituency, Carolus Ketsimur spoke of the need for Bougainville to improve its media and communication systems.

"I believe that if good media and communication systems are installed in the region, this can improve the people's standard of living, Bougainvilleans can have access to many things and know the outside world and also help children in schools," he said.

Both the president and the minister voiced similar sentiments by congratulating the PNGSDP Limited for recognising the need for Bougainville to have a good media and communication system in place to help its people.

18.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K35m hydro power project in Wakunai

By GORETHY KENETH

A PROPOSED K35 million hydro electricity project is being planned for Wakunai by the Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program.

The Togarao hydro project, as it is officially known, will be located at the upper catchment of the Wakunai River basin.

A heads of agreement was signed in 2007 by the then Chief Executive Officer of PNGSDP Robert Igara together with late ABG President Joseph Kabui and the landowners.

Extensive studies on the hydro power project have been carried out including environmental impact study to acquire an environment permit for construction and operation of the scheme.

The project to benefit up to 8000 people of Wakunai has a component comprising the construction of Togarao hydro power and the rehabilitation of 21 kilometres of road and construction of two bridges.

Joseph Bariamu, general manager engineering and operations of Western Power and his team were in Buka recently to present and update the ABD President John Momis and his team on the latter.

The project will run in three phases:

n Phase 1: The Civil Works including diversion works, headrace and spillway structure

n Phase 2: Construction of the 22kv Transmission line to Wakunai with extensions to be about five kilometres north-south of Wakunai and

n Phase 3: To be implemented at the tailend of phase 2. Installation of second 500kw

hydro unit, construction of the remaining 22kv transmission line north to Uruai and south to Mabiri and associated LV lines and consumer connections
It will cost K35.34 million.

18.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville gets textbooks

By Joyce Tohui

ACTING chief executive officer for the Bougainville education division, Michael Meten has thanked the European Union for supplying curriculum books for the teachers and students in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.'

"EU has come in a big way to help the schools in Bougainville and on behalf of parents, students and the schools boards of management I thank European Union and the people of Europe for supporting the program," he said.

Mr Meten said the EU supplied 156,576 textbooks to schools in the region costing more than K4 million.

Speaking at the presentation of the textbooks on Monday, he told the gathering Bougainville was pleased to get the highest number of textbooks among other provinces in the New Guinea Islands region and this was something the people of the region must be proud and grateful for. He said these textbooks will boost students' learning and will help the teachers in a big way to pass on knowledge to the students.

He also thanked the Education Department for its support and wished all well in the distribution of the books to schools in the region as there are rugged mountains and terrains to climb and rough seas to cross in order to reach many schools in very remote areas of Bougainville.

Meanwhile the manager for the National Education Media Centre, Hatsi Mirou challenged the administration officers from the Bougainville education division to ensure that all schools in Bougainville receive these textbooks.

She said that each school will receive 1, 2 or 3 books depending on the students' enrolment records in the schools and urged teachers that these textbooks must remain in the classrooms and not be taken home by students.

18.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Women leader calls for recognition of works

By JOYCE TOHUI

PRESIDENT of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Helen Hakena has called on the government and the people of Bougainville to recognise the work of women in Bougainville.

She said that the women of Bougainville were strong and vocal on peace during the conflict days which must be recognised.

Speaking at the International Women's Day celebration earlier this month, she said Bougainville women had achieved a lot and must be proud in joining hands with the world countries to celebrate their achievements.

"Women of Bougainville have contributed a lot in the peace building and reconstruction of Bougainville leading to where it stands today," she said.

She strongly urged the Bougainville women to be strong to protect their heritage and stand firm on their rights.

Mrs Hakena called on the government to recognise the work of women and always plan programs for young women of Bougainville as they must not be left out in the government plans because they are the future of Bougainville. She urged the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to help fund the programs of women in Bougainville. Meanwhile she highly commended the ABG Government for recognising women by allocating three seats for women in the ABG House of Representatives.

17.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG Parliament sits

By Joyce Tohui

ABG Parliament today wraps up its three days of parliament sitting which started on Tuesday 15th March.

During parliament, various ministerial statements were presented including Education, Mining and Health.

Members of parliament and ABG Ministers were given opportunity to debate, question and discuss issues of development for the Autonomous region of Bougainville.

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS also informed parliament of his request to the Australian Government for financial assistance.

He said that there was urgent need for financial assistance over the next three to five years until Bougainville is able to generate more of its own revenues.

He elaborated that his request included \$50 million to assist restore Arawa first as the economic hub and service delivery centre for Central Bougainville and secondly as the administrative capital of Bougainville, \$5 million per year to assist the Bougainville Police Service over the next five years, \$3 million for the capacity building of the public service, \$3 million to assist engage experts to help the ABG in its options of mining in Bougainville and \$2 million per year over the next five years to implement the ABG Atolls integrated development policy to resettle Carteret and other Atolls islanders on mainland Buka and Bougainville.

MR MOMIS said that in response to ABG's continuous request for assistance from the Australian Federal Police to the Bougainville Police Service, the deputy Australian High Commissioner and an AFP senior liaison advisor are visiting Bougainville this week to identify the level of assistance that the BPS requires

17.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG SUSPENDS PARLIAMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG House of Representative sitting was yesterday temporarily suspended to allow Tourists from Europe and Australia to visit the Parliament Chamber.

And the ABG House of Representative Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI welcomed the visitors when they arrived at the KUBU Parliament House.

MR. MIRIKI told the visitors that Bougainville wants to promote tourism in the region and would welcome visitors to visit the region.

He told the tourists mainly elderly that Bougainville will continue to promote its activities and their visit was welcomed.

The tourists were very happy at the special given by Bougainville's leadership.

The ABG Parliament sitting which started on Tuesday ended today.

New Dawn FM carried Live Broadcast from the Kubu Parliament House to its listeners in Buka town.

17.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS THANKS AUSTRALIA

By Joyce Tohui

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says he was thankful of his recent visit to AUSTRALIA which gave him the opportunity to raise important issues regarding the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

He made these remarks when presenting his ministerial statement to parliament on Tuesday this week.

He says his trip to AUSTRALIA accompanied by the ABG Deputy Administrator policy, RAYMOND MASONO was upon the invitation of the Australian Government.

MR MOMIS says they met with Australian NGOs, private sector, civil society groups and government officials including the Australian parliamentary secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, RICHARD MARLES who will be visiting Bougainville from March 28th to the 30th. President MOMIS says that he was struck by the level of good will towards Bougainville and was amazed at the number of people being to Bougainville and interested in learning about Bougainville post-conflict progress and challenges.

He added that throughout his engagement with the Australians, he had emphasised that a stable progressive and prosperous Bougainville is important for regional peace.

17.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MASAT RESIGNS

By Aloysius Laukai

As the countdown to the North Bougainville seat by election draws near the number of Intending candidates have been increasing whilst are quietly making their intentions known to the public.

In the ABG Parliament session this morning, the former Vice President and Minister for Justice and member for TONSU, EZEKIEL MASAT gave his resignation to the house.

MR. MASAT told the House that he had to resign from the ABG seat for Tonsu to contest the By Election.

He said that ABG needs the National Government and having a member working with the ABG was his number one priority.

MR. MASAT said that he is standing to the National Parliament because the current leaders were not assisting the ABG.

Nominations for the North Bougainville By-election open next Monday March 21st, 2011.

17.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sandline crisis . . . 14 years on

Retired and Former Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Major General Jerry Singirok MBE, reflects on the 1997 Sandline Crisis that grabbed the attention of the nation as well as the international community. His professional judgement at the time was critical. His conscience outweighed what was deemed as lawful executive order.

By Major General Jerry Singirok MBE (Rtd)

It has been fourteen years to this day when under my command as Commander Papua New Guinea Defence Force made a conscious decision, not only to abort the Sandline Contract "Contravene", but also to expel Sandline mercenaries out of PNG and subsequently ask the then Prime Minister, his deputy and the Minister for Defence to resign.

Historians and many commentators have marked this event as a major crisis in PNG history. However in the main it was a result of series of blunders on the part of the executive arm of the Government and policy advisor who had far ulterior motives other than addressing genuine plea for increased benefits for the landowners and the Bougainville Provincial Government.

The result was a significant shift in the security decision making thus affecting national security within the context of protecting PNG's national interest, subsequently unleashing the contract by the grieving party which was me as Commander and a handful of military hardliners who supported my opposition and successfully executed Operations "Rausim Kwik".

Upon reflection, it is disheartening to say the least that nothing has changed much since March 1997. From influx of illegal immigrants, lack of effective border security, and hegemonic tussles between the economic global giants, PNG continues to be an open and free playing field for investors and opportunists who by cohesion with our decision makers and respective agencies in the name of economic development ignore the plight of landowners and continue to generate uncertainties, frustrations thus creating a certain air of frustration throughout Papua New Guinea today.

Our era (1975-1997) was in the cold war era, where the military had to re-think and re-strategise new roles in Civil Military Affairs whereby the military if it had to justify its existence, must be restructured and re-trained into a military force that should be ready to assist during natural disaster, assist mainly in policing roles and contribution to international peace keeping and law enforcement.

It was therefore incumbent that those in position of command at that time understand the transition of a fighting force to a force for peace-making and the constraints and limitations it had was most daunting task for any military commander. This was the dilemma I had as Commander where the Papua New Guinea Defence Force was not tailored to fight a prolonged civil war against antagonists as it was not prepared, ill-equipped, lacked combat power which drastically affected the morale of the troops and most significantly lacked the political support. I had been a career soldier and attended one of the most prestigious and reputable military colleges where future Generals were bred. I have been privileged to be an exchange officer with the United States Army, British Army and was accorded a two year employment opportunity with the Australian Defence Force as a lecture in Military Arts and Tactics at the Land Warfare Centre.

These exposures and professional training I received was an insurance that assisted me to take command of the Defence Force even at a prime age within the bounds of good command, leadership and stewardship based on strict military ethos based on empathy. I will always mitigate and justify my actions regardless of public opinion and what lawyers and critics say. My professional judgement at the material time was critical where my conscience far outweighed what was deemed as lawful executive order to me were deemed unlawful superior orders because of the serious consequences of a military operations against thousands of innocent civilians.

The consequence of the actual military onslaught according to my professional judgment

would result in a carnage that would have been devastating to include serious crimes against humanity and would have drawn global condemnation and possible indictment to the Hague to face War Crimes Tribunal for atrocities against thousands of innocent civilians.

The indictment would have included members of the National Security Council and me as Commander, as we would be deemed to be culpable for conducting surgical military operations. The experiences by Bougainvillians, Panguna landowners, royalty issues, the environmental damages and the lack of negotiation on their behalf by the National Government and the developer, Bougainville Copper Limited were critical issues that were not mitigated well.

The lessons of good governance which lacked wider community and professional consultation are still ambiguous even to this day. Investors with multibillion investments are flocking into PNG to exploit the people and the resources that are now becoming scarce globally regardless of community concerns.

Today foreign and commercial security companies have taken over national security functions it seems, a service reserved for state security forces with little or no government investment has been redirected to revitalise and revamp PNG's own security forces. As a result of this neglect, the national security agencies have become defunct, disjointed, and operationally ineffective to protect PNG's interest, sovereignty and security to say the least.

The concerns of lack of comprehension and understanding the issues of protecting national interest and security are appalling. It requires a government that puts the wellbeing of its citizen first before any other agendas. The law and order is escalating, HIV and AIDS is on an endemic rise, use of illegal guns, poverty is widespread, rural infrastructures are deteriorating or have deteriorated and the Government services of basic health and education had not been seen and accorded to many remote parts of PNG. The land border remains porous and the maritime boundaries and air space are not protected. Equally of significant concern is the environmental damages as a result of industrial waste by the multimillion investors are a force of destruction that has and will continue to affect and plague Papua New Guinea.

Really if we continue the trend in the next five years of neglect to our national security then we may as well have an open door policy where exploiters globally can help themselves to our God-given resources forcing the next generation to opt to resort to antagonism as seen globally where established regimes are being literally ousted by the mass.

It is too evident to see the parallels of what is happening in PNG today even after series of government came into power from 1997 onwards, except today there is tactfulness in the way large contracts are handled so as to suppress and distort public opinion. The landowners and the citizens always get the raw end of the deal.

Regrettably the lessons learnt from the engagement of Sandline mercenaries and Bougainville civil war is easily forgotten it seems. While Papua New Guinea continues to go down a path of self destruction based on omissions, self serving and false proclamation of the wealth creation for only a few, the reality is that the next generation of Papua New Guineas may turn out to be a generation of disgruntled, misfits, uneducated, city roamers who may see those in authority as tyrants, self serving and may decide to take up arms to engage in a prolonged armed resurrection against the Government, foreign investors and exploiters.

In any case this security quagmire scenarios anticipated in the coming decade would be very difficult to deal with as lessons in the past have never been learnt. It has always and will be the people's call first for good governance while upholding our Constitution for the wellbeing of our citizens. It's time to learn from the lessons learnt from Sandline in 1997 and correct them for the better.

17.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville gains pace on mine opening

THIS week two important and successful historical occasions happened in the history of Bougainville - the reconciliation of Me'ekamui Defence Force Commander Chris Uma with Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso and the meeting with another hardliner Moses Pipiro with the National Government departmental heads at Panguna.

For Bougainville the "first time meets" for the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and Me'ekamui hardliners with the National Government team and Mr Semoso who went out of his way to meet these rebels, has enabled the progress of the negotiations for the re-opening of the giant Panguna Mine.

Mr Semoso did a leisure drive out of Arawa town on his electoral visit to Panguna to see if he could have a chat with Mr Pipiro, the man who has been guarding the mine pit and Panguna for the last 10 to 20 years.

Over a buai, the two spoke as if they were never enemies or there was no problem.

Mr Pipiro completely shut himself from the outside, even his own ABG leaders over the outstanding issues surrounding the Panguna mine.

Last Monday, Mr Semoso made his way through and did the dirty work of getting Pipiro out of his hide out.

And 11 hours later Mr Semoso took with him a whole delegation of PNG departmental heads who flew in from Port Moresby to the region for the scoping of projects in preparation for the release of the promised one-off K500 million in five years to Bougainville.

The heads, led by Secretary of Mining Nellie James and Health Secretary Dr Clement Malau had breakfast up at the rebel's brown coffee shop, all prepared by the families of Mr Pipiro and Philip Takaung, the Me'ekamui Government president.

And on Tuesday, Mr Semoso took another successful trip - to make him the first National MP to have Chris Uma come out, reconcile and straight away begin the mine talks on a personal level.

This in itself is a milestone for Bougainville which now has mining on Bougainville and especially the re-opening of the Panguna mine as a priority.

This was a historical moment for Bougainville, PNG and the international community is watching this issue.

The world can now breathe a sigh of relief because the feared rebel who mans the famous Morgan Junction, the gateway to the Panguna Mine has given the green light for the re-opening of the Panguna Mine.

But the re-opening of the mine will come with strings attached - like every other rebel needs - negotiations for compensation and the K10 billion issue.

Chris Uma, who took over as the commander of the Me'ekamui defence force up until the world renowned hardliner Francis Ona died in 2005, one of the factions that currently holds the key to total peace on Bougainville, for the first time in 10 years sat face to face with a Bougainville leader and a National Government Minister to reconcile, grieve and put forward his demands for the future of Bougainville.

The Mine talks can now begin and Bougainville can expect a progress in the peace process, weapons disposal and economic development at large.

17.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna on the verge of rising up from demise

PANGUNA, the home of the now defunct multi-billion kina Bougainville Copper Limited has been covered with thick forest and remains of what was then the savaged 1989 crisis.

Since the closure of the giant Bougainville copper mine in 1989, the environment was

reclaimed by beautiful but exclusive orchids, myriad colourful flowers, countless vegetables, especially the famous 'joko kumu' and very thick forests infested with bush animals.

What was also left were burnt down houses, naked buildings, a polluted Java river and a huge mine pit. This is not to mention the increased population of alluvial gold miners from all over Bougainville who make Panguna their home and those that have settled to find a way out of their criminal activities.

What happened 20 years ago, although history and long gone, is still fresh in the minds of those that held the place at heart.

But a new twist to the mine site is now an invitation to the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government from the rebel hardliners to make it a better place to live in, keep it clean until such time progress is made to speed up the negotiations and the re-opening of the Panguna Mine.

The Bougainville and Arawa Administration has made its way back into the mine site to revive their once high tech office and not only that, the place is now being maintained by trade store owners, alluvial gold miners and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. There are close to 12 trade stores right from the Morgan Junction right through to the mine area and, there are two small guest houses that offer a small fee of K50 a night run by the Me'ekamui and a small transit area for tourists or those who can spend a night to enjoy the beauty of Panguna.

Rebel hardliners manning the mine site, and its nearby surroundings have indicated to the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade and Regional Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso that they want police stationed at Panguna.

17.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sisito plan to meet Dadae

By PETERSON TSERAHA

BOUGAINVILLE'S former revolutionary hardliner now, Autonomous Bougainville Government Veterans Affairs Minister David Sisito wants an open dialogue with PNG Defence Minister Bob Dadae.

In the name of peace, Mr Sisito has requested the meeting to be held here on Bougainville in order to gain trust of former combatants.

The former rebel and now politician called on the Minister, his Secretary Billy Porakali and PNGDF General Francis Agwi to come to Bougainville to discuss how they can contribute to the region's security, weapons' disposal and compensation issues with the Bougainville executive council.

"I want us all to work together as one now, forget about the past burn the propaganda out and join hands for one Bougainville," Mr Sisito said.

He said all the guns floating around on Bougainville are Papua New Guinea Defence Force issue excluding just a couple which were smuggled into the region from neighbouring Solomon Islands during the crisis.

"Our security here on Bougainville is now at stake, with sighting of illegal fishing vessels in our waters, and with illicit activities going on in the Solomon Islands border it is just beyond our control now," Mr Sisito said.

He urged all Bougainvilleans that the PNGDF is not the enemy anymore now and they still take care of the nation's security, because Bougainville is still incapable and premature when it comes to security.

"The right people to talk to about weapons disposal are the PNGDF they will have the appropriate data as to how many of their weapons were lost here on Bougainville, and when it comes to compensation where ever a claim arises for damaged or lost property they will have to verify before anything is paid to a claimant," Mr Sisito said.

"With the absence of the army, false crisis claims are rising in an alarming rate and

claims are being paid with public money without defence force verification. Illegal fishing vessels are now treating Bougainville waters as their home fishing ground with the absence of patrol boats in our waters.”

Mr Sisito has called on the Bougainville affairs ministry to also look into these arrangements and help where ever they can.

17.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Viewers want TV signal back

By ALEX MUNME

EMTV viewers in Buka are calling on the appropriate authorities including the Education Division to restore its service.

This service was introduced to them some years back until mid last year when it was cut off. Unconfirmed report received is that it was due to technical fault to its decoder and transmitter at Hahela Catholic station.

A young leader from Ieta village within the vicinity of Buka town raised this concern on behalf of the viewers in Buka last week. He said the introduction of this service was a great social development however its failure has deprived them an opportunity to the physical world outside.

He said it was an opportunity for them to see and hear for themselves what has been happening outside the region and around the world through sports, news and other educational programs. Students who do not attend classes due to wet weather and other reasons can still follow school TV programs at home through this service.

17.03.2011

Source: The National

ABG parliament ends session today

THE Autonomous Bougainville government (ABG) today wraps up its three-day of parliament sitting from March 15-17, at the ABG house of representatives in Buka. During parliament, various ministerial statements were presented including education, mining and health, at which members of parliament and ABG ministers had the opportunity to debate, question and discuss issues of development for the autonomous region.

ABG president John Momis also informed the parliament on his recent visit to Australia which allowed him to request the Australian government financial assistance.

“The visit allowed me to put some specific request with regard to the need for urgent financial assistance over the next three to five years until we are able to generate more revenues ourselves,” Momis said.

He elaborated that request for assistance included;

- * A\$50 million to assist restore Arawa as the economic hub and service delivery centre for Central Bougainville and secondly, as the administrative capital of Bougainville;
- * A\$5 million per year to assist the Bougainville police service over the next five years;
- * A\$3 million for capacity building of the public service;
- * A\$3 million to assist engage experts to help the ABG in its options of mining; and
- * A\$2 million per year over the next five years to implement the ABG atolls integrated development policy to resettle Carteret and other atolls islanders on mainland Buka and Bougainville.

Momis further said that in response to ABG’s continuous request for Australian federal police assistance to the Bougainville police service (BPS), the deputy Australian High

Commissioner and an AFP senior liaison advisor would visit Bougainville this week to identify the kind and level of assistance that the BPS requires.

"My strong view is that a properly resourced police service will contribute to the weapons disposal programme.

"When Bougainvilleans have confidence in the ability of the police service to protect lives and properties, they will no longer see the need to hold on to weapons," Momis said.

He also informed the ABG parliament that following his visit to Australia, the Australian parliamentary secretary for Pacific island affairs Richard Marles would be visiting Bougainville from March 28-30.

17.03.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville thanks Australia

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis is thankful that his recent visit to Australia gave him the opportunity to raise important issues regarding the implementing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, which Australia helped to broker. He was accompanied by ABG deputy chief administrator policy Raymond Masono and protocol officer Willy Masiu upon the invitation of the Australian government.

They met with Australian NGOs, private sector, civil society groups and government officials including the Australian parliamentary secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles who will be visiting Bougainville on March 28-30.

"I was struck by the level of goodwill towards Bougainville. Indeed I was amazed at the number of people who had been to Bougainville in one capacity or another and who are interested in learning about Bougainville's post conflict progress and challenges."

He added that throughout his engagement with the Australians, he had emphasised that a stable progressive and prosperous Bougainville was important for regional peace.

17.03.2011

Source: The National

Government team visits Bougainville

SEVERAL departmental heads from the national government are in Bougainville this week to collect information as a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the draw-down of powers from state to ABG signed at the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting last month in Port Moresby.

The delegation consisted of secretaries for Works, Mining and Geohazards and Health, directors for the departments of Agriculture and Livestock, Forestry, Education, Lands, Border Development Authority and also officials from Teaching Service Commission. Headed by the national coordination office for Bougainville affairs (NCOBA), the team will visit various sites of interest including Kieta port, Buin hospital, Kangu border post, Panguna district office and Haku High school.

NCOBA director Ellison Towallom said this was the first of many such study visits for the government to work closely with the Bougainville government.

"Essentially we are here in preparation for a number of JSB resolutions to be implemented over the next couple of years.

"Some of the departments have signed MoUs during the JSB.

"These signed MoUs are not going to collect dust. We are here to implement them," Towallom said.

17.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tourist Boat Visits

By Aloysius Laukai

The Ocean Discoverer a Tourist Boat from Cairns Australia stopped for Five Hours in Buka yesterday.

Pictured is the Ship anchored outside Sohano Island.



16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Breakthrough

By Gorethy Kenneth

ANOTHER break through has been achieved! The Me'ekamui hardliners, guarding the heart of the Panguna mine have agreed the mine should be re-opened but want three major issues addressed.

Me'ekamui rebel hardliner Moses Pipiro and his team, Philip Takaung, Robin Tekapu and the Me'ekamui chiefs met with the Papua New Guinea leaders in Panguna yesterday to present their grievances for a possible solution to end the economic strife for the islanders.

Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso made a friendly visit to Panguna on Monday

afternoon to see if he could have his way in meeting Pipiro and his team. The meeting was successful which eventually led to the big meeting with PNG departmental heads led by Mining Secretary Nellie James and National Coordination office of Bougainville Affairs director Ellison ToWallom.

Mr Pipiro who denied any involvements at all on mining meetings, agreements and discussions said he wants and will support the re-opening of the mine but not until these three issues are addressed:

- * Outstanding reconciliations;
- * K10 billion compensation; and
- * Mining negotiations.

"For 25 years I've been here guarding this area. I've seen leaders die, many people lost their lives and I have been left out on mining awareness, agreements and other negotiations. I want to highlight the important claims which caused the war and they are to preserve the land and environment and about independent and sovereignty," Mr Pipiro said.

"We have to balance the life of people, we need basic services ... and there is a way forward to economic recovery for Bougainville ... I've had sleepless nights because of this war. Step by step I want other important issues addressed which are outstanding reconciliations, compensation and land.

"I don't see a problem working together in Bougainville. We've never been given the opportunity to speak and the ABG has not stood to provide an avenue for us to speak. We want unification and equal participation from the grassroots level to the leaders."

Mr Takaung who is heading the Me'ekamui government stressed to the leaders that they also want the mine to re-open but the ABG should exercise a bit more commitment to deal with this mining issue so that they too will have a share and avenue to discuss their concerns.

Ms James acknowledged the rebels' concerns and assured that the National Government was committed to help the ABG and advised that there were issues to address and thanked them for making time to meet them.

16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Militants clear one hurdle for mine to reopen

BREAK through? That is what the reaction is in relation to a meeting on Monday this week in Panguna between militant hardliners in Bougainville and a delegation of heads of Government departments from PNG that visited the closed mine at the weekend. The delegation also met with members of the breakaway self-styled Bougainville Government, Me'ekamui and its militants who say they have kept watch over the closed world class copper mine in Panguna since operator Bougainville Copper Limited mothballed and eventually closed the mine at the height of the bloody Bougainville crisis in 1989.

The Government delegation led by Bougainville Affairs Minister and Bougainville Regional MP Fidelis Semoso met Me'ekamui rebel hardliner Moses Pipiro and president of the Me'ekamui Government Philip Takaung and chiefs of Panguna.

Pipiro and Takaung, in the meeting apparently gave their blessing for the reopening of the Panguna mine but set some conditions on this happening. They want reconciliation to be carried out among all groups in Panguna, to be involved in mining negotiations and K10 billion in compensation for the Panguna people.

It is encouraging that one more hardline group has given its seal of approval for mining to reopen in Bougainville. The Panguna landowners have given their approval. In a series of meetings last month, the landowners recognised the need for mining to resume in Panguna as it's the only means forward for Bougainville.

Since autonomy over five years ago, the region has hardly moved forward in

development and the rebuilding of infrastructure needed to nurture economic activity that will promote growth and eventually economic independence.

Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis has taken a number of overseas trips to woo investors from overseas to Bougainville or at least seek and set up partnerships to bring in much needed money to try and propel the region forward. Two weeks ago he was in Australia on a trip sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

He held discussions on a number of issues with the Australian Government, especially with the Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and the Secretary for Pacific Affairs to brief them on the challenges, the financial challenges, the administrative challenges and the challenges of creating a culture of “democratisation” in Bougainville and the challenges of empowering the people economically. The trip was for him to garner support and appeal for more Australian help in Bougainville.

He also held talks with BCL. Like the landowners, BCL is agreeable to mining being reopened on Bougainville. BCL which operated and owns the mining licence for the closed Panguna Copper is open to discussions on reopening the mine and is open minded about the future.

BCL chairman Peter Taylor says a lot depends on the permit because it was as good as starting again.

He expects there will be a new regime and it will be administered by the Bougainville government rather than the National Government

He expects a feasibility study, that is acceptable to lenders, has to be carried out. This usually takes about a year and is a expensive process. New royalty schemes have to be negotiated and while BCL supports reopening of the mine, it is not committed to saying when this will happen with Taylor giving a time frame of three to five years.

But all that aside ... it is looking good on the ground ... everyone is talking the same language.

16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Warrant out for vessel's captain

By GRACE TIDEN

A bench warrant has been issued by the National Court in Kokopo for the arrest of the skipper of the oil tanker that fled Rabaul harbour two months ago.

Captain Moe Hein did not appear yesterday at the National Court trial sitting in Kokopo. He left months ago for Singapore soon after he was granted bail.

Kokopo residential judge Justice Salatiel Lenalia issued the bench warrant and also granted an application by State lawyers for the bail monies of K100,000 to be forfeited to the State. No one was there to represent the captain as lawyers from Warner Shand Lawyers had filed a notice to cease to act on the captain's behalf last month.

Captain Moe Hein, 44 of Yangon in Myanmar was charged with one count of stealing 8194.67 metric tonnes of fuel oil belonging to the State worth K14,500,030 last year in Bougainville. The Norwegian-run and Singapore-based oil tanker UBT Fjord, owned by shipping corporation Thome was believed to have been hired by a firm to pick up the oil which was stored at Loloho wharf during pre-crisis days and allegedly sold by ex-combatants, according to a report in The Australian newspaper. The boat was on its way to Singapore when it was seized by authorities and brought to Rabaul.

However, the vessel escaped in January despite a court order in force to keep it under PNG jurisdiction with shipping agent officers now before the court for allegedly aiding the escape of the oil tanker.

Police will now have to make diplomatic arrangements for the arrest of Hein, who is believed to be in Singapore, as there is no extradition treaty between the two countries. East New Britain police boss Superintendent Sylvester Kalaut said they tried getting

Interpol in Singapore to impound the vessel but the boat and the crew had not committed any offence under Singaporean laws.

He said PNG has lost everything in this case. "We lost everything," he said. "How are we going to get this person and the oil back. This now makes the job for police very difficult," he said.

16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K10m for risk allowances

THE National Government has already allocated K10 million to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to pay for its public servants' outstanding risk allowances. The issue of risk allowances came about when police and other disciplinary forces with support from serving public servants raised concerns to the Government to pay them for rendering services under difficult circumstances.

The Public Employees Association made a submission to the Bougainville and the National Governments in 2004 claiming millions of kina. The National Government approved the submission and funding has now been made available for payout. Teachers of Kieta Primary School raised the issue with the Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso and advised they had been waiting for a long time.

Mr Semoso told the teachers and students yesterday the National Government had allocated and released the K10 million for the payout.

Mr Semoso said the onus was now on the Bougainville PEA executives to explain to all the public servants of the region what the delay was.

ABG officials said yesterday those responsible for the issue still had to finalise the data, rates and list of all those public servants, some of whom had died and those who had resigned while others were retrenched.

16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

EU Trade Minister to visit PNG

For the first time since the establishment of relations between the EU and PNG back in 1977, a EU Trade Commissioner will visit PNG.

He has the rank and responsibilities of a Trade Minister. Mr Karel De Gucht will stop in Port Moresby on March 21 on his way back to Europe from his visit to Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. He will meet several stakeholders to support the new Economic Partnership Agreement with the region covering duty-free, quota-free access to EU markets for goods.

"PNG is the country in the Pacific with the highest potentials in economic and trade terms", said Commissioner De Gucht before leaving Brussels.

"The Economic Partnership Agreement we have concluded with PNG and Fiji is a key element in our partnership with the Pacific Region. I look forward to concrete steps for turning the agreement into reality now.

This will bring real benefits to small businesses and rural areas. At the same time, and while we negotiate a comprehensive agreement with the whole region, the door is open to other countries to join in the agreement".

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with PNG and Fiji, is, together with the EPA with the Caribbean, the only EPA where the process of adoption has been completed and that is now due for implementation. The EU has opened its market completely and PNG has also to take the necessary technical steps, such as dismantling tariffs. For this

EPA to deliver benefits to rural areas and small businesses it will be closely associated with development assistance for economic activities at sub-national level.

The Agreement was initialled in 2007, and then signed in 2009 by PNG and Fiji. It was already provisionally in force since the end of 2009. It grants unconditional duty-free/quota-free access to EU markets, while committing PNG and Fiji to an asymmetric opening of their markets.

On top of this, the EPA ensures particularly favourable conditions to Pacific countries in terms of rules of origin for fisheries ("global sourcing").

The EU keeps negotiating a regional comprehensive EPA with all the 14 Pacific ACP countries.

Total Pacific ACP-EU trade in 2008-2009 was around €1 billion with a significant trade surplus of over €500 million for Pacific ACP states. However, their share of EU imports and exports is very small – around 0.06% and 0.02% respectively.

The Pacific's most important export products to the EU are animal and vegetable oils, sugar, coffee, tea & spices, and copper. The EU's main exports are mechanical machinery, electrical machinery, vehicles and oil.

PNG and Fiji are the EU's main trading partners – together they comprise 83% of total EU-Pacific trade volumes.

16.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sir Rabbie quits public life after 40 yrs

By GRACE TIDEN

STATESMAN and former prime minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu has resigned as Chancellor of the University of Natural Resources and Environment (formerly Vudal University).

Sir Rabbie said in a statement that his resignation marked a significant milestone in his career as, for the first time in close to 40 years he no longer held any public office.

"Since my first appointment as principal private secretary in the office of the first Chief Minister in the early 1970s, I have held public office or served in the public service," said Sir Rabbie. "My resignation means that the long period, including the period covering a quarter of a century in the National Parliament and service as prime minister, minister and speaker of the National Parliament, has come to an end."

The former PM said since leaving Parliament after the 2007 election, he had been privileged to serve as Chancellor of the UNRE. "I am proud of what has been achieved in growing the university..." said Sir Rabbie.

He would now spend more time on his private sector work and other interests.

"I believe I can continue to contribute to the nation by my work in the private sector which includes positions of chairman of Kramer Ausenco, chairman of Kina Asset Management and chairman of Kina Securities Ltd and director of Marengo Mining Limited," Sir Rabbie said.

He said he believed his work on the boards of these companies contributing to the development of the nation and the growth of the private sector would enable him to continue to serve the community but in a different capacity.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE STRONG WOMEN

BY JOYCE TOHUI

President of the local NGO group, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, HELLEN HAKENA spoke highly of Bougainville women being strong and vocal in many political issues in the region.

She made these remarks during the international women's day celebration this month.

She says Bougainville women have achieved a lot and thanked the ABG government for allocating three seats for women in parliament.

She strongly urged the Bougainville women to be strong to protect their heritage and stand firm on their rights.

MRS HAKENA calls on the government to recognize the work of women and always plan programs for young women.

She says young women must not be left out in the government plans because they are the future of Bougainville.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

THANKYOU EU

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Acting CEO for the Bougainville Education Division, MICHAEL METEN sincerely thanked EU for their generous support to supply curriculum books for teachers and students of Bougainville.

He says the European Union has come in a big way to help the schools in Bougainville and thanked the people of Europe to support the program.

He made these remarks during the handover ceremony of the textbooks at the education conference room yesterday.

MR METEN says the total number of EU textbooks given to schools in the region is about one hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and seventy-six at the costs of over K4 million.

He says Bougainville is pleased once again as it receives the highest number of textbooks in the New Guinea Islands region.

He also thanked the National Education department for their support and wished all well in the distribution of these books to all schools in the region.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FOLLOW UP ON MOUs

BY JOYCE TOHUI

A powerful delegation representing departmental heads from the National Government arrived in Bougainville yesterday and will be here for a few days.

Delegation team leader and the Director for NCOBA, ELLISON TOWALOM says some of his team members have signed MOUs during the last JSB meeting and are here to follow up on these MOUs.

He says the MOUs are not to collect dusts but they are here to implement them.

He believes that there are some more MOUs ready to be signed which is works and the police.

MR TOWALOM says his delegation is here on an assignment even for a few days to get cracking information on these MOUs to report back to their political masters.

Meanwhile the team paid a courtesy call on the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS to brief him on their visit.

The delegation left for Arawa yesterday afternoon continuing on to South Bougainville.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MALARIA WORKSHOP

By Aloysius Laukai

Population Service International which carries out Malaria Awareness programs in Papua New Guinea is running a One-Day Malaria Training workshop for Media personnel at the LAMANA Hotel in Port Moresby.

The aim of the workshop is to work with media organisations in Papua New Guinea to carry out awareness of the killer disease that continues to be the number one killer in Papua New Guinea.

The one-day program is scheduled for Tuesday 15th March 2011.

The training will introduce Newspaper Editors and Radio DJs to the cause of Malaria, malaria transmission, prevention techniques and the socio economic burden malaria poses.

It will also showcase the work towards preventing and Controlling Malaria presently being done by the National Department of Health, PSI and Rotarians Against Malaria as funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

It could be a start of a long and fruitful relationship with the PNG Media.

PSI did several trainings on Buka island in December last year and in Buin, South Bougainville in January this year.

New Dawn FM is being represented by its Manager, ALOYSIUS LAUKAI.

New Dawn FM has been running similar programmes since last year with the support by Commonwealth of Learning based in Vancouver Canada.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMEN MUST BE RECOGNISED

BY JOYCE TOHUI

President of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, HELEN HAKENA calls on the government to recognize the work of women in Bougainville.

She says Bougainville women were very vocal on peace during the conflict days which must be recognized.

She made these remarks during the celebration of the international women's day early this month.

MRS HAKENA says women have contributed a lot in the peace building and reconstruction of Bougainville leading to where it stands today.

She urged the ABG government to help fund the programs of women in Bougainville.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON MEDIA

BY JOYCE TOHUI

ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says Bougainville really needs good sources of media and communication to give information to the people.

He says before the Bougainville conflict, Bougainville was one of the provinces in PNG with good media sources but it collapsed during the crisis.

He made these remarks at Hani's inn last Friday during the presentation of the fifty thousand kina cheque given by PNGSDP limited to NBC Bougainville.

MR MOMIS says with a lot of happenings taking place in the region, the people must be well informed of the changes and have their say on it.

He appeals to the media to give rightful message to the people and not misleading.

15.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE NEEDS COMMUNICATION SERVICES

BY JOYCE TOHUI

ABG Minister for media and communication, CAROLUS KETSIMUR spoke of the need that Bougainville needs to improve its media and communication systems.

He says if good communication systems are installed in the region, this can improve the people's standard of living.

He adds Bougainvilleans can have access to many things and know the outside world and also help children's learning in schools.

MR KETSIMUR made these remarks last Friday at Hani's inn in Buka.

Minister KETSIMUR congratulated the PNG Sustainable Development Program for recognizing the need for Bougainville to have a good media and communication system in place to help its people.

15.03.2011

Source: The National



Sir Rabbie joins BCL

SIR Rabbie Namaliu, who was prime minister at the height of the Bougainville crisis in 1988, has been appointed a director on the board of Bougainville Copper Ltd.

The appointment was announced last Wednesday by BCL chairman Peter Taylor, who, days earlier, had met with Bougainville President John Momis to discuss the possibility of opening the Panguna copper mine.

Sir Rabbie will become a member of Bougainville Copper's audit committee, which under the Australian Securities Exchange rules, has responsibility for governance and the rights of shareholders.

It will be among his duties as a non-executive director,
As prime minister in 1988-92, he was often criticised for the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Bougainville.

Taylor said the company was delighted by Sir Rabbie's acceptance of the invitation to join the board.

"The former prime minister is a distinguished statesman and a committed Papua New Guinean, with ministerial experience in foreign affairs and trade, treasury, primary industry, petroleum and energy and other areas of government responsibility.

"He holds directorships of several other Papua New Guinea companies, and is a member of the PNG Institute of Directors.

"We welcome the addition of his experience and judgement to the decision-making processes of BCL, at a time of great challenge and opportunity," he said.

Taylor said it was expected that Sir Rabbie's appointment would be endorsed by shareholders at the company's annual general meeting next month.

Subject to election by shareholders at the AGM, directors normally serve for a term of three years, after which they can offer themselves for re-election.

Sir Rabbie's is a non-executive director of Marengo Mining Ltd, a non-executive director of Kina Securities Ltd and chairman of the publicly listed investment company Kina Asset Management Ltd..

Last February he was appointed chairman of Kramer Ausenco, a new joint venture of PNG engineering company Kramer (PNG) Ltd and Ausenco of Australia.

15.03.2011

Source: The National

UN Women hold talks in Buka

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

WOMEN in Autonomous Region of Bougainville celebrated 100 years of international women's day last Tuesday by participating in a consultative workshop hosted by UN Women, a United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The UN Women consultations held in Buka town for the day, involved women representatives from the public and private sectors as well as faith-based organisations and groups such as the Bougainville Women Federation and Haku Womens Collective (HWC).

Discussions were based on questions such as what should be the focus of UN Women's work in PNG over the next two to three years and what recommendations could Bougainville women give to UN Women to improve its support to PNG.

HWC, in response, emphasised on the need to obtain international and neutral assistance in chairing of community forums throughout Bougainville to address the issue of courtship and marriages.

The group added that Bougainville urgently required birth and death registries with cause of death established to be placed on death certificates for human security.

"This is to prevent sorcery killings through suspicions of sorcery which often targeted elderly women and people with disabilities."

UN Women national programme specialist and country programme coordinator Julie Bukikun assured the women that all issues raised and recommendations put forth would be presented to the UN Women management.

"We reaffirm our commitment to work with you and the Autonomous Bougainville Government and we will assist where we can," Bukikun said.

14.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

EU companies eye PNG partnerships

By OSEAH PHILEMON

COMPANIES in Europe are showing increasing interest in investment opportunities in Papua New Guinea, a business consultant has revealed to Lae businesses.

David Fenning is a consultant with the European Union under its Private Sector Development Project.

He is currently in PNG having discussions with chambers of commerce and other relevant authorities about the possibility of establishing a business centre in the country for

European businesses.

The centre would act as the focal point for information on businesses opportunities in the country for EU companies as well as for Papua New Guinean companies looking for partnerships with companies in the European Union. Mr Fenning has held discussions with business executives in Madang, Port Moresby and last Friday in Lae. He said his job was

only to gather as much information as he could and then write a report for the European Union to make its own decision as where it wanted to set up the centre.

Lae Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Alan McLay told Mr Fenning that Lae city was the most central location being the industrial capital of Papua New Guinea and the

European Union should seriously look at the establishing the centre in the Morobe capital.

Mr McLay said Lae was also cheaper particularly in terms of rental for accommodation which remained relatively cheaper than Port Moresby.

14.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sankamap radio gets funding boost

ONE of Papua New Guinea's oldest radio station — Maus Bilong Sankamap — received a timely K50,000 funding from the PNG Sustainable Development (PNGSDP) yesterday. PNGSDP director Don Manoa and his team of executives arrived in Buka yesterday to present the funding to the Autonomous Bougainville Government, led by President John Momis.

The team was also in Buka doing a presentation on a multi-million kina Togarao hydro-electric project to Mr Momis and his team of ABG.

The funding will go towards purchasing and renovation of the shortwave radio transmitter so that the whole of Bougainville can tune into the provincial station for information and awareness programs.

"We are happy to provide funding for initiatives such as this that contribute towards social development of rural and remote communities," Mr Momis said.

"Although PNGSDP's funding component towards purchasing the radio transmitter (K50,000) is not as significant as other projects supported in Bougainville, the level of impact is still very high considering the 250,000 people of Bougainville will benefit from the programs broadcasted daily.

"PNGSDP is proud to be able to once again support an important project in Bougainville. Other projects are currently underway in Bougainville.

"I am aware that Radio Bougainville (Maus Bilong Sankamap) is one of the oldest radio stations in PNG, commencing services in Kieta from 1967 until the time of the conflict (1988-1990).

"I can only imagine that the restoration of Radio Bougainville's services in Buka in 1991 was welcome news for all and to this day has been an important source of

communication for communities in north, central and south Bougainville including the atolls of Mortlock, Fead and Tasman, as well as around PNG and the Solomon Islands. I understand that unfortunately, without a functioning shortwave radio transmitter for almost a year, most of these areas have been reached.”

14.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Elites set foundation

By PORENI UMAU

THE devastating handiworks of climate change on island communities in PNG has caused one affected island group to set an organisation to address their ordeal. The Mortlock Islanders in North Bougainville have set up a foundation to address the rising sea level woes faced by their island folk and also neighbouring islanders, Fead and Tasman.

With little or no government input or plans to help the affected islanders, elites from the Mortlock Islands have set up the TeMarae Development Foundation (TMDF) to help their affected relatives.

TMDF Chairman Telavika Faite said the foundation was set up in 2009 and registered under the Investment Promotion Authority with a membership of more than 100 Mortlock Islanders living in PNG, Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji and other Pacific Islands.

Mr Telavika said their people have long remained silent trying to tackle the forces against them on their own and TMDF was a way forward where many of these members would contribute to come up with initiatives to address, transportation, education, food, water, health, communication and many necessary services no longer found on the islands. He said that the foundation was not set up to be seen as an agency where money would be donated to help the people but to bring positive methods on how to address conflicting issues.

He said for too long the Mortlock Islanders and their two neighbouring islands have been given “lip service” by the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the North Bougainville administration and the Government.

14.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Minister thanks WB

By JOYCE TOHUI

MINISTER for Community Development, Women, Youth, Churches, NGOs and Sports in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Rose Pihei gratefully thanked the World Bank for the grant of K6 million given to help the women of Bougainville.

Ms Pihei said the World Bank grant of K6 million for “Inclusive Development in Post-Conflict Bougainville” has come at a time when Bougainville needs an infusion of funds for women’s development programs which include the civil society groups in Bougainville.

“I am very grateful that the World Bank has seen it fit to make available funding at the Provincial or an Autonomous Region Level,” she said.

14.03.2011

Source: The National

Panguna landowners back Momis

PANGUNA landowners have thrown their support behind President John Momis in his bid to re-open the Bougainville copper mine at the earliest opportunity to prop the autonomous region's economy.

Interim chairman of Panguna Landowners Association Chris Damana said over the weekend that the landowners were aware of what the president was doing to get the autonomous region back on a credible economic footing.

"On behalf of my people, I want to congratulate our president's efforts in talking to our friends in Australia during his visit there and his meeting with the chairman of Bougainville Copper Ltd, Peter Taylor.

"From the media reports, our president has handled the issue of re-opening Panguna mine with caution, bearing in mind that we have certain sections in our community who oppose the idea of a re-opening.

"As a leader, I believe our president and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade Fidelis Semoso have both made the right decision to re-open the mine.

"My people of Panguna will fully support our two leaders and all reasonable-thinking Bougainvilleans should also support them."

Damana praised Momis for arranging a meeting of think-tanks, both from within the country and overseas, to assist in mapping out the future of the region.

Momis had also requested the Australian government to support Bougainville with an annual aid.

13.03.2011

Source: ESBC Research / BBC World News

ESBC press release 20110313

Japan continues to support countries in development!

In an interview with BBC World News on Sunday, Mr. Noriyuki Shikata, the spokesman of Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan, confirms that there will not be any cancelation of Japanese support for countries in development as a consequence of the giant earthquake that struck Japan on last Friday.

Actually Japanese aid helps Bougainville to improve the island's infrastructure by building bridges between Buka and Arawa.

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) welcome the promise of the Japanese government: "We ask all Bougainvilleans to be grateful for the Japanese's generosity and not to impede their work by committing criminal acts like stealing cars or any other aggression as in the past."

12.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UPDATE ON TSUNAMI

by Aloysius Laukai

Town residents from Buka Town moved to higher grounds yesterday evening until this morning..Nothing happened...everything is back to normal.

11.03.2011 10:30 UTC

Source: ESBC Research

Tsunami Threatens Bougainville and the Atolls

A giant tsunami wave is supposed to strike Bougainville and the nearby atolls this evening. The Carteret islands and Mortlock islands may be severely damaged. Even Buka, Tinputz and the Arawa region may suffer destruction on their coast line. The tsunami results from a major 8.9 earthquake off Japan. Urgent tsunami warnings were published for the whole Pacific region.

11.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Exchange losses cut BCL net profit

By MOHAMMAD BASHIR

Bougainville Copper's net profit for year 2010 was K2.8 million (\$A1.1 million) in comparison to the company's 2009 profit was K8.7 million (\$A4.3 million). Operating expenses in this reporting period were in line with the budget save for exchange losses of K5.9 million.

A small net profit instead of an expected loss was due to better than expected income from interest and dividends and realised capital gains on disposal of investments. The tax dispute

legal fees continue to be a drain on revenue.

According to BCL's annual report, due to the small profit and the need to preserve cash for future development the company will not pay a dividend.

Bougainville Copper's liquid assets continue to be cash and Australian equities.

The Australian equity market has performed better than in the previous reporting period resulting in improved returns on investments.

It is intended to continue with the current investment strategy, whilst the Investment committee deems this to be the best option or until such time as equities need to be sold to fund

mine planning and development.

It is expected that income for 2011 should improve in terms of percentage returns but the size of the investment portfolio has been reduced as a result of paying funds into court relating to the tax dispute discussed below. The company has sufficient funds to cover its recurrent expenditure under the current plan.

By way of background to the dispute, mining operations were suspended in 1989 resulting in considerable losses to the company and these losses continue to mount.

In line with normal practice the company offset those losses against revenue as well as claiming depreciation of its remaining mine assets. Despite this approach being accepted by the

Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) every year since the suspension of mining operations a targeted IRC audit resulted in reassessments being issued.

The basis for the reassessment is that Bougainville Copper has no assets that can be depreciated. Bougainville Copper has taken expert legal and accounting advice and based on that advice lodged

formal objections to the amended assessments. The company paid approximately K13 million to the IRC during the 2007 year (which is close to the claimed unpaid primary tax) as a result of the IRC issuing Garnishee notices on the company's bank accounts. A further K48.8 million was paid to the Supreme Court on behalf of the IRC during the 2010 year under the terms of a court-sanctioned arrangement to place the IRC in possession of funds sufficient to pay all outstanding assessments, penalties and interest claimed by the IRC.

This arrangement also ensures that those funds are available for return to Bougainville Copper in the event that the company's challenges to the assessments are ultimately upheld by the courts.

This money is invested and is bearing interest. The principal and interest will be returned to the company should it prevail in the substantive tax appeal.

The board took the view that it was in the company's interest to pay the claimed amount into court rather than litigate this part of the dispute with likely high associated legal fees and so that the disputed amount would earn interest. This would not be the case if the IRC succeeded in its "pay now litigate later" action.

By far the largest part of the claim is for penalties and interest and Bougainville Copper believes that the imposition of such penalties is unconstitutional and not in accordance with

law. BCL's substantive tax appeals against the assessments and other amounts claimed has completed discovery and is waiting on directions aimed at fixing a trial date.

11.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Movie star visits Kamarau school in Buka

By Alex Munme

"The Whale Rider," I guess many of you have watched this movie on CDs and maybe TV.

If you did then, what was the name of the old man who acted as Paekea's grandfather? The students and staff of Kamarau International School in Buka can answer this question now.

He is Rawari Faratene who visited their school yesterday.

The students and teachers had that opportunity yesterday when the actor visited their school.

The visit was organised when he met them at the school after lunch.

In the meeting the students asked questions on the movie "The Whale Rider" and received amazing response from the actor.

One student asked if the girl was riding on a real whale and the actor explained how it was made to look like a real one.

Mr Faratene when answering their questions revealed the secrets behind the filming of the movie and the New Zealand Maori culture and belief in relation to whales and nature in general.

The actor explained the movie was based on their culture and it was the legend of Paekea who was in trouble in the ocean and was brought back to land by their ancestor – the whale.

He said because they believe that whales are their ancestors they never hurt or hunt them.

When a whale dies, every part of it is useful, not one bit is wasted. They would let it rot away to feed nature and scavengers. The bones would be used for weapons and so on.

The movie was filmed in 2001 and was popular around the world.

The girl Paekea who acted out the main character was nominated for the Oscar Academy Awards.

The visit ended with a short speech from student Leonardo Toliken and a Kamarau school cap as a souvenir for Mr Faratene.

11.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka crash claims one

By Alex Munme

A RISING rugby league star from Buka has died and 15 others were admitted to the Buka General Hospital after a nasty accident on Wednesday night in Buka.

Three of the five who sustained major injuries are fighting for their lives at the hospital while others with minor cuts and bruises were treated and released.

A truck carrying about 23 players and officials from one of Bougainville's top rugby league clubs, the Tsitalato Warriors, ran over the cliff on Hangan mountain on Buka Island.

Police and Buka Hospital doctors told the Post-Courier the truck allegedly encountered problems climbing the mountain.

Police claimed the driver of the truck was climbing in high gear with a full load and halfway up failed to quickly shift to low gear causing the truck to roll back and topple over the cliff.

Warriors' coach Raymond Gimots, who was with the players at the time of the accident, said when the players realised they were going to go over the cliff, they started jumping out of the truck.

Some of them were still in the truck when it landed at the bottom of the cliff, Mr Gimots said.

The 22-year-old who was killed was one of those who jumped out of the truck but into the path of the vehicle which had gone out of control.

The vehicle ran over him around the thighs and abdomen and he died around midnight at the Buka General Hospital.

The Warriors, who are grand finalists in the Bougainville Rugby League pre-season grand final in Arawa this weekend will not make it for the game following the horrible accident.

Coach Gimots told the Post-Courier it is a pity the team cannot make it for the grand final in Central Bougainville – as they were the winners in the last match.

This is the pre-season league, which will see team selection to take part in the PNG Rugby League season under the Bougainville banner.

Meanwhile, president of the Bougainville Rugby League Micah James has identified a train on squad and training will commence next week.

A final team will then be selected to represent Bougainville in the NGI 9s Challenge in Kokopo at the end of this month.

It is the first time in the history of sports in PNG that a sports team has been involved in a nasty road accident.

11.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mortlock group appeals for help

By PORENI UMAU

THE National and Autonomous Bougainville governments have been put on notice for

turning a blind eye to the plight of the Mortlock Islanders.

TeMarae Development Foundation (TMDF), an organisation set up by elites from the sinking atolls to help their more than 1500 affected relatives back on the island, revealed that the

National Government and the ABG have done nothing at all since the island community sounded alarms of their homes being washed away by rising sea levels.

TMDF chairman Telavika Faite said his people were normally shy and kept away from public attention simply because they thought their issues belong to themselves and the rest of PNG

should not be bothered.

However, he said they have reached a stage where their silence was a detriment to their people.

He said while their cries for help from authorities have fallen on deaf ears, the elites of Mortlock have taken the stand to help their affected families with or without government support.

Mr Faite said while the people battled the wrath of nature alone, education on the island has produced the lowest success rate. He said the school library was washed away when the last

tidal waves struck the island last year.

He said while the people found it hard to plant food crops, with rising sea levels affecting all gardening sites, their economic avenues have been cut away as well.

Mr Faite said since the suspension of the bechdemer trade, the only source of income on the island, the economic status of the island has dropped from meagre to poverty levels without

even the government stepping in to help.

"This has being the biggest catastrophic decision because our people have always depended on the marine life for economic returns. It is like telling the Highlanders not to mine gold,

gas or oil. Our people are no better off," he said.

He said copra was not profitable because boats do not go there anymore.

He said even for the last five years, the so-called slush funds of K10 million for each MP's district services improvement program have not reached the island.

Mr Faite said the Mortlock Islanders have not seen any form of monetary support from ABG at all.

11.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

World Bank hep welcomed

By JOYCE TOHUI

AN Autonomous Bougainville Government Minister has welcomed the World Bank's move to help women on Bougainville.

Rose Pihei, ABG Minister for Community Development, Women, Youth, Churches, NGOs and Sports and ABG women's representative for South Bougainville, said the bank's assistance can help

the women contribute in the government's development plans.

Mrs Pihei also announced that the Bougainville Women's Federation with the help of UNDP is already doing the groundwork on community mapping or community management research programs

involving all 33 Council of Elders of local level governments from North to South Bougainville and the atolls.

11.03.2011

Source: The National

UNFPA team off to Bougainville

UNITED Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is in the process of developing a specific programme for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

A UNFPA PNG-based team is in Bougainville this week conducting assessment for the region on programmes which UNFPA is running in the country.

UNFPA programme analyst Emma Powan said this was basically for programmes on reproductive health, youths and adolescents, gender, HIV prevention, population and development.

“UN, as a whole, is embarking on a new strategy for Bougainville for 2012-15 to align with the government’s medium term development plan,” Powan said.

The team will meet with parliamentary leaders and NGOs and faith-based organisations to assess issues and challenges faced by stakeholders in Bougainville.

Tuesday’s discussion focused on progress on prevention and ways in reducing the prevalence rate in the next four years.

Feedback of various issues compiled included the ABG’s political commitment to HIV prevention, the people’s culture and religious sensitivity to HIV prevention programmes and stakeholders’ capacity level in successfully achieving positive outcomes.

11.03.2011

Source: The National

Media told to report facts

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government’s vice-president Patrick Nisira has called on the media to take extra care when writing about issues that affect the lives and welfare of the Panguna people.

Nisira said Panguna mine was a sensitive issue and that the media must refrain from sensationalising news and showing favour to certain interest groups in Bougainville.

“To confer that Bougainville Copper Ltd is the company that will reopen the mine is already highly sensitive because the decision to reopen Panguna mine belongs to the landowners themselves and the ABG,” Nisira said.

He suggested that the media sought PNG government’s position on the matter and Panguna landowners’ position.

“We, in ABG, have no hidden agenda. Panguna will be reopened but only when all outstanding issues are addressed and the landowners satisfied.

“ABG will also have wider consultations with the communities in the region, including the churches, youth and women leaders and former combatants,” Nisira added.

He further cautioned all members of the Bougainville House of Representatives and ministers of the ABG to refrain from making media statements concerning the Panguna mine reopening and added that ministers and members had the duty and responsibility to support the efforts of the ABG.

11.03.2011

Source: The National

O’Neill names PNC rep for North Bougainville

THE People's National Congress party yesterday announced it was endorsing Donald Hamao as its candidate for the North Bougainville seat.

The seat was left vacant following the election of Michael Ogio as governor general last month.

The Electoral Commission has set the election for May 14, with the writ to be issued on March 21.

Hamao, 49, of Lontis village in Buka, is widely respected among the community in Bougainville. He has forged a close working relationship with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), the Mekamui, the Bougainville Resistance Force (BRF), and the Veteran's Association since the conflict on the island ended.

These factions are supporting him, and backing his endorsement by PNC.

"PNC has a special relationship with Bougainville, since the day founder Sir William Skate made the pilgrimage as Prime Minister to Paruparu village to discuss peace and rebuilding of Bougainville with Joseph Kabui.

"Through Hamao we intend to strengthen that relationship. PNC is part of a government that has made a deliberate decision to allocate funding and resources to revive the island's economy and infrastructure. We underlined only two weeks ago by committing K500 million for infrastructure development on Bougainville starting next year. This will continue with North Bougainville in our fold," PNC leader and Finance and Treasury Minister Peter O'Neill said.

O'Neill said with Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro joining PNC recently, the party would have a strong hand in driving the development agenda for Bougainville.

O'Neill thanked the different factions to the peace and rebuilding process on Bougainville for pledging their support for PNC and Hamao.

Hamao said he accepted the endorsement of PNC, and looked forward to working with the party and the Somare government to continue the good work on Bougainville.

"While we have come a long way since the crisis ended, a lot remains to be done on Bougainville and I believe PNC has the right policies to ensure our goals are achieved," Hamao said.

He finished fourth to Ogio in the 2007 general elections.

11.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

First Sitting 2011

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG House of Representatives will have their first sitting for 2011 from Tuesday 15th March to Thursday 17th March 2011.

In making the announcement, PARLIAMENT Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI says that the house will deliberate on many outstanding issues affecting the region.

The Speaker also said that he would be tabling a report in parliament on plans to run the ABG Parliament in the next 12 months.

On the overall sitting the Speaker said that he would be meeting with Leader of Government Business, JOHN TABINAM to sort out the order of the sitting.

New Dawn FM will be carrying out live Broadcast of the Questions without notice.

11.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SAFETY FIRST

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's Safety consultant, XSAVIOUR TSIWA is calling the people of Bougainville to be safety conscious at all times.

He was commenting after a truck load of Rugby League players failed to reach the top of the hill near Hangan village and reversing injuring its passengers.

One man was reported death from the accident.

MR. TSIWA said that all trucks and vehicles must be inspected to make sure they are roadworthy.

Drivers must be competent persons to operate vehicles, trucks including machines.

He said that Police must also carry out regular traffic cheks.

Drivers must not drive when they are under the influence of liquor and that trucks must not be over loaded.

The safety officer said that everybody must remember safety is our number ONE Priority to avoid Injuries/fatalities/property damage etc.

11.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WAKAI SUPPORT SPORTS

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for Bolave says that he has Sports has his priority in the Bolave COE.

He made these remarks at the closing ceremony of a one week Soccer Referee's

Training workshop in Nagovis this afternoon.

MR. WAKAI said that Sports plays a pivotal role in the reduction of law and order issues and must be supported.

He said because of this he also paid Uniforms for the Bana team at the recent ABG Games in Buin, South Bougainville.

MR. WAKAI said that he will continue to support the development of Sports in the district.

11.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls for Semoso to assist schools in Selau/Suir

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Chairman of the Selau Council of Elders, KEN AMSIA is calling on the Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO to assist schools and health centers in the Selau/Suir District this year.

MR AMSIA said Selau District this year will not be given enough funding in 2011 for schools and health centers, therefore want the member to chip in.

He appealed to the Minister to continue to assist schools and health centers in in the Selau District.

11.03.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Next step taken on path to Panguna reopening

James McGrath

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has held talks with Bougainville Copper

chairman Peter Taylor to identify the issues to work through if the Panguna mine were to be reopened.

Panguna Copper Mine, Bougainville PNG

Momis was positive about the meeting, telling ABC Radio that the groundwork for further discussion had been laid.

"We did not discuss issues in detail but I am satisfied that we have established a process, a form of dialogue that we can maintain as we both consult our constituents," he said.

While the pair had met informally in the past, the recent meeting laid out the issues which would need to be resolved by both parties before moving ahead.

Taylor told PNGIndustryNews.net that the meeting gave the pair a clear plan.

"What we needed to sound one another out on was what we thought the key issues were for the immediate future," he said.

"Those issues involve having the landowners form a united group so that they could be represented in negotiations and we also discussed the need for four parties involved – that is, the national government, the Bougainville government, BCL and the landowners – to work together.

"We also agreed that there were a lot of technical and legal issues to be worked through. For example, the Bougainville Copper agreement act document itself and the drawdown of mining powers by the Bougainville government."

Momis added that a new agreement would be needed if discussions were to be held formally, as the old agreement had been a source of friction which led to a 10-year civil war on the island.

"If we want to reopen the mine we have to have a total commitment to resolve the differences we had and to do it commercially," the president said after the meeting.

While Taylor said there was a range of commercial and legal issues to work through, the biggest hurdle was getting a united landowner representative bloc formed so that negotiations could progress.

"As far as Bougainville Copper is concerned, we're ready to move whenever the other parties are ready. I think the main issue at the moment is getting the landowner representative group formed," he said.

"Once that's done, and provided there's goodwill from the national government to engage, there should be no reason why we couldn't start the negotiation process formally."

Bougainville Copper has previously told PNGIndustryNews.net that it was consulting with landowners on an informal level.

Momis added after the meeting that there was a broad consensus on Bougainville in favour of reopening the mine, but that reaching a new agreement was still a long way off.

"There are some armed individuals in south Bougainville, but it's a minute proportion of the total population," he said.

"Everybody wants development, stability, peace and I am saying now that the slogan should be changed from 'peace through peaceful means' to 'peace through socio-economic means' ... that means empowering people by involving them in socio-economic programs."

His wish was for formal discussions to begin this year.

It is estimated that a reopened Panguna mine could produce 170,000 tonnes of copper per year and 1 million ounces of gold. Before it was closed, resources from the mine represented 44% of PNG's total exports.

10.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Boat sightings worrying

By Fabian Gatana

FOREIGN vessels sighted in Bougainville waters have become a major concern to authorities in the region.

Vessels have been sighted conducting allegedly illegal activities in and around the waters of the Carterets and Mortlock islands, Nissan Island, the Nuguria Atolls and also the waters of Haku on the northern tip of Buka Island.

The manager of PNG Customs Service in Bougainville John Kiu raised this concern after islanders began reporting sightings of these illegal vessels in their areas.

"I refer to the concern by villagers within the waters of Carterets and Mortlock islands expressed through the Bougainville Administration's local level government division today," said Mr Kui.

"I voiced my concern earlier on the movement of these vessels whether or not they are licensed to fish within PNG waters. Most often than not they do not comply under conditions of the fishing permits and licenses."

He said more than 9200 vessels have been sighted and their activities have been going on for more than one month.

"Furthermore, those activities cannot leave out the possibility of a growing trend of suspicious and illegal activities in Bougainville in respect of earlier briefs in view of a steady movement of foreign interests into mainland Bougainville."

09.03.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

Annual Business Report 2010 published !

Jahresbericht 2010 veröffentlicht !

09.03.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

Press Release

BCL adds national and global experience to its board of directors

Former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Sir Rabbie Namaliu GCL CSM KCMG has been appointed a director on the board of Bougainville Copper Limited.

Among his duties as a non-executive director, Sir Rabbie will become a member of the company's audit committee, which under the Australian Securities Exchange rules, has responsibility for governance and the rights of shareholders.

BCL Chairman Peter Taylor said the company was delighted by Sir Rabbie's acceptance of the invitation to join the board.

"The former Prime Minister is a distinguished statesman and a committed Papua New Guinean, with ministerial experience in Foreign Affairs and Trade, Treasury, Primary Industry, Petroleum and Energy and other areas of government responsibility.

"He holds directorships of several other Papua New Guinea companies, and is a

member of the PNG Institute of Directors.

"We welcome the addition of his experience and judgement to the decision-making processes of BCL, at a time of great challenge and opportunity," Mr Taylor said.

It is expected that Sir Rabbie's appointment will be endorsed by shareholders at the company's Annual General Meeting in April. Subject to election by shareholders at the AGM, directors normally serve for a term of three years, after which they can offer themselves for re-election.

Sir Rabbie's CV notes that he is a non-executive director of Marengo Mining Limited, a non-executive director of Kina Securities Limited, and Chairman of the publicly listed investment company Kina Asset Management Limited.

In February last year he was appointed Chairman of Kramer Ausenco, a new joint venture of PNG engineering company Kramer (PNG) Limited and Ausenco of Australia. Prime Minister between 1988 and 1992, Sir Rabbie Namaliu was also Speaker of the National Parliament between 1994 and 1997.

09.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna mine will re-open soon: Momis

By MOHAMMAD BASHIR

Bougainville President John Momis said his talks with Bougainville Copper has started a dialogue which would eventually lead to the re-opening of the Panguna Mine.

The mine was closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a decade long civil war but President Momis said there was now a consensus on Bougainville in favour of a large scale mining.

He said this while speaking to ABC's Jemima Garrett during his week long trip to Australia.

President Momis told his many audiences that the key to success for the Bougainville Peace Agreement was finding economic opportunities for his people.

Mr Momis was willing to consider any major development but at this stage the re-opening of the Panguna copper mine is the only project likely to be able to start operating in time to provide the autonomous region with an economic base before a referendum on independence which is due to take place between 2015 and 2020.

President Momis met Bougainville Copper (BCL) Chairman Peter Taylor in Sydney as well where he reportedly had a enlightening talk, exchanging of ideas and a good intellectual encounter.

"I am satisfied. We did not discuss issues in detail but I am satisfied that we have established a process, a form of dialogue that we can maintain as we both consult our constituents and work on ways and means of consolidating the mutual trust and translate that trust into concrete economic benefits," he said.

President Momis said a new mine agreement would look very different from the old colonial era agreement that was the cause of so many problems.

"If we want to re-open the mine, we have to have a total commitment to resolve the differences we had and we have to do it commercially.

"On our side we have to recognise BCL's legal rights, the (Papua New Guinea) National Government's legal rights and on the part of BCL, they have to recognise that landowners and the people of Bougainville in general must have a more equitable distribution of benefits – in terms of employment and actual benefits and perhaps even look at giving the people through their government some measure of equity," he said.

President Momis also said there had been a sea-change in public opinion on Bougainville but he knows that negotiating a new mining agreement will still be a difficult task.

"There are some armed individuals in South Bougainville but it's a minute proportion of the total population. Everybody wants development, stability, peace and I am saying now

that the slogan should be changed from “peace through peaceful means” to peace through socio-economic means. That means empowering people by involving them in socio-economic programs,” he added.

President Momis said the opponents of mining have a right to express their views, have a right to express their fears but “I believe we can responsibly and effectively deal with this culture of fear, this syndrome of fear, by educating people.”

He said the landowners have more or less agreed to form an umbrella organisation to give them one voice and they will be in negotiations with the National Government and developer.

“We would like to get them started this year. We are in the process of getting some professional technical advice and we will start talking with Bougainville Copper and the National Government so that we can start the process.

“Because it will take sometime before the mine operates,” President Momis said.

09.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON COMMITMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis is calling on all Bougainvilleans to unite and work as a team to develop Bougainville.

He was speaking at a Press Conference in Buka yesterday.

MR. MOMIS said that as the countdown to Referendum nears all efforts must be combined to remove all weapons and make sure the people are educated to make the right choice on referendum day.

And the final outcome must be accepted and respected by the people of Bougainville.

He said in preparation for the referendum, the people must be given the opportunity to make their choice without fear.

MR. MOMIS said that for this to happen, All guns must be removed, the people are well informed and that they have monies in their pockets.

He said that clock was ticking and the people must move quickly.

09.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO COMMITMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

The Australian Government made no commitments on calls by ABG President, JOHN MOMIS FOR Australia to give more aid to Bougainville.

ABG President JOHN MOMIS made this known during a press conference yesterday.

He said however the Foreign Minister would be visiting Bougainville on March 28th and it is anticipated that he could make some commitments on behalf of the government and people of Australia.

MR. MOMIS said that his visit to Australia made it possible for him to meet so many Government and private citizens who are willing to assist Bougainville.

09.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Poverty shows its ugly face on Mortlock Island

By PORENI UMAU

AS if not enough with nature mercilessly threatening to wash away their island homes, a new human problem has come to torment Mortlock Islanders.

Telavika Faite, a Mortlock Islander and Chairman of the TeMarae Development Foundation, an organisation set up by elites from the affected island working in various centres of PNG to help their affected fellow islanders back home, revealed that poverty was stark on the island.

Mr Faite said amid the rising sea levels affecting their island home, poverty had set in with its ugly revelations, where people on the island community were literally dressed in rags.

He said without any form of transportation from the ABG, no support in food supplies, medication and education services, the people were left to scavenge for food and necessary services to help themselves.

He said much loved 'Kanokano', a giant taro found in the area which was also the staple food was becoming scarce with the rising sea levels affecting arable land for gardening sites.

He said there was no higher ground on Mortlock and the gardening was affected with such natural cause.

He said crops were dying with the water table reaching high levels. He said the Kanokano was dying away and kaukau cannot grow on the island because of high alkaline level. He said there was no support from the ABG citing that the last time the government helped was when there was a tidal wave. He said the much publicised DSIP for districts was never seen on Mortlock in any shape or form and people continued to suffer. He said without any proper health, many people had died from curable illnesses including cough, diarrhoea, malaria and tuberculosis. He said this was disturbing as there were 20 deaths last year from curable diseases and climate continues to affect the islanders, human problems have risen to disturb them without any government support at all.

09.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mortlock Islanders woes

By PORENI UMAU

ONE remote island community is going out of its way to seek government services to help themselves.

The Nukutoa Islands commonly known as Mortlocks in the Autonomous Bougainville Region are sacrificing their safety in search of government services that have become scarce on their island.

This was revealed through TeMarae Development Foundation (TMDF), an organisation set up by elites from the island working throughout PNG to help their suffering families. Affected by the rising sea levels threatening to wash away their homes, TMDF chairman Telavika Faite said people have turned to using dinghies to travel to Buka to buy food, seek medication and other necessary services that were no longer on the island.

He said it cost K160 by boat to Buka.

He said that transport was a major setback. He said the Sankamap 02 "a floating debris" bought by the ABG six years ago lasted only two and a half years and was now rotting away on the western coast of Buka.

08.03.2011

Source: ESBC

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08.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aust convinced Bougainville is ready

By PETERSON TSERHAHA

BOUGAINVILLE can now talk confidently with other countries and is qualified to do so because Australia is now convinced that Bougainville is ready to move.

ABG President John Momis and Bougainville Deputy Administrator policy, Raymond Masono returned from Australia on Monday, after meeting with Australian politicians, academics and businessmen.

In his meeting with the Australian leaders, Mr Momis, although confident his autonomous government is now taking shape of its destiny, the long time politician wants Australia to help Bougainville through its referendum destiny.

"I feel Bougainville can now talk with confidence and can freely exercise the rights to freedom of speech, because I know now and according to our trip that Australia thinks and is convinced that we deserved to be helped," Mr Momis said in a press conference. He said what Bougainville needs now is more public relations in order to establish relations with other countries. He is now confident Bougainville is ready to do just that. Even though Bougainville is not morally qualified, Bougainville is legally fit and nobody should have fear in talking internationally.

"Undoubtedly we have met the Australian expectation and they are ready to work along with us and we are also prepared to work with them." Mr Momis said.

"The ABG stake holders must now be prepared in this latest arrangement.

"Bougainville is now better placed and would be better than many countries in the world only if we start working together, united as we stand . . . come what may, we must be united.

"It is we who will have to make Bougainville work."

Yesterday, Mr Momis spelled out to the press that he has a vision already in place for Bougainville and wants it to be achieved.

He said there are many positive things the newly established government is anticipating but that will go along well with a united workforce together with that of the people of the region.

08.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville to get help

PNG has successfully sent the first 50 youths to Australia last month for technical and trade training.

This is the first batch of 200 youths scheduled for training overseas. They have been sent to technical schools in Cairns and Townsville.

And Bougainville is now serious about taking advantage of the scheme and wants to send at least 50 of its youths across to Australia.

Yesterday, ABG President John Momis and his delegation to Australia comprising Deputy Administrator Policy Raymond Masono and others had a successful visit to Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane where the population of Bougainvilleans is amassed. Mr Masono said he was aware of the scheme and will make sure to get some advice from authorities so ABG can assist youths of Bougainville travel across to Australia to learn more and prepare the region for the better.

Bougainville has a big gap in the history of education because of the 10 year crisis. But to date, there are still some youths who have not entered a classroom since the closure of schools in 1989.

However, most of these youths are very skilled from their own learning skills.

Because of this, ABG is trying to assist these youths seek further clarification and assistance on the Australia-PNG Scheme that PNG Brisbane Consul-General Paul Nerau has been promoting and supporting also co-ordinating.

08.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Did Earhart fly out gold?

AN AMERICAN group communicating with the Earhart expedition divers on Bougainville are now making preparations to travel to Buka Island to help complete the investigations. Yesterday the US team based in Pennsylvania told the Post-Courier they are now making arrangements to travel to Buka and should be in the region by end of this month. The US group who is in direct contact with the State Department back in Pennsylvania told the Post-Courier from the States that they still believed the wreck sitting on the seabed near Matsungan Island was that of Earhart.

"It's only the fuselage, once the group details to us the information we need we will head straight for the airport and onto the plane to PNG," the US expert said.

The experts did not want to divulge detailed information on what they were after from the fuel fillers of the wreck but said because the team carrying out the expedition in Buka was still having difficulties with the last bit of investigation.

The Buka team, however, is working to complete the exercise before they transmit information to the US team so they can travel to PNG and onto Buka Island to complete the investigation.

The Buka team is also adamant the wreck is Earhart's as the leader claims is well versed with the historical story of why Amelia would have made it through Buka Island – because she smuggled gold out of her last destination.

"Why would America spend so much money looking for Earhart and still after 74 years, have not found the wreck?

"My intelligence experience tells me Earhart could not spell out her direct route because she was fearful radio transmissions would show her location as she was carrying something extraordinary. America knows something that we don't."

08.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville President in dialogue on re-opening of copper mine

Updated March 8, 2011 09:00:44

Bougainville's President, John Momis, says his talks with Bougainville Copper have started a dialogue, which could eventually lead to the re-opening of the Panguna Mine.

The mine was closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a decade long civil war, but President Momis says there is now a consensus on Bougainville in favour of large scale mining.

Jemima Garrett reports.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett.

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Bougainville Autonomous government.
speaking with Jemima Garrett.

Listen here !

GARRETT: During his week long trip to Australia President Momis told his many audiences that the key to success for the Bougainville Peace Agreement is finding economic opportunities for his people.

Mr Momis is willing to consider any major development but, at the is stage, the re-opening of the Panguna copper mine is the is the only project likely to be able to start operating in time to provide the autonomous region with an economic base, before a referendum on independence, which is due to take place between 2015 and 2020.

President Momis met the Chairman of Bougainville Copper (BCL), in Sydney.

MOMIS: It was a very enlightening talk, exchange of ideas and a good intellectual encounter between the 2 of us and our friends.

GARRETT: Were you satisfied with your talks with Peter Taylor, Chairman of Bougainville Copper?

MOMIS: I am satisfied. We did not discuss issues in detail but I am satisfied that we have established a process, a form of dialogue that we can maintain as we both consult our constituents, as it were, and work on ways and means of consolidating the mutual trust, and translate that trust into concrete economic benefits.

GARRETT: President Momis says a new mine agreement would look very different from the old colonial era agreement that was the cause of so many problems.

MOMIS: If we want to reopen the mine we have to have a total commitment to resolve the differences we had and we have to do it commercially. On our side we have to recognise BCL's legal rights, the (Papua New Guinea) national government's legal rights and on the part of BCL, they have to recognise that landowners and the people of Bougainville, in general, must have a more equitable distribution of benefits - in terms of employment and actual benefits, and perhaps even look at giving the people of Bougainville, through their government, some measure of equity.

GARRETT: President Momis says there has been a sea-change in public opinion on Bougainville but he knows negotiating a new mining agreement will still be a difficult task.

MOMIS: There are some armed individuals in south Bougainville but it's a minute proportion of the total population. Everybody wants development, stability, peace and I am saying now that the slogan should be changed from 'peace through peaceful means' to 'peace through socio-economic means'. That means empowering people by involving them in socio-economic programs.

GARRETT: Nevertheless there are still opponents of mining and mining is vulnerable to

guerrilla warfare - you only need to blow up a few power poles to disable a mine. How are you going to draw those opponents into discussions over the re-opening of the mine?

MOMIS: The opponents of mining have a right to express their views, have a right to express their fears. I believe we can responsibly and effectively deal with this culture of fear, this syndrome of fear, by educating people.

GARRETT: You are, at the moment, getting together landowners from 6 mine licence areas. What needs to be done before the landowners can start formal talks with Bougainville Copper?

MOMIS: The landowners have more or less agreed to form an umbrella organisation to give them one voice. And the landowners will be in negotiations with the national government and with the developer.

GARRETT: How long do you think it will be before those talks can actually start with Bougainville Copper?

MOMIS: We would like to get them started this year. We are in the process of getting some professional technical advice and we will start talking with Bougainville Copper and the national government so that we can start the process. Because it will take some time before the mine opens.

08.03.2011

Source: The National

ABG firm on stand to reopen mine

THE Autonomous Bougainville Region Vice-President Patrick Nisira has reaffirmed the regional government's stand that the Panguna copper mine stays shut "until all outstanding landowner grievances are addressed".

He said this yesterday to dispel any confusion among stakeholders, particularly landowner factions, on their position on Panguna mine amid overtures by Bougainville Copper Ltd to reopen the mine.

He said these issues included:

- * Re-unification and reconciliation of all Panguna landowner groups, a process that the ABG and the Me'ekamui leadership have begun recently. This process also includes revisiting and addressing all landowner outstanding grievances among the Panguna landowners themselves;
- * Landowner outstanding compensation and environment damages which the landowners need to address among themselves initially and then with the ABG;
- * Establishment of mine lease area associations and an umbrella association to deal with issues of the reopening of the mine. Within this early stage of the formation of the mine lease area associations, the ABG expects to be told whether the landowners want to reopen the mine or leave it permanently closed;
- * Review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA);
- * Draw down of mining powers to ABG. The Panguna landowners, the former combatants and the people of Bougainville have all called for this to happen before any serious negotiations for the mine re-opening is entertained.
- * Weapons disposal is satisfactorily achieved and the environment is conducive for mining to commence; and
- * Managing stakeholders' expectations.

"This is the process the ABG and the national government and the Panguna landowners have been engaged in.

"We have not decided on re-opening the mine. That decision remains with the landowners and the people of Bougainville," Nisira said.

He added that ABG, as an independent government, had yet to meet with the landowners.

Instead, the ABG through the Mining Department and landowners, through their mining lease associations, have been holding consultative meetings to express their views on the future of mining in Panguna.

"We will have our own consultative meetings when funds become available.

"We feel strongly that these consultative meetings and the formation and registration of the mine lease association and the umbrella association would pave the way forward in properly dealing with the landowners' outstanding grievances," Nisira said.

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JUSTICE HAPPY

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Justice SAO GABI is happy to be back in Bougainville after a long time.

He says that he has known a lot of Bougainvilleans particularly the ABG Minister for Police, Courts and Public Service, LEO HANNETT whom he had worked very closely with during the Burnam discussions on hostilities on Bougainville.

He added that with the will and support of the people of Bougainville the Burnam discussion on hostilities was successful.

Justice GABI said he was glad to come back and also very satisfying to see the people of Bougainville have moved forward.

Justice GABI says that he would like to see as much of Bougainville during his short stay on Bougainville.

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE NEEDS RESIDENT JUDGE

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO has urged Justice SAO GABI that Bougainville needed a Resident Judge.

He says there have been talks over the issue and it must be implemented as soon as possible.

FIDELIS SEMOSO has asked the ACP for the Bougainville Police Service, THOMAS ELUH and the Minister for Police, Courts and Public Service, LEO HANNETT to work with his office and come up with the costing for the resident judge so that he can be able to seek funds.

He says once funding is made available, infrastructures will take place to cater for the resident judge on Bougainville.

Meanwhile, Justice SAO GABI told the press conference that the trend of crimes in the islands region is low where as in the Highlands and the Momase regions in order to have a resident judge.

However, the Bougainville Police Chief ACP Thomas Eluh assured Justice GABI that he believes there are many unreported crimes in Bougainville that are left unattended to.

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO ON COURTS

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO wants courts to be set up in all districts of Bougainville.

He says magistrates should be allocated in all the districts of the region to maintaining law and order.

FIDELIS SEMOSO made these comments when welcoming Justice Sao Gabi in Buka at the weekend.

He said experience has shown that Law and Order problems remain higher in places where such facilities are not available.

New Dawn FM understands that under the Bougainville Constitution, Bougainville will have its own Judiciary system that will include its own Judges and Magistrates.

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SAO GABI IN BOUGAINVILLE

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Justice SAO GABI arrived in Bougainville on Saturday and will be in the region for three weeks.

Following the National Court circuits every month judges are sent to locations where there are no resident Judge.

Justice GABI will listen to courts and other law and order related issues.

All court hearings will be held in BUKA but he had been asked to take some court sittings to ARAWA.

Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO has pledged his support for the judge to hear courts in ARAWA.

Mr SEMOSO believes that with the presence of the judge in ARAWA, people will feel that justice prevails on Bougainville.



Judge Sao Gabi welcomed om Buka airport

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KINA FOR KINA IN QUESTION

By Aloysius Laukai

The reactivated ABG's own KINA FOR KINA scheme established in 2009 would die a natural death if the ABG stops to put in funds for the program.

This was revealed today by the project's coordinator JOHN KONOU this morning when announcing many projects that the Program is funding in the rural areas.

MR. KONOU told New Dawn FM this morning that project is the only ABG's program that would benefit communities that have been crying for the maintenance of mainly community projects started by the former North Solomon's Provincial Government.

He said that since the project started last year, it has concentrated on Water and Sanitation programs throughout the region.

MR. Konou said that in 2009 the ABG allocated SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA for the project however the number has dropped to only TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA this year.

He said that they are receiving applications from all throughout the region.

07.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Bougainville's president holds talks about re-opening Panguna mine

The President of Bougainville John Momis says there a consensus in favour of large scale mining. [ABC]
Jemima Garrett, Sydney

Bougainville's President, John Momis, has held talks with the Rio Tinto-owned mining company, Bougainville Copper, about the possibility of re-opening the Panguna Mine. The mine was closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a decade long civil war on Bougainville.

President Momis says there is now a consensus on Bougainville in favour of large scale mining.

He emerged from talks with Bougainville Copper (BCL) Chairman Peter Taylor, saying he had had a good exchange of ideas.

"We did not discuss issues in detail but I am satisfied that we have established a process, a form of dialogue that we can maintain as we both consult our constituents," he said.

President Momis told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program, a new mine agreement would look very different from the old colonial era agreement that was the cause of so many problems.

"If we want to reopen the mine we have to have a total commitment to resolve the differences we had and we have to do it commercially," he said.

"On our side we have to recognise BCL's legal rights, the (Papua New Guinea) government's legal rights and on the part of BCL, they have to recognise that landowners and the people of Bougainville."

President Momis said any new mine agreement would have to provide a much more equitable distribution of benefits.

He says there has been a sea-change in public opinion on Bougainville but he knows negotiating a new mining agreement will still be a difficult task.

"There are some armed individuals in south Bougainville but it's a minute proportion of the total population."

"Everybody wants development, stability, peace and I am saying now that the slogan should be changed from 'peace through peaceful means' to 'peace through socio-economic means'...that means empowering people by involving them in socio-economic programs."

Mr Momis says landowners will also take part in negotiations with the national government and BCL, under an umbrella organisation.

He says he wants to see formal negotiations begin this year.

07.03.2010

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville President says US interest in PNG small compared to China

Updated March 7, 2011 08:00:57

Bougainville's President, John Momis, says the United States is conspicuous by its absence and its lack of investment in Papua New Guinea. His comment follows strident remarks by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, warning that PNG is one of the sites where the US is locked in a strategic competition with China over resources.

Jemima Garrett reports.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speakers: Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State; John Momis, President, autonomous region of Bougainville.

Listen here !

GARRETT: As the United States attempts to deal with its massive debt, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is doing her best to ensure climate change programs for the Pacific are spared the axe.

When she went before the United States Foreign Relations Committee, last week, she highlighted US strategic interests.

CLINTON: Let's put aside the moral, humanitarian, do-good side of what we believe in, and let's just talk, you know, straight real politique. We are in a competition with China. Take Papua New Guinea, huge energy find, to go to one of (Republican) Senator (Dick) Lugar's very strong points. Exxon Mobil is producing it. China is in there every day in every way trying to figure out how it's going to come in behind us, come in under us. They're supporting the dictatorial regime that unfortunately is now in charge of Fiji. They have brought all of the leaders of these small Pacific nations to Beijing, wined them and dined them. I mean, if anybody thinks that our retreating on these issues is somehow going to be irrelevant to the maintenance of our leadership in a world where we are competing with China, that is a mistaken notion.

GARRETT: Hillary Clinton may not want to see Pacific climate change programs cut but that has not stopped questions being asked about whether the US has left the door open to China, in this region.

Bougainville is home to the massive British and Australian-owned Panguna copper mine and is prospective for more minerals.

Bougainville's President, John Momis, is one of Papua New Guinea's elder statesmen and its former ambassador to China.

He says the Exxon Mobil lead LNG project is the exception rather than the rule when it comes to US investment.

MOMIS: That's one off. Apart from that the US is conspicuous by its absence ..in Bougainville.

GARRETT: So would you like to see US investment in PNG and Bougainville?

MOMIS: Yes, we would like to but I think they have a policy of not investing in Papua New Guinea.

GARRETT: China, on the other hand is looking into a wide range of projects in PNG. President Momis says Chinese companies have shown interest in taking a stake in the Panguna copper mine.

Bougainville is still recovering from a civil war in the 1990's which left thousands dead, closed Panguna and destroyed much of the islands infrastructure.

Australia and Papua New Guinea are supporting Bougainville's reconstruction.

President Momis, says economic and social development is a priority and he is keen to welcome new investors.

MOMIS: We now have Chinese entrepreneurs on the ground looking at possibilities of farming, fishing, shipping, starting up a technical college. The Chinese government, ..or the Embassy, has said to us that they would be prepared to build a technical college. We've also had an offer from Europe, a private offer not government, to build a technical college. In my view we need to have good technical colleges to produce educated, technically qualified people.

GARRETT: President Momis has just completed a week long visit to Australia at the invitation of the Australian government.
He flew out on Sunday confident he will get a good hearing for his request that more of Australia's increasing aid budget go to Bougainville.
The visit was just part of a hectic schedule.

MOMIS: When I led a delegation to China we signed 7 MOU's . We are encouraging Chinese and some Australians and Kiwis, and any other investor who is interested, to go into joint venture with us. I have gone public to say we will not encourage stand alone business, foreign business. We would prefer to encourage joint venture businesses. Of course, the question of equity will be negotiated. We don't have the capital not the technol and so on and so forth.

GARRETT: President Momis is working hard to build the commercial capacity of his people and his government.
And after 40 years in public life he is not easily snowed.

MOMIS: I've engaged someone who has had a lot of experience putting together mergers and joint ventures to help us deal with the Chinese, because we don't want to be swamped. Chinese are aggressive entrepreneurs. We are not born entrepreneurs but I am confident. I am talking to people in Australia and New Zealand to help us screen and only accept credible investment and investors in the areas that we need to develop.

07.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS RETURNS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis returned to Buka this morning satisfied with his official trip to Australia.

On arrival he was met by his Ministers and CEO's from the Bougainville administration. In his remarks at the Buka airport, MR. MOMIS said that he was happy with his official visit to Australia.

MR. MOMIS said that told the government of Australia that the Bougainville conflict would affect the Region and Australia must assist Papua New Guinea in addressing pressing issues affecting Bougainville today.

He said that Australia has responded positively and would be sending its Foreign Affairs Minister to visit Bougainville later this year.

MR. MOMIS said that he had also met Bougainvilleans in Australia and Business Community who want to contribute to Bougainville's economic recovery.



Chief protocol Philip Kiha tries to get bags off the President at the Buka airport.



Minister Micheal Oni shakes hands with President John Momis this morning

07.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Diver found wreck in 1994

SEVENTEEN years ago, a young commercial fisherman from Tasman Island was diving for sea cucumbers deep down on the ocean floor of Matsungan Island, Buka when he stumbled onto a plane wreck.

Tasman Islander Jessy Teolo is now 40 years old and married with six children. In 1994, like every other commercial fisherman, he dived on every reef in the Atolls looking for beche de mer to sell.

Teolo went as far as grade six and couldn't prosper his education for a higher certificate because of the location and the difficulty in finding a way out to Buka from Tasman.

Mr Teolo instead turned to commercial fishing, spending most of his time diving for a living. In early 1994, Atolls Queen made its maiden voyage to Tasman Island. Sankamap I was also on the island making its last trip to the Atolls before going overseas for a refit.

Mr Teolo, like every other young man, got himself onto the boat and travelled to Buka where he thought would return with better diving equipment and to sell his produce.

His dream of going back to Tasman became a nightmare as the vessels were no longer returning to his island home so he was stranded in Buka.

Bougainville has top A grade beche de mer/sea cucumbers on the world market and most of them are found along the low-lying islands of Buka Islands especially Petats, Saposa and Matsungan.

Mr Teolo did not sit back. In the same year, 1994 he linked up with another local fisherman – known to many as Borou – and engaged in a trade where they were diving

for beche de mer. Teolo and another diver travelled to Matsungan Island later that year with Borou to dive for sea cucumber.

He dived underwater for “Bislama” as it is known in Tok Pisin and stumbled onto the plane lying on a reef facing the island.

First he thought his eyes were playing up so he gasped for air and took a second dive, this time several metres down where he confirmed the plane wreck lying on the sea bed, covered in coral and facing the island.

That was the first time he mentioned a plane sitting under the water at Matsungan – he communicated this to Borou, the local fisherman, but he took notice of this matter. Mr Teolo returned to Tasman and three years later was asked to come back to Buka to show the location of the plane wreck in 1997.

The sudden urge for the location of the plane came amidst news about Amelia Earhart plane found in East New Britain surfaced.

Old men in Matsungan also told Borou about a plane that crashed in 1937 while he was out at sea all by himself as the lightning struck and heavy rains fell. Borou asked for Mr Teolo to make his way back to Buka to show him where the wreck was.

In 1999 people were now aware of the plane wreck, many theories told and already the Matsungan Island village was now in tune with the story of Amelia Earhart and that’s where it all began.

Mr Teolo fled back to his Atoll home as there was now infighting among groups – basically on who found the wreck and other issues.

But speaking to the Post-Courier last Friday, Mr Teolo said he had a feeling when he first found it in 1994, that this wreck was different from all other wrecks he found during his dive in the Atolls and everywhere else in Bougainville, but he never voiced his feelings towards the crash until this year.

He is now a copra buyer in Fead and the Atolls with financial help from his diving expeditions and since beche de mer trade has been put on hold.

07.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG given more power

THE Department of Health in the Autonomous Government of Bougainville has elevated its role to add more function into the department.

This follows a successful handing over of 25 health functions administered by the National Health Department to the Health department in the Autonomous Government of Bougainville.

Health Minister Sasa Zibe said the handing of the 25 functions that the National Health Department administered was handed over to the Autonomous Government of Bougainville in accordance to the Organic Law on Peace Building in Bougainville administered by the Joint Supervisory Body.

A signing ceremony was done last week to effect the transferring and delegating of powers and functions from the National Health Department to the Bougainville Health Division.

This would see the National government retaining six health functions.

Minister Zibe said he was satisfied that the transfer of the functions was timely because the Bougainville health division was set to implement its health plan (2011-2015) in collaboration with the National Health Plan 2011-2020).

He said the transfer and delegation of power and functions have been identified and finalised through a consultative process between the National Department of Health and ABG have been identified and finalised.

Most of the functions would include staffing ceiling, collections of data, health policy and legislations, supervision and governing of diseases, maintain health radios, approval of staff development plan and implementation of plans and legislations.

07.03.2011

Source: The National

K6m grant for Bougainville women

By ALISON ANIS

WOMEN in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been given a K6million grant by the World Bank.

The grant will allow the women to improve their status and participation in the development process of the region.

The World Bank grant was from the state and peace-building fund and will be used to support inclusive development in post-Bougainville project for the women on the island.

"The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is happy with this development.

"It is a step forward in the right direction in terms of economically empowering our womenfolk with capacity building and development skills, intellectual capacity and real life skills to tend to communal and family needs and survival," ABG acting president Patrick Nisira said.

During the signing of the financing grants between World Bank and representatives from the PNG government last Thursday, Nisira thanked the World Bank for the grant saying this was the first time the women in the region had received a huge amount of funding from World Bank.

He added that the funding would give rise to Bougainville society's recognition of the status of women in its culture and society.

"With this financial support, the women of Bougainville will be getting is a great leap forward.

"And this leap forward will not only be for our women, but for everyone in the region as well.

"The ABG has had its setbacks in financially supporting all facets of government institutions, formal and informal sector development due to unavailability of funds.

"But with this grant, women's organisations will move ahead unhindered with this tremendous support," Nisira said.

He said the focus of establishing the inclusive development in post-conflict Bougainville had a capacity to drive our society further in enhancing peace, reconciliation, and rehabilitation and more over, would have a positive impact to the rural population.

06.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture of Trucks trying to cross the pool of water in front of Jomik Trading Buka Town. There is no good Drainage system in Buka Town and during wet season this is what happens. Soon water will run into the houses. We need good engineers to design good road system within the town!



06.03.2011

Source: ABC Australia Network News

Claims US looks to China over PNG

Bougainville's President, John Momis, says the United States is conspicuous by its lack of investment in Papua New Guinea.

Jemima Garrett reports the comment follows a warning by Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, that PNG is one of the sites where the US is engaged in strategic competition with China, over resources.

Hillary Clinton told the US Foreign Relations Committee last week that, China is doing everything it can to get in on the massive Exxon Mobil led PNG LNG project.

President Momis says from what he can see the US has a policy of not investing in PNG. President Momis says the Chinese have shown interest in taking a stake in Rio Tinto's Bougainville copper mine and in other projects.

President Momis says he would like to see more investment from the United States.

04.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Two new associations added for lease area

By Gorethy Kenneth

BOUGAIVNILLEANS have created two new landowner associations to add to the six known Panguna Mine lease area groups.

They are the Middle Lower Tailing lease and the South West Coastal Corridor Mine Tailing.

The original six landowners associations include:

- Rorovana Lease;
- Special Mining Lease;
- Port Mine Access Road lease;
- Dapera/laba pump station mine lease;
- Upper Tailing lease; and
- Lower Tailing lease.

The Middle Lower Tailing lease landowner association is a splinter from the Upper and Lower Tailing Lease associations.

The South West Coastal Corridor Mine Tailing is made up of landowning groups along the coast directly affected by the tailings waste from the Panguna Mine.

Interim executive director of the South West Coastal Corridor Mine Tailing group, Patrick Heromate in a statement warned the leaders to be very cautious, conscious and careful about the representations of the meetings.

"Panguna mine has caused a lot of problems that led to a civil war in Bougainville where lives of people have been lost," Mr Heromate said.

"Leaders and landowners must be very mindful in the cause to open the Panguna Mine. We don't want your decision to ignite another crisis that could be more devastating than the last crisis.

"Though we may be telling the world that Panguna landowner's talks have been successful, don't forget that you are not corroborating with every landowners.

"You have been meeting with the six landowner associations. You will now have eight not six as you have continued to advocate.

"There are two new landowner associations that must be added on in your future meetings," Heromate singled out to all the leaders both ABG and National Government."

04.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG's stand on Panguna mine

By Fabian Gatana

THE Panguna mine will remain shut and opened only when all outstanding issues are addressed and landowners and the people of Bougainville are satisfied.

This is from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) vice President Patrick Nisira after clarifying the Government's stand on the issue of the re-opening of the Panguna mine.

Mr Nisira made the remarks after an ABG MP and Minister Davis Sisito and Me'ekamui diehard Chris Uma made statements regarding the Panguna mine last week.

"I reiterate again that the Autonomous Bougainville Government's official position on the reopening of the Panguna mine is clear — the mine is to remain closed, until all outstanding landowner grievances are properly addressed," Mr Nisira said.

He said the issues included:

- REUNIFICATION and recon-ciliation of all Panguna landowner groups, a process that the ABG and the Me'ekamui leadership have begun recently and with the effective participation of MDF front man, Chris Uma;
- Landowner's outstanding compensation and environment damages. The landowners need to seriously address this issue among themselves initially and then with the ABG;
- Establishment of mine lease area associations, the ABG expects to be told whether the landowners want to reopen the mine or leave it permanently closed;

- Review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA);
- Draw down of mining powers to the ABG. The Panguna landowners, the former combatants and the people of Bougainville have called for this to happen before any serious negotiations for the mine reopening is entertained;
- Weapons Disposal is satisfactorily achieved and the environment is conducive for mining to commence; and
- Managing stakeholders' expectations.

"Panguna Mine is a highly sensitive issue, therefore I call upon the media, particularly the PNG print media to take extra care when writing on issues that affect the lives and welfare of the people of Panguna, especially their sensational approach to news writing and showing favour to certain interest groups in Bougainville. We in the ABG have no hidden agenda," Mr Nisira said.

04.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Church to work with media

THE Bougainville Catholic Church has strengthened its ties with the media on Bougainville and wants to work with the industry to move the region forward. Catholic Bishop of Bougainville Diocese, Bishop Bernard Unabali in his first and official conference with the media in Buka yesterday said the media is a very powerful tool for information sharing on Bougainville and pledged its support to work together for the sake of developing Bougainville.

But the clergyman has also appealed to the journalism training institutions to train journalist on specific fields, for example, a specialised church reporter.

He singled out the issue of reporters having minimal understanding of the church slangs and information and advised there needed to be trained church specialised reporters in the country and especially Bougainville.

This is because the Catholic Church also runs more than 110 education and institutional schools in the region, and because of this they need the support from the media to help grow and develop these schools in terms of information sharing and dissemination.

04.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Amelia Earhart mystery takes bizarre twist

Updated March 4, 2011 08:50:13

Rumours involving sunken treasure and one of the world's great aviation mysteries are swirling around the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

Locals believe a plane wreck could be the final resting place of the American airwoman Amelia Earhart who disappeared somewhere over the Pacific in 1937.

Even more incredibly they say there's gold bullion on board and that a giant snake is guarding the wreck.

But an expert on Earhart's disappearance says the claim is "silly beyond description". PNG correspondent Liam Fox reports.

Presenter: Liam Fox

Speakers: Cletus Harepa, Businessman; Ric Gillespie, International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery.

Listen here !

FOX: The rumour mill, or coconut wireless, as its known is always running hot on Bougainville. Many of the tall tales that fly around the island involve gold.

One of them was given prominence by the Post Courier newspaper this week with the front-page headline "Plane wreck believed to be Earhart". It said there are "strong indications" a plane wreck found off the coast of Bougainville was the one flown by Amelia Earhart, who famously disappeared in 1937 while attempting to become the first pilot to circle the globe close to the equator.

If that wasn't amazing enough the report said there was gold bullion on board and a six-metre snake was guarding the wreck. The man at the centre of the claim is local businessman Cletus Harepa who's paying for divers to inspect the wreck.

HAREPA: Somebody saw it when they were diving for fish and they saw the plane but they didn't know the plane was Amelia's plane until I got my divers to dive 70 to 100 metres down, and I told my divers, got and get something from inside.

FOX: He says a diver found two skulls in the cockpit and three boxes of gold bullion but the bars were too heavy to carry to the surface.

FOX: What will you do if you recover the gold? Will you keep it for yourself or do you give it to the government ? What's your plan?

HAREPA: The government can have some, I will have some. What I want to do is to improve the island. Get a good hospital, a good school, good water supply.

FOX: Mr Harepa admits they're yet to find proof the wreck is Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Electra, but he's confident it is the plane because of another, older rumour that female pilots used to smuggle gold out of Lae on the PNG mainland in the 1930s. Lae was Earhart's last stop before she vanished.

Mr Harepa does say however that the story about the giant snake is rubbish.

HAREPA: It's an eel, it's a brown eel that uses the plane as just a place to hide.

FOX: American Ric Gillespie is a leading expert on the Earhart mystery and has spent the last 22 years trying to find her final resting place.

GILLESPIE: These stories about gold bullion and a six-metre snake guarding the wreckage are just frankly hilarious. There is simply no way that the Earhart aircraft could be anywhere near Papua New Guinea.

FOX: Mr Gillespie says radio transmissions and other evidence indicates Earhart landed on Nikumaroro atoll in the Central Pacific, where she and her navigator later perished from a lack of food and water. He says the story coming out of Bougainville is testament to the enduring mystery surrounding her disappearance.

GILLESPIE: The whole thing is silly beyond description, but I guess it's just an indication of how popular the Earhart mystery is, and how everybody wants a piece of that action.

FOX: Meanwhile gold fever has broken out on Bougainville with armed men reportedly preventing outsiders from diving on the wreck.

03.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BILLS PAYMENT

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner REITAMA TARAVARU says that all outstanding bills from the last ABG election would be settled before the Election is carried out. He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that the ABG would pay for the bill as the bills were incurred during the ABG Elections.

MR. TARAVARU says that because the ABG last week secured the long awaited FIFTEEN MILLION KINA all these bills would be settled.

He said that the North Bougainville By-election is a national government election and funds for the election totaling K2.6 Million kina would be met by the National Government.

MR. TARAVARU says that they are already running Awareness Trainings in preparation for the coming By election.

He also announced the dates for the election as,

Issue of writs and Opening of Nomination March 21,

Close of Nomination March 28,

Polling Commence on 14th May.

Polling ends on May 20th and Return of writs by June 10 2011.

03.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BY ELECTION ON

By Aloysius Laukai

North Bougainville is gearing up for the by-election for the North Bougainville seat left vacant by the former member, MICHAEL OGIO who is now the new Governor General for Papua New Guinea.

In making the official announcement in Buka this afternoon, PNG ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER ANDREW TRAWEN said that under the law a by election must be carried out for the vacant seat.

He flushed aside rumors that the second or runner up for the 2007 election will take up the post.

MR. TRAWEN said that under section 106 of the Election act a by election must be carried out when the date for the next general election is more than 12 months away.

The Papua New Guinea Electoral Commissioner also announced that a total of K2.6 Million kina would be used in the coming by election.

03.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Armed men guard wreck

ARMED men are now guarding what is believed to be the last resting place for aviator **Amelia Earhart** in Bougainville's low-lying Matsungan Island.

Security has been beefed up on the island by the local group carrying out the expedition as the diving



investigation continues.

As the investigation continues on the island, interest in the relic has picked up all over the world, with many journalists, organisations and researchers calling to inquire about the Post-Courier report and also to come over to PNG.

And yesterday the Autonomous Bougainville Government warned that the relic belongs to the State and everything must be done under the PNG laws.

The Post-Courier Buka office has been flooded with reactions from the world, with many saying it was untrue while others gave in to the news.

The Post-Courier Buka office received calls and emails from international journalists, organisations and others who wanted to know about the plane, while some are already interested in making their way to Bougainville.

One of the biggest question callers and those online were asking was "how do this Bougainvillean local group know that's Amelia Earhart's plane?" The group had been given a checklist to carry out since their mission 11 years ago. There were given 11 points to confirm by a US agent (named) who has been working with the Amelia Earhart group in the United States. According to the Buka group, eight of the 11 checklists have been done and only three were not completed.

The dive is very difficult for the divers because of the coral covering the left side of the plane. But the group is optimistic the expedition will achieve its objective, now that the world knows about the crash site.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is fully aware of the relic but has warned that everything is under protection and the Government of PNG remains the legal custodian. Bougainville's Minister for Culture and Tourism Joseph Egilio, in a press conference yesterday, appeared worried that the issue may get out of hand. He was referring to the alleged Amelia Earhart plane purportedly found North West of Buka Island.

On an official level, Mr Egilio as the Minister responsible and his officials have not been fully briefed on what is happening but advised they would now have to take charge because it will involve a lot of issues. Egilio said he has been aware of the plane wreck for a long time and commended the local group and the local businessman for taking the initiative to investigate the crash. But he warned that the Government will still have to take charge of the issue once confirmation is made but because the ABG had no policy of its own the National Government was the automatic custodian of the wreck.

"Everything comes under protection. The Government is the custodian of every historical relic. The ABG does not have its own policy so the National Government automatically takes over, which means it is still the legal custodian," Mr Egilio said.

03.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ogio's bills still unpaid

By GOROTHY KENNETH

IRRITATED service providers in Bougainville want Governor-General Michael Ogio to tell them when he will pay up his outstanding debts incurred since 2007.

An irate service provider who runs a guest house in Buka, said it's been four years since she has been following up on her outstanding debts with the former North Bougainville MP.

Mr Ogio occupied many of her rooms and was served with his scrutineers during the 2007 elections and never paid his bills, estimated to be about K110,000.

Another service provider in Buka was also very worried because Mr Ogio left his north Bougainville seat without settling his debts.

He told the Post-Courier Mr Ogio owed him more than K100,000 for services rendered since 2007, during the general elections and also after he was declared an MP.

The Post-Courier was told yesterday that the Queen's representative is no longer answerable to the query of the claims as he was now in a different office.

Meanwhile, the deputy president of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) in Bougainville, Lawrence Banae, has officially announced there will only be two candidates contesting the seat left vacant by Mr Ogio. Mr Banae named the two as former ABG MP for Atolls Pais Taehu and Damien Kora.

03.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fishing boats worry islanders

By Peterson Tseraha

MORE fishing vessels are being sighted off the coast of Buka, some very close to the shore where villagers normally use canoes to fish.

Fishermen from the Hagogohe and Haku constituency, Carterets and Fead islands complained over the weekend and demanded an explanation from the Government on whether these vessels were licensed to fish in their waters or not.

It is a common sight every night villagers stand on the cliff and watch something like seven to eight vessels throwing nets and taking fish into their ships. It has also been reported that dead fish are found in the mornings when the ships are sighted at night. According to Carterets and Fead islanders, the vessels entering their waters had their names covered with canvas so that people would not know the vessels' identities.

A concerned fisherman who wished to remain anonymous said these are deliberate actions taken by these vessels because they are not doing something legal.

"We want the government to intervene now, can we have the PNGDF patrol our waters and keep our fish safe?" the fisherman said. "We normally find dead fish in the morning which are rejected by the fishing vessels, small fish especially tuna, they only get the big ones for markets," he said.

A village chief in Fead Island claimed that a vessel fishing in their waters had some Papua new Guineans on board and they were speaking Pidgin to them.

"We took a boat and told them to move out by signalling and waving at them, the captain was a Pilipino who just went straight ahead and put the vessel on full steam," the chief said.

03.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-servicemen want answers

MORE than 2000 Bougainvillean ex-servicemen are demanding to know when their claims would be settled by the National Government.

Yesterday, president of the Bougainville Ex-servicemen Association James Kopi relayed the members' message, saying the Government had not honoured its commitment in compensating them of their "savings" or pay owed to them.

Mr Kopi said he has been under pressure over the issue as Bougainvilleans are demanding answers every day.

Mr Kopi has appealed to the authorities to at least respond to the claims by the Bougainvilleans who worked hard in the foundation or formation years of the PNG Government.

"Bougainville members are waiting to receive their outstanding claims. They request that President Teddy Ambing announce when the payment can be done or if there is any on behalf of the members," Mr Kopi said.

"We understand our Parliament under our Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare has released a budget to pay our all his debts in PNG, as Government of the day, can we the

ex-servicemen be paid at least some money? It's been five years since we have been waiting."

03.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Dry spell hits Bougainville atolls

By Joyce Tohui

BOUGAINVILLE'S atolls are in dire need of water and food due to the long dry spell in the last three months.

Chairman of the Caterets council of elders Bernard Tunim said his people have been hit hard by the dry spell. Also affected are the Nissan, Nuguria, Motlock and Fead islands.

"We have had difficulty in growing food gardens since the soil is heated up and nothing can grow," he said.

"Everything living is in need of water and food since the islands are becoming a desert.

"We the people especially cannot cope anymore with this problem as it still prolongs and uncertainty is of great concern for us."

School children will be affected because schools will be forced to close if the dry spell drags on.

"Education is a commodity for us and we really cannot allow this to disturb our children's education," Mr Tunim said.

He said he has approached Bougainville administration and the provincial disaster office but they have no funds to assist.

"This was a matter of great concern and has been reported a lot of time, however we still get to hear the same sentiments in the tune of no money and a research team to be sent to the islands to carry out the surveys and this was not a good sign for us," he said.

Mr Tunim said the island is not serviced by a regular shipping service so the people cannot really help themselves.

"Shipping service to the islands is not regular and expensive and through our own initiative we risk our lives to hop on dinghies to try to bring our peoples cries to the government but are still pending," Mr Tunim said.

"On behalf of my people in the islands of the Atolls and Nissan constituencies, I strongly urged the government to hear my people's cry and help us.

"To tell you the truth, we are suffering."

03.03.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville requests for more Aussie aid

By SINCLAIRE SOLOMON

BOUGAINVILLE Autonomous Region President John Momis has asked Australia for more aid, saying that a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea as early as 2015 could become a real contest.

He said on Tuesday in the Australian capital, Canberra, where he is visiting for a week, that he was also concerned with the Bougainville peace process.

According to Radio Australia, Momis had also warned that the autonomous government must be able to deliver real benefits to its people if autonomy was to be seen as a genuine alternative.

He also confirmed that there was a good chance of reopening the BCL's Panguna copper-gold mine or starting new mines on the island but added that revenues from such projects would take too long to flow.

Momis told the radio service: "I very much hope that in making decisions about the allocation of its increasing aid budget, Australia is able to allocate significant new support to Bougainville."

"This is not a matter of growing dependence, rather we will mainly need increased support in these next few years before sustainable long term revenues begin to flow." The Panguna mine was closed in 1988 after landowners' anger, over the share of benefits from the mine and its environmental impact, boiled over into a bloody 10-year civil war.

Peace had since returned, Bougainville has autonomy and the people will decide at referendum on independence between 2015 and 2020.

It had been suggested that the reopened Panguna mine could provide Bougainville with the economic resources it needed to make independence a viable possibility.

Momis and Australia's parliamentary secretary for Pacific Island affairs Richard Marles are expected to meet later this week.

Marles told Radio Australia yesterday that he cared about the future of Bougainville and planned to travel there soon.

"The Panguna mine is clearly a sensitive issue within Bougainville," he said, adding that he had met Rio Tinto executives.

"They made it clear that they have no intention of going back to or reopening the mine without the permission of the landowners, and without the permission of both the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the PNG government," Marles said.

"This is a matter for the governments of PNG, of Bougainville and the landowners.

"That's where we are going to take the lead in terms of the future of the mine."

02.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BISHOP ON MINE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bishop of Bougainville, Bishop Bernard Unabali does not support the opening of so many mines on Bougainville.

He says that the island of Bougainville is very small and its environment can be destroyed if mining is allowed all over Bougainville.

The Bishop says that he will only support the opening of the Panguna mine if environmental issues along the tailings are properly addressed.

Bishop Bernard told reporters in Buka that he was concerned as the island could lose its forest, flora and fauna and the river systems if several mines were opened on Bougainville.

Meanwhile on the Chinese investments on Bougainville, Bishop Bernard also wants the ABG to set up a good policy that can attract investments on Bougainville.

He said that whilst the President may be dealing with credible organizations and companies now, other companies that would come in later may not be so good therefore a good policy can control these activities.

The Bishop of Bougainville said that to save guard Bougainville a good controlling mechanism must be established.

02.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE TO BE SCRUTINIZED

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Chief, ACP Thomas Eluh has announced telephone lines that can be called to report abuses by members of the Bougainville Police Service. This followed a report that an off duty Policeman had bashed up a Doctor from the Buka General Hospital near the Kamarau wharf. The Policeman was believed to be under the influence of Liquor. ACP Eluh has engaged the Buka Police Station Commander, Alex Gunan to immediately investigate the incident. The Police Hotline numbers are, 9739907 or Fax 9739922 or mobile number, 72010067. Meanwhile, New Dawn FM understands relatives of the doctor are now demanding compensation from the Police officer.

02.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Adviser lauds Bougainville effort

By Joyce Tohui

TEACHING Service Commission Regional Advisor for New Guinea Islands, Tony Tsora is happy with the progress Bougainville has made so far to re-establish educational institutions in the region.

With the new Haku Day High School taking in students, vocational schools catering to more students and plans underway for new schools such as the Tinputz Technical College, Bougainville is heading for an educated future which is repeating history, according to Mr Tsora.

The former CEO for the Bougainville Education Division told the Post Courier that this was another milestone for Bougainville to take in more students in education institutions in the region.

Mr Tsora said in line with that, Bougainville must have a Teachers College in place to train more teachers to cater for these institutions.

He said that this was to replace aging teachers from the years 60's and 70's who are still in the field.

"There are many changes in learning nowadays as to the introduction of modern technology and a computerised world, teachers must adapt to these changes, they must have the qualified skills and knowledge to pass on to the new generation of Bougainville who will lead the region in future, he said.

"Education is very important and very powerful in terms of development and building a strong human resource for the region.

02.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rise in cargo cult, sorcery worries bishop

THE increase in cargo cult and sorcery related activities in Bougainville were becoming a worry for the Catholic Church in the region.

Catholic Bishop of Bougainville Bishop Bernard Unabali illegal social activities have resulted in deaths in families and conflicts among the communities on the island.

He said one of the reasons why these activities were on the rise was because people have turned away from their spiritual lives, cultural and social values in life.

Bishop Unabali was now calling on all communities and leaders to make sure that cultural values were upheld, strong spiritual life maintained and the implications of the social problems were seriously taken into account.

He also singled out that Bougainville should learn to uphold its dignity by maintaining its spiritual, social and physical self.

He also spoke on how the public schools will soon change their curriculum to best suit the community and Bougainville.

Cargo cult has been an issue on Bougainville for the last few years.

In Buka there is a group that maintains a king and queen theory of being Jesus and in Manetai there is also a known cargo cultist group operating.

Sorcery has also been a very big problem in Bougainville. Lives have been taken over claims of sorcery and the Buka Hospital has recently raised concerns about the increased number of patients bashed and killed over suspected sorcery.

02.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Divers to confirm wreck

DIVERS are about to try to confirm the final bit of evidence to prove a plane wreck off Bougainville is really that of the long lost flyer Amelia Earhart .

The Bougainville Amelia Expedition team in Buka have a checklist given to them by the American Group that they have been in contact since 2009 and who has been assisting them from the United States on the mission.

The US group (named) is also establishing contacts with the US State Department in America to try and help the Bougainville team with equipment and assistance they need to do their final investigation and confirmation.

The divers and the local group are currently camping at the island where the crash site is located and have been progressing their expedition to confirm the last thing they are going to need to prove that the plane is really Earhart's.

And the group, although, have found gold in the plane, are also trying to determine if the gold was smuggled out from the Wau gold field from that era as Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan made their last flight out of Lae before they mysteriously disappeared.

The divers and the local group involved have detailed to the group in the US that they are now checking the fuel fillers of the plane, one of the last things to check before the checklist is complete.

They identified that there are two skulls still in the plane, one at the pilot side.

The expedition has also found that the plane is a twin tail aircraft, the front with antenna loop is still intact, the window at the right side is above the wing, the front rivets are in the middle of the windscreen and the plane's left wing is damaged and grossly covered in coral.

The disappearance of Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan has been one of the great mysteries in the world.

Yesterday, the oldest man, now 95, Amos Sipiria, said he was a young boy going to school when the plane crashed into the sea amidst heavy rains, clouds covering the sky and lightning on an early morning.



Amelie Earhart infront of her plane.

01.03.2011

Source: ABC News

Bougainville tells Australia it needs more aid

Bougainville president John Momis is asking Australia for more aid if a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea as early as 2015 is to be genuine.

Mr Momis will meet officials in Canberra this week.

He has warned Bougainville's autonomous government must be able to deliver real benefits to the population if autonomy is to be seen as a genuine alternative.

He says there is a good chance of reopening the Panguna gold and copper mine or commencing new mines, but says revenue from such projects will take too long to flow through.

"This is not a matter of growing dependence," he said.

"Rather, we will mainly need increased support in these next few years before sustainable long-term revenues begin to flow."

01.03.2011

Source: ESBC research

Semoso Confirms

In a message to ESBC President Axel G. Sturm the PNG Minister of Bougainville Affairs, Hon. Fidelis Semoso confirms that the views of Me'ekamui fighters like Chris Uma are "well represented thru the Ex Combatants Representative in the ABG former BRA leader Mr David Sisito which is the elected and mandated voice of ex combatants in the ABG. The process towards re opening of panguna is gaining momentum with November 2011 being targetted as a possible timeframe to conclude and sign a Heads of Agreement." says Mr. Semoso.

01.03.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Asia Pacific Business

Bougainville appeals for more Australian aid

Bougainville's President John Momis says Australia must give more of its increasing aid budget to Bougainville if an approaching referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea is to be a real contest.

Bougainville's autonomous government is contemplating re-opening the controversial Panguna

Presenter: Linda Mottram

Speakers: John Momis, President Bougainville Autonomous Government; Richard Marles, Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs

Listen here !

MOTTRAM: Before any official work could be done in Canberra, John Momis had an important appointment in the nearby New South Wales country town of Crookwell.

FX: (laughter)

MOTTRAM: Crookwell is home to the man John Momis calls his spiritual mentor, retired 96 year old Catholic priest Wally Fingleton, a man who spent 27 years working in Bougainville, and who even baptised John Momis. It was a fond reunion.

MOMIS: His Mum, his Mum visited him. She was already an old lady and she came to Buin when there was no roads.

MOTTRAM: Back in Canberra, speaking at the Australian National University, John Momis, a veteran of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville politics, wasted no time underlining his concerns about weaknesses in the 11 year old Bougainville peace process.

MOMIS: They contribute to risks of a resumption of conflict, something that would cause incalculable harm in Bougainville. Like the conflict from 1988 to 1997, renewed conflict could threaten the integrity of PNG and the stability of the wider region.

MOTTRAM: John Momis says there have been big improvements through the peace agreement, particularly in getting former enemies to work together. But he says more flesh is needed on the bones, as Bougainville heads to a referendum as early as 2015 and no later than 2020 - a choice between autonomy within PNG and independence.

Significant difficulties have included the slow pace of the transfer of powers from the central government to Bougainville, PNG's failure to pay grants and a lack of capacity on Bougainville's side. John Momis says that's strained government to government relations and undermined confidence among would-be separatists.

MOMIS: As a signatory to the agreement I am committed to what it provides, both autonomy and the holding of a referendum. At the same time, when the referendum is held, I want people to have a real choice between either the goal of independence, long cherished by many, or an existing autonomy that really delivers the intended benefits.

MOTTRAM: He says that means the autonomous government has to be effective in delivering services and equitable development while empowering Bougainvilleans. Progress was made on two years worth of withheld grants when two weeks ago, a key body, the Joint Supervisory Body met after long delays and PNG provided the money, millions of Kina. PNG has also now promised much more money in the future, though that's not guaranteed. And John Momis says that's where Bougainville's partners come in.

MOMIS: I very much hope that in making decisions about the allocation of its increasing aid budget, Australia is able to allocate significant new support to Bougainville. This is not a matter of growing dependence, rather we will mainly need increased support in these next few years before sustainable long term revenues begin to flow.

MOTTRAM: That most likely means mining, with John Momis saying there is a wide consensus among Bougainvilleans the mining, either at the old Panguna mine, or elsewhere should resume, though on more equitable and environmentally acceptable terms than during the divisive colonial years.

Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Richard Marles, intends to travel to Bougainville soon.



MARLES: We care very much about the economic future of Bougainville. The Panguna mine is clearly a very sensitive issue within Bougainville. I actually met with executives of Rio Tinto recently and they made it clear that they have no intention of going back to or reopening the mine with the permission of the land owners, and without the permission of both the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the PNG government and in a way that states the position. This is a matter for the governments of PNG, of Bougainville and the land owners. That's where we're going to take out lead in terms of the future of the mine.

MOTTRAM: On the peace process overall, Mr Marles says recent developments in the processes sound very positive. But he's keen to get a reading on the ground as soon as possible. And on the aid question, Richard Marles will doubtless hear John Momis' plea when they meet in Canberra later this week.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELECTION APPEAL

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police chief, ACP Thomasd Eluh has urged the people of North Bougainville to conduct the National North Bougainville Open By Election in a peaceful manner. He urged everyone to take the election seriously and elect a good leader to serve the people.

ACP Eluh said that Bougainvilleans have proven to the world that democracy truly prevails in the region with the success of previous peaceful Regional and National Elections since 2005.

He said that Police and Electoral Officers would be visiting villages soon to carry out awareness to educate the public on matters regarding the elections.

New Dawn FM has received reports that the number of intending candidates for this election has already past 30.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOAT RESELLERS CAPTURED

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka Police have finally captured the three suspects who allegedly stole a New Zealand Police Outboard Motor in Buka recently.

The suspects are JIM JIUH aged 31 of Petats island and Zebedee Benjamin aged 20 both small boat skippers.

Police arrested them for aiding and conveying stolen property of the New Zealand government.

The third suspect Cedric Sawan 35 of Siwai was also charged under the criminal code for having did counsel the stealing of the outboat motor engine.

The three were captured trying to cross over to the Solomon Islands to sell the stolen boat engine.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHURCH MUST BE FULLY UTILIZED

By Aloysius Laukai

Bishop of Bougainville Diocese, BISHOP BENARD UNABALI is calling on the ABG to involve the Catholic church in many of its programs in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville .

He told a Press conference yesterday that many times the church is asked to assist when they face problems already.

Bishop Benard Unabali said that the church has more than One Hundred years of involvement with the people of Bougainville and should be taken on board as a major stakeholder.

He was commenting on the current discussions on Panguna where the church is again left out.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BISHOP ON ROADS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bishop of Bougainville, BENARD UNABALI wants the BCL agreement review to also include the building of new roads into the rural areas.

He said that there are many rural areas like Torokina and Paruparu areas that needs to be linked by road.

Bishop Benard Unabali made this comments during his first Press conference in Buka yesterday.

He said that if the Government can build roads to every village on Bougainville the people themselves can then start businesses that could improve their standards of living in their areas.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE DIOCESE VISION

By Aloysius Laukai

Eight months after his consecration as Bishop of Bougainville, BENARD UNABALI is already setting the roadmap for the Diocese of Bougainville. Bishop Benard wants to see the Catholic church fully participate in the economic development in the Autonomous Region.

In his first Press Conference since his consecration yesterday, BISHOP BENARD UNABALI told reporters in Buka that he wanted to see changes in Bougainville.

His lordship Bishop Unabali talked on issues concerning, development, education, health, mining and the role of Media on Bougainville.

He also announced plans to make the Catholic church move into the economic activity mode to support the churches programs in the Region starting with the rezoning of Hahela Parish land.

01.03.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SUSPECT AT LARGE

By Aloysius Laukai

A suspect from Tuhus village in the Haku area of Buka island is still at large after attempted to behead his victim last Wednesday 25th February.

Buka Police have reported that the victim RISIN TAGU a male adult was on his way to bath at a nearby waterhole at around 8pm when the suspect DERRICK HAKOT who is a marijuana addict, sneaked up from behind the victim and swung a Tramontina Bush Knife at his neck.

The victim was saved by his bath towel which he was wearing around his neck and managed to escape his attacker.

Police are investigating the incident.

01.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville bishop wants info

THE Bougainville Catholic Church wants a complete information package before the talks of reopening the Panguna Mine could be held.

Catholic Bishop of Bougainville Bishop Bernard Unabali in his first press conference since taking office a year ago handed down the church's stand on mining in Bougainville. The churches played a major role in bringing about peace on Bougainville after the crisis. The Catholic Church was one of the biggest players in this. They were silent achievers who never talked about what they did to bring about peace and change in Bougainville. Bishop Unabali said yesterday that the church will back Bougainville with full support if there is a clear program on the social, physical, economical and spiritual aspects of re-opening the mine again.

He singled out the past issues that affected the population of Bougainville and how people suffered and said authorities should now learn from the past and correct the mistakes.

He spoke of how money crippled the minds of the leaders and how people's mindset was centred on money and this caused all the problems.

"Independence and money alone cannot move Bougainville forward. Money was the root cause of the Bougainville crisis. Money caused disrespect, fights where people were killed and caused problems on Bougainville.

"People are always centred on money and that's why we are facing these issues," Bishop Unabali said.

"There should be a clear program, a full comprehensive information package on the issue to the people of Bougainville, especially the landowners before the opening of the mine.

"People need the support at every level. We are not against the mine re-opening. What we are saying is that we need a full comprehensive information package before we can talk about mine re-opening," Bishop Unabali said.

01.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainvilleans warn visitors to island

By GORETHY KENNETH

NO one is allowed to travel to Bougainville and make an attempt to visit a plane wreck of Amelia Earhart, locals warned yesterday.

An aircraft said to fit the description of Earhart's Lockheed 10E Electra is resting at the depth of 70 metres on a reef at Matsungan Island, northwest of Buka.

The group carrying out the confirmation expedition headed by David Mona and businessman Cletus Harepa have warned that any divers from overseas or outside Bougainville planning a "diving" trip to the crash site would have to seek permission from them.

Speaking to the Post-Courier yesterday, Mr Mona said his group had been working on the expedition for 11 years since 2000.

He said he engaged businessman Mr Harepa to fund the mission. He said so far more than K50,000 has been spent to carry out the confirmation on the wreck.

Mr Mona appeared irritated that the discovery was splashed on the front page of the Post-Courier newspaper yesterday.

He said some information was still sketchy but he advised they were now working to complete their mission.

He said the Autonomous Bougainville Government was already aware of the issue and had been briefed on the diving operation.

Meanwhile, concerns have now been raised by Bougainvilleans living on the coastal

areas that the ABG and all marine authorities both on a local and national level should now beef up their security alerts as sightings of illegal ships have been frequently reported.

There have been reports both from Customs office in Buka and from fishermen all across Bougainville and Buka especially about long-liners, fishing vessels and other boats fishing and seen around the coastal areas of the island, mainly parts of Haku, Carterets and the surrounding Petats, Matsungan and Pororan Islands.

They called for all ships to be screened and their activities in the area monitored.

01.03.2011

Source: Post-Courier

History for Arawa

Huge crowd welcome rugby league back to Bovo

By REUBEN KALAUNG in Buka

A BUMBER crowd packed the Bovo oval in Arawa, Central Bougainville last Sunday to witness the first ever rugby league clash between Buka's Tsitalato Warriors and Arawa Storms following the civil insurgence.

The rugby league contest is an exchange match for the Arawa team, who played in Buka in the round one clash the previous weekend. More than 30 players, team officials, and BRFL executives travelled for four hours across to Arawa last Saturday for the round two match on Sunday.

Although the Warriors from Buka stole the show by bagging wins in both the A and B grade games, the match was a "uniting force" among youths from Buka and Central Bougainville.

Former BRA commander, now a born -again Christian, Ismael Toroama was present at the games. Another ex-combatant commander Dominic Torona was actively involved as the games progressed.

He was seen running on and off the field to provide water, first aid to injured players and even coaching.

A challenge has been issued to Arawa, Panguna, Kieta, Toniva, Rorovana and other parts of Central and the entire regional to register clubs for the BRFL season proper which commences in April. The same has been issued to North and South Bougainville. Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade Fidelis Semoso and his family also travelled with the Buka team to Arawa to help support and promote the code under BRFL's "Peace through League".

Semoso, who kicked off the Arawa clash was proud to announce a total K45,000 funding to Arawa rugby league. K25,000 of which will go towards reviving Arawa league while the other K20,000 will provide a facelift to the Bovo oval.

Buka businessman and Warriors team manager Francis Botsia, who financed the travel to Arawa says the Bovo oval once created some top rugby league players including John Wagambie, Oti Asotau, Lautu Atoi and a host of others.

Arawa women's leader and landowner Therese Jaintong expressed her support for the return of rugby league in Arawa and was delighted to allow usage of the Bovo oval by BRFL.

The pre-season competition is also the selection trials for the Bougainville representative team to participate in the NGI 9's challenge in Kokopo next month. Agmark Gurias' selectors will be eyeing potential players in the NGI region during the challenge to select players for the Gurias line-up.

Meantime, BRFL president Micah James has reminded all clubs to pay up their club registration of K350 and K10 player registration before this weekend or get axed from the BRFL season 2011.

01.03.2011

Source: The National

BCL to revise tailings options

By SINCLAIRE SOLOMON

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd will review its mine tailings disposal options when it reopens the Panguna mine, chairman and managing director Peter Taylor said.

In an in-depth interview on Radio Australia, he said it was up to the landowners and the government which method they wanted.

"So we will have to look at the available tailings disposal mechanisms.

"Technology has moved on, so we've now got options we didn't have before.

"But at the end of the day, the landowners and the government are going to have a fairly significant input on that and they'll have to decide which method they want.

"They can't have the mine without tailings so they have to go together."

Taylor did not say whether one option was the deep sea tailings placement (DSTP) system, one which Ramu nickel project developer, Ramu NiCo Management, wants to use for its Basamuk Bay refinery which a group of landowners have opposed and are fighting to stop through the National Court in Madang.

The Panguna mine closed in 1988 after it became the spark which ignited a 10-year civil war.

Taylor believed it would take at least five years to reopen it.

He added that there was a lot of misinformation about the Jaba River and the so-called environmental damage.

"The material that was put into the river is a very finely ground rock so you get this siltation in the river which means we keep putting levy banks up because the river bed rises.

"There was never any toxic material put down there.

"Quite often I read articles about there being cyanide.

"People have to remember gold and copper were never produced at the mine; only a concentrate, so those sorts of chemicals were never used."

On compensation for damage done to the Jaba River,

Taylor said there was a compensation agreement in place between BCL, the landowners and the company directly but it lapsed when mining was suspended.

"So there's a question of what is equitable for compensating for the period between mining being suspended and when it starts again.

"Most of the compensation was paid as royalty and paid initially directly to the PNG government which was always a bone of contention, and then paid back to the provincial government, which in turn, paid the landowners only part of that.

"This renegotiation we are going to have, we'll have to look at all of that and look at what sort of regime is appropriate for the future not what happened in the past."

He said that having mining operations suspended for more than 20 years had given them an opportunity to study what happened if nature alone was allowed to take its course.

Taylor said that the engineering had also withstood the test of time, for example the pit had to be drained and whether the drainage tunnel still worked.

"There is no water accumulating in the pit.

"The faces of the pit are stable. There's been some minor degradation, but pretty good."

He added that the tailings disposal area was rehabilitating itself, the Jaba River was rehabilitating itself and the waste dumps were still intact, all which he put down to "an excellent engineering job".

01.03.2011

Source: The National

Eluh wants smooth by-election

BOUGAINVILLE police chief ACP Thomas Eluh has urged North Bougainvilleans to conduct its by-election peacefully.

He urged everyone to take the election seriously with the main aim of electing a good leader to serve the people.

Eluh said Bougainvilleans had already proven that democracy truly prevailed in the region with the success of previous elections since 2005.

"I appeal to North Bougainvilleans not to engage in bad practices such as accepting bribes from intending candidates but to use wisdom in carefully choosing the right leader who will take the seat left vacant by former North Bougainville National MP Michael Ogio," he added.

He said police personnel and electoral workers would be going out shortly into villages to conduct pre-election public awareness.

Meanwhile, police in Buka have finally captured three suspects alleged to have been involved in stealing an outboard motor belonging to New Zealand police in Buka.

Jim Tsiuh, 31, of Petats Island and Zebedee Benjamin Sawan, 20, were arrested and charged with aiding in conveying property reasonably suspected of being stolen with a Yamaha 60 horse power motor, the property of the New Zealand government.

Third suspect, Cedric Sawan, 35, of Siwai was also charged with stealing the outboard motor engine.

The three were captured while trying to cross over to the Solomon Islands to sell the engine.

News 04.2011

30.04.2011

Source: Solomon Star

Cholera irks Oxfam International.

By EDNAL PALMER

THE cholera outbreak in neighbouring Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Bougainville has deeply concerned international aid agency Oxfam.

Katie Greenwood of Oxfam International said the agency is concerned that the disease could easily spread to the Solomon Islands.

"We are urging Solomon Islanders to take extra care to protect themselves from the deadly disease that has already killed more than 600 people and affected more than 10,000 in PNG.

"Just last month, a new outbreak of cholera occurred in Buka, Bougainville which is just next door to the Solomon Islands, where many Solomon Islanders travel to and from."

Mrs Greenwood said with the latest outbreak, there are real fears the disease could spread to more villages and spill over to the Solomon Islands.

"Any man, woman and child in communities where cholera is present, or travelling to the cholera infected areas is at risk," she said.

She said Oxfam International with the support of the Ministry of Health in the country, recommended Solomon Islanders travelling to Buka to follow the following instructions.

"Firstly seek immediate medical attention at first sign of diarrhoea, secondly start drinking safe fluids. Boil water before drinking or drink coconut juice immediately and during travel to medical assistance and thirdly wash hands before cooking, eating and after going to the toilet."

More than 100 people have been reportedly affected in Buka but the figure is expected to rise.

Cholera can be contracted by eating or drinking water contaminated by the faeces of a cholera infected person.

Meanwhile Health authorities are stepping up awareness in the western parts of the country.

30.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONE MILLION KINA FLOATED

By Aloysius Laukai

The controversial MV SANKAMAP 2 floated out of the Buka Passage anchorage last night with none on board.

Someone must have cut off its anchors to let it float past Buka town on the passage towards Ieta village.

It was stuck on the reef just out the main entrance when Aloysius Laukai took this picture this morning.

The former ABG minister who bought this boat is now the candidate for the North Bougainville Byelections

Two years ago another Million Kina Fishing Boat bought by the then Regional Member Leo Hannett sank just off the Taiof Island.

The former Regional member is now the Justice Minister for the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

There is another similar boat MV Buka Queen bought by the current member that has never left the passage and still anchored off the Sohano Island.



29.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DRUNKS & CRIME LOW

By Tom Kathoa

Police in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville say the common street offence of drinking beer and other alcoholic beverages in public is declining.

Commander of Police in the Northern Region, Inspector Cletus Tsien says the common

sore eye of people being drunk in public has drastically improved with the imposition of police foot patrols in the Kokopau and Buka Towns including Sohano Island. Inspector Tsien said other liquor related crimes have also improved as indicated by the number of police arrests for the first four months of this year. Inspector Tsien said the number of police arrests is as follows; January 79, 72 for the month of February, 68 for March while the figures for April is yet to be compiled. He said the April figure is expected to be much lower around the 40 to 50 mark. Although, satisfied police are confident a total clean up of this can be achieved. Meanwhile, it has been generally quiet overall in the region during the Easter weekend apart from cases not of criminal nature.

29.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOLOMON WATCH

By Aloysius Laukai

Reports of the Cholera outbreak in the Haku area of Buka island is taking its toll now into the Solomon islands.

The Outbreak was contained by immediate response from Health Authorities on Buka island however there are still individual cases being addressed still on Buka island.

There has been no case reported from Bougainville mainland since the outbreak was reported several weeks ago.

Meanwhile in the Solomon Islands,

Solomon Islands has taken the controversial step of telling citizens not to travel to neighbouring Bougainville in PNG because of growing concerns a cholera outbreak may spread across the border.

The World Health Organisation has advised against banning all travel between the regions... fearing the move could encourage people to cross the border undetected.

The Solomon Islands Health Ministry has stepped up surveillance of the border and embarked on an aggressive cholera awareness campaign in the North Western Provinces.

29.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORLD VISION TO EDUCATE PEOPLE

BY JOYCE TOHUI

A team from World Vision Buka office last week carried out awareness on its Education Project into areas of Central Bougainville.

In making the report, Education Project Development Facilitator, MARTIN MATUA told New Dawn FM that the awareness is to make people aware of the project and how it will be implemented in the area.

He said that the project was initiated following a survey carried out by World Vision which stated that literacy was a problem on Bougainville.

He added that this survey also found out that there was a great imbalance between the number of boys going to school compared to the fewer number of girls attending schools. MR MATUA said that this project is the first of its kind in PNG and the Pacific and would be implemented at ROROVANA 1, ROROVANA 2 and two more villages in the Central Bougainville.

He said there are two categories in the project, one will deal in teaching literacy to

children and category two will train youths with life skills.
He said these skills will enable them to be productive in their communities.
The Officer said that during the awareness the people are more interested in the training of life skills.

29.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GET READY FOR DROUGHT **BY JOYCE TOHUI**

The Disaster Officer in the region, FRANKLYN LACEY is appealing to the people of Bougainville to start preparing themselves for the predicted drought expected in 2012. He told New Dawn FM that Scientists said that the onset of the drought will be very slow for eighteen months but it would prolong.
MR LACEY said that as the price of copra and cocoa are good at this time, people must use their monies wisely and spend it on something that will benefit them in the long term. He appealed to the people to buy iron roofing for their house to catch rain water and also get themselves water tanks and not to depend on the government alone.
He said the government is trying its best to deliver but it is the people that must think of their lives and put their priorities right.
MR LACEY said that if only people are mindful of sustaining their livelihood meaningfully than it will help the government to deliver whenever possible.
He said money is a big problem and one must help him/herself first.

29.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

One Thousands meet **By Aloysius Laukai**

A total of ONE THOUSAND AND SIXTY EIGHT Primary School students are attending the Pikinini Soccer Competition in Buin South Bougainville.
The games started yesterday and will end on Sunday May first 2011.
Ages range from under seventeen and under fifteen.
In giving update from the Buin games, Senior Vice President of Bougainville Soccer League, JOE MAINEKE said that schools from BANA, SIWAI and Buin are attending the games.
He said that they would like Torokina schools to attend the next competition.
MR. MAINEKE said that South Bougainville plans to market its soccer stars in future that is why it is starting with the Pikinini Soccer competition.
New Dawn FM in Buka is getting update reports of the games in its broadcasts.

29.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Group wary of rebel threat

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has been given a petition by a group of

fighters providing defence to the Me'ekamui Defence Force criminal elements in south Bougainville.

The petition, by the Moongai Homeguards, a self-appointed group, claim they got permission and approval from the Bougainville Police to take up arms just to defend or protect their community and their population in the Konnou Constituency, from being harmed by Me'ekamui Defence Force elements like Damien Koike and his lot.

Mr Koike is asking for the group with others to be dismantled, but the Homeguards refused their demands and instead have presented this petition to the ABG with the aim of solving the problem.

The petition, signed by about 25 chiefs, freedom fighters and Moongai Homeguards, detailed that they seriously needed help from the ABG and the United Nations to intervene to sort the issue.

They have warned that since the MDF were refusing to co-operate and reconcile - and failing the process, they would take another step of asking for a special armed force unit or a RAMSI type United Nations peace keeping force.

"Please president John Momis, you must take this delicate situation very seriously as your number one priority for your government's immediate action to neutralise the critical and very dangerous situation before more blood is shed and lives are lost. We appeal that you give us a positive response to this very critical and dangerous situation," the team wrote in the petition to Mr Momis.

28.04.2011

Source: Yahoo Bougainville Forum

Semoso states.

On Saturday, April 23rd, 2011 the PNG Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Bougainville Regional MP, Fidelis Semoso, stated on the Yahoo Bougainville Forum as follows:

Barau traipia morning lo you and thanx for forwarding emails commenting on our endeavour to re open panguna. Quite obviously a lot of it is from the "academia" and people who are far removed from the realities of the situation on the ground in particular the day to day hardships of our people on the ground.

It is a sad truth that while the learned and leadership of Boug argue about the pros and cons of re opening of panguna or the best mining options suitable for us, our development remains static or is regressing as all statistics would reflect.

I just make the following observations based on the emails

1. The Vice President Mr Patrick Nisira and myself who both happen to be young leaders from Buka are not wasting our time by aggressively moving to reopen panguna. We have been mandated as leaders to make those decisions though hard and painful but critical for the prosperity of AROB.

2. The issue raised by ML on ownership of panguna needs to put into proper perspective for the task of the reopening to proceed as smoothly as possible. All of us throughout Boug can lay claim to ownership of panguna by virtue of the suffering we all endured from the spill over of the PLO related conflict and that is well appreciated by everybody including the LO going by the sentiments expressed during my discussions with them. And I believe this will be one of the key considerations if and when the BCA review is progressed.

It must be appreciated however that the LO from the six(6) Lease Areas are special people by virtue of their birth right and heritage and have a right to negotiate whatever

they want. We the other LO from the rest of Boug will have our interests represented by our elected leaders in the ABG.

3. I for one totally agree that the long term prosperity of Boug is dependent on a sustainable economy driven by key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, Human Resources and tourism.

We all agree however that for these sectors to be the catalyst and driver of our economy they need to be fully developed first which requires a cash injection of massive proportion which can only come from an impact project such as Panguna. Our predicament is now even worse with Cocoa Pod Borer devastating our cocoa sector.

4. It is common sense that countries such as Samoa and Vanuatu are managing with Tourism as their major source of revenue and are only able to do so as they have excellent infrastructure courtesy of their European colonial rulers.

If we can develop our infrastructure we can tap into and benefit from this multi billion kina tourism industry.

Agriculture is another major potential economic driver for Boug but like tourism needs a massive cash injection to rehabilitate the 65 former expat owned plantations and the more than 5000 small blockholders.

5. No development initiative is without any negative environmental impact. The agriculture sector in Boug I believe is the biggest contributor to deforestation on Bougainville. Developing cocoa and coconuts requires felling of virgin forests and drying of cocoa and copra needs endless supply of firewood= fell and cut down more trees. Samting blo upla ol save man.

These are the choices we have to make ol brata.

6. As leaders we have a time frame driving us to bring a certain level of development to Bougainville, the 2015 REFERENDUM. We must ensure our people access and enjoy a high level of service to enable them to VOTE FREELY and MAKE A REAL CHOICE during the referendum.

Given that the first opportunity is less than 4 years away we have to implement a major impact project that can deliver and satisfy our people's aspirations within this 4 years and that project is the Re Opening of Panguna.

As mandated leaders we are required to make tough but well informed decisions. The Boug leadership both in the ABG and National Government I believe remain united and resolved to delivering this project.

Most importantly ol brata, Bougainville was devastated by Panguna and Panguna must rebuild Bougainville.

Em ol tingting tasol blo wanpla lida blo ples.

Barau pls you lukim na sapos you ting em gutpla lo sharim wantaim ol narapla you putim through lo forum blo upla.

FS (Fidelis Semoso)

28.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ANITUA RECRUIT

By Aloysius Laukai

A local mining contractor, [ANITUA MINING SERVICES](#) is seeking for workers to work at the Lihir Gold Mine in the New Ireland Province.

And a recruitment team is on Bougainville to recruit Tradesmen in the fields of Auto Electricians, Heavy Equipment Fitters, Heavy Equipment Operators and Safety Officers. People who are interested can see the recruitment team at the Kuri Village Resort. For further information please call 986 4155.

28.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LANDS SUMMIT

By Tom Kathoa

A three days Land Summit is being planned for Arawa next month.

Participants at the summit would discuss all land issues in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Among them are lands occupied by the Churches and plantations to be discussed on the first day of the summit.

On mission and plantation lands, participants would look at how and why land was acquired by these two organizations, and the positive and negative effects of their existence and activities.

On Post Conflict participants would discussed what has changed, ownership of monetary value overriding customary value, loss of knowledge on traditional and formal education and the likes.

It will also look Bougainville at its present as it is today

Speakers would include, Moses Havini who would set the scene and ABG Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon Michael Oni who would welcome submit participants to the summit

The following days would cover issues such as pressure on customary and alienated land, pressure on customs, environment and natural resources, Land tenure and dispute resolutions.

28.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOKA TOURNAMENT

By Tom Kathoa

Primary school students in South Bougainville are taking part in the South Bougainville Pikinini Soka Tournament at Buin Town today.

Events Officer, Mr. Joe Maineke said schools taking part in the tournament are from the three districts of South Bougainville.

The games was kicked off by the Minister for Peace and Reconciliation, Hon Newton Kauva and witnessed by Michael Laita the Ex combatant Member for South Bougainville which started today would run for three days ending on the first of May.

Reports from Buin say that all the participant schools are being represented at the tournament.

New Dawn FM understands that the National member for South Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA is sponsoring the games.

28.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Fathers Fund Raise

By Aloysius Laukai

Marist Fathers working in the Bougainville Diocese would be having a corporate dinner to raise funds for pastoral work.

The corporate dinner would be held at the Kuri Village Resort between 6pm and 9pm this Saturday.

According to their invitation letter the aim of having the corporate dinner is to raise funds for a vehicle to carry out pastoral work.

And tables of Ten people would be going for One Thousand kina.

There would be some entertainments during the dinner.

New Dawn FM also understands that since the last of missionaries left Bougainville last year, the church is now left in the hand of the locals and they need our support to carry out God's work.

28.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Solomon Islands advises citizens not to travel to Bougainville

Solomon Islands has taken the controversial step of telling citizens not to travel to neighbouring Bougainville in PNG because of growing concerns a cholera outbreak may spread across the border.

The World Health Organisation has advised against banning all travel between the regions... fearing the move could encourage people to cross the border undetected.

The Solomon Islands Health Ministry has stepped up surveillance of the border and embarked on an aggressive cholera awareness campaign in the north west provinces.

Presenter: Stephanie March

Dr Cedric Alependava, Solomon Islands Under Secretary for Health Improvement

Listen here !

28.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

UN team meets rebel faction

THE United Nations successfully entered the Me'ekamui Defence Force controlled Konnou area, in south Bougainville, four years after they were banned from entering the area.

UN head on Bougainville Anthony Agyenta and his team, led by Bougainville Catholic Bishop Bernard Unabali, travelled to the rebel stronghold area, firstly for the big Easter Mass celebrations at Tabago with the people of Buin, Bana and Siwai in south

Bougainville, and later convened a meeting with the rebel soldiers to hear their grievances and the issues they were facing.

They met with the soldiers but not the MDF commander Damien Koike.

This meeting has resulted in three immediate recommendations from the UN and the Catholic Church that seriously need the backing of the ABG hierarchy and they include: the signing of ceasefire agreement; containment of weapons and reconciliation.

"It was a successful mission with the church and that's why I want Parliament to back this up immediately.

"I am appealing strongly to the ABG to commit themselves because in the shortest possible time, this is the greatest opportunity to move in and sort this issue once and for all. Let's strike when the iron is still hot," Mr Agyenta said.

28.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis' plan for weapons

By GORETHY KENNETH

Bougainville President John Momis issued a strong statement on weapons disposal detailing his 10-point plan.

"The continuing presence of weapons and ammunition in the hands of groups and individuals is causing many problems. It's a major factor in localised conflict in the south of Bougainville, resulting in more than 50 deaths since 2006," Mr Momis said in his Easter speech.

"Many people have been displaced, many people are living in fear of weapons and investments in economic projects are restricted by weapons. It is essential that Bougainville find ways of removing weapons from our communities and weapons disposal is a priority for my government.

"After wide consultation, I am proposing some basic principles based on lessons learnt from the past experience on weapons disposal in Bougainville, both successful cases and the unsuccessful ones since 2005."

In summary, these principles are:

- * All disposal plans must be based on facts about weapons in Bougainville;
- * Disposal plans must provide incentives, pressure and processes that respond to the reasons why different groups and individuals hold weapons;
- * Political incentives maybe important reasons for some groups to dispose their weapons;
- * Weapons plans must involve the whole community
- * Weapons disposal plans must not include buy-back arrangements or economic projects in exchange for weapons;
- * Disposal plans must be realistic in what they propose in relation to economic development projects in support of weapons disposal;
- * Disposal plans must include a process for actual disposal of weapons that is accountable and transparent;
- * Disposal plans must consider whether there is a need for supervision of the process of actual disposal of weapons that is accountable and transparent;
- * Disposal plans may need to be linked to reconciliation programs that support weapons disposal; and
- * Disposal plans need to address the security concerns of those holding weapons.

"I am requesting all Bougainvilleans interested to do so to send me their comments on these draft principles," Mr Momis said.

"I will then re-consider these principles before submitting them to the Bougainville cabinet."

27.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN MAN IN PANGUNA



**Picture of Anthony Agyenta (middle) at the recent Panguna Mekamui reconciliation in Panguna.
He is flanked by two Mekamui leaders, Left is President Philipp Miriori and a Panguna chief.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai**

27.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

UN MAN HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

The special technical officer for UN on Bougainville, Anthony Agyenta is happy to have accompanied the Catholic Bishop of Bougainville to the troubled Konnou Constituency for the Easter celebrations.

He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that his trip to Konnou was a breakthrough for the UN who were not allowed to go into the area in the past four years.

MR. AGYENTA said that he was now in a better position to negotiate with Damien Koike and his team to lay down their arms and talk peace.

He says that since the Konnou trip they are now working on a team that would progress the peace process up to full arms disposal.

On the news of Prayers by friends from Senegal in West Africa, Anthony Agyenta an African himself from Ghana thanked his brothers and sisters from Africa for their prayers.

27.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Nurses concerned on Cholera

By Aloysius Laukai

NURSES at the Buka General Hospital are upset with the lack of preparedness the hospital seems to have in addressing cholera cases in Buka town, Bougainville.

The nurses who requested anonymity said the hospital does not have a proper cholera treatment centre to treat suspected cases of cholera patients who turn up at the hospital. They said the current advise by the hospital management and Bougainville Cholera Task Force was to refer all suspected cholera patients to Lemanmanu Health centre which is three hours by road to Haku constituency.

The nurses said, to date, there have been random cases of suspected cholera from urban areas who needed immediate health care at the hospital but were immediately transported to Lemanmanu health centre.

They said although this course of action is successful in containing the disease, it is not sustainable and a well thought out plan in addressing cholera on a large scale is urgently needed should cholera spread to other areas of Bougainville.

The nurses urged the Bougainville Cholera Task force team to immediately focus on long term solutions such as establishing a cholera treatment centre at the hospital, in preparation for any cases that come from areas far from the Haku constituency.

The nurses raised this concern yesterday after a suspected cholera patient was received at the hospital's outpatient clinic which was immediately closed to the public in fear of the bacteria spreading to other sick people who were waiting to be treated.

The maternal health care clinic was then temporarily set up as the outpatient clinic yesterday which in consequence displaced more than 20 pregnant women who were at the hospital for their regular antenatal checks.

The expectant mothers were asked to return on Thursday for their antenatal care.

27.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebel warns ABG to meet promises

ONE of Bougainville's feared rebel operating out of south Bougainville, Damien Koike, has issued a stern warning to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to adhere to his requests or face trouble.

Koike is the Me'ekamui Defence Force commander in south Bougainville. His counterparts are Chris Uma and Moses Pipiro who live in Arawa and Panguna, central Bougainville. Koike was accused of unnecessary killing of people in the Konnou and Wisai areas of South Bougainville. He was also alleged to be building up arms to win more men to fight the ABG.

In his Easter message to the people of Buin, Bana and Siwai, the man accused of the killings in that part of the region, wants their issues taken out of ABG offices and handled by a neutral organisation like the United Nations. A phone call to the Post-Courier on Saturday by the Me'ekamui soldiers from Konnou advised that the rebel hardliners were angry with the ABG because they claimed it had not fulfilled its promises to help the MDF, in particular, Koike and his soldiers with their demands for the current government to settle outstanding claims since the establishment of the ABG in 2005.

Koike also demanded the ABG to dismantle its forces, the WILMO and Mongai Homeguards established to fight his Me'ekamui soldiers in the south and stressed that he was for peace and unity but was not happy with the way ABG was handling their issues.

"Mipla laik tokim yupla olgeta pipol "with tears on our face" plis go bek na tokim ABG olsem stop killing your own people...stop hunting us like wild animals," Koike wrote in his Easter message.

"ABG must dismantolim olgeta forces em i bin fomim," Koike stated.

27.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'ABG must pay for deaths'

By Peterson Tseraha

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government will be responsible for all those who died in the latest Wisai shooting and they will compensate their families.

This is because the Mekamui criminals were allegedly funded by the ABG when they came over to Buka in their recent visit to collect their claims. A chief from Wisai confirmed this before the Easter weekend.

"Damien Koike and his band of criminals have lied to the Government many times now," they said.

"We the village leaders have asked the ABG for funds to make reconciliation ceremonies but they never listened to us," the chiefs said. "But the Mekamui came, and in just one hour got paid, because the ABG had the mentality that by giving them money, they would be tamed, but everything just went the other way around, they bought bullets and came up to Leulo village and started shooting innocent villagers which is totally inhuman and unacceptable, and a clear breach of human rights," they said.

"We want the ABG to come out clear on whose side are they on, are they for us or are they with criminals who terrorise and murder innocent people." The chief further stated that the ABG must now compensate the families of those that were killed in the shootout because they have paid the criminals, and there is no excuse for the ABG to deny any claims from their families.

"Do not negotiate with criminals because they are here on Bougainville and they would only be encouraged if they are being honoured by the Government," the chiefs said. They said the first K15,000 given to them was used to purchase a speed boat to transport them to Solomon Islands. "They sell gold there in exchange for firearms, according to latest information from our sources," he said.

26.11.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Unterstützung für Bougainville-Aktion

BoJe-Verbund: Landjugend spendet 4350 Euro für guten Zweck

Neusustrum. Den Betrag von 4350 Euro hat die Katholische Landjugendbewegung (KLJB) im BoJe-Verbund der Kirchengemeinden Ober-Niederlangen, Sustrum, Neusustrum, Niederlangen-Siedlung, Sustrum-Moor und Hasselbrock für die von Pater Hermann Wöste initiierte Aktion Bougainville gespendet.

Das Geld stammt aus der von den Jugendlichen organisierten „Six-Pack-Party“ in Neusustrum. Nach Mitteilung der KLJB ist das der höchste Erlös, der seit der ersten Party im Jahr 1999 erzielt wurde.

Im Laufe des nun mehr als zehnjährigen Engagements der KLJB für die Bougainville-Aktion wurden unter anderem der Bau einer Berufsschule in Koromira, die Verlegung eines Wasserversorgungssystems und die Errichtung eines Krankenhauses mitfinanziert. Der Berufsschule, an der zurzeit über 300 Jugendliche unterrichtet werden, kommt auch der aktuelle Spendenbetrag zugute.

26.11.2011

Source: REUTERS

Analysis: Barrick bid suggests copper will be the new gold

By Nick Trevethan

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Soaring global demand for copper makes the metal a better bet than gold and explains a surprise bid by Barrick Gold Corp, the world's No. 1 bullion producer, for copper miner Equinox Minerals.

Barrick's (ABX.TO: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#), [Stock Buzz](#)) (ABX.N: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#), [Stock Buzz](#)) \$7.68 billion offer for Equinox (EQN.TO: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#), [Stock Buzz](#)) (EQN.AX: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#), [Stock Buzz](#)) trumped one by Minmetals Resources (1208.HK: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#), [Stock Buzz](#)), a unit of China's largest metals trader.

Minmetals on Tuesday bowed out of the battle for the copper miner, which has been involved in takeover tussles of its own with smaller miners, saying Barrick's bid was too rich.

The move signals a shift by Barrick away from a near-pure gold play into a more diversified mining company, highlighting the positive demand outlook for industrial metals in an improving global economy.

"Perhaps copper is the new gold. The long-term prospects for base metals look good," Pinaki Rath, managing director of Gold Matrix Resources, said.

He noted that the risk of rising interest rates as world economies shift from the highly accommodating monetary policy adopted during the global financial crisis to more normal conditions could cap the upside for gold, while industrial appetite for copper would support prices.

Both copper and gold prices have hit record highs this year -- copper on the London Metal Exchange touched an unprecedented \$10,190 a ton in February, while spot gold rallied to a record \$1,518.10 an ounce as recently as Monday.

And demand growth from emerging economies like China, which currently consumes 40 percent of world copper output or around 8 million tons, will keep prices firm, while miners struggle keep up.

Estimates vary, but analysts see demand for copper, where its ductility and conductivity make it an essential input in electrical products, wiring and in tubing, outstripping supply by between 300,000 tons to almost 1 million tons this year.

"For at least the next three years we are still very bullish on copper as the market will remain in deficit over that period, even under the most conservative global demand forecasts," said Judy Zhu, analyst at Standard Chartered Bank in Shanghai.

"And there is a possibility that this deficit could be more prolonged if demand grows faster than expectations. Copper is highly exposed to Asia, and urbanization in China and India will provide upside momentum for at least the next 10 years and perhaps as long as 20 years."

Equinox's prime asset is the Lumwana mine in Africa's rich Zambian copper belt, which produced around 147,000 tons of copper in concentrate last year, 1 percent of global mine supply. Equinox also owns a mine project in Saudi Arabia.

"ALCHEMY IN REVERSE"

The acquisition would more than double Barrick's copper output, seen at less than 150,000 tons in 2011, Reuters Metal Production Database shows.

At current prices, the merged entity's annual copper output would be worth \$3 billion, while its gold output is worth around \$11 billion. The takeover would reduce Barrick's exposure to gold to 80 percent from 90 percent currently.

"It's alchemy in reverse -- turning gold into base metals -- but increasing exposure to industrial metals is probably a smart move if you expect the global economy to return to pre-crisis levels," said a trader in Singapore.

"In that scenario, the upside to gold is likely to be capped, while the potential for gains in copper are greater. They have a lot of cash, but it is telling they went for a copper play, and not another gold miner."

COPPER, GOLD GAINS

Both copper and gold markets have seen a huge turnaround from their lows in the post Lehman Brothers financial meltdown, with copper prices up threefold from lows struck in December 2008 below \$3,000 a ton. Gold prices have risen by a more modest 120 percent in the same period.

A recent Reuters poll of analysts pegged gold at around \$1,700 an ounce in 2015, up 13 percent from current prices.

"It's not a bad time to diversify if you are a gold miner. There are lots of reasons to be bullish on gold, at the same time copper has a stronger long-term outlook," said William Adams, analyst at FastMarkets.com.

"Over the next five years I am by and large bullish and wouldn't be surprised if copper saw an upper range between \$10,000 to \$12,000."

Other forecasters were also bullish on copper.

RBS forecast average prices between \$10,000 and \$11,500 in 2012, 2013 and 2014, versus between \$5,100 and just over \$9,800 between 2009 and 2011.

Barclays Capital saw copper trading on average at \$12,000 in 2012, while StanChart's Zhu saw prices at just under \$12,000 in 2014 .

"According to Barrick's statement, they are looking to diversify into copper, obviously because of the bullish outlook," said Australia-based mining equities investor Richard Longley, who owns shares in Equinox.

He said many mining companies were seeking ways to diversify and copper producers were in favor, given the positive longer term outlook for the metal.

"However, there is a 'gold halo' effect to pure-play gold companies, where people put a premium on gold companies more than on others. So there is a danger that some of Barrick's investors may not like this bid."

26.11.2011

Source: Financial Times

CIC set for up to \$200bn in fresh funds

By Henny Sender in Hong Kong and Jamil Anderlini in Beijing

China Investment Corp, the Chinese sovereign wealth fund, will soon receive \$100bn-\$200bn in new funds from the government, according to three people familiar with the matter.

CIC, which has already fully allocated the \$110bn it had available for offshore investments, is to get the new money as Beijing seeks to reduce its exposure to US government debt. "There has been bureaucratic bickering for a year," said one person familiar with the matter. "It has been difficult to resolve."

The reserves, already the largest in the world, grew by nearly \$200bn in the first quarter to top \$3,000bn for the first time. In the past week, two senior government economists have publicly said China only needs reserves of around \$1,000bn.

CIC was established in 2007 with the mandate to invest some of the country's foreign reserves in riskier offshore assets. At that time, China had less than \$1,500bn in its foreign exchange coffers.

While the fund suffered some early missteps – investing in US private equity firm Blackstone and in Morgan Stanley before their shares plummeted in the global financial crisis – people who deal with the fund say CIC has grown in professionalism and confidence.

"They had a lot of growing pains in the beginning but now they know more," says one private equity executive. "They will be smarter and more rigorous going forward."

In addition to handing more money to CIC, Beijing is also considering using the reserves to set up a variety of new special-purpose funds that would invest in sectors such as energy and **precious metals**, as well as a foreign-exchange stabilisation fund, according to a Chinese media report on Monday, citing unnamed sources.

Debate has raged among policymakers in Beijing for more than a year over how much more money CIC should receive, while the central bank and the ministry of finance have fought a bureaucratic turf war over whether the central bank should have more control over the fund.

The central bank had proposed that the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, an agency under the central bank which manages the forex reserves, either invest directly as a shareholder in CIC or hand CIC a mandate to manage a certain amount of reserves on its behalf.

Those suggestions were eventually rejected, according to people familiar with the matter, and CIC will now probably receive the money from the finance ministry, its shareholder and biggest champion, as occurred when it was initially capitalised in 2007.

At that time, the ministry issued renminbi bonds and used the proceeds to buy foreign exchange from the central bank.

After its initial investments in western financial institutions, CIC has increasingly focused on offshore investments that take advantage of China's economic boom. Besides focusing on natural resources and energy, it is also increasingly interested in investing in Chinese companies listed offshore.

Recently, for example, it took a stake in SMIC, a semiconductor company listed in Hong Kong but with all its assets in the mainland. In addition, it recently began asking some of its private equity partners for co-investment stakes in China deals, an indirect way to invest in China.

However, much of what CIC does is hard to track because it often uses private equity firms to act on its behalf as it did when Blackstone bought Morgan Stanley's troubled property loan portfolio in Japan last year at CIC's behest.

In general, state-owned Chinese companies in particular are rapidly expanding their investments abroad with direct encouragement from Beijing. China's non-financial outbound foreign direct investment totalled \$48bn in 2009, 48 times the amount in 2002, according to UN figures. From focusing almost exclusively on securing offshore supplies of natural resources Chinese companies are now interested in a wide range of industries, especially ones where they can acquire technology.

China's non-financial offshore interests are dwarfed by its financial investments abroad, which mostly go into low-yielding but relatively safe government bonds.

26.04.2011

Source: CHINA ECONOMIC REVIEW

CIC to receive \$200b in new government funds

China's sovereign wealth fund, China Investment Corp, will soon receive US\$100-200 billion in new government funds, a move reflecting Beijing's aim to reduce its exposure to US government debt, the Financial Times reported. CIC has already fully allocated the US\$110 billion it had available for offshore investments. A number of senior officials, including China's central bank governor, have recently argued that the nation's foreign exchange reserves are beyond "reasonable requirements" and that it only needs around US\$1 trillion. Already the largest in the world, China's forex reserves grew by nearly US\$200 billion in the first quarter to top US\$3 trillion for the first time. Beijing is considering using the reserves to set up special-purpose funds that would target sectors like energy and **precious metals**, as well as a forex stabilization fund.

26.11.2011

Source: SPIEGEL ONLINE

Staatsfonds CIC

China rüstet sich für Milliarden-Shoppingtrip

Peking treibt die globale Expansion voran: Laut einem Pressebericht will die Volksrepublik im großen Stil in ausländische Firmen einsteigen - und steckt dafür bis zu 200 Milliarden Dollar in ihren Staatsfonds CIC.

Hamburg - 3,04 Billionen Dollar Währungsreserven hortet China - einen Teil ihres gewaltigen Vermögens will die Regierung nun investieren, um sich auf der ganzen Welt an Unternehmen zu beteiligen. Laut einem Bericht der Londoner "Financial Times" ("FT") wird der Staatsfonds China Investment Corporation (CIC) bald eine gewaltige Geldspritze erhalten. 100 bis 200 Milliarden Dollar soll CIC bekommen, berichtet die Zeitung unter Berufung auf drei Insider.

Das Geld werde wahrscheinlich vom Finanzministerium bereitgestellt. Der chinesische Staatsfonds CIC war 2007 gegründet worden, um die enormen Devisenreserven des Landes anzulegen. CIC soll eine möglichst hohe Rendite erzielen und investiert deshalb auch in riskante Vermögenswerte.

Erste Investitionen tätigte der Fonds 2007: Er kaufte seinerzeit knapp zehn Prozent an der US-Beteiligungsgesellschaft Blackstone für drei Milliarden Dollar und knapp zehn Prozent der US-Großbank Morgan Stanley für rund fünf Milliarden Dollar. Die Anteile büßten im Zuge der Finanzkrise deutlich an Wert ein. Aus den Fehlern hat der Staatsfonds nach eigenen Angaben gelernt. "Sie werden künftig klüger anlegen", zitiert die "FT" einen Private-Equity-Manager.

Dem Bericht zufolge plant die chinesische Regierung nicht nur eine Finanzspritze für CIC. Es könnten auch neue, zweckgebundene Fonds gegründet werden - unter anderem für die Bereiche **Rohstoffe**, Energie und IT. Für CIC würde das neue Konkurrenz bedeuten; der Staatsfonds hatte zuletzt verstärkt in Rohstoffe investiert.

China versucht, die eigenen enormen Devisenreserven zu reduzieren. Die Zentralbank in Peking und mehrere Regierungsvertreter hatten zuletzt betont, die gehortete Geldmenge habe ein Niveau erreicht, das deutlich "über dem vernünftigen Maß" liege. Laut "FT" will

die Regierung nicht nur die Währungsreserven verringern, sondern auch ihr gewaltiges Engagement in US-Staatsanleihen zurückfahren. Mit rund 900 Milliarden Dollar ist China Amerikas größter Gläubiger.

26.04.2011

Source: The National

ABG calls for funding from donors

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government vice-president Patrick Nisira has appealed to aid agencies based and working in Bougainville to help with sourcing funds for projects that will help the unification process jointly established by the ABG and Me'ekamui leadership.

Nisira said the unification process was established to unite the people in the mine affected district to enable them to be involved in a peace and reconciliation programme and initiate development projects for their communities.

The process was to enable their leaders to be involved in proactive discussions for autonomy building in Bougainville and preparations for the region's referendum for independence.

"While the ABG has included the Panguna district administration in its annual budget, funds have not often adequately met the required programmes that would meet the people's demand.

"I am, therefore, seeking specific assistance from aid agencies for the people of Panguna and loro constituency," he said.

Nisira singled out the UNDP and AusAID to come to the aid of the Panguna people who he said had missed out on many basic government services due to the 'No Go Zone' syndrome that was placed on them by their leaders.

The leaders had signed an MoU in 2005 known as the Panguna communiqué with the late ABG president Joseph Kabui which allowed for development initiatives for Panguna.

26.04.2011

Source: The National

Momis: Violence in Bougainville must stop

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THERE will be no hope of holding a referendum in Bougainville if violence continues in the region, Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis said.

He said this after learning of the shooting deaths of two more people, taking the death toll to more than 50 people since 2006 killed in Konnou in South Bougainville.

Momis described the shootings as "terrible news", adding that the people of South Bougainville had seen too much death and injuries and demanded the removal of weapons and a return to peace and normalcy.

"I call on the leaders of the armed group to work with me and other leaders to end violence for good."

He said the Bougainville crisis ended 14 years ago and there was no place for weapons and violence now.

He said the deaths in armed conflict since 2006 "have nothing to do with the grievances that caused the Bougainville crisis".

"Instead, they are the result of personal differences, lawlessness and criminal activity.

"Innocent people are being killed and injured and displaced from their homes, economic development is impossible in large areas and insecurity and crime are becoming a part of everyday life.

"This must stop.

"If violence continues, there is no hope of holding a referendum that the international community will judge as free and fair," Momis said.

He said there would be no chance of mining to provide economic development, and the revenue needed for autonomy and referendum, adding that if nothing changed, "we will only attract dishonest foreigners that will try to exploit our resources."

He said he would call a summit of leaders from South Bougainville and a consensus must be reached on how to get rid of the weapons.

Leaders of the armed groups must be involved in preparing for the summit.

Momis said the Bougainville administration would plan the summit for South Bougainville leaders to be held as soon as possible.

He will also discuss with the national government and regional embassies for possible arrangements for a small regional force to provide local security in South Bougainville for the weapons disposal process and find funding for training of members of armed groups if an agreement was not reached.

26.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Me'ekamui hails ABG

By GORETHY KENNETH

ME'EKAMUI diehards and its leaders have hailed the unification effort of all factions in Panguna by the Autonomous Bougainville Government as a success.

Me'ekamui president Philip Miriori and his cabinet Philip Takaung and William Mungta have given the thumbs up for the ABG, through acting President Patrick Nisira, for the work they have been doing in uniting the Panguna factions.

Mr Nisira has been driving the government's unification process since the beginning of this year. He is now calling on the Me'ekamui leaders to join the ABG and the other stakeholders in delivering the much-needed basic government services like health and education to the people of Panguna and the rest of the Ioro Constituency.

He is also urging the Me'ekamui leaders to be involved in the peace and reconciliation process and help to provide stability in the region.

Nisira gave the ABG's undertakings to support and maintain the unification process among all Panguna factions during the recent "domanto", a traditional cleansing ceremony between the Panguna leaders, the ABG and the Me'ekamui which would now enable all factions and leaders to re-enter the Panguna administration centre and to hold their meetings there. After the passing away of the Francis Ona, the leaders could not use the centre and his office – they are now free to use the facilities there for negotiations.

To compound the problem further, the Me'ekmaui leadership split into two groups – the Me'ekamui Government of Unity (MGU) led by Philip Miriori, Philip Takaung and Moses Pipiro of the Me'ekamui Defence Force and the Original Me'ekamui, led by Blaise Iruinu, William Mungta and Chris Uma, another well known former commander of the BRA and MDF.

These leaders earlier this month met with Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso and had pledged to work together to move Bougainville forward.

26.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG must pay compo: Chief

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government will be responsible for all those who died in the latest Wisai shooting and they will compensate the families.

This is because the Me'ekamui criminals were allegedly funded by the ABG when they came to Buka recently to collect their claims. A chief from Wisai said this to the Post-Courier just before Easter.

"Damien Koike and his band of criminals have lied to the Government many times now," he said.

"We, responsible village leaders, have asked the ABG for funds to make reconciliation ceremonies but they never ever listened to us."

"But the Me'ekamui came, and in just one hour, they got paid, because the ABG had the mentality that by giving them money, they will be tamed, but everything just went the other way around, they bought bullets, came up to Leulo village and started shooting innocent villagers which is totally inhuman and unacceptable."

26.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Wisai massacre

By Peterson Tseraha

A 12-year-old grade six student and his cousin are dead and others wounded after a band of criminals opened fire on them in South Bougainville.

This incident happened on Saturday when a group of armed men alleged to have been led by former U-Vistract Me'ekamui commander Damien Koike moved into Leulo village in the Wisai area in the Konnou constituency, South Bougainville, and started firing at villagers.

The Konnou area has been ABG's major setback in terms of peace.

The United Nations is trying its best to contain lawlessness in the area.

It has also been alleged that Koike and his men are building up arms from the Torokina war relics for their own war.

The winding down of operations by the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO), the pro ABG faction in the Wisai area, was taken as an advantage by Koike and his men who are now branded as criminals from the Tabago area.

On Saturday, two men died and several others wounded. One of the wounded is now in a critical condition in the Buka General Hospital.

The 12-year old boy was doing his grade six in Ugubagohu Primary school in Wisai.

WILMO commander Philip Pusua, in a written statement given to the Post-Courier, said Koike and his men left their village, Mohoroi in the Tabago area, and have been hiding in the jungles of Siniminoi and Tonolei which is an unoccupied area in Wisai and have continued killing people in their own land.

The statement also said the criminals are operating an alluvial gold mine which they have taken over from landowners of Leulo village and so far they have killed three landowners which add up to 23 in total killed.

26.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Killings mark our Easter celebrations

The long Easter weekend came to an end yesterday.

In Papua New Guinea, Christians marked the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with church fellowships and worships, combined with sporting activities that took up much of

the weekend.

Now with the end of all the activities, let's see whether the long Easter weekend was trouble free and peaceful around PNG?

To the PNG Police Force, the answer to that question is yes. Police commanders around PNG, including the nation's capital, claim the long Easter weekend was trouble free.

We however do not agree with the Police. The reason or reasons are outlined below.

A Chinese national was killed in brutal fashion on the eve of Good Friday in Port Moresby by criminals who held him up to steal from him.

NCD/Central Police Commander Fred Sheekiot told us that the Chinese national was shot at point blank range when he refused to submit to a gang who had held him up at gunpoint.

Police were able to round up four suspects after the shooting and two firearms were recovered and the four are under interrogation at the Boroko Police Station. Sheekiot also reported a murder on Easter Saturday in Hiri district Central province. The man was killed after a drunken brawl.

Then in East New Britain, Easter Friday was only a few hours old when wanted criminal Anton Marko was smoked out of his hideaway and shot dead by police.

Marko was trapped in a bush house near Keravat township between 4 and 5am on Friday. The convicted murderer and prison escapee was with a woman in the house when police stormed inside, calling on him to surrender. Provincial Police Commander Sylvester Kalaut told us that Marko fired back at police and they retreated outside, after then they placed tear gas canisters under the house and smoked him out. He was armed when he came out and was shot dead.

In Port Moresby again, a family of more than six was left homeless fire gutted their home on the eve of Easter weekend. The cause of the fire is not known but the family lost everything. Two children who were in the house were saved.

Last Thursday, a man was murdered in Atamo, Manetai District of Central Bougainville, and on Good Friday, a Dantanai man was knifed in Arawa town and is nursing serious wounds at the Arawa Hospital after police came to his rescue.

In South of Bougainville, a 12 year old boy, who was in his sixth grade, is now dead along with his first cousin and others were wounded, after a band of criminals opened fire on them in South Bougainville.

This incident happened on Saturday when a group of armed men allegedly led by former U Vistract Mekamui Commander Damien Koike moved into Leulo village in Wissai, in the Konnou constituency, and started firing at innocent villagers.

On Good Friday in the centre of Mt Hagen, PNG's third city, a middle aged man was brutally murdered. Shocked eyewitnesses, watched as police came to take the wounded man away to hospital but he died later from his wounds.

Six deaths were recorded over the long Easter weekend. There may be many more around the country and were not reported to police. What these deaths clearly tell us is that PNG did not have a peaceful and trouble free Easter weekend.

Easter is the most important feast in the Christian world and PNG proclaims it to be a Christian country.

We are sure that over the long weekend, at all church services, Papua New Guineans were reminded of the obvious by their pastors or priests and that is that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ should mark a new beginning in their lives.

Given that the Christian churches in PNG are more than 100 years old, except a few minority groups, the majority of the PNG population is Christian, who should really try and make a new start in life. Only then will this country know real peace and harmony.

26.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sorcery related attacks grip Central Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

CENTRAL Bougainville is facing a serious problem with sorcery related issues and already Arawa police are asking for intervention from the United Nations, the Human Rights Commission and relevant authorities.

Last Thursday, a man was murdered in Atamo, Manetai District of Central Bougainville, and on Good Friday, a Dantanai man was knifed at the heart of Arawa town and is nursing serious wounds at the Arawa Hospital after police came to his rescue. Other sorcery related cases have been reported from Panguna, Pokpok Island, Bairima and just last week also three men from Pomaua were brutally shot at close range over sorcery accusations.

Arawa Police Station Commander Senior Sergeant Herman Birenka said despite a peaceful Easter celebrations in Arawa, he faced the biggest problem of sorcery related murders and issues in the central region.

Sgt Birenka said at the weekend that his policemen needed urgent help from authorities as they are handicapped to carry out critical arrests and operations.

Mr Birenka said his men could not do much as they were not armed under the Peace Agreement and it had been very difficult for them as the offenders were dealing with weapons while his policemen were not.

"We seriously need back up from authorities including, especially the UN and the Human Rights Commission. We are talking to these people but we can't do arrests because people are not coming out to assist us as they are saying it is their right to do this and that, including murder of people.

"I cannot just go into any area and make arrests because also, people are not aware of these issues as human rights," he said.

26.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW PROGRAM ON NEW DAWN

By Tom Kathoa

Listeners to New Dawn FM Station would be able to know of how past ABG Governments and their administrations have performed through a new program to be introduced next month.

The program, titled 'KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT OR SAVE LONG GAVMAN BLONG YU' is a joint initiative of the Office of the ABG President and New Dawn management.

The first of such a program would be aired on the 3rd of next month, May 2011.

The weekly program of thirty minutes would be aired on New Dawn every Tuesday, at half-past eight in the evening.

The new program will complement the present program produced by the office of the president, but would detail some of the activities of the past government under the leadership of two former presidents.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the ABG was led by the first president, the late Joseph Kabui until his untimely death in 2008 and the second president, James Tanis following a presidential by election in 2009.

The current ABG Government is led by the President Hon. Chief John Momis.

Tune to New Dawn FM to know of how your region has and is being governed by our political leaders.

26.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ANOTHER RECONCILIATION

By Tom Kathoa

Youths and Community leaders of Poposoko Village in the Hagogohe Constituency used the Easter period as a time to reconcile among themselves.

The group under the name Hamaraha, held a reconciliation ceremony in the village putting behind all their differences and striving for unity within the community, constituency and region as a whole.

Youths are now working together with their elders and all members of different church denominations in the areas of church fellowship and community participation.

Village leaders commended the young people for their initiative and appealed to them to continue the spirit of unity and love for their community.

The Member for Hagogohe, Hon Robert Hamal Sawa is pleased with the move and promised government assistance to them.

Member Sawa challenged the people of Poposoko to lead the way so others in the constituency can follow.

26.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOHAN OBITS

By Tom Kathoa

Bougainville has lost one of its pioneer public servant and broadcaster, Joseph GOHAN.

The late Gohan is one of the first Papua New Guineans to work as a radio broadcaster better known as Radio Announcer.

He joined the then department of information and extension services, DIES in Port Moresby and later moved to Radio Rabaul in East New Britain.

During his time, he worked in Bougainville, Rabaul in East New Britain, New Ireland, Madang and Vanimo in West Sepik province as manager of radio stations in these provinces.

At one time he was attached with the North Solomons Provincial Government.

The late Joseph Gohan passed away at the Buka General Hospital on Monday night.

He died a ripe age of more than 70 years.

26.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

63 GRADUATE

By Aloysius Laukai

SIXTY THREE students graduated last week with various disciplines from the Autonomous BOUGAINVILLE Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre.

The Centre which was established in 2010 at Katsinkuri in Buka town was later moved to Hangan village outside of Buka Town.

The first graduation was witnessed by the local ABG member for Tsitalato, COSMAS SOHIA .

The students graduated with certificates in Information Technology, Accounting, Business Management, Sales and Marketing, Advance Computing and Basic Secretarial.

26.04.2011

New Job on Bougainville!

25.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH PEACEFUL

By Aloysius Laukai

Police in South Bougainville have reported a trouble free Easter.

According to the Buin Police Station Commander, Senior Sergeant JOHN POPUI Buin and South Bougainville have celebrated Easter peacefully.

JOHN POPUI said that this follows continuous awareness by Police throughout South Bougainville.

MR. POPUI reported that during the Easter celebrations police and the youths of LUGAKEI COE combined and removed all Home brew containers and gas bottles from their area.

He said that the youths from the villagers signed a MOA with the Buin Police to remove all home brew making equipments and vowed to change their lives.

Senior Sergeant POPUI thanked the chiefs from the LUGAKEI COE for reaching this understanding with their youths.

He called on other COE's in Buin to follow the example set by the youths of LUGAKEI and create a peaceful environment in which mothers and children can walk freely.

25.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MISSION SUCCESSFUL

By Aloysius Laukai

The Easter celebration and mass led by Bishop of Bougainville, BENARD UNABALI was hailed a success.

Reports from Buin states that it was a breakthrough for a new era for Konnou.

FR. TONY NAWATA who spoke with New Dawn FM from Buin said that the place was packed to capacity for the Easter mass.

He said although the team could not talk to the notorious DAMIEN KOIKE during the Easter celebrations they were able to talk to his fighters to establish dialogue in the area.

FR. NAWATA said that the peace team that has been working on the special Easter mass would continue to talk to KOIKE and his men to put down their weapons and talk peace for Konnou and Bougainville as a whole.

The Bishop of Bougainville was accompanied by the UN Special technical officer, ANTHONY AGYENTA.

25.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE APPEAL

By Aloysius Laukai

The Provincial Police Commander for Bougainville Police Cletus Tsien has appealed to the people of Bougainville to celebrate Easter peacefully.

He said that there was no need for the people to celebrate Easter with liquor as it only causes pain and suffering for families.

MR. TSIEN made these remarks in his Easter message to the people of Bougainville on New Dawn FM.

He said that Police would be patrolling the streets of Buka town to make sure that people adhere to liquor restrictions throughout the festive season.

PPC Tsien also called on the Liquor Licensing Commission to cut down on the number of Liquor shops within Buka town.

He said that nearly all the streets of Buka has two or more liquor shops thus creating their premises as trouble spots.

The PPC appealed to the Bottleshop owners to follow liquor restrictions.

25.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SHORT OF STAFF

By Aloysius Laukai

A former senior public servant is calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government and its divisions to beef up manpower to stand by for any emergency that could occur in the future.

The former public servant who wants to remain anonymous told New Dawn FM at the weekend that the ratio of two nurses at the Wards of the Buka General Hospital at any one time was too much and could not cater for any emergency that may occur.

The officer said that with the outbreak of cholera in parts of Buka more deaths would be expected if the outbreak reaches Buka town.

The former senior Officer said that as the Cholera is moving towards Buka town the hospital management must be prepared for what could become an out of control situation for the small town.

The officer said that certain staff of the Buka hospital have already contracted the disease and they should be put off work immediately.

Attempts by New Dawn FM to get comments from the Cholera Committee were unsuccessful.

25.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Not Alone

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile Christians throughout Bougainville and abroad have been praying for Peace to reach the trouble spots of Konnou Constituency in Buin, South Bougainville.

And prayer groups from Buin have been fasting and praying for the Easter celebration in Tabago to proceed as planned.

Reports from Buin says that their prayers have been answered as the celebration was successful.

New Dawn FM also received reports from a Bougainvillean Sister, Sister Jeline Giris who is based in Senegal, West Africa said that her group also prayed for peace for Konnou this weekend.

24.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Online

Bougainville shooting

Liam Fox reported this story on Sunday, April 24, 2011 08:20:00

Listen here !

ELIZABETH JACKSON: Recently we reported on the stalled efforts to dispose of the weapons that fuelled the decade long civil war on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

Ten years after a peace agreement ended the conflict, hundreds, possibly thousands of weapons are still in the hands of former combatants and criminals.

Bougainville's government says it doesn't have the money or the expertise to solve the problem and has called for international help.

The issue's importance has been highlighted with the murder of two people, one of them a high school student, and the shooting of another man in the island's south last week.

Our PNG correspondent Liam Fox spoke to the local police Inspector Paul Kamuai, who says his unarmed officers are largely powerless to respond.

PAUL KAMUAI: These three victims were actually unarmed and they were actually staying in the village when this criminal element walked into the village and then just started shooting at them without saying anything. And it is a big pity that we still have this criminal element operating within that area.

This criminal element has been operating in that area for the past years since the Bougainville peace agreement and then onwards.

LIAM FOX: Do you know much about them; who's their leader?

PAUL KAMUAI: Their leader is Damien Koike and from our information he is still armed. He has quite a number of armed boys with him, numbering between 20 and 30 and they don't stay in a particular village, they keep moving.

LIAM FOX: And you said that these are boys, most of them are not former combatants are they?

PAUL KAMUAI: No. They could be a mix of boys and former combatants in the group. The police are not able to go into the constituency unless they are armed and if police are to make any attempts to make arrests, there would be an armed confrontation and that is something we need to avoid.

LIAM FOX: So effectively police aren't able to go and arrest the people responsible for this shooting, is that right?

PAUL KAMUAI: Not at this point in time unless there will be an armed confrontation.

LIAM FOX: Do you think there needs to be another effort to try and get people to disarm and if you do what do you think needs to be done to get people to give up their guns?

PAUL KAMUAI: That's a good question. We've been asking all this time, all these years that we wish to do something about these firearms, they should be disposed.

I believe all the plans have not been working, most probably because of finance, I think the financial situation with the government, that's my guess.

LIAM FOX: Would it help police if they had more resources and had arms themselves?

PAUL KAMUAI: That's the way I see it. That has been the concern with and the Bougainville police service. We really need to be well resourced. We need to have the right kind of training. We need to have the infrastructure built, because the police service was totally destroyed.

ELIZABETH JACKSON: Inspector Paul Kamuai of the Bougainville Police talking there to our correspondent Liam Fox.

22.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS EASTER

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis is calling on the people of Bougainville to unite and work together for the better of Bougainville.

He made these remarks in his Easter message to the people of Bougainville.

President Momis said that we must work to bring peace bring justice also establish rule of law to Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS called on the people of Bougainville to reject corruption of all forms and also other activities that would bring pain and suffering to other Bougainvilleans.

MR. MOMIS says that Easter should bring happiness to our people as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He made this call from Port Moresby today.

The ABG president said that there is no need to kill other Bougainvilleans like what is happening in Konnou.

He said that the people should settle their differences through peaceful means and not by the barrel of the gun.

22.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Rebuild Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President says that the meaning of Easter this year can make us change our attitude and help rebuild Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS called on the people to renew our effort to bring about changes and development on Bougainville.

He said with the involvement all our people we can build a true and fulfilling society for our people.

The ABG President said that this can happen if we stop the killings and remove all deadly weapons from all over Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS said that we must stop the killings and other activities that are happening to create terror in our communities.

He said if all these activities can end we can see a new prosperous nation emerge where its people can live in harmony with each other.

22.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA APPEAL

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA is appealing to the people of Konnou to stop the fighting in their area.

He said in his Easter message that there was no need to kill fellow Bougainvilleans.

MR. NISIRA said that the fighting should stop and allow development take place in their area which have suffered for a long time.

He said that the people of Konnou need to go into business and sustain their livelihood.

MR. NISIRA also called on the leaders to unite and opt for peace once and for all.

22.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CATHOLIC EASTER SERVICE

The Bishop of Bougainville diocese BISHOP BENARD UNABALI will celebrate Easter mass at TABAGO Catholic parish in the troubled Konnou constituency.

And all catholic believers from all over South Bougainville will be celebrating Easter mass with the people of Konnou.

Reports from Buin states that the people are excited to have mass with the Bishop of Bougainville for this 2011 Easter.

Earlier reports of the ABG President and ministers attending the mass has been postponed to a later date due to the latest killings in the area.

Konnou has seen no peace since the start of the Bougainville conflict and fighting in the area has continued until today.

22.04.2011

Source: Foreign Policy Journal

Conflict Resolution in a Hybrid State: The Bougainville Story

by Timothy G. Hammond

22.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Trading in Australia and Europe

The **Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)** will be closed on Friday, April 22nd (Good Friday), on Monday, April 25th (Easter Holiday) and on Tuesday, April 26th (belated Anzac Day) !

The **Deutsche Börse Frankfurt** will be closed on Friday 22nd (Karfreitag) and Monday, April 25th (Ostermontag).

22.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Anzac Day (as Volkstrauertag in Germany)

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, and is commemorated by both countries on 25 April every year to honour members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I. It now more broadly commemorates all those who died and served in military operations for their countries. Anzac Day is also observed in the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tonga. It is no longer observed as a national holiday in Samoa.

22.04.2011

Source: Bendigo Advertiser

A time to remember

KAREN SWEENEY

BENDIGO residents are being reminded this year that war veterans aren't just older generations.

Anzac Day keynote speaker Major Carl Edwards will lead the 15th Transport Squadron and says there are present-day veterans, including his own son who is currently on deployment in Afghanistan.

Officer in Command of the 15th Transport Squadron, Major Edwards leads troops from Bendigo, Horsham and in between.

"I'm responsible for the leadership and management of soldiers in the transport decision, both full-time and reservists," he said.

"I've got veterans in my unit right now who are only 20 or 21 but have seen action in Afghanistan," he said.

"Then there's some older gentlemen like myself who went along to East Timor in 1999 and 2000."

Major Edwards will speak about reflecting, remembering and celebrating Australia's defence forces and connecting those serving now with those who served before.

"It's all about the Anzac spirit," he said.

"It's still about remembering those who have gone before and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, but also about recognising the achievements of those still serving today."

Major Edwards, who has also represented Australia on active duty in Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the Middle East during his 27-year career, will lead his squadron in Bendigo's Anzac Day march while the unit will also be represented in Horsham's march and services in towns across the region.

"My first deployment was to Bougainville in 1998 and that in itself was a peace deployment; we went unarmed," Major Edwards said.



Peace mission in Bougainville: Keynote speaker Major Carl Edwards will lead the 15th Transport Squadron in the Anzac Day march and give the address at the following service.

"Timor was a tad different when I went in 1999, given that it was an armed deployment.

"That was my first real look at whether my training in Australia was enough."

As a Regimental Sergeant Major he said the mission had been a privilege in that he got to see the difference the soldiers' presence made to the local people.

"It is absolutely (rewarding) and I think it's the same for every soldier ... to see they have had a positive effect on the local community," he said.

In February 2009 Major Edwards went to Afghanistan.

"It was not necessarily a deployment because I was there on other business," he said. "It was about how we train our soldiers.

"We audited it to make sure that the way training is delivered in Australia is appropriate to conditions over there."

Major Edwards will speak at the Bendigo Anzac Day service at the Memorial Soldiers Hall at 11am.

21.04.2011

Source: Island Business

POLITICS: The break-up of PNG

The real resources curse

Susan Merrell

Like a wet blanket amidst the excitement being generated by the resources boom in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Hillary Clinton during her visit to the Pacific last year gloomily warned of an unwanted potential consequence known as 'the resources curse'.

A well-documented phenomenon, it points to negative possible outcomes for a national economy that is heavily dependent on resources.

It is what caused Sheik Ahmed Yamani, a minister from the oil-rich Saudi Arabian government, to lament: "All in all, I wish we had discovered water."

Negative consequences of the curse include inflation, revenue volatility and its effects on excessive (good time) borrowings, lack of diversification of the economy, the creation of circumstances conducive to corruption and a draining of human resources away from other areas into the more lucrative resources sector.

And PNG is already experiencing some of the aforementioned negative socio-economic effects—like shortage of teachers—some having been wooed into the resources sector by better wages.

Inflation is also evident, with the price of scarce real estate, especially in the capital Port Moresby, soaring from increased demand. Hotel rooms too are at a premium costing upwards of K800 per night, or approx 200 man/hours at minimum wage.

However, the real resources curse for PNG is not necessarily economic in nature. As an immature nation still struggling to achieve modernity, it is possible that the intra-national conflict fuelled by competition for the considerable monetary spoils of the resources boom will threaten the very political existence of PNG as a nation.

I've been told: "you don't mess with a Western Highlander;" it was good advice given their reputation for ferocity.

Equally, these same Highlanders are reportedly entrepreneurial and adept in business matters, which is quite remarkable given that it wasn't until the 1930s when the Leahy brothers were prospecting for gold in PNG that the Highland tribes were discovered. And it was a mutual discovery; it was their first encounter with a white man too.

Fast-forward to 2011 and you'll find many Western Highlanders, just two generations removed from their primitive forebears, inhabiting a very sophisticated western-style world and doing it with aplomb.

Wait—there's more!

The learning curve must have been exponential. Exponential learning curves seem to be the order of the day for the whole of PNG, for it was just 40 short years later (1975) that the country was granted independence from colonisers who had first imposed an alien nation-state structure on one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world—a country with over 800 distinct languages and a similar number of equally distinct tribes. It's now just over 35 years since the declaration of independence. In all, we're only talking just over 75 years from when Western Highlanders saw their first white man to them inhabiting, along with many other discrete ethnic groups in PNG, a sophisticated, highly industrialised western-style democracy based on the British Westminster-style of government.

Yet, there's growing evidence that the socio-economic transformation has been too rapid. For while many tribesmen and women have made the transition, many have not. Indeed, over 80% of the country still subsists and live in their traditional villages clinging to a culture that is often at loggerheads with the goals of a modern nation-state especially when their first loyalty lies, not with their country but, as tradition dictates, with their tribespeople or 'wantoks'.

Bougainville: an early indicator

When independence was granted to PNG in 1975, one of the underlying assumptions was that the Panguna gold and copper mine on the outlying island of Bougainville would provide a sound economic platform for the nascent nation. The assumption was wrong. Bougainville is an island, discrete from mainland PNG, where its inhabitants are more ethnically and culturally attuned to the nearby Solomon Islands. Nevertheless, when the arbitrary boundaries of the state were drawn, Bougainville was attached to PNG. The attachment was legal and notional; it held little popular support.

Taking these factors into consideration and further factoring in the benefits flowing from the mine, that ethnic fighting broke out resulting in a civil war is hardly surprising.

Traditionally, Bougainvillean society is matrilineal, mainland Papua New Guineans marrying Bougainvillean women threatened the ethnic makeup of the island and the distribution of the benefits flowing from its cash cow: Panguna.

Ironically, the civil war caused the closing of the mine, which has, thus far, never reopened (although there has been talk lately about that possibility).

The peace process involved the granting of political autonomy to Bougainville and the very real possibility of future secession.

And so the political entity of PNG starts to break down and break up—the catalyst: the resource industry.

Wait—there's more!

New Ireland, also discrete from mainland PNG is the host to the world-class gold mine 'Lihir'. The benefits that flow to Papua New Guinea from this mine are considerable. Are New Irelanders happy sharing this wealth with other Papua New Guineans? No they're not.

Many New Irelanders consider they'd be economically better off if they seceded and a significant secessionist movement has grown up.

It is said that New Irelanders are tired of 'their' money being used to fund other projects that benefit people other than themselves—like the PNG Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) project and the rest of the people of PNG who are, in actuality their compatriots but who are more often viewed as an alien other: 'them'.

Just recently, Sir Julius Chan, a former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and now Governor of New Ireland Province in response to a cyanide spill from the Simberi Mine owned by Australian company Allied Gold said he wanted the owners of the mine out of the province.

He also made clear his attitude towards the PNG government saying: "Enough is enough. New Ireland does not need Waigani [the seat of the PNG government] or foreign miners dictating its future."

An ominous warning from another potential chip off the block—catalyst: the resources industry.

On the Mainland

The LNG project, an investment by the American corporate giant Exxon-Mobil has been welcomed with an almost messianic fervour in PNG. It is costing upwards of \$15 billion and is set, on its own, to double the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Still in its infancy and not expected to be fully operational until 2014, nevertheless, as early as January 2010, a skirmish broke out between a gang of villagers from Erave district and a neighbouring clan. Eleven people were fatally shot. A dispute over profits from the PNG LNG project was the cause.

Moreover, earlier this year the LNG plant in Hides in the Southern Highlands of PNG was closed when villagers attacked the plant and workers over non-payment of their dues under the agreement.

It seems that the resources boom is not only pitting the tribes against each other but is

pitting the government of PNG against its own people too - hardly an ideal nation-building exercise.

In the courts in the seaside town of Madang there is more evidence of this. In an action against the largely Chinese-owned Ramu Nickel Mine, the traditional landowners are litigating to stop the dumping of the detritus from the mine, known as tailings, into the sea in a controversial practice known as Deep Sea Tailings Placement (DSTP).

The PNG government, on the other hand, has sought to stymie the court action by legislating it away with a rushed through amendment to the Environmental Act that would indemnify any company which had been granted a mining licence from any future litigation for pollution etc.

None of this augurs well for creating the 'we' feeling necessary to build a functioning nation—to build Papua New Guinea.

The Paradox

An expert on nationalism, Ernest Gellner, pointed out that the modern industrial world is bound to create a nation/state in most cases. And that makes sense.

In the case of PNG, without the state to negotiate and organise on behalf of its people, mining and the extraction of oil and gas from its territory would be so cumbersome as to make a project impossible. One large project would mean negotiating separately with thousands of stakeholders—it couldn't be done.

But be that as it may, the spoils available from the resources boom is not a unifying national phenomenon but the opposite, fuelling competition between rival entities that have yet to embrace the idea of collective nationhood.

And, lately, the stakes have been ramped up further.

In a letter prepared by lawyers representing landowners and delivered to both the Japanese and Australian government early last month, warning that Australian and Japanese companies must respect landowners rights, the lawyers stated: "...our country comprises more than 800 languages and nations (emphasis added)..."

If each discrete tribe of PNG starts to self-consciously declare itself to be a nation then all paradigms shift—in the main, nations believe they have the right to self-determination.

Under these circumstances, will the nation/state of Papua New Guinea survive the resources boom? Now there's a question.

21.04.2011

Source: Australian Mining

Controversial copper mine may re-open

By Cole Latimer

Bougainville Copper is considering re-opening its copper in Papua New Guinea.

The mine was originally forced to close due to civil war on Bougainville Island, which left thousands dead, according to the ABC.

This forced the miner to shut down operations in 1989.

However, land owners have called for the mothballed mine to be re-opened, to provide funds for Bougainville's independence movement.

Peter Taylor, chairman of Bougainville Copper, welcomed the move by the islanders, adding that the election of a new president last year was a crucial factor in the re-negotiation of the mine's re-opening.

Initial estimates put the re-commencement of the mine at around \$3 billion.

21.04.2011

Source: The National

BCL announces K2.8 million profit in 2010

By BOSORINA ROBBY

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd, operator of Panguna mine, revealed at its 44th annual general meeting a net profit of K2.8 million at the close of last year – a drop of K5.9 million from 2009's K8.7 million.

Chairman Peter Taylor (picture) reported to shareholders yesterday that the drop was due to operating expenses related to the budget save for exchange losses.

He explained that because of the small profit and the need to preserve cash for future developments, no dividends would be paid to shareholders.



BCL has remained debt-free, with sufficient funds available to meet expenses in the immediate future, while engagement with the landowners and the government has been frequent and positive. Taylor said the profit, instead of an expected loss, was due to better than expected income from interest and dividends, and the realised capital gains on disposal of investments.

"However, the tax dispute legal fees continued to be a drain on revenue," he said.

BCL's liquid assets continued to be in cash and Australian equities, which, as a result of the good performance from the Australian equity market, had improved returns on investments.

Taylor said it was intended that this current investment strategy continued until such time when equities needed to be sold to fund mine planning and development.

He explained that this year's income was expected to improve in terms of percentage returns but the size of the investment portfolio had been reduced as a result of the continued tax dispute in court.

Taylor pointed out that the election of John Momis as Bougainville president for the next five years was seen as an important development for BCL.

He said in this period, Panguna mine should be reopened to take advantage of the resurgence in mineral commodity prices and demand, with considerable support from Momis, the cabinet and the landowners.

He said although there was much to do, the common agreement that operations at the mine could continue would deliver significant benefits locally and regionally.

"There is increasing acknowledgment among stakeholders that Bougainville's economic future needed mining if it was to be able to fund basic services from its own resources," he said.

Taylor said among other issues, BCL's non-profit arm Bougainville Copper Foundation had continued giving out scholarships to students for training in safety, risk management, corporate governance and litigation.

21.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

EU: Violence a bad habit

Violence is bad – people must be violent but solve issues peacefully.

The strong message was given by the head of the European Union Diplomatic Mission in PNG Ambassador Martin Dihm (picture).

“Every individual has the potential to be violent and this can be controlled. The European Union has learnt the hard way. We know what conflict is because we had a lot of wars. At some stage we decided not to do this and resolved the issues peacefully by talking and working together,” Ambassador Dihm said.



Mr Dihm was speaking to 186 participants who took part in the Community Justice Training program at Avatip village along the Sepik River last month.

Unlike other diplomatic corps, the EU team broke protocol and refused security escorts to travel to a remote location, encouraging the participants to resolve conflicts peacefully and harmoniously.

“Fighting is bad, talking to resolve conflicts is best,” he said.

Mr Dihm said the European Union wants to transfer the lessons from their own experiences to PNG through programs such as the European Initiative for Democracy and Rights (EIDHR) to support projects like that run by the Peace Foundation Melanesia (PFM) for the promotion of a system of peaceful settlement of conflict through negotiations, mediations and other forms of dispute

resolution.

“The EU wants to see this kind of training implemented at this level. We would like to see communities being happy and working together to achieve a common good, not separation,” Ambassador Dihm said.

He said the government and other stakeholders need to recognise the effort by PFM and other organisations that implement such training at the community level throughout PNG.

21.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Funds woe threatens poll

By Fabian Gatana

THE North Bougainville by-election may be severely hampered if funding is not immediately released by the PNG Electoral Commission.

Election manager Reitama Taravaru said that a budget submission of K2.6 million for the by-election was submitted to the Electoral Commission in February but no funding has been released with less than two and a half weeks remaining before polling starts.

“The Bougainville Electoral Commission needs the funding to continue carrying out LPV

awareness and updating of the common role throughout the North Bougainville region. "The funds will also be used to pay for electoral officers' allowances and for vehicle hire," Mr Taravaru said.

However, he said that he was happy with the preparations towards the by-elections and also thanked the candidates for their "clean" campaigns.

There are currently 21 candidates contesting the North Bougainville Open Seat, left vacant by now Governor-General Michael Ogio. Among these candidates, there is one woman contesting and she is Rachel Opeti Konaka.

21.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Policy set for joint ventures

By Alex Munme

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has a policy in place for joint venture arrangements for business activities in the region.

The policy is a mechanism to ensure that desired classes of investors benefit from an enterprise.

Under the policy, any foreign investor seeking access to natural resources shall have a local partner to ensure participation of local people and other resources to localise a proportion of the benefits.

The policy states that effective joint ventures consist of genuine business partners who contribute to the venture and are rewarded from profits according to their contributions. Foreign investors have free access to the market but it is required that where any natural resources are involved in the enterprise, these are to be accessed through a joint venture arrangement with the owners of the resources.

An example of such an arrangement is when a company wants a factory site, it would enter into a joint venture with the owner of the site.

The owner would lease the site to the locally registered company and be paid for the lease according to agreed terms.

The value of the resources contributed can be used to determine the proportion of the shares which each partner holds in the company.

This is more equitable than arbitrarily deciding that each member has 50 per cent, 49 per cent or some other division. If State land is involved, such land shall be leased to a local entity in a joint venture arrangement. This overcomes the difficulty of having a foreign owner for local resources and also overcomes the issue of the State not being directly involved in enterprises which it is also responsible for regulating.

This policy is put in place to guide, assist and protect all including the foreign investor, the local partner, the resource owner and ABG. The function of ABG in relation to joint venture is a regulatory role.

21.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LOOSING PATIENCE

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile the Autonomous Bougainville Government is already considering other options in case options decided by the summit fail or if the summit does not agree on a solution.

ABG President, Chief John Momis whilst calling on the leaders of South Bougainville to agree quickly on a internally developed and workable solution of the ongoing troubles in

South Bougainville, also said that other options could be considered if all these fail. He called from Port Moresby stating that a South Bougainville leader's summit must quickly agree on a consensus for the option to take to stop the killings in the South Bougainville.

The ABG President also warned that if the summit does not agree on a solution or if what the summit agrees to fails, he will have no choice except to consider other options.

He cited one option would be the RAMSI-Style Operation that would disarm those with weapons and those that have committed criminal offences.

The ABG President stressed that he does not want RAMSI-Style intervention however, if all other plans fail it will be considered.

21.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH SUMMIT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, JOHN MOMIS today called on all leaders of South Bougainville to decide on the best possible way of ending the killings in South Bougainville through a summit. He said that a summit with the widest range of leaders of communities from South Bougainville.

The ABG President said that the summit must reach a consensus on how to get rid of the weapons.

He said that he wants the leaders of all the armed groups to attend the summit.

MR. MOMIS said that he was aware most of the leaders of the groups understand the problems and agree on the need to change whilst other leaders are having difficulty controlling young men associated with their groups.

He says this is the reason why he wants all armed factional leaders to attend the summit and contribute to a most practical solution.

The ABG President also emphasized that the situation was urgent and the solution must be found as the people have already lost patience.

21.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

End the killings

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, JOHN MOMIS is calling on all armed factional leaders in South Bougainville to work with him to end the terror in South Bougainville for good.

He made these remarks from Port Moresby that he wants the killing in South Bougainville to stop immediately.

He said that South Bougainville has seen too much death and injury from weapons and all leaders must unite to get rid of these deadly weapons.



Me'ekamui terrorists in Konnou

MR. MOMIS said that the Bougainville crisis ended 14 years ago in 1997 and questioned why there was continuous killing in the Konnou constituency which has claimed more than 50 lives since 2006.

He said that these deaths in Konnou have nothing to do with the grievances that caused the Bougainville crisis.

MR. MOMIS said that the killings are the result of personal differences, lawlessness and criminal activity.

The ABG President said that he was very concerned at the lives of innocent people are being taken away for no reason at all.

He said this must stop.

The weapons destroying the lives of ordinary Bougainvilleans must be removed.

President MOMIS is calling on all the people of South Bougainville to agree and remove the weapons and end the violence once and for all.

20.04.2011

Source: ABC News

Controversial PNG copper mine may reopen

By PNG correspondent Liam Fox

A once-prominent Australian mining company is optimistic a controversial copper mine in Papua New Guinea could be reopened within five years.

The Panguna mine on the island of Bougainville was the epicentre of a decade-long civil war that left several thousand people dead.

Its Australian owner Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) suspended operations in 1989.

But many islanders want it reopened to fund their long-held desire of independence from PNG.

At BCL's annual general meeting, chairman Peter Taylor welcomed initial moves by local landowners to renegotiate the mine agreement.

He said the election of John Momis as Bougainville's president last year was a crucial event, as he has publicly supported the mine.

Mr Taylor said it would cost around \$3 billion to reopen Panguna and the next step would be a pre-feasibility study.

20.04.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Bougainville Copper hails Momis

BOUGAINVILLE Copper president Peter Taylor has hailed the election of John Momis as president of Bougainville, while estimating the cost of the Panguna mine reopening could run as high as \$3 billion.

Panguna Copper Mine, Bougainville PNG

Momis was elected for a five-year term with an absolute majority, leading Taylor to tell shareholders at the company's annual general meeting in Port Moresby yesterday the election would ensure stability as negotiations between the government, company and landowners continued.

"This is an important development for the company because the next five years is the period in which the mine should be reopened to take advantage of the resurgence in mineral commodity prices and demand," he said.

"The company will need the support of the new president and the cabinet as well as landowners."

He added that although there was much detail to work through, there was common agreement that recommencing operations on Bougainville would lead to positive outcomes both locally and regionally.

Rio Tinto's recent application for exploration licences in the project could be taken as a sign it was willing and able to assist in Papua New Guinea's future mineral development.

Before any mining can happen on the island, the Bougainville Copper Agreement will have to be amended.

The agreement was drawn up in the late 1960s, before Papua New Guinea became independent and Bougainville existed as a separate province.

20.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW UNIFORMS FOR CIVILIAN STAFF

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Acting Director Administration from the Police Headquarters in Konedobu, Port Moresby, VIKA MAUKA today presented new sets of uniforms for civilian staff serving in the Bougainville Police Service.

The presentation ceremony was held at the Buka Police Station today.

MR MAUKA said this is the first time in the history of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary for civilians to be supplied with uniforms.

MR MAUKA has already supplied civilian staff in the Highlands, Southern and the Momase regions and now is covering the New Guinea Islands region.

Meanwhile the ACP for the Bougainville Police Service, THOMAS ELUH says this was another boost and uplift to the image of his police officers.

He says police image in public is very important because it shows the image of a discipline organization.

MR ELUH says along with the uniforms there will be more accessories to be included such as badge and proper caps for the police officers.

ACP thanked the former Police Commissioner, GARI BAKI for the initiative to purchase the uniforms.

20.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG calls on UN for funds

By PETERSON TSEHARA

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is calling on the United Nations to provide funds for the Panguna Unification Process.

Vice president Patrik Nisira has called on other overseas aid agencies in Bougainville to consult with the ABG and Panguna District Administration to source funding for projects that would help the unification process jointly established by the ABG and the Me'ekamui leadership.

Mr Nisira, speaking as the acting President of the ABG in Panguna last week, singled out the UN/UNDP and AusAID to come to the aid of the people of Panguna, whom he said had missed out on many basic government services due to the "no go zone" syndrome that was placed on them by their leaders, who have since signed a Memorandum of Understanding, known as the Panguna communiqué with late President Joseph Kabui. "While the ABG has included the Panguna District Administration in its annual budget, funds have not often adequately met the required programs that would meet the people's demand, and I am therefore, through Anthony Agyenta, the UN representative who is present here, seeking your specific assistance and that of AusAID for and on behalf of the people of Panguna and loro COE for that matter," Mr Nisira said.

"The communiqué among other things, had opened up a whole lot of development initiatives for Panguna, including a joint working relationship between the Me'ekamui and the ABG in Panguna, and a user friendly check point at the Morgan Junction.

"The process has been especially established to unite the people in the mine affected district, to enable them to be involved in a peace and reconciliation program, initiate development projects for their communities and enable their leaders to be involved in proactive discussions for autonomy building in Bougainville."

20.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ex-diplomat in by-election race

By Germaine Koles

ONE of Bougainville's former diplomats Aloysius Banono aka Matubuna Tahun (pictured top) is contesting the by-election for the vacant North Bougainville Open Seat.

Mr Tahun, a language professor, in his aim to win numbers in this election, has a different style of campaigning.

He plays music all day at his Bel Isi Park residence with the aim of luring everyone that passes by.

"Buka town is a place where all people come to and Bel Isi Park is a place where everyone comes to rest – all I do is play my music, speak a little bit and attract attention so they know what I stand for," Mr Tahun said.

The former diplomat, who claimed that he set up the PNG office in New Zealand, said he had a wealth of experience to run any government because he has had his hands on different organisations in PNG and abroad including Bougainville.

He was the public relations officer with the Bougainville Development Corporation, National Parliament interpreter in English, Pidgin and Motu School, plantation manager, executive director for Bougainville Business Association and chairman of the Haku Community Government.

Mr Tahun published a book in 1997 titled- Tsomi (the unfortunate) and so far about five million copies have been sold all over the world.

The book tells his story of the Bougainville crisis.

He sits in front of Bel Isi Park with his music on and sometimes at the side of the PC Corner road to greet people who pass by.

20.04.2011

Source: The National

Ex-PM fights for resources

By JEFFREY ELAPA

"TODAY, I propose to transfer wealth to resource owners, to those simple villagers who are blessed with owning a piece of inherited customary land, many of whom remain poor – so they too can

enjoy a worthwhile, more satisfying life."

So saying, governor of New Ireland and former prime minister, and one of the longest serving parliamentarians, Sir Julius Chan yesterday proposed before a parliamentary committee to turn the mining, oil and gas extraction regime on its head.

He proposes, among others, to:

- *Wrestle ownership of minerals and oil and gas back from the state into the hands of customary landowners;

- *Devolve resource development powers to the provincial governments;

- *Have local companies be licensed to explore and develop mineral and oil and gas resources with management rights extended to foreign firms if no expertise is found onshore; and

- *Streamline existing state agencies into two so that one engages in exploration and extraction activities and another being an investment house. Sir Julius, who moved a motion on May 14, 2009, for a comprehensive review of the Mining Act of 1992, said in a hard-hitting presentation that PNG was a country in "crisis".

"If we do not correct some serious faults and failures in the way we approach the extraction of resources such as minerals, gas and oil, we will not only continue to fail to deliver progress to our people but will put the very survival of our country at peril."

He said history had shown that resource-rich nations like PNG did not often do well while resource-poor countries like Singapore and South Korea do very well indeed.

He said this was because of the effects of the "resource curse" linked to resource developments, which drive up the cost of doing business in the country so that all other sectors of the economy suffer while only the resource sector prospers.

While the "resource curse" could be beaten, as had been experienced in other countries,

it could only happen in PNG with a quantum shift in the way the resources sector was managed from the legal and policy framework up, Sir Julius said.



Sir Julius Chan

He said the past ad hoc and project-to-project approach should be reviewed so that resource landowners and the provincial government take ownership of their resources. He blamed the current regime on no particular PNG administration but on a historical accident where PNG had inherited an Australian colonial legislation that discriminated against and took ownership of minerals and hydrocarbon resources from landowners and vested it in the administration, later the national government.

From then on, he said, it was “a story of ineptitude, ignorance, robbery and deceit”.

“It is shocking such a story can be told; even more shocking that it is the truth. But, it is the truth.

“We – the state, the people – have been duped. I know it is uncomfortable, but we must face the truth.”

Sir Julius, a former prime minister and the minister for finance, said ownership of the resources by the landowners was important for the equitable distribution of benefits.

He said PNG had been described as a “mountain of gold floating on a sea of oil”, but the truth was that the wealth of the nation was squandered and, in so doing, condemned our people to poverty while others prospered.

“Without mincing words, our country has been systematically giving away its birthright.

“That is not rhetoric; it is literally true.

“We may be pardoned for this at self-government, at independence but, after 35 years, we should have matured.

“The national government either does not understand or does not care that the way it has structured the minerals, oil and gas industries – indeed, the entire renewable and non-renewable resource sector, including fisheries and forestry – is not only wounding the people of this country, it is robbing the state of what should be its legitimate incomes for the development of the country.

“How has this happened?

“Put politics aside. We need to take a bi-partisan approach to correct our mistakes.

20.04.2011

Source: The National

Shift in resource ownership

FORMER prime minister Sir Julius Chan asked three questions yesterday to the parliamentary referral committee on minerals and energy.

1.Can you buy what you already own?

2.Does it make economic or business sense to transfer title in property to someone freely or for a paltry payment of K10,000 and then buy back a 30% interest in that same property for K300 million?

3.Does it make sense for a country to earn billions in income and not be able to improve

the lives of its people?

To all of these questions, Sir Julius, now governor of New Ireland, answered in the affirmative.

He elaborated: "First, the state cedes exploration and production rights to foreign companies for next to nothing. Insignificant licence fees are charged – often K10,000 – and royalties of 2% are levied.

"But, for this pittance, the foreign developer gets full control of all the wealth that can be taken from the ground.

"The next step is for the state to seek equity in the project, usually 30% in a mining project and 22.5% in an oil or gas project.

"The state has 'given away' the entire resource to a foreign company, and now returns to buy what was already legally its own property by spending K200 million or K300 million, or even more, for a 30% interest in the project. And, to do so, the state usually takes out a commercial loan that puts the country further into debt at high interest rates."

However preposterous the prospect might seem, when you view it when it is presented as starkly as that, it has happened in Papua New Guinea, it is continuing to happen and will continue into the foreseeable future until and unless something is done about it.

We agree entirely with Sir Julius:

"This is ludicrous.

"It is reckless and stupid. It is a complete failure of the state to act as the sworn steward of its people."

How did this happen?

What can we do about it?

Sir Julius provided historical material, derived from extensive research into the history of resource extraction in PNG and abroad, in places as diverse as Norway in Europe, Botswana in Africa and Chile in South America in answer to the first question.

He drew on the desires enshrined in the preamble to the constitution which calls for equitable distribution (goal No.2), PNG ways and self-reliance (goal No.3) and how, 36 years on, PNG is as far away, if not further, from achieving these goals than it was at independence.

In answer to the second question, he made a series of proposals, principal among them being to amend the Mining Act (1992) and the Oil and Gas Act (1998) to reverse the ownership of all minerals and hydrocarbon reserves six feet under the ground from the state back to the landowners.

Along with this, Sir Julius has proposed strategies that will completely change the current resource development regime in the country.

He wants Waigani to transfer more powers to the provinces in relation to resource development.

He wants more Papua New Guinean companies to be in control of the development of resources from exploration to extraction activities.

Where foreign companies discover commercial quantities of minerals or oil and gas reserves, that company's exploration expenses would be reimbursed by the state and it be given first right of refusal to manage the project if no expertise can be found onshore. These are extreme measures proposed.

They will meet with plenty of opposition, we are certain, from those who enjoy life under the present regime.

The National sees three weaknesses which must be addressed.

Equitable distribution might be far more difficult under Sir Julius' proposal until and unless the land tenure system can be addressed meaningfully.

Right now, we might take ownership away from the state but, then, we vest in a group whose membership is expanding all the time with inter-marriages and land boundaries that are uncertain.

The potential for inter-clan and tribal feuds mount exponentially.

Unless the landownership issue can be addressed, attracting the huge financial commitments that is required for resources developments will be next to impossible from within and outside the country.

If that is somehow resolved, government will have a most difficult time trying to perform

the equitable distribution trick, by trying to prise loose from landowners something to give to the rest of a province or the rest of the country.

There will be pockets of very rich Papua New Guineans and a lot of very poor ones as well.

And, finally, the provincial government experiment has shown us that not all provincial governments are ready or capable of managing their affairs well.

Thirty-six years on and this is another failed story.

More responsibility is not going to, overnight, translate to efficient and smooth running of provincial governments. The administrative and financial management capacity of each province has to be reviewed thoroughly before any more power should be devolved.

20.04.2011

Source: The National

Terror in South Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

CIVILIANS in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville are living in fear as armed thugs continue a killing spree that has been ongoing since 2006.

In a most recent spate of killings, two people, including a Grade 6 student of Ugubagohu primary school, are dead and another is wounded and recovering at the Arawa health centre.

South Bougainville police commander Paul Kamuai confirmed armed thugs fired several shots at civilians last Saturday, killing the two people instantly and wounding the other. He said policemen were immediately dispatched to the area to protect the villagers and investigate the deaths.

Preliminary reports received by police said the gunshot victims were drinking alcohol when the armed thugs shot them in the head and chest and wounded the other on the leg.

Commander of Wissai Liberation Movement Philip Pusua, who travelled to Buka yesterday to report the fatal shooting, said no one knew why the latest shooting deaths had taken place.

Head of the outlaws: Damien Koike



He claimed the criminals were followers of former combatant Damien Koike from Mohoroi village in the Tabago area of South Bougainville and alleged they were led by Koike who moved into Leulo village indiscriminately firing shots at civilians before fleeing into the unoccupied Siniminoi and Tonolei jungles. He said 23 civilians, including women and children, had been killed by Koike's band of criminals in the Wissai area.

Pusua appealed to the PNG and Bougainville governments and former combatants in Bougainville to protect the people of Konnou.

"I call on the government that we are not fighting a war or have a crisis in the Wissai Konnou area, we are being surrounded by a bunch of criminals, murderers, killing human beings in cold-blood, criminals who don't have any desire for humanity, people who listen to no men," he said.

"I want to appeal to the government or the ex-combatants to come up with an appropriate solution or action to address this lawlessness.

"I think it is time we draw a line between political issues and law and order issues, or should there be a law for our government in providing welfare and security for its citizens," he said.

20.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Attorney-General defends state ownership of resources

Papua New Guinea's top legal officer has defended the government's right to own the country's underground natural resources.

A new political party has been formed by lawyer Peter Donigi aimed at giving ownership of PNG's oil, gas and minerals to traditional landowners.

He says it's not right that the government owns them.

But attorney-general Sir Arnold Amet says although many people might believe traditional landowners ought to control resources, it's better if the state does.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Sir Arnold Amet, Papua New Guinea's attorney-general

Listen here !

19.04.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

Chairman Peter R. Taylor's Statement at the Annual General Meeting 2011

Please download PDF file [here!](#)

19.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

World Vision: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project



Picture of the VIP Toilet being built in the three constituencies of MAHARI, TEUA and TOROKINA by World vision's WATER and SANITATION, HYGIENE Project

19.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WILMO CHALLENGES ABG

By Aloysius Laukai

Commander of the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO), PHILIP PUSUA is calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Ex combatant groups to come up with an appropriate solution to stop the killing of un-harmed civilians in the Konnou area of South Bougainville.

He made these remarks when commenting on the latest killings at UGUBAKOGU village in the Konnou area of Buin.

MR. PUSUA said that he was concerned at the number of death of unarmed civilians whilst the Authorities continue to remain silent.

He said that the criminals were panning for gold in the jungles of Tonolei and killing innocent landowners of the area.

The commander said that it was time to put a line between political issues and law and order issues.

He said that the people of Konnou are surrounded by a bunch of criminals who have no respect for fellow Bougainvilleans.

19.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS: GUNS MUST GO

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis says that Bougainville will remain stagnant as long as the people hold on to their weapons.

He made these remarks when announcing the Ten points Weapons Disposal Process that his office announced yesterday.

Mr. Momis said that the continuing presence of weapons and ammunition in the hands of groups and individuals is causing many problems.”

“It is a major factor in localized conflict in South Bougainville resulting in more than 50 deaths since 2006.

He said that many people are displaced whilst people in many parts of Bougainville live in fear of weapons.

On investments President Momis says that economic projects are restricted by the use of these weapons.

He said that it was essential that we find ways of removing weapons from our communities.

The President also reiterated his inauguration speech in June last year, that weapons disposal would be a priority for his government.

19.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS ON WEAPONS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis says that FUTURE weapons disposal plans for Bougainville will be guided using 10 basic principles identified by the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The draft proposal released yesterday by the office of President John Momis anticipates that an accountable and transparent process is followed, ensuring full participation by member communities including the cultural, economic and social well-being of the people.

In summary, those principles are:

- * All disposal plans must be based on facts about weapons in Bougainville;
- * Disposal plans must provide incentives, pressures and processes that respond to the different reasons why groups and individuals hold weapons;
- * Political incentives may include important reasons for some groups to dispose of their weapons;
- * Plans must involve the whole community;
- * Weapons disposal plans must not include “buy-back” arrangements or economic projects in exchange for weapons disposal;
- * Disposal plans must be realistic in what they propose in relation to economic development projects in support of weapons disposal;
- * Disposal plans must include a process for actual disposal of the weapons that is accountable and transparent;
- * Disposal plans must consider whether there is a need for supervision of the process of actual disposal by an independent authority;
- * Disposal plans may need to be linked to reconciliation programmes that support weapons disposal; and
- * Disposal plans need to address the security concerns of those holding weapons.

19.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Workshop on finance on

By JOYCE TOHUI

A two-day workshop on procurement procedures commenced today for public officials in the Autonomous region of Bougainville.

The workshop is being held at the KURI VILLAGE RESORT conference room in BUKA. First Assistant Secretary for Corporate Services Division for the Department of Finance, JOE SAPA told New Dawn FM that the basis of this workshop followed a visit by the Deputy Secretary for Finance, STEVEN GIBSON to Bougainville early this year.

He said the Provincial Administrations and the Executive officers directed him that was a need and a big gap in terms of governance of procurement and awarding of contracts and compliance with the Public Finance Management Act in Bougainville.

MR SAPA said as the need was defined recommendations was made to the National Department of Finance to deploy its training people to Bougainville to run the program on procurement process.

The workshop aims to give knowledge to the public officials on how to deal with public money and use it for its purpose.

The two-day workshop ends tomorrow.

19.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

WB funded project lauded

THE Somare-Abal government welcomes the launching of the World Bank-funded Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP) as the way forward to enhance cocoa development.

The Minister for Higher Education and Acting Agriculture Minister Paru Aihi said in Buka last week that the government recognised the plight of smallholder farmers, especially when they had been affected by cocoa diseases such as the cocoa pod borer.

Mr Aihi said that PPAP would provide opportunities to revitalise and promote the cocoa industry.

He said the launching was significant as it was the Somare-led government that initiated the process and invited the World Bank to assist in redeveloping the cocoa and coffee industries.

"The government recognises the important role of agriculture in the economic development and introduced initiatives such as PPAP that are aimed at empowering its population in sustainable agriculture production," said Mr Aihi.

Speaking at the launching of the PPAP at the Cocoa Coconut Institute facility at Kubu, Buka, Mr Aihi said the introduction of the agriculture development project would have a positive impact in the farmers' social and economic well-being.

"The PPAP will improve the incomes and livelihoods of smallholder farmers by building relationships between farmers and agribusiness for better access to markets, technologies, and services; strengthening industry coordination; and providing access roads and wharves to ensure cocoa producers can readily get to markets," he said.

Mr Aihi said PPAP, supported by the World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and PNG Government, would benefit coffee and cocoa institutions, the smallholder producers and the smallholders in market access.

He said it was anticipated to improve performance at all value chains and public-private partnerships.

"The World Bank and its partners are to provide almost US\$46 million for the project," he said.

Mr Aihi also stated that the PPAP concept will work with the support of the private sector and reminded those attending the launching that public-private-partnership, especially those at the smallholder level must be seen to be working effectively. He said the private sector must be involved to ensure that smallholder cocoa development was enhanced. He called on relevant government agencies to roll out the program quickly and ensure it was implemented.

19.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG, Me'ekamui to meet

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the original Me'ekamui government and its soldiers met in Panguna on Thursday to reconcile to pave way for more negotiations.

ABG vice president Patrick Nisira and Natural Resources and Lands Minister Michael Oni met with Me'ekamui hardliner Moses Pipiro in Panguna on Thursday for a "small but significant handshake" and reconciliation ceremony.

ABG officials said the meeting with the ABG and the Me'ekamui hardliners in Panguna would pave way for easy access to Panguna Mine for negotiations on its reopening.

Mr Nisira and Mr Oni met with Mr Pipiro and his team in a small ceremony to mark the occasion.

But women of Kieta, after the ceremony, said the Panguna issue should not be rushed.

In a statement from Arawa, the women said that Panguna needed a peace process on its own in order for the process to flow.

They said that the ABG and the National Government should address Panguna separately and advise that the mine will never reopen if Panguna and its problems are not sorted out separately.

"We should never talk about the reopening of the Panguna Mine if first of all our leaders are not united on the issue.

"We should see Panguna as a separate entity and address it separately, let's say Panguna needs a peace process on its own. By this we mean the Me'ekamui soldiers need to reconcile among themselves then with the ABG, with the National Government, with us women, the children and with the outside world. After all these are completed, then we can start talking about the reopening of Panguna Mine and take on from there," the women leaders said from Arawa.

19.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Three gunned down in Kieta

By FABIAN GATANA

THREE men from a remote Kieta village are dead after they were shot at close range over allegations and accusations of practising sorcery this week.

The victims, all brothers, from Pomaua village, Kieta District, were taken from their home early on Tuesday morning and executed with high powered rifles in front of the grave of the deceased they were said to have killed through sorcery last month.

The victims were then hacked to pieces and buried in unmarked graves — more like they had been thrown out of the village and left to rot where no-one knows their whereabouts.

Arawa Police Station Commander Snr Sergeant Herman Birenka said that the suspects were known to police but efforts to apprehend them had been hampered by the community standing together and aiding the suspects.

"The situation is very tense at the moment.

"We the police are finding it hard to apprehend the suspects because the villagers are holding guns and are hesitant for any government bodies to enter their area and carry out investigations into these killings.

"They (the suspects) have to be brought to justice because they have violated human rights but at the moment, police are severely handicapped," Snr Sergeant Birenka said.

Sergeant Birenka said that sorcery cases in Central Bougainville were steadily on the increase as compared to other law and order problems.

He said so far 10 people had died or been killed in the last six months in the name of sorcery — the recent incident being in Koromira where one person was also gunned down.

"In the past six months, 10 people have died of being suspected of practising sorcery.

"Sorcery cases are hard to investigate because police are not fully equipped to tackle such cases," he said.

The relatives of the victims' however, are calling for the return and proper burial of the victims' bodies.

19.02.2011

Source: ESBC Research / Yahoo Bougainville Forum

These two postings were published today on Yahoo's Bougainville Forum. This shows that there are very serious and foresighted people on the island who struggle hard for a better life on Bougainville. That's encouraging!

The war was not about anti-mining. Rather it was about equal and fair distribution of the benefits, environment issues and other social/economical issues that were associated indirectly or directly with the mine. Anti-mining sentiments came about because the nat government and bcl were ignorant to address the issues. It's a good thing that they learned to listen the hard way. With new and better deal we can move forward, without some people preying on our ignorance as before. In whole, I still maintain my stand that those currently against mining should provide the alternatives to where ABG can get required funds to meets its development expenditures. And also tell us how we can remove the current radioactive materials at Panguna and Loloho. I can say more, but inap pastaim.

posted by Camillus Kabui (CK)

Some people who live affluent lives in Oz do really want us to get stuck in the past, do they? They're doing all they can to revert us back into the stone age whilst they enjoy all the comforts back in Oz made possible by money from Bougainville and other mines around the world. I indeed agree with CK in that these people are complete hypocrites. Why don't you fellas go find a cave somewhere and hide yourselves from the outside world? See what it feels like to struggle each day just to put a decent meal on the table?

Finding school fees from selling vegetables and doing other menial jobs is also in itself a struggle and the list goes on. Bougainville, being a part of the global village does not have to be another African country where life is no better than where they were some 100 years ago. GOD has given Bougainville abundant riches and does one really expect us to just stare at them and keep them there? These were given so that we can better our lives. If we were to concentrate on Agriculture, Fishing, Tourism and other resources only, then why did He also give us gold, copper and other minerals? Obviously He didn't make a mistake?

Besides, those factions in Panguna (CK and good thinking landowners excluded) who don't want the mine to reopen better start thinking about how they can compensate the rest of us Bougainvilleans who suffered through no fault of ours. Or should we put up a demand for K10 billion compensation to them. See where they find the money to pay us. With all the reconciliation that's going on in Bougainville, these people should not try to complicate things.

I sympathise with CK and other landowners who are trying their best to help us all and Bougainville. If only the rest of them could think like him. Maybe some people out there are taking advantage of our uneducated people back in Panguna?

We need the mine to kick start our economy. At this stage as I see it, if we do not reopen the mine, then we can not have an independent Bougainville. If we are struggling right now to find money to develop Bougainville, where will we suddenly find money come independence time without a mine? Any money obtained through so called aid from other countries always has strings attached to them, or wrapped around our necks.

posted by Francis Chibelle

19.04.2011

Source: The National

UN rep: Bougainville ignorant of UN

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

WARRING tribes in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville still do not understand the role of the United Nations, which has been in existence in post-conflict Bougainville for 10 years, UN representative Anthony Agyenta says.

He was speaking to leaders from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and Mekamui tribal government last Friday during the reuniting of the Original Mekamui and Mekamui Unity Group at the Panguna mine site.

Agyenta raised this after he was stopped at the Mekamui roadblock at Morgan Junction and questioned before continuing his journey to Panguna with the ABG delegation as a neutral international observer to the peace and reconciliation progress on Bougainville.

"The UN is an international body that has the freedom, because we are governed by that law; we have the freedom to go into places of conflict and mediate or observe the situation.

"I have gone to warring countries and, once I am in a UN car with the UN flag, even rebels will open up and say, 'go' but, when you go, do not do this, do not do that; but in Bougainville, it seems we do not have that," Agyenta said.

He said the UN was a neutral and impartial body that protected the interest of mankind. "This is just my appeal that, before and as part of the reconciliation today, the two groups that are coming together, you make a decision today, that checkpoint, and wherever there are checkpoints, tell your boys that UN is different from the government. "UN is different from the individual; please, recognise UN's role." Agyenta said the UN was involved in the peace process because it wanted to see the problems solved.

19.04.2011

Source: The National

Momis says weapons disposal is priority

FUTURE weapons disposal plans for Bougainville will be guided using 10 basic principles identified by the Autonomous Bougainville Government. The draft proposal released yesterday by the office of President John Momis anticipates that an accountable and transparent process is followed, ensuring full participation by member communities including the cultural, economic and social well-being of the people.

Momis said: "The continuing presence of weapons and ammunition in the hands of groups and individuals is causing many problems."

"It is a major factor in localised conflict in South Bougainville resulting in more than 50 deaths since 2006. Many people are displaced.

"People in many parts of Bougainville live in fear of weapons. Investment in economic projects is restricted by the use of these weapons.

"It is essential that we find ways of removing weapons from our communities.

"As I stated in my inauguration speech in June last year, weapons disposal is a priority for my government.

"We can learn a lot from past experiences.

"We have had one partially successful weapons disposal process supervised by a United Nations Observer Mission from 2001-05 that resulted in 2,000 pieces being destroyed.

"But the Mekamui groups were not part of the process including some elements of Bougainville Revolutionary Army, resistance army, criminals and businessmen who also held onto their weapons," he said, adding that since 2005 a number of plans and proposals had not worked out.

"Part of the reason for their failure is that they have not been based upon analysis of the facts about weapons and the many different reasons why groups and individuals want to keep their weapons," Momis added.

In summary, those principles are:

- * All disposal plans must be based on facts about weapons in Bougainville;
- * Disposal plans must provide incentives, pressures and processes that respond to the different reasons why groups and individuals hold weapons;
- * Political incentives may include important reasons for some groups to dispose of their weapons;
- * Plans must involve the whole community;
- * Weapons disposal plans must not include "buy-back" arrangements or economic projects in exchange for weapons disposal;
- * Disposal plans must be realistic in what they propose in relation to economic development projects in support of weapons disposal;
- * Disposal plans must include a process for actual disposal of the weapons that is accountable and transparent;
- * Disposal plans must consider whether there is a need for supervision of the process of actual disposal by an independent authority;
- * Disposal plans may need to be linked to reconciliation programmes that support

weapons disposal; and

* Disposal plans need to address the security concerns of those holding weapons.

19-04.2011

Source: Scoop New Zealand / Me'ekamui Press release

PNG: Panguna mine interview trip on Bougainville

By Clive Porabou

PANGUNA, Bougainville (Mekamui News/Pacific Media Watch): On the April 13, a cloudy and wet day, we took a chance to visit Panguna mine.

Before we left Arawa, we thought that it will be sunshine in Panguna but unfortunately it was not.

When we reached Panguna we couldn't see anything, it was all cloudy, so we drove to the top of the hill on the west side and stopped at a house at the mine site.

Out came the person who owns the place and lives there since the mine stopped. As I wasn't able to go out and take footage I asked him if he could talk on the camera about the issue of re-opening Panguna mine.

Max is one of the landowners who makes a living carrying people on his truck to Arawa and back.

The first question I asked was: "You have build this house in a mine site and BCL is planning to come back. If all the negotiations go well with the pro-mining landowners, will you move from here?"

He says "I will not move, this is my land and I have no place to go."

He pointed to the gardens on the hills behind us and said: "That is all the land left for us to make our gardens, the rest is being dug up and left with gravel, you can't plant food here now. Those who are talking about re-opening the mine live on money not on the land, they are like the old people who sold our land for axes and tobacco. If we let BCL come back again where will we go? We don't have land anywhere else on Mekamui."

While talking with him, a mother and her son aged about 6 or 7 came, covering themselves from the rain with a banana leave and an umbrella. They came to one of the houses near Max's and were putting down taro when I walked over to them and asked the woman if I could take their photo, she agreed and I filmed them.

Later I asked her if she mind if I asked her a question, she nodded her head in agreement. I asked her the same question about re-opening the mine. She looked very sad and said, she doesn't like to see the mine reopened.

If the mine re-opens, she told me, they will spoil the land which she uses to plant the taro. I asked her: "What if they offer you money?" she says, "I don't want money I want my land preserved."

As the rain still continues and it makes it hard for me to take pictures of the mine pit after almost one year and 3 months since my last visit, my comrade the driver JM says we will go to the district office at Kavarong and interview the Mekamui hardliner Moses Pipiro. So we jumped into the truck and drove over.

We asked John Duni, one of the founders, and he told us that Mr Pipiro must be in his base or went to pan for gold up the river. We didn't make any arrangement to see him so when we stopped near his base and I opened the door I saw a young girl looking down at us. I know that if we asked calling him Moses they would not tell us where he is, even though he is home. They will think that we are strangers, so I used the name he is called back home, when I asked the girl for him. She quickly says I will go and call him.

In few minutes he appeared and came to us and when he saw me he was full of smiles and put his hand out to shake mine.

We told him why we are there and we drove to the other side of the buildings where on the ground women were selling ramputan or local lollies [fruits] and frying doughnuts. His secretary met us there and took us up to the second floor of the burned down 3 story building. To waste no time I turned on the camera and asked him about the issue of Panguna mine.

He told me that Panguna mine had been closed and will remain closed till Mekamui/Bougainville becomes an Independent Island Nation. He further stated: "When the leaders from Bougainville and PNG came to talk to me they returned and they spread their propaganda saying that I gave green light for the re-opening of the mine."

He says even though the landowners talk about it or if there is a referendum about the issue carried out from South to North and the majority says yes, it will remain closed, mining is not the issue, the issue now is Independence for our island. We fought for:

1. To preserve our culture
2. To preserve our land
3. And for the betterment of our future generation.

The original demand still stands: that is PNG 10 billion Kina.

He told me that the landowners have no right to talk about the re-opening of the mine and those who talk about it live in Arawa and elsewhere. This bloody mine causes bloodshed to the people of this Island and it's not a small issue.

Later, after the interview I went downstairs and took some footage of the women and asked them the same question. All they say is no to mining, enough is enough, the land is for gardening not for mining.

<http://mekamui.wordpress.com/2011/04/17/panguna-mine-trip/>

Pacific Media Watch Online

www.pacmediawatch.aut.ac.nz

18.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture from Panguna Meet

By AL



UN's Officer Anthony Agyenta pose for this AL picture with from left(Philip Miriori, Agyenta middle and another Chief from Panguna

18.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WATER AND SANITARY PROJECT: SUCCESS

By Aloysius Laukai

The World Vision's Water and Sanitation project's is finalizing its implementation program in three constituencies of MAHARI, TEUA and TOROKINA before moving into some communities in Central Bougainville.

This was revealed by the Water and Sanitation Program Manageress, MISS.GAIL PIGOLO TODAY.

She was talking to New Dawn FM's BOUGAINVILLE MERI TEDE Program.

She said that the project has been involved in building Ventilated Improved Toilets in these communities including putting up of Water Tanks and also carrying out awareness on good hygiene practices.

She said in the early stages the people were not really supportive of the projects until they saw water tanks arriving many people started enquiring for projects.

She said that the World Vision Water and Sanitation project only supports the Governments development programs.

MS.PIGOLO said that the real changes would be seen after the project has been completed.

18.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIPIRO HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

Commander of Panguna Mekamui Defence Force, MOSES PIPIRO says that the agenda of Bougainville is Independence for Bougainville.

He was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony in Panguna last Thursday.

MR. PIPIRO said that the unification of the two Mekamui groups was good sign for peace and development of Bougainville.

He warned those present that the future of Bougainville was in today's leadership who could be blamed if they do not plan for the future generation.

MR. PIPIRO said that he was disappointed that MR. CHRIS UMA did not attend the first phase of the Mekamui reconciliation.

18.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA ON UNIFICATION

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG VICE President, PATRICK NISIRA has welcomed the unification of the two Mekamui groups in Central Bougainville.

He was speaking at the reconciliation ceremony of the Mekamui Government of Unity led by its President, PHILIP MIRIORI and the Original Mekamui Government led by Administrator LORD WILLIAM MUTAA.

MR. NISIRA said that the ABG government under President JOHN MOMIS has been embarking on the unification of all factions throughout Bougainville and the Mekamui reconciliation was welcomed.

He said that the ceremony was not for Panguna only but for the whole of Bougainville.

18.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

British Television series to involve PNG

By Aloysius Laukai

AWARD winning British television company Dragonfly Film and Television Productions Ltd is in search of people in Bougainville and PNG who think they may have a distant ancestor from the UK and is inviting residents in the country to participate.

Company representative Cher Anderson told New Dawn FM from UK that this was part of a new television series called 'Guess the Relative' in which people from around the world will get the chance to travel to Britain to discover living British relatives who they never knew existed.

"It is a fun and entertaining show all about family history and our distant living relatives. Their ancestor might be several generations back and come from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, but if Papua New Guineans have any link to the UK whatsoever we want to hear about it," urged Anderson.

She said for more information and to apply to take part, people can search the company's website www.guesstherelative.tv

Or you can contact New Dawn FM on www.bougainville.typepad.com for further assistance.

Dragonfly TV, based in London, UK, is globally known for producing award winning television documentaries that are shown throughout the world.

18.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Chinese shops issue not about race says business leader

The role of foreigners, particularly Chinese, opening retail shops in Pacific island countries, has been criticised by a business leader in Papua New Guinea.

Robert Atisr, President of the Bougainville Business Association, denies that anti-Chinese racism or jealousy is behind concerns about non-citizens operating small businesses.

And Professor James Chin, an academic expert on the role of overseas Chinese in the Pacific says part of the problem is that many of the business operators from overseas don't plan to stay in the Pacific very long.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Listen here !

HILL: It's a touchy subject, and one which can lead to serious consequences. There have been violent incidents including the torching of shops in several Pacific nations in recent years. An expert on this issue, Dr James Chin, from the Malaysian campus of Australia's Monash University, says it's the already well established long term Chinese communities in our region who are most concerned about this.

DR CHIN: In the Pacific, you will find that there are Chinese communities there whose been there for hundreds of years, they're very well attuned to the local population and in fact a lot of them are inter-marriages, so those are people I would call the older Chinese, they're very well established. Then you get the newer Chinese. Most of them are either from South East Asia or mainland China and they've only been in the Pacific for the past ten to 15 years.

HILL: So what is it about this newer group of Chinese that seems to be getting some people upset?

DR CHIN: I think we have several issues at hand. The first is that many of these new Chinese are much more aggressive compared to the older Chinese. Most of them are in the Pacific for a very short term. Most of them are there basically in the retail industry, so they have direct contact with the local population and they're idea is to make as much money as possible before moving on to countries like Australia and New Zealand. So they come in close contact with the local population and a lot of them do not plan any long term plans to stay in the South Pacific, so they get into conflict with the local population.

HILL: And local people could say well, they're here to make a buck and then move on. It's not actually going to help the community long term, which the older established Chinese community obviously do?

DR CHIN: Exactly. The older Chinese have always had plans to live in the Pacific Islands for long term and that's the reason why a lot of them involved inter-marriages.

HILL: Well, tell us about the reasons why some of the new Chinese act like this, is there a cultural difference perhaps between the Pacific and China that perhaps Pacific people aren't picking up on?

DR CHIN: I think the conflict comes at two levels. The first one as I mentioned a lot of these Chinese are actually there, they're doing retail trade. If you look at most of the Pacific countries, most of the front line retail trade, like running small shops or what we call grocery shops or milk bars. Most of these activities are actually reserved for the local population, so in fact a lot of the Chinese are involved in illegal activities if you look at it from a legal standpoint. The second thing is that a lot of these Chinese companies, especially state enterprises. What they do is when they move to the South Pacific, instead of subcontracting the work to the local population, most of them bring their own workers and very often a lot of these workers of China do not have any language skills other than Mandarin-Chinese, so they find it very difficult to communicate with the local population. So basically you get a big group of people who are there in the retail trade who don't speak any local languages or they don't speak any English at all, so you can see the potential for misunderstanding and conflict.

HILL: Don't they perhaps pick up on some of the hostility that they get as a result of this and try to learn the local languages? Are they not perhaps understanding the effect that sometimes their behaviour is having on local people?

DR CHIN: Unfortunately, many of these people have very short term plans. Their idea is that they'll work in the Pacific for maybe for maximum of five years before they move on. So a lot of them have no interest in terms of trying to learn the local cultures and trying to get along with the local population.

HILL: Robert Atisr, President of the Bougainville Business Association, says race or concerns about competition are not part of his member's worries about foreign owned shops. He says it's simply not fair that people seem to be coming into the region to start businesses in defiance of laws which reserve certain occupations for citizens.

ATISR: It creates stiff competition for local business operators and this is where we come into lodge our complaints from a distance association point of view particularly with regards to wholesale and retail and as well as we questioning whether some of the laws are that requires other investment into the Papua New Guinea structures specification of foreign investments and to Bougainville in particular, definitions of Bougainvilleans, which is quite broad here are being abused and this is where we are raising some concerns.

HILL: Do you make a distinction between the newly arrived business people from mainland China and perhaps the older established Chinese community, which has had a long tradition and history in Papua New Guinea?

ATISR: As far as we understand, well established Chinese communities, many of them are citizens of this nation and therefore they have every right as citizens to conduct business so long as they're within the laws of the country. We only questioning because of examples around the country in Papua New Guinea and in other provinces about cases where mainland Chinese are operating business connecting time out to lack of

documents, to enable them to conduct their business. As well one of the requirements is that you cannot come in and set up this business, set up operations to employ Papua New Guineans unless you can speak fluent English or not necessarily fluent English, but you can communicate in English. So these are some of our concerns.

HILL: Mr Atisr, what about the accusation that some of these criticisms are motivated basically by business competition, jealousy and a certain of racism?

ATISR: No, racism is not an issue here. We believe that because there is certain open invitations for these people to come in that that's working under the guise that come in as tourists or short term stay but then they're getting to employment, when they shouldn't be getting into employment and they start businesses when they shouldn't be getting into businesses. There are cases that are proven in court or as in that they have not been able to produce the documents that they are entitled to conduct business or entitled to be employed. It's got nothing to do with race here.

18.04.2011

Source: Solomon Star

Young women empowered.

By Suzanne Jimbul

The first young women's 1325 empowerment meeting for Bougainville youth was convened by Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency recently.

The young women's empowerment meeting on UNSCr 1325 enabled young women to address health security priorities including overcoming maternal health barriers to enhance women's participation and preventive action was an eye opener and an opportunity for the young women from various constituencies in Buka and Selau who had the opportunity to raise their health security concerns.

Speaking at the UNSCr 1325 Young Women's Empowerment meeting, Leitana Nehan's Executive Director, Helen Hakena stressed that young women do not have their say as being overlooked by official processes:

'Today is the first empowerment 1325 meeting for young women staged in Bougainville since the adoption of UNSCr 1325 on October 31 2000; and this is an opportunity for you as young women to talk about women's health security issues as experienced in your communities.'

'This meeting is also to educate and empower young women to understand that they must not be blamed for inter marital affairs - an emerging issue in Bougainville that also contributes to women's health,' added Mrs. Hakena.

She further recommended the government should include Health Education in the education curriculum to educate the pupils on the importance of health security and the effects it has on women's development and everyday life.

To commemorate the first young women's empowerment meeting on UNSCr 1325 a Generation Next Club was formed consisting of 15 young women from different constituencies in Buka and Selau.

This network will link these young women from the 3 main regions in Bougainville to work collectively to contribute to key areas of UNSCr 1325 in enhancing the 3 P's of the resolution – Participation, Peacekeeping and Protection.

The Generation Next Club will also keep young women's security issues visible on the grass roots level and to further enhance the equal participation of women at all decision making levels.

According to Hakena the meeting was an opportunity to strengthen young women's participation and collaboration within the region and to empower them to voice their issues of concern.

The young women's stories will feature in upcoming community media initiatives produced by the Regional Women's Media and Policy Network on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 convened by Femlinkpacific

18.04.2011

Source: The National

Tribal leaders unite

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

LEADERS of the split factions of the Mekamui tribal government in Bougainville have pledged to work together to rebuild peace on Bougainville.

The commitment was made at a reconciliation ceremony between the Original Mekamui and Mekamui Unity Group last Friday at the Panguna mine site.

Division in the Mekamui government came about in 2007 over issues of leadership following the death of their leader Francis Ona.

The brief, but significant, ceremony would ensure both factions work as a united government in handling all Panguna issues and assist in peace and reconciliation on Bougainville.

The tribal government's pledge for unity was witnessed by Autonomous Region of Bougainville Vice-President Patrick Nisira, chiefs of Panguna and United Nations Bougainville representative Anthony Agyenta.

Panguna chief John Duni reminded the leaders that unless they work together, Bougainville's vision to bring peace and unity among its people as a lead-up to referendum would not be achieved.

He said with both factions united, any decision on the re-opening of Panguna mine must be discussed and agreed upon by the united government.

"The copper is in our land.

"We must understand each other and work together for the benefit of our Panguna people.

"We have aims; we must work together and decide as a united group," Duni said.

He also cautioned people from North and South Bougainville, islands and the atolls to refrain from making decisions for the Panguna people.

"As it is in our culture, peace will prosper only when those who are primarily involved in a dispute unite and make peace at the site of where it all started – in our case, Panguna mine," Duni added.

Mekamui Unity Group commander Moses Pipiro said the occasion showed all stakeholders in PNG and overseas that the tribal government was ready and willing to work in unity in addressing peace and reconciliation in Bougainville.

17.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture of JICA Bridge



This is one of the Mabiri bridges to be handed to the ABG in July this year. (AL)

17.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ND Pics

by Aloysius Laukai



ABG leaders ready to attend the ceremony as observers
From left ABG member for South Nasioi, JOHN KEN, Vice President PATRICK NISIRA, DPI minister and member for North Nasioi, NICHOLAS DARKU and Mining Minister and local member for Ioro which covers Panguna, MICHAEL ONI

17.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture of the Meeting at Panguna

Pictures by Aloysius Laukai



The team led by Philip Miriori and UN man Anthony Agyenta are captured working to the meeting venue

17.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Two death in South Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai

South Bougainville Police have reported two death and several others wounded from an incident at Ugubakogu village.

Commander of South Bougainville Police, Inspector, PAUL KAMUAI said from Buin that armed thugs in the area fired several shot at civilians at Ugubakogu killing two instantly and wounding one who is now at the Arawa Health Centre.

The Commander named those killed as Aloysius Siugu aged about 35 and married with four kids and another a student at the Ugubakogu school.

The 3rd person managed to escape and is nursing wounds at the Arawa Health Centre. Reports from South Bougainville Police said that three were drinking alcohol when they were confronted and shot.

Inspector Kamuai also reported a road accident in which two brothers fell off a moving truck last Friday.

He said the two were drunk and were hanging on the side of the moving vehicle when the incident happened.

The two are now recovering at the Buin Health Centre.

Meanwhile Reports from Buka states that, Bougainville Police Service (BPS) are on alert in anticipation of trouble from grieving relatives of a man from Malasang village, Buka island who died instantly when he was hit by a speeding vehicle in town in the early

hours on Saturday.

The deceased, an auxiliary policeman, had been to a dance with his friends at Buka's popular nightclub Kenny's Hall and were walking home when the vehicle bumped the drunk deceased and sped off.

An uncle of the deceased confronted BPS duty officers on Saturday morning demanding the police hand over to the family the man suspected of killing the deceased.

The relative had assumed that the suspect was already in police custody which was not the case.

The officers, who sympathized with the man, sent him home with a stern warning that BPS will not tolerate such actions and assured that they are addressing the accident.

According to BPS, investigation is underway to identify and arrest the suspect who is still at large and any others involved.

BPS had also met with the immediate family of the deceased and urged that the family not take matters into their own hands but let the police deal with it through proper process of the law.

15.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BAU ON RECONCILIATION

By Aloysius Laukai

The mediator between the two Mekamui factions that reconciled in Panguna yesterday, CHRIS BAU says that the ceremony was the first step in the two factions reconciling during a traditional ceremony at a later date.

MR. BAU was explaining that yesterday's event was the first step in getting these two factions coming together.

He said that the two group splitted into two groups following the death of their late leader FRANCIS ONA.

The group that remained in Panguna under President PHILIP MIRIORI and PHILIP TAKAUNG with their Panguna commander Moses Pipiro whilst the Original Mekamui went down to Arawa under their Administrator, LORD WILLIAM MUTAA and their Mekamui Defence Force Commander CHRIS UMA.

Those who remained in Panguna through the Panguna Communique formed the Mekamui Unity Government which later became part of the Panguna Administration under ABG.

The result was the declaration of Panguna as an District with its own CEO, MR. OTTO NORUKA.

Yesterday's ceremony paves the way for the final unification as one Mekamui group that would work hand in hand with the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

15.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AGYENTA ON CUSTOM

By Aloysius Laukai

The special Technical Officer for UNDP on Bougainville, Anthony Agyenta yesterday praised the Mekamui leaders for using tradition in ironing out their differences.

He told the gathering that there is no peace, if we do not utilize the traditional mechanic, that the chiefs, that our culture and our tradition, is very important, if you want to keep ourselves as a people, because our dignity and our image and everything stands from our tradition.

He said that this means that our chiefs are going to be very important forces in this peace process in Bougainville, not just in Panguna.

The chiefs are very important because they are the local people on the ground, who deal with all the problems and the people.

He said this was why the connection between the people, the chiefs and the government, is very very important.

He said that Bougainville cannot move forward, if that connection is not built. So we are looking forward to seeing how, you the chiefs are going to be part of this process, how we can help you, to strengthen you to contribute to this process.

MR. AGYENTA called on them to utilize the village assemblies, you have your village courts, you have the coes, you are the connections between all these institutions.

15.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Criminal charges against acting judge stayed

By TODAGIA KELOLA

CRIMINAL charges against an acting Judge of the National and Supreme Court that is to go before the District Courts has been permanently stayed by the National Court.

And the actions of police in arresting her and charging her amount to "a gross abuse of process" the National Court found.

Acting Judge Royale Thompson was arrested and charged with two counts of attempting to pervert the course of justice and spreading false reports, two weeks ago.

The charges relate to a newspaper advertisement in January concerning a ship that had been detained by customs after loading oil in Bougainville.

At the time acting Judge Thompson was a lawyer acting on behalf of the ship's owner.

Two days after her arrest she made an application in the National Court and restrained the Police from further dealing with the matter and at the same time restrained the two daily newspapers from publishing any story in relation to her arrest.

Last Friday submissions were made by her counsel Ian Molloy and Sam Koim from the Solicitor Generals Office on behalf of the defendants.

Mr Molloy had argued at that time that the proceedings must be permanently stayed because there is no reasonable prospect of a conviction and no likelihood of success, therefore an abuse of process.

He also stated that his client whilst an acting Judge of the National and Supreme Court and whilst the proceedings exist, they are interfering with the performance of her duties and have a tendency to threaten to bring the Judiciary into disrepute.

Sam Koim from the Solicitor Generals Office argued otherwise and said "The matters that they are raising can be raised at the District Court. Why is it that people are always running to this Court to interfere with the normal investigation and criminal process?"

He went on further and argued that "A worst case scenario is that if high class people are always going to stop police from carrying out their constitutional duties than, what's the purpose of having a police force. Let's decommission the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the District Courts from dealing and initiating the criminal process."

Justice Catherine Davani yesterday, in a 32 page decision held that the advertisement in the newspaper put in by the plaintiff was all alone correct and that Police actions had amounted to an abuse of process.

"I find the actions of Superintendent Kalaut to be a gross abuse of process, where he has abused his position as a Police Prosecutor to file Court proceedings against the plaintiff.

"The court must never be used by individuals for their personal battles. Only genuine claims must be filed and pursued. If the claims are not genuine, they should rightly be stayed or dismissed or withdrawn or discontinued. This case is clearly one of abuse of process where the plaintiff was arrested on charges based on facts known to the Police Prosecutor and whoever lodged the complaint, as being incorrect and false.

"As I stated above, the Courts must be protected from abuse. This is a case where the Court system has been abused by the filing of charges and the arrest of the plaintiff which has only resulted in serious embarrassment to her.

"This must stop and must stop now."

"The Court must exercise its inherent powers to ensure that justice is done. I find the District Court charges are abuse of process and are now permanently stayed," she concluded.

15.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Pirika happy with projects

By JOYCE TOHUI

MP for South Bougainville, Steven Pirika is satisfied with projects he initiated, the electorate.

Mr Pirika was in his electorate last weekend and presented three police vehicles. He also kicked off the South Bougainville School Children's Soccer competition which he had funded.

The MP also announced K700,000 communication upgrading in South Bougainville.

This would be for the provision of wireless telephone and Internet services in Buin Town and surrounding villages by Telikom PNG Limited.

The program would also see the provision of FM 100 radio signal to parts of South Bougainville.

Since Monday last week, the MP visited projects he had funded in Buin, Siwai and Bana districts.

He also launched the Pikinini Sports Program in Buin.

The MP then attended a big reconciliation ceremony between the warring parties of Takemari village in Nagovis last Friday.

Mr Pirika then left for Port Moresby on Tuesday afternoon.

The Member is expected to return after Easter for the reconciliation between himself and the Bougainville Engineering Company in Buka.

15.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Factions threaten road closure

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

FACTIONS in the south of Bougainville, mainly in the Buin area, who have been fighting since 2005 with the Mekamui are going to set up a main roadblock again until the ABG supports them with funds for reconciliation among themselves.

Two factions, the Peace Struggling Force (PSF) commander Michael Niaka and Michael Maikai, representing the Mekamui, fronted up in the Post-Courier office in Buka to express their disappointment about the ABG.

A total of 15 fighters, including their paramount chiefs 11 PSF and four Mekamui, were in Buka for six weeks awaiting the government's response but were unsuccessful.

And the factions joining hands with Mekamui are now going to set up a roadblock in the Leulo pass, which has been recently cleared after a landslide blocked it. The road will remain blocked until the government pays them to reconcile.

"We went to see the president, the peace minister, the peace officer and the CEO and there is no response. We waited with hunger and thirst for six weeks and we have run into bills from business houses in which we were getting accommodation and little food

from.

“In our hearts, we really want peace once and for all and the current government has to understand that we were the factions that always uphold peace, law and order, and for us to be given no as an answer, that means there will be no reconciliation, we feel both sad and frustrated,” Mr Niaka said.

All these trouble happened after the Tonu raid in 2006. The raid had a blessings from the Bougainville Executive Council where police and special constables comprising ex-combatants went in to apprehend Noah Musingku, but failed in the attempt but two Buin freedom fighters were seriously wounded and one died. “We are now withdrawing today (Friday) to go back to Bin after the government said to fix our transport fares,” he said.

14.02.2011

Source: moviepilot

Hugh Laurie ist reif für die Insel

Hugh Laurie, Star der erfolgreichen Fernsehserie Dr. House, wird die Hauptrolle in der Verfilmung von **Lloyd Jones' Buch Mister Pip** spielen.

Hugh Laurie hat mit der Serie Dr. House, in der er die misanthropische und depressive Titelfigur spielt, großen Erfolg. Seine Karriere als Filmschauspieler liegt aber nicht auf Eis, ganz im Gegenteil, sie nimmt wieder richtig an Fahrt auf: Hugh Laurie wird die Hauptrolle in der Verfilmung von Mister Pip übernehmen und Andrew Adamson wird, wie schon bei Shrek – Der tollkühne Held, Shrek 2 – Der tollkühne Held kehrt zurück und Die Chroniken von Narnia: Der König von Narnia, Regie führen.

Das Buch von Lloyd Jones aus dem Jahr 2007 handelt von Mr. Watts (Hugh Laurie), dem letzten weißen Mann auf der Insel Bougainville, die zu Papua-Neuguinea gehört, der die Aufgabe als Lehrer für die einheimischen Kinder übernimmt. Er liest ihnen aus Charles Dickens' Roman Große Erwartungen vor und begeistert sie damit, vor allem die 14-jährige Matilda.

Die Idee einer Adaption kam Regisseur und Drehbuchautor Andrew Adamson, nachdem er das Buch während eines Flugs richtiggehend verschlungen hatte. Und auch Hugh Laurie war äußerst angetan von Mister Pip: “Von den ersten Worten des Romans und der ersten Idee des Drehbuchs an war ich süchtig nach Mister Pip. Es ist eine ungemein berührende, einzigartige, dennoch völlig unsentimentale Geschichte von Liebe. Es ist anders als jedes Skript, das ich gelesen habe, oder jede Geschichte, die ich je gehört habe. Und ich komme nach Papua-Neuguinea und nenne es Arbeit. Ich bin ein sehr glücklicher Mensch.”

Andrew Adamson hat sich dafür entschieden, in Neuseeland und auf der im Buch vorkommenden Insel Bougainville zu drehen. Beginnen werden die Arbeiten bereits nächsten Monat. Läuft alles nach Plan, können wir Hugh Laurie alias Dr. House bereits 2012 auf der Pazifikinsel bewundern.

14.02.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - News

PNG court rejects charges against Australian judge

By PNG correspondent Liam Fox

A court in Papua New Guinea has described charges laid against an Australian judge as "a gross abuse of process".

Two weeks ago Acting Judge Royale Thompson was arrested and charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and spreading false reports.

The charges related to a newspaper advertisement in January concerning a ship that had been detained by PNG customs after loading oil in Bougainville.

At the time Judge Thompson was a lawyer acting on behalf of the ship's owner.

The advertisement contradicted a statement by the customs commissioner that the ship had left PNG waters illegally.

Today Justice Catherine Divani found the advertisement was correct and the customs commissioner's statement was not.

She threw out the charges against Judge Thompson, saying they were "a gross abuse of process".

14.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

OISCA project targets 2012

By JOYCE TOHUI

The MANANAU OISCA Project is targeting 2012 to take its first intake of students, according to Project Officer, GABRIEL WAYEN.

He told New Dawn FM today in Buka that only funding constraints are slowing the progress of the project.

MR WAYEN said that due to the little funding they received, they try to put many things under one roof to make the cost cheaper.

He said so far two buildings have already been built on the project site which housed one classroom, one dormitory, office spaces and a staff house.

He said they still need to build an ablution block, kitchen and mass and water supply as these are the necessities that are to be installed for an institution to accommodate students.

The Project Officer said that their plan is to take in the boys first and girls later on when other facilities are constructed.

MR WAYEN said that such institutions will not achieve everything needed overnight but it will take years to implement.

14.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEKAMUI unites II

By Aloysius Laukai

The two Mekamuis from PANGUNA area today unified to become one at a small ceremony in PANGUNA this morning.

The two Mekamuis are the Original Mekamui and the Mekamui unity group based in PANGUNA.

Since the death of late Francis ONA the Mekamui faction splitted into the original Mekamui and the group that remained in PANGUNA.

The group from PANGUNA then joined the ABG to create the PANGUNA unity government.

Today's ceremony saw the two becoming one Mekamui that can address issues currently affecting Bougainville of course with the ABG government.

Speakers at today's ceremony included the vice president PATRICK NISIRA, Mekamui Defense Commander, MOSES PIPIRO, UNDP boss ANTHONY AGYENTA, Mining minister, MICHAEL ONI.

14.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville needs OSICA

By JOYCE TOHUI

GABRIEL WAYEN a project officer with the Division of Primary Industry said that Bougainville needs such project as OISCA as more than 80% of our people live in the rural areas.

He said that most of their food and their cash income depend mainly on the land.

He said if the DPI officers teach modern farming it will require big investments which people must have the money to pay for tractors and so forth.

He added that many of these things are costly and only a few will afford to buy whereas the majority cannot.

Therefore Bougainville must come up with an institution that will target areas where people will not need high technology.

And the OISCA initiative is one impact that deals mainly organic farming to promote food security and help people not to destroy their land.

14.02.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MEKAMUI unites I

By Aloysius Laukai in PANGUNA

The Original MEKAMUI and the MEKAMUI Government of unity vowed to work as one unified MEKAMUI group at a ceremony which was witnessed by the ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA, UN Technical Officer, ANTHONY AGYENTA and members of the ABG, Mining Minister, MICHAEL ONI and the Peace and Reconciliation Minister, NEWTON KAUVA.

The ceremony ends long division that has existed since the death of the Late FRANCIS ONA.

After the death of FRANCIS ONA, the group splitted into the group that remained in Panguna under PHILLIP MIRIORI and PHILLIP TAKAUNG and their Commander, MOSES PIPIRO whilst those Original Mekamui's under Administrator Lord WILLIAM MUNTA and Commander CHRIS UMA went to ARAWA.

Mediator CHRIS BAO told the gathering that the ceremony paves the way for a unified Mekamui group to move with development issues in partnership with the ABG.

14.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Teachers quiz risk pay list

By ALEX MUNME

THE risk allowances for teacher's who were teaching during the crisis from 1991 to 1994 in the Autonomous region of Bougainville is still an issue that needs to be clarified before a final list is confirmed and released for payout.

Teachers who were not attending classes during the same period are now calling on the Papua New Guinea Teachers Association Union executives and the Bougainville Regional President Jonathan Ageva to come out, clarify and confirm if their names are listed on the risk allowance pay list.

Headteacher of Pelei Primary school and PNGTA representative in Bana district Peter Lusio raised this concern in Buka this week.

Mr Lusio demanded the union to provide information on who was on the pay list prior to the final and official pay list was released.

He said they were available during the crisis to teach but the situation did not allow them.

He said they contributed K100 towards legal fees for the union to fight for the risk allowance and should not be left out. He said the manner and procedure in which the teachers information were documented for the risk allowances was questionable.

14.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

World Bank, national govt launch cocoa and coffee farming project

A World Bank-funded agriculture development project, launched last week, will be a major boost for smallholder cocoa and coffee farmers.

Cocoa and coffee are two of the country's most important agricultural commodities and with the formal launching of the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP), it should contribute to a positive impact in the social and economic wellbeing of the majority of the rural population.

PPAP, supported by the World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and PNG Government, would benefit coffee and cocoa institutions, the smallholder producers and the smallholders in market access and is anticipated to improve performance at all value chains and public-private partnerships.

The formal launching of the PPAP took place in Kokopo last Tuesday. It was attended by World Bank and government officials, agricultural agencies, farmer organisations and farmers. This was followed by a similar launching in Buka the next day.

The coffee component was launched in Goroka this week. At the Kokopo launching, the Minister for Higher Education and acting Agriculture Minister Paru Aihi told a big gathering at the Gazelle International Hotel that it was not only fitting but also significant that the World Bank and IFAD had chosen the two most important commodities that directly influence the economic wellbeing of the rural communities. He said it was also the Somare-Abal government's desire to ensure that the majority of the rural population that depended on cocoa and coffee must ultimately be the beneficiaries.

"The government has created a conducive political and economic environment which has resulted in the confidence of such highly esteemed bodies like the World Bank and IFAD to fund this project," he said. Mr Aihi said the government recognised that PPAP would contribute to the growth of the country's agricultural export industries, enhancement of smallholder income, and rehabilitation of market access infrastructure, and called on all stakeholders involved in the implementation process to work together.

14.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Revive run-down research center'

THE National Government has been urged to re-establish the rundown Duncan Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The ABG Minister for Agriculture and Livestock and a former chief executive of the Cocoa Board, Nicholas Daaku, made the call during the launching of a World Bank-funded agriculture development project last week.

"Cocoa is one of the country's most important agricultural commodities and with the launching of the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP), it should contribute to a positive impact in the social and economic wellbeing of the majority of the rural population," said Mr Daaku.

PPAP, supported by the World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and PNG Government, will benefit coffee and cocoa institutions, the smallholder producers and the smallholders in market access and is anticipated to improve performance at all value chains and public-private partnerships.

Mr Daaku, speaking during a dinner in honour of the World Bank and government officials including the Acting Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Paru Aihi, said the revitalisation of the once-successful research station, operated by the Cocoa Coconut Institute, should be part of the PPAP implementation process.

"This will enable research scientists to travel to Bougainville and conduct research activities on cocoa and also because the region is a leading cocoa producer," he said.

14.02.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka market opens

By JOYCE TOHUI

BUKA urban market has finally opened its doors to vendors after all bills incurred during the upgrading and maintenance of the market was finally settled.

On Tuesday morning, vendors were seen selling garden produce and other food crops at the market, away from those with betel nuts, cigars and art and crafts at the current market.

All food stuff have moved to the main market. However, due to the cholera epidemic in parts of Buka island, all cooked food and the sale of fresh fish is still banned.

Mothers are happy to return to the main market because it has roofing to protect them from rain and sun.

The Buka urban council wants to create a separate betel nut market like it is done in other urban centers in Papua New Guinea are practising.

14.02.2011

Source: REUTERS



Hugh Laurie

Hugh Laurie playing "Mr. Pip" for Shrek director

By Jay A. Fernandez LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) – "House" star Hugh Laurie is headed to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand for a feature adaptation of the best-selling novel "**Mister Pip**"

Andrew Adamson ("Shrek 2") will direct and produce from his adaptation of fellow New Zealander Lloyd Jones' novel.

Shortlisted for Britain's coveted Booker Prize, "Mister Pip" tells the story of the last white man left on the strife-torn island of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. He reopens a school and reads his favorite novel, "Great Expectations," to the students, inspiring a gifted 14-year-old named Matilda.

The filmmakers plan to begin filming in New Zealand and **on location on Bougainville in May**. The New Zealand government is among the financial backers.

"I read 'Mister Pip' on a transatlantic flight and, by the time of landing, knew I would make this film," said Adamson, who first optioned the film rights.

Added Laurie: "From the first words of the novel, and the first image of the screenplay, I was hooked on 'Mister Pip.' It's an immensely touching, unique, yet completely unsentimental story of love. It is unlike any script I have read, or any story I have ever heard. Plus I get to go to Papua New Guinea and call it work. I am a very lucky man."

Adamson most recently co-wrote and directed the first two installments in the "Chronicles of Narnia" series. He is currently directing and producing a 3D Cirque du Soleil project. Laurie is currently in theaters as part of the voice cast for the animated film "Hop."

14.02.2011

Source: The National

Vehicles boost South Bougainville police service

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

MORALE is high for the 42 Bougainville police service constables in South Bougainville who have been given three vehicles to monitor law and order in the remote districts of Buin, Torokina and Siwai.

The vehicles, worth a total of K430,000, were given by South Bougainville Member Steven Pirika.

In handing over the vehicles on Monday to Buin administration authorities, Pirika said the donation was a step towards the fixing law and order problems in South Bougainville.

"Our districts must be safe so that our children will have the freedom to move around safely.

"Think of the future and let us change our attitudes and ensure we have law and order in this region," he said.

He urged all South Bougainville police personnel to respect these assets and take good care of the vehicles.

"Don not misuse these assets by drinking and driving around in these vehicles or transporting your relatives around.

"The vehicles are public property and must be used for the service of the public." Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) finance minister Albert Punghau also encouraged peace and normalcy to continue in South Bougainville.

"We have very limited time, only five years remaining towards referendum of independence or autonomy.

"This occasion shows once again that our police must unite with the communities to carry out their work of maintaining law and order."

He said under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the people and leaders of Bougainville must work together in achieving the three pillars of the agreement, adding that the second pillar was rule of law which emphasised on maintaining good law and order in the region.

"If you want independence, if you want autonomy, you must have law and order. Our people must be law abiding citizens.

"You can talk about the Chinese, Americans and Japanese coming in to invest but you must have law and order."

He added that the third pillar, weapons disposal, must also be achieved.

Punghau announced ABG's commitment of a portion of the 2010 restoration and development grant of K15 million towards assisting the Bougainville police service.

"Budget process in all districts is being delivered, after budget review at the end of this month, then ABG will be able to grant some money," he said.

This would complement the recent assistance of K700,000 by the Australian government towards the rebuilding of the Bougainville police service residential houses throughout the region.

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Youths takes initiative

By Joyce Tohui

Youths in Bougainville are taking the bold stand in trying to sort out their own problems, according to LUCIAN TARIA a representative from the KATSINKURI Youth group.

MR TARIA was speaking on New Dawn FM talk show yesterday.

He told New Dawn FM that youths have seen that the government has not addressed many of their issues that are affecting their lives today.

He said that it is now time the civil society, NGOs and the government recognized youths and give them support to help themselves.

He added that there are many unheard issues of youths in Bougainville and his group is trying to address some of these problems if given the support.

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tanks fills again

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Buka town residents are happy once again after a down pour this morning filling their tanks with water.

Since last month there was no rain and many people ran out of water for cooking and drinking.

People were seen walking around with containers in search of water to use for drinking and cooking.

As for bathing and doing laundry people were using wells and bow water.

For the unfortunate ones they went to the extent of using well water to wash their eating utensils and even cooking their food with.

Since the cholera epidemic is still in some parts of Buka this was not very good for their health.

However the down pour this morning has come to their relief to ease the problem.

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SELAU VA

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for SELAU, TERRY MOSE believes SELAU can reduce law and order issues and other problems affecting SELAU with the establishment of the four village assemblies his constituency.

He told New Dawn FM today that empowering village people is the right approach to take.

MR MOSE said that since the swearing in of the four village assemblies they are now working on trainings to start work.

He said that his village assemblies are the first to have their swearing in ceremonies and are ready to start work

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Fix Buka town roads

By Joyce Tohui

People living in the township of Buka and Bougainville wants the town authority to fast track the upgrading and maintenance work of the Buka town roads.

A concern Bougainvillean who wants anonymity says these roads must be fixed immediately as they are in very bad condition.

He says there is no space available now on these roads for people to walk as passing vehicles spills murky mud on them.

While praising the Buka Town Manageress, BRENDA TOHIANA on her speech delivered during the opening of the Buka main market.

He says if the K3 million funding promised by Minister for Treasury, PETER ONEIL is available first priority must be given to fix the roads

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PANGUNA RECONCILE

By Aloysius Laukai

A team from the Autonomous Bougainville Government travelled to PANGUNA this afternoon to witness a reconciliation ceremony between the PANGUNA people themselves.

The team to witness the ceremony includes the ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA, Minister for Natural Resources, MICHAEL ONI and member representing the PANGUNA area.

Also on this trip is the Minister for peace, NEWTON KAUVA and members of the ABG.

13.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHIEFS HELP

By Aloysius Laukai

Chiefs along the Buka- Arawa highway have been praised for their support on the JICA bridge program.

JICA bridge Technical Officer, JOHN KOLAN made these remarks in Buka this week.

He said because of their support the JICA bridge project is progressing on schedule.

MR KOLAN said the chiefs have helped in mediating with those who have tried to disturb the project.

He called on other stakeholders to support the project to continue into South Bougainville.

13.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Climate change forcing people off Pacific island

A community activist from the Carteret Islands in the South Pacific says the island's people are becoming the world's first refugees as a result of climate change.

Ursula Rakova, executive director of aid charity Tulele Peisa says the Carterets are experiencing unprecedented high tides.

These are rapidly covering the fragile low-lying atolls, destroying the soil for food production and forcing the people to move.

Ms Rakova says she is currently involved in urgent negotiations to arrange for the evacuation of some 1,500 people to the larger island of Bougainville, over 80 kilometres away.

Speaking on the first leg of a Climate Wise Women European tour in Dublin, Ms Rakova says what's happening in the Carterets is going to happen to other islands in the Pacific.

Ms Rakova is calling on big nations to do something urgently to stop the pollution.

13.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Pod-borer takes its toll

THE regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso, said that members were now feeling the pinch of the Cocoa Pod Borer on Bougainville.

He said that the number of requests for assistance for school fees and medical assistance had increased since the cocoa pod borer was detected on Bougainville.

The Minister said that this clearly showed that the cocoa pod borer was slowly killing the cocoa industry on Bougainville.

He was speaking at the launch of the Productivity Partnership in Agriculture Project (PPAP) program in Kubu.

Mr Semoso said that the PPAP program had come about at the right time to assist farmers who were struggling to make ends meet without any assistance from the government.

He said that the program for Bougainville should be controlled from Bougainville. The Minister said that he did not want to see the program controlled by remote control from Port Moresby.

Meanwhile, Mr Semoso called on the cocoa farmers of Bougainville to work hard on their blocks and not just use them as their automatic teller machines.

He said that many farmers were just harvesting from redundant plantations without rehabilitating their plantations.

He said that those actions would only kill the industry in the future. The Minister also called on the farmers to use this latest intervention taken by the National Government and the World Bank to financially assist them. On the assistance, Mr Semoso said that most farmers needed the basic pruning tools to work in their plantations instead of using knives only. He said that World Bank assistance should also look into making sure that the farmers got the right tools for their farms.

13.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP keen to help restore law, order

SOUTH Bougainville MP Steven Pirika wants to fix the law and order problems in his electorate before development can take place in the region.

He made these remarks when officially handing-in the three police vehicles to the Commander for South Bougainville Police, Chief Inspector Paul Kamuai in Buin last Saturday.

Mr Pirika said that the three police land cruisers including accessories cost K400,000.

The MP said South Bougainville must be free from guns and the rule of law must be established to attract investors into the region.

He also called on the youths to respect properties such as the vehicles and houses so that real peace can be achieved in the southern region.

It is understood that each vehicle will be stationed at Bana, Siwai and Buin.

Meanwhile, the Executive Manager for Bana district, David Rumbali, assured chief inspector Kamuai of his support to look after the three police vans.

Mr Rumbali said although not many people turned up to witness the occasion, it was a significant start for development in South Bougainville.

He assured Mr Kamuai that if one of these police vehicles is given to his district, he will closely work with the police to ensure it is used for its purpose.

He said the vehicles would help police to enforce law and order so that peace would prevail in South Bougainville once again.

Mr Rumbali said the MP had put first priority in addressing the issue of law and order before development progressed in South Bougainville.

He urged the people of South Bougainville that law and order were addressed first by the community to help police in their work.

Speaking on behalf of the people of Bana district at this occasion, Mr Rumbali said that South Bougainville region was regarded as a troubled spot in the region and the onus was on the people to change the trend.

13.04.2011

Source: Irish Times

Climate change 'forcing' people off Pacific island

A COMMUNITY activist from the Carteret Islands in the South Pacific gave a first-hand account in Dublin last night of how its people are becoming the world's first

refugees as a result of climate change.

Part of Papua New Guinea, the Carterets are experiencing unprecedented high tides, which are rapidly covering the fragile low-lying atolls, destroying the soil for food production and forcing the community to move to a larger island,

Bougainville, over 80km (50 miles) away.

Ursula Rakova, executive director of aid charity Tulele Peisa, described the situation facing the Carteret Islands as urgent and said arranging the evacuation of 1,500 islanders to Bougainville had involved delicate negotiations, particularly over land.

Blaming climate change, she told an audience in Trinity College: "It is not just us, though. It is going to happen to others right through the Pacific and in other parts of the world. The pollution has to stop. The big nations have to do something very, very urgently."

Speaking on the first leg of a Climate Wise Women European tour, Ms Rakova said it was "all about advocacy and being able to share the stories of my people.

"Climate change is here to stay and more individual advocacy will result in major climate change action."

Constance Okollet, chair of the Osukura United Women Network in eastern Uganda, who is accompanying her on the tour, spoke about the "dramatic changes in climate" in her region, with "extreme cycles of drought and rain" making it impossible to grow traditional crops.

This was "threatening the food security of the community and limiting their ability to earn a modest living", she said. Death by drowning, starvation or disease and disruption to children's education are some of the other impacts of climate change experienced there.

Ms Okollet also recalled her own awakening to climate change at a community meeting organised by Oxfam that led her to understand that the problems of her people "were not an expression of God's displeasure with them but were, in fact, caused by mankind".

Former president Mary Robinson, who has set up her own foundation to promote climate justice, said focusing on the human dimension of climate change would let the world "see the effects of the problem differently".

13.04.2011

Source: The National

Buin man retires after 39 years

PUBLIC servant John Karai, 59, from Buin, Bougainville, officially retired from duties last Friday after serving the PNG and Bougainville governments for 39 years.

In a ceremony hosted by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and attended by family, friends and former colleagues, Karai, who held the position of chief executive officer for finance, said: "I am humbled and honoured to have been recognised for having served the public service for the last 39 years."

He thanked the division of finance staff for their support, particularly during the crisis, in ensuring a high standard of operations was maintained.

He said it had been a difficult task maintaining the standard of finance operations because at the height of the Bougainville crisis after most experienced officers had transferred out.

"We were left with very junior officers.

"With this capacity problem, it was very difficult to maintain finance operations, but we managed."

He said the finance division on Bougainville still had a long way to go in improving finance management services.

Karai joined the public service in February 1973 with the then Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries and later the Department of Decentralisation at Waigani.

He then served with the Department of Community and Family Services in Port Moresby before transferring to the Department of North Solomons in Arawa, Bougainville, in 1980.

Karai was tasked in 1984 to establish a finance division on Buka Island which he successfully did and managed until last Friday.

Karai said he intended to spend his retirement in supporting family and community economic activities.

ABG finance minister Albert Punghau thanked Karai for his guidance in ensuring the minister successfully tabled the ABG budget of K167 million last year.

"I am happy that you have served the people of Bougainville and PNG very well."

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA RETURNS

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for South Bougainville, STEVEN KAMMA PIRIKA left FOR Port Moresby this afternoon after visiting projects that he has funded throughout South Bougainville.

After donating three Police Vehicles to South Bougainville Police and opening the Pikinini Sports in Buin last week he also presented a cheque of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA to Telikom PNG to get telecommunication services into South Bougainville.

He also attended a big reconciliation ceremony between warring parties at Takemari village in Nagovis last Friday.

The member would return after Easter for the reconciliation between himself and the Bougainville Engineering Company in Buka.

This follows a dispute over the use of funds for the maintenance of Buin Secondary School between the company and the member.

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA MARKET OPENED

By Aloysius Laukai

Buka urban market opened to vendors this morning after all bills have been settled.

New Dawn FM visited the market just to find out that the sale of Betel Nut and

cigar and Arts and Crafts will remain at the current market.

All food stuff has moved to the main market.

However due to the Cholera epidemic in parts of Buka island all cooked food and the sale of fresh fish is still banned.

New Dawn FM understands that the Buka Town Council wants to separate the sale of Betel nut similar to what centres are practicing.

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Filter promoted

By Aloysius Laukai

The Kina for Kina scheme is promoting a water filtering system that can be used to purify bore water so that it can be used for drinking.

This is in preparation of the predicted EL NINO drought for Bougainville starting this year.

Kina for Kina coordinator, JOHN KONNOU told New Dawn FM this morning that the purifier is much cheaper and affordable and is very simple to use.

He said that the water purifier is a small bucket that can be used to fetch bore water and as it purifies water clean water can be collected on a clean container.

MR. KONNOU says that the purifier can be purchased for TWO HUNDRED KINA only.

He said the purifier can not change salt water into clean water.

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BRIDGES ON TARGET

By Aloysius Laukai

The Japanese Bridge Projects on Bougainville are still on schedule according to the Project Liason Officer, JOHN KORAN.

He told New Dawn FM in Buka today that the 15 bridges would be completed by next year.

He said that the first two bridges built by KITANO Construction should be opened around July this year.

MR. KOLAN said that they are already looking at extending the program into South Bougainville.

He said second phase of the JICA Bridge Project would cover 27 bridges between Bana, Siwai and Buin.

MR. KOLAN said that despite facing minor disturbances and thefts they have managed to recover stolen items through working with the village chiefs.

He also thanked the chiefs for fully supporting the bridge project on Bougainville.

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KATSENKURI YOUTH FORMED

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Youths living in Buka town, mainly at KATSINKURI have formed a group called KATSINKURI Youth purposely to help youths in Buka and Bougainville.

KATSINKURI Youth spokesman, LUCIAN TAREA told New Dawn FM that the youth group was formed on March 8th 2011.

He said the group was formed purposely to address many problems faced by young people today which the government is not doing enough to help the youths. He added the aim of forming the group is to try and find means and ways to help address the issues and needs of the youths.

MR TAREA said the group is formed with its own policy, constitution and structure being organized which will enable them to get assistance from organizations such as UNDP, Care International and other organizations on Bougainville.

In the meantime, the group will fundraise to start up its capital and will be holding a corporate dinner at the Kuri Village Resort on Wednesday next week.

The monies gained from the corporate dinner will help register the group with IPA and the Bougainville Youth Association in the region.

12.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW STATION TESTS SIGNALS

By Aloysius Laukai

A new privately owned FM station STAR FM has started testing its signals since last weekend.

The FM station is broadcasting on 99.9 MHZ from Kubu on Buka island.

This now brings the number of Radio Stations broadcasting on Buka island to five.

The stations are as follows, FM 100 which is broadcasting on 100.8 MHZ , NBC Bougainville is broadcasting on 100.1 MHZ, WANTOK RADIO LIGHT on 105.9 MHZ and New Dawn FM broadcasting on 95.3 MHZ.

One other FM service for Tinputz is the TINPUTZ FM which broadcasts on 93.5 MHZ.

New Dawn FM understands that the Bishop of Bougainville diocese also wants to establish Radio Maria on Bougainville.

11.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka police to pay tax

BOUGAINVILLE police living in Buka and Kokopau townships have been ordered to pay head tax to the Buka Urban Council.

North Bougainville Regional Commander, Inspector Cletus Tsien, issued the edict after the Council complained that some public servants, especially police and

teachers living in these areas, were refusing to pay the annual urban council head tax because they claim that they were “already paying revenue tax through their salary deductions.

“I have been advised by Bougainville Police Service lawyers that the annual K20 head tax demanded by the council is a legal tax and must be paid by all tax payers within the particular area,”he said

Inspector Tsien said that officers living outside the town area should pay K20 head tax to their Council of Elders in areas such as Tonsu, Hago, Halia or Haku COE’s.

10.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Bougainville scars remain 10 years on

Liam Fox reported this story on Saturday, April 9, 2011 08:24:00

Listen here!

ELIZABETH JACKSON: It's a decade since a civil war killed thousands of people on Bougainville in Papua New Guinea but the island is still infested with the guns that fuelled the conflict. Disarmament efforts have stalled and there are still plenty of weapons in the hands of former combatants.

Our PNG correspondent Liam Fox reports from Bougainville.

LIAM FOX: The fighting on Bougainville may have formally ended with a peace agreement in 2001 but the scars remain. The charred and rusting carcasses of buildings torched during the conflict are dotted around Arawa on the island's east coast.

A short drive out of Arawa is another scar from those times. A group of former combatants guard the roadblock to the defunct Panguna copper mine. They're not carrying weapons but when asked if they've got any guns one of them produces an M16 assault rifle from a nearby shed.

He pops out the cartridge to show it's packed with bullets.

FORMER COMBATANT: These weapons are only for self-defence. We don't misuse weapons in here.

LIAM FOX: Colonel Alex Dakamari from the Me'ekamui Defence Force, a remnant of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, is in charge of the group. And does Me'ekamui still have many guns?

ALEX DAKAMARI: Yeah we do have many guns. It's all over the island.

LIAM FOX: It was anger towards the mine that sparked the decade-long secessionist war with PNG that left several thousand people dead. Locals fought

with homemade weapons and with old guns and ammunition buried here during World War II.

After many failed attempts the peace agreement brought an end to the fighting and included a disarmament process. Two thousand weapons were initially destroyed but there's been little progress since the United Nations' observer mission left in 2005.

John Momis, the president of the Autonomous Bougainville Government says the momentum has been lost.

JOHN MOMIS: We don't have the funds and we're not paying enough attention. We're worried about it, we haven't forgotten about it.

LIAM FOX: An unknown number of guns are still in the hands of former combatants and criminals. While many of the guns are rarely used lawyer and Bougainville expert Anthony Regan says they are causing serious problems in some areas.

ANTHONY REGAN: In the south of Bougainville in particular there's been localised conflict over the last four or five years and the weapons are being used in that. A number of people killed - 50 or 60.

LIAM FOX: Mr Regan says disarmament efforts collapsed with the departure of the United Nations observer mission.

ANTHONY REGAN: One of the advantages of the UN was that they were independent so there was no sense that it was somebody associated with one of the factions.

LIAM FOX: The Australian Government says it wants to help Bougainville. During a visit to the island the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles told locals if they develop a plan Australia is ready to assist.

RICHARD MARLES: The job is certainly not complete and not enough weapons have been brought forward. We really do regard this as central to the whole issue of Bougainville.

LIAM FOX: Time is running out to solve the problem. Under the Bougainville peace agreement a referendum on independence is due to be held between 2015 and 2020. But that's unlikely to happen until the weapons that fuelled the war are destroyed.

ELIZABETH JACKSON: That's Liam Fox reporting from Bougainville.

09.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

10 New Videos on this Homepage !

10 neue Videos auf dieser Homepage !

10 vidéos nouveaux sur ce site !

09.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

[Watch here latest picture taken by Jaive Smare on the ground in Panguna !](#)

09.04.2011

Source: ESBC Research

[Watch here Petra Koenen's latest Video on Bougainville!](#)

[Sorry, Dutch only!](#)

09.04.2011

Source: [OXFAM](#)

Water for Survival

Find out more about the [New Zealand Oxfam](#) initiative for better drinking water on Bougainville:

08.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KARAI RESIGNS

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for ABG Finance division, JOHN KARAI was fare welled at a small function this afternoon.

Mr.Karai joined the public service on February 1973 in Port Moresby and has continuously worked for the last 39 years.

He joined the North Solomons Provincial government in 1982 and worked for the BMS division.

And became the OIC finance in-charge of outstations in Arawa.

In 1994 he was in-charge of the team that started the Finance office in Buka.

He became the Assistant Secretary for finance which was changed to CEO finance in 2007.

Speakers at the farewell included the ABG minister for Finance, ALBERT PUNGHAU, The Chief Administrator, LAWRENCE DISIN and officers from the Bougainville administration.

Chief administrator, LAWRENCE DISIN said that it would be very difficult to find a replacement but he has requested him to stay for another three weeks to help the new CEO with this new task.



Picture of John Karai at the farewell function. He is receiving a present from the Minister for Finance Albert Pungau.

08.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BANA EM ASSURES SUPPORT

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Executive manager for BANA district, DAVID RUMBALI assured the Police Chief Inspector for the South Bougainville Police, PAUL KAMUAI of his support to look after the three police vans given to police in South Bougainville.

He made these remarks during the presentation of these police vehicles delivered by the National MP for South Bougainville, STEVEN KAMA PIRIKA in BUIN last Saturday.

He said although not many people turned up to witness the occasion but it is a significant start for development in South Bougainville.

He assured MR KAMUAI that if one of these police vehicles is given to his district; he will closely work with the police to ensure it is used for its purpose.

He told the gathering that these may be vehicles as seen by naked eyes but it will help police to enforce law and order so that peace will prevail in South Bougainville once again.

MR RUMABALI said that the member has put first priority in addressing the issue of law and order before development progress in South Bougainville.

He urged the people of South Bougainville that law and order are to be addressed first by the community to help police in their work.

Speaking on behalf of BANA district at this occasion, MR RUMABALI said South Bougainville region is regarded as a trouble spot in the region and only the people will change the trend.

08.04.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville cholera outbreak under control

The cholera outbreak in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is reportedly now under control, but has come at the cost of two lives with 159 suspected cases so far.

The outbreak occurred mainly in the northern tip of Buka Island, and has mostly affected children between the ages of ten and fifteen.

Authorities are encouraging people to take extra care with hygiene, and have introduced a ban on certain foods and home-made ice blocks in an effort to combat the disease.

Alma Mistry spoke to the Chairman of the Cholera Task Force in Bougainville Patrick Koles, and began by asking him if the outbreak was under control.

Presenter: Alma Mistry

Speaker: Patrick Koles, Chairman of the Cholera Task Force in Bougainville

Listen here!

KOLES: We pretty much lack the manpower underground and at the same time, the cases that are being reported are a lot of them are actually mild cases, some of which are probably are just diarrhoea and the other thing is we still believe that we are actually under control is that since the first reported cases of two deaths, we haven't had deaths at all and we're actually controlling the people that are affected and it's not really actually serious. They are mainly mild cases.

MISTRY: OK, so what are the symptoms and where can people go to get treatment?

KOLES: The symptoms are basically people will develop very severe diarrhoea as well as vomit. There is no headache and there is in fact on the tummy, the stomach is sort of kind of cramped, sort of muscle cramp, that's the sign where people actually have the cholera.

MISTRY: You mentioned that you don't have enough manpower, but what is being done on the ground?

KOLES: Throughout the entire region of Bougainville, we've actually conducted workshops to bring in all the health staff in the rural areas to come for a two day session in the Sarak quarters of Bougainville and they've already gone back to their own districts and what they're doing at the moment now is before the cholera is actually spread to the mainland of Bougainville, what they're doing is they're actually conducting intensive awareness programs now with the mobilisation of the council of elders in each of the COE areas. And where the cholera is actually being contained, we have also despatched the teams and then they are directly in the villages where cholera is being noticed. And at the same time, we're actually getting a lot of assistance from the National Health Department as well as the World Health Organisation.

MISTRY: What are the preventative measures people can take and are they being educated about them?

KOLES: There's a lot of education in the areas that are affected as well as those areas that have not been affected by cholera. What we are doing is, we have a mass production of simplified posters and pamphlets and we actually going door-to-door, door-to-door to the households, so this is the sort of awareness that we're doing and all the teachers have also been orientated so they can actually undertake the awareness in the classrooms.

As far as the council of elders are concerned, we've already talked to them about it and they're actually going around now in each of their COE areas and actually conducting the awareness.

MISTRY: So cholera is proving an ongoing problem in PNG. Now that it's surfaced in Bougainville, is there a risk it will spread into the Solomon Islands?

KOLES: There's a possibility that it can spread into the Solomon Islands, but what we are trying to do now is sort of contain where it has been detected and so far it has not spread to the other areas at all.

MISTRY: Would you be wanting to put some quarantine measures in place?

KOLES: Yes, yes and when we see that it is very, very critical, but at the moment we see that we actually having it controlled. What we're telling them at the moment is that in the areas where cholera has been detected, that they shouldn't move around to other areas for the time being.

07.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Miriori urges wider view on re-opening

By FABIAN GHATANA



Martin Miriori

A KEY architect in the Bougainville peace process has strongly appealed to all stakeholders who are aggressively pushing for the re-opening of the Panguna mine to first of all consult with the people of Bougainville.

Panguna landowner Martin Miriori, who is the elder brother of the late President Joseph Kabui, said that a referendum on the re-opening of the Panguna mine and any other future mines should be conducted throughout Bougainville at the landowner level and among all Bougainvilleans.

He said that if the majority voted towards the re-opening of the mine then talks on the BCA review could go ahead.

He said this would avoid any potential problems in future.

"Surely nobody wants to see a repeat of the same problem happening again in the future due to lack of awareness and close consultation being carried out among the people.

"Therefore we must be prepared to commit all the necessary resources to approach the issue in a right way," said Mr Miriori.

He said that the application of short-cuts on the possible re-opening of the Panguna mine should be avoided at all cost.

"Most people throughout Bougainville, particularly among the landowners, are already quietly complaining.

"They are expressing their disappointment, claiming that they are being kept in the dark as to what has been happening so far with regard to the discussions towards a possibility of re-opening the mine.

"All they get to hear is only through the media which is not good enough.

"It is important that whatever we do along the way, we must always try to move together with our people instead of a minority pushing for the re-opening of the mine in isolation from the majority.

"Having said that, I therefore want to re-assure the public that I am for the re-opening of the mine as long as we do it properly this time and negotiate the best possible deal for our people," said Mr Miriori.

07.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

38 graduate from Osi Tanata institut

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Osi Tanata Innovative Business Training Institute (OTIBTI), the training arm of Osi Tanata Incorporated, sent off their third batch of 38 students in a memorable graduation in Arawa last Thursday.

Abraham Nevirui, who is Osi Tanata Executive Director, Arawa high school headmaster Paul Lapun, Pastor Francis Munau, Linus Dake - North Nasioi COE chairman Virginia Pycroft, Evelyn Banas and prominent Arawa businessman and owner of the STI Trading Steven Ipiung witnessed the graduation.

OTIBTI provides a great opportunity for young people who have been chucked out of the conventional system, especially grades 9s, 10s and 12s in many different situations to continue education and improve their personal skills.

OTIBTI principal Ben Nawa said the students graduated in basic accounting and secretarial studies.

"Our main objective is to provide opportunities for young men and women to gain formal skills and qualifications in business training," Mr Nawa said.

A lot of students have enrolled since the program was introduced because it has lifted the burden of parents who spend extra costs to send their children to Rabaul and other private schools throughout PNG. "A lot of our students are now working in government offices and private sector areas which we are now very happy and proud of, we still have a big contingent of our students now studying in our partner school Kokopo Business College," he said.

Executive director Abraham Nevirui, in his speech, said Osi Tanata was offering a second opportunity for young men and women.

"We are delivering this service in the best quality in order to meet the requirement for better training for our youths," Mr Nevirui said.

Women's representative Evelyn Banas encouraged graduating students to start their own businesses and appealed to the government to look at human resource seriously.

07.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Guns smuggled out of Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

TOROKINA'S WWII weapons are re-appearing under gun smuggling and trading out of Bougainville.

Reports detail that live bullets and ammunitions coming out of Torokina are now being sold on the streets of Buka, throughout Bougainville and to other parts of Papua New Guinea. And it is frightening because even students and young youths are involved in selling these items outside of Torokina.

This is because those selling claim that it is fast and easy money, it doesn't cost money to hire a boat to and from Torokina to Buka and easy to handle and carry on the bag. They claim the ABG and the Government had failed to address the issue of shipping facilities to assist them with transporting their cocoa and copra

produce to Buka or nearest depot to sell.

“Mipla no wari, em easy money ya. Mipla hirim boat long Torokina igo ikam long K1000 one way or K2000 one way karim kakao or copra na taim mipla laik go bek ples bai mipla karim wanem? Long gun, yumi isi long karim long bag, salim pinis long taun long K2000 to K5000 na baim boat long K100 one way tasol na planti mi nau,” one of the youths (named) told the Post-Courier. ABg giamanim mipla long ship long karim kakao na kopra na mipla tait lo weit olsem na isi way, salim bullet na gun.”

A prominent businessman (named) who has businesses in Bougainville including Buka bought a K2500 homemade shotgun type rifle from two youths who were selling the weapons.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Quick response contains Bougainville cholera outbreak

An NGO in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says prompt action by health authorities has contained the spread of cholera there. The disease, which has claimed about 600 lives in 6 other PNG provinces in the past 20 months, has killed at least two on Bougainville with dozens more infected. The Bougainville Women’s Federation spokesperson, Hona Holan, says the disease is affecting the northern parts of Buka island and hasn’t reached Buka town.

She says once people were discovered with continuous vomiting and diarrhoea, the health department launched a response.

“And it’s being addressed. We are all doing our best, the government has engaged youth groups, women’s groups, Red Cross, everybody, to go out and do awareness on the cholera.”

Hona Holan says this involves having people be particular about their hygiene and boiling water before use.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Work hard

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs yesterday called on the cocoa farmers of Bougainville to work hard on their blocks and not just use them as their Automatic Teller Machines.

He was speaking in Kubu yesterday.

Minister Semoso said that many farmers were just harvesting from redundant plantations without rehabilitating these plantations.

He said that these actions will only kill the industry in the future.

The Minister also called on the farmers to fully utilize this latest intervention taken by the National Government and the World Bank to financially assist farmers.

On the assistance, MR. SEMOSO said that most farmers need the basic pruning

tools to work in their plantations instead of just using knives.
He said the world bank assistance should look also in making sure that the farmers get the right tools for their farms.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CPB requests

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO says that members are now feeling the pinch of the Cocoa Pod Borer on Bougainville.

He said that the number of requests for assistance for School fees and medical assistance has increased since the Cocoa Pod Borer was detected on Bougainville.

The Minister said that this clearly shows that the Cocoa Pod Borer is slowly killing the cocoa industry on Bougainville.

He was speaking at the launch of the PPAP program yesterday.

Minister Semoso said that the PPAP program has come about at the right time to assist farmers who are struggling to make ends meet without any assistance from the government.

He said that the program for Bougainville should be controlled from Bougainville.

The Minister says that he does not want to see the program controlled by remote control from Port Moresby.



ABG minister for Primary Industry (left) and Minister Semoso in his cocoa Block at Malasang village yesterday.

Mr. Semoso is one Model Cocoa farmer on Bougainville.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DARKU on PPAP

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG minister for Primary Industry, NICHOLAS DARKU says that the Agriculture and livestock can sustain all Bougainville's economic activity if given the attention it needs.

He was speaking at the launch of the Productivity Partnership in Agriculture Project or PPAP at Kubu yesterday.

The Minister said that as the Minister for Primary industry he does not believe in mining as minerals will be depleted in no time leaving the people to suffer in the future.

He said the partnership arrangement with the World Bank and the farmers was what the rural farmers need to move increase production from their farms.

The Minister said that Bougainville will definitely take on board this project and work to improve production and also maintain the quality of the product.

Pic of the Minister visiting one of the model plantations on Buka Island.
From left to right Senior DPI Officer Jacob Momoi, Minister AIHI, Woman officer from DAL and ABG Minister for Primary Industry, Nicholas Darku.



Pic of the Minister visiting one of the model plantations on Buka Island.
From left to right Senior DPI Officer Jacob Momoi, Minister AIHI, Woman officer from DAL and ABG Minister for Primary Industry, Nicholas Darku.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POD BORER STRIKES

By Aloysius Laukai

Cocoa Production in the East New Britain has dramatically dropped from TWENTY THOUSAND TONNES to just FIVE THOUSAND TONNES per year due to the Cocoa Pod Borer says a PNG Cocoa Industry Board Officer.

The officer was speaking at the launch of the PPAP program representing the Cocoa Industry Board.

He made these remarks when announcing that Bougainville was the main cocoa producer before the Bougainville conflict but went down badly during the conflict. The officers said that Bougainville took over again the title two years ago and so far reached Twenty Five Thousand tonnes per year.

The Cocoa Industry Board officer said that with the PPAP program Bougainville

will be able to reach new levels in production.

07.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FAMILY PLANNING FAILURE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Buka General Hospital's Maternal child health section does not carry Family planning awareness to the rural communities due to no Transport.

This was revealed to New Dawn FM by one of the Senior Nurses there.

The officer said that although they carry out awareness to their daily patients, they do not record the number of patients that they attend to.

The Nursing officer was answering questions to why there was a rise in teenage pregnancies in the region.

New Dawn FM runs weekly programs on Women's Health Issues sponsored by the Commonwealth of Learning based in Canada.

06.04.2011

Source: ESBC

[ESBC press release 20110406](#)

Bougainville Copper Limited

Crucial Annual General Meeting ahead!

Bougainville's President Momis to assist the BCL AGM?

On Tuesday, April 19th, 2011, the shareholders of Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) will get together in Port Moresby's Crown Plaza Hotel as every year. This year's convention has to be considered as crucial for the future of the dormant Panguna mine in Central Bougainville. The huge copper, gold and silver mine (one of the biggest worldwide) had been shut down in 1989 due to local unrest that turned into the so called "Bougainville Crisis".

Today, the mine is only one step away from re-opening. Since years BCL's board of directors, the Autonomous Bougainville and the PNG Government, local landowners and shareholders are struggling for resuming mining on Bougainville. This could bring back prosperity to the remote Pacific island and pave the way for future independence.

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) who invested more than K60m in Bougainville, welcome the promising efforts of all stakeholders. The ESBC support the ongoing process amongst others by publishing all Bougainville related information on their homepage www.bougainville-copper.eu. "This site is a shining success worldwide!", says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm, "Within the last three years round about 50,000 visitors kept informed on our homepage on the progress in Bougainville. We are proud that there is no better in-depth source on Bougainville in the world. We are also very pleased that the majority of

Bougainvilleans understood that mining only is able to provide a better future for the young generation on the island.”

For this year’s Annual General Meeting again, the ESBC prepared a detailed questionnaire. Find out here: <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/questions-answers.html> .

Rumours even say that ABG President Hon. John Momis might assist the Bougainville Copper Annual General Meeting this year. Mr. Momis left Bougainville on April 6th for a medical check-up in Port Moresby and will stay in PNG’s Capital until April 20th. Momis, since in office in June 2010, cautiously paves the way for resumption of mining on the island. Mining is still considered as a “sensitive issue” amongst some Bougainvilleans because left-wing groups from abroad try to push back Bougainville into the stone-age.

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



The Minister for HE and Acting Minister for Agriculture and Livestock PARU AIHI welcomed at the Buka airport this morning. Picture by Aloysius Laukai

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS OUT

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President John Momis left Buka this morning for medical review in Port Moresby.

He will be out of the region for two weeks.

Before he flew out of Buka he briefly met the visiting World Bank Representative, MR. KANTHAN SHANKAR and the acting Minister for Agriculture, MR. PARU AIHI .

The two leaders came for the launch of the Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project on Bougainville.

The project will see the World Bank providing funds for small Cocoa holder projects throughout Papua New Guinea.

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORLD BANK HERE

By Aloysius Laukai

A scheme to help farmers in Papua New Guinea was launched today in Buka for the benefit of Bougainville farmers with similar launch made in Rabaul yesterday and another in Goroka next week and Port Moresby later this month.

The scheme called Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project (PPAP) will be funded by the World Bank with funds totaling ONE HUNDRED THIRTY MILLION KINA.

In announcing the project, Minister for Higher Education and acting Minister for Agriculture, MR. PARU AIHI said that the aim of the program is to support farmers to raise production by utilizing the latest techniques used in agriculture.

He said that the people have waited for too long for the government to support them and this was one program that the government wants to make sure that the rural majority benefit from.

Minister AIHI said that the program took three years to eventually come off the ground since the Somare government started talking to start such a project.



Picture of the World Bank Rep KANTHAN SHANKAR welcomed at the Buka airport today.

Pic by Aloysius Laukai

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOOMERANG AID

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso wants Bougainville's share of the ONE HUNDRED THIRTY MILLION KINA funds from the World Bank controlled out of Bougainville.

He was speaking at the launching of the Productivity Partnership in Agriculture Project in Buka today.

MR. SEMOSO said that he does not want these funds used on Boomerang aid that will not assist the people of Bougainville.

The Regional member said that these funds should reach the ordinary farmers in the villages who contribute immensely to the economy of this country.

He said that since the plantation owners left Bougainville during the conflict, the production of cocoa and copra have increased by these small block owners

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA ON CONTROL

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for South Bougainville, STEVEN PIRIKA wants Police vehicles he donated last week to be used for its purpose.

He was speaking at the Official hand-over ceremony in Buin last Saturday.

MR. PIRIKA said that he does not want to get reports that Policemen were transporting families and friends on these vehicles.

Meanwhile, Commander of South Bougainville Police, Inspector PAUL KAMUAI thanked the member for his donation that would definitely boost Police capability in the Southern Region.

He said that this donation from the member would make the mobility of policemen and women in the South Bougainville easier.

The Inspector also promised to look after the donated vehicles and use only on police work.

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PIRIKA ON LAW

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for South Bougainville in the National Parliament, STEVEN PIRIKA wants to fix the law and order problems in South Bougainville before development can takes place in the region.

He made these remarks when officially handing –in three Police vehicles to the Commander of South Bougainville Police, Chief Inspector PAUL KAMUAI in Buin last Saturday.

MR. PIRIKA said that the three Police Land cruisers including accessories were bought for FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

The member said that South Bougainville must be free from guns and the rule of law must be established to attract investors into the region.

He also called on the youths to respect properties such as the vehicles and houses so that real peace can be achieved in the southern region.

New Dawn FM understands that the one each of these Police vehicles will stationed at BANA, SIWAI and BUIN.

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PROPER AWARENESS FIRST

By Aloysius Laukai

One of the key architects and leaders in the Bougainville Peace Process, and also a Panguna Landowner urges that all major stakeholders should broadly consult with the people first on the possible re-opening of the Panguna mine.

Former International BIG/BRA spokesman and human rights advocate during the Bougainville crisis, MR MARTIN MIRIORI has strongly appealed to those who are aggressively pushing and campaigning hard for the early re-opening of the Panguna mine that the leaders must first of all properly consult with the people in order to avoid any potential problems happening again in the future.

Mr. Miriori the elder brother of the late President Joseph Kabui and now a private businessman was a leader and signatory to some of the historic agreements on the Bougainville side.

He said that nobody wants to see a repeat of the same problem happening again in the future due to lack of proper awareness and close consultation being carried out among the people this time around, both at the landowner level and among all Bougainvilleans.

New Dawn FM understands that this is the approach the ABG President JOHN MOMIS has been echoing to involve all parties on Bougainville.

06.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOLA RECOGNISED

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville's oldest National Politician, DONATUS MOLA has been recognized for his outstanding service to the people of Bougainville.

Yesterday, the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS presented a Toyota 5th Element worth ONE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND KINA to the former National member for North Bougainville.

ABG President JOHN MOMIS whilst presenting the keys of the car commended the former member for Bougainville for his loyal service to the people of Bougainville since he first represented the North Bougainville people in 1968.

MR. MOMIS said that he had bought the car for the old man to assist him travel to Buka town and his village which is normally two hours from Buka town.

New Dawn FM understands that when the former Administrator Late Peter Tsiamalili was around there was a talk of presenting a car to the pioneer politician but this never eventuated.

06.04.2011

Source: The National

K500mil for Bougainville over next 5 years

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE national government, through Finance and Treasury Minister Peter O'Neill,

has announced it will deliver this year, the first K100 million of the K500 million commitment it made to the Autonomous Bougainville Government for the restoration and development of Bougainville.

The announcement by O'Neill changes the initial plan committed by the state during the joint supervisory body meeting in Port Moresby in February in which it would appropriate K100 million for the next five years starting in 2012.

"We are moving this commitment forward as 2012 is election year and the election period may interfere with the delivery of our commitment," O'Neill said. He added that rebuilding of infrastructure and boosting economic growth in the region was a priority of the state and, as such, prioritised projects that would be considered including the restoration of Aropa Airport and Kieta port and maintenance of roads.

O'Neill said this last Friday when he officiated at the re-opening of Buka town market, in which he also presented three cheques amounting to K27 million to regional member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso.

The total K27 million funds from the government comprised K20 million for phase one of the upgrade and sealing of the 210km Kokopau to Buin main highway, K5 million for the sealing of the Buka ring road and K2 million for communication in Buka.

An addition of K3 million was committed to the maintenance of Buka town after town manageress Brenda Tohiana challenged the state and ABG leaders to "fix Buka town first as the gateway to Bougainville before establishing Arawa as the capital of the autonomous region".

O'Neill said the additional assistance would be granted after cabinet sits next month.

ABG minister for finance Albert Punghau, in welcoming the news, said yesterday that ABG was prepared to implement prioritised projects as soon as the money was received.

He added that the reactivation of Bougainville restoration and development authority on Monday indicated ABG's commitment to prioritising restoration and development projects for Bougainville.

05.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOLA CAR

By Aloysius Laukai

One of the remaining former National Members, DONATUS MOLA today received a brand new Fifth Element Toyota car from the ABG President chief John Momis.



MR. Momis handing over the keys to Mr. Donatus Mola

05.04.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader urges common approach in mining debate

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, has called for leaders to try and achieve a common approach on mining.

This follows a workshop on mining last week which Mr Momis says helped people focus on how they might make use of the province's mineral resources.

The New Dawn website reports Mr Momis as saying that re-opening the Panguna mine is one approach, but the people need to decide if the province should put all its efforts in that direction.

He says Bougainville could also consider the development of other mines, or help small-scale Bougainvillean miners build up their productivity.

But he says there'll be no significant mining projects unless everyone works together to bring stability and peace to all parts of the province.

And Mr Momis also says there'll be no mining unless there's agreement on a stable mining policy and law that meets the interests of landowners, government and investors, and is fair to all of them.

05.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA MARKET CLOSED

By Aloysius Laukai



The recently maintained Buka town market still remains closed to the public as local contractor company KATSIN PLUMBING and CONSTRUCTION limited wait to be paid K30,000 in outstanding payments from Buka Urban Council.

The contractor says despite the official re-opening of the market last Friday, the market will not be open to vegetable sellers until they receive their outstanding payment.

The contractor says because they have not been paid their K30,000, they were not able to pay off their debts with the main local timber suppliers for the market building.

As a result, the contractors claim, they have received threats that the newly re-built market would be burnt if it is opened for market business without the contractors settling all outstanding payments.

Buka Urban Council manageress Brenda Tohiana confirms the delay of the K30,000 in payment of the contractors.

She also assures that payment would be made this week as soon as money is released from the office of the Minister for Bougainville Affairs FIDELIS SEMOSO.

The rebuilding of the Buka town market was at a cost of K700,000 of which the K30,000 is yet to be paid.

05.04.2011

Source: The National

ABG works on mining policy

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is working towards developing its own mining policy, President John Momis has said.

Speaking at the close of a three-day workshop in Buka last week, Momis said the workshop had helped ministers and senior officers to reach common understanding on the aims of future mining and the main options for achieving those aims.

The workshop, which was attended by ABG ministers and senior Bougainville administration officials, focused on developing proposals for the ABG cabinet to consider in the next few weeks.

"I emphasise that the workshop did not make any final decisions on the future of mining. Instead, it was an important part of the process to help the ABG consider all options.

"When cabinet has considered those options, much more awareness and consultation will be needed," Momis said.

He added that the most important consultations would be with landowners of the six leases associated with the Panguna mine and wider consultation may occur through regional forums.

Momis said last week's workshop was an important step for the ABG in thinking about the choices that could be made about future mining in Bougainville.

He said ABG's possible aims for future mining included:

- *Increased ABG revenue (both before mining begins and after it starts);
- *Best possible mining practices in terms of environmental and social impacts; and
- *Broad-based economic development ensuring maximum opportunities for the people of Bougainville.

"There are many possible ways of pursuing those aims.

"Re-opening the Panguna mine is one, but we will need to decide whether we put all efforts in that direction. We can also consider development of, perhaps, one or two other mines in Bougainville and another possibility is to help small-scale Bougainville miners to increase their productivity," the president said.

He also called on all Bougainville leaders to work with the government towards achieving a common approach on future mining.

"Only the ABG has the legal authority and responsibility to represent and work with all Bougainvillean interests towards achieving outcomes that ensure maximum benefit for Bougainville.

"There will be no negotiations with the national government or BCL or any other major mining company unless the ABG decides to negotiate," Momis said.

05.04.2011

Source: The National

Activist: Consult all before mine reopens

PROPER awareness and close consultation with the people should be given priority if the Paguna mine in Bougainville was to reopen.

This was the concern raised by one of the key architects and leaders in the Bougainville Peace process, Martin Miriori, in a statement yesterday.

Miriori, who is also a Panguna landowner and a former international BRA spokesman and human rights advocate during the Bougainville crisis, strongly appealed to those who were aggressively pushing and campaigning hard for the early-reopening of the Paguna mine that the leaders must, first of all, consult the people in order to avoid any potential problems happening again in the future.

"Surely, nobody wants to see a repeat of the same problem happening again in the future due to lack of awareness with the people.

"Close consultation must be carried out with the landowners and among all Bougainvilleans.

"Therefore, we must be prepared to commit all the necessary resources to approach the issue in a right way from the start, instead of simply trying to rush it by taking short-cuts without first consulting the people and carrying out the proper awareness programme with them," Miriori said.

05.04.2011

Source: The National

AusAID provides K60,000 for cholera

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

ACTIVITIES to address cholera in Bougainville has been boosted with K60,000 from AusAID.

The Australian government's funding assistance complemented Bougainville cholera task force's (BCTF) current budget of K50,000 granted jointly by the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the national government through the Department of Health.

Australian parliamentary secretary for Pacific Island affairs Richard Marles, in announcing the assistance, said the K60,000 would be used to maintain Lemanmanu Health Centre.

The health centre has been the central treatment point since the outbreak of cholera last month, which prompted BCTF to declare a medical state of emergency and prioritised all medical supplies to the area including relocating two doctors in Arawa to Lemanmanu on Buka Island.

Maintenance of the health centre would include improvement to existing water and toilet facilities, maintenance of existing wards and improvement to power services.

BCTF chairman Patrick Koles said cholera in the Lontis and Gogohe areas had been contained with the 65 reported cases, mostly from Lontis, all treated and discharged.

Buka General Hospital chief executive officer Dr Cyril Imako said doctors in Bougainville were on standby for any emergencies.

05.04.2011

Source: The National

ABG development body elects board

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BOUGAINVILLE Restoration and Development Authority (BRADA) yesterday celebrated the swearing in of seven of its nine board members by Buka district court magistrate Vincent Linge.

The BRADA board appointed by Bougainville Executive Council (BEC), comprise former managing director of Kalang Advertising Ltd Peter Tareasi, ABG minister for Works, Transport and Communication Carolus Ketsimur and ABG minister for Primary Industry and Marine Resources Nicholas Daku as BEC representatives, CEO Planning Lesley Tseraha and acting CEO technical services Simeon Itamai as Bougainville Administration representatives, prominent Bougainville woman Josephine Harepa as community representative and Secretary to BRADA Andol Sione.

Two other board members director of National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs Ellison Towallom and deputy secretary of PIP Juliana Kubak as National Government representatives will be sworn in at a later date after NEC endorses their appointments.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) finance minister Albert Punghau, in congratulating the board, warned that the board's responsibilities would not be easy.

"I believe with your wisdom, you will guide the ABG administration in restoring and developing Bougainville. It is very important that the funds are better used on good infrastructure for the betterment of Bougainville," Punghau said.

BRADA board chairman Tareasi, in thanking the ABG, said the government's agenda was very precise, "we will do our best to achieve this".

"We will set out a development agenda for our first meeting and also elect a deputy chairman," Tareasi said .

05.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG hosts mining workshop

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis yesterday spoke out about the work that the ABG is doing to develop a policy on future mining operations in Bougainville.

The ABG held a three day workshop last week in Buka which was attended by ABG ministers and senior Bougainville administration officials to develop proposals for the ABG Cabinet to consider the aims of future mining operations and the main options for achieving those aims.

Bougainvilleans with extensive industry experience attended the workshop as facilitators and expert resource people on major issues. These included Mel Togolo, Sam Akoitai and David Osikore.

Those from the ABG that attended include Minister for National Resources Michael Oni and the senior officials from the ABG's Department of Mining, headed by experienced mining engineer Stephen Burain.

Professor Ciaran O'Fairchallaigh of Griffith University (Brisbane) helped Mel Togolo to facilitate the workshop.

He also discussed how indigenous landowners in other countries prepare to negotiate large resource projects.

Dr Collin Filer from the Australian National University talked about social mapping of landowner communities in other parts of PNG. Two senior officers from the Australian Department of Finance and Deregulation discussed the use of sovereign wealth funds to manage revenues from large resource projects.

Mr Momis said the workshop had helped ministers and senior officers reach common understanding on the aims and options for future mining.

Recommendations from the workshop will be considered by the ABG Cabinet in the next few weeks.

"I emphasise that the workshop did not make any final discussions on the future of mining," Mr Momis said.

"Instead it was an important part of the process to help the ABG consider all options."

05.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Picture from the Mining Workshop



From Left Administrator Lawrence Disin, President John Momis, Mining Minister Michael Oni and Deputy Administrator Raymond Masono

04.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis on mining workshop

By Aloysius Laukai

The President of Bougainville, Chief John Momis, last Friday spoke about the work that the ABG is doing to develop policy on future mining in Bougainville. He made these remarks at the closing of a three-day workshop from Wednesday 30th March to Friday 1st April.

The workshop was attended by ABG ministers and senior Bougainville Administration officials and developed proposals for the ABG Cabinet to consider the aims of future mining, and the main options for achieving those aims.

Senior Bougainvilleans with extensive mining industry experience attended the workshop as facilitators and expert resource people on major issues.

They included Mel Togolo, Sam Akoitai and David Osikore. Their input was in addition to major inputs from expertise and experience from within the ABG. That included our Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Michael Oni, and the senior officers from the ABG's Department of Mining, headed by the very senior and experienced mining engineer, Mr. Stephen Burain.

Several international experts came from overseas. Professor Ciaran O'Fairchaellaigh of Griffith University (Brisbane) helped Mel Togolo to facilitate the workshop. He also discussed how indigenous landowners in other countries prepare to negotiate large resource projects.

Dr. Colin Filer from the Australian National University talked on social mapping of landowner communities in other parts of PNG. Two senior officers from the Australian Department of Finance and Deregulation discussed the use of sovereign wealth funds to manage revenues from large resource projects.

The President said that the workshop had helped ministers and senior officers to reach common understandings on the aims of, and options for, future mining. Recommendations from the workshop will be considered by the ABG Cabinet in the next few weeks.

President Momis emphasised that the workshop did not make any final decisions on the future of mining. Instead it was an important part of the process to help the ABG consider all options. When the Cabinet has considered those options, much more awareness and consultation work will be needed. The most important consultations will be with landowners in the 6 leases associated with the Panguna mine. Wider consultation may occur through regional forums.

04.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CONSULT LANDOWNERS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis says consultation with Panguna mine lease landowners would be through the legally recognised executive bodies of the 6 landowner associations.

He said that“Since 2009 the ABG has worked with the communities in the 6 lease areas to establish their representative associations.

Mr. Momis said that officers from Bougainville Mining Department and Law Division have been doing this work and There has been very good progress with most of the leases.

He said that the ABG will wait until these associations are fully established and have chosen their executive bodies.

The current interim executives are doing important work to help establish the associations, and the ABG will continue to work with them until the associations are established.

But the interim executives have not been selected by all mine lease community members. So it is important that the ABG wait until fully representative bodies are established.”

The President said that when the 6 associations are fully established, they will make their own decision about a single umbrella body.

And the purpose of the umbrella body will be to bring together issues from all lease areas, and to represent them all in any discussions about the future of the Panguna mine.

Until the 6 associations are established, no decisions can be made about the structures and membership of the umbrella body.

Those decisions must be made by the associations representing the lease areas, because it is those associations that will together make up the membership of the umbrella body.”

04.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORKSHOP SUCCESS

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis has described last week’s workshop as successful.

He says that the workshop was an important step for the ABG in thinking about the choices that can be made about future mining in Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS said that our possible aims for future mining include: increased ABG revenue (both before mining begins and after it starts); best possible mining practices in terms of environmental and social impacts; broad-based economic development ensuring maximum opportunities for Bougainvilleans.

There are many possible ways of pursuing those aims. Re-opening the Panguna mine is one. But we will need to decide whether we put all efforts in that direction.

We could also consider development of perhaps one or two other mines in Bougainville. Another possibility is to help small-scale Bougainvillean miners to build up their productivity.

He says that No final decisions have been made on any of these issues. After the ABG Cabinet has considered the possibilities, they will be discussed with landowners and other major interest groups in Bougainville.”

The President also called on all Bougainville leaders to work with the ABG towards achieving a common approach on future mining.

He said only the ABG has the legal authority and the responsibility to represent and work with all Bougainvillean interests towards achieving outcomes that ensure maximum benefit for Bougainville.

MR. MOMIS further stressed that there will be no negotiations with the National Government or BCL or any other major mining company unless the ABG decides to negotiate.

And he called on all leaders, including National Government MPs, COEs, churches, women's groups, veterans associations, and previous landowner associations, to cooperate fully with the ABG to pursue the common good."

The President also called on leaders to be responsible in what they say in their discussion of the possibilities of mining, and about issues like reconciliation and weapons disposal in central and south Bougainville.

He said that there will be no significant mining project, either at Panguna or anywhere else in Bougainville, unless all Bougainvillean interests work together to bring stability, peace, and law and order, to all parts of Bougainville.

There will also be no such mining unless we can agree on a stable mining policy and law that meets the interests of landowners, government and investors, being fair to all of them.

04.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Instability

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis is also concerned that in the process of setting up landowner associations, there are dangers of stirring up old interests and divisions that can cause renewed instability and conflict.

He also made these comments at the closing of the Mining workshop in Buka last Friday.

He said that there is a real danger that in the lead-up to the 2012 National Parliament elections, sitting members and candidates could seek short-term political advantage.

He says that certain individuals could try to buy support amongst mine lease landowners, or raise unrealistic expectations about mining revenues or the early resumption of mining. In the process they can open old divisions or create new ones, and create instability.

He therefore called on all leaders to be responsible in what they say about the possible future arrangements for mining, and about such closely connected issues as weapons disposal.

MR. MOMIS says that all Bougainvilleans must work in solidarity for the best interests of Bougainville.

04.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BRADA ON

By Aloysius Laukai

Seven of nine Board members of the Bougainville Restoration and Development Authority (BRADA) were sworn in this afternoon by the Buka District Court Magistrate Vincent Linge.

This is the second board since BRADA was established in 2006 one year after the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The aim of establishing the BRADA was to co-ordinate development programs for the ABG similar to the Gazelle Restoration Authority in East New Britain which was established after the twin volcano eruptions in East New Britain.

The new Board members are, PETER TAREASI as Chairman.

ABG Minister for Works, Transport, Communications and BRADA, CAROLUS KETSIMUR.

ABG Minister for Primary Industry and Marine Resources, NICHOLAS DARKU.

Bougainville Planner, LESLEY TSERAHA.

CEO for Technical Services, SEMION ITAMAI,

Community Representative, JOSEPHIN HAREPA,

Director of the National Co-ordination Office of Bougainville Affairs(NCOBA)

And the Deputy Secretary for PIP, representing the National Government, MRS. JULIANA KUBAK.

Only the two National Government representatives, Ellison Towallom and MRS Juliana Kubak will be sworn in later once the NATIONAL Executive Council approves their appointments.

04.04.2011

Source: The National

Help for teacher-less atolls

CHILDREN in Mortlock and Tasman atoll group in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have reportedly been out of classes since the beginning of the school year because there are no teachers.

This has caused much anxiety and concern among parents, the community and children eager to study.

The shortcoming came to light last week when Rabaul Shipping Ltd announced that it would help by taking 10 teachers, who had been stranded in Buka, to the atolls today to start classes.

The Bougainville government and its education division had been unable to hire a ship to take the teachers to Mortlock and Tasman, the atoll group northwest of Buka.

Acting chief executive officer of the ABG education division, Michael Meten, asked for Rabaul Shipping's help last week.

In a letter to the coastal shipping company, he said it was well into the school year and his teachers were still on the Buka mainland.

Meten said since after the Christmas school holidays, there had been no ships available to take them to the atolls.

Rabaul Shipping managing director Peter Sharp said last Friday that children should not be denied their right to education and it was also their aim to assist where they could, thus they have come to the aid of the teachers.

The ABG, through its education division, has expressed appreciation for the initiative the shipping company was undertaking to assist the stranded teachers while admitting that the government was not able to assist due to lack of funding. Also travelling with the 10 teachers to the isolated islands were other stranded passengers for Mortlock and Tasman.

Sharp said the initiative came after chairman of the Te-emarae Development Foundation of Mortlock Islands, Televika Faite sought assistance from Rabaul Shipping to assist the stranded teachers.

04.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill gives K30m to Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea Treasurer Peter O'Neill gave away K30 million to the people of Bougainville last Friday for impact projects earmarked for the region.

Treasurer O'Neill who was guest of honour at Buka's K700,000 "made in Bougainville" market opening gave away K20 million for the Kokopau Tinputz ring road 25 kilometre sealing, K5 million for the Buka Ring Road sealing, K3 million for the Buka town maintenance and K2 million to improve communication in the region.

Treasurer O'Neill officially opened phase 1 of the Buka Market last Friday accompanied by Western Highlands Governor Tom Olga, Prime Minister's advisor Chris Haiveta, Mining Secretary Nellie James, Office of Rural Development director Paul Sai and National Planning deputy secretary Takale Tuna.

New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw and other foreign dignitaries were also there to witness the official opening of the Buka Market. The Phase 1 Buka Market project cost K500,000 – part of the K700,000 market project that came under the K1.4 million impact project on Bougainville. With these funds, Bougainville Affairs Minister and Regional MP Fidelis Semoso built 35 mini road side markets throughout Bougainville.

Last week Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso picked up a K1 million infrastructure grant for projects in Central Bougainville mainly to assist women groups, youths and the National Government office in Arawa.

O'Neill announced that the Somare-Abal Government's commitment of K500 million for the next five years to Bougainville to start in 2012 would now be moved back to 2011 where some of the funds will be appropriated and distributed for major projects in the region.

The Treasurer handed two cheques to Minister Semoso on Friday – K5 million for the Buka Ring Road and K2 million for the communication program in the region. The K3 million cheque for the Buka town maintenance will be ready when the next Cabinet meeting convenes in Port Moresby..

04.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt to start paying funds to Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

PAPUA New Guinea's K500 million commitment to Bougainville to start next year will now be moved forward with the first batch of funds made available this year, Treasurer Peter O'Neill announced in Buka last Friday.

Initially the National Government through the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Port Moresby last month announced the K500 million to be distributed for the next five years and earmarked for impact projects on Bougainville will officially be disbursed in 2012. It will not be the case now - the funds will be made available this year according to Treasurer O'Neill.

Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal made the announcement in Port Moresby last month, advising that the money would be included in the National Government Budget allocation to Bougainville where K100 million should be released every year for the next five years. This K100 million will be added on the yearly budget of K70 million for Bougainville every year, which would now bring the total every year for the next five years to more than K170million.

"I want to announce today that this year 2011, we will move our program forward and part of the K500 million funds allocation will be made available through the National Budget to Bougainville this year. The government has been committed to developing Bougainville by providing funding for road maintenance throughout the region, law and order, health and education. During the JSB meeting I was horrified to learn about the region's funding problems. This time I will make sure all funds for you will be released on time." He said the funds would be used for major impact projects to effect service delivery to the most remote parts of Bougainville. He brought about K30 million - K20 million for the Kokopau-Selau road sealing, K5 million for the Buka Ring Road sealing, K3million for the Buka town maintenance and K2 million for the communication sector.

04.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cops boosted

PARLIAMENTARY Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles last week announced a funding of K700,000 to help improve the law and order situation in Bougainville.

Mr Marles made the announcement at a meeting with President of Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), John Momis during his first visit to the island. The funding will support a greater police presence in Bougainville through the establishment of police posts in Haku, Sipuru and Buin.

Buin will also benefit from the construction of 16 accommodation blocks at Buin Police Barracks. In Awara, the existing 16-unit barracks are rundown and the funding will also be used to refurbish them.

The funding has been provided by AusAID through the Governance Implementation Fund, which is supported by Australia, New Zealand, the

Government of Papua New Guinea and the ABG.

"Some areas of Bougainville, particularly in the south, are relatively under-developed and inaccessible. These areas continue to suffer from factional conflict, which in part is due to limited economic opportunities and poor access to services," Mr Marles said.

"Australia is addressing this situation and is an active partner to the ABG in developing the region. We have restored more than 500 kilometres of roads, funded maintenance and equipment for 90 per cent of primary schools and strengthened maternal and child health in Bougainville.

"Funding announced today to improve law and order in the south, complements other assistance in this area including the construction of a new prison in Buka." Australia has contributed more than \$A280 million in aid to Bougainville since 1997 to help Bougainville address post-crisis issues that demand flexible and conflict-sensitive responses.

In 2010-11, funding is expected to be approximately \$A20 million.

During the visit, Mr Marles officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony for a new science lab at St Gregory's Technical High School, Koromira. AusAID committed K250,000 to the project.

"The number of functioning schools in Bougainville is now equal to pre-crisis levels and enrolment is increasing, which is something the Government of Papua New Guinea and the ABG should be proud of," Mr Marles said.

"Education is vital to the development of Bougainville and this science lab is a small but a practical example of the effective partnership between Australia and PNG that is seeing more children enrol in school and more children complete their schooling."

02.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Bougainville Regional member receives check of K5 Million for the Buka Ring Road sealing.
The sealing reached Malasang last year, this will reach Lonahan village and beyond.

02.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Crowd at the Buka Market Opening

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Communications Minister in the ABG Carolus Ketsimur (right) presents gift to the Governor of Western Highlands Tom Ogla (left) at the Buka market opening.

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



PNG Minister Peter O'NEILL welcomed at the Buka airport.
Pic by Aloysius Laukai

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUNUA CHANGES

By Aloysius Laukai

KUNUA DISTRICT in the north- west area of Bougainville is one of the region's least developed areas. However, people from villages like Tohein and other areas near the Kunua District Station have finally put their heads together to eradicate cannabis or marijuana from their area.

North Bougainville Regional Police Commander Inspector Cletus Tsien and his New Zealand Police Advisor Inspector Andrew Smith along with a team of community policing officers from Buka Police Station were at Kunua last Saturday to witness the second marijuana uprooting and burning event in the Teua Constituency.

The ABG member for Teua Constituency, Joseph Nopei, Kunua Executive Manager John Sisiasi; Council of Elders rep, John Siriri including various youth and women's representatives were also present.

The eradication program began last month at Tohein Village and continued on at Ubuyopei Village last Saturday.

Kunua Police Post Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Donald Boire with the help of Community Auxiliary Police Officers, youth, teachers and students from two

primary schools in the area all helped in the uprooting of plants from a mountainside farm which they carried all the three kilometers way to Ubuyopei Village where the plants were burnt up after a short ceremony.

A primary school teacher, Michael Sition, who along with fellow colleagues and students, helped police with the uproot and burn exercise expressed his views that marijuana was a drug not worth taking as it was a contributing factor to many social ills in the community. He said that he used to take marijuana when he was young but later in life quit smoking weed because he found out that it was very harmful to one's well being and not worth taking.

Police and other leaders also expressed similar sentiments and encouraged the youth of Kunua to keep up the good work of freeing their area from marijuana.

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO ON ECONOMY

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Trade, FIDELIS SEMOSO wants more women to participate in economic activities on Bougainville.

He said women's participation in economic activities will empower the women to have cash for basic family needs.

The Minister was speaking at the Buka Town Market opening this morning.

He said if ONE HUNDRED KINA each was given to a man and a woman, the woman would go for foods whilst the man will go for his beer.

MR. SEMOSO said that it was based on this believe that the National Government has gone into Town, Village and road sides markets around Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

He said that if the women are able to earn money near their home, they can also have funds to meet school fees and other basic household necessities.

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TREASURER DISHES FUNDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Minister for Finance and Treasury, PETER O'NEILL today announced funds to Bougainville totaling ONE HUNDRED THIRTY MILLION KINA.

He made this announcement at the opening of the Buka Town Market on Buka island this morning.

He said TWENTY MILLION KINA would go to the KOKOPAU to Arawa sealing, TWO MILLION KINA for Communications, THREE MILLION KINA to the Buka urban Council, FIVE MILLION for the sealing of Buka ring road and the first ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA from the FIVE HUNDRED MILLION KINA approved by the last JSB meeting in Port Moresby.

MR. O'NEILL said that they would want to put forward the first batch of ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA to this year instead of waiting for next year.

01.04.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA MARKET OPENED

By Aloysius Laukai

The long awaited Buka Town Market opening was done this morning by the Minister for Finance and Treasury, PETER O'NEILL in front of a capacity crowd in Buka town.

The market upgrading was made from funds totaling SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA from the National Government.

In his speech, Treasurer, PETER O'NEILL apologized to the people of Bougainville for waiting for so long for the National Government to come to their assistance.

He said that the National Government under Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare is committed to bump more money to support the reconstruction process on Bougainville.

MR. ONEIL also announced TWENTY MILLION for the Buka to Arawa Highway upgrading and sealing.

He also gave another FIVE MILLION KINA for the continuation of the Buka ring road sealing.

The Minister also gave another TWO MILLION KINA for communication to the Regional member for Bougainville.

01.04.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aust concerned

AUSTRALIA is concerned about Bougainville's weapons disposal program and how the guns issue is still a major problem for the newly established government. But Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles is confident the Autonomous Bougainville Government is handling the issue at their own rate and phase and is adamant the matter will be resolved in time.

Mr Marles was asked by the media if Australia was concerned about the lack of address by the ABG and the slow progress of the guns issue.

Australia spends K3.5 million a year on Bougainville's weapons disposal program indirectly through another non-government organisation or through the United Nations Development Program.

Mr Marles told reporters in Arawa that Australia was concerned but optimistic that Bougainville leaders headed by ABG president John Momis had the initiative and push to address the issue and that Australia was ready to assist more if there was any help needed and proposals presented on the specific issue. A lot of guns are

still being carried around by youths, rebels, former rebels and even public servants and businessmen.

News 05.2011

31.05.2011

Source: The National

Ex-combatant says Koike allegedly lead criminal acts

ONGOING criminal activities in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville have now spilled into the Kokoda district in Central Bougainville, former commander of Wissai Liberation Movement (WILMO) commander Philip Pusua said.

He said criminal activities allegedly led by former combatant Damien Koike had increased to such a degree that civilians "are being forced to pick up arms to protect themselves".

"Koike and his men are using boats to call in at certain locations in the Luluai to Arawa segment of the highway, setting an ambush and patrolling to shoot down former WILMO members," he said.

Pusua challenged the South Bougainville leaders and ABG to take immediate action. He warned if no action was taken, more lives would be lost and the blood of the deceased would be on the hands of leaders.

"We, the leaders from Konnou and Wissai, will petition the ABG to engage a neutral force to address the lawlessness in our area," Pusua said.

He said there was no political agenda in the Konnou conflict and the murdering of men, women and children and the confiscating of land by force from the landowners were criminal offences and human right abuses.

Pusua said he had revoked resolutions reached by South Bougainville leaders at a peace meeting on May 21 in Buin.

He said the meeting endorsed Buin peace team to approach Koike through peaceful negotiation to find a lasting solution for the Konnou conflict.

He said he revoked the South Bougainville leaders resolution because:

- * Buin peace team endorsed by southern leaders was not neutral;
- * Buin team failed to get Koike from Tonu and repatriate him to his home village at Mohoroi in the Konnou area, instead he alleged team members sent Koike to Wissai by supplying him with equipment for processing gold to buy bullets and weapons to kill landowners on their own land in the Wissai area;
- * The Buin team had helped Koike buy an outboard motor which enabled him to move around and conduct criminal activities in Bougainville and Solomon Islands.

31.05.2011

Source: The National

Elders call for DSIP assistance

NORTH Bougainville council of elders have called on their newly elected national parliament member to commit his district services improvement programme funds to the council's planned projects.

Member for Hagogohe and chairman of the Tahetahe Tsuhana village assembly Stanly Gimots said last Friday the MP should help provide funding for all projects in the 14

council of elders of his electorate.

“He should walk, talk and practise autonomy instead of wasting taxpayers’ money to entertain his cronies and election committee members,” Gimots said.

He said the practice of distributing funds from DSIP was not user-friendly to building autonomy in Bougainville.

“Bougainville MPs should redesign their methods of distribution to meet the autonomy arrangement the national government and ABG have adapted through the Bougainville peace agreement.”

He said the national government’s intention to provide DSIP for all open members was quite explicit, that it was for people-related projects to create economic and social development in each district.

“In Bougainville, the national government’s DSIP intention is the ideal vehicle for leaders to strengthen autonomy and move towards the region’s independence.

“But past leaders have failed to capture this to make autonomy work at the village level,” Gimots said.

He said the other option Bougainville MPs should consider was to arrange with the state and ABG for their DSIP funds to be included in the ABG annual budgetary support to facilitate autonomy building at the village level.

31.05.2011

Source: The National

ABG: newspaper made biased and unprofessional comments

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) yesterday expressed disappointment at an editorial comment published by one of the country’s newspaper last Friday describing it as “extremely biased and unprofessional comments”.

Referring to the Post- Courier editorial that ABG “is walking a tight rope” and is “caught in a corner when dealing with its former combatants”, Bougainville vice-president Patrick Nisira in a statement said ABG “does not need the irresponsible and biased reports of the media”.

He stressed the Bougainville government was committed to putting an end to the Konnou localised conflict and the “sticky” issue of arms disposal.

“The peace agreement that binds Bougainville with PNG in the process of deciding Bougainville’s political future and ultimate peace for its people is a joint creation by both governments.

“Journalists reporting on Bougainville matters ought to be familiar with this agreement and the laws that give legal effect to the agreement and the situation on the ground before they put pen to paper to express their personal commentaries on important matters that affect this arrangement,” Nisira said.

He said that negative reporting had often caused more damage than good in efforts to unify the region.

Nisira said that journalists must consult the ABG instead of taking advantage of their power to express their own personal views.

“The media has failed time and time again.”

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Left member elect Mr Lautu Atoi, Mr Reitama Taravaru and Mr Raymond Masono

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LAUTA WINS ELECTION

By Tom Kathoa

The dreams and aspirations of the people of the Atolls of Bougainville to have one of their sons as a member of parliament has now become a reality with the declaration of candidate Lautu Atoi as winner of the North Bougainville Open seat by election.

Mr. Atoi who has contested two other past national elections has finally made it this time. He contested the by election as an independent candidate, but with the endorsement and moral support of some parties in the likes of the New Bougainville Party.

At the start of counting, the member elect polled very well collecting votes in all the fourteen constituencies in the North Bougainville region.

His lead was never threatened by the other candidates as the margin between him and the closest candidate was always in the hundreds.

While candidates below him shared the lead, Mr. Atoi continued to cling fast onto the number one spot right from the start to the end and eventual declaration.

The finale figures of 10,463 with a difference of 5301 between him and his runner-up is confirmation of the great support the new member has from the people of North Bougainville.

The just concluded by election was caused by the elevation of former member, Michael Ogio to the position of Governor General in January this year.

Writs for the by election would be returned on the tenth of this month, with the member elect to attend his first sitting of the national parliament during this session.

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG commends Atoi

By MARIA LAUKAI

ABG deputy administrator for policy Raymond Masono in his congratulatory remarks urged North Bougainville new member elect Lautu Atoi to do his best in delivering basic development services to the people of North Bougainville.

He said Bougainville are intelligent people and are also free people.

Mr Masono said despite Mr Atoi being a member of a minority group, the people of Bougainville were genuine and intelligent enough to vote for the kind of leadership Mr Atoi would bring.

He added that there are people in the most remote part of North Bougainville who are crying out for basic services like education and health.

Mr Masono urged that these were the kind of services, leaders like Mr Atoi must aspire to deliver.

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Democracy thrives in Bougainville

By MARIA LAUKAI

Bougainville Assisting Police Commissioner ACP Thomas Eluh in congratulating North Bougainville member elect Lautu Atoi, appealed to all Bougainvilleans to work together to move the region forward.

He said Bougainville is a special case, because of the crisis and after the signing of the peace agreement that the region is constantly under the scrutiny of everyone including the international community.

He added that the election process draws a lot of attention and thanked everyone for proving critics wrong.

ACP Eluh said the people of North Bougainville have proven that Bougainville is a place where democracy thrives and indicates that Bougainvilleans are a law abiding and peace loving people.

He commended the Bougainville Police Service (BPS) for their selfless dedication to ensuring the by-election was conducted peacefully despite the officers not yet receiving their allowances from the K3 million that the PNG electoral commission is yet to give to BPS for its services.

ACP Eluh also appealed to candidates who lost to forget their differences and work with the new member elect.

He said politics is a dirty game and if leaders are not careful, politics can divide the people.

ACP Eluh urged that the leaders put aside their differences and work together to serve the people of Bougainville

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lauta Atoi pledges to deliver

By MARIA LAUKAI

North Bougainville member elect Lauta Atoi, in accepting his new role, thanked everyone for their support and also acknowledged members of the New Bougainville Party and churches in Buka for their prayers and assistance.

To all his voters and campaign team, he urged that they stay focused on their primary reason for contesting the by-election.

He added that the winning of the by-election was just the beginning of their journey and urged that they stay focused on delivering the immediate needs of the North Bougainville people.

Mr. Atoi said his short term plans were to complete all incomplete projects of the former member like delivery of water tanks and assisting the people of the west coast atolls.

While his medium and long term plans were to focus on boosting the economic growth of the North region.

He urged told supporters and witnesses that there was no time to celebrate as he had only six months to take care of the people of North Bougainville.

Mr Atoi also invited the candidates who lost and their supporters to work closely with him.

He told witnesses at the declaration ceremony today that his opponents had very good ideas which they could together work on for a better Bougainville.

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Atoi wins North Bougainville seat

By MARIA LAUKAI

Businessman Lauta Atoi is the new member elect for the North Bougainville open seat after racing to victory with 10,463 votes over his final eliminated opponent and only female candidate Rachael Opeti Konaka.

Ms Konaka completed the by-election contest with 5,162 votes. Mr Atoi will now occupy for the next six months, the North Bougainville open seat left vacant by former member and Governor General of PNG Sir Michael Ogio.

In congratulating Mr Atoi on his win, Bougainville Electoral Commissioner and returning officer Reitama Taravaru said generally, the election was peaceful and carried out with respect.

He thanked the PNG and Bougainville electoral commission officers, volunteers and the Bougainville Police Service for a job well done before declaring Mr. Atoi as the new member elect

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RACHAEL A REAL FIGHTER

By Tom Kathoa

Women in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have a place in the politics and governance of the region.

The result of the lone female candidate, Rachael Opeti Konaka in the just completed North Bougainville Open by election speaks volume of the potential women have and can contribute to the development of the region in all areas of activity.

MS. Konaka has put up a good fight against her more experienced male candidates defeating twenty of them to secure the number two spot in the race. She polled 5162 votes to be all the other male candidates except for candidate Lautu Atoi who has won the by election convincingly with a total of 10,463 votes. Ms. Konaka did not do well on preferential votes, but did very well on the number two votes which elevated her to be the runner-up to the winning candidate. The finale count again for the top three candidates are; Lautu Atoi winning with 10,463 in second place is Rachael Opeti Konaka on 5,162 and in third place is PDM candidate, Damien Kora who collected 5,146 votes. The finale result was arrived at following the elimination of candidate Donald Hamau to give Lautu the final winning and deciding votes.



Right Ms Rachel Opeti Konaka with her friend as a male supporter looks on

31.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

North Bougainville Open Seat by Election update

By Maria Laukai

After exclusion number 18 the results as follows: Lautu Atoi 10,463, Rachel Opeti Konaka 5,164 & Damien Kora 5,146. Counting suspended till 10am 31May11. But the absolute majority is 10,386. 12midnight

North Bougainville open seat by election results after exclusion 18 Lautu Atoi

10,463,Rachel Opeti Kanoka 5,162 n Damien Kora 5,146.
absolute majority 10,386. counting suspended till 10am 310511

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buin Secondary gets new computer lab

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Buin Secondary School may be the first school on Bougainville to boast a complete state-of-the-art computer lab - thanks to efforts from dedicated teachers, parents and students.

The Bougainville Engineering Construction Limited built a computer lab for the school under a K2 million contract to construct 13 buildings, most of them dormitories, classrooms and teachers houses.

The lab was part of the contract, which is now complete and has all computer facilities installed to serve the student population.

The computer lab holds about 100 computers, just waiting to be connected in June and once ready, more than 765 students will have access to the outside world through internet service and facilities.

BECL executive Michael Pakei had a tour of the school facilities, checking on the completed buildings including the computer laboratory which is the school's pride. School executives were also very happy that the lab is now complete and students can have access to learning about internet, computer and everything else connected with computers and its uses.

The teachers said once the lab is up and running by the first week of June, one part of the building with 50 computers would be used by upper grades (11 and 12) and the other by lower grades (9 and 10).

There are 765 students from all over Bougainville attending Buin Secondary School. Most transfers have come from Nissan because of difficulties of transport going to and from school.

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville running out of time

BOUGAINVILLE is facing possibility of not meeting requirements of referendum and independence if it fails to handle outstanding issues seriously, a top private sector representative says.

Outstanding issues facing the Bougainville administration include bills it owes to business houses for services rendered many years ago, weapons disposal program, emergence of Asian businesses in Bougainville and issue of referendum and independence.

Bougainville Chamber of Commerce has accused ABG administration for not taking referendum and independence seriously because of these outstanding issues.

BCC executive Thomas Rabanz told Post-Courier yesterday that the administration "does not know where its priorities are and it does not know how to set priorities".

Mr Momis, as a leader, he should not be blamed for this if there is any failure.

"His implementers are the ones. Evidence of lack of total negligence is based on not paying attention to service rendered," Mr Rabanz said.

"The 2004 NEC approved list is still not yet settled. It's not Mr Momis' job to administer

this and sort this out, it is the administration's job. Business leaders have passed away with pressure from this and I pay tribute to the JOMIK boss and Cletus Harepa.

"Also, weapons disposal should not prolong the issue of independence or referendum. It is the duty of the administration to find a solution. Does the administration know where to go?

"I've also a big concern for Asians coming into the region to do business but again it is not Momis' issues to sort out, it is the work of the administration to handle."

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atoi leads Bougainville race

By GORETHY KENNETH

ABOUT 10 candidates with less than 1000 votes for the North Bougainville Open Seat by-election would have been eliminated by this morning.

Last night, up until 9pm, counting and polling officials were carrying out quality check on ballot papers to ensure they were balanced with the figures put out in public.

This was after counting was disrupted over the weekend because of disputes over several ballots boxes from mainland Selau and Tinputz.

Scrutineers of a candidate petitioned returning officer/election manager Reitama Taravaru over two boxes in Selau and Tinputs and the issue was brought about again over the weekend.

While this was going on, several supporters of other candidates were allegedly seen with guns, purportedly for security reasons.

It was also alleged that a certain candidate was conniving with Mr Taravaru through secret meetings during the counting but outside the counting area.

But Taravaru has brushed aside the allegations, claiming the "maclicious" story was not true.

Meanwhile, the scores for the candidates before the quality check and elimination process were as follows: independent candidate Lautu Atoi at 5,858 votes followed by Peoples Democratic Movement's Damien Kora at 3,265 votes, Peoples National Congress man Donald Hamao was trailing closely with 3,194 votes. Lone female candidate Rachel Opeti Konaka was trailing fifth with 1768 votes after Lawrence Belleh with 1919 votes.

Mr Taravaru said last night, the absolute majority was 13, 541 votes which none of the candidates had.

There were a total of 27,951 ballot papers issued, which indicated the number of people that voted.

It is expected that the new Member for North Bougainville would be announced tomorrow.

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Vessel stuck in Bougainville over scrap metal scam

By GORETHY KENNETH

A NEW Caledonian based vessel chartered by Indonesian tycoons is stranded in Arawa after locals conned them over scrap metal business operations in the region.

The vessel arrived on the shores of Arawa, berthing at Loloho for the last three weeks with no-one to receive them.

But a crew member last week told the Post-Courier that one of the local men emailed

pictures of piles of scrap metals at Loloho in January to the owner of the company that chartered the vessel. The pictures and the information provided to the Indonesian tycoon detailed more than 10 piles of scrap metals and the agents to contact, including a particular Bougainvillean who made communication with them to start the negotiations for the scrap metal operations.

“And with those pictures, our boss fell for the trap and made arrangements to travel to Loloho to pick the scrap metal, without checking with the authorities on the ground. Our boss had to hire this ship from New Caledonia and then we find there is nothing. We were very disappointed because the metals have disappeared and someone else is in charge of the ones now at the Loloho wharf,” they said

There are two groups of local agents cleaning up Loloho, in preparations for any negotiations. One of the groups are those legally instituted by the ABG on behalf of BCL/Rio Tinto, while the other is a private run company with connections abroad to help clean up the same place as well.

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cholera centre to close

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE'S cholera treatment centre may face a shut down if authorities do not seriously address the critical issue they are facing.

Officials and cleaners from Lemanmanu cholera treatment centre have echoed that the operation is in chaos, cleaners are planning a strike because there has been no allowances for five weeks, cholera funds have been exhausted and the cleaners want the cholera task force to provide full detailed financial report on expenditures since the breakout.

The clinical staff said over the weekend that the major component of the program on containing cholera was under threat because of severe lack of funds which included:

- water and sanitation;
- surveillance and
- clinical management

“Another issue is that it is a condition of employment which the task force should make readily available or address immediately. If these areas are not properly funded, we are fighting a losing war against cholera in Haku,” the clinical staff sounded the warning.

The officials have presented these issues to the Cholera Task Force in a petition form but claim that to date, nothing has been done about it.

But last Friday, the executives of the Cholera Task Force said there was misinformation sent out on the issue of funding although they claimed the force was facing a severe financial crisis to address the cholera issue. They also said the number of cases was now being contained and despite the rise in patients brought to Lemanmanu, officials are working very hard and managed to contain the disease from spreading further.

30.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Appeal filed against judge

By JOSHUA ARLO

ACTING judge Justice Royale Thompson is a subject again to another court action. This time it is an appeal filed against the National Court decision dismissing alleged criminal charges that had been laid against the acting judge after she was appointed to

the bench of the judiciary over an alleged illegal action when she was supposedly acting for a client before her appointment.

Law firm Namani and Associates Lawyers filed the appeal on the basis that Justice Catherine Davani's decision erred in law and fact in several instances in her decision which effectively stayed three police information laid against Justice Thompson. The information relates to a case in which the acting judge was taking carriage of when she was a lawyer. They seek in the filed appeal to declare that the proceeding in which Justice Davani presided over was an abuse of court process in that there was no proceeding in the District Court against the acting judge to stay. Other orders also sought, includes the uplifting and quashing of the National Court's decision on April 14, 2011, permanently staying the criminal charges and prosecutions of the acting judge as an abuse of process and contrary to section 197 of the Constitution, and also an order to allow for the charges to proceed through the committal process. The facts of the case relates to UBT Fjord oil tanker vessel that was seized by the Customs Officials and Police Officers on the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in August last year when the vessel loaded about 8194.67 metric tones of fuel oil worth millions of kina. The vessel was captured while trying to escape. A notice of seizure under the Customs Act was issued and the captain Moe Hein was charged. Released on a K100,000 bail while waiting for his trial at the National Court in Kokopo, he escaped and a warrant for his arrest was issued. While the criminal proceedings were still on, the vessel is reported to have escaped from the harbor on January 8, this year. Commissioner for Customs, Garry Juffa released a media statement four days later to get the attention of the National Government to address it as a matter of national interest and security.

The acting judge, Ms Thompson, who was then the lawyer for the owners of the ship, caused to be published in the Post-Courier a paid advertisement, allegedly purporting to be a spokesperson for the company refuted that there was a court order stopping the ship, and if there was someone who was responsible for the ship's escape, it would be the police and customs officials.

Mr Juffa laid a formal complaint to police to investigate who perverted the course of justice. Superintendent Sylvester Kalaut, East New Britain Provincial Police Commander investigated the matter and traced it to the acting judge and arrested her on April 1 for perverting the course of justice.

Released on bail the same day, she, through Steeles Lawyers, took restraining orders against the police from proceeding any court orders to gag the print media from covering the case.

30.05.2011

Source: The National

ABG assures Bougainville is stable

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has denied it is "walking on a tight rope" as implied by the editorial of Post-Courier last Friday.

In a statement yesterday, Bougainville vice-president Patrick Nisira said: "The ABG neither is caught in any corner when dealing with its former combatants, there seems to be no real threat to its leadership, and the leadership does not see any dicey situations in Bougainville that it is unable to handle."

He reaffirmed that the "freedom" enjoyed by Bougainville today belonged to all Bougainvilleans and not any particular armed group.

Nisira said although it was quite a difficult and risky task, the Konnou law and order situation was a priority of the ABG.

He said the autonomous government "is doing all it can to address the situation by encouraging reconciliation among the factions, bringing police closer to the people and with PNG government and aid donor agencies, bringing about development projects as requested by the local community".

"All efforts are being made by the chiefs, church groups, peace committees, former combatants, public servants, national MPs and the member for Konnou in the ABG in their endeavour to put a halt to the senseless killings of 55 men, women and children by one Damien Koike in South Bougainville were made in consultation with the ABG and the council of elders of the area.

"Even the President, John Momis has had his own interventions with Koike," Nisira said. He said the situation in Konnou could have been addressed more speedily had the ABG engaged other armed groups which showed support for the ABG.

"However, ABG believes the barrel of the gun is not the answer to Konnou's problems.

"Our policy with the remaining armed groups is "peace by peaceful means," he said. He said the ABG had established contact with Koike who had in turn expressed a desire to talk to the Bougainville government.

"I believe he is reasonable and sincere to work with me to find a solution to his problems."

30.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Counting slow

By Tom Kathoa

Officials and supporters of candidates for the North Bougainville by-election had to wait for hours for the resumption of counting yesterday.

This was after counting was suspended on Saturday when scrutineers of a few candidates disrupted the counting process over allegations that a few leading candidates had bribed their voters.

Suspension was lifted by Bougainville electoral commissioner and returning officer Reitama Taravaru at 1 pm yesterday and officials went straight into quality check to ensure that all the ballot papers already counted in the first preference were in order to avoid before elimination began.

Elimination count began at two o'clock this morning (Monday) and is expected to continue until midday tomorrow.

30.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Atoi still on the lead

By Tom Kathoa

A former rugby league international player and businessman, Lauta Atoi has a commanding lead over his opponents in the North Bougainville by election count. Candidate Lauta from the start of counting on Wednesday last week establish a clear lead over his rivals.

He has not only maintained the lead, but widens it on every count collecting votes in every ballot box opened.

Following closely is PDM candidate, Damien Kora and PNC Party man, Donald Hamao both with more than three thousand votes each.

The vote difference between Lauta and Kora is more than 2,000 votes.

The only female candidate, Rachael Opeti Konaka has grabbed the fourth sport from a former ABG member, Lawrence Belleh Kabul.

And four other former ABG members are contesting this election, Joseph Watawi, Ezekiel Masatt, Taihu Pais and Marcellen Getsi Laris

29.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOBILE PHONE WORKSHOP

By Aloysius Laukai

New Dawn FM in association with the Commonwealth of Learning was able to get a trainer from the Communication Link in the Solomon Islands to train its staff to understand the use of Mobile phones in disseminating information to the people of Bougainville.

And as usual New Dawn FM was also able to invite its partners like the ABG, Inter church Womens Forum, Community Development office, World Vision, Care International to attend the workshop.

The participants now know which mobile phones are suitable of doing many things example is the use of mobile phone to answer calls and give update on the North Bougainville By election counting.

New Dawn FM was able to use this technology during this counting.

The system would also be utilized in other programs later.



Pictured are participants of this seminar showing off their mobile phones.

29.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NBP Fundraising

By Aloysius Laukai

The New Bougainville Party last week had its first fundraising Corporate dinner at the residence of the ABG President Chief John Momis.

The chief is the parliamentary leader of the party.

In his welcome speech ABG President JOHN MOMIS said that he was happy the many followers had attended the fundraising dinner.

He said the party has to have funds to operate the first fundraising was good for the party.

Chief Momis said that for a member to work properly he has to have money what the party was doing will support their members in parliament.

Meanwhile, the Party President, CHRIS BENGKO in welcoming the gathering said that the party would be starting a Business to help support the party.

He said a company has been registered to start with Fuel wholesaling.



Pictured are Tourism and Hospitality Students from Bishop Wade Secondary School who cooked and served food at the party.

Some more pictures of our students:





Picture of the Executives of the Bougainville Association
Israel still holding on the yellow envelope

29.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

President Donates

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis yesterday met with the Bougainville Students attending University of Papua New Guinea.

MR. MOMIS who is on Business in the National Capital had time to spare and talked with the Bougainville students concerning awareness throughout the Region.

The students last Christmas holiday did some awareness in Bougainville but due to financial constraints they were not able to cover the entire island.

At yesterday's meeting MR. MOMIS Promised to give some funds to the students to carry out awareness during the coming Christmas Holiday.

He said that a team from the ABG would be visiting Universities throughout the country before the end of the year to brief them on the issues they will carry out.

MR. MOMIS said that as Bougainville's future leaders they should be involved in carrying out critical awareness on the Bougainville Peace process.



Pictured is President Momis handing K5,000 to the President of the Bougainville Student's Association, Israel Pais - picture by Aloysius Laukai

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Planning workshop underway in Arawa

By AL

A planning workshop critical to ABG aligning its planning processes with the government of PNG's Medium Term Development Plans and Millennium Development goals and strategies will end tomorrow.

Facilitated by the National Department of Planning and Monitoring, the workshop is underway at the Sharpe Memorial Center in Arawa.

The workshop is vital to enable ABG to set the phase for structuring of the ABG development plans which will assist with the draw-down of the K500 million commitment by the state to ABG over the next five years.

The workshop is attended by staff of department of national planning, ABG divisional Chief Executive Officers, Regional Commissioners, District Executive Managers, First Secretaries, and development partners including AusAid and UNDP personnel.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Me'ekamui invites stakeholders to Panguna mine talks

By AL

Me'ekamui Tribal Government has insisted it will not allow anyone to reopen the Panguna mine until all outstanding issues are resolved.

President Philip Miriori said today that as opposed to reports by Australian newspaper on May 19 that BCL owns the Panguna mine, "BCL – Rio Tinto has no rights to Panguna and any discussions or commitments with anyone including PNG or ABG was counterproductive."

He added that the Me'ekamui government who control the assets at Panguna and all natural resources within its borders, refute Bougainville president John Momis' authority to enter into any understandings or agreements with Me'ekamui owned land.

Miriori personally invites the Acting PM, Minister for National Planning, Minister for Mining, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chief Legal Counsel from the PNG Government, ABG President, Vice President, Minister for Mining and Legal Counsel and BCL-Rio Tinto chairman, Secretary and Legal Counsel to an open-dialogue meeting at Hilton Hotel in Cairns, Australia, to settle all unresolved issues.

He urged that the individuals attending the meeting planned for June 14 to 17, must bring with them all licenses, documents and relevant materials to enable all parties to discuss all issues with truth and honesty.

Miriori urged that all parties act wisely in their pursuit of closure and future promise.

He added that the meeting is not a media event but an honest effort to bring all parties together in gaining resolve.

Miriori asked that the stakeholders email their RSVP to Me'ekamui Foreign Affairs minister Pius Taboa on cefeida1taboa@gmail.com by June 3.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Acting PM commits K10 million

Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal has committed a total of K10 million to two major high schools in Central Bougainville.

Arawa High School and Asitavi High School have each been pledged K5 million towards sustaining the schools and preparing them to cater for the population if and when the Panguna mine re-opens.

The acting PM pledged this monies during his visit to Bougainville last Saturday to launch the Kokopau to Arawa K20 million road impact project.

Mr. Abal's visit to Arawa was a milestone also as he was the first prime minister to land in the region's former capital.

He was accompanied during his visit by Bougainville Affairs minister Fidelis Semoso, ABG vice president Patrick Nisira and Bougainville acting police commissioner ACP Thomas Eluh.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Count Update

By D Laukai

Counting for the North Bougainville By-election is progressing well.
After count 31 the counting was suspended at 4:45pm and will resume at 00:00 midnight.
Progressive results are as;
Ezekiel J Massatt 1562
Justin Helele 379
Albert Toro 483
Joseph watawi 356
Donald Hamao 2571
Lauta Atoi 4346
Matubuna Tahun 46
Michael Ross 294
Marcelline Getsi 211
Joseph Gatana 107
Joseph Vilosi 915
Damien Kora 2605
Clarence Kosun 14
George Manu 533
Rachael Opeti 507
Joseph Baito 101
Taehu Pais 653
Sylvester Niu 168
Charry Napto 1168
Peter Mctobara 137
Lawrence Belleh 1632

This is the official update added and posted by the Electoral office counting centre this afternoon. This overrides all our previous reports.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Project applauded by COEs

By JOYCE TOHUI

JOEL BANAM on behalf of the Bougainville Council of Elders said he was thankful for the road sealing project as the people of Bougainville have waited so long for such services.

He was speaking during the launching of the KOKOPAU-ARAWA road sealing project. He told the Acting PM that Bougainvilleans for too long have waited for the time to recover to go back to its former glory days.

He urged that PNG has the responsibility to give Bougainville that hope until it decides to continue Autonomy or vote for referendum.

On the work of COEs, MR BANAM stressed funding was a problem and no work is done to help the rural population.

And he called on the National and ABG leaders to fund COEs to effectively and efficiently carry out its planned projects.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SELAU an untapped tourist site

By JOYCE TOHUI

Constituency Member for SELAU in the ABG, TERRY MOSE highlighted last Saturday that SELAU has the potential for tourism.

Member MOSE told the gathering at KOKOPAU that SELAU has no silver or gold but there is a great potential for tourist destination in his assessment when moving around his constituency.

He added that his constituency is blessed with a dense of cultural activities, richness and symbolism.

MR MOSE strongly urged the ABG and National MPs to take note of his words as he recommended that SELAU is bound for tourism industry.

Meanwhile he said SELAU constituency is situated in the Northern tip of Bougainville and will remain the gateway of mainland Bougainville until the end of time.

And he appealed to his people to look after government services which will be implemented in the area.

27.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SELAU gateway to Bougainville

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG Member for SELAU constituency, TERRY MOSE said SELAU is the gateway to services received by the people of mainland Bougainville but have been neglected for years.

He made these remarks during the launching of the KOKOPAU-ARAWA road sealing project last Saturday.

He believed the people of SELAU did have the power to shut or open services reaching mainland Bougainville as they have been swallowing and drinking dusts caused by highway traffic for many years.

However his people were patient and continue their luck for such long awaited impact projects

In acknowledging the National Government for this impact project, MR MOSE said this will help stop the health hazard affecting his people.

He believes the road sealing project will greatly boost economic activities in Bougainville as people will have easy access to market their produce.

27.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tension high in Konnou

By Fabian Gatana

TWO men from Tabago in South Bougainville were shot dead yesterday in a dawn ambush by followers of the notorious Damien Koike.

The victims were returning to their village when they were ambushed and murdered.

Former commander of the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) Philip Pusua has called on the ABG Government and South Bougainville leaders to act quickly and negotiate with Mr Koike to end the Konnou conflict. This week, the Post-Courier spoke to the followers of Koike and asked why they were involved in killing innocent people. Koike's soldiers said they were angry with ABG and other stakeholders for not adhering to their demands.

"50 people have been murdered, including women and children, in the Konnou Constituency area and more lives will be lost if authorities do not intervene quickly," he

said.

He said the Buin Peace team that was set up to hold talks with Koike are siding with him. Peace team also helped Koike to buy an outboard motor which is enabling him to move around and conduct criminal activities in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

"There is no political agenda in the Konnou conflict, the murdering of civilians and confiscating of land by force from landowners are criminal offences and human rights abuses," he said.

Mr Pusua said the conflict is now spilling to Central Bougainville when Koike and his men are patrolling the Laluai to Arawa section of the highway, aimed at ambushing and shooting former WILMO members.

He said Koike has also recruited more members and increased his power.

27.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG walking tightrope

BOUGAINVILLE leaders are faced with quite a sticky problem at present.

A faction of the rebel army that waged a 10-year armed rebellion against the Government of Papua New Guinea and authority in Bougainville is on the loose, it seems. The faction, led by Damien Koike, is once again striking fear in the heart of people in South Bougainville. Yesterday, they are reported to have conducted an ambush and shot dead two innocent people. Three weeks ago, the group declared war on the Autonomous Bougainville Government led by John Momis. Immediately after that, another group under the command of former Bougainville Revolutionary Army heavy, Ishmael Toroama, ran a campaign of terror in Panguna over a couple of days, firing gun shots into premises of businesses trying to start up in Panguna.

Now the Koike group seems intent on carrying out its threat of harming innocent people. They are doing that because they claim their requests for a number of things have not been heard by the ABG.

The ABG is caught in a corner when it comes to dealing with people like Koike. On the one hand, they are a group of people that needs to be listened to but by enforcing their demands through the rule of the gun and the threat of guns, it makes it a very dicey situation for the leadership of the ABG.

The ABG has a policy of not dealing with factional groups, especially those that are armed. This is because it does not want to legitimise rebellious groups that are armed by recognising them through direct dialogue or negotiation. It has a strong policy on disarmament and is observing this policy by not dealing directly with armed groups. Having established that as its policy, it now finds itself in a tight spot when it comes to these groups calling for certain "services and support" in the name of development for their areas. It is a case of talk directly to them and be damned or ignore them and be damned. The situation is such that it could re-ignite armed confrontation between the various groups in Bougainville. And let's not kid ourselves, they are armed and well-armed. Forget the home-made seen during the crisis ... they have more powerful modern weapons at their disposal which they are itching to use. Any resurgence of armed rivalry will be hard to contain, given that under the peace agreement, PNG cannot have armed soldiers in Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The armed threat from Koike and others are an indication that maybe we have overlooked a few fundamental issues in the race to normalise politics and efforts to build the economy of Bougainville. Since the introduction of autonomy some eight years ago, nothing much has happened in the region. The people, at the time of being granted autonomy, had huge expectations about the place moving forward. Trouble is there is no money to drive many good ideas that are there on paper to propel the region forward.

Bougainville has depended on the goodness of aid donors and grants from Waigani to fund its development priorities. Very little or nothing has trickled down to the rural areas

of the region. There is general frustration among the people and they are coming out against that. They do not understand that their Government has very little money. To them, they have their own Government now which must give them what they want, provide them the schools, the health centres and the roads to access markets for their agriculture produce.

The armed factions feel left out. They argue that the “freedom” and autonomy enjoyed by Bougainville is largely due to them and hence, must be given recognition and provided for by the ABG.

It is a hard call for the leadership of the ABG. Mr Momis and his administration is walking a tightrope. It cannot afford to tip the scale one way or the other which means, there is nothing much he can do to contain the Koike group running amok with their guns. He can only appeal to the good sense of the rebel leader to lay down arms and come forward for talks. Koike is throwing a tantrum ... unfortunately, a violent one, but it must be stopped before it triggers off reprisal attacks which could escalate into an unmanageable violent situation in South Bougainville.

26.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls for funding Council of Elders

By AL

Chairman of the Tahetahe Tshuhana village assembly and member of the Hagogohe Council of Elders (COE) Stanly Gimots has urged that whoever the winning candidate for the North Bougainville by-election must work with the COEs to fund COE planned projects directly from the national member's District Support and Improvement Program (DSIP).

Mr Gimots said as part of strengthening the process of building autonomy in the region, the incoming member for North Bougainville to be declared tomorrow should help provide funding for all social, economical and spiritual development projects in the 14 COEs of his electorate.

Mr Gimots said the new member for North Bougainville should walk, talk and practice autonomy instead of wasting tax payer's money to entertain his own cronies and election committee members.

He said the present practice of distributing funds from the DSIP was not user friendly to the process of building autonomy in Bougainville and urged that all Bougainville members of parliament redesign their methods of distribution to meet the autonomy arrangement.

Mr Gimots said the national government's intention to provide DSIP was for impact people related projects to create economic and social development in each of the districts.

He urged that in Bougainville, the DSIP is an ideal vehicle for leaders to strengthen autonomy and movement towards the region's independence

26.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

South Bougainville Leaders Meeting Resolution Revoked

By AL

Commander of Wisai Liberation Movement or WILMO Philip Pusua has revoked resolutions reached by South Bougainville leaders at a peace meeting on May 21 in Buin.

Mr Pusua said the meeting endorsed Buin Peace team to approach Damien Koike through peaceful negotiation to find a lasting solution for the Konnou Conflict. However Konnou and Wissai leaders were excluded from the Buin meeting. Mr Pusua stressed that they are the victims in Konnou which is the focal point of the conflict in south Bougainville and that must have direct say to the government to find an appropriate solution for the civil unrest in the konnou area. He said his reasons of revoking the south Bougainville leaders resolution were that; Buin Peace team endorsed by southern leaders is not neutral, the team members are in the same boat with Damien Koike. Buin team had fail to get Damien koike from Tonu and settle him to his home village Mohoroi in the Konnou area, but instead the team members send Koike to wissai by supplying him with equipments for processing gold to buy bullets and weapons to kill the land owners in their own land in the wisai area. The Buin team had also helped Damien koike to purchased an out boat motor which enabled him to move around and conduct criminal activities in Bougainville and Solomon islands. Mr Pusua added that there is no political agenda in the Konnou conflict and there was nothing they could negotiate to settle. He said the murdering of civilians men women and children, confiscating land by force from the land owners , these are criminal offences and human right abuses. Mr Pusua urged that immediate action is needed in the Konnou area to prevent criminals from further killings and the continuation of hunting for human beings like animals.

26.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG ready to payout school fees

By AL

Application screening for the Bougainville Government school fee assistance scheme has been completed and ABG is ready to do payouts soon, said chairman of the school fee assistance scheme Raymond Masono.

Mr Masono, who is also the Deputy Administrator policy, said ABG had allocated K2.5 million to settle the school fees for Bougainville students in high schools, secondary schools, vocational and tertiary institutions.

He said the fees will be paid according to the total number of students enrolled.

Mr Masono explained that tertiary institutions under the assistance scheme policy and self sponsored students will receive 30 percent while HECAS students will get 10 per cent.

He also added that school fee assistance scheme does not apply to students sponsored either by ABG's human resources division cadet scheme or Bougainville copper foundation.

He said there should not be any double dipping in school fee assistance schemes and appealed to the students to be honest.

Mr Masono is appealing to universities and colleges to provide the list of names of Bougainville students and their sponsorship level.

26.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Government commits to renovating Radio Bougainville

PNG's acting prime minister Sam Abal last Saturday, made a commitment to see that NBC Bougainville is renovated and well equipped. He made this commitment after visiting the run down radio station upon the invitation of Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso. Honourable Semoso who took the acting PM on a tour of radio Bougainville, told Mr. Abal that the radio station has since stopped many of its programs due to funds constraints. Mr. Abal vowed to help look for funding in order to have the station run its programs effectively and efficiently

26.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville to benefit from Panguna Mine

Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso has revealed that Panguna mine, if re-opened, has the potential to bring in K14 million for landowners yearly and K700 million in revenue per annum.

Honorable Semoso said this was based on information gathered from international economic experts who had dealt with the Panguna mine.

He said from the 19.1 percent shares being considered openly by the national government and ABG, K9.2 billion could potentially set to benefit ABG.

Honorable Semoso added that everybody would benefit, compared to the last mine operation and its landowner packages.

24.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna high on govt agenda

PAGUNA mine is now one of the most critical agendas for Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government as singled out by leaders of these governments. Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal, Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso and ABG President John Momis have reiterated this message to the people of Bougainville – the importance of re-opening the Panguna mine, which is important for the economy of the region.

Mr Momis had last week brought with him businessmen from Australia and Bougainville Copper Limited's top boss Peter Taylor and Paul Coleman to Buka for several meetings specifically on mining, tourism, hospitality and other areas of investment.

Mr Semoso, who promotes the idea of re-opening the mine in every chance he gets to speak, said the mine alone would help power the economy of Bougainville.

Mr Abal singled out the approach the National Government is taking and how the Panguna mine is imperative and a priority agenda for the Government.

When speaking in Arawa on Sunday, Mr Abal appealed to the people of Bougainville to lay down their arms and move forward.

"Lay down your arms, they are destructive tools and pick up the shovel, your productive tools," Mr Abal said. Minister Semoso appealed to "our good people of Kieta, our mothers, we can have all the businesses moving forward, you can have foreign investment coming to your doorstep but if the law and order is not in order, you cannot have the economy of Bougainville grow.

"I appeal to you women and men of Kieta, throw away the guns and let us move Bougainville forward," Mr Semoso said.

Mr Abal said he believes that Bougainville has a bright future and the National Government has every responsibility to see that Bougainville gets back to where it was before the crisis broke out in the late 1990s.

24.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Abal vows K10m

TWO major high schools in Central Bougainville now have every reason to smile because their cry for funding has been eased.

Papua New Guinea's acting Prime Minister Sam Abal pledged K10 million for Arawa and Asitavi Girl's High schools to build, maintain and develop their facilities.

Mr Abal, who landed in Arawa on Sunday morning, was the first Prime Minister to land in the region's former capital and was received by the locals despite the absence of the Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro and other ABG leaders.

"I first landed here in 2006 with Sir Peter Barter briefly but it was still tense. Now I see these people have every reason to smile and it is good to see them dance, sing and smile," Mr Abal said.

Accompanied by Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso, ABG vice president Patrick Nisiria together and Bougainville's ACP Thomas Eluh, Mr Abal felt at home when he first put his left leg at the helicopter landing helipad to a rousing welcome by the Kieta Catholic Women's singing group and the traditional tsutsu to welcome him in Arawa.

He visited the Arawa hospital where he pledged a new ambulance for the centre. He was then taken to Arawa High School where he was emotionally affected with a speech that went on for an hour, eventually pledging K5 million to build the school, computer lab and make that institution to standard to cater for the population if and when the mine re-opens again. With a big feast for him at Arawa, he then flew to Asitavi High School in Wakunai where he pledged another K5 million.

Mr Abal and his contingent plan to visit Bougainville in the future to negotiate for better things for the region. He returned late in the evening to Port Moresby accompanied by the Minister for Higher Education Paru Aihi and Wahgi MP Benjamin Mul.

24.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG explains fee scheme

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE students in high schools, secondary schools, vocational and tertiary institutions will soon receive their school fee portion for this year under the Autonomous Bougainville Government School Fee Assistance Scheme.

Chairman of the School Fee Assistance Scheme, who is also the Deputy Administrator Policy, Raymond Masono, has said.

Mr Masono said ABG had allocated K2.5 million to settle the school fees.

"Application screening has been completed and we are ready to do the payouts soon," he said.

Mr Masono explained that school fee payments for students in high schools, secondary and vocational schools, will be paid according to the total number of students enrolled. For tertiary institutions under the assistance scheme policy and self sponsored students will receive 30 per cent while HECAS students will get 10 per cent.

He said AES students are not eligible for the assistance. However, Mr Masono said that there is a shortfall of K1 million because after the committee made the final calculations,

the figures K2.5 million exceeded to K3.5 million.

He said the committee is likely to reduce the percentage components of high schools, secondary, vocational schools and self sponsors to 20 per cent.

“School Fee Assistance Scheme does not apply to students sponsored either by ABGs Human Resources (HR) Division Cadet Scheme or the Bougainville Copper Foundation. Students sponsored by HR, their funding come from the ABG through to the division and they are not entitled to apply again for the assistance scheme,” Mr Mason explained.

Mr Mason said there should not be any “double dipping” in school fee assistance schemes and appealed to the students to be honest. He is appealing to the universities and colleges to provide the lists of the names of Bougainville students and their sponsorship level.

24.05.2011

Source: The National

Support for autonomy welcomed

By SAMUEL RAITANO

THE people of Bougainville are singing the praises of the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs for its role in educating and disseminating information on the Bougainville Peace Agreement and other fundamental aspects of their bid to achieve autonomy.

Arawa district manager, Lucy Traverts was among those who thanked the office for breaking down the information in the peace deal.

The office had been vocal in establishing peace in the once war-torn region.

Office acting director Ellison Towallom is the man behind the scene in paving the way for the future Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Educating the people is one of the fundamental functions of the office, which aims to prepare the people to make wise choices when voting in the referendum for autonomy in 2015.

The referendum will decide whether Bougainville will remain a part of Papua New Guinea or break away to become an independent nation.

A copy of the peace agreement says the three main pillars are autonomy, referendum and a weapons disposal plan.

These three issues are the core of the agreement, which had not been made clear or explained in simple language to the people until the office took the lead in doing so.

Towallom said the office was the coordinating body and link between Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

24.05.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville runs training for warders

A CAREER in the Correctional Services is a noble calling that requires specialised training in security and human behaviour, deputy commissioner corporate services Dominic Tomar says.

Addressing new recruits at the launch of the Correctional Services casual warders recruit training in Buka, Bougainville, last Thursday, Tomar said it was not a career for the weak and faint-hearted.

He said prison warders must be strong and committed.

He advised the 25 participants who will be trained on the roles and responsibilities of a warder over the next three weeks that the work of a correctional officer demanded loyalty

to authority.

The casual warders pass out from training on June 10 and will be attached with the Bekut Correctional Facility on Buka Island.

"This is the life and mission you are called to. You have been selected from among many other candidates. Your selection is not a right. It is a privilege," he said.

"With it comes the heavy responsibility to securely and humanely contain detainees and help in their rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

"Consider it an honour to serve Bougainville and PNG in such a manner," Tomar said.

23.05.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC Homepage Reached 50,000 Visitors Worldwide!

"We are proud to announce that our homepage has been visited by 50,000 visitors within the last three years," says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm, "this shows to me that people worldwide are interested in Bougainville. With more than 500 sites our homepage became the biggest common in-depth-source on Bougainville, on culture and on economic development of the island as well.!"

[Please read here the address of Peter Taylor, Chairman of Bougainville Copper Ltd.!](#)

23.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia

Australian business mission to Bougainville impressed

The Chairman of the Rio-tinto owned company, Bougainville Copper, Peter Taylor, says the Bougainville government and business community are to be commended for their resilience and foresight as they work to rebuild their economy.

Mr Taylor, led a delegation of 19 members of the Australia PNG Business Council on a trade mission to Bougainville, late last week.

For him, it was the first visit to Bougainville since the mine his company owns was shutdown after it became the catalyst for a bloody civil war on the island.

Mr Taylor says, being back was a very emotional experience.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett, Pacific Business and Economic reporter

Speaker: Peter Taylor, Chairman of Bougainville Copper Limited and President of the Australia PNG Business Council

Listen here !

TAYLOR: I don't think anyone should underestimate how important this visit was. I was there as the President of the Australia PNG Business Council. This is the first time that I can remember that a business delegation of this strength has visited anywhere in Papua

New Guinea.

GARRETT: So what sort of investors were part of the delegation?

TAYLOR: There was a good range actually, we had a couple of banks represented. These were international banks: one an investment bank, one a major retail bank. We had members of Trade Commissions, from the Australian government and the Queensland government. We had people from the tourist industry. We had people from professional organisations, and professions such as surveyors, accountants and so on. So it really was a good representative body of business-people who may be prepared to invest in Bougainville.

GARRETT: And I hear you got a pretty fantastic welcome when you got there?

TAYLOR: Absolutely sensational. It was as if a king or queen was arriving. We had some traditional dancers welcoming us. We went through a traditional welcome ceremony. We had the President there to welcome us, the vice president, most of the cabinet and the senior administrators so one couldn't ask for a better welcome.

GARRETT: You also had a briefing from President John Momis and his cabinet and senior administrators - what did they have to tell you?

TAYLOR: They did and they were very welcoming. They re-iterated just how important it was for Bougainville to have the support of the business community and the Business Council. They emphasised to me some of the difficulties that they face, particularly things like attracting banks and insurance companies; the sorts of organisations that are so essential if you are going to develop business within the community. They also emphasised just how difficult it's been for them to get the seed funding they need to get commerce and business going in the community.

GARRETT: So do you think something will come out of this mission on that score?

TAYLOR: Well, I'm hopeful. I've spoken to a number of my colleagues who went along on the trip and they were very impressed with the people they'd met, with the President himself and his cabinet, and they are great enthusiasm to get Bougainville back to where it was 20 plus years ago.

GARRETT: You also met with local Bougainville businessmen. What did they have to say to you?

TAYLOR: Yes, that was an interesting experience because they were saying that they were able to, with virtually no capital at all, they've been able to start some businesses up - things like accommodation, trade stores. In fact, they were very proud that they had been able to replace some of the outsiders that were once there running these businesses and it is now a 100% Bougainville show, if you like. Their great frustration is not being able to expand the way they'd like because they can't get the finance.

GARRETT: So what sort of projects, ..or what really came out of this mission?

TAYLOR: Well, it was really a fact-finding mission if you like for both sides. They weren't quite sure what we could provide and we weren't quite sure what they wanted but I think it's a great first step and I wouldn't be surprised if there isn't a formal trade mission follow-up, maybe sponsored by Austrade or an organisation like that so there enthusiasm to continue the dialogue, to actually further develop the relationship between business outside Bougainville and business inside Bougainville and the government itself.

GARRETT: This was your first visit since 1987. How did it feel to be back on Bougainville

soil after so many years?

TAYLOR: Well, you know I've got the photographs, I've got the mementos back at home so I've got these things but the impact of flying over those absolutely gorgeous islands as you are flying into Buka - just all the memories flood back. It was quite an emotional time for me, because I really did love the place and I long to go back and be able to explore it more fully.

GARRETT: So does this make you more optimistic about the re-opening of the Bougainville copper mine?

TAYLOR: Well it certainly reinforces my belief that the majority of Bougainvilleans want the mine reopened and I really think, having been there and listened to the business people and so on, listened to the support they have given me both as a business delegation leader and as the Chairman of Bougainville Copper that it really is achievable.

23.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna Mine to benefit Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE potentially stands to benefit from the Panguna Mine if it re-opens again. Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso, based on information gathered from international economic experts who had dealt with the Panguna mine, said that Panguna alone, if re-opened, has the potential to bring in:

- K14,00 million for landowners yearly
- K418 million unprecedented
- K700 million revenue per annum

And from the 19.1 per cent shares being talked about openly by the National Government and the ABG, K9.2 billion could potentially set to benefit the ABG yearly looking at a total of 76.4 million shares at A\$40 or K120 per share.

ABG President John Momis also endorsed and reiterated the importance of re-opening the mine and alluded to the statement by Rio Tinto/BCL overall boss Peter Taylor, admitting they made a mistake but were prepared to work along well with the landowners, the ABG and the PNG Government on the issue.

"The Panguna mine is worth much, much more than we were ever told."

"Our people should have some faith in the Government because we can see that Bougainville does have a bright future," Mr Momis said.

Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso told a crowd at Kokopau, the gateway to mainland Bougainville, that the Panguna Mine had huge potentials if re-opened and everybody would benefit, compared to the last mine operation and its landowner packages.

Mr Semoso read out in public that information he had from international/economic advisors said that the re-opening could have more than what was being received during the operational years.

23.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Abal gives K23m to Bougainville

ACTING Prime Minister Sam Abal officially launched yet another of Papua New Guinea's major impact project on Bougainville over the weekend and presented more than K23

million towards developing the region.

Mr Abal, accompanied by Minister for Higher Education and Member for Wahgi Benjamin Mul presented K20 million for the sealing of the Kokopau-Arawa Highway, K1 million for the Kunua Selau main road and K2 million for the Buka ring road.

Mr Abal, who arrived to a colourful ceremony at the Buka Airport, followed by the Bougainville Police Service's guard of honour as he stepped on Bougainville soil for the first time since the peace signing several years ago.

He was met at the airport by ABG President John Momis, vice president Patrick Nisira and his Cabinet Members including chief executive officers of all divisions in the region, Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso and all other important dignitaries.

The official launching of the 275 kilometre Kokopau to Arawa road sealing put smiles on the faces of the hundreds of people who gathered at Kokopau where the launching was held. Mr Abal, amazed and amused by two famous bamboo band groups, was told the days of "eating and drinking dust" would soon be over when the road sealing starts.

ABG MP for Selau Suir Terry Mose, in his opening remarks, singled out the bad conditions of the roads in Bougainville, which should never have been an excuse not to be sealed when the Panguna Mine was in operation.

Mr Abal also talked about the commitment that the PNG Government had for Bougainville. especially the K500 million allocations for Bougainville for the next five years.

"Bougainville, we love you. Bougainville, the rest of PNG loves you.

"You are beautiful people. God has not left Bougainville in fact he is working more on Bougainville. Bougainville does have a bright future," Mr Abal said.

ABG President John Momis thanked the National Government for its continued support to Bougainville and said he was confident that the people of Bougainville would rise up from the ashes one day and be up again on the top providing for PNG again.

He said there were signs of regional stability and that Bougainville had a brighter future ahead.

23.05.2011

Source: The National

K3mil given for Bougainville roads

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

ACTING Prime Minister Sam Abal on Saturday presented K3 million worth of cheques to Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso for the upgrading and sealing of roads in Bougainville.

One cheque of K2 million was for the Buka ring road and K1 million for the 20km Kokopau to Siera road. Both were presented at Kokopau in Selau constituency of North Bougainville,

This was in addition to K20 million presented in March by Finance and Treasury Minister Peter O'Neill for the Kokopau to Arawa main coastal trunk road which Abal had the honour of launching on Saturday.

Abal, who was heartened by the warm welcome accorded him by Bougainville, said the presentation demonstrated the national government's commitment to implement most of its project this year.

"Bougainville, we love you, the rest of PNG loves you, this is a token of the government's desire to make amends. Sorry for the past that has happened but there is that decision to move forward to a brighter future," he said.

Abal appealed to the people to stand together and take ownership of the impact projects underway for the betterment of the autonomous region.

"Having come here and seen the development changes that have taken place, I agree that you are a resilient people, with vision to rebuild your own region without waiting for assistance. I ask you to continue to work together to build a bright future for yourselves."

Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso said he hoped the Kokopau to Arawa road project would be completed before 2015 so that the people could travel in comfort to polling venues to vote for either a referendum of independence or continued autonomy for the Bougainville.

"Bougainville will remain an integral part of PNG until our people decide for independence or continued autonomy. We are not lazy people, we are industrious people keen on contributing to regional and nation building," he said.

Bougainville President John Momis acknowledged the national government support demonstrated through Abal, adding that he was confident the people of Bougainville would become prosperous.

"We have a dream where we will enjoy freedom, good health and education and work with the people of PNG to build this nation, the future looks bright," he said.

23.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



The two leaders cutting the ribbon for the Road Sealing Project.

ACTING PM DELIVERS CHEQUES

By Aloysius Laukai

PNG acting Prime minister Sam Abal on Saturday presented K3 million worth of cheques to the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso for the upgrading and sealing of roads in Bougainville.

The cheques comprise K2 million for the Buka ring road and K1 million for the 20 km Kokopau to Siara road on mainland Bougainville.

In March this year the Finance and Treasury minister Peter O'Neil announced a K20 million assistance to Bougainville during the Opening of the Buka Town market.

He appealed to the people of Bougainville to stand together and take ownership of the impact projects underway for the betterment of the autonomous region.

The Regional member for Bougainville, FIDELIS SEMOSO whilst thanking the National Government for the assistance assured the Acting Prime Minister that Bougainville will remain an integral part of PNG until our people decide for independence or continued autonomy.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) President John Momis in acknowledging the PNG government's support said that he was confident that the people of Bougainville will get out of this dependency syndrome and become prosperous.

He said that Bougainville's dream was to enjoy freedom, good health and education whilst working with the people of Papua New Guinea.

MR. MOMIS said that Bougainville will continue to rely on the PNG Government for funding support until some level of economic recovery is reached.



Ladies from a Traditional Group in Haku were part of the group that welcomed the National Government Delegation in Buka today
Aloysius Laukai



Picture of the Kumul Aircraft arriving at the Buka airport
AL

21.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Acting PM in Buka

by Aloysius Laukai

The Acting Prime Minister SAM ABAL is in Buka tonight and would be visiting Arawa in the morning before he returns to Port Moresby tomorrow morning.

He came for the Ground Breaking ceremony for the Sealing of the Kokopau to Arawa Highway.

The ceremony was witnessed by both the ABG and National Government leaders.



Pictured are the Bougainville Police Service and Traditional groups waiting for the Acting PM at the Buka airport this morning
 Pictures by Aloysius Laukai

20.05.2011

Source: The National

Firms visit Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A 20-man delegation from the Australia-PNG Business Council returned to Port Moresby yesterday open minded about the potential to invest in Bougainville.

They met with members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the business community in Buka, Bougainville.

Led by council chairman and Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper Ltd manager Peter Taylor, the team spent yesterday learning from and exchanging views with the Bougainville government and business representatives on what the opportunities of doing business in the autonomous region are.

Taylor, who was teary-eyed when he stepped on Bougainville soil for the first time since 1987, said he was honoured to be back at the invitation of Bougainville president John Momis.

"Not in my wildest dream had I imagined I would be coming back and leading a business delegation to Bougainville.

"This is the first time APNGBC has sent a delegation to Bougainville and to other parts. We have set a precedent," he said.

Taylor said it was wonderful to hear ABG leaders and local business community reiterate Momis' invitation that Bougainville "is open for business".

"This is the 'A' team that has come to Bougainville. Look at who they represent, we have

two global bank representing retail and investment banking, we have exploration company reps, tourism, and trade and investment representatives of the Australian government.

"This is an important delegation thankfully here today for the betterment of Bougainville," Taylor said.

Thanking the delegation, Momis said the presence of APNGBC on Bougainville affirmed the investment potential the region had.

He urged the people of Bougainville to do their bit by moving forward to attract good foreign investment with management capabilities and financial capital.

"APNGBC cannot do much for us if we do not sort ourselves out.

"Bougainville does not dictate business in the world yet it is endowed with natural resources but is opting to remain as beggars.

"Let us not be like a beggar, begging for food holding a gold plate.

"Knowledge, we may not have yet, let us build our intellect, forget the past and move forward to embrace a bright economic future," Momis said.

20.05.2011

Source: The National

Morumbi wants to set up in Bougainville

MORUMBI Oil & Gas Incorporated has announced that further to its acquisition of Rockwell Exploration SA, it is preparing for an exploration programme in Papua New Guinea and establishing operations on Bougainville.

Morumbi, through Rockwell, will focus on oil and gas opportunities in what it considers to be an underexplored and underdeveloped hydrocarbon rich country.

PNG is poised to become a major liquefied natural gas supplier to nearby Asian markets with first deliveries set for 2014.

ExxonMobil, on behalf of a consortium, is constructing a US\$15 billion liquefied gas project of two "trains" to supply 6.9 million tonnes a year under contract to Japan, China and South Korea.

Gas reserves of 13 tcf in the PNG Highlands were identified 20 years ago and had until now been shut in.

There has been little exploration for gas in PNG since that time.

Favourable PNG fiscal policies, potential size and quality of resource, location and the demand loads required for LNG post- earthquake Japan is driving PNG activity.

20.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia Pacific Beat

Local voice needed in Bougainville mine talks - Namaliu

A former PNG prime minister, Sir Rabbie Namaliu says he accepted a directorship on the board of Bougainville Copper Limited because it's important that the company has a local voice on its highest decision-making body.

Sir Rabbie was appointed a director earlier this year as it became clear that talks for the reopening of the troubled mine are set to begin.

He was PNG's prime minister during the first 4 years of the decade long civil war on Bougainville.

In 1997, Sir Rabbie played a mediating role between then Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and the head of the PNG Defence Force, Jerry Singirok, after Sir Julius sent mercenaries to Bougainville in what became known as the Sandline affair.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Sir Rabbie Namaliu, Bougainville Copper Limited board member and former PNG prime minister

Listen here !

20.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lawyer Comments

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville senior lawyer says that the decision to spend K100 million to build the ABG Parliament house is not in the best interest of Bougainville today.

This follows the decision of the Regional Member for Bougainville, Fidelis Semoso to engage the National Coordination For Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) based in Port Moresby to coordinate the work.

The Regional Member has stated that the decision to build the Parliament House in Buka was initiated by the previous government and that even if the ABG Headquarters is relocated to Arawa, the building will serve its purpose as a Regional Assembly for North Bougainville.

Lawyer Joel Minsipi Nawa says that this decision initiated by the Regional Member undermines the sovereignty of Bougainville Autonomous Government and is not in the best interest of the people of Bougainville at this point in time and does not serve the implementation of the three constitutional pillars of weapons disposal, autonomy and referendum.

He says that the Autonomous Government of Bougainville (ABG) is a sovereign and semi independent State unlike any other province in PNG.

In exercising its independence the ABG has full control over how it will spend any money available to it given by the PNG Government.

The ABG is at no obligation to comply with directives from the National Government of how it will spend the money.

Lawyer Minsipi said that the current K100 million offered by the PNG government to ABG is part of the K500 million given to Bougainville to assist Bougainville recover economically.

He said that the money as discussed during the JSB Meeting in Port Moresby was to be used by Bougainville to assist Bougainville budget where there is a short fall and is not a tied grant.

The Regional Member of Bougainville is a member of the PNG National Parliament and not the ABG and as such must respect the semi independence and sovereignty of the ABG and must not dictate decisions as a member of the National Parliament on how the money will be spent.

20.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FUNDS NOT ENOUGH

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainvillean Lawyer says that the priority of the ABG at this time should be economic, recovery process.

He said that the question of what is to be in the best interest of Bougainville refers to disposal of weapons and Law and Order, empowering Bougainvilleans to get into Agricultural and cash economy, free education for all Bougainville and from Primary to University level.

It does not make any differences on whether ABG's decisions made under the new Parliament Building built from the K100 million, in Buka will be more important to decisions made by ABG under the old ABG building.

You can still make best decisions when discussing under bush material houses than when discussing under expensive buildings.

MR. Nawa said that we must not forget that even the K500 million kina offered by the National Government to help rebuild Bougainville over the next five years is insufficient for Bougainville's recovery.

He said that the Regional member must refrain from dictating the spending of the K100million available to Bougainville and immediately let ABG decide on how the money will be spent.

He said that the ABG has an obligation to use the money to facilitate the implementation of weapons disposal, autonomy and referendum.

MR. NAWA said that the Regional Member has an obligation to facilitate the accessing of the K100million from the National Government and to hand it to the Momis Government to decide how to spend the money.

There must be close partnership and consultation between Mr. Momis and the Regional Member to access the funds and to spend it on priority areas that serve the urgent needs of ordinary Bougainvilleans today.

He said that the building of the Parliament House in Buka can take place in four years time and not at this point in time when Bougainville needs to spend the money on priority areas.

He further stated that the coordination of the building of the Parliament House in Buka from the National Coordination for Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) based in Waigani looks suspicious and needs to be investigated. Coordination for the building should be the responsibility of the ABG in Buka.

20.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis urges Bougainvillians to move forward

By AL

ABG president John Momis has thanked the twenty member delegation of the Australian PNG Business Council for personally committing their funds and time to visiting Bougainville yesterday.

He said the APNGBC presence on Bougainville affirmed the investment potential the region had.

Momis urged the people of Bougainville to do their bit by moving forward to attract good foreign investment with management capabilities and financial capital.

He told Bougainville leaders meeting with the APNGBC team yesterday that the business council cannot do much for Bougainville if the people of the region do not sort themselves out.

He said Bougainville does not dictate business in the world, yet it is endowed with natural

resources but it is opting to remain as beggars.

Momis urged the Bougainvilleans not to be like a beggar, begging for food holding a gold plate.

He inspired the leaders to focus on building the region's intellect, and to forget the past and move forward to embrace a bright economic future.

20.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

APNGBC visit a success

By AL

Members of the Australia-PNG Business Council (APNGBC) returned to Port Moresby today satisfied at the potential to invest in Bougainville after having met with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the business community leaders yesterday in Buka.

Led by chairman of APNGBC Peter Taylor, the team spent yesterday learning from and exchanging views with the Bougainville government and business representatives on what the opportunities are of doing business in the autonomous region.

Taylor, who was emotional when he stepped on Bougainville soil for the first time since 1987, said he was very honoured to be back in Bougainville upon the invitation of ABG president John Momis.

He said he had not imagined that he would be returning to Bougainville leading a business delegation.

He added that APNGBC had set a precedent by sending a team for the first time to Bougainville or any other province in PNG.

Taylor said it was wonderful to hear the ABG leaders and the local business community repeat Momis' invitation that Bougainville is open for business.

Taylor was accompanied by 19 other members who he described as the 'A' team as they fairly represented Australian investors in banking, mining, tourism, trade and industry and exploration.

He added that the visiting delegates were very important for the betterment of Bougainville.

20.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

North Bougainville polling ends

By AL

Polling for the North Bougainville by-election will end tomorrow except for the Selau constituency which ended today.

This is because polling began in the Selau constituency on May 14 whereas the remaining 13 constituencies throughout North Bougainville began on May 16.

According to polling officers, ballot boxes from the 55 polling teams dispatched to the 14 constituencies will be stored at the Buka police station immediately after polling ends at 6 pm tomorrow to await counting on Monday.

Counting will be at the United Church building in Buka town which polling officers said may be inconvenient for counting officials as the venue is very near to retail beer outlets that often attract a large number of noisy drunkards to the area.

The polling officers said initial arrangements to host counting at the traditional venue for counting at Hutjena High school hall, was not successful as renovations to the building is

still ongoing.

Bougainville Police Service Provincial Police Commander CLETUS TSIEN said he was not in a position to provide a security report as he has yet to receive updates from his officers attached to the polling teams.

He however said from observation, polling was very peaceful and well organized despite a few of the officer being turned away from polling venues because their names were not on the updated common roll.

Attempts to find out more about the common roll was not successful as Bougainville Electoral Commissioner Reitama Taravaru departed Buka yesterday for Fead Island to oversee polling there.

19.05.2011

Source: The Australian

Bougainville President backs Panguna mine



by Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific editor

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has given his strongest support yet for the reopening of the copper mine there, which is expected to cost more than \$3 billion but provide access to reserves worth about \$50bn.

"In principle, the autonomous Bougainville government supports reopening Panguna," he told members of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Council, meeting in Madang, PNG, this week.

The mine at Panguna is owned by Bougainville Copper, which remains listed on the ASX, although it produced its last ore in 1988 at the start of a long and bloody civil war.

Rio Tinto owns 53.58 per cent, the Papua New Guinea government 19.06 per cent and other shareholders 27.36 per cent.

BCL executive chairman Peter Taylor said the company was taking a different approach, urging the landowners and the Bougainville government to take the lead in setting the agenda for reopening plans.

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"We need to do a better job of sharing the benefits of the project with the landowners and the government," he said. "I believe they need to have participation in the project so the fortunes of the mine are also their fortunes."

The Bougainville copper agreement would have to be renegotiated, he said. "The consensus is now firmly in favour of BCL being the preferred operator of the mine if it restarts. We are now opening a new chapter for Bougainville Copper."

Mr Momis, a veteran national politician and former Catholic priest, said his government "sees re-opening Panguna as the most realistic way of contributing to broad-based economic growth, and generating the revenues required (for the government) to meet the need of our people."

But such a move required broad-based support, he said.

The timetable was tight, he added, since a referendum on independence -- conceded by PNG among the terms for peace on Bougainville -- must be held between 2015-2020.

Early revenues were required, he said, so that the current autonomy arrangements were perceived as "delivering real benefits to our people". "In that way, when the referendum is held, Bougainvilleans will have a real choice -- between the actual benefits of autonomy, and the possibilities of independence."

The copper price has quadrupled since the mine closed, and the gold price -- the pit contains 12.7 million ounces of gold -- is up seven times. It is expected that Port Moresby and the Bougainville government will discuss the PNG government's equity, which Bougainville interests believe should be shared, or transferred.

19.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Former PNG PM justifies joining Bougainville Copper

Jemima Garrett

A former prime minister of Papua New Guinea says he accepted a directorship on the board of Bougainville Copper because it's important the company has a PNG voice.

Sir Rabbie Namaliu was appointed to the board earlier this year as it became clear that talks on the reopening of the Panguna mine are set to begin.

The mine was closed in 1989 after it had sparked a decade-long civil war on the island.

Sir Rabbie, who led PNG from 1988 to 1992, says he thought long and hard before accepting the directorship and consulted widely on the matter.

He says he took on the post because Bougainville needs all the help it can get to restore services in the lead up to a referendum on independence.

19.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Referendum under threat: Chamber

BOUGAINVILLE faces a threat of not meeting the requirements of referendum and independence if its administration fails to handle issues at hand seriously.

And Bougainville's second crisis will be the brains -- the incompetence of people and their capacity to manage the affairs and issues seriously and administratively.

These issues include the bills they owe the business houses for services rendered many years ago, the weapons disposal program, the Asian businesses in Bougainville and the incompetence of the engine room (the administration) to address issues at hand -the referendum and independence -seriously.

Bougainville's Chamber of Commerce (BCC) has accused the ABG Administration for not taking referendum and independence seriously because of these issues not solved.

BCC executive Thomas Rabanz said yesterday that the Administration "does not know where their priorities are and they do not know how to set priorities!"

"Momis, as a leader, should not be blamed for this if there is any failure. His implementers are the ones. Evidence of lack of total negligence is based on not paying attention to the service rendered.

"The 2004 NEC approved list is still not yet settled. It's not Momis' job to administer this and sort this out, it is the administration's job. Business leaders have passed away with pressure from this and I pay tribute to the late JOMIK boss and Mr Cletus Harepa. Also, the weapons disposal should not prolong the issue of independence or referendum.

"It is the duty of the administration to find a solution. Does the administration know where to go?" he said.

19.05.2011

Source: Australia Mining

Bougainville Copper to reopen PNG mine

By Jessica Burke

The Panguna copper mine on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville could reopen within five years.

The operators of the mine, Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper has learnt from past mistakes and will take a new approach to running the mine, according to chairman Peter Taylor.

Taylor made the comments at the recent Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum. In April it was reported that the company was considering reopening the controversial mine.

The mine was closed due to the civil war two decades ago and Taylor said the company wants landowners and Bougainville's autonomous government to have involvement in the planning and profits from the operation.

He has outlined a timeframe of three to five years for the mine to reopen, but cautioned that despite the progress in the country, there will still be issues to deal with.

The company hopes to get talks on the Bougainville Copper Agreement underway this year.

Australian Greens Leader Bob Brown has given his opinion on Australian companies operating in PNG, saying they should have to operate under the same environmental standards abroad as they do locally.

He told Pacific Beat the responsibility lies with the PN government to outline the rules and restrictions on Australian companies operating there.

"We should have a requirement that Australian corporations acting overseas - whether it's in PNG or Bolivia - act according to Australian standards," he said.

"We require that as citizens, and we should require it of mining corporations.

"Secondly, Australian companies need to be much more open about the environmental standards that they are agreeing to in PNG, about the exchange of moneys that occurs in the political arena in PNG.

"There is concern that you can negotiate mining licenses in PNG if you have enough money."

Brown believes the concerns of local landowners in the country are being overlooked.

"[There's] a lot of concern by landowners that they just don't have a say - that they're being sidelined by the powerful connections between Australian mining companies and the governments of the day in PNG.

19.05.2011

Source: 24H dans le PACIFIQUE

Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée: réouverture de la mine de Panguna d'ici 2016- La filiale de Rio Tinto, Bougainville Copper, espère rouvrir sa mine de cuivre à Panguna, sur l'île de Bougainville, d'ici trois à cinq ans. La mine, l'une des plus grandes du monde, a dû fermer ses portes il y a 20 ans à cause de la guerre civile. Peter Taylor, le PDG de Bougainville Copper, a déclaré que la compagnie ne refera pas les mêmes erreurs et entend bien associer plus étroitement les propriétaires coutumiers ainsi que le gouvernement autonome de Bougainville à la gestion de la mine.

19.05.2011

Source: The National

Taylor eyes BCL return in five years

THE Rio Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), says it hopes to reopen the Panguna copper mine on Bougainville within five years.

Bougainville Copper chairman Peter Taylor made this known to investors at the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum in Madang, Radio Australia reported yesterday. Speaking in PNG for the first time since the bloody civil war in 1989 shut down the mine, he said BCL had learnt from past mistakes and was ready to take a new approach to talks aimed at reopening the mine.

Taylor said he wanted landowners and the government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to set the agenda and take equity in the project.

According to Radio Australia, he set a three to five-year timeframe for the reopening but acknowledged that despite good progress on reconciliation there were still many hurdles to cross.

He told the forum that he hoped talks on the Bougainville copper agreement would start this year.

Taylor is due to visit Bougainville today at the invitation of Bougainville president John Momis.

It will be his first visit since the Panguna copper mine was shut down.

Radio Australia said Taylor would be part of a delegation of the business leaders meeting in Madang to visit the island in what was seen as part of a strategy by Momis to attract new investment.

The president said that the Bougainville peace process was well established and the island was open for business.

Momis said he would like to attract smart responsible investors who would create jobs and improve life for rural people in the lead up to a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea.

Radio Australia reported that 90% of Bougainvilleans live in rural areas and Momis said it was essential that any new investment included them.

19.05.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville getting ready for arms summit

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is finalising plans to host a Bougainville arms summit in Buka town next week.

"The aim of the summit is to gauge the views of all stakeholders and how best the people and leaders of the region can work together to dispose of weapons and put an end to criminal activities using guns in south Bougainville," Bougainville President John Momis said yesterday.

He said he was calling a summit of the widest range of leaders of communities in north, central and south Bougainville.

"I have some contact with most of the leaders of the groups.

"Most understand the problems and agree on the need for change but some leaders have difficulty controlling young men associated with their groups.

"I want the leaders to contribute to discussions of possible solutions that will work," Momis said.

Momis, who returns to Buka today after attending the PNG-Australia Business Forum in Madang, said weapons disposal was a priority for his government and the summit was a means of uniting the people of Bougainville in addressing this cause.

The summit will provide the opportunity for ABG to seek the people's views on a proposed plan of 10 principles for a new approach to weapons disposal on Bougainville.

19.05.2011

Source: The National

UN hears Bougainville human rights case

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

WOMEN are the silent and forgotten victims in places of recent wars and ongoing post-conflict environments.

Such environments include Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Fiji, the United Nations Human Rights Council has been told.

Human Rights defender and member of the Haku Women's Council in Bougainville, Marilyn Havini, said this at a Pacific side event for civil society input to the UNHRC in Geneva.

The UNHRC convened from May 2-11 for a universal periodic review of four Pacific nations – Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Papua New Guinea where the Bougainville case was presented.

"The Pacific side event was a space for non-governmental stakeholders to present important and current information to nations and organisations on the human rights situation in their countries and to highlight critical recommendations to be implemented as a follow up to the universal review," Havini said.

She said Bougainville's human rights issues highlighted at the event included:

- * Lack of investigative and prosecution capacity in the island nation's justice systems;
- * A need to identify the many victims of rape during war who suffer without counselling, medical assistance and justice mechanisms;

- * The existence of guns in post-conflict communities and their "hidden" threat is an ongoing source of fear and intimidation to civil society; and

- * The need for forensic recovery of dead relatives lying in mass graves that prevent development in major public spaces. The recovery of the dead would help in the grieving process to heal mental stress and ease suffering.

Havini said eight recommendations were made and now needed the government implementation before the UNHRC reviewed the Pacific nations in four years.

These recommendations include:

- * Women human rights defenders of the Pacific and civil society ask UN and regional peacekeeping country stakeholders to help each Pacific nation's weapons disposal programmes and to institute mandatory trauma counselling for all former combatants;

- * Request UN help for Pacific governments in conflict and post-conflict nations to establish human rights commissions and transitional justice mechanisms that will address and redress the war crimes that were committed; and
- * Request expertise from UN or referred agencies that can provide forensic teams to help the people in recovering bodies from mass graves and known sites where bodies had been dumped during war and conflict.

On her return to Bougainville yesterday, Havini said the recommendations and suggestions on how the autonomous region could implement these would be presented to key non-governmental organisations and government stakeholders.

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Business Delegation Arrive

By Aloysius Laukai

The Australia and PNG Business Council delegation arrived in Buka this morning for a one-day visit to the Autonomous Bougainville Region.

The 20 member delegation was led by the PETER TAYLOR the chairman of RIO TINTO owned Bougainville Copper Limited and a Bougainvillean Paul Nerau who is the PNG Business Representative based in Brisbane, Australia.

According to the program, the delegation will meet the ABG President at 0930hrs this morning and then meet the ABG Mining Minister, MICHAEL ONI at 1030am before meeting the Bougainville Business Association.

The group leaves Buka for Port Moresby tomorrow morning.

The group were welcomed by a traditional welcome ritual of washing feet and were also welcomed by the Acting President, PATRICK NISIRA at the Buka airport.



Pictured in Buka are from (left to right) ABG Vice President Patrick Nisira, Peter Taylor, ABG President Chief John Momis, Paul Coleman and Paul Nerau

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis Invites

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis told investors attending the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum in Madang that the peace process on Bougainville is well established and the island is open for business.

Mr Momis said he is keen to attract smart responsible investors who will create jobs and improve life for rural people in the lead up to a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea.

As such, the president will be arriving in Buka tomorrow with a 20 head delegation who are members of the Australia and PNG Business Council.

The invitation is part of a strategy by Bougainville's President John Momis to attract new investment into Bougainville.

The Chairman of Bougainville Copper will be part of a delegation of business leaders to visit the island tomorrow.



Pictured is the 20 members of the Australian and PNG Business Council arriving in Buka this morning.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COEs request parliamentary training

By Aloysius Laukai

Council of Elders or COEs in North Nasioi have requested that the Parliamentary Education Awareness program be conducted in the COE areas including Panguna District.

Chairman of the chairman's central regional COE combine conference LINUS DAKE said the request is based on a need for COEs to understand the roles and functions of the ABG parliament and the ABG members.

The COE areas include Kokoda, South Nasioi, North Nasioi, Ami Aming, Kongara One and Ioro one and two in Central and South Bougainville.

Mr DAKE said these COE areas were not visited when the parliamentary awareness team visited South and Central Bougainville early this year.

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

K100 million portion to build ABG office complex

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville house of representatives office complex to be built at Kubu on Buka Island will receive funding from the K100 million special funding for Bougainville. The K100 million is the first of the total package of K500 million for the next five years that the PNG government had committed to granting to ABG for the restoration and development of Bougainville.

ABG speaker honorable ANDREW MIRIKI and vice president PATRICK NISIRA were informed this upon their arrival in Buka on Friday by the regional member and national minister for Bougainville Affairs FIDELIS SEMOSO.

Mr SEMOSO also confirmed that he had received the building design from Mr MIRIKI and had engaged the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs or NCOBA, to implement his political directive.

Mr. SEMOSO said the building will still serve its purpose in North Bougainville when ABG decides to relocate its headquarters to Arawa.

He added that the construction of the ABG office complex is in line with the previous government's decision to build a regional building in Buka that would be used by the ABG parliament.

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG on proposed plan of weapons disposal

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG president John Momis said yesterday that he is calling a summit of the widest range of leaders of communities in North, Central and South Bougainville.

This is to address the issue of weapons disposal and the current use of guns to terrorize civilians especially in parts of South Bougainville.

The Bougainville arms summit planned for next week in Buka town will gauge the views of stakeholders on how best the issue of weapons disposal can be addressed.

Momis, who returns to Buka tomorrow after attending the Australia and PNG Business Council meet in Madang said weapons disposal is a priority for ABG and the summit was a means to uniting the people of Bougainville in addressing this cause.

The summit would also provide the opportunity for ABG to seek the public's views on a proposed plan of ten principles for a new approach to weapons disposal in Bougainville. Early this month, ABG had circulated a draft of the ten principles to stakeholders, inviting feedback of these principles which would then be finalized and submitted to the Bougainville cabinet for approval.

The ten principles proposed included;

- Disposal plans must provide incentives, pressures and processes that respond to the different reasons why groups and individuals hold weapons,
- Disposal plans must include a process for actual disposal of the weapons that is accountable and transparent and
- Disposal plans may need to be linked to reconciliation programs that support weapons disposal.

Momis assured that upon feedback from stakeholders, he would re-consider the principles before submitting them to the Bougainville Cabinet.

He added that once the principles have been approved by cabinet, he would task his ministers to develop a realistic and workable plan for weapons disposal for Bougainville.

19.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Warders focus on prisoner rehabilitation

By Aloysius Laukai

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) minister for Law and Justice honourable LEO HANNET on Monday stressed to 25 new recruits of casual warders under training at Hutjena on the importance of rehabilitating a prisoner.

He said rehabilitation should be the objective of the exercise of putting wrongdoers through correctional facilities.

He urged that when a prisoner walks out of a correctional facility, ideally he or she should walk out ready for a new life.

Mr HANNET added that as part of the rehabilitation, prisoners should be allowed to learn a trade, be it carpentry, plumbing, electrical or mechanical.

He said the prisoners should be allowed to do their primary, secondary or tertiary education while serving time in a correctional facility.

Mr HANNET advised that this is already happening in other countries and Bougainville could do well to follow.

18.05.2011

Source: gCaptain report

USNS John Ericsson crew rescues five near Solomon Islands

By gCaptain Staff

Civil service mariners aboard Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS John Ericsson rescued five people lost at sea in a small boat near the Solomon Islands May 18.

While conducting routine operations in the Solomon Sea May 17, Ericsson received notification from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers in Australia and Papua New Guinea at about 11 p.m. to be on the lookout for a missing commercial vessel.

At about 8 a.m. local time the following morning, Ordinary Seaman Tyrone Mouzon spotted a small commercial vessel with five individuals aboard waving frantically.

Mouzon notified the watch officer, Third Mate Timothy Gervais, who alerted Ericsson's civil service master, Capt. Richard Kirk. Kirk immediately ordered the ship to sail towards the small craft to render assistance.

"Visibility at the time was very limited by rain squalls so it was very fortunate that the mate on watch spotted these commercial sailors," said Kirk.

Ericsson carefully inched close to the boat and the ship's crew secured lines to the small craft. Safely secured alongside, Ericsson brought the commercial sailors on board where they received a medical examination as well as food and water.



USNS John Ericson

“The sailors were tired and dehydrated but they appeared to be in good condition,” said Kirk.

According to Kirk, the five Solomon natives said they were transiting between the Solomons’ Nissian and Bougainville islands when they became disoriented by bad weather and heavy seas, spending two nights and three days lost more than 35 miles out to sea.

“They had no food and water remaining,” said Kirk.

Ericsson’s crew was also able to salvage the small boat by placing a large net underneath the vessel, lifting it out of the water using the ship’s crane, and securing the boat to the side of the ship for transport. Ericsson then made the short transit to nearby Bougainville Island where the five commercial sailors, along with their vessel, were repatriated ashore.

Ericsson is one of MSC’s 15 fleet replenishment oilers that deliver aviation and diesel fuel to U.S. Navy ships at sea. Ericsson was in the region supporting U.S. Navy ships involved in Pacific Partnership 2011, a humanitarian and civic assistance mission in the South Pacific.

18.05.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Careful: Conmen ahead!

A doubtful small US-Canadian Company tries to get into Bougainville by spreading bold lies:

Morumbi/Rockwell <http://www.morumbi.ca/> has published today in the DIGITAL JOURNAL a press release pretending to "Be First Mover Into Bougainville" <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/312118#ixzz1MhYQTUzS> .

The ESBC judge such information as complete nonsense: "Obviously such releases are only prepared to mislead investors and to create uncertainty on the ground in Bougainville. The ESBC states that no stakeholder in the world class Panguna mine intends to cooperate or even to negotiate with allegedly fraudulent companies. This is not the first time and it will not be the last time that dubious companies will try to participate in the up-coming boom in Bougainville," says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm.

[Read more about Morumbi/Rockwell here:](#)

18.05.2011

Source: DIGITAL JOURNAL / Morumbi Press Release

Press Release

Morumbi to Start Exploration in Papua New Guinea Following the Acquisition of Rockwell Exploration S.A.

- Rockwell Subsidiary to Explore and Develop Hydrocarbon and Mineral Resources in PNG - Rockwell to Be First Mover Into Bougainville

CALGARY, ALBERTA--(Marketwire - May 18, 2011) - Morumbi Oil & Gas Inc. (TSX VENTURE:MOC) ("Morumbi" or the "Company") announces that further to its acquisition of Rockwell Exploration S.A. ("Rockwell") (see Press Release March 25, 2011) it is preparing an exploration program in Papua New Guinea ("PNG") and establishing operations on Bougainville (an autonomous region of PNG).
PNG - LNG supplier to Asia .

Morumbi, through Rockwell, is focusing its review on oil and gas opportunities in what is still considered to be an underexplored and underdeveloped hydrocarbon rich country. PNG is poised to become a major liquefied natural gas ("LNG") supplier to nearby Asian markets with first deliveries set for 2014. Exxon Mobil, on behalf of a consortium, is constructing a \$15 billion liquefied gas project of two "trains" to supply 6.9 million tons a year under contract to Japan, China and South Korea. Gas reserves of 13 tcf in the PNG Highlands were identified 20 years ago and have until now been shut in.

There has been little exploration for gas in PNG since that time. Favourable PNG fiscal policies, potential size and quality of resource, location and the demand loads required for LNG post- earthquake Japan is driving PNG activity. Exxon, its partners and others are now exploring for additional reserves to supply a proposed third LNG train.

Mineral Resources - EL 1767

Upon completion of the acquisition of Rockwell, Morumbi also acquired two mineral claims whose potential it is evaluating. In order to do so, Morumbi is assembling a technical operations team to carry out an exploration program on one of the claims, being EL 1767, a 34,100 ha mineral Exploration Licence on the North Slope of the Owen Stanley Range in Popondetta, PNG. The exploration program for EL 1767 is designed to build on prior work completed by Rockwell in 2008 including mapping, stream sediment sampling, ridge soil sampling and trench sampling. Although the prior program covered less than 10% of the concession, it identified two gold/copper prospects (Uko and Aime Creek). The current program is designed to identify potential porphyry targets for

airborne magnetics, a 3D-IP survey and drill targets. This programme is expected to start in July. Of note, on two boundaries in surrounding licences intense advanced exploration activity is underway targeting large scale (greater than 2 million ounces gold equivalent) gold and / or copper resources.

PNG is noted for superior mineral geological prospectivity with several established world class gold and gold-copper deposits. Among the best examples along these prospective Neogene magmatic belts are the giant Grasberg Cu-Au porphyry-skarn district (204.67 Moz Au and 64.7 billion lbs Cu), OK Tedi (15.57 Moz Au and 46.3 billion lbs Cu), Porgera (24.53 Moz Au) and Lihir (46.1 Moz Au). Harmony Gold of South Africa recently announced the discovery of a 35 million ounce equivalent gold/copper/silver resource at Wafi-Golpu on the North side of the Owen Stanley range.

Bougainville:

Morumbi is pleased to announce that it is moving aggressively to partner with landowners in Bougainville.

The island is one of the world's best endowed gold and copper districts and has excellent potential for the discovery of additional world class gold-copper deposits. It is host to the Panguna Mine which has in excess of 33 million ounces of gold equivalent resources (See Bougainville Copper Limited Press Release dated 11 February 2009). Despite the significant potential for resource exploitation in a region with a zero-based economy, Bougainville has been under an exploration moratorium since 1974 in the immediate area surrounding Panguna and over the rest of the Island since 1963.

Panguna which opened in 1972 was forcibly closed by a landowner uprising in 1989 leading to a civil war between Bougainville and PNG. The current metals super-cycle is driving political momentum towards lifting the moratorium and the resumption for full scale mineral exploration and development on the 10,000 sq km island.

Rockwell has unique relationships and an established presence on Bougainville and is at the forefront to be a leading participant in the eventual resumption of mining exploration on Bougainville.

If a target is identified through this process, completion of the acquisition could represent a Change of Business under the TSX Venture Exchange policies. As a result, any such transaction would be subject to a number of conditions, including TSX Venture Exchange acceptance and if required shareholder approval.

About Morumbi

Morumbi Oil & Gas Inc. is a public company with attractive near-term light oil exploitation opportunities in northwest Alberta, and, through its recent acquisition of Rockwell, it is actively undertaking programs to develop existing assets and conducting activities to acquire additional high impact Oil/Gas and Mineral assets. The Company trades on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol "MOC". For more information about Morumbi and the Company's McKinley Property and plans visit our website at www.morumbi.ca.

Disclaimer

Certain statements contained in this news release may contain forward-looking information within the meaning of Canadian securities laws. Such forward-looking information is identified by words such as "estimates", "intends", "expects", "believes", "may", "will" and include, without limitation, statements regarding the company's plan of business operations (including plans for developing assets) and projected expenditures. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate; actual results and future events could differ materially from such statements. Factors that could cause

actual results to differ materially include, among others, commodity prices, risks inherent in the oil & gas industry, financing risks, labour risks, title disputes, regulatory risks, currency fluctuations, competition, unexpected decline rates in wells, changes in taxation or royalty regimes and environmental concerns. Most of these factors are outside the control of the company. Investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking information. Except as otherwise required by applicable securities statutes or regulation, the company expressly disclaims any intent or obligation to update publicly forward looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/312118#ixzz1MhhXbmUd>

18.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Australian Greens concerned at mining influence in PNG

The leader of the Australian Greens Party wants Australian mining companies in Papua New Guinea to follow Australian environmental standards.

Senator Bob Brown was in PNG two weeks ago, and he says he's concerned about the growing influence of Australian mining firms in the country's political system.

He says its important that the benefits from mining need to go to the people rather than already wealthy corporations.

Senator Brown says he'd like to see the Australian government take action to make sure companies follow the same rules overseas that they do at home.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Senator Bob Brown, Australian Greens Party leader

Listen here!

18.05.2011

Source: Australia Network News

Copper mine to reopen on Bougainville

by Jemima Garrett

The Rio-Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper, says it hopes to reopen the Panguna copper mine on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville within five years.

Bougainville Copper Chairman, Peter Taylor, spoke to investors at the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum for the first time since a civil war closed the mine 20 years ago.

Mr Taylor said his company had learnt from past mistakes and is ready to take a new approach to talks aimed at reopening the mine.

He said he wants landowners and the autonomous government of Bougainville to set the agenda and take equity in the project.

Mr Taylor set a three to five-year timeframe for the reopening but acknowledged that despite good progress on reconciliation there are still many hurdles to cross.

He said he hopes talks on the Bougainville Copper Agreement will start this year.

18.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville mine may re-open by 2016 - BCL

Bougainville Copper - the Rio-Tinto subsidiary that owns the mine that sparked Bougainville's civil war - says it hopes to re-open its Panguna operation in 3-5 years time.

Chairman, Peter Taylor, told the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum in Madang that BCL is taking a very different approach this time round.

The comments come as a leading international banker warns PNG is slipping behind Africa in the race for the mining investment dollar.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Peter Taylor, chairman, Bougainville Copper Limited

Listen here !

18.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BCL 'ok for' Panguna

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government supports re-opening of the Panguna copper mine, but that can only be possible with the support of the landowners and the people of Bougainville.

This is the message from Bougainville president John Momis to the PNG Australian Business Forum in Madang.

And Bougainville Copper Limited agreed that they need to do a better job this time in addressing landowner concerns and sharing of benefits.

BCL chairman Peter Taylor said landowners and the ABG will take the lead this time around.

Mr Momis said concerns of the people in terms of benefits sharing, employment and business opportunities were central to the concerns of the people that resulted in terrible bloodshed and suffering.

"Against that background, the possible reopening of the Panguna mine has attracted a great deal of attention, and some controversy. Panguna remains a sensitive issue in Bougainville," he said.

"In principle, the ABG supports re-opening Panguna. We see that as the most realistic way of contributing to broad-based economic growth, and generating the ABG revenues required to meet the needs of our people.

"It must also be emphasised that in planning for meeting those needs, we are working within a very tight timetable.

"The constitutionally guaranteed referendum on independence must be held within the five year period that begins just four years from now – no earlier than 2015 and no later

than 2020.

“As a result we need development and revenue as soon as possible, so that the ABG can work with the National Government and other partners to make the current autonomy arrangements work well.”

“We want autonomy to deliver real benefits to our people. In that way, when the referendum is held, Bougainvilleans will have a real choice – a choice between the actual benefits of autonomy and the possibilities of independence.

“But while the ABG sees potential benefits from re-opening Panguna, we also believe that a final decision can only be made if that is the will of the people. We need broad-based support for proceeding in that way.”

The BCL chairman who was yesterday elected as the president of Australia PNG Business Council told the forum that Panguna mine still had a large ore body capable of producing 50 million tonnes of ore a year for the next 20 years.

That works out to 450,000 ounces of gold and 170,000 tonnes of copper a year.

“So it has been an elephant, and it remains a pretty robust member of that species still. And it has other attributes that make it a continually attractive target,” Mr Taylor said.

“It’s not green field. We’ve been there for those 17 years of operation and waited another 20 years since, and there is not much we don’t know about our ore body, and our host community.”

“And there are seven adjacent exploration licence areas which offer the very tangible prospect of further significant discoveries. Once the long standing moratorium on exploration is lifted, I believe the circumstances in the Autonomous Bougainville Region will eventually see that constraint relaxed.”

“There is a very wide consensus on Bougainville today that peace and continuing good order will be best achieved by economic means. That the normal aspirations of the people for a good life and a fulfilling future for their children will be delivered by employment, training, regular income, infrastructure and business activity.”

“After a few false starts the consensus is now firmly in favour of BCL being the preferred operator of the mine at Panguna if it restarts, and that the mine and its associated activities will be the engine driving all those benefits.

We are now opening a new chapter for Bougainville Copper.”

18.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville fights cholera

BOUGAINVILLE’S hardworking cholera medical team have maintained the death statistics to only two deaths but more than 350 patients treated so far.

Despite working under pressure and with limited resources, workers are already complaining about allowances promised to them which they have not received for the past three weeks.

The Post-Courier visited the Lemanmanu medical command post over the weekend. The cholera ward was half full with nine patients still being treated, while three were already discharged and two new cases waiting to be tested and treated. Health Extension Officer in charge of the operation Silion Hamao did not comment on the complains raised by the staff of their allowances. HEO Hamao said the statistics of treated cases was increasing every week. He said in a week they have been treating up to 25 cases from all over the Haku area.

Nurses at the health centre said there was a need to have a separate cholera ward because normal patients could not be admitted at the health centre due to the shortage of beds and other equipment.

18.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Haku school in dire strait

BOUGAINVILLE'S newly established Haku High School is in dire need of financial assistance to operate.

The Haku Day High School was ABG education's positive establishment this year to serve the population of Haku area in the northern tip of Buka Island.

The school was an addition to secondary and high schools already operating in the region and an achievement to the people and the leaders of Bougainville. But school executive and brainchild behind the establishment Jan Tenevi, also the former member for Haku in the ABG told the Post-Courier yesterday that the school is in dire need of classrooms to cater for the students. The school has more than 106 grade nine intakes for this year, all from the Haku area.

The school urgently needs water tanks, a school truck to pick students, classrooms, school materials are scarce, books are a major need for the institution and they need more funds to run the school.

Mr Tenevi said the school was promised funding from the controversial K15 million the ABG sourced from the National Government, but so far none has been released and the only funding they received was the K25,000 left over from the survey done several years ago.

"Otherwise we are purely running the school on school fee funds but we need funding seriously.

The children are still having classes under the trees and outside the primary school classrooms.

The Post Courier paid a visit to the Haku Day High School in the northern tip of Buka Island where a new school was established and which opened its doors to the Haku Constituency this year.

For four months until last Friday, the students were having classes under the trees at the Tanamalo School, but this did not deter the teachers and students.

18.05.2011

Source: The National

'PNG the most undeveloped copper nation'

PAPUA New Guinea was described in a report as one of the most underdeveloped copper resource nation in the Asia-Pacific region having recently increased its production to 6.5 billion pounds of copper, 204 million pounds of molybdenum plus gold, silver and rhenium.

PNG is also centrally located with easy access to Asian markets as stated in the Australian investor presentation for the Marengo mine.

The Marengo copper-molybdenum is a global copper producer with its value underpinned by the world-scale Yandera mine in Madang.

Feasibility studies are well advanced with drilling expected to continue through out this year.

The company has a MoU in place with leading Chinese construction group, Standard Bank, appointed as financial adviser.

The report stated that the company had a strong investor base with key global and strategic clients.

The Yandera mine is strategically located with access to key Asian markets and would be operated by an experienced team with a strong focus on production.

Yandera mine is located 95km southwest of the provincial capital of Madang with 100% owned exploration license covering 1,900km².
The project covers more than 100km of the highly prospective Bundi fault zone with less than 5% of structural corridor drilled to date.

18.05.2011

Source: The National

BCL the preferred operator of re-opened Panguna mine

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Ltd (BCL) is seen as the preferred operator of the Panguna mine should it reopen, executive chairman Peter Taylor at the Australia-PNG Business Council summit in Madang, said yesterday.

He said BCL had undertaken an order of magnitude study, indicating that the resource in the mining lease at Panguna still contained a billion tonnes of payable ore which is subjected to copper and gold prices.

The study supported a planned rate of mining and processing of 50 million tonnes of ore per annum, producing about 450,000 ounces of gold and 170,000 tonnes of copper per year over a mine life up to 20 years.

Taylor explained that there were seven adjacent exploration licensed areas offering prospects of further discoveries.

He said the bad timing of the Panguna mine opening, on the eve of independence, meant that the landowners and the province were not consulted to any great degree, and with some resistance.

Taylor said all this would be different as BCL's approach now would be to encourage the landowners and the Bougainville government to take the lead in setting the agenda.

"We need to do a better job of sharing the benefits of the project with the landowners and the government. I believe they need to have participation in the project so the fortunes of the mine are also their fortunes," he said.

"Economic self-sufficiency is an important goal for Bougainville, particularly when its people are endeavouring to become autonomous within PNG, and also to address the question of independence, which requires revenue developed by major projects such as a re-opened Panguna."

Taylor pointed out that another crucial issue was the re-negotiation of the Bougainville copper agreement, document agreed in a different era with little recognition of benefit sharing.

"Without wishing to pre-empt the discussion process or its outcomes, I know that everyone in PNG today with an inkling of modern benefit sharing principles, would expect a range of things to be on the table, but they also need to be realistic about what is achievable," he said.

18.05.2011

Source: The National

Taylor is new president of PNG-Australia business council

BOUGAINVILLE Copper executive chairman Peter Taylor is the new president of the Australia-Papua New Guinea business council taking over from the national chairman of Gadens Lawyers, Ian Clarke.

Speaking after his election at the council meeting in Madang on Monday, Taylor said the commercial relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea had never been stronger.

"This is a time of great mutual opportunity, the two-way trade between Papua New Guinea and Australia is now well in excess of K10 billion annually.

"Australian investment in PNG is at a high point, with a significantly increased number of Australian companies investing in the development of resources across the country, and many Australian suppliers of products and technical services visiting PNG in numbers that have not been seen since the 1980s," he said.

Taylor said that at the same time, hundreds of PNG professionals in the mining sector had found jobs in Australia, and PNG producers of commodities were enjoying export gains due to high demand in the Australian market.

18.05.2011

Source: Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council

BCL Chairman Peter Taylor Is elected the New President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council

The Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council has a new President, at a time of unprecedented trade opportunities.

Bougainville Copper executive chairman Peter Taylor has succeeded Ian Clarke, national chairman of Gadens Lawyers, at the head of the peak body for business co-operation and dialogue between the two neighbouring nations.

Speaking after his election at the Council meeting in Madang today, Peter Taylor said the commercial relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea had never been stronger.

"This is a time of great mutual opportunity; the two way trade between Papua New Guinea and Australia is now well in excess of K10 billion annually.

"Australian investment in PNG is at a high point, with a significantly increased number of Australian companies investing in the development of resources across the country, and many Australian suppliers of products and technical services visiting PNG in numbers that have not been seen since the 1980's.

"At the same time, hundreds of PNG professionals in the mining and mineral processing sector have found well paid jobs in Australia, and PNG producers of commodities are enjoying export gains due to high demand in the Australian market.

"Australian companies are also listed on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange, and the strong turn out at the Madang business council conference speaks of the mutual interest Papua New Guineans and Australians have in each other's economic success.

"There is no doubt that Papua New Guinea is on the cusp of its next great resource development phase, with gas, gold and copper meeting strong international demand.

"The Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council is positioned to give PNG sound and friendly advice on ways to maximise the benefits of this boom in demand, and to help facilitate the continuing strong relationship that exists in trade, social exchange and political co-operation between the two nations.

"Australia's own best interests lie in a stable, prosperous and highly developed PNG.

"it is a privilege to be invited to serve a term as President of the Council, and I look forward to fruitful dialogue with all the key players in PNG's close and mutually beneficial relationship with the Australian business sector," Peter Taylor said.

18.05.2011

Source: ABG President John Momis

John Momis' Speech in Madang

[Please read here ABG President John Momis' speech on the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council !](#)

18.05.2011

Source: Peter Taylor, Chairman of Bougainville Copper Limited

Peter Taylor's Speech in Madang

[Please read here BCL Chairman Peter Taylor's speech on the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council !](#)

18.05.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited / ESBC

Fresher Image.

Bougainville Copper Limited finally changed their internet profile. It looks younger and provides more information than before. "The new homepage marks a mile-stone in BCL's PR," says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm, "but there is still a lot of work to do as there is integrating of investor relations services, but already its new name "<http://bcl.bilongyu.com/>" has a philosophy of its own. This pidgin expressions stands for: *BCL belongs to you!* That's positive! The European Shareholders welcome BCL's struggle for a better image and a virtual reconciliation with the people of Bougainville."

Click on the picture to visit BCL's brand new homepage:



18.05.2011

Source: ESBC Research

The Imposters

An update on unlawful Me'ekamui machinations

On May 9th, 2011 the ESBC published an in-depth report about "... the Me'ekamui Remote Controlled from Abroad?" Information from readers told us, one of the key suspects, a certain 62-years-old Stewart Sytner from New York who is well known in the United States for alleged fraudulent financial practices: Amongst others he pretends being a Consul General of Papua New Guinea. Even better: He claims a 49 percent ownership of the Panguna mine lease. The ESBC were provided with some links that gave a good view on this person and his alleged business partner, Mr. Thomas Megas, as well. Once again the ESBC advise all good willing Bougainvilleans to refuse all contact with self-appointed governments, self-styled so called international banks or other people who pretend to be king or consul general etc.. Keep in mind: Bougainville's richness in precious metals and industrial metals will become better known worldwide, thus there will be more doubtful subjects who will appear on stage. They are attracted by Bougainville like moths to light!

Find out more about Stewart Sytner and his entourage:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2008/12/23/idUS208215+23-Dec-2008+PRN20081223>

<http://www.5tjt.com/local-news/2550-letters-to-the-editor>

17.05.2011

Source: Profit Hunter

What's moving Bougainville's share price?

Shares of our high-risk speculation, Bougainville Copper Ltd (BOC.AU), have had a tough time recently. The stock has fallen from the peak of 2.20 AUD (Australian dollars) at the beginning of the year to about 1.40 today.

As usual information is very scarce when it comes to BCL, so this analysis is somewhat simplistic by nature but still very relevant. The reason for the share price weakness as we see it:

- Copper prices have fallen significantly from the peak in February. That's probably caused some speculators not familiar with the story to take cover and sell.
- Investors in general have become more and more risk averse during the year. They want safer investments in the current volatile environment. BCL is a long way away from being a safe investment. We know that.
- On the ground in Bougainville there have been reports of unrest in the southern part of the island. Also there have been news reports that some of the landowners are still against a re-opening of the mine. All this weighs on sentiment for the shares.

Factors like the ones above will always be part of the BCL story. And unless something material happens that indicates that the mine will not be re-opened, the investment case remains intact. Keep in mind that the stock, in our view, should be valued as an 'option' on the reopening of the mine. It is very risky indeed – the shares could go to zero if it becomes clear that the mine will never restart. On the flipside, if it does reopen, the potential rewards will simply be tremendous.

The pivotal step for a re-opening remains the signing of a new agreement between Bougainville's landowners, the local government, the national government and BCL. The timing for that is still uncertain. But perhaps we could get some more information this week, as BCL'S chairman Peter Taylor will be presenting at the 27 th Papua New Guinea Australia business forum. Hopefully, we can get some more insights to the latest development from there.

There are news reports out today (Tuesday) that Taylor will visit Bougainville island for the first time since the mine was shut down in 1989. His visit will apparently take place this Thursday as part of a delegation of business leaders. We see it as a positive development that the island of Bougainville is trying to be open as it seeks to attract new investment. And in the near future I am sure there will be more news flow coming from the visit.

17.05.2011

Source: Australia Network News

Bougainville's president tries to attract investment

The President of Bougainville John Momis told investors the peace process on Bougainville is well established and the island is open for business.[ABC]

by Jemima Garrett

The Chairman of the Rio Tinto-owned Bougainville Copper is to visit Bougainville for the first time since the Panguna copper mine was shut down by a bloody civil war in 1989.

The invitation is part of a strategy by Bougainville's President John Momis to attract new investment.

Mr Momis told investors attending the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum in Madang that the peace process on Bougainville is well established and the island is open for business.

Mr Momis said he is keen to attract smart responsible investors who will create jobs and improve life for rural people in the lead up to a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea.

The Chairman of Bougainville Copper will be part of a delegation of business leaders to visit the island on Thursday.

Mr Momis said the return of Bougainville copper shows there has been a sea-change in attitudes and economic conditions on the island.

17.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville seeking investors - Momis

Bougainville's President John Momis has told investors there has been a sea change in attitudes and economic conditions on Bougainville and he wants their investment to help build prosperity in the lead up to a referendum on independence.

President Momis was speaking at the Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum in Madang.

Listen here !

Presenter:Jemima Garrett

Speaker:John Momis, president, Autonomous Bougainville Government

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG Day Celebrations

By Maria Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is yet to announce plans on how the first anniversary of the Momis/Nisira government will be celebrated.

The anniversary is planned for June 15 however the Bougainville Events Committee has not revealed plans on how the event would be celebrated.

The Bougainville Events Committee, chaired by ABG chief Administrator LAWRENCE DISIN is responsible for organizing the events for the day in consultation with the office of the President.

According to a statement from the Bougainville house of representatives, a request needs to be made to the National Executive Council to declare June 15 as a public holiday in Bougainville.

Meanwhile, in honor of ABG and as a lead up to the first anniversary of the second term of ABG, New Dawn FM has been producing and broadcasting since May 3, a special program called 'Know your government.'

The program is broadcasted every Tuesday at 8:30 pm and looks at the aims and vision of ABG that was formed by the late Joseph Kabui, held in transition by former president James Tanis and now led by president honorable JOHN MOMIS.

Tonight's program will feature the inauguration of the Momis government.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG Speaker Resumes Work

By Maria Laukai

ABG deputy speaker honorable ROBIN WILSON says ABG speaker honorable ANDREW MIRIKI has resumed duty after returning from Port Moresby on Saturday.

Mr MIRIKI was in Port Moresby for a medical check which led to his successful recovery and allowed him to observe the swearing in of the two ABG representatives honorable JOSEPH EGILLO and FRANCO HOPPING to the national SRC at government house. During his absence, honorable ROBIN WILSON was the ABG acting speaker.

Mr WILSON said it was a good experience for him to occupy the office of the Speaker while Mr MIRIKI was on medical leave.

Mr WILSON thanked all ABG members and parliamentary staff who had helped him in his duty as the ABG acting speaker.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG representatives as SRC members

By Maria Laukai

Two ABG representatives to the National Salaries and Remuneration Commission or SRC were sworn in by Governor General Sir Michael Ogio this week.

They are ABG minister for communication, culture and tourism honorable JOSEPH EGILLO and former combatant represent for North Bougainville honorable FRANCO HOPPING.

They will now be able to represent ABG in the National SRC when the commission considers matters for Bougainville.

SRC executive officer JACK BAGITA says the two representatives would now be able to present in the next national SRC meeting, the ABG submissions on a new determination on salary and allowances for ABG leaders.

He added that the ABG submission is the only matter for discussion in the next SRC meeting planned for next month in Port Moresby.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville presents Human Rights case

By Aloysius Laukai

Women are the silent and forgotten victims in places of recent wars and ongoing post conflict environments such as Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Fiji, says Human Rights defender and member of the Haku Women's Council MARILYN HAVINI. Mrs HAVINI said this at a recent United Nations Human Rights Council or UNHRC meeting at Geneva.

The UNHRC had convened from May 2 to 11 for a universal periodic review (UPR) of four pacific nations including Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa and PNG of which the case of Bougainville was presented.

She said common human rights issues highlighted to the UNHRC included;

- A need to identify the many victims of rape during war, who suffer without counseling, medical assistance and justice mechanisms,
- The existence of guns in post conflict communities and their 'hidden' threat is an ongoing source of fear and intimidation to civil society and
- The need for forensic recovery of dead relatives lying in mass graves that prevent development in major public spaces that prevent development in major public places.

Mrs HAVINI said eight recommendations were made which include;

- Women Human Rights Defenders of the Pacific and civil society requests UN and Regional peace keeping country stakeholders to assist each pacific nation's weapons disposal programs and to institute mandatory trauma counseling for all former combatants and
- Request expertise from UN or referred agencies who can provide forensic teams to assist the people in recovering bodies from mass graves and known sites where bodies had been dumped during war and conflict.

These recommendations now need the government of the four island nations to implement before the UNHRC reviews the pacific nations again in four years time.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tuesday May 17th,2011

By Aloysius Laukai

This is a report from Mrs. Marilyn Havini who is a human rights defender on Bougainville. Marilyn just returned from Geneva where four Pacific Nations were under review this year.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT IN THE PACIFIC
Human Rights Defender Mrs. Marilyn Havini from Bougainville, in the nation of PAPUA NEW GUINEA has just returned from across the world where she joined other Pacific

representatives in Geneva to speak for civil society and especially women who suffer in conflict and post conflict environments in the Pacific Region.

The following messages were conveyed at a PACIFIC SIDE EVENT as a voice for CIVIL SOCIETY INPUT TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL at the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) for 4 Pacific Nations under review in 2nd – 11th May 2011 Sessions. The Pacific Nations currently under review are Palau, Tuesday 3rd May, Solomon Islands 4th May, Samoa 9th May and Papua New Guinea 11th May

Women are the silent and forgotten victims in places of recent wars and ongoing post conflict environments such as Bougainville, Solomon Islands, and Fiji:

- Rape has been used as a weapon of war, and we desperately need to identify the many victims who suffer without counseling, medical assistance, justice mechanisms and reparations to assist these women and young girls.

- Investigative and prosecution capacity is lacking in our justice systems. Police are not specifically trained to handle violence against women and the institutional capacity is lacking.

- Many widows and abandoned mothers are now single parents struggling to raise and educate children born of rape or orphaned from war or born during crisis periods when no services left a 'lost generation'.

- Conflict disrupted families; their homes and villages were destroyed and plundered. Widespread suffering in overcrowded conditions lacking proper shelter affects breakdown of family life. Sexual crimes within families include trauma based domestic violence, rape within marriage, incest, polygamy and serial adultery with families of women and children left abandoned by their fathers and or mothers.

- Young girl victims of incest and rape risk their lives and the lives of unwanted children with abortion and infanticide. There are no services to assist the girl child – RRRT research is revealing that up to 50% of all girls are assaulted or 'accept' sexual advances before the age of 15

- Guns exist in post conflict communities and their 'hidden' threat is an ongoing source of fear and intimidation to civil society

- Missing relatives and loved ones are lying in mass graves that prevent development in major public spaces – also the forensic recovery of our dead will assist grieving process to heal mental stress and ease suffering.

The SIDE EVENT was a space for non-government stakeholders to present important and current information to nations and organizations at the United Nations on the Human Rights situations in their countries and highlight critical recommendations to be implemented as follow up to the UPR.

Recommendation 1

For Pacific women to receive international support for their Government initiatives to bring PEACE to our communities and Freedom of Movement (especially dismantling of roadblocks); important for all stakeholders of ongoing conflict and post conflict areas especially the countries under UPR review this session Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

Recommendation 2

Women Human Rights Defenders of the Pacific and Civil Society requests United Nations and Regional Peace Keeping Country stakeholders to assist our Pacific Nations Weapons Disposal Programs and to institute mandatory Trauma Counseling for all former combatants

Recommendation 3

Pacific Governments to invite key Special Rapporteur mandates such as for Human Rights Defenders, Independence of the Judiciary, Violence Against Women and Sexual exploitation of children to make Country visits.

Recommendation 4

Request for United Nations Assistance for Pacific countries in Conflict and Post Conflict with technical assistance and human resource training to compile DATA BASE RECORDS of HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES with the urgent need to address needs of victims and for Good Governance Planning in the post –conflict period ...And... to compile a DATA BASE RECORD of all RECONCILIATIONS (formal and informal, official government planned and community based) with the urgent need to identify the success or otherwise of these ceremonies and to address the needs of survivors and victims who have yet to experience reconciliation

Recommendation 5

Request United Nations assistance to Pacific Governments in Conflict and Post Conflict Nations to establish Human Rights Commissions and TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS that will address and redress the war crimes that were committed.

Recommendation 6

Assistance from International Organizations to assist Pacific Governments in developing and promoting gender sensitive legislation incorporating ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC CRPD and UNSCR 1325 in Conflict and Post Conflict Countries.

Recommendation 7

Request expertise from United Nations or referred agencies who can provide FORENSIC TEAMS to assist the people in recovering bodies from mass graves and known sites where bodies have been dumped during war and conflict.

Recommendation 8

Encourage Governments to partner with civil society including women's groups to advance protection of human rights and ensure civil society is able to operate with independence and resources for the benefit of the people as part of a healthy nation state.

Each country will have obligations for agreed recommendations which need to be implemented before the UN Human Rights Council reviews Pacific Nations again in a 4 year cycle to show that action has been taken.

17.05.2011

Source: The National

Polling starts for North Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

POLLING for the North Bougainville by-election started yesterday with the exception of Selau constituency, which began polling on May 14.

More than 10,000 eligible voters will be going to the poll to elect a new member for the North Bougainville open seat.

The seat was left vacant by former member and now Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio.

Six of the 55 polling teams engaged departed Buka Island on Sunday for the Atolls and Nisan while the rest were dispatched yesterday by road to Tsitalato, Hagogohe, Halia, Peit, Tonsu, Haku, Selau, Suir, Teua, Mahari, Taonita Teop and Taonita Tinputz.

For Buka town residents, inside the Tsitalato constituency, polling by limited preferential voting (LPV) would be located at the following venues:

*Today – Buka town market, Iuping Tshana, Chinchin;

*Tomorrow – Bel Isi Haus, Hangan Catholic church, Lonahan CLC Haus Lotu;

*Thursday – Motmoto Elementary School, Bubuil Elementary School, Lonahan aid post;

*Friday – University open campus and Bibinama.

Bougainville electoral officer Reitama Taravaru said he anticipated a smooth by-election with counting to start immediately as constituencies complete polling.

Polling ends on Friday.

Meanwhile, Taravaru also revealed that the Tonsu by-election for Bougainville would cost the Autonomous Bougainville Government K170,000.

The ABG Tonsu by-election would be conducted immediately after the by-election for North Bougainville.

The people of Tonsu constituency will elect a new open member.

17.05.2011

Source: The National

Health boss commends Buka chiefs

THE chiefs of Buka Island have been commended for their leadership and efforts to contain a cholera outbreak reported in their area in March.

Health secretary Dr Clement Malau said for the chiefs to advocate and help households and communities to build pit latrines “is a sustainable strategy to prevent cholera and other preventable diseases”.

“The effort is commendable, and I encourage leaders at all levels in communities to provide the leadership in public health issues and in other areas that can improve the lives of our people,” he said.

Malau made this comment after receiving updated reports on cholera from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the seven other affected provinces.

He urged individuals and communities to observe basic hygiene practices like washing hands regularly.

He said, as of April 28, there had been 12,411 cases of cholera and 484 deaths.

Of the 484 deaths, 267 samples were confirmed positive for vibrio cholera, the germ that causes cholera.

Malau said the figures for unreported cases could exceed the data collected.

The cholera outbreak was first reported in Morobe province in August 2009, from where it spread to Madang, East Sepik, National Capital District (NCD), Central, Gulf, Western and most recently the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Malau said in the eight provinces, male population accounted for 53.3% and female for 45.4% of all cases. The majority of cases were older than five years (71.8%).

He said nationally, the situation “seems to have declined in the Western, NCD, Central and Morobe provinces”.

“In these provinces most of the task force operations have scaled down while maintaining surveillance to monitor potential resurgence of the germ,” he said.

Malau said today's hotspot area was the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The first case was detected in the Haku constituency of Buka Island on March 18 last year. All task force operations in the region are all responding to contain the outbreak. Malau acknowledged the continuous support of the government, provincial governments and administrations including the hospitals, and the private sector including the World Health Organisation, United Nations Children's Fund and Doctors without Borders.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Picture of MV SANKAMAP 2 now anchored at Sohano island. Yesterday I saw kids jumping out of it into the blue seas...

AL

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Polling Picture

By Aloysius Laukai



Pictured is former ABG Speaker Nick Peniai voting at the Sohano Polling Booth yesterday. Polling will end on 20 May and counting starts on May 23rd, 2011. The new member for North Bougainville will be able to sit for the June session of the Parliament.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

New Warders trained

By Aloysius Laukai

25 new casual warders recently recruited by the PNG Correctional Service will be trained in the next four weeks on basic roles and responsibilities of a warden.

The training which starts tomorrow at the Bougainville Police Service Training Centre in Hutjena was launched today by ABG minister for Law and Justice Honorable LEO HANNETT.

Mr HANNETT in addressing the new recruits said he hoped each of the trainees understood the significance of the work they were volunteering their service for. He said over the next four weeks, they would be receiving basic training in looking after people who have been banished from their communities because they had done something wrong.

Honorable Hannett advised that it is important that the trainees deal with the prisoners equally and on a person to person basis.

He added that their conduct and how each warden presented themselves to the prisoners would determine the impact of change on the prisoner.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Earthquake shakes Buka town

By Aloysius Laukai

BUKA town residents are still reeling from the abrupt wake-up call they had yesterday at four in the morning when buildings they were in heavily shook for a few good seconds. Many of the residents in Buka said they woke up disorientated with some panicky and thinking a Tsunami was about to hit the island town of Bougainville.

Reports received by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) confirmed that an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the richter scale was detected 120 kilometers west coast of Bougainville near the Kunua area.

A situation report is yet to be received from Kunua and nearby areas by the Bougainville Disaster Office while in Buka, all is quiet with no damages reported.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Polling starts for North Bougainville

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling for the North Bougainville By-election commenced yesterday with the exception of Selau constituency which began polling on May 14.

More than ten thousand eligible voters will be voting to elect a new member for the North Bougainville open seat after the seat was left vacant by former member and now governor general of PNG Sir Michael Ogio.

Six of the 55 polling teams engaged departed Buka Island on Sunday for the Atolls and Nisan Constituency.

The remaining 49 teams were dispatched today by road to the remaining constituencies of Tsitalato, Hagogohe, Halia, Peit, Tonsu, Haku, Selau, Suir, Teua, Mahari, Taonita Teop and Taonita Tinputz.

For Buka town residents inside the Tsitalato constituency, polling by Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) will be located at the following venues;

- Tuesday – Buka town market, Iuping Tshana, Chinchin,
- Wednesday – Bel Isi Haus, Hangan Catholic Church, Lonahan CLC Haus Lotu,
- Thursday – Motmoto Elementary School, Bubuil Elementary School, Lonahan Aidpost,
- Friday – University Open Campus and Bibinama.

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner Reitama Taravaru said he anticipates a smooth by-election this week with counting immediately to commence in any constituencies that complete polling first.

Polling ends on May 20.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville warders training a first for PNG CS.

By Aloysius Laukai

The training of 25 Bougainvillians in Buka is a historic step for the PNG and Bougainville Correctional Service, says Correctional Services Deputy commissioner for Corporate Services DOMINIC TOMAR.

Mr TOMAR said the recruitment and training of locals as casual warders is a first for the PNG Correctional Services or PNGCS which has traditionally held warders training at Bomana in Port Moresby.

Speaking at the launch of the Correctional Services Casual Warders Recruit training course today, Mr TOMAR explained that it is a departure from normal recruitment procedures and processes but it does not mean a departure from Correctional Services standards and values.

He urged the new recruits to uphold and maintain the Correctional Services standards of discipline, diligence and pride.

Mr TOMAR added that PNGCS is a discipline organization that is mandated by law to take custody of persons sentence by the courts and assist them to change their offending behavior.

That is the fundamental reason for the establishment of the correctional facility at Bekut and the recruitment training which will commence tomorrow.

17.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SCHOOL FEES

By Aloysius Laukai

Some of the Bougainville students studying at the Pacific Adventist University are not sure whether they will sit for this semester exam starting on 27th May 2011.

This is because ABG did not settle the promised outstanding fees for last and this year.

In making this known to New Dawn FM today, the President of Bougainville Students Association, RICHTER KOKINAI called on the ABG to make payments to the school between this week and next week so that the affected Bougainville students would still sit for the exams.

He questioned why it took so long to process the money when they already have the money.

KOKINAI said that it would be sad if one of our students misses his or her exams.

"We are just hoping that if the ABG does something between now and the exam date to avoid any inconvenience to our studies" said Bougainville student's President.

Attempts by New Dawn FM news to talk to the Education authorities were unsuccessful.

16.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Today:

BCL Chairman Peter Taylor meets

Bougainville President John Momis in Madang !

Boom sees record numbers at PNG Australia Business Forum

The PNG Australia Business Forum - the premier business event linking the two countries - gets underway in Madang this morning.

With the economy booming the Forum has drawn a record crowd.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Jemima Garrett, Radio Australia correspondent

Listen here !

16.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TSUNAMI ALERT

By Aloysius Laukai

A local Tsunami alert is on after a 6.5 earthquake hit Bougainville's West coast at about 4.30 am this morning.

The quake struck beneath the sea at a depth of 43 kilometres some 120 kilometres west of Bougainville according to the United States Geological Survey.

In Buka the quake was felt but no damage was reported since this morning.

15.05.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20110516

Bougainville Copper Limited (ASX:BOC)

BCL Shareholders Confirm Targeted Price of AUD 30++ per Share

In 2008 the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) faced sneering comments when ESBC President Axel G. Sturm predicted a share price of AUD 20 and more per share for Bougainville Copper securities (ASX:BOC). Today – three years later – a recently published analysis established by the famous Australian-Indian BuySellSignals network (www.buysellsignals.net/) confirms Sturm's statement. Better: It even predicts that BOC shares might soar up to AUD 50 once the giant Panguna mine will be operational again. Analyst Anil Bakaya based only on free available data on the world class Panguna deposit and the actual commodity prices for this stunning evaluation. The Panguna mine still remains closed due to unrest in the late 80s of last century. Since one year there are strong efforts on the ground to re-open the mine as soon as possible: "We are very confident that Bougainville President John Momis will be able to convince even doubtful Bougainvilleans that only mining can earn the huge amount of money that is desperately needed to rebuild infrastructure, excellent health services and free education for everyone on Bougainville", says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm, "As a vast majority of Bougainvilleans is very peaceful, we are sure that the recent unrest in certain southern parts of the island will calm down as soon as these few criminal individuals who terrorize peace loving citizens will be arrested and brought to justice." Press reports on violence and unlawful claims from some US and Solomon based extremists made international investors insecure and sell off BOC shares. Axel G. Sturm: "Share price predictions are rather difficult. Nevertheless Bougainville Copper shares still remain one of the most promising commodity opportunities worldwide. The ESBC double-checked all figures of Bakaya's study. It seems quite reasonable to us. Even if the share price should not soar up to AUD 50, BOC securities are definitely a **STRONG BUY!**" BOC shares closed at AUD 1.295 on Friday 13th, 2011.

A free PDF version of the Bougainville Copper Fair Value Study can be downloaded here:

<http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/bcl-fair-value-1.html>

15.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLLING ON

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling for the North Bougainville seat By election starts this weekend.

And ends on the 20 of this month.

Counting will begin immediately after.

New Dawn FM as usual will be giving progressive results until the seat is declared.



14.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUMUKI FIRE

By Aloysius Laukai

More than one hundred people including women and children are homeless after a raid into their village by criminal elements in the Siwai area of South West Bougainville.

Regional Commander for the Bougainville Police Service based in Buin South Bougainville, Inspector Paul Kamuai today condemned the actions of Paul Ihrah and his band of rascals.

He told New Dawn FM from Buin that the incident happened at Kumuki village in the Sininai area of Siwai.

Inspector KAMUAI said that his group went to the area and assessed the situation as still tense.

He said that about twenty houses were burnt to ashes after one of the girls from the village was found to be pregnant .

His brothers then organized other village youths to destroy the boy's family.

MR. KAMUAI called on these people not get the law into their own hands.

The Police Commander said that Bougainville Police were currently investigating these very serious crimes and would prosecute those responsible.

Meanwhile the ABG President John Momis has also condemned these actions.

He said that the South Bougainville leadership must come up with a solution of the ongoing trouble in the South Bougainville.

Chief Momis warned that the ABG was very concerned at these activities and want the South Bougainville summit to quickly convene and address these pressing issues.

14.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JICA Bridge sinking

By Aloysius Laukai

One of the longest bridges at Kurwina is sinking because of the quick sand and maybe because the foundation was very close to the water.

See the Garven Baskets not level now.

Jica bridge on April 17th, 2011 :



Jica bridge one month later on May 14th, 2011 :



Pictures by Aloysius Laukai

14.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BY ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling for the North Bougainville seat By election started today.

People in Buka town will vote on Monday with people from the Atolls voting this weekend.

A boat chartered by the Election team is scheduled to leave Buka tomorrow afternoon for the Atolls.

Polling would end on May 20th 2011 and counting starting straight after.

The seat was left vacant when the former member, MICHAEL OGIO became the new Governor General for Papua New Guinea.

13.05.2011

Source: ESBC Research

BREAKING NEWS !

BCL Chairman to Madang next Week!

Peter R. Taylor, chairman of Bougainville Copper Limited, will be talking on Tuesday May 17th, 2011 about latest developments in the on-going re-opening process on the **27th Papua New Guinea Australia Business Forum** in Madang organized by the Business Council of Papua New Guinea. This conference is considered as one of the most important events in the Pacific mining business world.

The ESBC welcome Mr. Taylor's participation and encouraging increasing PR activities. Peter Taylor confirms that the text of his speech will be provided to the ESBC as soon as possible.

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



This picture was taken by Ian Tavore in Arawa.

Where there is will there is way....as these gentlemen seem to say...o should we say never say die?

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AGRICULTURE GOOD

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Primary Industry, NICHOLAS DARKU says Bougainville can still survive without mine.

He made these remarks at the closing ceremony of the first successful Bougainville land

summit in Arawa last night.

MR. DARKU said that Bougainville's soil is fertile and this can sustain the economy of the region.

He said that his division was working on a proposal to encourage all the THIRTY- FOUR THOUSAND cocoa farmers to work on just ONE HECTRE blocks instead of having 20 to 30 HECTRES.

The Minister said that with proper management of just ONE HECTRE the farmers can produce more cocoa.

He said that currently the farmers are unable to manage big plantations thus getting little for their work.

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SUMMIT ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The three-day Bougainville Land summit ended yesterday in Arawa with recommendations for further consultations before Bougainville land policy can be made to manage traditional lands throughout Bougainville.

The summit the first of its kind to be held in Bougainville was also hailed as successful as it united all stakeholders on Bougainville including the two Mekamui groups of Mekamui Unity and Mekamui Originals.

More than Four Hundred participants attended the summit although only 200 people were invited to participate.

In his closing remarks, the CEO for Lands, ANDREW DOWARO said that they would hold another meeting in six months time before a policy submission can be compiled for the ABG to look at.

He called on the participants to go back and discuss further with their people within the next three months so that more ideas can be discussed before the policy is made.

MR. DOWARO thanked the participants and including the presenters for participating at the summit.

He said that the presenters have truly opened up the minds of the people to really decide what system would suit Bougainville situation.

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tonsu returning officer appointed

By Maria Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commission has appointed GORDON SEMOSO as the returning officer for the Tonsu by-election which will start on August 1 with the issue of writs.

Mr SEMOSO is a senior dental officer with the Bougainville Division of Health.

According to Bougainville Electoral commissioner REITAMA TARAVARU, Mr SEMOSO is not new to the election process after having held assistant returning officer positions in previous elections in the region, including the first ABG election in 2005.

He added that it is his intention to elevate Bougainvilleans experienced in the electoral process to higher positions before he vacates his seat as the outgoing Bougainville Electoral commissioner.

Mr. TARAVARU says Mr. SEMOSO's appointment is yet to be gazetted by ABG.

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tonsu by-election to cost K170,000

By Maria Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner REITAMA TARAVARU has revealed the Tonsu by-election will cost the Autonomous Bougainville Government K170,000.

He said an activity plan has been drafted and the ABG speaker will be advised on the finale dates of the Tonsu by-election.

He added that currently, there are no changes to the dates selected and approved by the Bougainville Executive Council or BEC.

According to BEC, Nominations open with the issue of writs on 1st August by ABG speaker ANDREW MIIRIKI. Nominations close on 8th August and polling will be from 10th September to 15th September with the return of writs on 28th September.

The ABG by-election is necessary to elect the parliament member for Tonsu constituency after former member honourable EZEKIEL MASAT resigned from his post in March, to contest the national North Bougainville By-election.

13.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville Arms Summit

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG president honorable chief JOHN MOMIS says plans are being finalized for the Bougainville Arms Summit.

The arms summit proposed to be held in Buka town is scheduled to be held at the end of this month.

According to CHIEF MOMIS, the objective of the arms summit is to gage the views of all stakeholders inside Bougainville and how best the people of the region can work together to put an end to killings in South Bougainville.

He said the summit will be held in Buka town to ensure all stakeholders to the summit are free to express their views without fear from people intent disrupting the summit.

The president said as a democratic government, ABG does not want to dictate to the people on what measures to take in addressing this issue and on a higher level, weapons disposal.

Instead, he said, he would rather the people of Bougainville discuss and agree to the best option in addressing violence in the region.

The president is calling on the people of Bougainville to support the call for peace in South Bougainville by participating in the upcoming summit.

13.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Land not for sale: Momis

LAND is not for sale and landowners remain the custodian, specifically in Bougainville, the land summit participants were told in Arawa this week.

THE Bougainville Land summit being held in Arawa, the former capital of Bougainville, were privy to specific documents presented by land experts from Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Bougainville who gathered this week, to discuss Bougainville land issues and how best the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and its people can best manage this asset. Many speakers who spoke at the summit commented that landowners are the custodians of the land and are not supposed to sell their traditional lands.

Several topics covered included customary and alienated land, pressures on custom and pressures on environment and natural resources which had presenters as Jim Fingleton and James Kunnopi, Ruth Spriggs and Henry Starley with Graihm Baines and Junior Novera and Anna Sapur.

ABG president John Momis, in welcoming everyone to the summit, said this was an opportunity for stakeholders to look at realistic ways of managing land in Bougainville. He said the land summit would enable ABG to hear the view of landowners and consider establishing new land laws specific to Bougainville.

"PNG today has to deal with land management issues either through the foreign concept of ownership or the indigenous concept of ownership of land and resources which often does not settle well with the people," Mr Momis said.

The summit will help Bougainville address this issue by looking at ways to merge positive and realistic concepts from both the foreign and indigenous concepts. "By way of merging workable practices of land management concepts, the people of Bougainville would not lose their culture and livelihood derived from the land," he said.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Land Summit update

By Aloysius Laukai

Participants to the Bougainville Land Summit which ended this afternoon in Arawa, have been told that the land is not for sale.

Many speakers who spoke at the summit commented that landowners are the custodians of the land and are not supposed to sell their traditional land.

The summit also heard from representatives of Me'ekamui Original and Me'ekamui Unity Group including leader Chris Uma who for the first time presented their views to the Bougainville Lands division.

International presenters at yesterday's sessions talked on their experiences outside and how Bougainvilleans can compare and adapt to lessons learnt from these experiences.

Today's presentation touched on Customary and Alienated Land, Pressures on custom and pressures on environment and natural resources.

The summit ended with the handing down of final recommendations made during the three day event to Bougainville division of lands and physical planning who will at a later date present to ABG for consideration

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Land is important: Momis

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG President Chief John Momis said that land is of paramount importance in the lives of people.

He was speaking at the land summit workshop in Arawa yesterday.

He told the gathering that the issues of land bring about a lot of good and bad impacts to the lives of people which must be addressed properly.

He said that ABG has an important task to create a new policy and laws on land as it has good and bad effects of development to people.

He added that land is an asset that has a lot of potential developments and fulfillments to promote good standards of living for the people.

However Chief John Momis said that Bougainvilleans are very cautious of the use of their land through the experiences they have.

But he was happy that the land summit held in Arawa, Central Bougainville will help clear the minds of his people to know the good use of their land.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pictures from the Land Summit

taken by Aloysius Laukai



Some of the presenters at the summit with the CEO for community Development (RIGHT) Mana Kakarouts.



The ABG Minister for Education John Tabinaman and the Member for Tsitalato and Chairman of the Parliamentary committee on Public Accounts Cosmas Sohia.



Even the cooks are having a hard time feeding the participants. Sometimes the last people miss out on proteins.



Even outside of the conference room is packed.



This is the first ever summit in which the Mekomui original and the Mekomui unity group is also attending..this is a sure sign of good things will come from the summit. Even Chris Uma gave his speech on the first day to give his piece to the planning team of the Bougainville Land summit. And also the level of participation and concentration by all parties have been good to today. Pictures left is the Mekomui Unity Government President Philip Miriori.



The Land summit will officially end today.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Rebel leaders reconcile

By Maria Laukai

South Bougainville Me'ekamui combatant leader for Wisai area Jeffery Bakeri made peace with long time enemy and Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) commander Philip Pusua yesterday in Buka.

The two leaders travelled from South Bougainville to Buka town on their own accord to shake hands in the presence of Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) president Hon. Chief John Momis.

Hon. Momis said he was surprised at this unprecedented visit to the ABG parliament house by the leaders intent on him witnessing this reconciliation event adding that this was the first time the two leaders have seen 'eye to eye'.

The president said the ceremony although brief, was a significant move forward in ensuring peace in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville which was the site of recent killings allegedly by notorious criminal leader Damien Koike.

According to Hon. Momis, Jeffery Bakeri is Koike's closest friend who volunteered to come forward to inform ABG that he had enough of the fighting and that he would be working closely with WILMO commander Philip Pusua to bring peace into Konnou.

The president said according to the two leaders, their reconciliation is just the start with both leaders now preparing to host a bigger reconciliation ceremony involving their men sometime next month in the Wissai area.

Hon. Momis also thanked the South Bougainville police service and especially senior officer John Dewe of Oria police post who was instrumental in initiating the reconciliation. He also thanked the Australian government for committing K700,000 to Bougainville Police Service (BPS) for infrastructure development, which has boosted the morals of BPS officers throughout the region and reinforced their commitment to ensuring peace prevailed in the region.

Australian's commitment was cemented during parliamentary secretary for Pacific Island Affairs Richard Marles' visit to Bougainville in March this year.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Funds for Polling Security

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner Reitama Taravaru says the K300,000 for polling security purposes by Bougainville Police Service (BPS) will be granted directly to BPS by PNG Electoral commission.

The Electoral commissioner said his office will not be handling the K300,000.

He said the money which had been budgeted for the BPS to provide security during polling for the North Bougainville by-election would be deposited directly into BPS bank account once the money is ready.

Taravaru stated this in response to concerns raised to New Dawn FM by Bougainville police commissioner ACP Thomas Eluh yesterday on funds due to the BPS for election coverage.

ACP Eluh also said that police personnel have been deployed to their respective polling sites throughout the North Bougainville in preparation for polling which starts on Saturday, May 14.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville many happenings

By JOYCE TOHUI

Many important events are being held to help the people of Bougainville in the month of May 2011.

Starting with the vaccination week held from the 2nd of May to the 6th of May which saw a lot of babies missing out on immunizations having the opportunity to get vaccinated in all the 33 health facilities in the region.

Then this week from the 9th May to 12th of May 2011, a land summit workshop is being held at Arawa to talk on land issues and find ways to help the people of Bougainville with land experts coming from overseas, PNG and Bougainville.

And also the people of North Bougainville are going to the polling booths this Saturday 14th May to elect their new representative to the National Parliament.

Meanwhile Constable Lesley Meten from the Bougainville Police Service is urging the people of Bougainville to work together with the police to the smooth running of the North Bougainville electorate by election.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Amoxicillin not for colds

MARIA LAUKAI

World Health Organization technical officer based in Bougainville Dr Mohammad Salim Reza has advised against taking antibiotics like Amoxicillin to cure cold and flu.

He said amoxicillin is commonly taken these days by the public as the cure for cold and flu which is dangerous.

Dr. Salim, who was very concerned at the misuse of amoxicillin, accompanied his advice with a pamphlet issued jointly by the PNG department of Health and WHO which warned against the use of antibiotics to cure cold and flu.

According to the pamphlet, the overuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance which would result in more costly drugs needed to cure common bacterial infections because the antibiotics lose their power to kill bacteria.

The pamphlet advised that people infected with the cold and flu virus must allow their body time to heal it-self and only take antibiotics when prescribed by health authorities.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Electoral officers warned

By Maria Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner REITAMA TARAVARU has warned his polling officials involved in the national North Bougainville by-election to not make unauthorized commitments during the polling period.

He cautioned that although this is a small by-election, he expects his officers to manage well the budget by sticking to their election activity plan and spend according to this plan.

TARAVARU said of the K2.6 million needed for the by-election, K1.5 million was released recently which was spent on polling costs of our three major projects including LPV, rolls update and capacity building.

He advised all assistant returning officers to control the costs accrued during polling which include allowances, transport costs and venue hire.

He warned that no excuses will be tolerated for any unauthorized commitments made by any officers.

Taravaru's strong warning follows previous election experiences in the region which amounted to more than K3 million of accumulated polling costs due to poor budget control.

12.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

North Bougainville goes to the polls

By Maria Laukai

MORE than ten thousand eligible voters in North Bougainville go to the polls on Saturday to vote for a new national member.

The elected national member will fill the North Bougainville open seat left vacant by former member and now governor general Sir Michael Ogio.

Bougainville electoral commissioner Reitama Taravaru said he anticipates a smooth polling period which ends on May 20.

He said 55 polling teams will be deployed throughout the fourteen constituencies of North Bougainville to ensure every voter has the opportunity to elect their candidate.

He added that sea charter has been arranged for the atolls with polling officers set to depart on Sunday for Tasman and Mortlock then on to Cartarets, Fead and Nissan.

According to Taravaru, the polling teams to the atolls will be accompanied by representatives of Red Cross, UN and Bougainville Disaster Office who will be distributing relief supplies to the people affected by rising sea level.

12.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG holds lands meet in Arawa

By GORETHY KENNETH

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government leaders are in Arawa this week for a land summit with objectives to develop a land policy on Bougainville and review land issues throughout the region.

ABG President John Momis is leading the summit in Arawa with presentations from Bougainville Lands office, Bougainville Lands Minister Michael Oni and representatives and facilitators from Australia, New Zealand and PNG.

Bougainville Deputy Administrator-operations Patrick Koles said from Arawa that the summit, attended by ABG leaders, aid donors, business houses and other important stakeholders, would look at programs and how ABG can move Bougainville forward in the future.

Mr Koles said that would specifically look at alienated land, customary land, plantations and mission land for the whole of Bougainville.

Mr Oni, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resource gave the keynote address in Arawa while ABG president Momis officially opened the meeting which is being held at the Arawa youth centre at Section 10.

"After the summit, we will come up with recommendations for the ABG and the National Government and we should develop a land policy on Bougainville which will be a benchmark for the people and the government of Bougainville," Mr Koles said.

The summit will end tomorrow.

11.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawen on Bougainville

Land not for sale

by Aloysius Laukai in Arawa

The Bougainville Land summit currently in progress in Arawa, the former capital of Bougainville has been told that the land is not for sale.

Many speakers who spoke on the summit commented on that Landowners are the custodians of the land and are not supposed to sell their traditional lands.

Speakers at today's session were presenters were our international friends who talked on their experiences outside and how Bougainvilleans can compare and adapt some of them.

Today's topics were Customary and Alienated land, Pressures on custom and Pressures

on Environment and Natural Resources.

Presenters were Jim Fingleton and James Kunnopi,

Ruth Spriggs and Henry Starley with Graihm Baines and Junior Novera and Anna Sapur.

The groups then broke up into 20 groups for further discussions and presentations.

11.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Environmental study needed'

THE Panguna landowners want the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government to facilitate an immediate environmental study for the Panguna Mine before any arrangements are made.

Lower tailings and Upper Tailings Associations, including other representatives from the six mine lease areas, met on Saturday in Panguna to discuss the way forward for the mine and came up with recommendations, first on the list, the environmental study issue. Benedine Kiraa of the Lower Tailings told the Post-Courier that they have agreed for the environmental study to be carried out immediately and by an independent body, with one or two representatives of their choice.

Ms Kiraa said they also discussed a proposal by a new landowner group to be called the Coastal Sea Tailings, one that will cover parts of Torokina.

They want to form a new mine lease association to bring the number to eight mine lease areas.

This is because there is already another group, the Middle Tailings, covering parts of Pirurari and Topu School which have also put in a proposal for the incorporation of their association.

Lower tailings of the Panguna mine were the most affected during the Bougainville crisis as it is the electorate which accommodates the Jaba River and its tailings.

ABG advised that environmental scientists were already engaged and will soon start their expedition.

11.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches in Buin to meet with rebels

THE Churches of south Bougainville have asked the Autonomous Bougainville Government to delay any decisions to deploy Special Forces to Konnou, south Bougainville.

Catholic church priest Fr Tony of Tabago Mission told the Post-Courier from Buin that they will be meeting with the rebels all through this week and a possible meeting with Koike on Thursday to give him the benefit of the doubt and the time to speak on what his issues were and then proceed onto arrangements of roundtable discussions, ceasefire, disarmament and reconciliations.

"We are simply asking if ABG can delay any decisions made so that we can try our best to negotiate with the Me'ekamui team from Konnou.

"We will then come up with a program arrangement for a roundtable discussion, we will discuss a ceasefire agreement, disarmament and then reconciliation with Thomas Tari and the others, the ABG and the other stakeholders," Fr Tony said.

The request comes after reports that the ABG would arrange for a possible special peace force to help sort out the problems and issues of Konnou, south Bougainville. But

according to the churches, they have already made arrangements with the rebels and their executives for meetings this week.

11.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG treasurer in court

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government Treasurer Albert Punghau appeared briefly for mention in Buka District Court this week over an alleged road accident that resulted in a man's death last month.

And already, the public and other ABG MPs, are questioning his fate in office.

Albert Punghau is Member for Motuna Huyono, in south Bougainville region.

Mr Punghau was taken to Buka Police Station as a suspect and implicated for running over a young Malasang man near Kenny's Hall – Buka's popular nightclub, late last month.

The issue caused problems within the Malasang community, but according to police reports, Mr Punghau and his team gave a "belkol" money of K20,000 to the relatives of the deceased.

Treasurer Punghau has appeared briefly for mention at the Buka District Court early this week before magistrate Peter Toliken and the case adjourned to a later date.

Meanwhile, Bougainvillean MPs and ordinary citizens have taken the Government to task to explain the fate of the minister over the road accident.

Acting ABG Speaker Robin Wilson was quick to respond to the accusations and allegations, advising that he was yet to receive an official written statement.

But he said that he was aware of the case involving the minister and because it was before the courts, he was not in a position to answer to the demands of the people of Bougainville on the fate of the minister.

"I sympathise with the immediate family and relatives of the deceased ... our silence on this matter since the incident happened does not mean that we are not concerned with what has happened, and are not aware of the kind of actions to be taken by the Government if required by the Bougainville Constitution," Mr Wilson said.

"I cannot comment on his fate as a minister in light of this case.

"I will leave this to the President, Chief John Momis to announce the stand by the government.

"The Bougainville House of Representatives therefore respects the judicial process and will wait for a decision or the outcome of the Courts before the Office of the Speaker makes an official announcement on the fate of the Member for Motuna Huyono according to the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville."

11.05.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release

New ESBC Vice President!

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) unanimously voted for Mrs. Corinna Pattijn as Vice President. Mrs. Pattijn business carrier as a bank executive started in London. Further steps were New York, Amsterdam and Singapore. Today Mrs. Pattijn lives as a private investor in Amsterdam and Cologne/Germany. She is a major shareholder of Bougainville Copper. "I know Corinna for many years now," says ESBC

President Axel G. Sturm, “she has an excellent knowledge of international banking and good contacts worldwide. I am sure the ESBC will benefit from her experience.”

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) are jointly the third biggest investor in Bougainville Copper Limited behind Rio Tinto and the State of Papua New Guinea. The company owns one of the world’s biggest deposits in Copper, Gold, Silver and Molybdenum.

ESBC jetzt mit Vizepräsidentin!

Einmütig haben die Mitglieder der European Shareholders of Bougainville (ESBC) Corinna Pattijn zu ihrer Vizepräsidentin gewählt. Frau Pattijn, die viele Jahre lang in London, New York, Amsterdam und Singapur erfolgreich als Bankmanagerin tätig war, lebt heute als Privatinvestorin in Amsterdam und Köln. Sie gehört zu den Hauptaktionären der Bougainville Copper Limited. „Corinna und ich kennen uns schon seit vielen Jahren“, sagt ESBC Präsident Axel G. Sturm, „ich freue mich auf die Zusammenarbeit mit ihr, da sie speziell auf internationaler Ebene über einen großen Erfahrungsschatz und exzellente Kontakte verfügt, die nun den ESBC zugutekommen.“

Die European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper sind nach Rio Tinto und dem Staat Papua Neuguinea gemeinschaftlich der drittgrößte Anteilseigner an der Bougainville Copper Limited. Das Unternehmen besitzt eine der weltweit größten Lagerstätten an Kupfer, Gold, Silber und Molybdän.



Corinna Pattijn

11.05.2011

Source: The National

EU all set to assist PNG

By PATRICK TALU

PNG is set to benefit from European Union assistance and investments.

EU head of delegation Dr Martin Dihm said on Monday night under the Cotonou Agreement, PNG and the EU cooperated closely for development.

"Currently we are looking at an envelope of K350 million," Dihm said during Europe Day celebrations.

"These are funds contributed by European states, in particular, France and the United Kingdom.

"Together with our PNG partners, we are active in sectors such as education, rural development, infrastructure, civil society, good governance or gender equality.

"This latter issue is close to our hearts and is of major importance for development," he said.

Dihm said the EU and PNG had recently concluded a fully-fledged EU-PNG free trade agreement.

"This provides PNG with unique concessions and a privileged position in EU markets," he said.

"It enables PNG to export all goods totally free of duty to the EU.

"We stand ready to assist PNG in facing the challenges that arise, including those from new standards set in the EU and other markets for the placing of wood products," he said.

Europe Day was celebrated by a bumper crowd comprising European members in Port Moresby, members of the diplomatic corps and friends.

10.05.2011

Source: ESBC / BuySellSignals

[FAIR VALUE 2011 Bougainville Copper Limited \(click!\)](#)

The ESBC are proud to present a new study on the Fair Value of Bougainville Copper securities.

It has been established by Mr. Anil Bakaya, Pune/India, one of Bougainville Copper's major shareholders. Mr. Bakaya is an analyst who owns an investor service company that provides daily up-dated business data worldwide.

10.05.2011

Source: Solomon Star

Bougainville's Panguna landowners close to forming group to negotiate mine opening .

RNZI: The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says they're making progress in plans for a possible re-opening of the huge Panguna copper and gold mine.

Mining at Panguna is seen as the key to the province advancing economically.

John Momis says he's waiting for the six landowning groups around the mine to form a

representative body that can negotiate with his and the national government and Bougainville Copper Ltd.

This comes amid continuing opposition to renewed mining at Panguna, including from elements of the former militant group, the Me'ekamiu, but Mr Momis says he's unconcerned by that.

"We can't listen and we can't be deterred by such mutterings. The landowners have a lot to say. We do realise that there are people throughout Bougainville who claim that the Panguna mine should benefit all of us, of course it will benefit all of us, but we must get the landowners, under the law, to agree to have the mine open."

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Success Story

By Aloysius Laukai

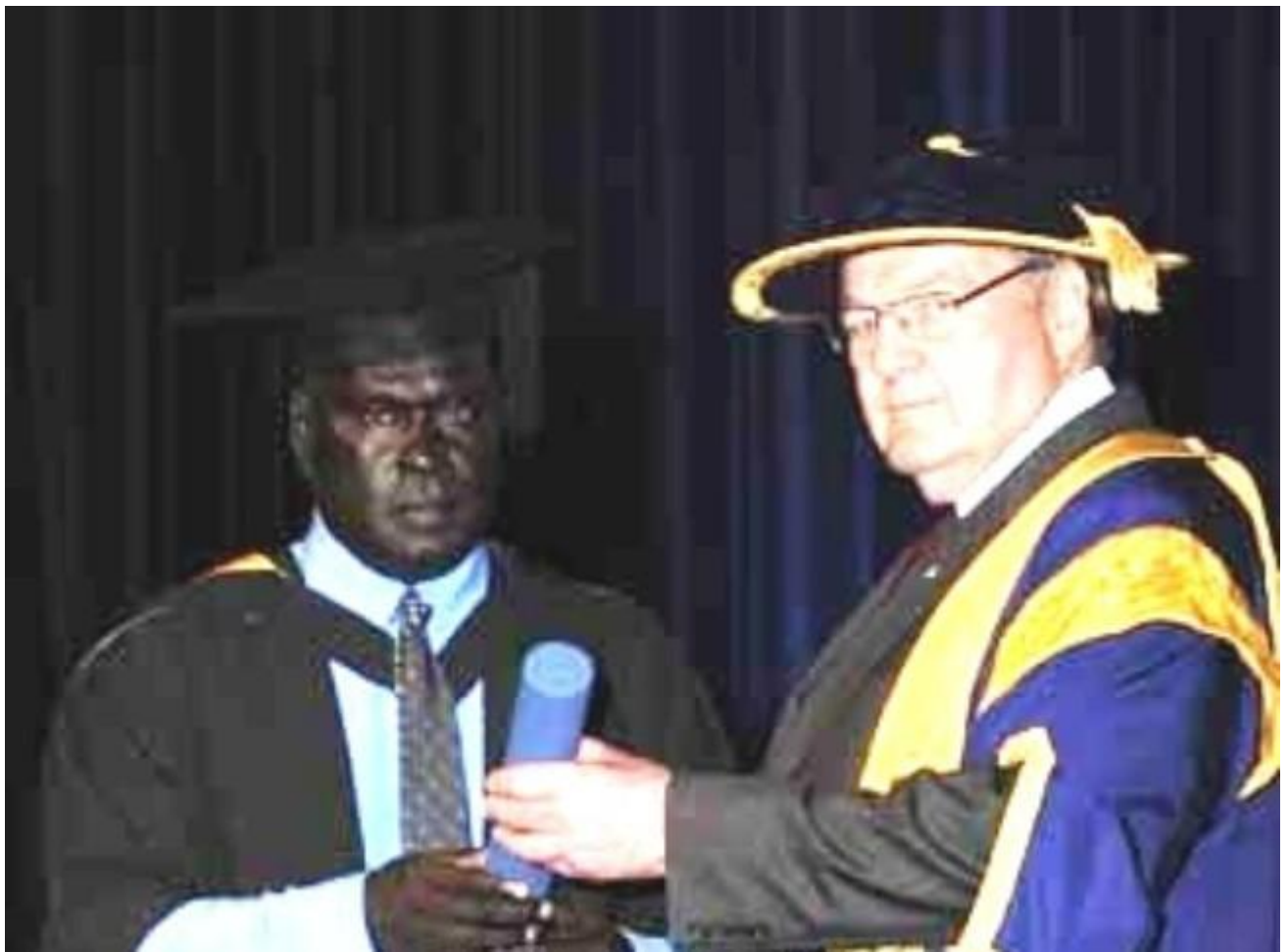
This is a human interest success story from Bougainville.

A young Bougainvillean was able to study by Distance Learning Online through the Southern Cross University Lismore campus School of Business and graduated with Masters in Business Administration on April 9th 2011 at the Wesley Conference Centre in Sydney.

The young Bougainvillean started in 2007 and took him three years to complete 12 units by course work including six electives and six core units.

Justin Borgia who with UNDP on Bougainville and based in Arawa was able to do this on his own- self sponsor something that most people will not do.

It costed him Seventy Thousand Kina for all courses which include unit costs exam and workshop travels to Port Moresby and back to Buka.



I happened to meet Justin at his Office to get this success story. Pictured is Mr Borgia getting a hand shake from the Chancellor of Southern Cross University Hon. John Dowd AO QC.

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville Land Summit in Arawa May 9th to May 13th, 2011



Picture of Momis having lunch with some of the overseas people participating at the summi



The Natural Resources Minister which includes Mining and Lands, Michael Oni presented President with the Summit documents in a specialty made Basket with the Summit written on it.



Former ABG Finance Minister, Mathias Salas briefed the seminar on how the land was taken by the Government for BCL to use. He even had documents to qualify his comments.



ABG President Chief John Momis entering the Land Summit venue at Sharp Memorial Hall in Arawa this morning.



Picture of Chief Administrator Lawrence Disin addressing the seminar this morning.

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE ELECTION CONCERN

By Tom Kathoa

Meanwhile, Bougainville Police have expressed concern about funding of its election coverage.

Head of Bougainville Police, Assistant Commissioner, Thomas Eluh says the electoral office has not informed him of funding for police election operations in North Bougainville. Commissioner Eluh said his office needs about Three Hundred Thousand kina for its operation.

He said his men are also involved in election awareness campaign.

Police personal and other officers employed in the conduct of the election have started moving into their respective polling places throughout North Bougainville region.

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POPOSOKO COMP

By Tom Kathoa

The people of Poposoko Village in the Hagogohe Constituency will see the grand finale

of Volley Ball games this weekend.

The competition started on Easter weekend is the brain child of youths in the village.

The young people got together and came up with the idea to stage such a tournament to get them involved in something good for themselves.

Their initiative is fully endorsed by several village elders who want the youths to avoid engaging in unlawful activities like drinking alcohol and the illegal drug marijuana.

The competition has drawn large crowds and has been described by leaders as a success.

The men and women's teams from both Mangoana and Kobasa have earned themselves the right to play for the top two positions in the competition.

Destiny a team from neighboring Suhin village has secured the third spot in the woman's section.

The community is gearing up and preparing well for the finale gathering this weekend.

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COUNT DOWN

By Tom Kathoa

All preparations for the North Bougainville by election have been completed with those involved in the election putting together final touches to the program.

While polling teams have been despatched to their respective polling places, candidates are working extra hours to visit as many places as possible to secure enough votes.

Those who have covered the whole electorate are now conducting mop up exercise just to remind the voters of their support with polling only three days away.

Polling for the North Bougainville by election starts this Saturday, 14th May and will end on the 20th May.

The people of North Bougainville will know who their new member of parliament is when counting is completed.

Writs for the election would be returned on the 10th of June 2011.

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

RESOURCES OWNERS

By Aloysius Laukai, Arawa

Papua New Guineans are the resources owners on their land and as such they should benefit from the development of these resources.

President of the ABG, Hon John Momis said while we own these mineral and other resources, the benefits go to outsiders.

President Momis said everything must be done to make resource owners get a fair and better share of the benefits from these resources.

Speaking to participants of a three day land submit in Arawa, today the president said foreign companies would continue to develop our natural rich resources for the next 30 years until we have the capacity and know how to develop and manage these resources on our own.

He said the government has a duty to protect these resources for the future generations.

The ABG President says Bougainville is in a better position now to make changes to laws governing the ownership of natural resources in the region.

According to the national constitution, people own the land, but the state owns all the resources under the ground.

The president says this law can be changed to give the people the right to own everything on top and underneath the land.



Picture of the participants at the Lands summit / Picture by Justin Borgia UN Buka

10.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SECOND TO NONE

BY Aloysius Laukai, Arawa

Bougainvilleans are hard working and honest people according to the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Hon Chief John Momis..

President Chief John Momis when addressing the opening of the three day land submit in Arawa said it is a fact that Bougainvilleans are hard working people.

He said regardless of poor road conditions, low commodity prices and so forth people continue to work on their copra and cocoa plantations and food gardens to earn a living and for their survival.

The President told the participants that he is happy that such an important forum was organized to deal with land issues and to inform the people of the usefulness of their land.

Among the topics to be discussed are alienated land, customary and traditional land rights and lands that have been bought by churches and plantation owners

The land submit which started yesterday will end this Thursday.

10.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Koike launches illegal operation

By PETERSON TSERAAHA

CIVILIANS and villagers in the troubled Konnou constituency are now on red alert when the criminal element allegedly led by Damien Koike launched an operation code named "Operation Leader Out" in their base in Lukauko village.

Villagers in Wisai received a threatening phone call from their VSAT from one of the criminal element members, saying they are now well-equipped and ready to move and execute the operation in Konnou constituency and in South Bougainville.

According to reliable sources, the operation is directly aimed at the Autonomous Bougainville Government whose leadership is now under threat.

Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) commander Philip Pusua confirmed the report recently.

Mr Pusua further stated that the person who issued the threat was one of those who allegedly fired upon civilians over the Easter weekend, instantly killing one of them.

"We all have to do something now before this gets out of hand and out of our control, because this threat and operation is aimed directly to the ABG leadership," Mr Pusua said.

"Now the ABG leadership is under threat from these criminals."

10.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tanks blamed

BOUGAINVILLE'S northern tip, Haku, would not have gone through a cholera outbreak if the 200 water tank project promised to them by leaders were distributed on time.

Former North Bougainville MP, now Governor General Sir Michael Ogio, "dished" out a K1.2 million water tank project to a Bougainville businessman to supply 200 water tanks to the people of north Bougainville. The project, according to the Bougainville finance officers, was awarded to a Bougainvillean (named) and early this year K900,000 was disbursed to the company contracted while the other K200,000 was still outstanding. The North Bougainvilleans are now requesting the ABG District administration or those in authority to disseminate such information to detail where the 200 water tanks destined for rural areas of Buka Island have disappeared to and an explanation on where the funds from now GG Ogio has been kept and left.

The disgruntled group had also demanded the authorities to confirm that K600,000 was parked in Treasury Bills at the Central Bank of PNG.

But the Bougainville finance office could not detail and provide the information requested by the people that fronted up at their offices last week.

The Post-Courier, however was privy to documents detailing that K600,000 of that payments was kept in Treasury Bills at the Bank of Papua New Guinea.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville land summit underway

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

LAND experts from Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Bougainville have gathered this week at Arawa, Bougainville, to discuss Bougainville land issues and how best the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and its people can best manage this asset. ABG president John Momis, in welcoming everyone to the summit said this is an opportunity for stakeholders to look at realistic ways of managing land in Bougainville. He says the land summit would enable ABG to hear the view of landowners and consider establishing new land laws specific to Bougainville.

He said PNG today has to deal with land management issues either through the foreign concept of ownership or the indigenous concept of ownership of land and resources which often does not settle well with the people.

This week's land summit, Momis says, will help Bougainville address this issue by looking at ways to merge positive and realistic concepts from both the foreign and indigenous concepts of land management.

He added that by way of merging workable practices of land management concepts, the people of Bougainville would not lose their culture and livelihood derived from the land.

The summit which was launched today will end on Thursday.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Carterets receives relief supplies

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Basic food supplies of rice, flour and oil were successfully distributed to the people of Carterets atolls on Friday.

Bougainville Disaster coordinator Franklyn Lacey was at Carterets atolls for one week, distributing the relief supplies.

Lacey said Carterets was the first to receive the relief supplies as it was the worst affected by rising sea level followed by Nisan Island which is currently facing food shortage.

He says the current batch of supplies is the last of the rations made possible by a three thousand kina donation from AusAID to assist Bougainville with current relief efforts to the atolls and islands affected by rising sea level.

Meanwhile, Lacey says Hitau island near Pororan is also facing food shortage and due to funding constraints, his office was able to arrange with the people of Halia in North Bougainville to provide Hitau islanders with garden food in exchange for fish for the next six months.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Vaccination week ends

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Vaccination week in Bougainville ended yesterday with health officials satisfied that many parents made use of the opportunity to have their babies vaccinated.

Health officials in Buka say the vaccination week, a first in the region and in Papua New Guinea, was a success but they are not able to give the exact number of babies vaccinated last week until all results have been finalized.

They add that they would focus on compiling the results of last week's event from all outstations and finalize the report before making the report public.

Bougainville Health division in partnership with World Health Organization and AusAID had hoped to immunize at least 6000 babies throughout the region.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Mr PIP to arrive in BUKA

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

The world movie producers of Mr PIP movie will be arriving in Buka this week and will travel to Pidia, home of late WILLIAM TAKAKU to begin filming of the movie Mr PIP. Famous executive producer of the movies SHREK and NANIA, ANDREW ADAMSON is amongst the production team that will be travelling to Bougainville.

The team is expected to stay for a month to film the story of Mr. PIPS, a white man who lived in Bougainville during the crisis.

Bougainvilleans are advised to help the film crew whenever they are seen in town with their film equipment and also to show the visitors the true spirit of Bougainville hospitality.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police Chief Appeals to Koike

By MARIA LAUKAI

Bougainville police chief ACP THOMAS ELUH is appealing to Me'ekamui South Bougainville commander Damien Koike and his men to lay down their weapons and support Bougainville Police Service or BPS in ensuring peace in the region.

ACP ELUH says he wants to personally meet with KOIKE and his men and tell them more about the BPS community policing concept which needs the commitment and support of everyone including KOIKE and his men.

Mr ELUH made this appeal after a planned meeting with KOIKE two weeks ago was not successful because KOIKE decided to meet only with the United Nations representative in Bougainville ANTHONY AGYENTA and Bougainville Catholic Bishop BERNARD UNABALI.

Mr ELUH said he was informed that the reason why KOIKE did not want to meet with him was because of a confrontation three years ago at TONU between KOIKE'S faction and BPS special operations team.

ACP ELUH said that is in the past now and appealed to KOIKE and his men to stop all criminal activities and work together for the betterment of Bougainville.

09.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville's Panguna landowners close to forming group to negotiate mine opening

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says they're making progress in plans for a possible re-opening of the huge Panguna copper and gold mine.

Mining at Panguna is seen as the key to the province advancing economically.

John Momis says he's waiting for the six landowning groups around the mine to form a

representative body that can negotiate with his and the national government and Bougainville Copper Ltd.

This comes amid continuing opposition to renewed mining at Panguna, including from elements of the former militant group, the Me'ekamui, but Mr Momis says he's unconcerned by that.

"We can't listen and we can't be deterred by such mutterings. The landowners have a lot to say. We do realise that there are people throughout Bougainville who claim that the Panguna mine should benefit all of us, of course it will benefit all of us, but we must get the landowners, under the law, to agree to have the mine open."

09.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebel wages war on ABG

ONE of Bougainville's notorious Me'ekamui rebel hardliners has declared war on his own Autonomous Government leaders with a bitter feeling towards the empty promises made to them.

Damien Koike had launched an operation code named "Operation Leader out" in their base in Lukauko village, south Bougainville. When asked why he was doing that, he said that was to counter the empty promises of the ABG, but could not further speak on the matter.

Bougainville's top cop ACP Thomas Eluh confirmed the operation was launched but could not elaborate on the issue. And Police Station Command in Buin said the ABG should now take an immediate step to address the issue because it has now become political to address.

The United Nations and the Churches are also aware of this operation but could not fully comment on the latter.

But Moongai homeguards said that villagers in Wisai received a threatening phone call from their VSAT from one of the criminal element members saying their now well equipped and ready to move and execute the operation in Konnou constituency and in South Bougainville. Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) commander Philip Pusua confirmed the report to the Post Courier last week.

But Me'ekamui Defence Force Commander Chris Uma when contacted told the Post Courier he was the original Me'ekamui and chief and the actions by Koike were not supported by him and his soldiers. Moses Pipiro's hardline executives in Panguna also said that Koike was doing this alone, not with their support and advised they will travel to Buin this week to try and sort the problem out. Late last week, the Post-Courier received a report from four other armed factions in Buin claiming they were ready to combat and counter the operation. They claimed they were fed up of the actions by Koike and his men.

Reports detailed the person who issued the threat was one of those who allegedly fired upon civilians over the Easter weekend instantly killing one of them.

"Now the ABG leadership is under threat from these criminals, and the only way now is law and order needs to take its course, these people need to be arrested and face the full force of the law now before it's too late...these are mere criminals taking the Law into their own hands as if their kings of this land. "We find it hard to abide by the peace agreement because if we do and we will surely die at the hands of these criminals because we have taken up arms to protect ourselves and our people in the Konnou constituency."

09.05.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Are the Me'ekamui Remote Controlled from Abroad ?

Since April 2011 the homepage of the criminal Bank of Me'ekamui (www.ibom.biz) is not alone in the internet: There is now a new attractive site of a so called "Government of Me'ekamui", (www.governmentofmeekamui.net) online. Who is behind these two professional homepages? The ESBC made some research on this and found out surprising facts. It's highly probable that interested "white-collar" subjects from abroad are behind these mean activities.



World class homepage of a notorious local criminal !



Better homepage than PNG: the self-appointed Me'ekamui site!

Both homepages have one thing in common: Both are hosted in the United States of America and updated regularly. The IBOM homepage is made in Drums, Pennsylvania by [Mr. Benjamin Papaala](#).



Residing in a cosy village in Pennsylvania (U.S.A.): The cyber home of the criminal International Bank of Me'ekamui !

Round about four hours drive further east from Drums is the home of the government of Me'ekamui in Woodmere, New York. The small village of Woodmere is only some minutes drive away from JFK Airport. The legal owner of the Government of Meekamui domain is a certain 62 years old [Mr. Stewart Sytner](#) who lives in a splendid villa in 566, Linda Lane, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598. The technical support comes from Phoenix, Arizona.



Jaguar limousine in front: Mr. Stewart Sytner's home and Me'ekamui "government" residence in Woodmere, N.Y.

Both homepages are even very professionally made and pretend to reflect the reality on Bougainville. The IBOM site even provides in-depth information not only in [English](#) but also in [French](#) and [German](#). The Government of Me'ekamui's site pretends to represent Bougainville interest and resources. True is that there is only one lawful governance power on Bougainville: The Autonomous Bougainville Government with Hon. John Momis as President and furthermore the National Government of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby.

The same is for the banks in Bougainville: There is a branch of the Bank of Southern Pacific in Buka. The so called International Bank of Me'ekamui is simply a mere - a fantasy of notorious conman Noah Musingku and his mentally troubled followers to cheat customers. Same procedure as in the past! Find out more about conman "King Pei" Noah Musingku here in a Journeyman's Pictures report, published on Youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xysdwautkpc&feature=player_embedded !

Who are these two gentlemen who own these two homepages? Why do they host and design such homepages? Who are the people who fund these activities in the United States of America? What are their real intentions? Is it perhaps again the Pritzker Group that already in the 1980s tried to take over Bougainville Copper Limited or are interested groups in PNG involved? There had even been rumors on the ground that the Pritzker Group might have initiated the Bougainville Crises by giving money to some prominent leaders to weaken BCL's position. Is the Pritzker Group again trying to overtake the Panguna mine? Has the Pritzker Group been behind all the violent volatility of BCL shares suffered from within the last 12 months? Who works together in Bougainville with doubtful people in the U.S. and why?

The ESBC has no answers to all these questions yet . We only know that there are a growing number of visitors from the United States on our homepage. That might be evidence for increasing interest of U.S. investors in Bougainville Copper Limited and - perhaps - for some ongoing strange back-stage activities. However: these activities are the best evidence that Panguna still of great interest for many greedy people all over the world!

[All readers who are able to provide further in-depth information to complete the story, please contact the ESBC here! Don't hesitate, it's only one click!](#)

06.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville violence threat comes from minority says expert

Threats from hardline supporters of a separatist group on the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville against the re-opening of the mine there are not representative of what most people there think.

That's according to Dr Tony Regan, from the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia program at the Australian National University in Canberra.

A group calling itself the Mekamui Hardliners says negotiations about reopening the Panguna copper and gold mine are not taking place with their members, who they say are the real landowners, and not others who live in Port Moresby.

They're threatened a return to violence if the mine reopens, saying all it takes is one bullet to stop it.

Dr Regan says the Mekamui faction does represent some landowners, but it's a minority, and most Bougainvillians are in favour of getting the mine operational again.

Listen here !

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Tony Regan, from the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia program at the Australian National University

DR REGAN: I understand the group of Bougainvilleans living in Melbourne and in Solomon Islands, however they do go back to Bougainville where they're from and they are in touch with people in Bougainville who still are opposed to mining, some on cultural grounds, some on environmental grounds, but in general there's never been a huge level of opposition to mining in Bougainville. The conflict is not originally about total opposition to mining. It was much more about the unfairness of the distribution of revenue and benefits from the mine. Even Francis Ona has wrongly portrayed, the original leader of the BRA, he's wrongly portrayed by many in Australia as an environmental warrior. He wasn't. He was somebody who was using the environmental issues and the damage from the environment from the mine as a way of emphasising the point that the damage being done in Bougainville was significant and the revenue should be flowing much more to Bougainvilleans. And when he became a secessionist, he envisaged the mine being the main source of revenue to an independent Bougainville.

HILL: What's the sentiment on reopening the mine on the island at the moment, because I remember at the end of the Bougainville civil war, I spoke to Sam Kauona and Joseph Kabui, two of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army leaders and asked them if they ever thought the mine would reopen and they were both vehemently opposed to it and said no, it started this war, we don't want it happening ever again.

DR REGAN: Yes, and in due course, both of them have become supporters of the reopening of mining, because it was clear that without mining, it was going to be difficult to get the revenue needed to make Bougainville autonomy work or for independence to be realistic. So there's been a significant swing of opinion from people who were originally thought after the conflict, that the conflict had been caused by mining and therefore we should avoid mining, to a much more open opinion on it. However, there still is a significant minority of Bougainvilleans opposed to mining. But basically the threat is not particularly important, because it's been made very clear by the Bougainville government, by BCL, by the National Government that in the end, the opening of the mine is a matter for the Bougainville government to decide, ask for consultation with the people and if there's strong views against mining, it's very unlikely that anyone's going to want to invest the three or four billion US dollars that's going to be required to reopen the mine. And so threats really aren't necessary. It's clear that all views are going to be taken into account.

HILL: Well, the president of the autonomous government, John Momis, has said that they want mining to restart, they want foreign investment, but to get foreign investment, they're going to have to ensure that they're investment is safe, which is why they want to get all the guns off people and he's threatened if that doesn't work, RAMSI-style intervention forces might be needed. Is that something that's possible or likely?

DR REGAN: It would be very difficult to organise an international intervention in Bougainville again, but not impossible. The UN remains very interested in Bougainville, the region remains very interested. The problem that the president is talking about is very real. There's significant numbers of weapons in Bougainville and there's been many efforts made in the last five years, since the first significant weapons disposal, both are supervised by the UN ended, to get weapons out and they've not been very successful. So what the president is saying is that if the leaders of the group that are holding weapons cannot get together with communities, find a way of ensuring all groups feel secure enough and safe enough to give up their weapons, then serious alternatives are going to have to be looked at. So he's really just signalling to people think about this and of course disposal of weapons is not merely about mining. Of course, it's going to be necessary to have the disposal of weapons if mining is to go ahead, but there are many

other significant reasons why Bougainvilleans want the weapons got rid off, including just the threat to security and peace of the ordinary people, the use of weapons in crime, in violence and so on and the president's very concerned about those issues as well from many statements that he's made.

05.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

South Bougainville not safe for officers say police

Bougainville's assistant police commissioner says armed militants in the south of the autonomous province of Papua New Guinea are making it unsafe for officers to work there.

The comment follows a suggestion by Bougainville's president, John Momis, that United Nations peacekeepers may be needed to deal with lawlessness and violence in the area. Assistant commissioner Thomas Eluh says a group of about 30 men under the command of a former Bougainville Revolutionary Army combatant named Damien Koike are killing civilians.

But Mr Eluh says it's too risky to send officers to investigate.

"In terms of manpower, I'm really down in manpower at the moment. I mean I've got only about 179 police personnel who are not, according to the peace agreement and the constitution, it does not allow police to be armed so we are confronted with all these challenges."

Thomas Eluh says the police are hoping civil society organisations may be successful in negotiating Damien Koike's surrender.

05.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville women's NGO to try and talk to militant leaders

The head of a Bougainville women's NGO says it's preparing to talk to those involved in the build-up of arms in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province, including the leader of the militant Mekamui Defence Force.

This comes after Bougainville's president, John Momis, said it may be necessary to have peacekeepers return if violence and lawlessness continue in the south of the main island.

Leitana Nehan Development Agency's Helen Hakena says the Mekamui no longer trusts the government but its commander, Damian Koike, will listen to the women of the province.

"The women have a lot of influence because as mothers we do not have enemies. We just want peace and you know our children to grow up in a peaceful environment. We do not want to lose any more lives you know, either from the commander's side or from the civilians. Because they're killing civilians."

Helen Hakena says women's organisations won't move into Bougainville's southern area until the government states clearly what it wants them to do.

05.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville militant killing civilians - police

Bougainville's assistant police commissioner says armed militants in the south of the autonomous province of Papua New Guinea are killing civilians.

The president John Momis has said if negotiations don't quell violence and lawlessness in the area he's prepared to call in United Nations peacekeepers.

The assistant commissioner Thomas Eluh says a group of about 30 men under the command of a former Bougainville Revolutionary Army combatant named Damien Koike are killing civilians.

Mr Eluh says Mr Koike had agreed to speak with him but then reneged on the deal.

"From the information we've been getting he just goes out and kills people you know at his own wish. Maybe people who dislike him or people who talk against or people who may be in some dispute against him or his group, they just go out and kill these innocent people."

Thomas Eluh says police are also considering calling on other ex-BRA combatants who may have been associated with Damien Koike to try and negotiate with him.

05.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Conflict in south Bougainville stopping development

Bougainville's president says it's not feasible to start developing the Konnou region in the south of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province because of lawlessness there.

The comment comes as the police say the region's not safe for their unarmed officers to police and civil society organisations to prepare to approach the militants to get them to stop killing civilians.

John Momis says his administration has development plans for Konnou but it's not feasible to start any projects.

"Because number one, the Konnou area comprises of a whole lot of people who don't see eye-to-eye and unless we get them to agree to work together it is in fact irresponsible to start embarking on something that's will only end up in smoke."

John Momis says United Nations peacekeepers may be needed if a summit he's called of the wider south Bougainville community doesn't come up with ways to solve the problem internally.

05.05.2011

Source: ME'EKAMUI MEDIA RELEASE

RE-OPENING OF PANGUNA MINE IS NOT NEGOTIABLE

Locals from Bougainville are keen to correct the pro-mine media regarding the reopening of the Panguna mine and warn against misrepresentation of views and a repeat of the bloody violence of the past. The proponent, Bougainville Copper Limited is majority owned by Rio Tinto, whose AGM will be held in Perth today.

Phillip Banas spokesperson for the Mekamui Hardliners said "The re-opening of the Panguna mine on Bougainville is not-negotiable."

"The people that own the land around the mine site are adamant that they would not allow that to happen immediately or in future."

Overseas media or personal are contacting people they say represent the mine or land owners in Panguna, but those people do not represent the real views of the rightful land owners. They most of the time live out of Bougainville, out of touch, and in comfort miles away in Port Moresby. As a result what they talk about is hear-say, out of context, wishful

thinking, and out of thinking of real land owners and Bougainvilleans.

“This is a volatile and an explosive situation that should be treated delicately and with caution. The real issue why the mine was closed is still not being addressed yet.”

So the real issue is that consultation must be made at grass root level, views of the ordinary people on the ground must be addressed and wider consultation taken on board.

Views of Bankers, Technocrats, and Politicians are seen as ploys to get the rich to richer and the poor to get poorer. So the poor land owners will always be the biggest losers at the end, because of ill conceived decisions that was made in a hasty mood by some one or people that overlooked real issues and failed to contact real people.

“Bougainville has gone through a bloody path in the past, and if things go wrong at this stage, history shows that the path can always be repeated.”

For further information and comment, contact the Mekamui Hardliners on;

Phillip Banas, Ph: +677 847 0907

+677 847 0907

Clive

Porabou, Ph: +677 750 5944

+677 750 5944

05.05.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville govt cautions groups not to disturb peace process

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has cautioned Bougainvilleans, national government and foreigners interested in the resources at Panguna to be mindful of the peace process that is in progress.

Vice-president Patrick Nisira said the progress of peace through the Panguna Unification and Reconciliation process “is fragile”.

“It is very important to the people of Bougainville region.

“The peace process belongs to the ABG acting directly on behalf of the people of Bougainville and the people of Panguna,” Nisira said.

He said the ABG was responsible for the welfare and well-being of its people and “anyone who has business interests in Bougainville must be mindful of the status of the people”.

“It is not always easy to deal with people who have different ideas and who see things differently from traditional methods of resolving conflicts to formal methods scrutinised by world bodies or international communities,” Nisira said.

He urged that all national members of parliament, ABG ministers, business houses and individuals to be honest and not make empty promises to the people of Panguna to win favours.

“I have negotiated with the ABG mandate and not with money or commitments for the government to pay anything or give people promises of wealth of any kind,” Nisira said.

He said the ABG had dealt through the normal government process and made a breakthrough with perseverance and personal contact and communication using the traditional Bougainville way of dialogue and making peace.

“I want to remind us that the world is watching us Bougainvilleans and the way we conduct ourselves must be up to standards set and must be sustained,” Nisira said.

05.05.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville hardliners warn against reopening Panguna mine

[Listen here !](#)

Self-styled hardliners on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville have warned against any attempt to re-open the Panguna copper and gold mine.

There has been talk of starting up operations at the mine recently, and the President of the Bougainville autonomous government, John Momis, says foreign investment is needed to unlock the islands' mineral wealth.

But followers of the late Francis Ona, who lead the hardline Mekamui faction of the rebels during the 10 year old civil war, say re-opening the mine is not negotiable, and warn of renewed conflict if it goes ahead.

Phillip Banas, a Solomon Islands based spokesman for a group describing itself as Mekamui hardliners, says people in Port Moresby claiming to be traditional landowners of Panguna and who are discussing the idea of allowing the mine to operate again do not represent the actual landowners who still live there.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speakers: Phillip Banas, a Solomon Islands based spokesman the Mekamui hardliners from Bougainville

05.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Policy set for joint ventures

By Alex Munme

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has a policy in place for joint venture arrangements for business activities in the region.

The policy is a mechanism to ensure that desired classes of investors benefit from an enterprise.

Under the policy, any foreign investor seeking access to natural resources shall have a local partner to ensure participation of local people and other resources to localise a proportion of the benefits.

The policy states that effective joint ventures consist of genuine business partners who contribute to the venture and are rewarded from profits according to their contributions.

Foreign investors have free access to the market but it is required that where any natural resources are involved in the enterprise, these are to be accessed through a joint venture arrangement with the owners of the resources.

An example of such an arrangement is when a company wants a factory site, it would enter into a joint venture with the owner of the site.

The owner would lease the site to the locally registered company and be paid for the lease according to agreed terms.

The value of the resources contributed can be used to determine the proportion of the shares which each partner holds in the company.

This is more equitable than arbitrarily deciding that each member has 50 per cent, 49 per cent or some other division. If State land is involved, such land shall be leased to a local entity in a joint venture arrangement. This overcomes the difficulty of having a foreign owner for local resources and also overcomes the issue of the State not being directly involved in enterprises which it is also responsible for regulating.

This policy is put in place to guide, assist and protect all including the foreign investor, the local partner, the resource owner and ABG. The function of ABG in relation to joint venture is a regulatory role.

05.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

21-gun salute meets G-G

SIR Michael Ogio yesterday arrived to a 21-gun salute as Papua New Guinea's ninth Governor-General since Independence in 1975.

Sir Michael Ogio became the country's vice-regal soon after relinquishing his North Bougainville Open seat in Parliament to replace fellow-New Guinea islander Sir Paulias Matane.

Sir Michael was a three-term parliamentarian.

On arrival at 8.30am Sir Michael was treated to the normal protocol, including inspection of a guard of honour.

Acting Prime Minister, Sam Abal, led a group of dignitaries that officially welcomed Sir Michael following his formal investiture by the Queen in London last week.

Included was the conference of the titles of Grand Companion of Saint Michael and Saint George (GCMG), Companion of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG and Knight of Saint Johns (KStJ).

For the State this was an improvement from his send-off a week ago when Mr Abal was the only dignitary that saw him off for his inauguration.

Port Moresby residents and especially those in the vicinity of the Jacksons International Airport were caught off-guard when the 21-gun salute was fired by PNG Defence Force personnel to mark the occasion.

Many were caught off-guard by the loud successive explosions not knowing what the occasion was, but which they later learnt was the arrival of the Governor-General.

Both the PNGDF and the Royal PNG Constabulary were involved in the formal welcome with the police band providing the marching musical orders.

PNGDF Commander, Francis Agwi, escorted Sir Michael for the inspection of the guard of honour, witnessed by Mr Abal, Chief Secretary Margaret Elias, Foreign Affairs Secretary Peter Mauwe and other departmental heads.

The occasion thus marked the end of formalities on the appointment of Sir Michael as the Governor-General of PNG, which now allow him to perform the roles of the Queen's representative in PNG.

05.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOT ENOUGH TIME....LAUTA

By Tom Kathoa

A Candidate in the North Bougainville Bye election says he will not have enough time to implement all projects initiated by the former member cum Governor General, Michael Ogio.

A candidate contesting the by election, Lautu Atoi said the time the new member would be in office is too short for him to adequately implement major impact projects in the electorate.

Candidate Atoi told a campaign rally at Poposoko Village in the Hagogohe Constituency yesterday that if he is elected, he would in this short period of time address the most essential needs of the people.

He said his campaign tour of villages has equipped him with the needs of the people and if given the mandate would look at fixing these needs.

They include water which is the most essential requirement of life, education, health and transportation.

Mr. Atoi said he would also complete all incomplete projects left behind by the former member.

There are many such half finished projects like, educational and health buildings in all constituencies.

Atoi said there are many four in one classrooms, health centers and staff houses half completed and he has assured the voters that he would complete these projects once given the mandate.

He would also look at buying an ambulance for people in remote areas of North Bougainville.

04.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville women's NGO supports possible return of peacekeepers

The head of a Bougainville women's NGO says it supports a possible return of peace monitors to the autonomous Papua New Guinea province.

Bougainville's president John Momis says it may be necessary to bring back the United Nations peace keepers if violence and lawlessness are not brought under control in the south of the main island.

Leitana Nehan Development Agency's Helen Hakena says in Torokina guns from the Second World War are being dug up and used for inter-factional fighting.

"We really would like the UN to come as a peacekeeping body to come and remove all guns on Bougainville so there would be total peace across Bougainville because we are entering peace in north Bougainville and south Bougainville there is chaos down there. There is no trust, there is instability, there is insecurity there."

Helen Hakena is calling on all of Bougainville's civil society organisations to speak out clearly against the killings and violence taking place in the province.

04.04.2011

Source: ESBC/BCL

2011 Annual General Meeting:

All ESBC Questions and BCL Answers now online!

[Please click here !](#)

04.05.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20110504

Me'ekamui and BRA finally unmasked !

Nearly ten years after the Bougainville Peace Agreement had been signed on August 30th, 2001 there is still no enduring peace on the remote Pacific island. Especially in the south of Bougainville, former combatants threaten, steal and kill under the flag of Me'ekamui. Self-appointed "commanders" and "generals" still terrorize innocent citizens. Round about 50 of them were even killed in South Bougainville within the last five years – amongst them: children who were playing on a football ground.

Neither the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) nor the National Papua New Guinea Government seem to be able or willing to stop the violence committed by former freedom fighters especially in the Konnou area who turned into criminal gangs. The Panguna Me'ekamuies chose a softer way for earning their livelihood. Controlling the giant mine area they demand toll from all who want to access to the giant mineral resources. It is even probable that they are involved in ongoing illicit mining on the ground. An article published on May 3rd, 2011 by self-appointed Me'ekamui spokesman Clive Porabou on his homepage describes exactly what's happening today in the abandoned BCL Panguna mine: Individuals are digging for gold – un-authorized. [Please read Porabou's articles here!](#)



Fanatic Clive Porabou presenting as "Mr. Nice Guy" on the Me'ekamui blog.

Not only that these diggers are using highly poisonous mercury to separate gold from the rock and empoisoning the environment; they steal herewith BCL's and Bougainville's wealth for their own interest. But the island's mineral richness is supposed to bring prosperity to all Bougainvilleans. All this illegal mining happens more or less under protection of Me'ekamui – since many years! Panguna landowners keep mostly quiet. Obviously they are intimidated by the Me'ekamuies who still illegally carry weapons. This in spite the fact that disarmament of all Bougainvilleans had been accepted in the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement, the Me'ekamui did not hand over their weapons. Me'ekamui are not the only ones: Recently there had been several so called sorcery killings around Atamo (North of Panguna) and Arawa. Allegedly there were former BRA (Bougainville Revolutionary Army) members involved. They are also supposed to finance their criminal activities by alluvial mining.



**Will he get help from abroad?
ABG President John Momis**

As the police forces are un-armed in Bougainville, they are - of course - not able to enforce law and order on the island. Also President John Momis learnt this. If he wants to bring peace to Bougainville he needs to seek help from abroad.



Boss of a notorious killer gang: Damien Koike

It is unlikely that law and order can be installed on Bougainville without massive foreign support. This support might cost victims amongst the Me'ekamui – especially in the south where war-lord Damien Koike is responsible for many insidious killings. Fanatic

Me'ekamui Clive Porabou even predicts even new "blood-shed" on his Me'ekamui Blog (<http://mekamui.wordpress.com/>) !

As the Panguna Me'ekamu is taking profit of the mine's richness, they also may defend their vital financial resource. Their leaders actually try to defend their interest in negotiations with the ABG. So far "General Uma" and his group are "moderate outlaws". They even negotiate under the wise leadership of Mr. Philip Miriori with the ABG for more progress on the ground.



Me'ekamui "General" Chris Uma

But Me'ekamui spokesman Clive Porabou - mislead and remote-controlled by anarchic left-wing ecologist groups in London (UK) and Australia - still continues spreading lies and jealousy in the internet and on the ground. Never has he mentioned the outrageous cruelty of his Me'ekamui "brothers" in the south on his blog. "As long as the Panguna Me'ekamu do not clearly oppose to Koike's and other criminal gangs they have to be considered responsible for these criminal acts committed by this murderous riffraff as well," says the President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC). Mr. Axel G. Sturm and adds: "Hopefully the latest Porabou text will open the eyes of many good willing and honest Bougainvilleans and dismantle the fake image of these groups! The ESBC always claimed that all moderate combatants get a good chance to work for our company one day. But we will never accept killers or terrorists in Panguna!"

04.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou not safe: Nasioi MP

By Peterson Tseraha

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government minister for women and community development Rose Pihei has been told not to move into Konnou, because the situation there isn't promising at all and public money might be wasted.

The call came from member for South Nasioi and deputy chairman of the parliamentary

committee for law and justice John Ken.

The call has been whole heartedly welcomed and supported by chiefs in the Konnou area where the situation is quite tense.

“Community development should move now into areas where there is already peace so that their work and money will be worth it,” Mr Ken said.

“There are places ready for community development to run workshops like parts of south central and north Bougainville, and to go into places like Konnou it will be waste of time and money.”

Mr Ken said community development should concentrate on other areas first before thinking of Konnou because they will certainly meet problems.

“A lot of money have been spent since trouble started brewing up in Konnou and we do not want to risk it anymore, so please think twice before making a move,” Mr Ken said.

“It is just like putting your hands into hot boiling water, and that is what we all do not want to do because the situation in Konnou at the moment does not permit us.”

Chiefs in the Wisai area supported the member’s call, saying the proposed summit will also be another big waste of money, and running courses in Konnou and the summit no one will attend because they are living in fear.

04.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

UN tries to contain trouble in Konnou

THE no-go area of Konnou in south Bougainville remains a critical challenge to the Bougainville peace process.

The United Nations in Bougainville is already trying to solve the problem – since last March they held a meeting with all stakeholders and recently Anthony Agyenta, UN boss in Buka, and his delegation and the Catholic Church met with the Konnou rebels to start the meeting with Damien Koike’s Me’ekamui soldiers.

Mr Agyenta said there are key ABG leaders with knowledge and contacts with these factions that a political intervention might help.

“The remnants of war-time factions are still active in this area causing insecurity and deterring extension of government and services to the local populations.”

04.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville prepares for drought

BOUGAINVILLE division of primary industry will carry out awareness on drought to communities throughout the region according to DPI’s chief executive officer, Sam Rangai.

He said officers are tasked to ensure the people in Bougainville are informed of the predicted drought next year.

Mr Rangai said the awareness aimed at informing the people on which crops to plant and the measures to take during the drought.

He said in the region, there are some areas which are commonly affected by natural disasters and these will be the target areas during the awareness.

04.05.2011

Source: The National

Radio presents new programme

BOUGAINVILLE community radio station New Dawn FM began broadcast last night of a new programme, "Know your government".

Listeners in the region will learn more about the Autonomous Bougainville Government from the programme.

New Dawn FM owner and managing director Aloysius Laukai said the programme, which would air every Tuesday at 8.30pm, was a joint initiative of the office of ABG President John Momis and the New Dawn management.

"The new programme will complement programmes produced by the office of the president but will detail some of the activities of past government under the leadership of two former presidents, the late Joseph Kabui and second president James Tanis," Laukai said.

He said listeners of the station would learn how past ABG governments and their administrations had performed.

The "Know your government" programme will be hosted by journalist Thomas Kathoa and broadcaster Aloycia Laukai.

Laukai said the new programme would complement the station's broadcast of music entertainment shows, news and current affairs and its oldest running programme on women's health issues known as "Bougainville meri tete".

"Bougainville meri tete was initiated last year and is sponsored by Canadian-based Commonwealth of Learning.

"Representatives of our sponsor are with us this week to review this programme and conduct broadcast training," he said.

New Dawn FM was established in April 2008 and broadcasts throughout North Bougainville on 95.3 FM.

It plans to expand to Central and South Bougainville soon.

04.05.2011

Source: Solomon Star

Quarantine officers return.

BY GINA MAKAA

SIX quarantine officers who went to the Shortland Islands and to Choiseul Province have returned to Honiara.

This was confirmed by a spokesman from the Quarantine office.

The spokesman said the officers had returned from weeks of doing a monitoring surveillance in Shortland and Choiseul province.

"The group went for a pest and disease survey to look for any attacks on crops there," he said.

The spokesman said one of the team's main aims was also to look for a cocoa disease which was believed to be already in Bougainville.

"The name of the cocoa disease was podpoara a new disease which drill holes on cocoa pods and also allows caterpillars to feed on immature cocoa pods.

"When this happens farmers can no longer export and harvest cocoa beans because of the disease," he said.

He said the disease is very serious and deadly.

The spokesman said the team also made awareness to people not to carry any plant material from Bougainville, to avoid the cocoa disease from reaching Solomon Islands shores.

"We are getting thousands of dollars out of cocoa but once the disease reaches our shores we will lose a big income for the country," the spokesman said.

He said Shortland and Choiseul were considered as two high risk places because people travel in and out from Bougainville.

He said the team comprised of cocoa expert Dr John Konam from the Cocoa Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP) the team's leader and officers from agriculture and quarantine divisions.

The group will present their findings by the end of this week.

The trip was funded by CLIP under the AusAid funding.

03.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TONSU BY-ELECTION

The people of Tonsu constituency will have an open member to represent them in the ABG parliament by October this year.

This will be after the constituency goes through a by-election to elect again a leader to represent them after Tonsu member honourable EZEKIEL MASAT resigned from his post in March, to contest the national North Bougainville by-election.

Bougainville Executive Council today announced it has approved and selected the following dates for the Tonsu by-election.

Nominations open with the issue of writs on 1st August by ABG speaker ANDREW MIIRIKI. Nominations close on 8th August and polling will be from 10th September to 15th September with the return of writs on 28th September.

Chairman and Acting President honourable PATRICK NISIRA said the by-election needs to be conducted early because the vacancy was a disadvantage to the people of Tonsu constituency.

Meanwhile, the appointment of the acting electoral commissioner Mr Reitama Taravaru has been extended to 31st December.

03.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Vaccine

Bougainville needs children's hospital

BOUGAINVILLE needs a children's hospital says ABG vice president and health minister PATRICK NISIRA.

In launching the vaccination week today at Buka Hospital, NISIRA directed Bougainville Health Division, Buka Hospital Management and WHO to begin planning of this children's hospital project.

NISIRA instructed that the authorities draw up a specific plan including cost of the proposed children's hospital.

He said the children of Bougainville are the future of the region and they must be well taken care off.

He also called on parents and health workers throughout the region to support one of ABG's strategic action plan to build a healthy population through immunization.

NISIRA added that everyone must cooperate in this important program to ensure the children of Bougainville do not die from preventable diseases.

He said ABG's responsibility was to create a conducive environment for children to grow healthy and also have easy access to quality health care.

Nisira also said ABG is also responsible for ensuring that health care facilities have the capacity to provide quality health care for the children of Bougainville.

03.05.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville considers calling on UN to end lawlessness

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says he may call on the United Nations to send in peace keepers if violence and lawlessness continue in the Konnou region in the south of the main island.

The President John Momis says Bougainville won't be able to hold a referendum on independence, as scheduled from 2015, if the rule of law is not fully observed or guns remain in the community.

He says peace keepers may be needed if a summit he's called of the wider south Bougainville community doesn't come up with ways to solve the problem internally.

Bougainville president John Momis: "If the internally developed strategy doesn't work, to put an end to this problem, then we might have to consider the deployment of a kind of foreign intervention force - not on a big scale like the RAMSI style in the Solomons, but having the presence of peace keepers or peace monitors in Bougainville to encourage those with guns, many of whom are at loggerheads with one another, to dispose of guns."

03.05.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville land meet set for next week

ALL land will be the focus of discussions among stakeholders in the Bougainville Land Summit from May 9 to 12 in Arawa.

Facilitated by the Bougainville division of lands and physical planning, discussions will cover areas of mining and development, customary land management, mission and plantation land acquisition and PNG land law reform.

In a district land workshop report circulated for pre-consultation in preparation for the summit, the report said 97% of land on Bougainville was customary owned yet no protection was given through any legislation.

The remaining 3% of land is state land for public purposes and leasing.

"During the Bougainville crisis, many lease holders abandoned their land and never returned, including residential, commercial, government and plantation land," the report said.

It said misinformation was spread during that time that all alienated land had returned to traditional landowners.

"This was fallacy and has caused significant confusion over land tenure in Bougainville."

The Bougainville Land Summit, a first for the region, will seek to address these concerns through discussions on land use and natural resources, customary land rights and obligations and land disputes and legal processes.

The guest speakers to the summit will include ABG minister of lands and natural resources Michael Oni, land experts Dr Jim Fingleton and Dr Ruth Spriggs and Bishop Bernard Unabali, who will present an overview of land acquired by missions.

03.05.2011

Source: The National

ABG's new teachers learn policies and procedures

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

NEW graduates teaching for the first time in elementary, secondary and vocational schools in Bougainville have learnt the policies and procedures of the Bougainville education division.

Newly-appointed senior and head teachers are among those in the induction exercise. Senior professional assistant for in-service and secondary schools David Kelele said 160 teachers from throughout the autonomous region gathered at Hutjena High School for the induction exercise, which ended last Thursday.

"We invited stakeholders like police, Teachers' Savings and Loans (TSL), Nambawan Super, ABG Autonomy division and Community Development, to market their programmes and inform the teachers of their (stakeholder's) roles," Kelele said. He said the induction was jointly funded by board of managements of participating schools under the school learning improvement plan (SLIP) programme and the Bougainville education division.

"The only teachers not inducted this year are those from Mortlock, Tasman, Nissan and Caterets atolls, who missed out because of the lack of transport.

"Every year, they miss out on this very important induction exercise, it is becoming a real concern for the division," Kelele said.

He appealed to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to help the division address this issue of sea transport for the atolls.

03.05.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville MP: Plantations sold without locals knowing

By JEFFREY ELAPA

MORE than eight rundown cocoa and coconut plantations in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been secretly sold to foreign companies.

However the traditional landowners of those plantations want the land to be given back to them.

Member for Central Bougainville Jimmy Miringtoro, who is behind the move, told reporters during a press conference that more than 30,000ha of land had been transferred privately to Australian owners without the knowledge of the landowners.

The plantations were first established by Germans in 1910 and were some of the biggest cocoa and copra plantation.

They were abandoned at the height of the Bougainville crisis.

He said the Numanuma, Arigua and Tomanapu plantations in his Central Bougainville had their titles transferred to new owners without consulting the traditional landowners.

He said they were now calling on the owners to tell the people how the transactions took place.

He said his people wanted the land back to use because the population of the locals had increased tremendously over the years.

"The people want their land back because they want to take full control and ownership of the plantation as the 99-year leases expired a long time ago and they have the right to take the plantation lands back," he said.

Miringtoro he said the people of Central Bougainville wanted to use the legal and modern ways to take their land back and had engaged Joseph Nanei, of JB Nanei and

companies, to see if there were any legal options for them to get their land back. He said the land sold were acquired by force. He said once the land was transferred back to them, they could mobilise themselves to form cooperatives and seek government help to revive the rundown plantations. The land transfer move has received support from the Autonomous Bougainville Government and members of parliament from the region.

02.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Vaccination Week

ABG vice president and health minister Patrick Nisira (left) is assisted by a MCH nurse in applying a dose of the measles vaccine as part of the launch of the Bougainville Vaccination Week from May 2 – 6.



02.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LIQUOR OUTLETS WARNING

By Tom Kathoa

Owners' of Bottle Shops in the North Region of Bougainville may lose their trading licenses if they fail to observe liquor trading laws as specified in their trading licenses. Head of Police for North Bougainville, Inspector Cletus TSIEN says there are about One Hundred and Fifty (150) liquor outlets in the region; a figure he says is too high for an area with a small population.

Buka Town alone has 110 trade stores selling liquor in their premises with 48 at Kokopau just across the Buka Passage.

Mr. Tsien said police will engaged several officers checking to make sure that liquor laws are followed and not abused.

He said the common abuse is, allowing already drunken people to continue to purchase liquor, trading outside of the legal trading hours and the consumption of liquor by the shop owners themselves and store keepers.

Inspector Tsien warned that operators found to abuse or break these liquor regulations would be dealt with accordingly.

Police will make recommendations to the Liquor Licensing Commission for the possibility of suspending or cancelling of these licenses.

He said this exercise will run until the end of this year.

Meanwhile, Inspector Tsien said he intense to introduce this concept at the Community level with Council of Elders (COEs) being involved in the program.

C.O.E.s would also be encouraged to take ownership of the program as the majority of youths come from and under their direct control.

02.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WEEKEND SUICIDE

BY Tom Kathoa

Disobedience to warning against the consumption of illegal alcoholic drinks like Homebrew and Marijuana has resulted in loss of many lives both in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as a whole.

Several youths in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been arrested and jailed by the courts, hospitalized while others have died as a directed result of consuming these illegal drugs.

A recent case is the death of a young man from Gohi Village in the Selau area who committed suicide at the weekend.

A Community Leader from the area who is heavily involved in the fight against drinking of such lethal drinks said the deceased hang himself after consuming homebrew.

The decease tied a mosquito net around his neck resulting in his death.

This latest death should be a warning to other youths to refrain from continuing such practices that could lead to serious problems including death.

02.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville vaccination week

BOUGAINVILLE today launched its vaccination week at the Buka General Hospital. The vaccination week will be observed from May 2 to May 6.

Vaccination week provides an opportunity to educate parents and caregivers about the importance of vaccination in protecting their children from preventable diseases. The week also focuses attention on immunization achievements and revitalizes efforts to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases and give them a healthy start to life.

WHO Public Health Advisor in Bougainville Dr MOHAMMAD SALIM REZA urged every parent to make use of the opportunity this week to have their child vaccinated for all curable diseases such as measles, polio, TB and Hepatitis B.

DR SALIM added that there had been many complaints in the past by parents not only in Bougainville, of their child becoming feverish after being vaccinated.

He assured that, the fever is not a side effect of the vaccine.

He says is common for the child to be feverish when the vaccine taken begins to work in the child's body.

WHO in partnership with AusAID's Capacity Building Service Centre (CBSC) and the Bougainville Health Division will target more than 6000 children in all 33 health facilities throughout the region.

02.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG: We do not fund gangs

By Kaola Hamao

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has denied funding armed groups, especially rebels in the region.

Acting ABG President Patrick Nisira said last Friday that the Momis-led Government does not pay and will not pay any armed group in Bougainville, let alone the four armed groups in Buin, south Bougainville.

"The ABG does not believe the barrel of a gun will solve anything in south Bougainville, especially from criminal groups causing instability and disunity amongst the peace loving people of Wisai in the Konnou area," Mr Nisira said.

"The ABG will not pay compensation for any deaths which may have occurred recently in the Konnou area in the Buin district as a direct result of violence and lawlessness. That would be the matter (compensation) for armed groups to resolve or whoever is responsible for the death of those innocent people.

"The ABG is committed to the peace Agreement and will ensure that peace remains a priority and will prevail to enhance the livelihood of Bougainvilleans who abide by this agreement.

"The Me'ekamui leadership, including former MDF leaders Moses Pipiro and Chris Uma have isolated themselves from the Konnou killings and have publicly condemned the killings and other criminal activities.

"The ABG condemns in the strongest possible term, the manner in which two men had been killed by armed groups during Easter break. The murderous acts must come to a stop. The people have had enough of this type of activities and the people have had enough of these armed groups in the Konnou constituency, Buin and south Bougainville generally," they said.

"The people are fed up with anyone who is found today in Bougainville with arms, and the people are fed up with those who are involved in the arms trade in Torokina, south Bougainville."

President John Momis has also called for all leaders in south Bougainville to address the Konnou situation.

02.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG warns on Panguna By GORETHY KENNETH

ACTING Bougainville President Patrick Nisira has issued a strong warning to people interested or intending to do business in Panguna to take precautions as it is still a very sensitive issue.

Mr Nisira's warning comes after reports to the ABG that there have been a lot of visits made by Bougainvilleans, PNG nationals and other foreign interests and ABG does not want to derail the already established process and understanding reached with the people in the area.

"I want to tell everyone that the current Panguna Unification and Reconciliation process is very fragile and at the same time very important to the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The peace process belongs to the ABG acting directly on behalf of the people of Bougainville and the people of Panguna," Mr Nisira said.

"Anyone who has any interest in the minerals at Panguna, scrap metals or anything must be mindful of the process being carried out.

"Any intentions to go to Panguna to do business by anyone must declare their interest to the ABG as well as government departments and divisions, they too must declare their programs and activities to the Bougainville administration, mining division or the office of the vice President. There had been a lot of visits made by Bougainvilleans, PNG nationals and other foreign interests in the past three months and we do not want to derail the already established process and understanding reached.

"I want all national members of Parliament, ABG ministers, members, LLG members and COE members, Bougainville administration, business houses and individuals to be honest and not to make empty promises to the people of Panguna to win their favours or interest."

02.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Vaccination delayed

BOUGAINVILLE'S vaccination week has been put off for a week due to the cholera outbreak in the northern tip of Buka Island.

World Health Organisation technical officer-public health adviser Dr Mohammad Salim Reza in a press conference last Friday advised the program had been moved to May 2nd -6th, and will start in all health centres and sub-health centres of the region.

Dr Reza said that there had a target of 6000 babies to immunise but – the one year-olds and pregnant mother of Bougainville, however, it depended entirely on every district and clinics in all areas of the region.

Bougainville has 33 health facilities in Bougainville, of which 16 are health centres and 17 are sub-health centres. It has 112 aid posts in operation while another 200 aid posts are still closed because of financial constraints- these health facilities will provide the vaccination services including the main Buka Hospital, which will have its child out-patient clinic open come May 2.

02.05.2011

Source: Post-Courier The Drum



The Tolai community in Buka are as many as they are everywhere else in Papua New Guinea. On Easter Sunday, these happy Tolai men did a special “aigir” their famous traditional dish for a special globetrotting photographer Stephen Dupont, who was in Bougainville during Easter. The group of men partied all afternoon, spoiling themselves with all the aigir they did specially for their visiting friend who is featured in this picture in their leta village compound.

02.05.2011

Source: The National

ABG denies funding armed groups

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government does not pay and will not pay armed groups in Bougainville, acting President Patrick Nisira says.

Nisira stressed this after media reports last Wednesday claimed rebel Damien Koike warned the ABG to help the Me'ekamui Defence Force settle outstanding claims.

It reported Koike wanted the issues handled by the United Nations.

In a statement yesterday, the ABG “wholeheartedly welcomed UN intervention in the Konnou area”.

Another report quoted a chief from Wissai alleging that criminal activities in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville were being funded by the ABG.

The ABG strongly denied that.

“The ABG does not believe that the barrel of the gun will solve anything in South Bougainville especially criminal groups causing instability and disunity among the peace

loving people of Wisai and in the Konnou area,” Nisira said.

He said the ABG would not pay compensation for any deaths which may have occurred recently in the Konnou area as a result of violence and lawlessness.

Nisira said the ABG “is committed to the peace agreement and will ensure that peace remains a priority and will prevail to enhance the livelihood of Bougainvilleans who abide by this agreement”.

“The ABG condemns in the strongest possible term the manner in which two men had been killed by armed groups before the Easter break. These murderous acts must stop,” he said.

He said the people of Bougainville had had enough of this type of activities and were fed up of everyone found with arms on Bougainville.

“The sale of ammunition and guns to those who have the potential to derail and cause a big set-back to the peace process must stop now.

“If anyone is in this illegal trade, he is responsible for the deaths caused by guns or ammunition that he supplies,” Nisira said.

He called on the chiefs, community leaders, church groups and right thinking citizens throughout the region to respect the peace process in Bougainville.

01.05.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Distant picture of the MV Sankamap 2

by Aloysius Laukai

Authorities are now warning the people not to board the ship for their own safety.

New Dawn FM last night send out messages for people not to board the ship.

Also they said that anyone caught removing assets from the boat would be prosecuted by Police.

New Dawn FM understands that if the boat is not towed back it could float into the ocean.



News 06.2011

30.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pictures from The Excombatants Workshop.



Pictured are Damian Kora and Ishmael Toroama at the Ex Combatants Meeting
By Aloysius Laukai



Pictured is Lawrence Disin Administrator(right)Sam Kauona Iloking this way

30.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BBA proposes Happy city awareness

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Bougainville Business Association or BBA will by next week submit a proposal to the newly established Bougainville China Cooperation Committee or BCCC for BBA to carry out awareness throughout Bougainville on the proposed Happy city at Kokopau.

BBA executive committee director Thomas Rabanz says BBA would require about K500,000 to carry out awareness on the concept of Happy city proposed by Chinese investors early this month.

He said the Happy city concept would be a key factor in reviving the region's economy however before any agreement is reached, there must be an awareness carried out to educate the public on what will be involved and how the people of Bougainville would benefit from it.

30.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REDCROSS helping youths

By JOYCE TOHUI

Bougainville's Red Cross chairperson, AIDA KENNETH says the Red Cross branch in Bougainville has a lot of programs that have been carrying out within the communities. She told New Dawn FM that one of the programs which they are actually trying to promote and implement within the communities is based on youth which is called youth's agents of behavioral change.

She added that the YABC training program is to try and help youths in all the districts in Bougainville but firstly awareness must be carried out.

MS KENNETH said that awareness have started already with the help from the National Youth Coordinator from the head office in Port Moresby who visited two weeks ago.

She said that the National Youth Coordinator started the awareness with the urban youths in town who were very interested in the program.

She said there are seven steps to the program but firstly is to help them set up their groups, governance, aims and objectives of what they want to do in those groups.

She also said youths will be assisted in developing their youth constitution in order to look after their groups.

MS KENNETH added that these are basically some of the steps involved in this training.

30.06.2011

Source: The National

Fighters agree to bury hatchet with criminals

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

FORMER Bougainville freedom fighters have agreed to form a peace-seeking committee to meet with notorious criminal Damien Koike and three other armed groups in the Konnou area.

In an effort to stop the conflict in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville, 110 former combatants yesterday met with Bougainville vice-president Patrick Nisira at the Tsiroge Catholic retreat centre in North Bougainville.

Led by former Bougainville Revolutionary Army leaders Sam Kauona, Ishmael Toroama and Panguna Me'ekamui hardliner John Duni, they resolved to meet with Koike and leaders of the three other armed groups in the Konnou area.

The committee will focus on establishing a peaceful settlement with Koike and his band of criminals who are alleged to have killed more than 50 civilians, including women and children, since 2006.

They will meet with members of the Wissai Liberation Movement, who are alleged to have retaliated by killing Koike's men, including the outlaw's spiritual leader, Andrew Manden.

Last week, Wilmo leaders, fed up with the killings allegedly by Koike, retaliated and killed five of

Koike's men, including Manden.

The peace-keeping committee is expected to leave for Konnou and Sininai as soon as the ABG provides funding.

Toroama said the re-occurrence of the Konnou conflict was a direct result of the former commander's refusal to take part in the implementation of the weapons disposal plan which was brokered by the United Nations observer mission on Bougainville in 2005.

"We in the BRA implemented the United Nations-sponsored weapons disposal exercise without the help of Me'ekamui and now all of us have to get back there and stop what they are doing, without of course the use of the gun," Toroama said.

The ex-commanders rallied support for the Autonomous Bougainville Government and restated their commitment for total peace, stability and support for economic recovery in the region.

Nisira stressed the need for a united Bougainville in order to ensure a referendum for independence was held.

"The situation in Konnou, Tonu and Sininai must be addressed in order for unification, peace and stability to find its roots in the hearts and minds of our people," he said.
"This is our land, our community and we must do everything possible to protect it.
"This is what we stood for in the beginning and we should continue to stand for it today," Nisira said.

30.06.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville's devt funds

BOUGAINVILLE commerce, trade and industry has proposed to the Autonomous Bougainville Government the creation of two funds boosting the region's economic development.

Minister Wilfred Komba said his ministry had prepared proposals to set up an endowment fund and business development fund.

Komba said the endowment fund is a future fund concept to allow ABG invest all its receipts from royalty payments for natural resource development in the region.

He said the capital of the proposed endowment fund would generate income that would be used by ABG for development.

Komba said the business development fund would be set up to help Bougainvilleans borrow funds and participate in joint ventures or start and improve existing businesses.

He said the investment policy did not allow stand alone investment by foreigner but promotes investment on a joint venture basis.

"That is why the proposed fund would provide Bougainvilleans financial capacity to be involved in joint venture business opportunities," Komba said.

He said to make these proposals a reality, the business community in Buka would request from ABG an allocation of K30 million.

The fund was to be sourced from the K500 million special PNG government grant promised to Bougainville over the next five years.

30.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Siwai leaders make peace after 20 years

By Kaola Hamao

SOUTH Bougainville's Siwai crisis leaders have reconciled 20 years after the Bougainville war and pledged to continue their reconciliation programs until all communities have made peace.

The Siwai crisis leaders' reconciliation took place on June 14.

That was the issue of Bougainville Revolutionary Army combined version where leaders surrendered and released the civilians.

The leaders who reconciled included Tonny Anugu, Benjamin Kerape, John Pareu, Fransis Kinima, Nick Peniai, Misak Rangai, Antonny Tuhori, Micheal Po'owa and Joseph Noro.

Most of these leaders have been killed during the Bougainville crisis between 1989 and 1990, including Joseph Rangai, Raymond Mo'otum, Tonny Anugu, Benjamin Kerape, and John Paren.

"This reconciliation has been outstanding since March 1992, when this operation took place," the leaders said yesterday.

Many attempts and investigation have been done, yet there are no resolutions for these people.

"The purpose is to report the case between Fransis Kinima and late Peter Miriking, who was the Southern Regional BRA commander," the leaders said.

This was sorted out and preparations for the reconciliation took about nine months. During the traditional reconciliation ceremony, the two parties handed in one highly explosive ammunition known as the camorra and three homemade guns.

"This was the only the start but there are more to bring peace in Siwai," the leaders said yesterday.

On hand to witness the reconciliation were United Church Reverence D.Kiaku, Peter Suinai, United Nations representative Steven Pirika Kamma, ABG MP Nick Peniai and others.

30.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Dr : Build better toilets

By JOYCE TOHUI

A SENIOR doctor from the Buka hospital, Dr Barnabas Matanu, is appealing to the people of Bougainville to build toilets to dispose human waste appropriately.

He said that this is a contributing factor towards contraction of diarrheal diseases when people do not have proper toilets to use.

DR Matanu said that rural communities can build pit latrines to help themselves and not use bushes to dispose of their waste.

He said that for people living in urban areas, there must be proper sewage system to use and not roadsides and nearby bushes.

He said that if individual families can have a toilet, then this can minimise problems with such sicknesses.

The doctor appeals to the people to take care of themselves.

Meanwhile, he urged the public to always cover their food from flies and remember to practice basic hygiene in homes to keep away diseases.

29.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chiefs defend Semoso

By Gorethy Kenneth

THE Buka Council of Chiefs has risen to the defence of Bougainville Affairs Minister and MP Fidelis Semoso and offered to take his place before the Leadership Tribunal.

The chiefs and council elders met in Buka yesterday to lend their support to Mr Semoso, who was referred by the Ombudsman Commission over allegations of misappropriation of public funds. But the unhappy chiefs, voicing their support for the MP, said they were 'offended' and offered to take his place instead.

BCC chairman and chief Romeo Tohiana said: "We the people of Buka and all Bougainvilleans have benefited from the monies of which our member is accused of stealing. It is us the people that should be prosecuted not the member."

Chief Tohiana asked: "Is it a criminal offence for our people to travel safely on good roads?"

The Governor's wife was arrested and questioned by police last week, in an incident which agitated the chiefs. He asked why Mrs Semoso had been subject to ridicule when she is not a politician nor a public figure but a mere businesswoman who runs her own business.

"The people of south, central and north Bougainville have their roads maintained by the

machines purchased by the National Government through their MPs,” he said. Mr Tohiana claimed the difference is that the machines purchased with public funds for south, central and north Bougainville are now privately owned, while the machines for Buka are owned by the people of Buka through their council of elders. He said money made by the Buka machinery is reapplied to the roads and other projects. “Is this what the Ombudsman Commission calls misappropriation?” he asked. Mr Semoso is facing six charges involving the use of over K2.7 million and the alleged assault of a woman.

29.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Moimoi calls for equal services

By JOYCE TOHUI

A LOCAL Chief in Bougainville, Peter Maimoi has called on the newly elected member for North Bougainville, Lautu Atoi to ensure equal service delivery to the people of North Bougainville.

In acknowledging Mr Atoi for his election victory, chief Maimoi said that he understood his term in office will be in a short period of time however he urged Mr Atoi to ensure the distribution of basic and essential services must be equally shared among his people. He said that there are a lot of similar problems faced by the people of his electorate which must be addressed immediately like roads, health and education infrastructures and the most vulnerable affected areas of the Atolls and Nissan constituencies.

Mr Maimoi said that the new member collected votes from all the constituencies in his electorate which had shown the support of the people in his leadership and assured him to prove to his people what he can do in this short period of time in Parliament.

Chief Maimoi said that he believed that the new MP can deliver and urged him to work closely with the Council of Elders (COEs), the Village Assemblies (VAs) and the chiefs to deliver basic services to the rural population. He said that for too long, there are still areas of North Bougainville who have not received any basic services.

29.06.2011

Source: The National

MP blames Rio Tinto for mine losses

By JEFFREY ELAPA

CENTRAL Bougainville MP Jim Miringtoro has blamed Rio Tinto, the former operator of the now-closed Bougainville copper mine, for the losses.

He said the company and the government of Australia were directly involved in the Bougainville crisis and used the PNG government to start a war against its own people for the benefit of the company.

Miringtoro said the Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had revealed that Rio Tinto was directly involved and responsible for the war on the island as reported on the television network SBS.

He said more than 15,000 people including PNG defence force soldiers died during the crisis when it started in 1988 and which lasted 15 years.

“The Australian Government and Rio Tinto used the government to declare war on its citizens as a tool to protect itself, and not the lives of the citizens,” he said.

“Somare’s testimony revealed what the people of Bougainville knew of Australia’s and CRA’s (Rio Tinto) involvement in the crisis after destroying the environment and the unfair treatment of landowner,” he said.

Miringtoto said Rio Tinto was not welcome to Bougainville and any intention to reopen the mine by the company with no consideration for the people would not be allowed.

"We do not want the same pig that destroyed our garden to come back.

"Those pigs are looters and we do not want them in Panguna or Bougainville," Miringtoto said.

He said the Bougainville government and the people had their own plans to bring other foreign investors.

Miringtoto said the problem in Bougainville was no different from other mining operations in the country.

He said the foreign companies had no regard for the welfare and the lifestyle of the landowners as well. And they did not respect the environment.

He said the big companies mistreated and suppressed the people, dictated and controlled the government to allow them to continue destroying the environment and the people.

Miringtoto said although Peter Taylor continued to deny their involvement in the crisis, the truth remained as revealed by Somare.

"I thank the Grand Chief Sir Michael for being honest in revealing the truth. He is a true leader and he could have solved the crisis the Melanesian way if he was the prime minister," he said.

28.06.2011

Source: ABC Australia Network News

Bougainville miner talks to landholders

The chairman of Bougainville Copper says the company is negotiating with land owners in PNG's Bougainville Province over its plans to reopen the Panguna mine.

For the past 10 years, landowners in Bougainville have been seeking compensation from the Rio Tinto mining group in a court case in the United States.

Bougainville Copper, a Rio Tinto subsidiary, owns the Panguna mine.

The Australian television station SBS reports Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare signed an affidavit in 2001 which was presented as evidence in the court case accusing Rio of driving the PNG government's involvement in the war on Bougainville.

Rejected

Its chairman, Peter Taylor, has rejected all the allegations in the affidavit.

He told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat he is hopeful negotiations can soon begin with landowners on re-opening the mine.

"There has been an agreement between the national government, the Bougainville government and the company to sit down and have discussions," he said.

"But we've also agreed that an essential element is to have the landowner representatives at the table, and they are still in the process of forming a single body.

"And once that's done there is nothing, really to prevent us from all getting around the table."

28.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KONNOU UPDATE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Minister for Community Development Churches, Youth, Sports and women, ROSE PIHEI says that the fighting in Konnou is not crisis related.

She made these remarks when updating Ex combatants at yesterday's meeting at Tsiroge.

MRS. PIHEI who comes from the Konnou area herself said that the youths involved are to be rehabilitated, Retrained and Educated as most of them never went to School.

She said the government must be proactive and know what is happening in the Konnou Constituency.

She said that when the government is in the dark this is not good.

She said that Bougainville Police must be allowed to move in and contain the situation.

There were many groups sent to Konnou but none of them have reported to the government and the government has no knowledge of the real cause and this is bad for the government.

If a Konnou man gave a report now, can ABG believe that when it has no previous knowledge of what is happening on the ground.

AND this has been going on since 1989 said MRS PIHEI.

28.06.2011

Source: Jaive Smare

Dangerous alluvial mining in Panguna.

28.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sir Michael Somare retires from politics

Papau New Guinea's Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare is to leave politics and step down as Prime Minister, effective immediately due to ill health.

The 75 year old is retiring after almost 50 years in active political life.

Sir Michael has undergone two corrective operations following major heart surgery in April at the Raffles International Hospital in Singapore.

His son, PNG's Minister of State Enterprises Arthur Somare says the decision for Sir Michael to retire was taken collectively by his family.

It's not known when parliament will meet to choose his successor.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Port Moresby reporter, Firmin Nanol

Listen here !

28.06.2011

Source: SBS

Momis talks about the Panguna mine

28.06.2011

Source: SBS WORLD NEWS

ESBC: Becomes the "SBS" case a "Somare" case now?

Silence over Rio allegations

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister is tight lipped on allegations Rio Tinto started the Bougainville war.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xtko3supAQ>

28.06.2011

Source: ESBC Research

SBS correspondent revokes:

Bougainville: Wide spread support for BCL to come back and to re-open the Panguna Mine!

Brian Thomson, whose Sunday's TV report caused major losses in Bougainville Copper Shares worldwide yesterday, stepped back from the infamous allegations made in his documentary. Thomson confirms that "there is not much opposition at all" against re-opening the Panguna mine: "There is wide spread support for BCL to re-open it...even the armed rebels seemed to be in support!"

Please scroll down to listen Brian Thomson's explanations that he made in an interview with Cameron Wilson of Radio Australia.

28.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare claims BCL actively involved in Bougainville war

PNG Prime Minister, Michael Somare has accused Bougainville Copper Limited, a subsidiary of the mining company Rio Tinto of actively backing the violent military campaign against rebels fighting for independence from Papua New Guinea.

An estimated 15-thousand people died in the conflict between 1989 and 1997.

One of the things that sparked the secessionist campaign was concern over pollution from Bougainville's Panguna mine.

Sir Michael's allegations, made in a affidavit written in 2001 were revealed last night by SBS journalist Brian Thomson in a Television investigation into the conflict surrounding the copper mine.

Presenter: Cameron Wilson

Speaker: Brian Thomson, senior correspondent, SBS World News Australia

Listen here !

28.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EXCOMBATANTS MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

More than ONE HUNDRED former fighters met in Tsiroge, Northern Tip of mainland Bougainville to discuss ways to address the deteriorating Law and Order situation in South Bougainville.

The meeting started just before lunch time with the Minister for Veterans Affairs, DAVID SISITO welcoming all ex combatants to the two-day meeting.

In his welcome address, MR. SISITO stated that we fought for one thing and that is independence for Bougainville. He thanked former veteran's affairs Mr. Tovirika for what he had done for the last 5 years in ABG.

He stated that autonomy came about as a result of all our effort during the crisis. The vision for foreign investors to come into our region came about as a result of all those efforts.

He appealed to everyone that the people of Konnou especially Damien Koike must tell the people of Bougainville whom is he fighting for and whom is he supporting. It is time to tell everyone what this fighting is for.

He asked all ex-combatants to support ABG government and move Bougainville forward.

28.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ACTING PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UNITY

By Aloysius Laukai

Acting ABG President Patrick Nisira today called on the Bougainville former fighters to unite and support their government in its endeavours to develop Bougainville.

He acknowledged all factions in the conflict and thanked them for making time available to attend this important meeting. He conveyed the Presidents comment who was in Port Moresby.

He said you were called as you are major stakeholder in solving conflicts and in implementing the peace agreement.

The peace agreement stated that weapons disposal is a pre condition to referendum.

That is why we are calling on you again to implement weapons disposal.

If we still have weapons we can not realise economic fiscal self reliance. That is why we are here again.

The meeting ended this afternoon with a resolution on how they would tackle the problems in South Bougainville.

Tonight the members would discuss issues within their districts and further discuss in the morning before a final resolution on the meeting is announced.

The meeting is being attended by Ex combatant heavies like Ishmael Toroama and Sam Kauona in Central Bougainville, Peter Naguo and Michael Komoiki in South Bougainville

and in North we have Damian Kora, Marchelling Getsi, Benn Korus and other Combatants totalling One hundred and two.

28.06.2011

Source: The National

Compensation first, then Panguna mine talks

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PANGUNA landowners in Bougainville are demanding compensation before any talks are held to review the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

Panguna Landowners Association chairman Chris Damana was responding to a report on SBS Dateline programme which claimed the PNG government was acting under instructions from mining giant Rio Tinto when it killed thousands who wanted to shut down Panguna mine in the 1980s.

Damana said: "It is a pity that SBS has seen fit to report our Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's statement at this time when our Prime Minister is critically sick in Singapore.

"The Panguna landowners have always believed that Rio Tinto/BCL and the Australian government connived with the PNG government at that time to pursue this onslaught of causing death and untold suffering and sorrow to our people.

"Our people of Panguna mine leases and the rest of Bougainville will have to be compensated before there is any talk on the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement."

Damana said the landowners were committed to the re-opening of the Panguna mine by BCL "but must be compensated first".

"A compensation package outside of what our landowners are owed on the 1990 compensations must be negotiated between the Panguna landowners and Bougainville government to address this," he said.

"Panguna landowners' stand on the BCA review is not a review but a new Bougainville Copper Agreement based on the belief that as the landowners of Panguna Mine we will share what we have been blessed by God with to have on our land for the benefit of all the people of Bougainville."

Damana said the resources on Bougainville "are for the common good".

"On this same note we want to assure other Bougainvilleans, especially the ex-combatants that you are not forgotten," he said.

He said Bougainville was on the move.

"Despite what is happening in South Bougainville we are progressing. We must have a positive outlook.

"Here we must give credit to where it is due and this means our former presidents, late Joseph Kabui and James Tanis must be congratulated for their part in bringing us to where we are today.

"We fully support our President John Momis and Minister Fidelis Semoso for their move to reopen the mine," Damana said.

28.06.2011

Source: Weekend Courier

Peace team praised

BY PETERSON TSERAHAY

THE Central Bougainville parliamentary select committee has been highly praised by the people of Central Bougainville following a major awareness campaign on peace, reconciliation special projects and weapons disposal.

The team led by select committee chairman Melchior Dare member for Eivo Torau, John Ken member for South Nasioi, Jude Harris Peace office regional coordinator, Aaron Peter consultant peace office, Richard Lyonns CEO veterans division, Allan Taniung Lands office and Nationwide Micro bank officials visited the most remote parts of Central Bougainville in which no government team has ever gone.

The team visited Marai in South Nasioi, Beresinau village in the Kokoda constituency, Former BCL camp five settlements in the Eivo Torau constituency and in Toniva, North Nasioi and also attended the public forum in Panguna.

John Ken member for South Nasioi said the purpose of the awareness was to open up people's minds, and most importantly update them on the ABG's progress.

Paramount chief of the Marai area Benjamin Oama said it is the first time since the inauguration of the first ABG house that a team representing the ABG has ever come up to their home.

"We are extremely happy with this kind of approach the central Bougainville parliamentary select committee is using, in which the government comes to us instead of us wasting money to go down to Buka to enquire about certain things." Chief Oama said. A lot of people were clarified on issues about peace and reconciliation which many people were not familiar with. The team also clearly explained the progress and stages to follow in order to get funds for reconciliations.

The latest project, the Virgin Coconut oil, was also introduced during the awareness in which a lot of people especially, those from Kokoda in Koromira showed a great interest.

27.06.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC President's address to all stakeholders in Bougainville Copper

To all stakeholders in Bougainville Copper Limited

Ladies and Gentlemen,

it is quite impressionning that a single TV report like the one of Mr. Thomson is able to make the share price in Sydney drop significantly.

BCL shares lost almost 18 percent today!

You can easily imagine that all investors in BCL are not amused to see this.

The worst is that the confidence in Bougainville Copper which is equal with the confidence in Bougainville and its people has been severely damaged.

Months of re-polishing Bougainville's image in the world has been spoilt within a few hours only.

All those who care for Bougainville better future for years must be aware that reports like the one which was broadcasted will throw us back for weeks, months or even years.

It is absolutely not acceptable that allegations, lies and suspicion rule Bougainville's future.

One example only: This SBS gentleman, Mr. Thomson, even did not even mention the massive use of poisoness mercury for alluvial mining. But instead he shows children's wounds and alleges that they have been caused by Bougainville Copper. This is outrageous, infamous and ludicrous.

Therefore may I invite you to stand together and to do all your very best to build up your landowner bodies and the umbrella body as well as soon as possible. This will give you a strong voice in the upcoming BCA negotiations and in the future!

It is not acceptable that self-appointed spokespersons without any democratic mandate on the ground attract public interest.

The actual image of Bougainville is not encouraging at all, it is even meant to chase away good-willing investors.

So, fast-track the ongoing positive development on the ground and restore Bougainville's image in a sustainable way. I am sure that Peter Taylor, Paul Coleman and our entire crew will give you support to do so.

This address goes to each and every single stakeholder to encourage you to do the best for Bougainville – everyone at his place!

Please feel free to forward my email to all goodwilling friends worldwide.

Warmest regards,

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 27.06.2011

27.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

BCL rejects allegations of complicity in war on Bougainville

The Australian Television Station, SBS, has aired a report the war on Bougainville which reveals Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare signed an affidavit accusing the mining giant, Rio Tinto, of driving the PNG government's involvement in the war on Bougainville.

Rio Tinto's subsidiary, Bougainville Copper, owns the Panguna copper mine which sparked the civil war on the island.

The affidavit was presented as evidence for landowners seeking compensation for damage from the mine through the court system in the United States.

In the affidavit, Sir Michael said because of Rio Tinto's financial influence in PNG, it controlled the government.

He said the government followed Rio Tinto's requests and that Rio Tinto was directly involved supplying helicopters that were used as gunship, pilots, troop transportation, fuel and troop barracks.

In the SBS program Bougainville Copper's Managing Director, Peter Taylor, rejected all the allegations in the affidavit.

He agreed to speak with Radio Australia, but said with Sir Michael still unwell, he would not comment on any of the statements in the affidavit.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett, Pacific Business and Economic reporter

Speaker: Peter Taylor, Chairman and Managing Director of Bougainville Copper and Executive Director of Rio Tinto Australia

Listen here !

GARRETT: In an affidavit, Prime Minister Somare says that Rio Tinto was directly involved in military operations on Bougainville and that it played an active role. How do you respond?

TAYLOR: Well, I actually can't speak on behalf of Rio Tinto, I can only speak on behalf of Bougainville copper, but I do know that that affidavit is ten years old. It's not new news, it's been in the press before. I can also say that Sir Michael is a very sick man and I really don't want to talk about it.

GARRETT: It is common for mining companies to help the police in Papua New Guinea. Just what sort of help did Rio Tinto, or Bougainville Copper, provide to the police or the PNGDF during the war on Bougainville?

TAYLOR: Bougainville Copper only did what it had to do. There was a state of emergency declared and like any state of emergency you had to comply with the requirements.

GARRETT: Bougainville copper wants to reopen the mine. How can you do that when some of the landowners are still very angry and this court case for compensation for past damage is still in the courts in the United States?

TAYLOR: There are some landowners - according to (President) John Momis, they represent about 3% of the landowners, who are still opposed to the company reopening, but, you know, we haven't had face to face discussions yet and I think we need to do that.

GARRETT: Well what is the way forward. How do you engage people who are armed and quite dangerous, as President Momis has said?

TAYLOR: Well, you invite them to the negotiating table and you hope they accept that invitation and we sit down and we discuss that they've got and the issues that I've got.

GARRETT: How much of an obstacle is the court case, which has been going for ten years now?

TAYLOR: Well it's not a court case against Bougainville Copper so it really shouldn't affect what Bougainville Copper does.

GARRETT: That's because it is a court case against riot into?

TAYLOR: That is correct.

GARRETT: Getting on to other issues, Paua New Guinea's Opposition leader, Belden Namah, says it would be better for a new company to come in and develop the copper mine on Bougainville. How do you respond to that?

TAYLOR: Well, that's not the message I am getting from either President Momis or from the majority of landowners.

GARRETT: But does this sort of comment threaten your property rights, I guess, on Bougainville?

TAYLOR: I wouldn't think so. Our property rights are enshrined in legislation so that shouldn't be an issue.

GARRETT: There is still a strong feeling in various quarters, as we've seen from Belden Namah's comments from landowners, who are against the mine. Just how big an obstacle is this and how can you actually overcome it?

TAYLOR: Well, As I've said, one has to engage people in discussions and that is what I am endeavouring to do and I have the support of the President and I have the support, I think, of the majority of the landowners.

GARRETT: So at this stage where are the discussions up to?

TAYLOR: Well, there has been an agreement between the national government, the Bougainville government and the company to sit down and have discussions but we've also agreed that an essential element is to have the landowner representatives at the table, and they are still in the process of forming a single body. And once that's done there is nothing, really to prevent us from all getting around the table.

GARRETT: Are all the landowners involved in that, including the ones who are very anti the mine reopening?

TAYLOR: Well, when you talk about landowners who are anti the mine, I am not sure that we are really talking about landowners or some of the former combatants who are manning a roadblock on the way to the mine site. There are very few landowners, I think, who are not prepared to come to the negotiating table.

GARRETT: It's not just Prime Minister Somare's comments on the SBS program that looks at the ongoing problems on Bougainville. What is your response to the program in general?

TAYLOR: To me it was a very one-sided approach. They picked on a single issue that is ten years out of date and they have interviewed people who had a particular interest in promoting the court case in the United States.

GARRETT: That court case has been going on for a long time. Why is it taking so long and where do you see the resolution?

TAYLOR: Well, as I've said before, it is not a court case against BCL, but you are right, it has been going on for over a decade. It's really about jurisdiction. It's about whether the United States court system should be dealing with a matter that has nothing to do with the United States. It's solely a matter for PNG. That's the real issue.

27.06.2011

Source: ESBC Research

The hysterics are going on - but not for long!

by Axel G. Sturm

It is hard to believe: A couple of days without success stories from Bougainville and suddenly came reports about small groups of Me'ekamui "spinners" trying to swim away saving their own skin, making loud noises with a usual mix of lies, suspicion and defamation to mix up the world of Papua New Guinea. This allowed speculators to bring the stock market in disorder with small orders only. The whole mixture is dressed up by some selfish and egomaniacal participants in so-called discussion forums that graciously give consent or refusal to wild theories and speculations. This confuses the gentle reader with recondite fantasies.

The fact is that Bougainville's complicated decision-making process is slowed down by thickets of emotional sentiments such as; trust, distrust, greed and personal vanity. Even family feuds are involved. Therefore, rational oriented actions usually have to take detours and delays to ultimately reach the desired goal.

Like no president before him, John Momis in 12 months only since he was elected in June 2010, brought Bougainville forward and outlined the way into a peaceful,

prosperous and better Bougainville. All of us owe our gratitude to him: the people of Bougainville and the Shareholders of Bougainville Copper as well.

For Bougainville Copper Limited, Momis' policy means a big step forward into the right direction:

For the first time in more than two decades, a steady dialogue with the aim of reopening the Panguna mine is under way.

For the first time an impressive majority of Bougainville citizens are in favour of resuming mining by BCL – despite some local grumblers or notorious criminals.

For the first time BCL Chairman Peter Taylor and company secretary Paul Coleman visited Bougainville after more than 20 years.

For the first time major measures of development in infrastructure are implemented such as the construction of bridges, etc. by Japanese companies.

For the first time the U.S. government sent experts to Torokina where buried World War 2 relics were destroyed.

For the first time Arawa and Buin are reachable by air again.

However, much more is needed to be done. But for now, all these steps are for a better future to the citizens of Bougainville and Bougainville Copper.

Nobody expected the share price to reach its "[fair value](#)" of AUD 30 to AUD 50 now. But a price of less than AUD 2 to AUD 3 is absolutely ridiculous and an ignorance of reality.

This is the reality: The preparation of the new BCA and planning for the reopening of the Panguna mine are discreetly going on in the background - off the record of media attention. The infirm and delirious PNG Prime Minister Somare or some mislead Me'ekamui supporters without public mandate like it or not.

President Momis is absolutely right when he says that Bougainville's economic success almost entirely depends on the reopening of the Panguna mine. And Bougainville's desired independence from Papua New Guinea depends mainly on the island's economic success. The Chinese have been analyzing the situation and approach with careful steps. They have - who would blame them - in their view the island's giant wealth in natural resources.

Especially European investors should also analyze carefully the advantages of such speculative but calculable investment. It might have huge advantages to invest in a financial area, which depends neither on the Euro nor on the U.S. Dollar. The soaring of the Australian currency in the last 24 months may be a good indication.

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper reaffirm its bullish assessment of Bougainville Copper shares with the warning of an increase in volatility for the coming months. Currently, the BCL securities are massively undervalued and therefore a **STRONG BUY!**

27.06.2011

Source: SBS Dateline

Blood an Treasure (long version)

[Click here for the original transcript of the report !](#)

[Click here to read the related ESBC press release !](#)

27.06.2011

Source: SBS Dateline

Blood an Treasure (extra material)

27.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rio behind bloody Bougainville war: PM

Brian Thomson of the Age Newspaper

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare has accused Australian mining giant Rio Tinto and its subsidiary Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) of being behind the PNG military's bloody suppression of Bougainville rebels opposed to the company's Panguna copper mine. An affidavit written by Sir Michael when he was Opposition Leader in 2001 - and never made public - alleges that Rio played an active role in military operations that ultimately led to a civil war and blockade of the island in which 15,000 people died between 1989 and 1997.

"Because of Rio Tinto's financial influence in PNG, the company controlled the government," Mr Somare's affidavit states.

"The government of PNG followed Rio Tinto's instructions and carried out its requests ... BCL was directly involved in the military operations on Bougainville, and it played an active role. BCL supplied helicopters, which were used as gunships, the pilots, troop transportation, fuel and troop barracks."

The Somare affidavit was lodged as part of an ongoing class action in the United States by the islanders against Rio Tinto. The case has been bogged down in legal argument for 10 years, preventing much of the evidence, including the Somare affidavit, from being made public. In his signed statement, Sir Michael claims that without Rio Tinto, there would never have been a war.

"It is my opinion that absent Rio Tinto's mining activity on Bougainville or its insistence that the Panguna mine be re-opened, the government would not have engaged in hostilities or taken military action on the island." The affidavit will complicate Rio Tinto's current attempts to reopen the mine, which is being supported by Sir Michael's Government.

Sir Michael was unaware that SBS's Dateline program had obtained his signed statement from sealed US court material until his office was contacted this week. Sir Michael is recovering from double heart surgery in Singapore and his office was unable to say if he still stood by his comments.

The ailing leader's statement reinforces claims from the islander litigants and former rebels that Rio Tinto had a hand in the military's efforts.

Sam Kauona, a former fighter, said: "It didn't surprise me, all the time we knew."
BCL chief executive Peter Taylor was aware of the affidavit, but said he was surprised Sir Michael would "make these accusations knowing they're completely unfounded".

27.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG forms committee

By Germaine Koles and Fabian Gatana

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government President, John Momis, in the Bougainville House of Representatives, has announced the establishment of the Bougainville China Cooperation Committee (BCCC), which was approved by the Bougainville Executive Council.

The BCCC would be led by the Vice President, Patrick Nisira as chairman and would have a cross representation from the Bougainville community including the women, former combatants, and the business sector in Bougainville.

The Bougainville Cabinet has directed its administration to source K300,000 for the funding of the committee.

BCCC will be supported by a small secretariat, which will include a personnel assistant, administrative office and a protocol officer.

The responsibility of the committee will be to support and facilitate Chinese investments in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville following the signing of the seven Memorandums of Understanding between the ABG and the Sanghai Chamber of Commerce, Mingqing Chamber of Commerce and other companies in China last year.

Mr Momis said this is to protect foreigners as there may be resentments over their involvement in businesses in the region.

The Bougainville–China Cooperation Committee will focus on developing strategic partnership with China to attract Chinese investors in the region on large scale and quantity basis, source and secure foreign aid from the Chinese Government, develop and facilitate social, economic, cultural and technical exchange programs between Bougainville and China, and promote mutual understanding between them.

Mr Momis said his cabinet has also approved the establishment of Bougainville Import and Export Wholesale Company which will be responsible for direct importing of goods from China and exporting of agriculture, marine and other produce from Bougainville.

27.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Village based govt needed

THE key to getting rid of guns on Bougainville is the village based government system, which now needs to be empowered by the Government.

Peace reconciliation and weapons disposal division Chief Executive Officer, Nick Peniai said this in an interview with the Post-Courier.

"People holding on to weapons will only listen to an authority which their bloodline is linked to and that is the village assembly system," Mr Peniai said.

He said the chiefs have the power and the authority to command ex-combatants in the village to surrender and dispose arms.

"Just let a house clean itself up because the clan governments will involve village chiefs," he said. Meanwhile, the peace and reconciliation office is focussing on "clear cut implementing programme" to provide funding for NGOs on certain outstanding issues.

27.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Leader condemns OBE

A BOUGAINVILLE MP has decried the outcome based education system, claiming it is a failed system and wants the Autonomous Bougainville Government to outdo it and review the system.

Selau MP Terry Mose last week took the ABG by surprise, asking the Education Minister to explain how the OBE worked in Bougainville, claiming the system was a failure for schools in Bougainville and should be "scraped". He said the system should be reviewed and that ABG should think about the education and the future of young Bougainvilleans. But ABG Education Minister, John Tabinaman, defended the system by giving his outline and positives of it.

Mr Tabinaman admitted that OBE was a controversial issue throughout the country and it needed a lot of awareness.

He said the concept was a good one and it has been used by International Education Agency Schools in PNG but the only problem was the availability of resources which the Government was failing to provide. This is the system that Kamarau International School in Buka is using where their children learn how to use computers and other equipment and materials that are provided by the school. This is unlike the primary schools in Bougainville and also in PNG.

27.06.2011

Source: The National

MP faces charges of misusing K2.7mil

By JUNIOR UKAHA

MEMBER for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso is alleged to have misappropriated K2.7 million meant for the South Bougainville feeder road project, the Office of the Public Prosecutor said.

Acting Public Prosecutor Camillus Sambua, citing a report into allegations against the MP, said Semoso was referred to him by the Ombudsman Commission for six offences allegedly committed between June, 2006 and May last year.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor in a letter dated June 23 and signed by Sambua said: "Fidelis Semoso was today ... referred to the Public Prosecutor by the Ombudsman Commission for alleged misconduct in office."

Sambua said division III.2 of the Constitution (under the Leadership Code) and the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership applies to the MP as a leader.

Sambua said the six charges against the MP included:

- * Misappropriation of K2.7 million from South Bougainville feeder road project funds without proper tender process;
- * Benefit of public funds in the amount of K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Waters Ltd;
- * Misappropriation of K1.4 million from South Bougainville feeder roads;
- * Assault and torture of Therese Hani Hapoot;
- * Winning a contract under false pretence; and
- * Failure to declare interest.

Sambua said he would pursue the file to determine whether there was sufficient, credible and cogent evidence to request the chief justice to appoint an appropriate leadership tribunal to hear the allegations of misconduct in office against Semoso.

27.06.2011

Source: The National

Rio Tinto blamed for Bougainville crisis

AN Australian television network has uncovered claims that the PNG government was acting under instruction from mining giant Rio Tinto, when it killed thousands of people who wanted one of the world's largest copper mine at Panguna, Bougainville, to shut down in the mid-1980s.

The allegations come from former opposition leader in 2001, and now Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, in court documents obtained by SBS chief correspondent Brian Thomson for the Dateline programme which was shown on SBS Qld last night at 8.30. In the court documents filed in a US court, Sir Michael said that Rio Tinto and its subsidiary Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), effectively used its wealth to control the PNG government.

However, BCL chairman Peter Taylor denied the Dateline claim.

Taylor and BCL are currently negotiating with the Bougainville Autonomous Region government to reopen the abandoned mine with the Somare government's support but amid mixed reaction from Bougainville leaders and ex-combatants.

According to SBS, the affidavit, which was never made public, alleged that Rio Tinto played an active role in military operations that ultimately led to a civil war and blockade of Bougainville in which 15,000 people died between 1989 and 1997.

"Because of Rio Tinto's financial influence in PNG, the company controlled the government," Sir Michael's affidavit stated.

It was lodged as part of an ongoing class action in the United States by the Panguna landowners against Rio Tinto.

The case had bogged down in legal arguments for the past 10 years, preventing Sir Michael's affidavit and much of the evidence from being made public. In his signed statement, he claimed that without Rio Tinto, there would never have been a war.

"It is my opinion that absent Rio Tinto's mining activity on Bougainville or its insistence that the Panguna mine be re-opened, the government would not have engaged in hostilities or taken military action on the island."

Sir Michael was unaware that SBS's Dateline programme had obtained his signed statement from sealed US court material until his office was contacted last week.

Sir Michael is recovering from double heart surgery in Singapore and his office was unable to say if he still stood by his comments, The Age newspaper reported.

Among the people interviewed last night on the programme were rebel hardliners Ismael Toroana and Sam Kauona, former PNG Defence Force commander Brig-Gen (ret) Jerry Singirok, local chief Philip Miriori and Bougainville President John Momis.

Kauona, rebel leader during the crisis, said: "It didn't surprise me, all the time we knew.

"We knew that BCL was financing this war on Bougainville because when we were fighting ... all the BCL vehicles were being used by the security forces."

Miriori said Sir Michael's statement backed his long-standing claims about Rio's complicity with the PNGDF.

Taylor told Dateline he was aware of the affidavit, but said he was surprised Sir Michael would "make these accusations knowing they're completely unfounded".

26.06.2011

Source: ESBC press release 20110626

ESBC President Calls Sir Michael Somare A Delirious Old Man!

"Sir Michael Somare is old, he is obviously too old to rule a country in development" said ESBC President Axel G. Sturm last week-end in Andorra. Mr. Sturm refers to allegations Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister made in an Australian TV network report that had been quoted by the popular Australian newspaper "The Age" yesterday. In this interview Somare accuses Rio Tinto of having caused the civil war in Bougainville.

"It is sad to see that Mr. Somare did not retire on the summit of his political career," says Mr. Sturm, "he could have avoided to be sentenced for misconduct in office earlier this year (see: <http://www.abc.net.au/correspondents/content/2011/s3174450.htm>). Furthermore: he perhaps wouldn't have made such infamous statements as he did. I consider him as a poor, delirious old man who is more and more out of his mind."

Under the leadership of Sir Michael Somare Papua New Guinea became one of the worst and most dangerous places to live in the world. His government is allegedly one of the most corrupt ones worldwide.

Sir Michael is also supposed to be behind the so called US Law Suit in California. Insiders allege strong personal financial interest of the Somare family in these activities. . In the US there are heavy penalties for any American company including law firms bribing people in other countries to secure business. The ESBC will ask for an audit by FBI or other agencies on the California law firm's accounts. The audit should check if any bribes were paid to Sir Michael Somare and any others in PNG. We understand there are severe penalties applicable. The case would automatically get thrown out if it was found some bribes were paid by the US law firm or its agents/associates.

Actually Sir Michael's son, PNG Minister Arthur Somare, faces investigations on misconduct in office and embezzlement of public funds (see: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/09/3240246.htm>) and his second son was even recently arrested as suspect in a murder case (see: http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/index_dynamic/containerNameToReplace=MiddleMiddle/focusModuleID=19546/overrideSkinName=issueArticle-full.tpl).

Axel G. Sturm: "My own investigations on the ground in PNG gave no evidence at all that Rio Tinto or Bougainville Copper might have been involved - directly or indirectly - into the cruelties during the "Bougainville Crises". In so far we strongly back the statement of Chairman Peter Taylor. We believe that Somare only wants to undermine ABG President Momis' brave and successful politics that might help Bougainville to become independent from PNG in the near future."

26.06.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Former Bougainville combatants to try and ease tension with violent factions

The government in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville wants ex-combatants to try and rein in renegade groups blamed for growing lawlessness in the south of the main island.

Violence, including a number of murders, around Konnou, have been attributed to factions led by Damien Koike and Paul Ihrah.

The Post Courier newspaper's Bougainville correspondent, Gorethy Kenneth, says Damien Koike feels he's been shut out of the development process and the ex-combatants will aim to heal the rift.

"Basically what they are going to do is see if they can negotiate, just sit down and listen to Koike or listen to Paul Ihrah [about] what they want and then come back to the ABG. Basically a fact finding mission to find out what they really really want and if they can help in some ways."

The ABG president John Momis has said international peacekeepers could be brought back because the lawlessness threatens to undermine the planned vote on independence due after 2015.

26.06.2011

Source: Brisbane Time

Rio Tinto behind Bougainville war: Somare

Australian mining giant Rio Tinto financed Papua New Guinea's violent suppression of rebels opposed to the running of what was then the world's largest copper mine in Panguna, Bougainville, says PNG Prime Minister Michael Somare.

In a startling affidavit, Sir Michael says the PNG government did the bidding of Rio Tinto in a military adventure in which 15,000 people died, or a tenth of Bougainville's population.

SBS's Dateline program on Sunday night reveals Sir Michael made the affidavit in 2001 when he was opposition leader.

He alleges that Rio Tinto, and its subsidiary Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL), funded military operations during the Bougainville war, and effectively used its wealth to control the government - a claim BCL denies.

Sir Michael says BCL played an active role in the war supplying helicopters, pilots, troops, transportation, fuel and troop barracks.

"Because of Rio Tinto's financial influence in PNG, the company controlled the government. The government of PNG followed Rio Tinto's instructions and carried out its requests," the affidavit states.

His statement is part of a class action in the US launched by a group of islanders against Rio Tinto in 2001.

In his signed statement, Sir Michael says that without Rio Tinto's activity in Bougainville, the PNG government would not have engaged in hostilities or taken military action on the island.

BCL chief executive Peter Taylor described Sir Michael's claim that the miner was involved in military action against the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and a blockade of the island during the war, which ended 14 years ago, as baseless.

"I find it quite surprising he would say these things because he knows they're not true," Mr Taylor told Dateline.

BCL also disputes other claims made in the class action. They include that its manager on Bougainville at the time of the conflict encouraged the continuation of the blockade for the purposes of "starving the bastards out".

"I don't know where that came from. It just doesn't make sense. The Bougainville people were the people that we needed to work with, and we wanted them onside, not offside," Mr Taylor said.

It is claimed most of the 15,000 people who died did so because the military blockade prevented supplies, including medicine, from reaching the islanders.

26.06.2011

Source: SBS World News

Rio Tinto behind Bougainville war: Somare

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26.06.2011

Source: SBS Australia

The controversial SBS Dateline report

26.06.2011

Source: SBS Australia

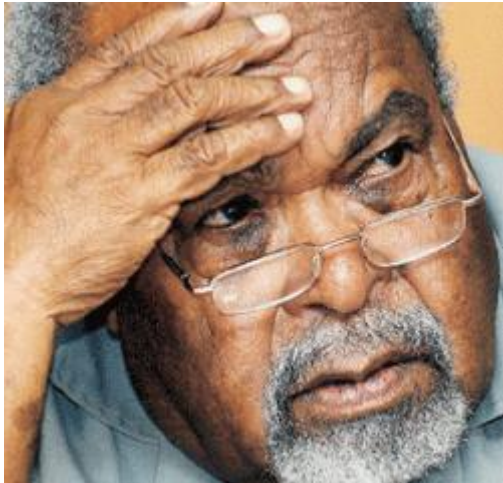
Preview of the controversial Australian SBS Dateline report

26.06.2011

Source: The Age

Rio Tinto caused war: Somare

by Brian Thomson



Sir Michael Somare: "The government of PNG followed Rio Tinto's instructions"

PAPUA New Guinea's Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, has accused Australian mining giant Rio Tinto and its subsidiary Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) of being behind the PNG military's bloody suppression of Bougainville rebels opposed to the company's Panguna copper mine.

An affidavit written by Sir Michael when he was Opposition Leader in 2001 - and never made public - alleges that Rio played an active role in military operations that ultimately led to a civil war and blockade of the island in which 15,000 people died between 1989 and 1997.

"Because of Rio Tinto's financial influence in PNG, the company controlled the government," Mr Somare's affidavit states.

"The government of PNG followed Rio Tinto's instructions and carried out its requests ... BCL was directly involved in the military operations on Bougainville, and it played an active role. BCL supplied helicopters, which were used as gunships, the pilots, troop transportation, fuel and troop barracks."

The Somare affidavit was lodged as part of an ongoing class action in the United States by the islanders against Rio Tinto.

The case has been bogged down in legal argument for 10 years, preventing much of the evidence, including the Somare affidavit, from being made public. In his signed statement, Sir Michael claims that without Rio Tinto, there would never have been a war.

"It is my opinion that absent Rio Tinto's mining activity on Bougainville or its insistence that the Panguna mine be re-opened, the government would not have engaged in hostilities or taken military action on the island." The affidavit will complicate Rio Tinto's

current attempts to reopen the mine, which is being supported by Sir Michael's government.

Sir Michael was unaware that SBS's Dateline program had obtained his signed statement from sealed US court material until his office was contacted this week. Sir Michael is recovering from double heart surgery in Singapore and his office was unable to say if he still stood by his comments.

The ailing leader's statement reinforces claims from the islander litigants and former rebels that Rio Tinto had a hand in the military's efforts.

Sam Kauona, a former fighter, said: "It didn't surprise me, all the time we knew.

"We knew that BCL was financing this war on Bougainville because when we were fighting ... all the BCL vehicles were being used by the security forces."

Panguna landowner, former rebel and local chief Philip Miriori said Sir Michael's statement backs up his long-standing claims about Rio's complicity with the PNG military.

BCL chief executive Peter Taylor was aware of the affidavit, but said he was surprised Sir Michael would "make these accusations knowing they're completely unfounded".

Brian Thomson's report on the war in Bougainville screens on Dateline on SBS1 at 8.30 tonight.

26.06.2011

Source: SPIEGEL online

Hohe Rohstoffpreise

Metall-Diebstähle bei der Bahn um 50 Prozent gestiegen

Diebe haben es auf Kupferkabel, Oberleitungen und Schienen der Deutschen Bahn abgesehen: Die Zahl der Raube beim Staatskonzern ist nach SPIEGEL-Informationen seit 2009 drastisch gestiegen - vor allem in sozial schwachen Regionen nehmen die Taten zu.

Hamburg - Der Run auf Rohstoffe trifft die Deutsche Bahn immer härter - denn für Diebe sind Zigtausende Kilometer frei zugänglicher Schienen und Oberleitungen des Staatskonzerns zur wahren Fundgrube geworden. Allein im vergangenen Jahr hat die zuständige Bundespolizei nach SPIEGEL-Informationen mehr als 2700 Fälle von Eisen- und Buntmetalldiebstählen bei der Bahn registriert.

Geklaut wurden 2010 demnach:

- 347.294 Kilo Kupfer,
- 675.570 Kilo Stahl,
- 2399 Kilo Aluminium sowie
- 1.185.748 Kilo andere Metalle wie etwa Messing, Bronze oder Rotguss.

Neuesten Daten zufolge verschärft sich der Trend sogar: In den ersten vier Monaten des laufenden Jahres wurden bereits mehr als 1400 Diebstähle gezählt. Seit 2009 ist die Zahl der Metall-Diebstähle damit nahezu um 50 Prozent gestiegen. "Der Grund liegt eindeutig in den drastisch gestiegenen Rohstoffpreisen", sagt der Leiter der Konzernsicherheit, Gerd Neubeck.

Auf dem Weltmarkt stieg der Preis für eine Tonne Kupfer seit 2009 von knapp 3000 auf zwischenzeitlich mehr als 10.000 Dollar. "Die hohen Preise auch für Altmetall locken organisierte Banden, die im großen Stil ganze Kabelrollen oder Schienenstränge verschieben, ebenso an, wie Einzeltäter, die ein paar Kilo Stahl im Rucksack mitgehen lassen", sagt Neubeck.

Am meisten geklaut wird nach Erkenntnissen des Unternehmens in sozial schwachen Regionen. Besonders stark betroffen: der Osten. Rund um Halle registrierte die Bundespolizei im vergangenen Jahr 243 Diebstähle, im Bereich Magdeburg waren es 161, in Leipzig 121 Fälle. Es folgen die Regionen Essen, Dortmund, Neubrandenburg und Oranienburg. Mehr als 500 Täter hat die zuständige Bundespolizei allein im vergangenen Jahr festgenommen."

Polizei und Bahn trifft sich am Montag zum "Buntmetallgipfel"

Am Montag dieser Woche wollen sich Sicherheitsexperten der Bahn mit Verantwortlichen der Bundespolizei erstmals zu einem "Buntmetallgipfel" treffen. Laut Einladungstext soll es darum gehen, "Erfahrungen auszutauschen, Gegenmaßnahmen zu eruieren und diese in gemeinsam abgestimmten Maßnahmen zu bündeln".

Doch ist der Imageschaden durch den Metallklau für den Konzern immens.

"Hunderttausende Kunden müssen es im Laufe eines Jahres ausbaden, wenn Züge stillstehen oder mit erheblichen Verspätungen unterwegs sind", sagt Sicherheitschef Neubeck. Im Jahr 2010 waren rund 8500 Züge betroffen. Mehr als 360 fielen ganz oder teilweise aus.

25.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AROMA WIN

By Aloysius Laukai

Aroma Rugby Union 7 aside team became the proud recipients of K80,000 cash prize and Trophy at the Black Orchid 7's Tournament in Buka this afternoon.

They defeated Bougainville's Black Orchid team in extra time.

At the end of the game, the two teams were both on 19 points each and ten minutes extra time was allowed.

They became the champions this year 2011.

Last year's champions were Kimbe Rebels.

Pictured is the Regional member for Bougainville FIDELIS SEMOSO who put in the cash Prize of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

The runner up Bougainville side Black Orchid came second and received K15,000.00.

Regional member also pledged ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA every year for the next five years.

He wants more PNG teams to participate next year which he wants to stage in Arawa.

The official kick off was made by the Regional Member himself whilst the Grand finals for the Plates were by the Mekamui strongman, CHRIS UMA

Final score 19-24



Pictured is Regional member Presenting the Prize to the AROMA Coast team Captain.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

25.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Regional Member Welcomed Home

by Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Member for Bougainville and Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO arrived in Buka to a small welcome by supporters at the Buka airport this morning.

This was after his referral by the Ombudsman Commission to the Public Solicitor for misconduct in office.

He promised his supporters that he would face the case and also wants the ABG to be audited by the same auditors.

He promised to give a press statement concerning the matter by Monday.



MR. SEMOSO is pictured talking to supporters at the Buka airport this morning.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

24.06.2011

Source: ESBC

Die Hysteriker sind los - aber nicht mehr lange!

von Axel G. Sturm

Es ist kaum zu glauben: Ein paar Tage ohne Erfolgsmeldungen aus Bougainville, eine paar Tage mit Berichten über kleine Gruppen von Me'ekamui Spinnern, die ihre Felle wegschwimmen sehen und deshalb lauthals krakeelen, das Ganze gewürzt mit einer für Papua Neuguinea nicht unüblichen Mischung aus Verdächtigungen und übler Nachrede, und schon ist der Nährboden bereitet, der es Spekulanten erlaubt, mit Kleinstorders die Börsenwelt durcheinander zu bringen. „Veredelt“ wird die ganze Gemengelage zu allem Überfluss noch von einigen egomanischen Selbstdarstellern in sogenannten Diskussionsforen, die nach Gutdünken die geneigten Leser mit abstrusen Fantasien verwöhnen und dann huldvoll Zustimmung oder Ablehnung zu abenteuerlichen Thesen erteilen.

Fakt ist, dass sich Entscheidungsprozesse auf Bougainville mühsam einen Weg durch ein Dickicht von Gefühlslagen, Vertrauen, Misstrauen, Eitelkeiten und persönliche Gier einzelner bahnen müssen. Selbst Familienfehden sind mit im Spiel. Deshalb muss vernunftorientiertes Handeln gelegentlich Umwege und Verzögerungen in Kauf nehmen, um letztlich zum erwünschten Ziel zu gelangen.

Wie kein Präsident vor ihm hat John Momis in den letzten 12 Monaten seit seiner Wahl im Juni 2010 Bougainville voran gebracht und den Weg in ein modernes, wohlhabendes und glückliches Bougainville vorgezeichnet. Dafür schulden ihm alle Dank: die Bürger von Bougainville aber auch die Aktionäre von Bougainville Copper.

Auch für Bougainville Copper bedeutet Momis' Politik einen großen Schritt vorwärts in die richtige Richtung:

Erstmalig seit mehr als zwei Jahrzehnten ist ein stetiger Dialog mit dem Ziel der Wiedereröffnung der Panguna Mine in Gang gekommen.

Erstmalig spricht sich – allen lokalen Meckerern zum Trotz – eine eindrucksvolle Mehrheit der Bürger Bougainvilles für eine Wiederaufnahme des Minings durch BCL aus.

Erstmalig besuchte BCL Chairman Peter Taylor und Company Secretary Paul Coleman nach mehr als zwanzig Jahren wieder die Insel.

Erstmalig werden nach Jahren des Verfalls wichtige Infrastrukturmaßnahmen wie der Bau von Brücken etc. durch japanische Firmen realisiert.

Erstmalig hat die amerikanische Regierung Kampfmittelexperten nach Torokina entsandt, die die dort vergrabenen Weltkrieg II Relikte vernichtet haben.

Erstmalig sind Arawa und Buin wieder auf dem Luftwege zu erreichen.

Dennoch bleibt noch mehr als genug zu tun. Doch: all dies sind Schritte in eine bessere Zukunft - für die Bürger Bougainvilles und Bougainville Copper!

Dass der Aktienkurs noch nicht seinen „Fair Value“ von AUD30 bis AUD 50 erreicht hat, hat niemand wirklich erwartet. Aber: ein Kurs von unter AUD 2 bis AUD 3 ist absoluter Hohn und eine üble Verzerrung der Realität.

Die Realität sieht so aus: Im Hintergrund und ohne großen Presserummel wird intensiv an der Vorbereitung des neuen BCA und damit an der Wiedereröffnung der Panguna Mine gearbeitet – ob es nun einigen verwirrten Me'ekamui Anhängern passt oder nicht.

Präsident Momis hat vollkommen Recht, wenn er sagt, dass der ökonomische Erfolg Bougainvilles fast ausschließlich von Panguna abhängt. Und damit verknüpft ist auch die angestrebte Unabhängigkeit Bougainvilles von Papua Neu Guinea. Die Chinesen haben das längst erkannt und nähern sich mit kleinen, großen Schritten an. Dabei haben sie – wer mag es ihnen verübeln – den Reichtum der Insel an Bodenschätzen fest im Blick.

Speziell Investoren aus Europa sollten sich gut überlegen, welche Vorteile ein kalkulierbar-spekulatives Investment in einem Finanzraum haben könnte, der weder von EURO- noch US-DOLLAR-Krisen abhängt. Der Aufschwung der australischen Währung innerhalb der letzten 24 Monate mag ein deutlicher Hinweis darauf sein.

Die European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper bekräftigen ihre bullische Bewertung von Bougainville Copper Aktien mit dem Hinweis auf eine vermutlich zunehmende Volatilität in den nächsten Monaten. Derzeit jedoch ist das Papier massiv unterbewertet und deshalb ein **STRONG BUY!**

24.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Equal service delivery

By JOYCE TOHUI

Chief Peter Maimoi is calling on the National Member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI to deliver equal services to the people of North Bougainville.

Chief Maimoi urged Mr ATOI to equally distribute basic and essential services among his people.

He said his people are faced with a lot of problems related to roads, health and education infrastructures which must be addressed immediately.

Mr Maimoi said MR ATOI collected votes from all constituencies in his electorate which showed the full support of the people in his leadership and challenged him to prove to his people what he can do in his short time in Parliament.

Chief Maimoi believed member ATOI can deliver and urged him to work closely with the COEs, the Village Assemblies and the chiefs to deliver basic services to the rural population.

He said for too long there are still areas of North Bougainville who have not received any basic services and this trend needs to change.

Mr Maimoi called on the National MP to stand by his words that he will not entertain anybody but work for the common good of the people and the betterment of Bougainville's future.

He added if the member stood by his words the people will prove to him in the coming general elections in 2012.

24.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIRST IMPORT/EXPORT WHOLESALER APPROVED

By Aloysius Laukai

Following the establishment of the Bougainville-China Cooperation Committee the BEC has also approved the first Bougainville Import and Export Wholesale Company this week.

The company will be responsible for the direct importing of goods from China and Exporting of Agriculture, Marine and other produce from the Autonomous Region.

In making the announcement, ABG President JOHN MOMIS said that the business will definitely cut out the many middlemen in Papua New Guinea and thus reducing the price of goods in Bougainville.

The company would be owned by Bougainvillean shareholders with the ABG getting shares on behalf Bougainvilleans who are not able to buy their own shares at the initial stages.

24.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BEC APPROVES BOUGAINVILLE-CHINA COMMITTEE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Executive Council this week approved the much debated Bougainville China- Cooperation Committee.

This was announced by the ABG President JOHN MOMIS in parliament.

He said that the committee's responsibility is to support and facilitate Chinese Investment in the Autonomous Region following the signing of Seven Memorandum of Understandings with the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and Minging Chamber of commerce and various other companies in China last year.

The Bougainville- China Cooperation will focus on developing an all around strategic partnership with China in order to attract Chinese investors to invest in Bougainville on a large scale and quantity basis, source and secure foreign aid from Chinese Government, develop and facilitate social economic, cultural and technical exchange programs between Bougainville and China.

And promote mutual understanding support and friendship between the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the Republic of China.

The Committee would be chaired by the ABG Vice President and minister for Health, PATRICK NISIRA.

The BEC also directed the Bougainville Administration to source THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA for the initial funding of the committee.

24.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TONSU BY ELECTION

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Electoral Commission is ready to run another By election, this time for the Tonsu seat which was left vacant when the former member EZEKIEL MASAT who resigned to contest the North Bougainville seat By election just concluded.

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU told New Dawn FM today that the ABG Speaker has already set the dates for the Tonsu By-election.

He said that the Speaker will issue Election writs on August First, 2011.

Nomination will also open on August First and will close on August 8th,2011.

And Polling to begin on the tenth of September , 2011 and will end on September 15th.

Writs will then be returned to the ABG Speaker on September 28th 2011.

MR. TARAVARU said that he expects about FIVE THOUSAND eligible voters to cast their votes in the By-election.

He said that the updated roll for the North Bougainville By election will be used however opportunity will be given for any extra eligible voters who want to register during the preparation time.

MR. TARAVARU said that a total of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND KINA has been requested from the ABG for the Tonsu By-election.

24.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis today expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the PNG

Government for the return of the Correctional Institutional Service to Bougainville. MR. MOMIS made these remarks at the passing out of 25 New Graduates from a training organized at the Hutjena Training School in Buka. He also thanked the Minister Tony Aimo for his commitment over a long period of time to see that the vision is realised. He said that the Abg and its people were very grateful for this assistance from the Papua New Guinea Government. Mr. Momis during his speech also Paid tribute to Correctional Officers who lost their lives at Kuveria on the cause of their duties at the start of the Bougainville conflict. He said that there was a reason to celebrate today's event as without Police and CIS services Bougainville can not build the harmonious society it preaches about. All of us have come out of ashes and we all must collaborate with everyone on Bougainville to develop the region. He also thanked the people of Bekut for allowing their land to be used for this project.

24.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ombudsman Commission refers Semoso for misconduct

By TODAGIA KELOLA

BOUGAINVILLE Affairs Minister and Bougainville regional Member Fidelis Semoso has been referred by the Ombudsman Commission to the acting Public prosecutor for alleged misconduct in office.

In a media conference yesterday, the full quorum of the three Ombudsman, Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek and the other two commissioners John Nero and Phoebe Sangatari, announced that the leader was referred on six categories of allegations. Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek in announcing the referral told reporters that the MP Fidelis Semoso has been referred to the Acting Public Prosecutor pursuant to its powers under the Constitution and the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership (OLDRL), after having investigated and formed a view that he is prima facie guilty of misconduct in office.

He was notified of his referral, before the referral under Section 20(2) of the OLDRL. The Ombudsman Commission gave Mr Semoso his right to be heard on December 3, 2010 on six categories of allegations of misconduct in office relating to use of public funds and his personal conduct.

He provided a written explanation to the Commission on December 22, 2010 in a letter dated December 17, 2010.

The Commission considered his response but was not satisfied and concluded that Mr Semoso is prima facie guilty of misconduct in office under Sections 27(5) of the Constitution and provisions of the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership.

But he stated that the Acting Public Prosecutor has the discretion to proceed with or not to proceed with the matter under Section 177(1)(b) of the Constitution.

When asked by reporters what the nature of the six allegations were, Mr Manek said he cannot disclose them.

"Those are better left to the Tribunal if and when it is set up," he said

Mr Semoso's referral brings the number of leaders referred by the Commission for misconduct in office to about 97 and that the success rate of leaders been found guilty according to Mr Manek was about 97 per cent.

24.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Gold and silver production to pass 31m ounces

PAPUA New Guinea's mining industry is poised to produce 31, 325, 500 ounces of gold and silver and 165, 000 tonnes of copper in 2011.

Officer-in-charge of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) Philip Samar told Mines & Money conference in Beijing last week (June 15-16) that these production figures were expected from the six mines operating in the country at present. The mines are Porgera, Ok Tedi, Tolukuma, Sinivit, Simberi and Newcrest (Lihir).

Out of the production figures and commodities, Porgera is expected to produce 500, 000 ounces of gold and 80, 000 ounces of Silver, Ok Tedi 400, 000 ounces of Gold, 1, 000, 000 ounces of Silver and 165, 000 tonnes of Copper, Tolukuma 70, 000 ounces of Gold and 150, 000 ounces of Silver, Sinivit 50, 000 ounces of Gold and 2, 500 ounces of Silver, Simberi 800, 000 ounces of Gold, while Lihir is expected to produce 800, 000 ounces of gold.

Mr Samar told the conference that PNG had four major mines on advanced stages of construction which were expected to come on stream in the near future. The mines are Ramu NiCo (mine life 30 plus years), Solwara 1 (5 years), Yandera (10 years) and Frieda projects with expected mine life of 20 years.

The OIC said several potential investors have spoken to him during the conference and have expressed interest in visiting PNG to obtain more information on mineral investment climate in PNG.

He said others visited the PNG booth and enquired about the PNG mining policies and regulatory framework.

24.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Thousands suffer food shortage on Bougainville atolls

Over 12 thousand people from the atoll islands in Papua New Guinea's Autonomous Region of Bougainville are facing food shortages and need urgent help.

Their MP, Lautu Atoi told the PNG parliament that people now cannot grow food on the atolls because of sea level rise and a prolonged drought.

He says there's no long term food security for the atoll islanders.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speakers: Lautu Atoi, MP for PNG's Atoll Islands in Bougainville; Manasupe Zurenuo, PNG's Secretary for Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs; Pomat Manuai, Chief Executive of PNG's Border Development Authority

Listen here!

24.06.2011

Source: The National

Mines ready for huge production

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24.06.2011

Source: The National

Semoso accused of fund misuse

By JUNIOR UKAHA

MEMBER for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso was yesterday referred to the office of the public prosecutor for alleged misconduct in office.

The Ombudsman Commission said it discovered the MP had allegedly misused public funds and his personal conduct was contrary to that of a leader under the leadership code.

In a statement, the commission said: "The Ombudsman Commission today (yesterday) referred Fidelis Semoso to the acting public prosecutor pursuant to its powers under the constitution and the Organic Law on the duties and responsibilities of leadership after having investigated and formed a view that he is prima facie guilty of misconduct in office."

Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek said Semoso had been notified of the referral. Semoso was given the right to be heard last Dec 3 on official misconduct charges relating to the use of public funds and his personal conduct.

Manek said Semoso provided a written explanation to the commission on Dec 22, 2010, in a letter dated Dec 17, 2010, but the commission was not satisfied with his response resulting in him being referred to the public prosecutor yesterday.

He said the acting public prosecutor "holds an independent constitutional office and has the discretion to proceed with or not proceed with the matter under section 177(1)(b) of the constitution".

If the public prosecutor's office is satisfied with the referral, it will request the chief justice to set up a leadership tribunal.

Manek also brushed aside claims by Morobe Governor Luther Wenge that the OC was "picking and choosing" leaders to investigate and refer to the public prosecutor.

"We give what (cases) comes here the same treatment," Manek said.

"The commission goes by the book. The commission stands for fairness."

24.06.2011

Source: The National

Public servants owe ABG in rentals

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BOUGAINVILLE public servants owe the Autonomous Bougainville Government thousands of kina in unpaid rentals since 2005, the region's public accounts committee (PAC) chairman Cosmas Sohia said.

Revealing its findings to members of the Bougainville House of Representatives during the assembly sitting on Wednesday, Sohia said the committee was "alarmed" that no rentals were paid by public servants for government and private accommodation since 2005.

"The failure of public servants to pay for government housing or private rentals means that the ABG misses out on hundreds of thousands of kina of internal revenue each financial year," Sohia said.

He said that contributed to the backlog in government housing available for genuine applicants.

He said the money, if collected, could have been spent on building new houses for eligible public servants.

The PAC's findings followed a recent inquiry into tenancy of government housing properties in Buka town, Hutjena and Sohano.

"These include the Bougainville administration having only a draft housing policy and that retired and retrenched public servants are still occupying government housing," Sohia said.

He presented 10 recommendations, including:

- * All public servants living in government housing start payment of rental by Aug 1;
- * The Bougainville administration revises organisational structure to reduce differences in salary levels between the national and Bougainville public servants by July;
- * The transfer of ownership of government housing from the National Housing Corporation to ABG is completed by November; and
- * The PAC enquires into the awarding of contracts in Bougainville.

"The successful completion of this report is a first for the committee and it now puts PAC in a better position to successfully execute its roles and functions more thoroughly," Sohia said.

23.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CIS Members at the Parade this Morning



23.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pictures from today's CIS Graduation Parade

CIS Minister Tony Aimovela welcomed at the Ceremonial Stage at Hutjema this morning.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai



23.06.2011

Source: The National

PNG investment at an all-time high

INVESTMENT opportunities in Papua New Guinea are at an all-time high as a result of the economic boom led by the country's petroleum and mining sector, PNG's permanent secretary for Trade and Commerce Moses Nangu, said.

According to Fiji Times online, he said foreign investment was "speedier than ever" caused by the much-publicised liquified natural gas project.

As a result of this investment environment, Nangu said the need for skilled and semi-skilled labour was "becoming very important".

He said it was, therefore, necessary that dialogue and negotiations on the subject with forum island leaders be pursued.

The online news said the Melanesian Spearhead Group was drafting a memorandum of understanding on a skills movement scheme and further discussions will take place in the upcoming Trade and Economic Ministers meeting scheduled for Port Vila, Vanuatu at the end of the month.

Speaking at a meeting of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Nangu said the mining sector also continued to thrive with exploration works for other geophysical sectors were ongoing.

PNG ranks 11th in the world as gold producer and 10th in terms of copper production – with a real potential of exceeding present production levels. Silver is a commercial by-product of most mines and PNG also has an extensive reserve of natural gas and oil. In addition, he said export commodities continued to flourish, taking advantage of international commodity market prices.

The PNG business environment was relatively uncrowded and he said the government welcomed foreign investment that contributed to the economic development and prosperity of the country and its people.

Nangu identified the areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and petroleum, manufacturing, tourism, financial services and telecommunications as potential areas of trade and investment.

23.06.2011

Source: The National

ABG seeks K15 million from state

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is still waiting for the national government to release this year's restoration and development grant of K15 million, Finance Minister Albert Punghau told the Bougainville House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Punghau was responding to questions raised by members on the first day of the region's assembly sitting in Buka.

Responding to questions raised by members on the progress of this year's grant, Punghau said they were waiting for a response from the Minister for Finance and Treasury on the release of the grant.

The grant is a constitutional arrangement under the Bougainville Peace Agreement. He said as soon as the grant was released, a supplementary budget would be drawn up to prioritise the use of these monies as ABG did not include the K15 million grant in its budget this year based on last year's experience of a 12-month delay in the release of the 2010 K15 million grant.

Punghau said last year's K15 million was paid by the state in March and the money spent on paying school fee subsidies for Bougainville students in the region and around the country.

In addition, it was used to pay outstanding bills accrued from last year's ABG election. Punghau was questioned over allegations of misuse of public funds by the Bougainville finance division.

"These are mere allegations and no one has come up with hard evidence to prove the allegations," he said.

"I challenge members to submit any information and hard evidence you have to the ABG chief administrator who is the legal authority to deal with these issues," Punghau said. He said since taking up office, he had put a stop to any person, including former and current ABG members, using their position to order finance officers to release monies without proper authorisation.

"No person has the authority to order my officers to draw out money that belongs to the people of Bougainville without proper authority," he said.

He voiced concern that Bougainville did not have an internal auditor despite having the position advertised three times this year.

He said the package was not attractive enough to attract suitable candidates and he urged ABG to address the issue, including improving the package to attract suitable candidates.

23.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Peace vital in development

By GRACE TIDEN

WORKING for peace based on equitable economic development is a new direction for the Autonomous Bougainville Government, a senior minister has revealed.

ABG Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Physical Planning Michael Oni, speaking at celebrations to mark the 6th anniversary of the ABG in Kokopo, said the Bougainville economy that was almost dead in 1997 has burst into life again with cocoa and copra dominating Buka and the north and to a lesser extent in Central and South Bougainville. Gold production contributed in central and the south, he said.

He said revenue from cocoa, copra and gold was the lifeblood of PMVs, stores, building and earth-moving companies and many other businesses.

He said the economy has been helped by donors, especially in cocoa rehabilitation and road upgrading and maintenance.

The strong emphasis on building peace through economic prosperity which was something Mr Oni pointed to as the special direction of the Momis-led government.

He also said Australian aid agency AusAID has agreed to provide funding help towards the early restoration of Arawa Town and that the ABG is working on plans to build a special economic zone at Kokopau in the Selau Constituency.

He said there was no stand-alone businesses in the region and that any foreign business that wanted to invest in Bougainville must have a Bougainvillean partner, especially through landownership and they must in the first instant inform the ABG or its administration.

23.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Minister AIMO

By Aloysius Laukai

The Minister for the Correctional Services (CIS) this morning said that Peace was finally retruning back to Bougainville thus making it possible for the CIS to return to Bougainville after 22 years of CIS absence.

He said we were trying to come back to Bougainville but due to land problems we could not make earlier.

He thanked AusAid and ABG for securing the land in Bekut and AusAid funded the project totalling K4.5 Million kina.

The Minister also thanked the ABG for also contributing funds towards the Bekut CIS project.

Pictured is the Minister making his speech in Buka this morning.



23.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CIS RECRUIT PASSOUT

By Aloysius Laukai

25 CIS recruits passed out from their training at Hutjena on Buka island this morning.

The passout ceremony was done at the Hutjena Oval today.

Pictured is ABG President John Momis inspecting CIS and Police Parade in Hutjena this morning.



23.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainvilleans celebrate

By JORGE RUMAROPEN

The sleepy town of Kavieng came alive on Saturday when the Bougainvillean community celebrated the 6th anniversary of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in a colourful celebration.

People flocked in from as far as Bol village along the Buluminsky Highway, west coast area, the islands and within the vicinity of the town, braving the morning showers in a spirit of unity to observe the ABG event, which was held for the first time in New Ireland.

"The Bougainvilleans gathered today to remember the remarkable things that we have achieved together through the Bougainville Peace Agreement," ABG President John Momis said in comments posted on the New Dawn FM website. "We also gathered to reflect about the many challenges that still face us as we implement that agreement."

Six years ago on June 16, the ABG was sworn in after numerous dialogues in a long peace process following the 10-year civil conflict.

22.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EXCOMBATANTS TO MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Excombatants are meeting in Buka on Monday to address growing law and order issues in South Bougainville.

Ex Combatants from South and Central and North will for the first time act on the problem which has been ongoing for a long time.

They have been tasked by the ABG President to discuss and find possible solution to the on going problems in South Bougainville.

Their talks will centre on both Damien Koike's group and Paul Ihrach's faction.

22.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO EASY WAY OUT

By Aloysius Laukai

The member for Nissan and Minister for Law and Justice, LEO HANNET says there is no easy way out by introducing a blanket law to stop the unnecessary killings throughout Bougainville.

MR. HANNET made these remarks in response to calls by the member for EIVO/TORAU, MELHIO DARE who wanted the ABG to pass a blanket law to stop the killings of sorcerers and other suspects in Central Bougainville.

Member Dare claimed that many suspected sorcerers are being persecuted and the government stop all these atrocities.

The Minister for Law and Justice in response said that there will be no blanket protection but the government must find ways to stop these evil actions from happening in our region.

22.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Government has agreed to assist the people of Nissan Island with food supplies through the National Disaster and Emergency Office.

Acting Prime Minister SAM ABAL made these commitments in parliament yesterday when responding to calls made by the newly elected member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI who wanted the government to assist his people.

He said that the newspaper reports of widespread hunger on the island was true due to the five months drought on the island.

The Prime Minister said that the National Disaster office will facilitate the assistance as soon as possible.

22.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Public Servants unpaid bills

By Aloysius Laukai

BOUGAINVILLE public servants owe the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)

thousands of kina in non payment of rentals since 2005, said chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in Bougainville Cosmas Sohia.

Revealing their findings to members of the ABG house of representatives during parliament sitting yesterday, Sohia said the committee was 'alarmed' that no rentals were paid by the public servants for government and private accommodation since 2005.

"The failure of public servants to pay towards government housing or private rentals means that the ABG misses out on hundreds of thousands of kina of internal revenue each financial year," said Sohia.

He added that consequently this contributed to the backlog in government housing available to genuine applicants when this money could have been spent on building new houses for eligible public servants.

The PAC's findings, follows a recent inquiry into tenancy of government housing properties in Buka town, Hutjena and Sohano in which the committee identified a number of issues.

"These include the Bougainville administration having only a draft Housing Policy and that retired and retrenched public servants are still occupying government housing," Sohia said.

He further presented ten recommendations which he urged that the ABG consider and implement.

These recommendations include;

- All Bougainville public servants residing in government housing commence payment of their rental by Aug 1,
- The Bougainville administration revise organizational structure to reduce the difference in salary levels between the national and Bougainville public servants by July,
- The transfer of ownership of government housing from the National Housing Corporation to ABG is completed by Nov and
- That the PAC inquire into the awarding of contracts in Bougainville.

"The successful completion of this report is a first for the committee and it now puts PAC in a better position to successfully execute its roles and functions more thoroughly," added Sohia.

22.06.2011

Source: The National

Momis calls for peace in South Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis is appealing to all Bougainvilleans to work hard together to deliver the vision of the peace agreement.

Momis made the call following ongoing reports of conflicts in South Bougainville instigated by criminals.

He urged the people of Bougainville to work together to end the conflicts or face the risk of serious and widespread violence resuming in Bougainville.

"The problem of local conflict worries me deeply.

"I know that many who are involved have been damaged and traumatised by the many years of conflict since 1988," he said.

"They use guns and violence to give themselves status and income because they have little or no education and so little chance of employment or business opportunities."

He said while the Bougainville government could understand and sympathise with what had led the criminals to use guns, the Momis-led government would not allow them to continue their criminal activities.

"What they are doing has the potential to destroy what we have achieved so far through our peace process.

"It is vital that we end the conflict and dispose of the weapons."

Momis challenged the young men and older leaders of the main groups that started the conflict in South Bougainville to put aside violence and weapons.

"I want to offer you the opportunities that would allow you employment or business activity.

"Right now, I am working with foreign governments and business organisations to set up advanced technical training opportunities in Bougainville," he said.

Momis said he was willing to find places for members of those armed groups in the South to get training at places like Don Bosco in Port Moresby and the small scale mining college in Bulolo, Morobe.

He reiterated that through the powerful weapon of equitable economic development and with the support of

the national government and donor partners, Bougainville must end conflicts in the area and move towards achieving the vision of the peace agreement.

22.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville cabinet approves plans for betterment

By Gorethy Kenneth

THE Bougainville Executive Council yesterday approved three main aspects to move Bougainville forward for a better and peaceful Bougainville.

ABG President John Momis and his Cabinet approved the Bougainville China Consultative Committee to be established immediately to draft, implement and oversee the development of planned Kokopau town under the Special Economic Development zone.

BEC also approved and made a serious decision for all former combatants to meet as early as Friday or as late as Monday at the Parliament House to speak on who will travel to Konnou to meet with Damien Koike peacefully and which team will travel to Sininnai to talk to Paul Ihira.

The third decision made was the approval of the Export Import or direct export licence for Bougainville to export its goods directly overseas.

Parliament sat right through close of business yesterday. Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on Housing were discussed, the purchase of the Copra shed in Buka by Pristine 101 and the Education system was also a highlight during the sitting which kicked off yesterday.

22.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Eluh condemns shooting of cops

BOUGAINVILLE police chief Thomas Eluh has condemned last Saturday's shooting of two Buin based policemen, describing it as an "attack on the Constitution".

"In any democratic country in the world, for any citizen to shoot at police, is a most serious category under the law. It is an attack on the Constitution in any sovereign country," Mr Eluh said. He condemned the shooting which occurred at Sininai in the Siwai District on Saturday where two policemen identified as Constable Mathew Ninamo and Constable Joe Parurei received bullet wounds to their legs.

The two were treated at Buka Hospital and were later discharged as doctors said the

injuries were not serious.

"I will not tolerate such activities from such crooks, gangs or whatever. I call on those involved to immediately surrender to police," Mr Eluh said.

He confirmed the gunmen involved are led by notorious Siwai criminal Paul Ihira who is wanted by police for murder, rape, arson and a string of other crimes in Siwai.

Mr Eluh has appealed to all law abiding citizens to cooperate with police in bringing the culprits to justice. He said Bougainvilleans were already fed up with such criminal activities and those involved should stop or face the full force of the law.

22.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Awareness team lauded

By PETERSON TSERHAHA

THE Central Bougainville parliamentary select committee has been highly praised by the people of Central Bougainville following a major awareness campaign on peace, reconciliation special projects and weapons disposal.

The team led by select committee chairman Melchior Dare, member for Eivo Torau; John Ken, member for South Nasioi; Jude Harris, Peace office regional coordinator; Aaron Peter consultant peace office; Richard Lyonns, CEO veterans division; Allan Taniung Lands office and Nationwide Microbank officials visited the most remote parts of Central Bougainville in which no government team has ever gone.

The team visited Marai in south Nasioi, Beresinau village in the Kokoda constituency, former BCL camp five settlements in the Eivo Torau constituency and in Toniva, North Nasioi and also attended the public forum in Panguna.

John Ken, member for South Nasioi, said the purpose of the awareness was to open up people's minds, and most importantly update them on the ABG's progress. Paramount chief of Marai Benjamin Oama said it is the first time since the inauguration of the first ABG house that a team representing the ABG has ever come up to their home.

"We are extremely happy with this approach," he said.

22.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG acts on HIV/AIDS

THE AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government's Policy on HIV and AIDS was done for the best interest of Bougainvilleans, according to President John Momis and acting Administrator Patrick Koles.

In their preface and acknowledgement for the launch of the region's very own HIV/AIDS Policy framework, they stressed that this guiding principle was to protect and promote public health and welfare.

The policy will be reviewed from time to time to take into account emerging issues and priorities.

In Momis' prelude, he said that the AIDS epidemic is one of the greatest challenges of our time. In many parts of the World including PNG, HIV continues to rise without showing signs of decline. Its impact on individuals, households, communities and nations is far reaching.

"As today's leaders of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, we are well aware that

our recent experience of conflict which has destroyed our economy, livelihoods, social, fabric, social services and infrastructure has left many of our populations, especially young people vulnerable to HIV. Reports of increasing consumption of marijuana and homebrew and their links with violence against women and children including rape and other high risk sexual activities are particularly of major concern.

"We are committed to playing our part to ensure Bougainville is free of the AIDS threat. The decision to include HIV in article 34 of our constitution represents that commitment. The development of this policy, which emanated from the recommendation of the Bougainville Parliamentary Select Committee on HIV and AIDS in its first meeting in 2007, represents yet another significant milestone in bringing that commitment closer," the leaders said. Mr Koles said that the development of this HIV Policy had been a joint effort of several individuals and organisations for which they were grateful.

22.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Mine Waste expert says land-based dumps have lower risk profile

The alternative to deep sea waste disposal is a land-based system, usually in the form of a tailings dam.

Dr Gavin Mudd is a mine waste expert and senior lecturer in the Department of Engineering at Monash University.

He says a land-based tailings dam is feasible.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Dr Gavin Mudd, Department of Engineering, Monash University

[Listen here !](#)

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PNG US Sign Memorandum of Record

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, June 21, 2011 - The Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Museum and Art Gallery and the Joint (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) today signed a Memorandum of Record (MoR) to reaffirm support for U.S. investigative and recovery efforts in PNG and surrounding waters.

Signed in Port Moresby by Mr. Mek Kuk, Director for the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery, and JPAC leader U.S. Army Major General Stephen Tom, the MoR is an arrangement of good faith by both countries and covers details such as site preservation, customs and courtesies, and safety. Also at hand during the signing were U.S. Ambassador to PNG Teddy Taylor and Brigadier General Agwi, Commander to the PNG Defence Force, who witnessed the signing.

"The cooperation received from the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery and National Defence Force is key to our accounting efforts in Papua New Guinea," said Major General Tom. "Both countries remain dedicated to our noble mission of returning these heroes to their families."

The organizations will use their resources and experience to conduct investigation and recovery operations with the hopes of ultimately identifying the more than 2,000 Americans who were lost during World War II in and around modern-day Papua New Guinea.

Ambassador Taylor hailed the signing of the MoR as a “further indication of the totality of PNG-US relations.” He called the effort a unique military museum team effort that was indispensable in recovering the remains of those who had “paid the ultimate price for their country.” Recovery teams, he said, develop close partnerships with the people in the communities where they work. Those friendships often last a lifetime.

The signing, said Mr. Kuk, “signifies our long working relationship with JPAC.” The MoR, he said, would help the museum achieve its work objectives to recover the remains of U.S. servicemen and ensure their proper burial.

Brigadier General Agwi thanked the Americans for providing technical training and expertise that is helping the PNG Defence Force recover the remains of its own members. “To maintain morale,” he said, “it is important to get the remains back to those who are waiting at home to put their minds at ease.”

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TABINAMAN DEFENDS OBE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Education, JOHN TABINAMAN today defended the outcome based education saying it gave the students and the teachers room for creativity.

MR. TABINAMAN was replying to statements made by the member for Selau, TERRY MOSE who wanted to know what the Bougainville Education Division was doing to replaced the Outcome Base Education system.

MR. MOSE said that the OBE has led to a major drop in education level in the region. However, the Education Minister said that contrary to what a lot of people are saying, OBE system encourages participatory learning for both the students and the teachers. He said in the past the Teachers were allowed to teach only from the books which is different under the OBE system.

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HARD EVIDENCE NEEDED

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Finance, ALBERT PUNGHAU says that ABG needs concrete evidence in order for it to sack or reprimand officers misusing their offices.

The Minister was answering questions from the member for Tsitalato, COSMAS SOHIA who wanted officers from the finance office to be sacked for misappropriating government funds.

Minister Pungchau said that a lot of reports he gets are mere allegations and he can not act on these allegations.

He said that once concrete evidence are provided he would then direct the Administrator who is the financial delegate to take actions.

The Minister said that since he took office he made some changes at the finance office restricting unauthorised people from entering the computer rooms and manipulating staff to prioritize their payments.

He said that in the past anyone can just walk into the finance and see what was being printed.

The Minister said that the ABG wants to recruit an internal Auditor but so far no one has applied for the position from the last three advertisements.

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

15million we?

By Aloysius Laukai

The Papua New Guinea Government needs to pay the Autonomous Bougainville Government this year's allocation of the FIFTEEN MILLION KINA development funds for the ABG to implement its programs on Bougainville.

And the ABG has already written to the Treasury of the Papua New Guinea government to speed up the process.

The ABG Minister for finance, ALBERT PUNGHAU made these comments when replying to questions by the member for HAGOGOHE ROBERT HAMAL SAWA who wanted to know if the ABG had received the development funds for 2011.

Minister Pungchau said that once these funds are released the ABG will table a supplementary budget to cater for these funds in the work programmes of the ABG.

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Goodnews for Boug Students

By Aloysius Laukai

Good news to Bougainville students the long awaited School fees Assistance Scheme is on again after the Autonomous Bougainville Government received the 2010's outstanding Fifteen Million Kina.

The minister for Education, JOHN TABINAMAN revealed this during Question time in the ABG House this afternoon.

MR. TABINAMAN said that cheques have been raised and distribution to schools throughout Bougainville and including Tertiary and Universities in Papua New Guinea.

He made these comments in response to questions raised by the member for Suir, LUKE KARASTON who wanted to know if the ABG had funds to continue with the School fees Assistance scheme on Bougainville.

21.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EXCOMBATANTS MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is arranging for a urgent Ex-combatants meeting to be held in Buka this week.

This was revealed by the ABG President JOHN MOMIS in parliament this afternoon.

MR. MOMIS was replying to questions raised by the Member for North Bougainville's Ex-combatants, FRANCO HOPPING and the Women's member representing North Bougainville, ELIZABETH BURAIN.

Mrs. Burain wanted to know what the government was doing to address the escalating law and order situation in South Bougainville.

And MR.HOPPING wanted to know what happened to the planned Ex combatant's meeting.

In response, MR. MOMIS said that the Ex combatant's meeting will gather strategic information on how best they can address the Konnou and the Ihrah problems in South Bougainville.

20.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government, House of Representatives will sit for its June session starting 2pm tomorrow Tuesday June 21st,2011.

This was announced by the Clerk of Parliament, ROBERT TAPI today.

He said that the ABG Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI had fixed 2pm, June 21st as the date and time for the ABG House of Representative meeting.

Clerk says that the June session will receive Parliamentary Committee Reports on the inquiry into the Bougainville Resources Development Corporation and the Public Accounts Committee inquiry on Public properties.

The leader of Government Business and Minister for Education, JOHN TABINAMAN said that the Bougainville Executive Council will meet tomorrow morning to consider Executive Government business for the house.

The meeting will end this Friday.

20.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Member Condemns

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG member for Kopi, PHILIPH KUHENA has condemned the coward acts by Criminals in the Siwai area.

He told New Dawn FM from Buin that the actions by criminals at SININAI village last Friday must be condemned by all peace loving citizens of Bougainville.

MR.KUHENA said the Bougainville has moved out of these painful past and wants to move forwards and such actions by a minority was painting bad picture for Bougainville.

He said that those who attacked the Police vehicle he was in are known by Police and must be dealt with by the Authorities.

Member Kuhena said that he would be calling on the ABG to act fast on these activities in South Bougainville before it gets out of hand.

20.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE ATTACK

By Aloysius Laukai

Two South Bougainville Policemen are recovering from gunshot wounds sustained from a shootout in Siwai, South Bougainville last Friday night.

A furious South Bougainville Police Commander, PAUL KAMUAI told New Dawn FM from Buin that the Policemen were returning from Arawa when they were shot at by armed thugs from SININAI village.

He said the Police vehicle was on a public road and had civilians including ABG member for KOPI , PHILIPH KUHENA on board when it was attacked.

MR. KAMUAI said that he failed to understand why the Police vehicle was targeted as Police was working with the communities in the region.

He said that Police were fed up of these type of attitudes in South Bougainville however they do not have the firepower to attend to these incidents.

INSPECTOR KAMUAI called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to address the deteriorating Law and Order situation in South Bougainville.

20.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atolls hit by dry spell

By JOYCE TOHUI

ATOLLS of Bougainville, mainly Tasman, Mortlock, Fead, Caterets and Nissan are badly affected by a long dry spell experienced on the islands for a period of more than six months, according to reports received from Bougainville Disaster office in the region. Disaster Coordinator Franklyn Lacey revealed that the dry season has caused serious damage to food gardens and the islanders, who have been experiencing food shortage for a longer period, are now struggling to sustain their daily living with very little they have.

He said that the Bougainville Disaster office recently did secure some money and bought rice that was distributed by MV Kiso Maru to the Atolls.

He said situation at Nissan is far worse and he is seeking a funding of K88,000 for the next shipment to help the Nissan people.

He said he will meet with Bougainville Deputy Administrator Policy, Raymond Masono, to try to get some funding from the K2 million allocated for resettlement program to help with the situation.

Mr Lacey said that his office had already used K100,000 to hire transport for shipment of relief supplies to Tasman and Mortlock islands.

20.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Disaster office needs more funds

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE BOUGAINVILLE Disaster office is facing difficulty with limited funds while trying to help those affected with food shortage in the region.

Bougainville Disaster office coordinator Franklyn Lacey said that not only the Atolls and Nissan islands are affected. He said other parts of Bougainville including small islands of Buka and areas in the mainland are also affected.

Recently, a heavy downpour caused floods and erosions that uprooted and washed away food gardens at Hahon in Kunua District, West Coast Bougainville.

Mr Lacey said that the situation at Hahon is bad. He said they have no food for some

time and his office must try to secure some large amount of money in order to help the people there.

Mr Lacey said Malasang village is also feeling the pinch of famine after continuous rain destroyed their food gardens.

He said he has received reports of people facing low food supply in mainland Bougainville.

The other area affected is Hitau island of Pororan. He said they have organised a barter system with the Halia people where they trade fish for food and this has been sustaining them.

20.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Diseases outbreak in Bougainville

By JOYCE TOHUI

AN OUTBREAK of diarrheal diseases has hit the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB), especially at Manob village in the northern tip of mainland Bougainville including parts of Buka Island.

Dr Barnabas Matanu from Buka hospital revealed that people from Manob were admitted at the hospital suffering from severe dehydration that needed appropriate treatment and they have given patients intravenous fluids to replace loss of body fluids and some antibiotics.

He said that there were few cases brought in from Hanahan village in Halia constituency and they were also diagnosed as suffering from diarrheal diseases.

Dr Matanu said that in the cases received from Manob, tests were carried out to ascertain if cholera was a contributing factor but so far, tests results have shown negative and the most likely contributing factor could be the dry spell experienced in past couple of weeks.

He said it is understood that during dry season, water supply is a concern and when water is not available, it greatly affects the use of water and limits the practices of good personal hygiene in homes. This would mean that one would not bother washing his/her hands after using toilet or before preparing and eating food.

He urged the public that if proper hygiene practices were not being practiced during the dry spell period, this could trigger occurrences of diarrheal diseases.

The doctor has appealed to the public to practice basic hygiene by disposing off waste properly, using toilets, washing hands after using toilet, before preparing food, before eating and covering food from being infected by flies and dirt.

20.06.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville rebel group lays out demands before mining will be given go-ahead

The leader of a Bougainvillean group that claims the backing of most people in the Papua New Guinea province, says there's no chance of the huge Panguna mine re-opening until demands for reparation first made more than 20 years ago, are met.

The Me'ekamui Tribal Nation and its self styled president, Philip Miriori, says before any development will be allowed a monument to the island's civil war dead must be built and outstanding human rights issues addressed.

He says, in addition, the longstanding demands for financial redress from the mining giant Rio Tinto for the destruction caused by the mine must be satisfied.

“Those demands were being put in place 20 years ago, and nobody made any response then on those demands. Ten billion kina, that was for environmental damage and the other issue is the compensation issue.”
The Me’ekamui Tribal Nation’s Philip Miriori.

17.06.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville’s Me’ekamui says no progress until human rights issues dealt with

A dissident group in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says until a memorial is constructed and human rights issues addressed no progress will be made on the formerly war torn island.

The Me’ekamui Tribal Nation claims to represent 26 tribes on Bougainville and it disputes the legitimacy of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The group has this week called a meeting in Cairns and invited the PNG government, the ABG government and the developers of the huge Panguna mine, Bougainville Copper Ltd, to settle all unresolved issues.

None of the groups have turned up but the Me’ekamui Tribal Nation’s treasurer, Peter Nerau, says key issues need to be dealt with, including a memorial to the more than 15 thousand dead, before the province can progress.

“The physical monument with names and also to light a candle and a fire as is customary obligation in Bougainville to appease the spirits so that they can rest. Secondly is to pursue the human rights issues and also to register our human rights declarations for the Me’ekamui government in the United Nations.”

The Me’ekamui Tribal Nation’s Peter Nerau.

17.06.2011

Source: Pacific Scoop

Momis warns against corrupt mining deals on Bougainville

Report – By Gorethy Kenneth in Buka

Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis will not tolerate corrupt foreign mining operations and local dealers helping these pacts on Bougainville.

And he seriously wants to put an end to the local conflict, specifically in his Konnou Constituency in Buin, south Bougainville, where innocent people are being killed.

He has also called on those who are still holding onto guns and ammunitions to put aside this violence and weapons so that the ABG can empower them to manage their own affairs and offer them a good opportunity to move on in life.

President Momis this week celebrated his first anniversary as the head of Bougainville and to rejoice with his people the sixth year of operations as an autonomous government.

He spoke strongly about not tolerating the corrupt foreign mining operations that were interested on mining in Bougainville and warned to be cautious in dealing with these sensitive issues in the region.

He called on all Bougainvilleans to free themselves from free handout mentalities and syndromes and advised the Autonomous Bougainville Government stood ready to empower its people to move Bougainville forward.

Momis detailed the successes the ABG has made since the inauguration day in June 15, 2005 and was optimistic the future of Bougainville and Bougainvilleans remained bright. Thousands of people gathered at the Hutjena Oval from Buin, south Bougainville, central Bougainville, Wakunai, Buka Island and particularly Tinputz to witness the arrival of one of their sons, the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio, who was guest of honour in yesterday's ceremony.

The highlight of the ceremony was also the taking part of the Panguna District traditional cultural group to join celebrate the day with every Bougainvillean.

Schools lined up the main highway to wave their PNG and blue Bougainville flags.

Nambawan Super, Digicel and other major corporate entities set up stalls with Kamarau International School to help commemorate and celebrate the day with the whole of Bougainville.

Gorethy Kenneth is the Bougainville bureau chief of the Post-Courier newspaper.

16.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG President CHIEF JOHN MOMIS' SPEECH(unedited)



President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville: Hon. Chief John Momis

WE BOUGAINVILLEANS GATHER TOGETHER TODAY TO REMEMBER THE REMARKABLE THINGS THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER THROUGH THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT.

WE ALSO GATHER TO REFLECT ABOUT THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT STILL FACE US AS WE IMPLEMENT THAT AGREEMENT.

It is six years ago today that the first Autonomous Bougainville Government was sworn in, on the 16th of June 2005. Quite rightly we celebrate that, as a significant day in Bougainville's history because it marks a major step in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Bougainvilleans, this is your day!

As President of Bougainville, I am proud that we Bougainvilleans have reached this sixth anniversary. In many ways, this is an amazing achievement. I congratulate all Bougainvilleans.

But it is also important to ask why this anniversary is such a great achievement.

To answer that question, we only need to think back to where we were in 1996 and early 1997. The conflict in Bougainville was intense. The BRA and the BRF were killing one another. So were the BRA and the PNG forces. The Bougainville economy was almost dead. The Kokopau to Buin trunk road had more holes than surface. Most schools and health centres were closed. Thousands had died. Many more were injured or traumatized. Over 60,000 Bougainvilleans lived in care centres.

No other place in the Pacific Islands region has experienced conflict so terrible as the Bougainville conflict.

But we were able to end that conflict through a peace process that began in the middle of 1997.

We Bougainvilleans can all be proud of the fact that it was our leaders that initiated the peace process. It began with meetings between opposing Bougainville leaders held in Cairns, Australia, in 2005. Then when we had difficulties resuming those meetings, the New Zealand Government helped us by bringing large numbers of Bougainvilleans to Burnham Military Barracks in New Zealand, in July 1997. It was in Burnham that we agreed that we would work together for peace. It was some months later, in October 1997, that we began talks with the PNG Government.

That's where the peace process started. And four years after it began, we signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement, on 30 August 2001.

We can be especially proud of the achievements of the peace process, and of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Compared to most peace processes in other parts of the world, our peace process has been very successful.

One major reason I have for saying that, is because in a majority of peace processes around the world, within 5 or 10 years of the peace process beginning, the conflict resumes or a new major conflict occurs.

That is the experience in so many African countries, as well as Asia and the Middle East. Even in our own region we have seen how easily conflict can be repeated once it has started – we only need to think of Fiji, where there have now been three major military coups since 1987.

Yet in Bougainville, it is now 14 years since the peace process began. And so far, the conflict has not begun again.

Yes, it is true that we have localized conflict and killing in the Konnou area of south Bougainville. That is a terrible thing. It must be stopped. But it is also true that the Konnou conflict is localized. It does not involve a resumption of the awful generalized conflict that we experienced from 1988 to 1997.

So indeed, we can be proud that the violent conflict between PNG and the BRA, and between BRF and BRA, is over. But at the same time, because we have experienced that terrible nine years of conflict to 1997, we know the danger of major conflict. We know how easily such conflict can start. So we know that we must do everything in our power to make sure that such conflict never does begin again.

Our main basis for our joint efforts to make sure that we avoid such conflict is the Bougainville Peace Agreement. That Agreement, so painstakingly negotiated by so many people over such a long time, was the basis that was agreed, to finally end the conflict.

The Agreement sets out our goals, and a broad road map or game plan for achieving our goals.

If ending the conflict was the main goal, there were other goals that were essential to ending the conflict. The most important of these, stated clearly in the Agreement, was “to empower Bougainvilleans to solve their own problems, manage their own affairs and work to realize their aspirations”.

We agreed to do that initially through the Autonomous Bougainville Government. Later, the basis for empowering Bougainvilleans to manage their own affairs could be reconsidered, as a result of the agreed referendum on independence for Bougainvilleans.

But it was also clear that the choice that we would make in the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville would depend very much on how well the Autonomous Bougainville Government worked. It was always clear that it would be essential that autonomy should work well. Only then would Bougainvilleans have a real choice in the referendum. It must be a choice between:

- on the one hand, true autonomy that has a proven track record of operating in practical ways to allow Bougainvilleans to manage their own affairs and solve their own problems, and has actually delivered real benefits to the people; and
- on the other hand, future independence, and the possibility that it may deliver benefits to our people.

Today I am calling on all Bougainvilleans, and the Government of PNG, to work hard, and to work together, to deliver the vision of the Peace Agreement.

All of us sometimes get frustrated that the progress of implementing the Peace Agreement is far too slow. I know that I am often very unhappy about this.

But its good, on this 6th Anniversary, to remind ourselves that although we have a long way to go, we have in fact already achieved quite a lot.

The main conflict has been ended for 14 years. We have established our own government – the ABG. We have even run three Bougainville-wide elections – in 2005, 2008 and 2010. Our schools and health centres are running again. Some new powers and functions are in the process of being transferred to the ABG from the National Government.

The Bougainville economy that was almost dead in 1997 has burst into life again. Cocoa and copra dominate in Buka and the north, and to a lesser extent in Central and South. Gold production contributes in central and south. Cocoa, copra and gold money is the lifeblood of PMVs, stores, building and earth-moving, and many other businesses.

The economy has been helped by donors, especially cocoa rehabilitation and trunk-road upgrading and maintenance by AusAID. Japanese constructed bridges will contribute too.

We have two big hydroelectric projects about to be established in Central and North Bougainville by PNG Sustainable Development and PNG Power. They will be just the first steps towards hydro-electrification of the whole of Bougainville, both rural and urban areas.

Some of this activity began even before the ABG was established. Some has also happened since the first ABG election in 2005.

But the strong emphasis on building peace through economic prosperity is something that I proudly point to as the special direction of the Momis-led ABG. We must free ourselves from the dependency syndrome.

This is a major change. We work to build on the good foundations established since the early stages of the peace process. We aim to spread economic development widely and fairly.

We need the people who are missing out on development to get a fair share of economic opportunities. That means must work for much more development in south Bougainville, the mountains of central Bougainville, the west coast, and the atolls.

Hydro-power and better roads and bridges in central and south Bougainville will help. But we also need new cash crops, and new sources of employment and business opportunities for people in all parts of Bougainville.

That is why my government is working so hard to establish a major oil palm project in Torokina (an area of least economic development). That is why we are working with AusAID towards early restoration of Arawa Town. We are establishing a special economic zone at Kokopau. We are actively seeking investors for a wide variety of projects involving Bougainvillean partners.

Working for peace based on equitable economic development is a new direction for Bougainville. It's one that will take time to bring the benefits that we all so much want to see. But in the first year of my government we have made a start. I am confident we shall see much more development in the new direction in the next four years.

In that first year we have done a great deal of the complex work that absolutely must be done if we are to agree, amongst Bougainvilleans, on whether mining should be re-established.

In particular, my government is working with the landowner communities in the six main leases associated with the Panguna mine to establish landowner associations. The landowner communities have agreed they want their own associations to represent them in all discussions about the future of Panguna. We are clear that landowner communities must be fully involved in all decisions about whether Panguna re-opens, or whether any other new mining project is established.

But we are also clear that these are decisions for Bougainvilleans – for the ABG, landowners affected by possible projects, and the wider Bougainvillean community. They are not decisions to be made by little groups of foreigners with just a few landowners who are manipulated by foreign interests. That is a recipe for corruption and conflict. I will come back to that issue a little later in my speech today.

We are engaging with BCL and with the National Government about preparations for negotiations about Panguna.

We held a 3 day workshop at the end of March to help the ABG leaders and public servants evaluate the main options on the future of mining.

The ABG under my leadership is clear that if the ABG and Bougainvillean communities agree to renewed mining at Panguna, or other new mining projects anywhere else, it must bring maximum benefits to our people. That will involve not just a fair share of mining revenues. It means much more.

Bougainvilleans must get as many mining jobs as possible, and access to business opportunities. If we are to have mining, it must provide the basis for the most broad-based economic activity possible. That is what we will aim for when discussions on Panguna (or any other new project) begin. That is also an important reason why we will not tolerate corrupt mining interests that try to establish projects without working through the ABG – for we know that only careful negotiation and evaluation will ensure that we achieve fair and equitable mining agreements.

The changes we Bougainvilleans have achieved since the peace process began, and since autonomy started have not been easy. And we still face many major problems.

Those problems include:

- very limited amounts of government revenue,
- a weak Bougainville Administration and Bougainville Police Service,
- corruption in financial management,
- that localized violent conflict in parts of south Bougainville,
- the presence of weapons in many parts of Bougainville,
- and so on.

To deal with these and similar problems, much more work is needed. My government is focused on these issues, and is working to achieve major changes.

But let's be clear. All of the changes we need depend a great deal on achieving equitable economic development. Even the local conflict in South Bougainville happens because many of the young men involved have no employment or business opportunities. So economic development is vital for ending conflict and achieving weapons disposal. Development is also necessary for the ABG to have revenue needed to build a good public service and Bougainville Police Service.

With the K500 million for high impact projects promised by the National Government in February, much can be achieved. But it is essential that the projects are determined by the ABG. Only then will the people of Bougainville be empowered to manage their own affairs and realize their aspirations, as promised by the Bougainville Peace Agreement and in accordance with the Principle of Subsidiarity.

With more support from the National Government, and from our donor partners, I am confident that we will rapidly move to the point where we will no longer need PNG and donor support. Instead the Bougainville economy will generate the revenues needed for our sustainable government and development.

All Bougainvilleans must work with the ABG so that we continue to solve the difficult problems that face us, and so that we build peace based on equitable economic development.

Before I finish I want to talk more about the challenges ahead of us. While we have achieved much, we all know that there are still dangers ahead of us. Although we can be proud that we are one of the few conflicts which has not resumed within 5 to 10 years after initial peace, there are risks that serious and widespread conflict could resume in Bougainville. We must be aware of those risks if we are to avoid them.

Major risk factors include:

- That localized armed conflict, which has already spread in south Bougainville, and could easily become much wider conflict;
- The many weapons in Bougainville, which could also easily be used to generate wider conflict;
- Unequal development, where particular groups of people are left out, and become angry;
- Corrupt development, especially things like corrupt mining operations, where outside interests make special deals with a few local leaders or landowners, causing conflicts amongst people in the area of the development.

We must be aware of these problems. These are among the things that could prevent us from taking the unique opportunity that we have given ourselves through the Peace Agreement.

Unlike the rest of PNG, and unlike other countries in our region, the Peace Agreement gives us Bougainvilleans the right to establish structures of government that enable us to “manage our own affairs”, to realize our own aspirations.

When we negotiated the Peace Agreement, the Bougainville leaders were clear that we did not want to follow the way things were being done by governments in the rest of PNG. That meant that we wanted to establish Government that worked in the interests of our people. We wanted government that was honest and accountable to our people. We wanted government committed to achieving equitable development.

The Agreement also gave us a very tight time-line to work with. We had to try to achieve these things through our autonomous government in just 10 to 15 years – in that short space of time before a referendum MUST be held.

And although I am proud of the things I have mentioned that we have achieved already, we all know that its nowhere near enough. We have only moved part of the way towards the kind of government we want. And we face dangers that we will be blocked from making more significant progress.

We must work now to end these major dangers.

For example, we must agree that the corrupt foreigners trying to work with small groups of local landowners must be stopped. I think most of them need to be kicked out of Bougainville. I am calling on all patriotic Bougainvilleans to work with me to get rid of the corrupt foreign mining interests that refuse to work with the ABG.

Another thing we must work on is ending the conflict in south Bougainville and disposing of weapons all over Bougainville.

The problem of local conflict worries me deeply. I know that many who are involved have been damaged and traumatized by the many years of conflict since 1988. They are involved because they have little or no education and so little chance of employment or business opportunities. So they use guns and violence to give themselves status and income.

While we can understand and sympathise with what has led them to use guns, we cannot allow them to continue to do that. What they are doing has the potential to destroy what we have achieved so far through our peace process.

It is vital that we end the conflict and dispose of the weapons.

Instead, we must use the new weapons – these are the weapons of equitable economic development.

Today, I am offering a challenge to the young men and to the older leaders of the main groups that started the conflict in south Bougainville. My challenge is to put aside violence and weapons. Because I recognize that many of you have kept using weapons because you have not had opportunities that would allow you employment or business activity, I want to offer you those opportunities.

Right now I am working with foreign governments and business organizations to set up advanced technical training opportunities in Bougainville. But that is something for the medium and long term.

For the immediate future, I want to find places for members of those armed groups in the South to get training at places like Don Bosco, in Port Moresby, and the small scale mining college in Bulolo. I will be making efforts to contact the leaders of these armed groups to sort out the practical arrangements for such training as a matter of urgency.

Finally, I want to remind the National Government that in signing the Bougainville Peace Agreement, it committed itself to working with Bougainville leaders to enable us to solve our own problems, manage our own affairs, and achieve our aspirations.

That means putting the decisions in the hands of the representatives of Bougainvilleans in the ABG. That means working with us to transfer powers rapidly. That means giving us significant revenue. The high impact project money must come to us, and be spent on what we decide. It must not be held in Port Moresby. We need transfers of both powers and revenue NOW. In that way we can achieve real autonomy before the referendum timetable runs out. As I keep saying, only then will our people have a real choice in the referendum.

I will finish my speech by emphasizing the key points that I have made today. That is to say that we Bougainvilleans have achieved much that we can be proud of.

But there are also major dangers that could drag us back towards serious conflict happening again. We could be like Fiji, with our worst nightmares repeating themselves.

We must work together to avoid those dangers. The conflict in the south, the presence of weapons, and corrupt foreign mining interests are amongst the worst of those dangers.

I want to see new weapons brought into operation in Bougainville. Through the powerful weapon of equitable economic development, with the support of the National Government and donor partners, we must end conflict and move towards the vision of the Peace Agreement.

Please, all Bougainvilleans reflect on what we have achieved, and where we are going. And at the same time, enjoy this, your special day.

Thank you!

16.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Governor-General calls for peace, goodwill in Bougainville

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio has high hopes and is confident the future of Bougainville remains bright.

Sir Michael, who is on his first official trip to Bougainville as vice regal, was received on red carpet and treated with utmost and high traditional respect.

He was in Buka yesterday at the invitation of the ABG President John Momis to celebrate the 6th anniversary of the granting of autonomy on Bougainville and its third inaugural government.

In his speech to the people of Bougainville, the vice regal, who is from Tinputz, north Bougainville, said this was a very special occasion for him to be in Bougainville to celebrate with his people, as the Head of State.

"For me as a son of Bougainville, I am both humbled yet at the same time proud of this wonderful opportunity to serve in this high and unifying office," he said.

"It is this special relationship that has given cause for this celebration today and it is indeed fitting for me, both as a Bougainvillean and in my official capacity as Governor-General to be with you today at the invitation of my special friend and comrade, the President, His Excellency John Momis.

"The new Bougainville, as enshrined by the Autonomous Bougainville Government must, above everything else, have a strong commitment to the principle of the Rule of Law. The hallmark of all peaceful and prosperous society is that the law must prevail. In its actions but, moreso, as it continues its march to the Referendum it is important the Bougainville should seek to act in accordance with the law.

"It must be seen to the average man and women that there is protection under the law and those complaints and grievances can be addressed through the law. As a modern society, Bougainville should not allow ourselves to again descend into the abyss of lawlessness. I am confident that well intentioned people throughout Bougainville would far prefer this course of action over mayhem and violence.

"Today, we celebrate a new Bougainville, one that has aspirations of self determination by its people for its future. You have charted a course of Autonomy that begun in 2005 and this journey will end by the actualisation of the will of the people in a Referendum, the threshold of which is only a few short years away.

"I have high hopes and offer the goodwill of the people of Papua New Guinea and the people of goodwill everywhere that the process will be transparent, fair and equitable and that whatever the outcome, the people of Bougainville will accept and abide by the collective decision of the people.

"My appeal to all people of goodwill and peace in Bougainville is to allow and ensure that harmony and unity will prevail.

"Bougainvilleans must become unified. We have been at odds with one another for far too long. As a people, you must set aside your differences and work together as one people towards one goal. Where there are divisions, you must seek to bridge the divide. I

would not underestimate the challenges facing Bougainville as it moves ahead. But Bougainvilleans have always been a very self-reliant people. I am elated that the Autonomous Bougainville is now in a position to celebrate its 6th Anniversary of its foundation. Given all that has been achieved in such a short period, I have every confidence and high expectation that the future of Bougainville remains bright."

16.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis warns of corrupt deals

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis will not tolerate corrupt foreign mining operations and local dealers helping these pacts on Bougainville.

And he seriously wants to put an end to the local conflict, specifically in his Konnou Constituency in Buin, south Bougainville, where innocent people are being killed.

Further, he has called on those that are still holding onto guns and ammunitions to put aside this violence and weapons so that the ABG can empower them to manage their own affairs and offer them a good opportunity to move on in life.

President Momis had his day yesterday to celebrate his first anniversary as the head of Bougainville and to rejoice with his people the sixth year of operations as an autonomous government.

He spoke strongly about not tolerating the corrupt foreign mining operations that were interested on mining in Bougainville and warned to be cautious in dealing with these sensitive issues in the region.

He called on all Bougainvilleans to free themselves from free handout mentalities and syndromes and advised the Autonomous Bougainville Government stood ready to empower its people to move Bougainville forward.

Momis detailed the successes the Autonomous Bougainville Government has made since the inauguration day in June 15, 2005 and was optimistic the future of Bougainville and Bougainvilleans remained bright.

Thousands of people gathered at the Hutjena Oval from Buin, south Bougainville, central Bougainville, Wakunai, Buka Island and particularly Tinputi to witness the arrival of one of their sons, the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio, who was guest of honour in yesterday's ceremony.

The highlight of the ceremony was also the taking part of the Panguna District traditional cultural group to join celebrate the day with every Bougainvillian.

Schools lined up the main highway to wave their PNG and blue Bougainville flags.

Nambawan Super, Digicel and other major corporate entities set up stalls with Kamarau International School to help commemorate and celebrate the day with the whole of Bougainville.

16.06.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville MPs meet

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville elected representatives arrived for the scheduled sitting that starts on June 21 in Buka.

All 41 leaders are attending a week-long workshop on gender and elections conducted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

The leaders will be trained under a method which puts elections in context of governance and democracy.

The course will focus on gender issues affecting women's active political participation and representation in Bougainville.

As Papua New Guinea heads towards general election again next year and the regional assembly in 2015, this workshop could not have come at a better time.

The assembly members will be introduced to principles of gender equality, democracy, electoral procedures, barriers that women face in accessing electoral processes, voting and registration.

UN Women's Gender Equality in Political Governance programme (GEPG) deputy regional manager Jeanette Bolenga said the workshop aimed at helping leaders "understand why women's participation in leadership is important and also how to improve it".

"The members are elected leaders and decision-makers of the day of the highest law-making institution of any country and it is important to engage them towards increasing political leadership responsibilities for both genders," she said.

Bolenga said human rights were for everybody, "so women and men are entitled to equal rights and to equal access to the electoral system".

However, "even if women and men have equal legal rights in regard to elections, specific practices in a country may discriminate against or work to the disadvantage of women".

"As a result of historical, cultural and other factors, women have not yet achieved equality in most societies, including equality in the electoral process.

"The training provides tools for all participants to look at elections from a gender perspective and what they learn will go a long way in helping women's leadership and participation in governments."

She said even a country's choice of election system may have a dramatic effect on how many women were elected to office.

Bougainville is leading the Pacific when it comes to temporary special measures with its inclusion of three reserved seats for women.

Under that arrangement the north, central and south have a women's representative in the assembly.

However, there is still room for improvement as Bougainville was still below the so-called "critical mass" of 30% representation.

Pacific Island countries have fallen behind the rest of the world with the lowest levels of representation of women in parliaments and local governments.

The workshop will be reflecting on how temporary special measures, such as elected reserved seats in parliament, voluntary party quotas and other forms of affirmative action may help Bougainville in achieving an improved gender balance in the assembly.

Leaders are introduced to the principles of different electoral systems and how they affect women's representation, as well as to the needs for respective voter education.

The workshop is led by facilitator Bolenga (Vanuatu) and Leotina Harihiru (accrediting facilitator) of the Solomon Islands while the workshop facilitator is Hamidan Bibi from Fiji.

The local co-facilitators include Agnes Titus, Steven Simiha, Lawrence Chicka, Patricia Kapapal and Ezekiel Lames.

They were recently accredited after a train-the-facilitators workshop two weeks ago.

The workshop which started on Monday at Kuri Resort, Buka, ends tomorrow.

15.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BOUGAINVILLE URGED TO CURB FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Local business operators overshadowed by newcomers

By Gorothy Kenneth

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, June 15, 2011) – The Autonomous Bougainville Government leadership has lost touch with reality, especially

when dealing with foreign investor issues in the region, Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso, said.

Because of this, the leader has chaired an all business meeting recently where it has been agreed in principal that as of June 08, 2011, no more foreign businesses will be allowed to operate in Buka, Bougainville; in areas like retail, transport and agriculture, wholesale, tourism and hospitality and other reserved lists of activities which was endorsed by the Bougainville Executive Council.

The meeting, convened by all business stakeholders of Buka, Arawa and parts of Buin and Siwai at Kenny's Hall last week was told that what was happening in Bougainville was that the autonomy was beginning to lose its face – Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) was allowing foreign investors to come in at the time the leadership still needed to help its small stakeholders in the region through financial support.

"The leadership is bringing foreign investors in when important issues have not been addressed," Mr. Semoso said. "ABG is allowing this to happen and the action of the leadership totally contradicts the aspirations for Bougainvilleans. I want to warn business houses who use locals as fronts to sell their stock, you will be dealt with in the next four weeks.

"I will not allow or I do not want to see mistakes repeated in PNG where foreigners have gone as far as selling buai or smoke, practically it means we have lost 25,000 lives and we are going 25 years backwards. Not under my leadership.

"We need to get our leadership right," he said.

Mr. Semoso said that on the eve of the region's sixth anniversary, which falls today, the leadership has not exhausted every avenue to help the Bougainville business houses (the ones who have grown the economy of Bougainville) by providing the financial help they need to grow further.

He said foreign investors who are interested in doing business on Bougainville should have more than 5 million kina [US\$2.1 million] and anything below should be given to Bougainville businesses to handle.

"These business houses, they are not asking for free handouts, no.

"All they are asking for is ABG injecting money into the bank so they can loan from it and they will repay it," Mr. Semoso said.

"In light of the problems business houses are facing, we have come up with recommendations to ban all foreigners from having reserved businesses in the region as of the eighth of this month.

"Basically, as the mandated leader of Bougainville, I will not tolerate foreigners involved in businesses where Bougainvilleans are involved in or capable of handling.

"I want Bougainville to develop at our own pace."

Mr. Semoso said that as long as he remains the Regional MP and the minister in charge of Bougainville, he will not let down business houses who are engaged in these reserved businesses by allowing outsiders to compete with them.

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG celebrates 6th Anniversary

By Aloysius Laukai

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville today celebrated its sixth anniversary as an autonomous governed region with traditional singing and dancing from various groups from the mainland of Bougainville, Buka Island and the atolls.

The day began with traditional groups from Wakunai and Ieta according former North Bougainville MP Sir Michael Ogio to a traditional welcome at the Buka airport on his first

official visit to the region as the Governor General of PNG.

Sir Ogio was also honoured with a royal salute by the Bougainville Police Service (BPS) who provided escort for the governor general and Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) president John Momis to Hutjena where more than 300 people including school children had gathered to mark the event.

Sir Ogio, in marking the event said the anniversary symbolized the 'tremendous stride' the people of Bougainville and its government had achieved since signing the Bougainville Peace Agreement on Aug 30, 2000 and establishing an autonomous government on June 15, five years later.

"Such event serves as a reminder of the past, of what Bougainville has been through and the achievement it has made in unifying its people in peace and prosperity," said Ogio. He appealed to all Bougainvilleans to ensure unity prevailed in the region.

"Bougainville must be unified. I would not underestimate the challenges facing Bougainville, if Bougainville is to succeed, you must demonstrate to the world that you are a creative, self reliant and united people," urged Ogio.

ABG president John Momis in honour of the event reiterated ABG's commitment to collaborating with the national government to bring peace and prosperity to the people of Bougainville.

"I am proud that we have reached our sixth anniversary, an amazing achievement. Our peace process has been very successful," said Momis.

He added that despite the progress so far, there are many challenges that the region would face in its journey towards referendum of independence.

Such challenges include localised armed conflict, weapons disposal, unequal development in areas throughout out the region and corrupt mining interests causing conflict among the people.

Momis urged all Bougainvilleans gathered to work together in addressing these challenges.

"I also remind the national government that when it signed the peace agreement, it committed itself to the peace process in Bougainville," said Momis.

He said that meant working closely with ABG in various ways including granting directly to the Bougainville government the committed high impact project money of K500 million for the next five years instead of keeping this 'locked' in Port Moresby.

Momis thanked the governments of PNG, Australia, New Zealand and Europe who have collaborated with ABG in building Bougainville.

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KIDS WATCH

By Aloysius Laukai



Pictures of School children from the Kamarau International School in Buka town.

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOVERNOR GENERAL HAPPY WITH BOUGAINVILLE

by Aloysius Laukai

The Governor General SIR MICHAEL OGIO called on the people Bougainville to unite to work for one goal that is to show the world what a united people can do to develop their land.

He said that the people of Bougainville must come out of the dependancy syndrome and work for development for the region.

He was speaking at the sixth anniversary for Bougainville at Hutjena this afternoon.

He also called on the warring factions in South Bougainville to join the peace building and peace process.

He said "wanem hevi yu gat plis kam na toktok wantaim ABG lida long pinisim hevi na krai long South Bougainville".



Picture of Governor General

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WELCOME HOME

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Police Service and the CIS presenting a guard of honor for the GG at the Buka airport.



Pictured is the GG SIR MICHAEL OGIO inspecting Guard of Honor at the Buka airport.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Governor General Arives

By Aloysius Laukai

The Governor General SIR MICHAEL OGIO is met at the Buka airport this morning.



He is pictured being met by the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

15.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HOORAY ABG Celebrates

by Aloysius Laukai

ABG today celebrates sixth anniversary at Hutjena on Buka island

The Ceremony will commence at 11am this morning.

After the Governor General arrives at TEN AM this morning

Picture taken this morning at the main Hutjena Stage.



15.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Torokina leader refutes gun sales

By FABIAN GATANA

GUNS are not being sold out of Torokina.

Member for Torokina Steven Suako said that these were purely rumours.

He also did not agree with the report in last week's Post-Courier which stated that "every household in Torokina had five to 10 guns in their possession" but he admitted that only a few kept firearms and ammunitions.

He said the comments were fabricated by opportunists aimed at tarnishing the good name of the people of Torokina and posed a threat to them.

"More people are coming into Torokina and harassing the people to buy guns but I will not tolerate this and the ban on the sale of arms and ammunition still stands," he said. Meanwhile, he said that arrangements have been made to transport a new ambulance to Torokina.

He said that the vehicle was bought last year but could not be delivered to Torokina because of transportation difficulties as there was no direct roadlink from the main highway to Torokina.

15.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso says 'no more foreign businesses'

By GOROTHY KENNETH

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government leadership has lost touch with reality, especially when dealing with foreign investor issues in the region, Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso, said.

Because of this, the leader has chaired an all business meeting recently where it has been agreed in principal that as of June 08, 2011, no more foreign businesses will be allowed to operate in Buka, Bougainville; in areas like retail, transport and agriculture, wholesale, tourism and hospitality and other reserved lists of activities which was endorsed by the Bougainville Executive Council.

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"The leadership is bringing foreign investors in when important issues have not been addressed," Mr Semoso said.

"ABG is allowing this to happen and the action of the leadership totally contradicts the aspirations for Bougainvilleans.

"I want to warn business houses who use locals as fronts to sell their stock, you will be dealt with in the next four weeks.

"I will not allow or I do not want to see mistakes repeated in PNG where foreigners have gone as far as selling buai or smoke, practically it means we have lost 25,000 lives and we are going 25 years backwards. Not under my leadership.

"We need to get our leadership right," he said.

Mr Semoso said that on the eve of the region's sixth anniversary, which falls today, the leadership has not exhausted every avenue to help the Bougainville business houses (the ones who have grown the economy of Bougainville) by providing the financial help they need to grow further.

He said foreign investors who are interested in doing business on Bougainville should have more than K5 million and anything below should be given to Bougainville businesses to handle.

"These business houses, they are not asking for free handouts, no.

"All they are asking for is ABG injecting money into the bank so they can loan from it and they will repay it," Mr Semoso said.

"In light of the problems business houses are facing, we have come up with recommendations to ban all foreigners from having reserved businesses in the region as of the eighth of this month.

"Basically, as the mandated leader of Bougainville, I will not tolerate foreigners involved in businesses where Bougainvilleans are involved in or capable of handling.

"I want Bougainville to develop at our own pace."

Mr Semoso said that as long as he remains the Regional MP and the minister in charge of Bougainville, he will not letdown business houses who are engaged in these reserved businesses by allowing outsiders to compete with them.

14.06.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Chinese investors eye Bougainville resources

Chinese investors have presented details of a plan to build a major new urban centre on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Bougainville Business Association have been briefed on the proposal.

Bougainville's President John Momis told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat the plans include a special economic zone.

"They are responding to our call for foreign investors to invest in Bougainville to help the ABG and the Bougainville people to develop their huge natural resources," Mr Momis said.

"By doing so it will enable the Bougainvillians to be the beneficiaries of the development off their resources."

14.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

New Chinese-built urban centre for Bougainville

Chinese investors have presented details of a plan to build a major new urban centre on Papua New Guinea's Island of Bougainville.

The multi-million dollar development would be built on government-owned land and would be declared a Special Economic Zone.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Bougainville Business Association were briefed on the proposal late last week.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: John Momis, Bougainville President

Listen here !

MOMIS: They are responding to our call for foreign investors to invest in Bougainville to help the Autonomous Bougainville government (ABG) and the people of Bougainville to develop their huge natural resources and by doing so enable the Bougainvilleans to become beneficiaries of the development of their resources, instead of just being owners of the resource. In response to that, the Chinese have been coming to Bougainville to look at a number of potential economic projects one of which is the proposal to set up a Special Economic Zone on the northern tip of Bougainville Island including eventually, I suppose, the building of the Buka Passage Bridge to connect Buka Island with Bougainville.

GARRETT: Some reports say the plans entail a 1.2 billion Kina (AUD\$480 million) investment and the building of a new city. Is that correct?

MOMIS: That was put to the Bougainville Business Association and the ABG. I, personally, am not well informed on the exact amount of money that is required but I know of the fact that they are making a proposal to build a modern township that would attract tourists and other investors to come and invest their money to develop projects such as steel prefab housing materials, hotels and things like that. Because Buka Island and the Buka Passage and the surroundings, which includes the northern tip of Bougainville is potentially a very, very rich beautiful tourism hub of Bougainville.

GARRETT: Special Economic Zones are controversial but you actually asked the Chinese to put a proposal involving a Special Economic Zone. Why?

MOMIS: That is correct. Special Economic Zone has been talked about in PNG. It has

been tried in Lae, and a couple of other places, but the government of Papua New Guinea and, I guess others, have not had the expertise nor the capital available to develop them. You need, I presume, a lot of money and I think Chinese capitalists, or Chinese investors, would have that kind of money. We would provide as partners the rich resources that we have and negotiate something that would be mutually beneficial. We have engaged, ..the ABG I mean, has engaged an expert from New Zealand who is going to give us independent advice as to how we should go about striking a win-win deal.

GARRETT: You had one group of Chinese investors last week and I understand another group went over on Saturday. What are you hoping to see come out of that?

MOMIS: Three Chinese came went over last week, one of whom is our representative in China who travels throughout China to potential investors. The other one was the architectural engineer who is looking at the proposed site for the Special Economic Zone; the buildings and so on and so forth. And just a couple of days ago a group went over who are interested in mining and construction of a hydro project.

GARRETT: Turning now to PNG politics, is the current instability in the PNG government affecting Bougainville?

MOMIS: The instability in the government does worry us. We would hope that things would be stabilised and that the commitment that the National government has made to Bougainville, especially in the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the other subsequent commitments such as the K500 million that has been pledged to be given to Bougainville in the next five years and K15 million that is a requirement of the Bougainville Agreement, would flow to Bougainville, without disturbance, I suppose. And also the good relationship we need to have. The rapport we need to have between Bougainville and Papua New Guinea is crucially important to manage the issues of referendum, issues of Bougainville being given the best opportunity to enjoy in full its autonomy, in order to be ready for the referendum to be held in a responsible way.

GARRETT: There have been reports of severe food shortages on Bougainville's atoll islands. how is the Bougainville government responding?

MOMIS: I understand that the administration is dealing with the issue. this is a perennial problem that Bougainville has and it is not made easy, in any way, by the fact that the administration has very meagre resources at our disposal to deal with this sort of thing. our budgetary allocation is usually for recurrent activities. I am hoping that the administration will have adequate funding. If they don't have enough then they should contact the National Emergency department, in Port Moresby, to get the extra funding which we need to provide food and make provisions for the people of the atolls.

14.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GALIP PROJECT

By Aloysius Laukai

When the people of Bougainville are realizing the real effects of the Cocoa Pod Borer news of Galip nut becoming a new cash crop industry for the region is reliving.

New Dawn FM this morning talked to one of the Associate researchers at the PNG NUT DEVELOPMENT Project on how the people of Bougainville can benefit from this new development.

MR. GODFREY HANNET told New Dawn FM that they were currently collecting samples of nuts from Nissan, Saposa, Torokina and Buka island and the mainland Bougainville to find the best and high yielding nut that could be cloned for distribution to interested farmers.

He said that the National Agriculture Research Institute is setting up a processing plant to process the nuts for market.

MR. HANNET says that firstly they are looking at the local market but later they would be exporting to overseas markets.

He said that **Galip or Canarium indicum** is indigenous to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu where it grows in the wet lowland forests.

MR. HANNET said that when the buying of nuts commences, they would be buying any species and later would develop farms with special cloned and identified species.

Many Cocoa and Copra Export companies have already shown interest in paying for these nuts at their cocoa and copra buying points.

Picture of the famous galip nuts

14.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BAN STILL ON

By Aloysius Laukai

The Buka urban council today issued warning to the public of Buka town that ban on the sale of cooked food within Buka town is still on.

The warning came as the Region is preparing to celebrate ABG's sixth anniversary tomorrow.

In a service message from the office of the Buka Urban Council, people wishing to sell food at tomorrow's gathering are warned not sell any cooked food to the public.

The message said that the current cholera alert was on and people must make sure they wash all fruits before eating.

The message also stated that Buka town market will be closed tomorrow and open as normal on Thursday.

14.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CELEBRATING AUTONOMY

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Bougainville started arriving in Buka town for tomorrow's commemoration of the ABG's sixth anniversary.

AND program for the day has been changed to accommodate last minute changes to adjust to the arrival of the Governor General SIR MICHAEL OGIO tomorrow.

Earlier reports that the Governor General was to have arrived today was changed because the ABG President Chief John Momis was out of the region.

MR. MOMIS arrived back to Bougainville this afternoon and the Governor General is expected to arrive in Buka at TEN AM tomorrow morning.

14.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE REHEARSE

By Aloysius Laukai

Members of the Bougainville Police Service and Correctional Officers combined with students from nearby schools rehearsed for tomorrow's big day at the Hutjena oval this morning.

The group will be participating at tomorrow's celebration at the Hutjena Oval.

The CIS and Police officers will be providing Guard of Honor at the Buka airport and also at the ceremony itself tomorrow.

According to the new program, the program will be very tight to accommodate the late arrival of the Governor General from Port Moresby.

13.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG CELEBRATES

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government turns six on Wednesday June 15th, 2011.

And according to the Bougainville events committee official program the day would be filled with Speeches and activities from South Central and North Bougainville Cultural groups.

Performers would be presenting their items during speeches making the program colorful and long.

All Bougainville leaders are expected to give speeches at the ceremony starting with the newly elected member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI, The Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Regional Member, FIDELIS SEMOSO, ABG President CHIEF JOHN MOMIS and the Governor General, SIR MICHAEL OGIO.

New Dawn FM will take the activities live from Hutjena to its listeners in Buka town and also update its site to its followers on the internet.

13.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE TO RECEIVE GOVERNOR GENERAL

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville is ready to receive Bougainville's own son and the sixth Governor General to Buka tomorrow.

SIR MICHAEL OGIO the new Governor General is expected to arrive in Buka at 0850 tomorrow morning.

According to the program, as soon as he arrives in Buka he would be welcomed by traditional group and would have to go through ritual of welcoming a paramount chief.

Villagers from ETA village would perform the official welcome for the Governor General.

He would then pay courtesy call to the ABG President Chief John Momis before retiring to his Hotel.

The program also states that a thanksgiving mass would be held at 2pm tomorrow for the Governor General.

The Bougainville Police Service would perform Guard of Honor for the Governor General at the Buka airport.

13.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Galip business

By Aloysius Laukai

The famous galip nut could become a major revenue earner for locals if current studies become a reality.

In making this known to New Dawn FM today, a research associate with PNG NUT DEVELOPMENT Project at the National Agriculture Research Institute, GODFREY HANNET said that the Galip nut could become one good revenue earner for villagers throughout Papua New Guinea.

He said that since research on the nut started in 2006 results have shown a lot of positive results for the nut.

MR. HANNET said that the European Union Funded project has successfully come up in making Galip nut a good shade tree for Cocoa trees.

He said the nuts are only grown in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and is growing demand for food, Medicine and also for its organic content.

MR. HANNET says that by products would be Soap, Oil, Fertilizer, Perfume and other products.

He said that main products would be Salted Galip, Chocolate coated Galip and Galip Biscuits.

13.06.2011

Source: ABC Australia Network News

Chinese propose urban development on Bougainville

by Jemima Garrett

Chinese investors have presented details of a plan to build a major new urban centre on Papua New Guinea's island of Bougainville.

The Chinese had been invited to build the Special Economic Zone by the Autonomous Bougainville.

The new urban centre would be built on government-owned land on the northern tip of Bougainville Island and would include a bridge across the Buka Passage to Buka Island. Bougainville's President John Momis says the development would have lots of benefits for Bougainvilleans.

"They are making a proposal to build a modern township that would attract tourists and other investors to come and invest their money," he said.

The proposal would have investors "develop projects such as steel prefab housing materials, hotels and things like that," he said.

President Momis says the Chinese have the capital required for such a project.

He says he has engaged an independent expert to advise on the structure the Special Economic Zone.

11.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Group Photo of the team with the Acting ABG President Patrick Nisira AL

11.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MINING TEAM

By Aloysius Laukai

Another China delegation led by the Special ABG Investment Agent for China, Jason Fong arrived in Buka this afternoon.

The team of seven members arrived in Buka and were welcomed again by Traditional group from Hangan village near Buka town.

In welcoming the team in Buka ABG acting President, PATRICK NISIRA said that Bougainville welcomes good investor to the region.

He said that ABG has always wants investors to visit Bougainville and try to assist the ABG in its program to raise the economy of the region.

The ABG Vice President said that Bougainville Economic policy does not allow stand alone businesses and would like joint ventures to develop the region.

The team are interested on the Panguna Copper mine and would be visiting Panguna before returning to China.



Pictured is one of the team members being welcomed at the Buka airport
Pictures by Aloysius Laukai

10.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Public holidays declared

By Aloysius Laukai

Monday 13th June has been declared a public Holiday to commemorate Queen's Birthday and also Wednesday 15th is another holiday to celebrate sixth anniversary of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

All Government offices will close on these two days leaving only skeleton staff to man emergency units like the Buka General Hospital and other essential services.

All government services will be opened on Tuesday and Thursday as these would be normal working days.

10.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

OGIO VISIT

By Aloysius Laukai

The Governor General of PNG and former member for North Bougainville, SIR MICHAEL OGIO is to visit Bougainville to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Autonomous Bougainville Government on June 15th.

According to the official program, SIR MICHAEL OGIO is expected in Buka on Tuesday June 14th.

The Bougainville Police Service will do Guard of Honor for the Governor General at the Buka airport.

He will then pay a courtesy call to the ABG President Chief John Momis before retiring to his Hotel.

New Dawn FM understands that this is the first Official visit of the Governor General since he took office last year.

10.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIRST MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly elected member for North Bougainville is to make his first appearance as the member for North Bougainville next Wednesday.

According to the ABG's sixth inauguration program for 15th June, MR. ATOI would speak to the people of Bougainville as the new member for North Bougainville at the Hutjena oval.

He is to be the first speaker at the ABG's sixth inauguration celebration next week.

According to reports, MR. ATOI would be sworn in as the member for National Parliament at the Government house on Tuesday 14th June.

He will then return to Bougainville for the ABG anniversary celebrations.

10.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lauta wants to move

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly elected member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI wants to see some developments in his six months in office.

He said today that he was looking at the basic services as his priority in the next six months.

MR. ATOI says that water and sanitation needs of the people of North Bougainville are his priorities.

He is also looking at un completed projects by the former member.

Areas he wants to address includes school buildings and road works.

The new member for North Bougainville says that he would also want to look at food security and sustainable economic development.

10.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NO BRIBES

By Aloysius Laukai

The newly elected member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI today brushed aside any claims of bribery by him or his team during the last election.

He made this call in Port Moresby in response to accusations certain candidates have made on him.

MR. ATOI said that the number of votes collected in all districts is a clear example of how people supported him in the election.

He said that he has been working with the people the churches and the schools through his plantation thus gaining the interest of the people.

Mr. Atoi won the North Bougainville seat with 10,463 votes whilst the runner up Rachael Opeti could only master 5162 votes.

10.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Demand for guards

By Fabian Gatana

TWENTY trained security personnel from Bougainville High Risk Security arrived in Kimbe on Wednesday ready to start work.

The guards will be attached to a security company in Kimbe.

Albert Magoi, a former military instructor and the founder of Bougainville High Risk Security, said that it is the first time in 15 years of training security personnel that a batch has been sent to work in another province.

He said there is also a high demand for more Bougainvillean security guards in the country.

Mr Magoi said that his guards are trained to conduct their duties with the highest professional standard and discipline.

That is why, he said, there is such a high demand for Bougainville High Risk Security trained personnel.

"The men are trained in classes of 24 to 32 per class over a three week period both in the classroom and on practical assignments with a lot of emphasis on physical training," he said.

He encouraged more Bougainvilleans to join the company to keep them occupied instead of wasting their time being a nuisance to society and also because of the opportunities his company can offer.

For interested persons who wish to recruit or for companies and businesses who wish to employ Bougainville High Risk Security guards, you can contact Mr Magoi on 73308577.

10.06.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville firms speak out

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

MORE than a 1,000 people gathered at Kennys Hall, in Buka town, Bougainville, on Wednesday to discuss growing concerns about foreign businesses entering Bougainville without proper clearance from authorities.

Organised by regional member and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso, the meeting called on the ABG to improve its investment policy so that certain businesses were run by indigenous Bougainvilleans only.

Speakers at the meeting urged the Bougainville Business Association to work closely with the Bougainville administration and leaders to address these growing concerns.

Among resolutions passed by the meeting was a call to define who is a Bougainvillean according to the Bougainville constitution and to ensure the policy was not being manipulated.

Participants agreed to meet in four weeks to hear the response of ABG.

Commerce and trade division chief executive officer Albert Kinani called on the people to allow the administration to set policies concerning the conduct of businesses.

He said this in response to claims the Bougainville administration had failed to control the influx of foreigners wanting to do business there.

10.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Pacific move towards China follows neglect by the west

Australia and New Zealand have bungled their handling of relations with Pacific island states opening the way for the growing China influence in the region.

That's the view of London-based analyst, Cleo Paskal.

She says the U-S and Britain more or less sub-contracted their relations with the Pacific to Canberra and Wellington but although being the natural allies of the west the island states are turning more and more to China.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Cleo Paskal, Chatham House analyst

Listen here !

09.06.2011

Source: ESBC Research

FIRST "FAIR VALUE" SELLER APPEARS ON STAGE IN SYDNEY !

Only days after the European Shareholders have published a **BCL FAIR VALUE STUDY** established by the famous Indian analyst Mr. Anil Bakaya on their homepage, a first cautious seller (*) appeared on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in Sydney today. He asks AU\$ 20 per share for each of his 68.036 Bougainville Copper shares. (scroll down to see the today's market depth)

"The actual ridiculous low price of AU\$ 1.35 per BOC share reflects simply a deep uncertainty of investors," says ESBC president Axel G. Sturm, "If Market Watch analyst Tatyana Shumsky is right in her yesterday's prognosis of future copper prices, Mr. Bakaya has even to be considered as 'pessimistic' in his evaluation of Bougainville

Copper's future price. Bakaya had evaluated a fair value of AU\$ 30 to 50 AU\$ per BOC share on a moderate copper price level."

Although excellent news from the ground in Bougainville were reported in May, BOC share prices have suffered within the last weeks due to ongoing activities of notorious criminal suspects like Damien Koike and his gang in South Bougainville and outrageous claims of self appointed Me'ekamui "president" Philip Miriori and his fantasy Me'ekamui government that is supposed to be remote controlled by the well known Australo-Canadian conman Lindsay Semple and some other doubtful subjects in the United States of America and Canada.

Semple already has tried to cheat Bougainvilleans in 2008 in the so called **"Killer Deal"** with late president Joseph Kabui.

"All these insidious subjects try to undermine Bougainville's way into a better and prosperous future. But this does not represent the reality on the ground in Bougainville," says Mr. Sturm, "Bougainville has a good and democratic leadership and all Bougainvilleans should be proud of! Of course, the actual situation in PNG's politics in general is not really helpful to encourage foreign investors. Actually Bougainville Copper shares are traded extremely under value."

Market Depth for BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

as at 12:06:55 PM Thursday, June 9, 2011

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status

Indicative Open Price 1.325 Volume Surplus 0

Last Change % Volume Trades Open High Low

1.350 0.000 0.00 0 0 0.000 0.000 0.000

Last Traded 0 @ 0 - No trades today

BOC Buyers

Level Buy Quantity Price

1	1	546	1.300
2	3	14,000	1.250
3	1	10,000	1.245
4	1	10,500	1.240
5	1	500	1.230
6	1	3,000	1.210
7	1	2,500	1.200
8	1	10,000	1.080
9	1	10,000	1.050
10	2	14,000	1.000
11	1	10,000	0.900
12	1	5,000	0.890
13	1	6,000	0.885

BOC Sellers

Price Quantity Sell Level

1.350	8,839	2	1
1.360	1,127	1	2
1.385	5,000	1	3
1.390	10,000	1	4
1.400	516	2	5
1.445	14,000	1	6
1.450	180	1	7
1.500	10,105	2	8
1.540	3,000	1	9
1.560	8,000	1	10
1.590	2,070	1	11

1.600 5,000 1 12
 1.670 4,000 1 13
 1.690 7,000 2 14
 1.700 18,000 3 15
 1.710 4,000 1 16
 1.720 9,000 2 17
 1.740 5,000 1 18
 1.750 15,000 3 19
 1.780 11,600 2 20
 1.790 6,000 1 21
 1.800 16,000 2 22
 1.820 9,230 2 23
 1.830 4,000 1 24
 1.840 6,000 1 25
 1.850 6,000 1 26
 1.890 6,000 1 27
 1.900 7,000 1 28
 2.000 6,106 1 29
 15.990 30,000 1 30
 20.000 68,026 1 31 (*)

09.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PAY YOUR LICENCE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Manageress of the Buka Urban Council, BRENDA TOHIANA yesterday confirmed that some Stores were operating without a licenses from the Buka Urban Council Office. She was commenting during the meeting at Kennys Hall.

The meeting organized by the Regional Member and Minister for Bougainville, FIDELIS SEMOSO after concerns were made on the sudden influx of outside Businesses into Bougainville.

MRS TOHIANA said that all Businesses operating within Buka Town Council areas must first obtain a trading license from the Council.

AND certain businesses are already operating in Buka town without these licenses.

09.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FODE OFFICER UNDER PRESSURE

BY Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville FODE officer says that he has stopped new enrolments due to non availability of Education materials.

He told New Dawn FM news yesterday that many parents have been requesting for reimbursement of school fees as his office does not have any education materials.

MR. SIMON KELEH said that it was difficult for him to work under such pressure as the head quarter staff were not helping at all.

He said that since the start of 2011 school year many students and FODE centers throughout Bougainville were still waiting for their books.

The FODE officer said that he could not print papers locally as their only printer broke down.

09.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MINISTER AGREES

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG minister for Commerce and Trade, WILFRED KOMBA has agreed to work with the Bougainville Business Community to amend policies to suit Bougainville's needs.

He said that the Policies were rushed during the constitution drafting days and it was up to the current ABG to put in other laws to support these laws and also to patch loopholes that these laws may have created in the process.

The Minister was addressing yesterday's meeting in Buka.

He said that since he became the Minister last year he had to read the law governing investment on Bougainville and that he agrees to make some adjustments to suit the Business interest of Bougainvilleans.

Minister Komba said that till now there were not mention of specific Business activities that is only for Bougainvilleans except the Five Hundred Thousand Kina mark that a foreign Business has to come in with.

He welcomed such forums where the people can present their grievances for the government to see and act.

The Minister will present to a similar meeting in four weeks time on what actions he taken concerning yesterday's meeting.

09.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Labour poorly equipped

By Aloysius Laukai

The Regional Labor Office on Bougainville is not equipped to monitor people coming into Bougainville to work.

Senior Labor Officer, SOLOMON GIMIS told the meeting at Kennys hall that many non citizens were already working on Bougainville without proper work permits.

He said that since they established the Bougainville Labor Office in Buka they have already deported some people for not adhering to migration laws of the country.

MR. GIMIS said that they are currently working on certain foreigner sitting as securities in shops who came in as Managers of Businesses.

The senior Labor Officer said that they are yet to set up their office to properly do the checks.

He said currently their office does not have computers and even a vehicle for their mobility.

He explained the many types of permits that one has to have to do certain things on the island.

09.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Pay your dues

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG and the National Government have been called on to pay their outstanding owed to Bougainville Business Houses since restoration days.

The call was made by the Executive Officer of the Bougainville Business Association, THOMAS RABAN at the Kenys hall yesterday.

MR. RABAN and another Business woman Patricia Wong said that the ABG instead of helping local Businesses was actually killing them by not paying their bills.

They said that the Business Community were ready to support the Government with its economic recovery exercise however all its bills should be settled as soon as possible.

They said that for Bougainvilleans to meet their equity in Business deals with foreign investors they must have money to meet their share capital.

They called on the ABG to put aside THIRTY MILLION KINA from the ONE HUNDRED MILLION KINA yearly allocation.

Some of these funds would then guarantee Bougainvilleans to start up Businesses or to take their businesses to the next level.

09.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville MPs urged to work with Atoi

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE president John Momis has congratulated the Member elect for North Bougainville, Lautu Atoi and urged all four Bougainville national MPs in the National Parliament to work more closely with him and his administration.

He said all Bougainville MPs must work together with Mr Atoi to help to better coordinate and provide funds for the community based projects through the implementation of the government's District Support Improvement Programs (DSIP).

He added that essential services and development must be brought right down to the village and district levels as this was where the majority of the rural population lived and it could be felt by the people themselves and urged the national MPs to make this happen to achieve the maximum output in all the Council of Elders (COE) areas in Bougainville.

President Momis said that although Mr Atoi's term in parliament would be only for a short period of time, he believed that with his business background and experience, the people of North Bougainville would see some real change and tangible development in their electorate, especially in the COE areas where Open Members of parliament could help build autonomy through funding of community based projects.

Mr Momis also said that out of the many good leaders who stood for the by-election, the people of Bougainville overwhelmingly chose Lautu Atoi to be their leader and representative until the next general election in 2012.

"I have a lot of confidence and trust in Mr Atoi," said Mr Momis.

09.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MRA to showcase minerals in China meet

THE Mineral Resources Authority will be attending the Beijing Mines and Money 2011 investment conference which will be held from June 14-16.

While the conference theme centers around understanding the Chinese government

development strategy for its natural resources strategy, building business relationships with Asia and accessing new sources for mining capital within China; the MRA delegation will be there to have a feel of what minerals China would have interest in. Officer-in-charge of MRA Philip Samar said PNG needs to know what China's demand for metals is, to be able to compete in the development of mines to supply this demand. The MRA will have a booth to exhibit its mineral policies, geological and mineral potential, mining and exploration regulatory processes among other features.

"This is a convention and exhibition conference and PNG is attending to exhibiting our country's geological prospectively more (from our country booth) than we are attending the individual conference technical sessions," Mr Samar said.

Mr Samar, who will be speaking at the conference on PNG's mining and exploration investment prospects, stated that China was already a financial capital for mining and exploration dollars and was confident that with PNG's exposure through the MRA, sufficient interest could be created to allow small to mid-level exploration companies into PNG to access this pool of surplus exploration funds within China.

The investment conference will highlight evolving political, economic and operational environment within China, China's overseas mining investments, project finance and outlook for investment, Mineral commodity supply/demand outlook and the role of foreign companies within China.

Among the attendees will be senior executives from Chinese and international mining companies and governments, Chinese government officials, investors, bankers, insurers and suppliers.

09.06.2011

Source: The National

MRA to attend China meet

THE Mineral Resources Authority will be attending an annual international mining conference in Beijing, China, next week.

The conference theme is centred around understanding the Chinese government's development strategy for its natural resources strategy, building business relationships with Asia and accessing new sources for mining capital within China.

Scheduled for June 14-16, the Beijing Mines and Money 2011 investment conference is already a sold-out event for the organisers as seen by the attendance of many of the world's major mining and exploration jurisdictions including PNG.

The MRA will have a booth to exhibit its mineral policies, geological and mineral potential, and mining and exploration regulatory processes among other features.

MRA officer-in-charge Philip Samar will be speaking at the conference on PNG's mining and exploration investment prospects.

Samar stated that China was already a financial capital for mining and exploration dollars and is confident that with this exposure, sufficient interest can be created allowing the small to mid-level exploration companies in PNG to access this pool of surplus exploration funds within China.

The conference will highlight evolving political, economic and operational environment within China, China's overseas mining investments, project finance and outlook for investment, mineral commodity supply and demand outlook and the role of foreign companies within China.

Among the attendees would be Chinese and international mining companies and senior government executives.

09.06.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville sets authority in motion

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Bougainville Executive Council yesterday officially endorsed the Bougainville Restoration and Development Authority (Brada) as the implementing agency for restoration and development of high impact projects in the autonomous region. It now remains for the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the national government to formalise this arrangement.

In acknowledging the endorsement, ABG Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Carolus Ketsimur said he looked forward to the signing of the agreement as it would allow Brada to do what it was set up to do.

Ketsimur said Brada would co-ordinate the task of identifying, prioritising and implementing high impact projects aimed at restoring and improving infrastructure and facilitating economic and community development.

"It is now 20 years since the Bougainville civil war which devastated infrastructure and others such as the Bougainville trunk roads were left to deteriorate to a state where they are not much help to our hardworking population," Ketsimur said.

He said the Bougainville government's attempts to get off the ground and move forward had been hampered by a lack of proper development planning, mismanagement and misuse of funds, corrupt practices and general lawlessness.

He said as a result economic and general development had been very slow, with Bougainville still largely dependent on the national government and outside aid for money.

"Our leaders who established Brada five years ago had recognised the need for a special body to concentrate on restoration work and building new high impact infrastructure. This need has become more urgent to address," Ketsimur said.

He said Brada would take on larger and more complex projects, which when completed, would then be handed over to the region's technical division for ongoing maintenance.

"The order of the day should be co-operation and working together. Our united aim is to provide infrastructure to help our people and our region in the shortest time possible.

"The time for talking is over, we must now take action," Ketsimur said.

He called on all sections of the government, public service and the community to support Brada in its work to re-build Bougainville.

09.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Food shortage worsens for Bougainville atolls

Food shortage is reported to be worsening in the atoll islands of PNG's autonomous region of Bougainville.

Bougainville regional authorities have confirmed the severe shortages on several islands caused by sea level rise and heavy rain.

Bianca Kawin from Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Buka who recently visited the atolls spoke to us.

Presenter: Kenya Kala

Speaker: Bianca Kawin from Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Bougainville

[Listen here !](#)

08.06.2011

Source: Market Watch

Fundamentals justify \$12,000/ton copper at yearend

By Tatyana Shumsky

NEW YORK (MarketWatch) -- Greater demand from China and tight copper supply will drive copper prices to \$12,000 a metric ton by the end of 2011, with investment demand for copper playing a secondary role, Barclays Capital base metals analyst Nicholas Snowdon told attendees of the Metal Bulletin Global Copper Markets Forum in New York.

"We believe copper is heading to \$12,000 per ton" and will be driven there by fundamental factors such as resurgent demand from China and tight copper supply, Snowdon said.

The Chinese government's efforts to tamp down inflation by reducing credit availability has cut into metal consumers' business in the first half of this year and significantly reduced copper imports to China. Factory managers have used up their copper inventories without replacing them and have been purchasing copper "hand to mouth," Snowdon said.

"Even that hand to mouth consumption has been enough to drastically draw down domestic stocks," Snowdon said. As this restocking cycle ends and domestic copper stocks dwindle, China will be forced to tap the global physical copper market for supply.

"By July we will begin to see a steady increase in [copper] import levels," Snowdon said.

This uptick in copper demand, coupled with existing tightness in global copper supply, will push prices to new records.

"Investment flows are an insignificant component in price performance," Snowdon said.

08.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CEO RESPOND

By Aloysius Laukai

The CEO for commerce and Trade, ALBERT KINANI called on the people of Bougainville to allow the Administration to set policies concerning the conduct of Businesses on Bougainville.

MR. KINANI made this remarks in responding to claims of non actions by the Bougainville administration to control the influx of foreigners into Bougainville to do business.

He said that the ABG has put in place policies to address investments on Bougainville but it was up to individuals to seek clarification on which type of partners they need to invite to Bougainville.

MR. KINANI said that his officers were threatened by certain businessmen for screening their partners.

He promised to work with the Bougainville Business Community to amend certain policies to suit Bougainville's current situation.

The CEO for Commerce said that his office was already working on a paper to officially invite the National Agriculture Bank to establish itself in Bougainville.

He said the Bank would then address the needs of the Bougainville Business to increase economic growth for Bougainville.

CEO for commerce also mentioned the need to bring in Insurance cover for Bougainville.

08.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Business interests

By Aloysius Laukai

More than One thousand people gathered at the Kenys Hall in Buka town to discuss growing concerns about foreign businesses entering Bougainville without proper clearance from authorities.

The meeting organized by the Regional member FIDELIS SEMOSO followed a personal confrontation with a Business based in Rabaul and the Regional member on Monday this week.

The meeting called on the ABG to improve its investment policy to address certain businesses that should be run by Indigenous Bougainvilleans only.

Speakers at this meeting among other things called on the Bougainville Business Community (Association) to work closely with the Bougainville administration and the Bougainville leaders to address these growing concerns.

They talked on loop holes being manipulated by certain groups to conduct Business on Bougainville.

A number of Resolutions have been made at the meeting to address issues such as defining who is a Bougainvillean according to the Bougainville constitution and if this is been misused put other policies to stop it being manipulated.

The meeting also agreed to meet in Four week's time to hear responds from the Minister for Commerce and Trade regarding these issues.

08.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BBA AGREE

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Business Association yesterday agreed to support the proposal by the Chinese delegation to start up the first Economy Zone for North Bougainville.

The Bougainville Business Association after studying the Chinese team's presentation said that this would indeed trigger economic development on Bougainville.

The presentation to develop a modern city on Bonus plantation was made after several consultations between the ABG and the China Chamber of Commerce.

The Proposal if approved will see the development of the first Bougainville city on North Bougainville.

The Association whilst agreeing with the principles highlighted that there needs to be further consultations between the ABG and the people of North Bougainville who would be affected by the development.

They also agreed to lead the Awareness Campaigns to promote the proposal throughout North Bougainville.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis opposes meeting on Panguna in Cairns

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is opposed to any meeting regarding the Panguna mine to be held in Cairns, Australia.

President John Momis said yesterday all discussions regarding Panguna mine should be held in Bougainville so that everyone in the mine community can witness the discussions.

He was responding to a statement by a Philip Miriori who had claimed to speak for a "Me'ekamui Tribal Government" who invited the ABG and other stakeholders to meet in Cairns, Australia, to discuss "unresolved issues" about the Panguna mine. Mr Momis said he would be happy to discuss any issues about Panguna that Mr Miriori would like to raise. But, he said, it was not appropriate for meetings about Panguna to be held in Cairns.

"Panguna is in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. If we need meetings of stakeholders, they must be in Bougainville, where the major of Bougainvillean stakeholders can have access.

"The Autonomous Bougainville Government will not attend any meeting in Cairns. I advise other stakeholders to refuse to attend such a meeting," he said.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

North Bougainville MP to defend allegations

NORTH Bougainville MP elect, Lautu Atoi, said he will defend allegations of bribery cited by losing opponents in last week's by-election.

Mr Atoi was replying to a report on Monday's Post-Courier about moves being made by losing candidates to dispute his election through the Court of Disputed Returns.

Mr Atoi said he was not concerned about the allegations nor the threats.

"I am prepared to defend, protect and serve the interest of my people who have spoken through the ballot box. I appeal to them not to panic because the minority who want to instigate a challenge of my election will do so at their own wisdom as we exhaust all legal avenues," Mr Atoi said.

He said Bougainville did not have adequate "time and room to entertain narrow-minded, ill-conceived petty politics and back-chatting by self-interested people in the pretext of promoting democracy and good election process".

"Bougainville wants development and that is what we should be contemplating and deliberating on and not abusing time and windows of opportunities for personal gains. I appeal to you all my fellow colleagues, intellectual community and people to respect the outcome of the electoral process instituted through the democratic process. In collaboration with my colleagues in the National Parliament and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, I will uphold the true spirit of our ancestors for economic liberation and prosperity through wealth creation, better living standards and a better, brighter future for Bougainville and Papua New Guinea," he said.

He thanked the people for having faith in him to represent them in the National Parliament.

"I have an obligation to fulfill your aspirations within the remaining six months of 2011 and five months of 2012 and I assure you that I will do what it takes to deliver basic services," he said.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Meeting set to discuss Asian businesses

By GORETHY KENNETH

THERE will be a meeting in Buka today over Asians doing business on Bougainville, specifically Buka Island.

Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso closed down one Chinese shop operating in Buka town this week and today there will be a demonstration in Buka by the public for Bougainville to be "kongkong" free.

But Bougainville Business Chamber of Commerce executive Thomas Rabanz said last night that he would also be present at the meeting which will be held at Kenny's Hall to help these Asians operating in Buka - because they are actually married to Bougainvilleans.

There are several businesses operated by Asians in Buka and Mr Semoso has advised he is not against foreign investment but to promote partnerships and joint ventures.

He said that foreigners coming to do business in Bougainville should only operate businesses that Bougainvilleans were not engaged in.

But Mr Rabanz said that Mr Semoso will have a lot of questions to answer.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville Government okays multi-billion modern city project

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government's Executive Council has approved a multi-billion kina proposal to transform its gateway to mainland Bougainville-Kokopau- into a high tech-metropolitan area.

The project is estimated at K1.2 billion and will be a sophisticated large urban area with a variety of modern city buildings including a trade centre, an overhead bridge linking Kokopau and Buka Island, a sports complex, a shopping mall, a six lane road and many more fountains and gardens and solar-panel thatched residential areas.

Thomas Rabans, executive of the Bougainville Business Council, said last night this project will be funded by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce through the Chinese Government and that they were in full support of it.

The Business Council and the Bougainville Administration also advised the paper that ABG President John Momis and his executive council members are now in negotiations with the Chinese Government and should be expected to take the proposal to the next level for approval for the funding from the sponsors of the project so the project should start in two years time.

"Kokopau will be highly transformed and this is exactly what we wanted," Mr Rabanz said.

"We are in total support of the concept because it will benefit everybody on Bougainville. You see, from the business community's point of view, this project was initiated by the Chinese, no, it is wrong, it's not a Chinese project, and we ideally and initially wanted this to happen to Kokopau.

"Politically speaking, they don't want it built in Buka, they want it built in Arawa or Buin but we are saying, now this is an ideal project for Kokopau and we the business houses are fully supportive and behind this because it will be the best model for the Pacific," he said.

"We also have wholesaling agenda....ABG will partner with China to supply goods throughout Bougainville, PNG and the South Pacific, we will get into downstream

processing.”

He said the ABG was in talks with the Chinese Government who has agreed to help fund the industrial town which will include an overhead bridge linking Buka town and Kokopau across the Buka passage.

The change at Kokopau will look somewhat like Abu Dhabi or Singapore - and it will cost K1.2 billion.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Solomon Islands to seek legal advice on robbery

By GORETHY KENNETH

SOLOMON Islands will have to seek legal clarification from the PNG Government before they can call up four Bougainvilleans suspected of spearheading an armed robbery in that country.

The four men, allegedly from south Bougainville, have been identified as suspects in the armed raid at Fauro, Solomon Island's Western Province last month where 20 bags of soil containing minerals extracted from the prospecting site and gold bars were stolen. These men were also identified as the main players in the armed raid at the Solomon gold prospecting camp near Kariki village in the Shortlands Island.

Acting Solomon Islands police commissioner Walter Kola said from Solomon Islands that this was an issue that needed to be dealt with by the foreign affairs and police heads of the two countries so that mutual understanding could be reached and no diplomatic ties sabotaged.

In another case, Bougainvilleans could also be suspected of an incident where armed men entered a small settlement adjacent to the entrance of the GBR RAMSI base in Honiara and destroyed properties while threatening women and children and taking several valuable items away with them.

“According to information that transpired from this investigation, the four men were clearly identified as from Siwai. Siwai is a village in the southern part of Bougainville,” Mr Kola said.

“We know the suspects but our police will have to follow the international laws – because it will have to deal with PNG, Bougainville and Solomon Islands before the suspects are questioned by local police in Honiara.”

So far, 10 men have been questioned from Solomon Islands and the investigations is only awaiting the legal clarification from the two governments before the Bougainville men can be called up for questioning.

08.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

A legend dies

MAN whose radio voice graced the airwaves for over 30 years has passed on.

He is Bougainvillean, Paul Haliken.

Haliken was a pioneer NBC radio broadcaster and a brilliant pidgin announcer who was heard over Bougainville, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea for a good part of 30 years. Paul, who was disabled to a wheelchair, finally succumbed to illness yesterday evening at the Buka Hospital in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

“Paul has always been a very close friend and professional colleague. Paul Haliken and I started our radio careers in December of 1971 on Radio Bougainville, Maus Blong Sankamap,” long time colleague and friend, Justin Kili, now General Manager of PVM

Advertising, said yesterday.

"I moved on to journalism and further broadcast training at the Department of Information and Extension Services (DIES) headquartered at Konedobu prior to Independence while Paul continued to work the airwaves of Maus Blong Sankamap. He later moved to work for a time at the PNG Service of Radio Australia. Upon his return to PNG, he became a businessman and a successful one back at his home of Tinputz on the northern part of Bougainville Island until the Bougainville crisis forced his business to close," Mr Kili said. Paul Max Haliken passed away at the Buka Hospital at 8.15pm on Sunday after a short illness. The late broadcaster's body was buried in Tinputz yesterday.

08.06.2011

Source: The National

Chinese business investors depart autonomous region

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A TEAM of Chinese investors will leave Buka today after spending two days in Bougainville to market their investment plans.

Their visit was a follow-up of a similar trip to China eight months ago by a Bougainville delegation of businessmen led by ABG President John Momis.

During the visit to China, seven agreements were signed between the ABG and the Chinese chamber of commerce inviting investors to Bougainville.

The Chinese investors, led by special investment agent Jason Fong, yesterday presented to members of the Bougainville Business Association and Bougainville government a proposal for the establishment of a special economic zone (SEZ) for Kokopau and Buka.

Fong said the SEZ would mainly involve cocoa, estimated to net an annual revenue of K1.5 billion for Bougainville.

This analysis would provide Bougainville with a gross domestic product of K3.85 billion from a potential production of 200,000 tonnes of cocoa, targeting 6% of global demand and marketed mainly to China.

Requirements from the proposal included the transfer of a 99-year lease to Gang Xin Zhao Fang (PNG) Co Ltd free of charge; minimum of five and maximum of 10 years tax holiday for industry developers and global merchants; and a request for special economic zone laws to be passed to protect investors.

The proposal highlighted issues the Bougainville government needed to address, which included ABG defining and passing a SEZ policy covering the Bougainville land use policy, public and private investment and tax concessions.

08.06.2011

Source: The National

'Panguna talks only on Bougainville'

AUTONOMOUS Region of Bougainville President John Momis says his government will support any talks on the Panguna copper mine but all meetings must be held in Bougainville.

Momis said this in response to a statement by Philip Miriori, who had claimed to be speaking for a "Mekamui Tribal Government" and who invited the ABG and other stakeholders to meet in Cairns, Australia, to discuss unresolved issues about the Panguna Copper Mine.

Momis said he would be happy to discuss any issues about Panguna that Miriori would like to raise but it was not appropriate for the meetings to be held in Cairns.

"Panguna is in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. If we need meetings of stakeholders, they must be in Bougainville where all the major Bougainvillean stakeholders can have access," Momis said.

"There is no need for a meeting in Cairns. The ABG will not attend any meeting in Cairns.

"I advise other stakeholders to refuse to attend such a meeting.

"It is important for the ABG to work with all parts of the communities living in the areas of the Panguna mine leases.

"Miriori might be a spokesman for part of the Mekamui groups but there are other Mekamui groups.

"There are other parts of the community that do not support the Me'ekamui leadership.

"The key thing is ensure that all voices are heard so that consensus is achieved.

"Since 2009, the ABG has been consulting the communities in the six main lease areas associated with the Panguna mine about how they wish to be organised to be represented in the proposed process to review the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

"As a result of a long series of public and well attended consultative meetings with the communities, the ABG is helping the communities establish landowner associations to represent the communities.

"That process continues, slowly and carefully," Momis said.

08.06.2011

Source: The National

Solomon Island keeps tab on guns

THE Solomon Islands acting police commissioner Walter Kola says the police force is doing all it can to prevent guns from being smuggled into the country from neighbouring Papua New Guinea.

Kola said it was difficult to speculate on how rife the problem was but admitted that illegal movement across the Solomons border with the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was an ongoing concern.

This comes as police confirmed that four men from Bougainville were suspects in an armed raid

in Western province last month.

The raid occurred at the Solomon gold prospecting camp near Kariki in the Shortland Islands.

08.06.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville president says Panguna talks should be held locally

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville John Momis is insisting that any meetings to discuss a re-opening of the Panguna copper mine must be held in Bougainville.

According to the newspaper, the National, the head of the autonomous government is responding to a statement by Philip Miriori, who had claimed to be speaking for the so called Mekamui Tribal Government.

Mr Miriori invited the Autonomous Bougainville Government and other stakeholders to meet in Cairns in Australia to discuss unresolved issues about the mine.

But Mr Momis says while his government will support any talks on the Panguna mine, all meetings must be held locally so landowners and the people affected can be involved.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Hagogohe COE support ABG economic building efforts

By AL

Chairman of Tahetahe Tshana village assembly and member for Hagogohe Council of Elders (COE) STANLY GIMOTS says the Hagogohe COE support fully all efforts made by ABG to raise its own internal revenue.

Mr. GIMOTS also called on all leaders in Bougainville to support ABG in its aim to reach economic independence which he said is an important benchmark of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

He added that re-opening Panguna mine was the answer to addressing Bougainville's economic woes.

Mr. GIMOTS said this in response to recent statements by Me'ekamui Tribal Government president Philip Miriori that Panguna mine will not re-open unless outstanding grievances are resolved and that the ABG government was not the legitimate authority to speak on Panguna mine issues.

Counter attacking these statements, Mr. GIMOTS said the re-opening of Panguna mine is a 'people's issue' and ABG president Hon. Chief John Momis, as the leader of the legitimate government of Bougainville elected by the people, had the authority to make important decisions for the common good of Bougainville.

He said after the crisis, the people of Bougainville now see Panguna as a mine that belongs to every Bougainvillean and that the decision to re-open the mine not only laid with the landowners but also with the entire Bougainville population.

Mr. Gimots added that the people of Bougainville want the mine re-opened to compensate in terms of economic development for the region.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BRADA has no time to waste

ABG Minister for Works, Transport and Communication Hon. CAROLUS KETSIMUR says the recently endorsed Bougainville Restoration And Development Authority or BRADA has no time to waste in restoring Bougainville's infrastructure.

He said it is now 20 years since the Bougainville civil war which devastated infrastructures and others such as the Bougainville trunk roads were left to deteriorate to a state where they are not much help to the region's hardworking population.

Hon. Ketsimur urged that time is running out fast , time for talking is over and BRADA must now take action of rebuilding Bougainville.

He added that the people of Bougainville are calling for better feeder roads to transport their farmed goods to the main markets and for export.

He said the people also need better health and education facilities and basic water, power and communication services to be brought closer to them.

Hon. Ketsimur urged BRADA to prioritize the delivery of these needs.

He cautioned BRADA to avoid getting trapped by lack of proper development planning, mismanagement and misuse of funds, corrupt practices and general lawlessness which he revealed the Bougainville government had been hampered with for so long.

As a result, Hon. Ketsimur added, the economic and general development has been very slow with Bougainville still largely dependent on the national government and outside aid for money.

Hon. Ketsimur called on all sections of the government, public service and the community to support BRADA in its work to re-build Bougainville.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis calls for support of Bougainville national MPs

By AL

ABG president Hon. Chief John Momis in congratulating new member elect for North Bougainville Lautu Atoi, has urged all four Bougainville members of the national parliament to work closely with him for the greater good of Bougainville.

Hon. Momis urged that the regional member and minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso, Bougainville Central MP Jimmy Mirintoro and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika to work with North Bougainville member elect Lautu Atoi and pool together their resources to achieve greater output at the COE level.

He said the national members of parliament must work together to better coordinate and provide funds for community based projects through the implementation of the government's District Services Improvement Program (DSIP).

He added that this is where most of the people live and the national leaders together with ABG must pool all resources together to make development happen at the village and district level.

Hon. Momis said also that although new member elect Lautu Atoi's term in the national parliament would only be for a short time before the next general election, he believed with Atoi's business background and experience, the people of North Bougainville would see some real change in their electorate.

Hon. Momis said he has a lot of trust and confidence in Mr. Atoi and he hoped in his short term as the North Bougainville people's representative in the national parliament, Mr. Atoi would be able to work more closely with the Momis led government to bring government services closer to the people at the council of elders (COE) level.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS WELCOME MEET

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis has accepted to meet with the Mekamui faction to discuss issues concerning Panguna on Bougainville and not in Cairns or any other place outside of Bougainville.

He made this remarks whilst replying to calls by PHILIP MIRIORI to meet in Cairns for PANGUNA talks.

President MOMIS said that and I Quote "Panguna is in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and any such meeting must be held in Bougainville where all major stakeholders can have access to.

He said that the ABG will not attend any meeting of such in Cairns.

President Momis said that it was important to work with all parts of the communities living in the areas of the Panguna mine leases.

He said that Philip Miriori might be a spokesman for part of the Mekamui group however there are also other parts of the community that do not support the Mekamui leadership.

President Momis said that the key thing is to ensure that all voices are heard so that consensus is achieved.

07.06.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sacked PNG Foreign Minister on US China rivalry in the Pacific

Papua New Guinea's outgoing Foreign Minister, Don Polye, says he would like to see more United States investment in the Pacific.

Earlier in the year, United States Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, warned the US Foreign Relations Committee that the Pacific, and Papua New Guinea in particular, is an arena for growing strategic competition between the US and China.

Despite China's rapidly diversifying interests in the region, the United States has just one major investment in Papua New Guinea - the PNG LNG project.

And the US has alienated key Pacific nations, such as the 8 tuna-rich countries that are parties to the Nauru Agreement.

In Papua New Guinea, an influx of new Chinese investors, some of whom are illegal immigrants, is creating a backlash.

Mr Polye, who as you've heard was sacked this week as PNG's Foreign Minister, following ongoing leadership tussle with acting Prime Minister, Sam Abal.

But in the lead up to next year's general elections he will continue to be a major force in PNG politics.

He spoke with Radio Australia's Pacific Business and Economic reporter, Jemima Garrett, in his parliament house office, before he lost the Foreign Minister's job.

Presenter: Radio Australia's Pacific Business and Economic reporter, Jemima Garrett
Speaker: Don Polye, Papua New Guinea's outgoing Foreign Minister



Don Polye

Listen here !

GARRETT: Don Polye, thank you for joining Radio Australia and welcome to the program.

POLYE: Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

GARRETT: US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, says PNG is one of the hot spots for strategic competition between US and China. What are you seeing on the ground?

POLYE: There are two things I'd like to mention here. What Hilary Clinton said probably is true. But we like to see every player play our rules and our standards here in Papua New Guinea, where every rule of law and every rule of business is followed. Secondly, we welcome the competition because its going to be a positive development for Papua New Guinea. In other words, an increase in investment into the country, will definitely boost our business activities and economic activities here. I welcome the competition and look at Papua New Guinea as a strategic place to invest in . However, I would like to make the point that we should work together on a level playing field following all laws.

GARRETT: John Momis, the President of the Autonomous government of Bougainville, has said apart from the PNG LNG project American investment is conspicuous by its absence. In fact, he said there was so little he thought the US had a policy of NOT investing in PNG. How do you respond to those comments?

POLYE: Well, it is quite true to an extent. You look at history. Americans have never invested much in the Pacific region, as a business. Of course they've got military bases up there in Guam, and the Philippines and others. And of course, they had the involvement in the second world war and they came to PNG but after that you come another 20 years and you really would not have seen any American investments here, and the one we have seen is the Exxon Mobil. I think Chevron came in but they went out some years back so really I think this is on a bigger, larger scale but on a smaller scale investments and trade there hasn't been as much as other countries investing in PNG.

GARRETT:Do you think the United States has left too much of the running to Australia?

POLYE: Laugh - I really don't know about that. I can't answer the question. But I think, the US is a big economy maybe they are too big. And they care less to invest. I mean they've got all their businesses, there. They are already a flourishing superpower so they probably 'why should we invest in other countries? We are big already. We have ventured a lot of these American dreams' and so forth. But Australia, I don't think they've come and invested in PNG because of such mind set by US. Australia would naturally be investing because PNG is the closest destination to invest. Even in the colonial days Australia showed a lot of interest in PNG in alluvial goldmining and other activities so traditionally you'll find Australians have always been here -easy for them to invest in a country they have always been familiar with but US, like I've said, maybe they are too big.

GARRETT: Papua New Guinea has also recently walked out of talks to renew the Pacific tuna treaty with the United States because the United States wasn't paying what PNG thought was a reasonable licence fee or willing to offer competitive market access. Are PNG's relations with the US at something of a low point?

POLYE: I don't know I do not like to see Papua New Guinea's relations with the US at a low point. I would like to think that we could discuss those issues on the table. I know there has been some exchange on the media on this, when our acting Prime Minister did make some comment on this issue but I think new can always discuss those things.

Come to a roundtable and see how best we can address those issues. I would like to also make, PNG sees US as important in the region, in the Pacific although they did not have a big investment in the country we regard them as very important to the Pacific region. And therefore we would like to see them invest more here and fisheries is one area and I would like to encourage them to relook at the issues that PNG has raised. We are probably saying that because we are applying the same fees to others like Japan. With Japan, for some time pulled out from fishing in PNG but recently, in the last 2 to 3 years they tried to show a lot of interest in investments here. So I would like to think the US and Papua New Guinea should discuss more. Understanding one another better would be the way forward. And I encourage the US to invest more in PNG and in the Pacific because that is what is happening at the moment.

GARRETT: Let's turn now to China, just how much interest is PNG seeing in investment from China, particularly in the resources boom?

POLYE: My view is that China's approach to investments - they just do investments regardless. They are aggressive. Most of the businesses you find, the big companies are owned by the state and they come in a big way. And Chinese business men and women I also see them in a driving to invest here in Papua New Guinea. I think it is also a cultural thing too. I also think it is an issue of standards, and the legislative framework that's in place in the country, as to how you go into business within those frameworks. There is a lot of factors that really drives people but China is becoming a major investor in this part of the world.

GARRETT: Some commentators have suggested that there are now double the number of Chinese citizens in PNG, both legal and illegal, compared to the number of Australians. What is your assessment of the situation?

POLYE: It could be true. I do not have any official report to give you a specific answer on this but what you hear people saying could be true. I have just talked about the asylum seekers issue. In PNG there are people who come in illegally without our systems even knowing about this. That is an area of challenge to me as Minister for migrations, in really coming up with laws. In fact, I am reforming laws now to combat or to address some of those issues so we stop illegal migrants into Papua New Guinea. The point that I alluded to earlier on - we encourage investments in the country but by following the rules. Sometimes unfortunately, the rules are not followed. Illegal immigrants come in because of the incapacity of our own systems in the country, we do not effectively detect them and take necessary actions. So we do admit to some of those shortfalls, on our side, but we would like to also encourage people who come into this country to be responsible. I encourage people who come here to do business in a genuine, honest, and through the legal processes. But those who come in illegally by the reforms that I am doing you will find I am getting much tougher on illegal immigrants.

GARRETT: Australia does give substantial aid to the PNGDF but would you like to see more aid specifically to this issue of illegal immigration?

POLYE: Yeah - well illegal immigration is a big area that we can address together. The business in this country must be on a level playing field. It is unfair for some business who come in to do general business complying with all rules while others just come in to rip-off things and stay out of the legal spectrum and that is not good. We are reviewing the issues. We have a meeting coming up in July this year - somewhere in Canberra or Brisbane yet to be confirmed - but in that meeting we will have to address those issues of immigration, of border security, how we do that because it affects business and most of those illegal immigrants in this country have been Chinese and we'd like to discourage that. And to protect business, I think that is where PNG and Australia and of course

others in the region, the Pacific Islanders, Indonesia, Malaysia, all of us should be working together.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Media Tool for Development

By Aloysius Laukai

Media professionals in the Pacific region recognize the need for more collaboration in the use of best media practices to promote agriculture and rural development particularly in relation to climate change, food security, water issues and health.

The media professionals from both the government and private sector also called on their respective organizations to improve capacity building to enhance the role of media in promoting agriculture and rural development in the region.

Participants from 10 Pacific Island countries that attended a weeklong training workshop in Nadi, Fiji, issued a statement of commitment that they would implement and practice the skills and knowledge acquired and learnt during the training which was supported by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (ACP-CTA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). PNG was represented by a media officer from the Department of Agriculture and Livestock and New Dawn Radio from Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The participants stated that they appreciated the efforts and progress made since the endorsement of the Pacific Media Planning Seminar in 2010 which was endorsed by the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in Fiji also in 2010 and at the Ministers of Information, Communication and Technology meeting in Tonga.

"We, recognize the need for more collaboration between the agriculture and rural development sector and its linkages to climate change, food security and health, forestry, water and other development sectors referred to in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Of importance is the use of best media practices to promote agriculture and rural development and the need to increase awareness in these areas."

The participants stated that they would seek and anticipate capacity building like this training to be undertaken in the Pacific in the near future, especially to refresh knowledge and skills in agriculture and rural development and the continuous support of governments, civil society, media organizations and other relevant stakeholders in this regard is vital.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIRST CITY PROPOSAL

By Aloysius Laukai

Eight months after the Bougainville delegation visiting China a Chinese team is on Bougainville marketing its first model city for Kokopau on the Northern tip of mainland Bougainville.

The proposed Economic Zone for the Agriculture sector targeting mainly cocoa and Copra.

The city would have the capacity of having FIFTEEN THOUSAND people in it which could later increase to several Million people.

In Presenting the Proposal to the members of the Bougainville Business Association, ABG's special investment Agent, JASON FONG said that this would trigger the economic activity of Bougainville.

According to the presentation the city which is to be built on ABG's own plantation, BONUS PLANTATION would have roads, bridge, port, airport, Hospital, Stadiums, Technical College AND other infrastructures.

The city is to be connected to Buka island which would also see the upgrading of the Buka airport to get direct flights to and from other International ports.

MR. FONG said that a Chinese government loan to ABG at only 2% interest can start up the project.

The delegation also presented their proposal to the Bougainville administration and the members of the Bougainville House of Representatives.

07.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Policy to support.

By Aloysius Laukai

The planned Happy City for North Bougainville needs the ABG and the people of Bougainville to support to make it a reality.

During his presentation in Buka this morning, ABG Agent for China Investment, JASON FONG said that the ABG must define and pass a special economic policy with relevant legislation that would address the following areas.

Land use policy, Qualified Industrial Sectors, set Public Investment indicating minimum and maximum limits, Limit how much a Private investment would invest up to, Tax Concessions and for the ABG Public sector/Overseas Borrowing, Debt/GDP ratio under International Monetary Fund standards.

And request special economic zone laws to be passed to protect investors.

07.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Filming on Mister Pip movie begins

By Gorethy Kenneth

FILMING on Mister Pip movie began in Pidia, Central Bougainville, officials advised from the venue yesterday.

Young Bougainvillean Xannjah Matsi plays the main character- Matilda while Francesca Semoso, Florance Korokoro and Dr Joel Healesville, all Bougainvillean women, take on their roles on stage.

The drama is based on the novel by New Zealander Lloyd Jones and tells the story of the last white man who left the strife-torn island of Bougainville during the 1990 blockade by Papua New Guinea Government.

The last white man, Mr Watts, reopens a school and uses his favourite novel, Dickens' Great Expectations, to inspire students, particularly a gifted 14-year-old named Matilda. The action takes place during the decade-long civil war in the Autonomous Province, off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

People from all over Bougainville have been excited about the movie and have thanked the New Zealand team for taking the risk to come over to Bougainville to shoot,

especially when the place is still undergoing peace process.
The film will also be shot in parts of New Zealand and Australia.

06.06.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville men in Solomon Islands gold raid

FOUR men from Bougainville are main suspects in a cross-border raid on the gold prospecting camp in the Solomon Islands' Western province, the Solomon Star newspaper reported at the weekend.

The newspaper reported yesterday the gang had been identified as from Siwai, in the southern part of the autonomous region.

The Solomon Islands acting police commissioner Walter Kola told a media conference in Honiara last Thursday that according to information that came through to his office, the four men were identified as main players in the armed raid at the Solomon Gold prospecting camp near Kariki village at Fauro in the Shortland Islands.

He said that according to information gathered during investigations the four men were "clearly identified as from Siwai", The Star reported.

Solomons police had not made any arrest yet but were questioning 10 men in relation to the raid although Kola did not specifically say whether the four Bougainvilleans were among them.

He said that although the suspects have been identified, police had to follow some bilateral procedures before they could be questioned by local police in Honiara.

The Star said this was because the suspects were from Bougainville which was part of Papua New Guinea.

"It is an issue that needs to be dealt with by the two governments, foreign affairs and police heads of the two different countries so that a mutual understanding can be established," Kola was quoted as saying.

Earlier police reports also confirmed the Bougainvilleans were assisted by some criminal elements in the area.

Although firearms were used, there were no reports of injuries.

The Star said that during the raid the armed men damaged properties and stole 20 bags of soil containing minerals extracted from the prospecting site.

06.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tension high in Buin

BOUGAINVILLE police are handicapped to address the infighting in Buin because it involves Damien Koike and his people from South Bougainville, fighting against themselves.

News reports reaching the Post-Courier from Tabago Mission said that Mongai, a place where Mongai home guards was set up to "quell" rebel leader Damien Koike, is deserted. Mongai faction is reported to be in Buin town and police there are keeping the place under control.

Reports also stated that civilians from Mongai have moved to Muguai. Last week, killings have been going on and while the Post-Courier was there, it witnessed civilians moving towards Buin town in fear of being killed by Koike and his followers.

Koike wants to discuss his issues with a "neutral element".

06.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Torokina bans arms sale

a ban has been placed on Bougainvilleans, Papua New Guineans and others having access to guns and ammunitions from Torokina, the chiefs advised over the weekend. This is because, of the 13 clans that make up Torokina, youths, mothers and school children have been told and successfully adhered to awareness and orders from the elders not to sell or trade arms for money or anything.

A major awareness program has been carried out for one month (in May) which has successfully recommended that ban on movement into Torokina by those intending to buy weapons.

The awareness has found in every household there is an estimate of five to 10 guns or ammunitions collected and kept in house. Their sale has now been banned and youths have adhered to the orders.

Peter Tsuremai, a chief from Torokina, speaking on behalf of the 13 clan chiefs has warned that the Autonomous Bougainville Government to play its part in coming up with a policy and law as to how these weapons will be disposed.

He said the ABG will also have to help with the recommendations contained in report presented to the leadership – ABG President John Momis. In the report it details the committee members are now carrying out statistics of every household or from the 6000 plus population, the database of weapons collected and kept in house.

“For the ABG, they have to act. This is because the longer we keep them (weapons), and youths ignored by the leaders and our elites, they will resort to sales again.”

06.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Croc kills Buka boy

By GORETHY KENNETH

A five-year-old boy is still missing in Buka's northern tip, Karoola Plantation, after being taken away by a crocodile last Friday.

Buka police have confirmed the report, saying a boy, maybe aged five, was playing and washing at seafront at Karoola Plantation at about three o'clock in the afternoon on Friday when a crocodile appeared and dragged him away.

Police were immediately alerted and a search was conducted after family members and community became aware of the missing child with some claiming that a crocodile had taken him away.

The search failed to find the boy on Friday.

Over the weekend, the police conducted another search but could not detail the results of the operation. However, they said the body of the child still could not be located.

Family members told the Post-Courier they also swam to search in case the body was left in the sea bed rocks or somewhere in the mangroves but to no avail.

They are hoping the police and other authorities will help find at least the bones or the dead body of their child and hopefully find and kill the crocodile.

06.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Oil Palm for Torokina

TRADITIONAL clans of Torokina will meet this week to discuss the preparations for the biggest impact project of a lifetime – the Torokina Oil Palm Project.

Michael Piriri is the liaison officer for the multi-million Kina Oil Palm project and Hakau Investments, a subsidiary of Lae Biscuit Company is the developer.

Peter Tsuremai told the Post -Courier over the weekend that officials from the developer, Hakau Investments, are in Buka for further talks on the issue and to meet with the leaders to complete phase one and kick-start phase two of the project.

He said this week the 13 clan chiefs and elite leaders will meet for the preparation of the project and major issues of concern include the clan boundaries, traditional declaration of boundaries and other issues to iron out would be the benefits and the signing of the agreement with the landowners before the developer can come in and carry out its operations.

“You know, the government of Papua New Guinea initially announced the K20 million project to be pumped into this but our understanding is that the developer has successfully bid under the K3.5 million contract which they won – it is Hakau Investments,” Mr Tsuremai said.

“We have made a commitment to sit down this week and meet with the 13 clans to also find out what concept to apply on Bougainville, specifically on this project and the possibility of being in partnership, we have to be in partnership and that is what we will discuss when all of us meet.”

Mr Tsuremai said the population of Torokina is about 6000 plus, there has been no major development and impact project in that part of the region and the oil palm project was a major step forward undertaken by the ABG and the PNG Government. He said from his clan, they were willing to provide and give 10,000 hectares and this would also be one of the major issues to be discussed when the meeting convenes this week.

03.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Torokina out of service

By Gorethy Kenneth

WOMEN leaders of Torokina are calling on Autonomous Bougainville Government to help Torokina with delivery of services and development in that area.

A mother gave birth while walking 4km from her village to the nearest and only Piva Health Centre in Torokina last month and another incident happened in February where a mother gave birth on the road and men had to carry her on a stretcher to the health centre for medical help. A spokewoman, Agatha Eminoni, said this is because there is no ambulance, sometimes there are shortages of medicine and no health extension officers to serve the people.

“You look at the services in Torokina, there is none, although schools are in operation but not to standard. The fact that mothers are giving birth while walking to the nearest health centre is saddening,” she said.

“We are asking ABG to to help us, especially the women of Torokina.”

Mrs Eminoni spoke of how transport is a major problem when it comes to health services in an out of Torokina and Buka and the lack of communication services. She also said the Torokina Oil Palm project will be a step forward that should boost the moral and economy of Torokina.

03.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fighting in Buin continues

BOUGAINVILLE police are handicapped to address infighting in Buin which involves Damien Koike and his own people from South Bougainville, firing guns and fighting against themselves.

News reports reaching the Post-Courier from Tabago Mission has detailed that Mongai is deserted. Reports have also stated that the Mongai faction is in Buin town and the police there are keeping the place under control.

Mongai is in the place where Mongai Homeguards were set up to "quell" rebel leader Damien Koike and his followers.

Reports from Tabago, in Buin, also stated that the civilians from Mongai have moved to Muguai.

Last week killings have been going on in Buin and Post-Courier witnessed civilians moving towards Buin town in fear of being killed in the crossfire by Koike and his followers.

Koike is refusing to talk to anyone except a "neutral element". United Nations on Bougainville, the churches and the ABG are doing their best to find a solution and come up with a roundtable discussion so Koike and his team can be provided an avenue to speak.

03.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cocoa needs more study

By HAIVETA KIVIA

COCOA bean exported from Papua New Guinea is one the finest in the world but more money, research and expertise is needed to eradicate Cocoa Pod Borer for PNG to maintain its status in the world market.

Chief executive officer Barnabas Toreu highlighted this in his presentation in the conference on Provincial Governments and Commodity Boards Response on Implementation of Priority Impact Projects, in Lae.

Mr Toreu said cocoa is a food product that sells in one of the most competitive food (confectionery) markets in the world and the demand for chocolate is such that quality becomes the most important requirement by processors and manufacturers.

He said PNG cocoa is characterised as fine or flavored as opposed to the bulk of cocoa produced by Ghana and Ivory Coast, the major producers in the world.

"Chocolate flavour is the most important quality criteria of cocoa bean product and that is what makes PNG competitive, flavour," he said.

He said to improve production and quality factors like Cocoa Pod Borer, smoke contamination and poly-aromatic hydrocarbon (compounds of chemicals in cocoa beans) of cocoa beans must be controlled.

He told the conference that his board has embarked on cocoa quality and market promotion to enhance PNG market position as a supplier of high quality cocoa beans by 2014 by minimising the risk of smoke contamination and poly-aromatic hydrocarbon.

He said the outcome of the project is ensure PNG maintain its fine or flavour status and overall quality of PNG Cocoa beans so as to remain internationally competitive.

He added that other components of quality control are; fermentary and drier inspection, non-compliance follow up, licensing and registration, drier facility improvement, cocoa quality mini project, fermentary data base and production database.

Mr Toreu added that K2 million has been appropriated and quality control project will cover all cocoa growing provinces but delay in rolling out the program was due to late release of funds.

The second project is to enhance, facilitate and promote the adoption Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) management practices to increase production and improve livelihood of smallholder farmers.

CPB's latest attack is occurring in Morobe province on Siassi Island, and last week it was reported that Madang province was also hit by it.

Mr Toreu said K5 million was appropriated for the CPB program and implemented in East new Britain, New Ireland, Bougainville, West New Britain and Madang.

He said the outbreak in Morobe should be assessed quickly and he will be speaking to Morobe authorities, and will release some funds for assessment and containing measures.

Kampalap councilor Barnabas Nalong said they only detected the CPBs just last month. He said they have taken some precautionary measures but they need experts to assess the situation in their cocoa blocks on Siassi Island.

Mr Nalong has advised Morobe Governor Luther Wenge of the CPB presence on Siassi and he will be talking to Provincial Administrator Kemasang Tomala about it as well.

03.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville women call for clean-up of war relics

CONCERNED women leaders of Torokina want Australia, United States of America and Japan to return to Torokina and clean up their war relics.

They also want the Autonomous Bougainville Government to step in and make a law to protect and stop these guns and ammunitions getting out of Torokina. And they are asking if the Police presence and manpower be beefed up and police post upgraded to a police station.

Agatha Eminoni, woman leader from Torokina speaking on behalf of the silent majority-women of that area, said they were now demanding the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government to immediately come up with a law to protect guns and ammunitions being taken out of Torokina.

This is because she claims general and ordinary Torokina people have been ridiculed and threatened by the people of Buin in public, Buka and Arawa for allegedly supplying guns and ammunition to rebel leader Damien Koike and selling to other people throughout PNG.

But Mrs Eminoni disputed that because Torokina remains a public knowledge for its war relics and these accusations might somewhat be malicious and people threatened for misinformation.

"The people of Torokina have been threatened by people of Buin for allegedly selling guns but we don't go selling outside," the women leader said.

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Computer lab for Buin secondary

Teachers and students of Buin Secondary school, South Bougainville were happy beneficiaries last week of a fully furnished computer laboratory which boasts 100 computers now waiting to be connected this month.

The lab once ready, will allow more than 765 students, access to the outside world

through internet service and facilities.

According to school executives, they plan to set aside one part of the building with 50 computers to cater for grades 11 and 12 and the other half would be for grades 9 and 10. The computer lab is part of a K2 million contract to Bougainville Engineering Construction Limited to construct also 13 buildings including dormitories, classrooms and teacher's houses

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS CONGRATULATES LAUTA

BY JOYCE TOHUI

ABG President, Chief JOHN MOMIS today urged all four Bougainville National MPs in the National Parliament to work more closely with him and his administration.

He said this will help to better coordinate and provide funds for community based projects through the implementation of the government's District Support Improvement Programs.

He added this is to achieve maximum output in all the Council of Elders areas in Bougainville.

President MOMIS said this when congratulating Member Elect for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI this week.

Chief MOMIS said although MR ATOI'S term in Parliament is short, he believed that with his business background and experience, the people of North Bougainville would see some real change in their electorate.

MR MOMIS said out of the many good leaders who stood for the by-election, the people overwhelmingly chose LAUTA ATOI to be their leader until the next general election in 2012.

And he hoped that in his short term as the North Bougainville's representative in the National Parliament, he will work more closely with the ABG to bring services closer to the people at COE areas

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LAUTA ASSURES TO WORK TOGETHER

BY JOYCE TOHUI

Newly Elected Member for the North Bougainville Open Electorate, LAUTA ATOI has assured his people that he will work closely with the Bougainville National MPs in the National Government.

He said this when accepting his declaration by the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU on Tuesday this week.

MR ATOI added that he will work side by side with the Regional Member and the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, FIDELIS SEMOSO and also his two member colleges, JIMMY MIRINGTORO and STEVEN KAMA PIRIKA respectively.

He said seeing the National MPs working together will strengthen their relationship to work closely with ABG and bring the most needed basic services and development to the people of Bougainville.

Meanwhile he has appealed to the losing candidates and supporters to brush aside differences and bring forth their brilliant ideas to help him deliver effectively for the common good of the people.

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Filming of Mr Pip underway

By Maria Laukai

The filming of Mr Pip is now underway at Pidia, home of the late William Takaku by executive producers of the movie, Andrew Adamson and Robin Scholes who arrived in Bougainville two weeks ago.

The film is about the last white man Mr Pip living on the war-torn island of Bougainville who re-opens a school and inspires students by reading the book 'Great Expectations'. Mr Pip will be played by United State's highest paid actor in TV drama Laurie Hughes. A number of Bougainvillean actors and actresses will be playing major roles in the movie, including 14 year old Hutjena Secondary school student Xzannjah Matsi who will be starring as Matilda, a student of Mr Pip and Kieta beauty Florence Keroro who will be acting the part of Mrs Watts.

Former ABG member of parliament Francisca Semoso also landed a role in the movie after she went through audition along with other aspiring Bougainville actors and actresses early this year.

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Businessman warns Bougainville is out of time

Bougainville Chamber of Commerce executive Thomas Rabanz has this week accused ABG administration for not taking the issues of referendum and independence seriously. He said Bougainville is facing possibility of not meeting requirements of referendum and independence if it fails to handle outstanding issues like non-payment of bills it owes to business houses for services rendered many years ago.

Other issues include weapons disposal program and emergence of Asian business in Bougainville.

Mr. Rabanz claimed the ABG administration does not know where its priorities are and it does not know how to set priorities.

He said evidence of lack of total negligence is based on not paying attention to payment of services rendered.

Mr. Rabanz said ABG president John Momis, as a leader, should not be blamed for this failure as it is not chief Momis' issue to sort out but the work of the ABG administration to handle.

02.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Cholera treatment centre faces closure

The cholera treatment centre at Lemanmanu village, Haku constituency, may shut down if the Bougainville Cholera Task Force does not immediately address critical issues faced by the centre.

The treatment centre is at present the only avenue for treatment of any suspected and diagnosed cases of cholera in Bougainville.

Health workers at the centre say the operation is in chaos with the staff claiming that the centre is facing severe lack of funds to address water and sanitation, surveillance and clinical management.

In addition to these, cleaners are planning to go on strike over non payment of their allowances in the last five weeks.

In a petition to the cholera task force team, the health workers have requested that the cholera task force provide a detailed financial report on expenditures of all monies allocated to tackle cholera in the region including the K60 thousand grant by AusAID in April.

They warned that if these issues are not dealt with immediately, health workers would be fighting a losing war against cholera in Bougainville.

Bougainville Cholera Task force team in response yesterday said they are also facing a severe financial crisis to address the cholera issue.

The task force also said the number of cases was now being contained despite the rise in patients to more than 20, brought to the health centre.

The task force added that health workers have managed to contain the disease from spreading further.

01.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Mongai local shot by criminals.

By MARIA LAUKAI

A South Bougainville man who was shot while visiting his mother on Monday evening at Mongai village, South Bougainville died on Tuesday night at the Buka General Hospital. Isaac Malabus, 24, of mix Muisuru and Mongai parentage, was undergoing surgery to remove bullets from his knee and stomach when he died from complications caused by internal bleeding.

His body was transported to Buin yesterday by relatives and South Bougainville former combatants who had also travelled with him to Buka from Buin on Tuesday morning.

According to South Bougainville police commander Paul Kamuai, the late Malabus on his way to visit his mother was confronted by five former Me'ekamui combatants and shot below the knee and stomach when he failed to inform them of the location of freedom fighters in the area.

Kamuai said the shooting had escalated tension amongst communities in the Konnou constituency where already there had been reports of the notorious Koike and his men killing men, women and children.

He added that the problem at Konnou area has become an armed conflict which the police in South Bougainville have no firepower and capacity to address.

However Kamuai said despite their situation, they are prepared to support the Bougainville government in any decision it makes to address the Konnou issue.

01.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

South Bougainville factions put up road block

By MARIA LAUKAI

Former combatants in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville who gave up their guns in exchange for peace after the Bougainville crisis have taken up arms again, this time, against a notorious criminal, Damien Koike and his men.

Koike is reported to have been responsible for over 55 deaths of men, women and children since 2006 in the Konnou area, including the recent shooting and wounding of innocent civilians last Wednesday at Siniminoi and on Monday at Mongai village.

In revenge of having their women and children constantly living in fear of the gun wielding criminal, leaders of factional groups in the Konnou area agreed on May 27 to put a stop to the killings in the area.

Leaders of Mongai homeguards, Buin Freedom Fighters, Peace Struggling Force (PSF) and Wissai Liberation Movement (WILMO) under the banner of Konnou factional group, resolved counter attack the crime activities.

Konnou Faction commander Philip Pusua said yesterday that the first action they have taken is to set up a road block at Mongai junction to stop traffic moving between Buin and Buka.

He said the aim of the road block is to minimize the flow of information.

Mr Pusua added that the Konnou factional leaders had also agreed to not allow any peace team or organization to approach Damien Koike and his band of criminals until the government takes an immediate action to stop the continuous killings in the Konnou area.

01.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PLOA responds to Me'ekamui

Panguna landowners in Bougainville yesterday warned the Me'ekamui tribal government to stop misleading the world with media statements that 'it will not open the mine' as reported on New Dawn's website on Monday (May 30).

Panguna Landowners Association (PLOA) Interim Executive Secretary Lawrence Daveona in response to the Me'ekamui press statement urged that the Me'ekamui seek PLOA's advice before issuing such statements.

The Me'ekamui had on Monday claimed that the tribal government controlled the assets at Panguna and all natural resources within its borders.

They also disapproved Bougainville president John Momis' authority to enter into any understandings or agreements with Me'ekamui owned land.

Me'ekamui president Philip Miriori had also in the same statement invited state ministers, ABG leaders and BCL company representatives to a meeting set for June 14 – 17 at Hilton Hotel, Cairns, Australia to discuss Panguna mine issues.

In an email to New Dawn FM, Daveona expressed that it is a pity that Me'ekamui government had embarked on trying to dismantle tremendous efforts ABG had put in place since the signing of Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001.

He said false assertions made by the Me'ekamui tribal government included;

- Claims the Me'ekamui government has over the assets of Panguna mine.
- Claims that Me'ekamui tribal government are the legal authority in Bougainville and
- Claims that BCL had no rights to Panguna.

Responding to each of these claims, Daveona said the legitimate authority under which any negotiations with respect to the re-opening of Panguna mine is Panguna Landowners Association (PLOA).

He added that the ABG and its president John Momis is the 'only' authority that is recognized world-wide and until such time as provided for under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, ABG operates under an autonomous arrangement with PNG.

He also responded that whoever was advising Me'ekamui government on the licensing issues of the leases is using the Bougainville people's ignorance on the present status of

the Panguna BCL mine leases.

Daveona warned that PLOA is very much aware of foreigners who are at the center of spreading this misinformation and advised the Me'ekamui government hierarchy to consult directly with the legal authority on the ground.

01.06.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville progresses in development

By MARIA LAUKAI

Bougainville, having come out of a 10 year conflict, is doing its best to rebuild a new nation from a province that has suffered the loss of more than 15,000 human lives and also its basic services says ABG vice president Patrick Nisira.

Honourable Nisira said this in response to criticisms that the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), since its inauguration in 2005, has not trickled basic services to the rural areas.

He said ABG is trying its best to rebuild out of a province that has suffered the loss of its entire infrastructure development, communication, education and health services.

He said, since its establishment in 2005, ABG has reconstructed 577 education facilities, 346 Elementary schools, 216 Primary Schools, 5 Boarding High Schools, 1 Day High School, 4 Specialized Training Centers, 2 Technical High Schools, all enrolling 65,954 students.

Nisira added that in the public health sector, the ABG and the state have reopened 127 Aid Posts, 32 Health Centers and the Buka Hospital.

He said this was a success story considering ABG is operating out of a meager K9 million from its 'infant' internal revenue annual budget and budgetary support of the PNG government and funds from overseas friends.

He added that a latest study carried out in Arawa, Buin and Buka by the New South Wales University shows that Bougainville people are better off in terms of income per capita than some provinces of PNG.

01.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atoi outlines development strategy

By GORETHY KENNETH

NEWLY--ELECTED North Bougainville MP, Lautu Atoi, is a very determined man when it comes to helping develop Bougainville, especially his northern electorate, if finance and resources permit.

Yesterday, before the declaration, the Post-Courier interviewed him in his home, surrounded by thousands of his supporters, Atoi, a former Kumul icon, detailed his priorities for the next six months.

"I have a heart for my people of the Atolls and low-lying islands and especially those of Teua/Kunua who have been neglected for many years," Mr Atoi said. "I have plans for all the electorates of north Bougainville before looking at the bigger picture.

"There are places that are less developed and there are those that really need help – it's about service delivery but my approach will be all about income generating activities.

"I have the water project and I want to spend K5 million on water tanks for all north Bougainvilleans, which is the main need for the people in the north.

"I want to work together with the ABG to revive all feeder ports in the region and help save plantations that will help generate our income so that we become financially self-

reliant instead of asking and begging and receiving all the time. Also I want to help get back the eight plantations that have been sold to foreigners.

"But most of all, get a landing craft and a proper service boat for the people of the Atolls and the low-lying islanders and a fish market to help the islanders market their fresh fish for a living.

"I want to help the government of the day change their mindset.

"It's not about service delivery, it's about making money for Bougainville and its people.

"Bougainville is a maritime province and we have to take advantage of that.

"Let's work to have reliable shipping services, when copper mine gets up and running again, let's have our own ships export or take copper across international waters. We must have a shipping network overseas.

"I want to tell my people I am their servant leader, no longer a private person and my biggest desire is that I want to help my people. Yes, this government is about service delivery.

"It should also be about building the nation, building the economy and coming from a business background, I want to see Bougainville create opportunities. We need to create a fiscal self-reliant nation so that we can have our independence.

"Time is running out, we can't pretend that everything is okay. We have a lot of factions to deal with...let's sit down and find a solution to this issue.

"I know ABG has been working hard to work on these factions, I am prepared to work with the ABG to see how best we can find solutions to these issues," Mr Atoi said.

01.06.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atoll man's win a first

By FABIAN GATANA

LAUTA Atoi, the first Atolls man in the history of politics on Bougainville to be a national MP, was declared winner of the North Bougainville Open seat yesterday after an 18th elimination.

Mr Atoi held a favourable lead from the primary count right through to the eliminations, finishing with a strong 10,463 votes to claim the seat.

In his declaration speech, Mr Atoi said that because he would only be in office for a period of no more than six months before the next elections, he would deal with the people first and seriously look into what was affecting their lives. He said for many years people in the remote parts of North Bougainville had been neglected like his people in the Atolls and it was time they too benefitted from government services.

Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso, urged the newly-elected MP to work in close dialogue with him and the other two Bougainville Open MPs to bring about change to the region. Mr Semoso said that "winning an election was easy but proving to the people that you are a true leader and can provide services to the people is the real test".

Mr Atoi only has a limited time in office and there is a big challenge on him to prove himself.

News 07.2011

31.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EYECARE OPENED

By Aloysius Laukai

PNG EYECARE last Friday opened its Bougainville Office in Buka at the back of BE building.

More stories later but pictured is Vice President and Minister for Health, PATRICK NISIRA cutting the ribbon of the new office.



29.07.2011

Source: ESBC Research

'mines & communities' - A Dark Background.

[Click here to find out more !](#)

29.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Greens want crackdown on overseas Aussie miners

Australia's Greens Party is going to push for legislation preventing Australian mining companies from engaging in environmental practices overseas that they couldn't do at home.

This is a response to the recent legal decision in Papua New Guinea, allowing the Chinese owned Ramu Nickel Mine to dump up to 5 million tonnes of toxic waste into the Astrolabe and Basamuk bays off Madang.

The Greens Party holds the balance of power in Australia's Senate at the moment.

Party leader, Senator Bob Brown, has visited Madang to see the area which would be affected, and he says Australia needs to take action because this legal decision is not just an internal matter for PNG.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Senator Bob Brown, leader of Australia's Greens Party

[Listen here !](#)

BROWN: It's a global issues because all our oceans are interlinked and the marine heritage and we're talking here about some of the richest eco-systems in the world belong to everybody, as well as to the unfortunate locals who have tried so hard in the courts to stop five million tonnes of toxic waste being dumped into the ocean eco-system off the north coast of Papua New Guinea.

HILL: Is this a decision that would have taken place in an Australian court of a similar thing had been proposed?

BROWN: No, it simply would not happen in an Australian court and one has to doubt it would happen in a Chinese court. It's a Chinese company of course working on the back of an Australian company which first opened up this venture. They're both very happy with the outcome, because they can see the profits coming from the development of the Ramu nickel mine and the..... that comes with it. But put the toxic waste into the marine eco-system, as well as I understand the sewerage from the mine system and who knows what else. It's an appalling indictment of modern technology being brought to Papua New Guinea without the safeguard that you would get in the home countries against this sort of destruction of marine eco-systems.

HILL: Well, this is a judgement about a tailings distribution system by a Chinese-owned company in Papua New Guinea. In what sense does this become an Australian issue?

BROWN: Well, of course, the mine was first mooted by an Australian corporation which still has that's Highlands Pacific, which still has nine per cent of the holdings and I understand can increase that to over 20 per cent again as the mine gets underway and becomes profitable. It's very much an Australian corporation and an Australian responsibility and of huge interest to Australia. It points again to the need for Australian laws which require corporations from Australia to behave overseas in exactly the same way they would be required to if they were operating here in Australia under Australian law.

HILL: Well, your party the Greens, holds the balance of power in the Australian Senate. Are you going to put pressure on the Australian government to do something about this and if so, what?

BROWN: Yes, I have asked, I was in Madang in May. I came back to the Senate and spoke about just this mine and warned about it in the Australian Senate. But of course the Greens are a minority there and the big parties are so far turning their back on their responsibility to speak up about what is potentially an underwater Ok Tedi exported again from Australia and an Australian mining company to the loss of the people who depend upon the environment, on this occasion a marine environment in Papua New Guinea.

HILL: So what is it you want the Australian government to do, what are you proposing?

BROWN: Well the Australian government should be firstly legislating to prevent Australian companies operating overseas from treating the environment in other peoples countries in a way that would be illegal home here in Australia.

HILL: If that happened though, wouldn't that simply mean that companies from other countries with a less strenuous legislation would simply be able to come in and undercut Australian companies and make the environmental situation so much worse?

BROWN: Well no, that's not what would happen. There is a limit to the capital and investment and certainly other countries might well do quite the reverse and adopt the Australian system of requiring their home grown companies to operate ethically overseas. You see what we have to do set a led in Australia and not put ourselves at the back of the row and not act in a way which the modern world requires that we should do so as the wealthiest resource-based company on earth. We should be setting the pace, not coming from behind.

HILL: In a judgement, the judge who made this decision said that he had to weigh up the needs of national development and the desires of the government for this to go ahead against the environmental wishes of the landowners. Do you take on board the need for a great deal of national development in a country like Papua New Guinea?

BROWN: Well, I would if the profits were going to go back to Papua New Guinea, but they're going to flow to the Chinese Communist government, but the biggest stakeholder in this and to a smaller degree, to already wealthy people who are not struggling in Australia and elsewhere. The judge also said that it's likely that this project will cause serious environmental harm and that directly points to the failure of the Papua New Guinea legal system to prevent serious environmental harm and I spoke to government officials when I was in Port Moresby about this particular mine and they seemed very

relaxed about the fact that five million tonnes of toxic waste were going to be dumped into the sea canyon to the north of this mine as if somehow or other it was out of sight out of mind, but, of course, it's not going to be.

29.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chinese flocking to Bougainville unchecked

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Foreign Affairs Department in Waigani has advised it is in the dark about the Autonomous Bougainville Governments' arrangements in getting Chinese companies to the region to conduct business.

The department's Asia Desk, headed by Samuel Pulup said that the office was never consulted and given the chance for an input.

Every week, groups of Chinese are travelling to Bougainville for business and the issue has been a question mark for the ordinary Bougainvilleans who don't have time to listen to talk back or radio programs because boom box industry has taken over their ears.

The Foreign Affairs Department Secretary Michael Maue and the Chinese Embassy in Port Moresby were asked to respond and comment on reports of the seven Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed in China early this year by the ABG and Chinese tycoons to pave way for impact projects and economic development to take place in Bougainville through joint ventures with Chinese companies.

They were also asked to comment on Asians, specifically Chinese, flocking to Bougainville every week. Chinese Embassy Economic Advisor Jhao Jhungen said although they were not aware of these arrangements, he claimed it was done on a private business arrangement by the ABG and the Chinese companies involved and they had nothing to say, but warned that these companies must still abide by local laws, meaning PNG and ABG laws.

Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, advised they were also in the dark about the MOUs signed as they were never consulted, but only reading about it through the papers.

They said these arrangements "should still have made the shelves of Waigani" so they are aware, just in case something happens and that ABG was still very much part of PNG and had to abide by the business laws and laws of PNG.

"We are not aware...Foreign Affairs was never consulted, there was never any input from our office," the officials said.

"We are only reading about it from the papers, in fact the chief of migration should be aware of this because they are the ones to clear the planes, the travellers and check the visas...in any case our department should still be consulted and briefed.

"They said that although it is a private arrangement between China and Bougainville, the PNG Government still has to be advised and notified because ABG is still part of PNG.

"The ABG has been approached for the past three weeks to comment on the issue but our attempts were unsuccessful."

29.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG tackles HR problem

By FABIAN GATANA

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has made special arrangements with the New South Wales Parliament to help with capacity building to improve Bougainville's human resource.

Clerk of Parliament Robert Tapi made this known when responding to comments by National Planning officers who recently visited the region and said that Bougainville faced a big human resources problem.

Mr Tapi said that the ABG understands the setbacks in its human resources and it has already taken steps to address the issue.

"The observation by the National Planning officers sees that the ABG faces a setback in its human resource but we can make a difference," Mr Tapi said.

BMA Support Services, a private company, in partnership with Daltron Electronics Ltd, is also supporting the private sector by providing training in areas of capacity building with the first eight ABG parliamentary service officers having already undergone a week-long training.

The courses they attended were on business writing, management skills for executive officers and managing time and managing yourself.

Damien Dampeko said that he wanted to see more private companies work in partnership with the public sector to move such developments in the region.

"The arrangement we believe would contribute towards addressing human resource requirements in preparation for the referendum in 2015," he said.

29.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

200 men loot Chinese shop on Buka Island

By GORETHY KENNETH

MORE than 200 men armed with knives and guns from all over Bougainville looted a Chinese shop in Buka in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Bougainville police said they could not do much as there were men from all over the island looting and taking anything they could lay their hands on - literally leaving the shop empty.

The men, mostly youths, came in numbers at about two o'clock in the early hours of yesterday with almost 10 dinghies waiting to transport their "early hour shopping goods" to their destinations - Kokopau, Sohano and nearby Buka town areas.

These is the second break and enter of the week, the first one was on Tuesday night where a group of men stormed another Chinese shop in town and stole mobiles and other expensive items from the shop.

The Post-Courier spoke to two men who were part of the group last night who said the men are planning another break and enter on another shop also right in the middle of Buka town.

They said this was a message for the ABG and the leaders who are not helping the ordinary Bougainville youths in empowering them with projects to make their living.

They are also claiming that they will not stop unless the leaders come out clear on their laws on making business in Buka, Arawa and Buin.

While this is happening, late Wednesday, about 6pm, a private jet carrying a high-powered Chinese delegation touched down in Buka for impact project meetings with President John Momis and his Government on the way forward for Bougainville.

The paper has not been privy to information on the visit, even after two visits and calls to the Parliament for comments.

But the Post-Courier was reliably told the high-powered delegation is here to finalise arrangements on the seven MOUs signed in China and to proceed with development ideas on the latter, with mining being the top of the list.

29.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

SOS signal for Konnou women

By GORETHY KENNETH

STRESSED, depressed and traumatised, women and youth groups from the troubled Konnou area in Bougainville want an end to their problems and total peace to prevail. President of the Konnou Women's Federation, Mary Mamatau is in Buka, seeking help and ways to help end what they still call "the war" in Buin, south Bougainville.

Mrs Mamatau, while speaking to the Post-Courier in Buka, said that although the Bougainville Crisis ended some 10 years ago, it still feels the war is still in the south – especially in the Konnou Constituency, which covers the areas of Wisai, Konnou Coastal and Konnou Inland - a total population estimated at 5000.

She said the Konnou conflict has severely affected social issues and especially social activities that would have prospered their women, youths and children and is now seeking help from the ABG to assist them alleviate these problems. These problems include:

- Capacity building in economic activities;
- Peace building;
- Women empowerment;
- Rehabilitation;
- Education;
- Health; and
- Economic activities like piggery, poultry, peanut butter, fish and prawns farming, vegetable farming, Lucas Mill, rice mill, coconut mill, soap mill and technical home skill centres which would help all youths and the children.

"As president of the Konnou women federation, I would like to encourage more peace building and capacity building or women empowerment activities conducted for Konnou women. The above areas are now lacking and I am committed to encourage and put in extra efforts to convince our women, men, youths, ex-combatants, home guards, WILMO, freedom fighters and others to see the reality facing Konnou and agree to cooperate and liberate the Konnou people, especially for unfortunate youths who cannot continue on their academic education any more," Mrs Mamatau said.

"The people of Konnou are still to experience real peace and are still to discuss economic development issues that will enhance their family lives. The women and children still witness killings and other terrors which go with the war," Mrs Mamatau said. "Fear and sufferings are still a daily routine going on in our area. Some of us live among factional fighting groups that are set up in our communities. Women continue to live in fear and we are gravely concerned that our freedom of speech and freedom of movement is nil.

"The continued presence of the factions fighting each other must stop. Women or mothers have not been entirely idle during these times.

"There are lots of pleas and talk going on between mothers and their children. Each in their small ways is doing her best to do what they can do to restore total peace. But because of continuous conflicts or fighting, most of us (women and mothers) are worn out and out and cannot think properly for any better way out. Depression is affecting women and we are all traumatised or like death bones without life, all our strengths are weakened," Mrs Mamatau said.

28.07.2011

Source: ESBC

Finally unmasked!

The ESBC received this funny unmasking internal email from "mines & communities". It represents an excellent sample of an insane narrow minded character. The contents does not need any further comment - only LOL !

The "intelligent" writer was a certain Mr. Roger Moody.

"As I anticipated, perhaps only Elsie can expose this man for the insignificant toad he is – fit to rank with Anil Agarwal, judging by the latter's brain-cracked performance yesterday.

Roger

PS I just asked Elsie if she would come out of her gin-haze to apply her razor-sharp tongue to Mr Sturm's deluded utterances. She initially said she wouldn't even deign to dignify him in his fashion, then conceded she had actually come up with a sub-heading for a possible swipe:

"Putting a spoke in Axel's wheel".

But I think she might still need an extra case of the Gordons' before she actually puts pen to paper... "

28.07.2011

Source: ESBC

Sturm: Major Lack of Self-Confidence!

London based anti-mining activists back down:

The ESBC today received the refusal of the London based anti-mining group "mines&communities" to enter into an open dialogue. The ESBC had offered an informal meeting between Bougainville Chairman Peter Taylor, ESBC President Axel G. Sturm and ESBC Vice President Corinna Pattijn next September.

Please read here Mr. Whitmore's refusal and Mr. Sturm's reply:

Andy Whitmore:

Dear Mr Sturm

Thank you for the follow up correspondence & the offer to meet. However, please note I only wrote to you to correct something false you had written about us in a public space, with a desire to do it as publicly as possible. That was primarily done with Clive in mind, given that you then inferred from the allegation that he was being controlled by foreign interests in London, which is from our experience not true. You seem still not to believe that, which is your prerogative, but as long as we have rebutted it in public that is enough for me. Where views were

expressed they were personal, as - given Mines & Communities is made up of a large editorial board - I do not claim to speak for them all.

I am afraid I do not have the time to meet, nor even to continue a detailed correspondence. First we cover a large number of issues, and my involvement with Mines & Communities is only one of a number of activities, so my time is limited. Second, I would not want to meet with companies or investors unless I had specifically been asked to do so by the relevant mines-affected people. We really do take the lead from people locally, and not the other way around. Without that mandate, and various pre-conditions to ensure any meeting would not be mis-used politically, I would not meet privately. Even if a public meeting was offered we'd need to take local advice & agree within Mines & Communities that it was a priority.

I'm sure there will still be a public debate in writing, which in my opinion, and given Mines & Communities' purpose is the best place for it to be.

Andy

Axel G. Sturm:

Andy,

Sorry, but I have to interpret your refusal of an open dialogue between mines & communities, Bougainville Copper Limited and us as a major lack of self-confidence.

You call yourself "editor" but you do not want to listen to all parties involved. Please, as a former journalist, I would ask you not to call yourself editor. Believe me: you do not deserve this title at all. Obviously you prefer working as a narrow minded propagandist who tries to suppress the truth. Brief: you disqualified yourself!

You may falsely believe that your work supports indigneous people on the ground, but you are absolutely wrong! Your work only encourages local unrest, severe pollution and poverty!

Enjoy your dirty business!

Axel G. Sturm

[Please click here for the entire correspondence as PDF !](#)

28.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

China meet ABG

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Vice President and Chairman of the Bougainville China Cooperation Committee, PATRICK NISIRA says Bougainville needs to look at what has happened in Papua New Guinea and adjust its approaches on investment in the region.

He was speaking at a meeting with a Chinese Business delegation that arrived in Bougainville on a private Chartered Jet this morning.

MR. NISIRA said that in PNG there are a lot of resources but the owners do not benefit from these resources.

He said that based on these scenarios, the ABG wants to build capacity in all areas simultaneously.

MR. NISIRA said that the ABG welcomes investors from China and any other country who want to invest on Bougainville's terms.
He thanked the Businessmen for their interest in investing in the region.
The group will return tomorrow.



28.07.21011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Court rises in Arawa

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Court sitting in Arawa rose yesterday at midday after clearing most of the outstanding cases in both Tinputz and Arawa.

The court resumed again this morning in Buka and would continue tomorrow Friday starting with Contempt charges to the staff of the National Court, the Court Recording Officer (cro)Charley Kogora and his boss acting Director of the National Court Recording Services, NANADAI GWAIBO.

The contempt charges also includes the EMS MANAGER at the Boroko Post office who is to appear also for contempt charge for not bringing the Court Recording Equipment to the airport in time.

The will appear before Justice John Kawi tomorrow.



The Judge had time from the Busy Court session to visit the now closed Panguna Copper mine site yesterday. Justice John Kawi is pictured with members of his team at the mine pit.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

28.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MV BOUGAINVILLE ATOLLS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Border Development Authority (BDA) has a latest barge in its fleet to provide shipping services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

MV Bougainville Atolls now on its way to Port Moresby from Samaranta City in Java Island, Indonesia will be used in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). The Barge which is expected to arrive early next month will mostly be used to provide shipping services to the isolated and scattered atolls of the Feat, Cataretts, Mortlock and Tasman. It will also be used to service other areas of the ARB.

A delighted Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Education Minister John Tabinaman yesterday thanked the National Government on behalf of the atoll's people and ABG for establishing the BDA. "We now see that BDA can come and help us in remote coastal border areas like ARB within a short notice. Many times no ship in the past and the Atolls people suffer. Teachers, Health and Government Officers do not arrive in time and mobility was a problem. There was no help to ship cargos. Now people can see the Government's hands through BDA. The people will be relieved to see the Barge."

Mr Tabinaman said from Buka in the ARB that before ABG had to charter private ships and it was expensive. "Those ships had to meet up to their tight schedule runs and we had to cut short some of our trips. It was hard to do awareness and get to know the

people's real conditions. Besides the ships allocated were small and do not have facilities like a health room on the ship. But now with MB Bougainville Atolls we will have a medical bay with medical supplies on board."

Early this month BDA responded after North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi appealed for assistance saying that about 15,000 people on the Atolls with the islands of Nissan and Pinabel needed immediate relief supplies due to the four month old prolonged drought. BDA provided its Barge MV Andreas and donated K100, 000 worth of relief supplies such as food (over 500 bags of rice and garden food such as kaukau, taro and bananas), water containers, and medical and education supplies."

BDA already have MV Muntai, MV Ulayut, MV Gloucester, MV Manus Atolls and MV Milne bay Atolls in its fleet of Barges.

Pictured is Bougainville Atolls departing Samarinta Port last week in Java Island, Indonesia for Port Moresby



28.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BEC lauded

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Deputy Secretary for the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Oswald Tolopa has thanked the Bougainville Executive Council for establishing the Bougainville Physical Planning Board.

Mr Tolopa made these remarks during the swearing in ceremony of the board members at Hutjena yesterday. He said it is important for planning to come through and this was the result of their office working together with the Lands Division.

He said this was one of the department's roles in rolling out powers and functions to various boards in provinces including Bougainville.

Mr Tolopa also said it is important under the National Constitution's commitment with the Government and ABG that it is imminent for Bougainville to have its own board which cannot be avoided.

He said it was a milestone for ABG to recognise the important functions of physical planning.

Speaking on behalf of his minister, he said the establishment of the board will pave the way forward for development in the region.

28.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG told to form climate task force

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has been urged to immediately establish a climate change and drought management task force to manage imminent climate threats to food security and environmental stability in Bougainville.

This was highlighted in an information paper tabled to the Bougainville House of Representatives by the Ministry of Local Level Government, Kastom, traditional authority, village courts and disaster management.

The paper states that if Bougainville does not act now, there will be serious food and water insecurity with likely loss of life.

Minster of the Ministry Joseph Nopei said the climate task force will be tasked to ensure that risks are identified and managed accordingly, using modern monitoring and data analysis tools. He said the ABG government and NGO groups must work together with NARI and the national climate office and incorporate their resources into farmer training and education.

He said the Bougainville Disaster Management Committee will coordinate the task force which will include ABG representatives and NGOs.

28.07.2011

Source: The National

Bank denies running short of cash

THE Bank of South Pacific says there is no cash shortage at its branch in Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, as reported yesterday.

The report in this newspaper was based on a statement by Joseph Jeraha, the Bougainville census co-coordinator, that the bank was unable to meet large cash requests, resulting in the delay of payments to census officers.

The bank in a statement yesterday said Jeraha's claim was misleading because there was enough cash to meet the requests but its officers needed to first verify the cheque before making payments.

"Census staff wanted a cash withdrawal based on the presentation of a government cheque worth over K300,000 to the Buka branch, however the branch had to verify the cheque before making the payment," the bank said.

The bank said there were strict internal protocols in place to validate such large payments which the Buka branch officers rightfully applied in this case.

"Clients must understand and appreciate that to ensure their money is safe, such large withdrawals are verified to confirm the cheque is not a fake or raised through fraudulent means," the bank said.

It said such verification was a government requirement. It was recently reported that

“stringent guidelines have been issued to cash dealers (banks) by the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Fraud Squad which directs how to deal with government payments above a certain threshold”.

The bank added: “In any case, clients who wish to make large withdrawals must give sufficient notice and not just turn up at the counter and demand payout.

“BSP does plan for special situations when given sufficient notice and at no time were we short of cash in Buka.

“To avoid such instances we request that clients who wish to make large withdrawals give sufficient notice to our branches.

“BSP monitors daily cash balances in branches nationwide and where necessary ships in additional cash.

“It must be understood that shipping cash to centres such as Buka, the aircraft charter cost alone is K40,000 ex-POM and a charter is required monthly.

“Then there are other associated costs such as security that goes with cash movements (armoured vehicle etc).

“There are a lot of costs involved to get cash to all centres and BSP remains committed to the people of PNG, which is reflected in our extensive branch, ATM and Eftpos network and our resolve to deliver banking services that are convenient and accessible, compared to other banks which focus attention only in main centres where the market is more profitable.

It said the newspaper article was “unfair as it declares that BSP is cash-strapped in Bougainville”.

28.07.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20110728

Bougainville Copper Shareholders: The Ocean is not a Rubbish Bin!

The President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper, Mr. Axel G. Sturm, is shocked: “It is unacceptable that mining companies dump their waste into the Ocean!” Mr. Sturm refers to reports that the Chinese owned Ramu Nickel mine in Papua New Guinea was allowed by court to dispose their waste into the ocean near Madang. “Fishing is one of the major resources for human nutrition”, says Mr. Sturm, “already intensive fishing and the warming of the sea affects the ecological balance worldwide. There is no need to kill the ocean by polluting it. China is an extreme rich country: It can afford to clean and recycle their waste without any problem!”

28.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG mining industry happy with court decision

Papua New Guinea's mining industry has welcomed a court ruling which allows a Chinese mine to dump waste into the sea off Madang province.

This week a national court refused an application by thousands of locals to stop a proposed Deep Sea Tailings Placement System.

The Ramu Nickel Mine can now go ahead and dump up to 5 million tonnes of waste into the Astrolabe and Basamuk bays off Madang.

PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum has welcomed the decision but executive director Greg Anderson says the industry is waiting on an appeal by the landowners.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Greg Anderson, executive director PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum

Listen here !

28.07.2011

Source: ESBC

A Kind Reply!

Andy Whitmore, managing editor of the London based anti-mining homepage [minesandcommunities](#) , addressed to ESBC president Axel G. Sturm on Wednesday evening. Mr. Whitmore encouraged Mr. Sturm to enter in an open dialogue with the ESBC. As Mr. Sturm and ESBC vice president Mrs. Corinna Pattijn will be in London in September, Mr. Sturm accepted and proposed Mr. Whitmore a first informal meeting. Please read here what Mr. Witmore wrote to the ESBC:

Dear Mr Sturm

First, apologies for not replying to any previous correspondence. I honestly haven't seen any correspondence from your prior to this message. No doubt you'll choose, not to believe that, but it's also true. I'm glad that you have chosen to publish this correspondence on your home page, and trust you'll publish this reply. We will also ensure that any debate is in public, and intend to write on this issue on our own website. So I am happy, time willing, to exchange with you on this subject, but only in public, where hopefully more of our editors can comment. You can choose not to believe it, but our not paying for Clive is simply a statement of fact. In our organisational accounts for the last few years we have a travel budget of £100 per annum, which has not been fully spent in any year. I personally support the idea of community activists who might not otherwise be given a voice being allowed to raise those protests around company AGMs, but Mines & Communities does not fund people to do this. Giving such people a voice is not creating community opposition, nor is it 'controlling' it. People who have experience of the problems around large-scale mining do not need 'London masterminds' to control them. Do you think we were responsible for the creation of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army?

You explain why you are pro-mining. It seems you are pro-mining because you will profit from the mining process, which is a clear position. You then claim that the landowners and/or people of Bougainville will also benefit. That claim is based on the promise that the mistakes of the past, that created these so-called "terrorists and killers", will not be repeated. That is the point of argument, over whether the benefits a mine brings can now outweigh the costs. The experience of our international board, many from or representing mines-affected communities themselves, is that in practice they don't. That is an argument about equitable and just sustainable development.

You say we are "the only ones to take real profit of this [support for Clive]". I am interested to know how you think we profit?

Andy Whitmore

27.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Leader calls for action on roads

By JOYCE TOHUI

A LEADER in Bougainville, Leo Kehali, is calling on the ABG Government to fast-track the upgrading and maintenance work on the Buka town roads.

Mr Kehali explained that the Buka town roads were falling apart and in very bad stages creating huge potholes everywhere in town, affecting the daily activities of businesses operating in town and the people of Bougainville were having difficulty with the road's current situation.

"Many of us have been pointing fingers at the Buka urban council to fix the roads but having been the former town mayor; all the requests and submissions submitted by the town authority to the government seeking funds in the past years have fallen to deaf ears and there was no response to these submissions," said Mr Kehali.

He added that the upgrading and maintenance of roads needed a lot of money and the town authority should not be blamed for the roads bad condition as they did not have such money available to carry out the work and they had tried to get the government to fix the roads but this was not easy.

"Recently, I heard the ABG Minister for Works, Carolus Ketsimur saying that there were funds available to fix the roads and I am questioning why the work has not started yet and the roads have deteriorated making it difficult for vehicles that commute within the town," added Mr Kehali.

Mr Kehali said that he sympathised with businesses operating in Buka Town because they were the ones contributing to the economic recovery of Bougainville and yet the government had overlooked the need for upgrading the roads for a very long time and not even chipping in funds to help fix the roads.

"The back road in Buka Town was constructed by the Buka Enterprise with its own money some years back but now it is a government asset because the road is used by the public and the government must have money in the budget to maintain the roads," he said.

Mr Kehali added that Buka Town was built with the sweat of the people of Bougainville going into business to develop the town and the government was not doing enough to help the people in the development of this town.

However, he challenged the current government to take into account his concerns and act quickly to fix the roads that it will benefit the people.

27.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Use govt funds wisely: Officer

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE Census Coordinator, Joseph Jeraha highlighted the importance of using government funds appropriately when implementing the Government's projects.

Mr Jeraha made these remarks at the planning office conference room yesterday. He

said the budget the census team had already used in the census numeration in Bougainville did not exceed the vicinity of K2 million. He said though the National Government budgetted K66 million for the project, it was wise not to exhaust funds carelessly. He said when dealing with government funds, the implementers must always make sure they carry out the job in a manner which would not use up funds. Mr Jeraha said comparing to elections in Bougainville, Electoral Commission used more money and yet they did not do a full coverage of the population unlike the census. He said it was important when carrying out such Government exercises which involve a lot of money to always budget within a reasonable level.

27.07.2011

Source: The National

Arawa expects power to be restored

PNG Power expects to restore power to Arawa town in Bougainville by next week – after a long wait of more than 15 years.

The former capital of Bougainville had been without electricity after supply was disrupted during the crisis on the island.

Since the Bougainville conflict ended in the early 1990s, power to the town was never fully restored.

Many business houses and individuals relied on their own generators for their power supply.

While it was expensive to maintain, they had to live with it because there was no alternative source of power.

Now residents are excited and can barely contain their joy when PNG Power workers recently visited their streets to make preparations for the restoration of power.

The workmen also inspected homes to ensure they were safe before power was restored.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is also negotiating with a Chinese company for a hydro-power station to be built on the Lualaba River which is located to the south of the Aropa Airport.

The proposed project would be in addition to ones being undertaken by PNG Power and PNGSDP in the Tinputz and Wakunai areas.

27.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMEN MOVE

By Aloysius Laukai in Arawa.

The women of Central Bougainville are benefiting from a private initiative to establish a micro finance network in Arawa Central Bougainville.

The Bougainville Women's microfinance established in 2010 has up to 500 members already and according to the Manageress, STELLA TUNIM the membership is increasing.

STELLA TUNIM told New Dawn FM that the aim of establishing the scheme was to assist women who get monies from cocoa, copra and the sale of food and vegetable at the markets and do not have a place to save them for future use for school fees, medical expenses and their other daily needs.

She said that the registration or membership fees is K20 and K10 for the payment of passbook.

She says that since they started last year they have given small loans to members on a one to one basis.

MS TUNIM says that currently they are able to sustain their operation but would need some government support to expand their services.

New Dawn FM understands that the Community Development Office recently secured several millions of Kina from the World Bank for Bougainville women in similar situations as the women of Central Bougainville.



Pictured are Stella Tunim Manageress(Seated Centre) and Lucy Sipara(Accounts Officer (right) and Naomi Matevai Loans Admin Officer left)

27.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EIGHT APPOINTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Eight people have been appointed to two key decision making bodies within the Strongim Pipol Strongim Nesen Program.

The representatives come from a wide range of civil society and private sector roles. Some will join the existing national government representatives on SPSN's peak governance body, the Joint Governing Council (JGC), while others will be the first members of SPSN's newly established National Grants Committee (NGC).

The newly appointed civil society representatives for Joint Governing Council are former Coffee Industries Council CEO Mr Ricky Mitio ML from Eastern Highlands, Ms Rachael

Pokesy from Port Moresby, Mrs Cathy Rumints from Hagen and Mr Bonnie Keoka from Lae.

Members appointed to the National Grant Committee are Naomi Yupae from Eastern Highlands, Loa George Kevau from Port Moresby, Wasi Koni from Wewak, and Brian Paiferi from Bulolo.

SPSN Program Director, Peter Aitsi congratulated the appointees, saying their wealth of experience in development and governance is crucial to SPSN and PNG.

“These individuals come from diverse backgrounds and will provide SPSN a strong community based perspective to ensure the program continues to improve service delivery outcomes to bring about meaningful change to the lives of the rural majority.”

“The appointment of civil society representatives will complement the existing expertise provided to the program by its current national government members. Together this committee will ensure SPSN is well placed to bring together civil society, government and key stakeholders through offering resources and support, including grants, capacity building, networking opportunities and research,” said Mr Aitsi.

The members of the JGC will be led by National Planning and Monitoring Acting Secretary, Ruby Zarriga, as Chair, with other representatives including Mollie Willie, Deputy Secretary for Department for Community Development, Simon Kunai, Director for Local Level Government Division at the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs, and Kath Taplin, Acting Counsellor Governance, AusAID Port Moresby.

The Joint Governing Council plays a crucial role in strategically guiding SPSN towards its goal of encouraging government to connect with civil society and other development partners to meet PNG communities' needs. This includes ensuring the program is in line with PNG government's priorities such as improved health and education outcomes, as well as working as much as possible within PNG Government's own systems.

The National Grants Committee is the highest funding decision making body in the SPSN structure, and will ensure that grants and other forms of funding support are provided to credible organisations to deliver real results to communities living in all provinces around PNG.

The NGC's first task will be to select 35 organisations for grant funding from over 250 expressions of interest that were submitted this year for SPSN's medium and large grants program.

26.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG court reject application for injunction against mine waste disposal

Papua New Guinea's National Court has rejected an application for permanent injunction against the use of deep sea waste disposal by the 1.5 billion dollar Chinese-owned Ramu Nickel mine, near Madang town.

The application was brought by landowners who argued that the waste disposal method would damage the marine resources they rely on for their food and livelihood.

In his ruling, Justice David Cannings, acknowledged the risk of irreversible harm to marine resources but rejected the landowners application.

Justice Cannings took into account the fact that the project was at an advanced stage, and on the basis of its importance to PNG's national economy.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: PNG Correspondent, Liam Fox

Listen here !

FOX: During much of his lengthy ruling this morning he set out reasons why effectively in support of the landowners case he found that there was a "high likelihood the dumping would cause quote serious environmental harm". But the reasons did not grant a ban against deep-sea tailings disposal, was that deep-sea tailings disposals is not illegal, the mine's plan had been approved by the government and that effectively the landowners had waited too long to seek a permanent injunction. By the time they started getting together and going to court early last year, operations had commenced, that construction work had been underway, the mine was in fact ready to start laying its disposal pipe when the landowners went to court and won a temporary injunction against their plan. Justice Canning also said that the impact of banning the deep-sea tailings at this stage would adversely effect the mine and its workers, and also have a negative impact on investor confidence in PNG.

HILL: What about the environmental impact? Did the landowners provide evidence about what they said would be the impact on their livelihood from the sea?

FOX: They did, they had a number of scientists and Australian scientists come up from Australia to set out what they believe would be the damage caused by dumping waste into Astrolabe Bay, which is just off Madang, it's considered to be a near pristine marine environment, a biodiversity hotspot. And as Justice David Canning said in his ruling he recognised that there would be a high likelihood that the dumping is going to cause serious environmental harm, but this was outweighed by the factors I just mentioned.

HILL: Has there been a reaction yet from the company or the PNG government?

FOX: We're still waiting on a statement from Ramu NiCo, they're the operator of the majority Chinese-owned mine. A Brisbane based mining company Highlands Pacific is a minority shareholder in the mine, it owns a eight-point-five per cent stake in the mine. It's put out a statement to the Australian stock exchange welcoming the announcement, calling it the right decision, and its managing director has also urged the landowners not to appeal the decision. I'm just looking at the Australian stock exchange website now and it's actually been a good day for Highlands Pacific, their share price has gone up 13 per cent since the news of the court decision was handed down.

From Ramu NiCo Statement: As a result of today's decision, Ramu NiCo says it can now proceed with the commissioning in order to commence full operation in line with the company's intention that the Project meet best international practice standards in design and operation of its DSTP System.

It says that while the Company is pleased with the outcome and the finding that DSTP is lawful, Ramu NiCo will not be making further comment on the Court's decision until it has reviewed the whole 65 page judgement with its legal advisers.

26.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG landowners shocked by court decision on mine waste disposal

The Ramu landowners in PNG are shocked by Judge David Canning's decision after acknowledging the risk of irreversible harm to marine resources.

They say they are going to appeal against the court decision.

This is in the case of the National Court judge rejecting the application for permanent injunction against deep sea waste disposal by the Chinese-owned Ramu Nickel mine, near Madang town.

Their lawyer, Tiffany Nonggor spoke Pacific Beat shortly after the decision was handed down today.

Presenter: Caroline Tiriman

Speaker: Tiffany Nonggor, lawyer for the Ramu landowners in PNG

Listen here !

NONGGOR: Justice Cannings found that the landowners had made out their case, had proved their case for private nuisance and public nuisance, which means that they proved to the court that the environmental consequences of the dumping would be catastrophic, causing irreparable damage to the ecology of the bay, and in the Judge's words seriously harming the lives and future of the plaintiffs and thousands of other coastal people in Madang province. But the judge although he found that they made out their case he said that that doesn't necessarily mean that you should get an injunction. So he looked at factors which determined whether an injunction should be given, and he said that three factors are way in favour of an injunction being given, one that the plaintiffs, the landowners had a genuine interest, two, that they'd actually proven that there was going to be irreparable damage, and three, that it was quite clearly contrary to the national goals and directive principles this dumping. But he said there were three factors weighing against an injunction and one was the delay, that this dumping had been permitted sort of ten years and the mine had been built in reliance on the permits. Secondly he said that the dumping was lawful because they had a permit and thirdly, he said the economic consequences of the injunction, by forcing the mining company to use another method of tailings disposal would cost the company a lot of money and would also cause a great delay in the project, which may affect the economies nationally of PNG and also Madang province. And he also said that the injunction might affect negatively investor confidence. So he said that even though there were three factors both ways, reasons why an injunction should be granted and reasons why an injunction shouldn't be granted, he said it was a borderline case and that it was his decision that an injunction shouldn't be granted because of the cost and the delay. So although finding that the plaintiffs had proved their case, found that he wouldn't however give them the injunction they wanted. He did however make an order that the company and the government have to keep the plaintiffs informed at least every three months for the whole life of the mine as to what's happening with the tailings and the waste and the reports etc., and the monitoring, and he also held that the parties have to bear their own costs. So the reasons he put forward was basically costs to the company and economic consequences for the country. One has to ask well what does that mean economic consequences for the people whose livelihoods and lives are going to be affected on the Madang coast now that it's been proven in court that there will be damage to the people greater than what was predicted by the company. How do you quantify that?

TIRIMAN: Tiffany Nonggor and what did he have to say about the scientific evidence he heard on the expected environmental impact of this waste disposal?

NONGGOR: He said that the plaintiffs had put together, the landowners had a considerable body of evidence from expert scientists that there would be damage. The fact of the matter is, is that the plaintiffs proved their case on scientific basis with experts that there was going to be considerable environmental consequences, and the judge used the word, catastrophic, that's also going to damage the lives of people. I mean the plaintiffs proved that the damage to the environment is going to be catastrophic, and that was on the scientific evidence. But then the judge had decided he would weight it up

against the cost of the company and economic to the country. I guess there's a belief that some people's livelihoods can be sacrificed for the greater good.

TIRIMAN: Where does this leave the landowners and what reaction are you seeing from them or you saw from them outside the court?

NONGGOR: They're my clients and they're a little bit in shock because the judgement was read out over three hours and for the first two hours it was clear very much that they had succeeded in their claim, and even for like the first two-and-a-half hours it was clear that the landowners had succeeded in their case, that they've actually proved their interest, they proved the scientific case that it was going to be damaged. So they were quite shocked with the outcome that the court is allowing the damage to occur, which is greater than was predicted. I mean the judge actually highlighted that it appears that the director of environment has approved a very risky project to the detriment of these people. But the question is, he said the landowners have delayed bringing it to court, but it's very difficult with regards to landowners knowing the consequences of things and it's not really until mines get built do they realise that something is actually going on. Whereas the planning for these mines etc., goes on years beforehand. What are they going to do? They're considering appealing the part of the judgement that refused the injunction.

TIRIMAN: Have you seen any reaction yet from the company or the Papua New Guinea government?

NONGGOR: No not yet, we've just got out of court.

TIRIMAN: Tiffany Nonggor just like other big mining companies which have projects on the drawing board in PNG that are planning to use deep-sea disposal, I wonder what this decision means for them?

NONGGOR: Well the judge did say that one of the major factors in not allowing the injunction was the delay, and he said that had this court application been made earlier the result may very well have been different, because it's only that the company has expended a lot of money and completed the mine and apparently three-billion kina they've spent building the mine. Now if other mining companies have this tailings method of disposal on the drawing board, it points to the fact that look it's likely that this sort of dumping will cause a lot of damage, and if the landowners complain early enough to the courts or complain properly then they can stop it. So this decision would be saying to those mining companies that have tailings dumpings into the sea on the drawing board as part of their mine, that perhaps they shouldn't do that because there's quite clearly valid and successful legal challenges open.

26.07.2011
Source: ESBC

ESBC's reply to the today's abstruse statement of
minesandcommunities.org

Ref.:

@bocandorra - I'm writing as Managing Editor of Mines & Communities to point out that we have not funded Clive, or any person/group re Bougainville. Our

website supports mine-affected communities, and allows them space to publish their views (given the industry has plenty of money to publicize theirs). We have a small budget, a board of international editors, and take our lead and positions from affected communities. We do not seek to influence them, and do not finance them. Andy Whitmore

Andy,

thanks for your explanations

Excuse me but I cannot to believe what you wrote!

In fact: it is hard to believe that somebody like Clive Porabou is able to travel 30 hours from Honiara (Solomons) to London without any support from abroad.

An economy class ticket from the Solomons costs minimum EUR 4,800 - mostly even much more .

See here: <http://www.skyscanner.de/flights/hir/lhr/110809/110816/airfares-from-honiara-to-london-heathrow-in-august-2011.html>

Somebody who hasn't even got the money to visit his family in nearby Bougainville regularly: How is he able to afford spending this amount for a simple appearance on the Rio Tinto AGM? Who provided entrance to him. Is Clive Porabou perhaps a Rio Tinto shareholder? Who provides such expensive technical equipment to him as there are video cam and a powerful computer for editing videos? Who pays the internet access overthere? If it was not you or your friends – who else?

I guess it was you because you are the only ones to take real profit of this!

Sorry, Andy, but your statement is as poor as the reaction of your group to my repeated offers to have an open discusson with you and your friends: you even did not reply!

Yes, Andy, we are pro-mining! But we also stand for environmental caring mining and the honest participation of the indigneous people on the ground – in work and money.

People like Porabou promote highly poisonous alluvial small scale mining on the ground. He does not even mention these high risks. Furthermore: He “lovingly” calls killers and terrorists on the ground “freedom fighters”. Yes, Andy, this is the sad truth believe it or not! And you and your friends you are supporting these outlaws! So DO NOT pretend to be the saviours of a better and ecologic world! Simply tell the people that you are a left-wing group of people who are based on jealousy and hatred. The indigneous people on the ground are only a compliant tool for you – nothing else!

The ESBC works hard to bring progress to the ground in Bougainville. We try to help the people to become independent from foreign aid and to strengthen their self-confidence. The people of Bougainville deserve better friends than you.

You should finally think of abandoning to support non-democratic groups like Me'ekamui or do you want to keep them in the Stone Age? The today's situation on Bougainville is easy to describe: Young well-educated Bougainvilleans do not

return to the island as they do not see any future for them and their families. Is it that what you want?

I believe, once again, I will not receive any reply to this email.

Regards,

Axel G. Sturm
Escaldes-Engordany, 26.07.2011

26.07.2011
Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Not Enough Information
By MARIA LAUKAI

Mr. Micheal Meuko, a chief from Buin says, majority in Bougainville does not know, what is happening in the region.

Not enough information is reaching the people, especially the rural intuitions and the community at large.

Mr. Meuko believes that, lack of information on development and the status of the Autonomous Bougainville government is the major contribution fact of the fighting in the areas of south Bougainville.

He said, the national radio station, RADIO BOUGAINVILLE could not be heard throughout the region.

In addition, the private run radio station NEW DAWN FM serves the only Buka Island.

Mr Meuko said, early this year, the member for south Bougainville HON STEVEN PIRIKA paid Telekom PNG K7000, 000 kina to increase their service to south Bougainville.

Nevertheless, nothing has eventuated.

Mr. Meuko said, Communication is very important, to disputes the right information from right people, because second hand information is very dangerous in a post conflict situation.

26.07.2011
Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GOOD NEWS FOR BOUGAINVILLE WOMEN
BY MARIA LAUKAI

Bougainville women were recognized by the Bougainville business community in Buka this week.

According to a woman, who wants to remain anonymous, Bougainville business Association must know where, Bougainville women married to expatriates stand in their shares in the their husband's business.

This is according to the Bougainville commerce and trade policy under the theme "NO STAND ALONE BUSINESS BY EXPARTIATES"

She added that not only expatriate businessman should be checked.

Even the business houses owned by people from other Provinces of PNG need to be checked to find out, how much is owned by the woman and not the husband alone.

26.07.2011

Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA BSP NEEDS CASH

By MLAUKAI

Bougainville's only bank Bank South Pacific based in Buka is constantly running out of cash because not enough business houses and individuals are depositing money back into the bank, says Bougainville provincial census coordinator JOSEPH JERAHA.

Mr. JERAHA said this is the reason why the Bougainville census office is unable to pay its census officers on time.

He said his office has had to wait for more than a week for big business houses like JOMIK trading to make deposits before they can withdraw amounts up to K150,000 which BSP could not earlier withdraw due to shortage of cash.

Mr. JERAHA is urging the people of Bougainville to use the banks to deposit their cash so that there is enough cash being circulated within the island region.

He said the more people depositing cash into the bank, the more cash will be available for the bank to allow large amounts of withdrawal for clients needing urgent cash.

26.07.2011

Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ANOTHER JAILED

By Aloysius Laukai in Arawa

The National Court sitting in Arawa yesterday jailed David Opimate aged 60 of Ruesita village Wakunai to six years for sexually penetrating a girl under the age of 15.

MR. OPIMATE pleaded guilty to the charge and was jailed by Judge John Kawi yesterday in Arawa.

The court ordered that his K300 bail be refunded and also the time he spend in custody be taken off the six years.

In sentencing MR. OPIMATE, justice John Kawi said that although there was an agreement between the two to have sex their age difference was also one factor operating against him.

He said that the law under criminal code "Sexual offences and crimes against children act 2002 was broken when he had sex with the girl under the age of 15.

He said that at that time of the incident, MR. OPIMATE was also a chief who the villagers well respected.

And his actions were not good examples of a chief.

He will serve his sentence at the Bekut jail on Buka island.

26.07.2011

Source: The National

More info needed on Bougainville agreement

by SAMUEL RAITANO

THE rural population in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have raised the need for more information on the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

The Selau constituency in North Bougainville is one of the areas that needed that information, Terry Mose, ABG Member for Selau, said.

He said people in his constituency were eager to know more about the peace agreement and the processes taking place.

Mose said the information packages distributed by the National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) was received well by the people but there was a need for further explanations to the level of rural people's understanding.

"People must know and understand the Bougainville Peace Agreement," Mose said.

NCOBA acting communications manager Terrence Mose said the office was doing its best to inform the community on the issues.

The need for simpler information is to enable rural people to understand the pillars of the agreement, the referendum set for 2015 and the weapons disposal plan.

Terrence Mose said posters, pamphlets, and T-Shirts would be disseminated to the region and to have the people in an informed position by 2015 for the referendum.

NCOBA director Ellison Towallom had been spearheading delegations to the ARB and had done on the ground observation on the welfare of the people there.

26.07.2011

Source: The National

Counting smooth in Bougainville

NATIONAL Census director Hajily Kele said the conduct of the 2011 national population and housing census has shown a shift in the mindset of Bougainvilleans towards development as they embrace autonomy.

"One clear demonstration of that is the accessibility to parts of the island which had been 'no-go zones' as a result of the conflict," she said.

She said during the enumeration, interviewers and supervisors were allowed into Panguna, Arawa and Kieta and a number of other areas, also considered to be trouble spots, to conduct the census without hindrance and question.

"Until then, they were banned to outsiders, including the 2000 census where workers were denied access," she said.

"This is a marked turn-around, where suspicion and rejection would normally await national government workers in all no-go parts of Bougainville."

Kele said in this case, census workers were given clear passage into all local level governments to conduct the census where all the people were said to be supportive and cooperative.

Kele, who flew to Bougainville last week to assess census operations, attributed the success to two reasons after meeting with officials on the ground.

"One is the realisations by all Bougainvilleans of the significance of the census day in the overall planning for an autonomous Bougainville and the other is the wider publicity initiatives carried out on the ground by provincial census coordinator Joseph Jeraha," she said.

Kele said Bougainville was now mopping up, confirming and re-confirming that all households in the LLGs had been accounted for in this census.

26.07.2011

Source: The National

State happy with tailings disposal option

ENVIRONMENT and Conservation Minister Benny Allan has spoken favourably about the disposal of mining tailings onto the ocean floor.

He told the PNG mining and petroleum environment seminar last Tuesday in Port Moresby that this was an alternative to land-based tailings storage.

The tailings passed down a deep sea pipeline that discharged well below the maximum depth of the marine mixing zone, generally about 100m deep, the conference was told. "Water below this depth generally remains effectively cut off from the upper waters by the strong temperature and salinity gradients that extend down through the first 100m or so of the water column," he said.

Allan said any discharge below the maximum depth of the mixing zone would generally be trapped there by the layers of water above it.

"This method of tailings disposal, referred to as deep sea tailings placement (DSTP) offers an alternative option for mines located in coastal and near-coastal regions," he said.

The Environment and Conservation Department, working with the Minerals Resource Authority, commissioned the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences to conduct comprehensive oceanographic surveys of three DSTP locations in PNG between 2007 and 2009. These studies assessed the environmental risks and impacts that this method of tailings disposal posed.

Allan told the seminar that as a result of these studies, the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences had prepared a comprehensive set of environmental guidelines for DSTP in PNG, including the recently completed Ramu NiCo nickel/cobalt mine in Madang.

"I would point out that in keeping with the precautionary principle in dealing with environmental risk, my department applies a substantial safety margin to the depth of all operational DSTP outfalls in PNG.

"These are located at depths of between 130m and 150m, well below the mixing zone."

He said in the case of the Ramu NiCo, the DSTP outfall discharged at a depth of 150m in the Basamuk canyon.

"From there, the tailings continue to flow down the slope of the canyon to its final resting place at approximately 250m deep in the Vitiaz Basin.

"At this depth movement of the tailings into the upper mixed water is considered most unlikely and the tailings will be confined to this area as they slowly decompose over the coming decades," Allan said.

He said the disposal of tailings, on land or sea, presented challenging problems in PNG where characteristically high rainfall and geologically active surface formations posed particularly high risks for land-based tailings storage.

"The high toxicity of many tailings materials can potentially last for many years and, thus, any land-based storage facility has to remain secure from flooding, over topping from long periods of continuous high rainfall, and from earthquakes and other plate tectonic movement for this length of time. In a high rainfall and geologically active area these risks are heightened and will require the ongoing monitoring and rigorous management long after the mine has closed and the mining company has gone.

26.07.2011

Source: NZ Herald

New Job in Bougainville:

Asset Manager Adviser

25.07.2011

Source: Börsen *explorer*

Am Kupfermarkt kreist der Hammer

von Thomas Rausch

Liebe Anlegerin, lieber Anleger,

nicht nur der Goldmarkt erlebt gerade im Moment eine ungeheure Umwälzung. Und damit meine ich nicht allein den immer weiter steigende Goldpreis, sondern eminent wichtige strukturelle Veränderungen, über die ich meine Premium-Leser in dieser Woche ausführlich informieren werde.

Auch bei Kupfer, dem wichtigsten Industriemetall der Welt, ist der Markt gerade in diesem Jahr enorm in Bewegung gekommen. Hier tut sich mehr, als in jedem anderen Rohstoffsegment.

Die Übernahmewelle rollt mit Macht über den gesamten Sektor. Die Großen fressen die Kleinen, denn die großen Minengesellschaften haben Probleme bei der zügigen Ausweitung ihrer Produktion.

Der Kupferabbau und die Erschließung neuer Kupferressourcen sind teuer. In den akuten Krisenjahren 2008 bis 2009, als der Kupferpreis am Boden lag, haben es die Big Player versäumt, in die Ausweitung ihrer Ressourcen zu investieren. Das lag einerseits an den hohen Finanzierungskosten, die während der Kreditklemme nicht leicht zu schultern waren. Das lag aber auch an einer globalen Panikstimmung. Wer hätte gedacht, dass sich die Weltkonjunktur so schnell wieder erholen würde?

Die Konjunktur vor allem in Asien, dem größten Kupferverbraucher der Welt, brummt. Die Kupferproduktion kann mit der steigenden Nachfrage kaum Schritt halten. Rio Tinto erwartet eine Zunahme der Nachfrage für dieses Jahr um 4,5 %. Die Minenproduktion wird aber weltweit nur um 3 % steigen können. Es entsteht ein Nachfrageüberhang. Barclays Capital glaubt, dass er sich gegenüber dem letzten Jahr auf 822.000 metrische Tonnen verdoppeln wird. Deshalb gehen die Rohstoffkonzerne auf Einkaufstour.

Schon im 2010 war eine Rekordjahr für Übernahmen im Kupferbereich. Nach Angaben von PricewaterhouseCoopers lag das Übernahme- und Fusionsvolumen im gesamten Rohstoffbereich weltweit bei US\$113 Milliarden. Davon entfielen allein 19 % auf den Kupfersektor. In keinen anderen Sektor drehte sich das Übernahme-Karussell schneller.

2011 könnte ein neues Rekordjahr sein!

Schauen wir uns Auszüge aus der aktuellen Einkaufsliste einmal an:

Im April 2011 schnappte Barrick Gold das Unternehmen Equinox Minerals den Chinesen Minmetals Resources für US\$7,1 Milliarden vor der Nase weg. Der Clou war, dass Equinox zuvor für US\$1,8 Milliarden Citadel Resources geschluckt hatte.

Der koreanische Elektronikkonzern LG hat seinen Anteil an Augusta Resources um US\$176 Mio. auf 20 % aufgestockt und sich die langfristige Lieferung von ca. einem Drittel der Kupferproduktion gesichert.

Im Mai haben die Japaner Sumitomo Cor. und Sumitomo Metal Mining zusammen 45 % von Quadra FNX Mining's Sierra Gorda-Mine in Chile für US\$1,2 Milliarden gekauft. Tamsek aus Singapur hat mit Inmet einen US\$510-Mio.-Deal unterzeichnet, um Inmet's Gold- und Kupferprojekt in Panama zu entwickeln.

Zuletzt hat Atlas Consolidated angekündigt, Carmen Copper für weitere US\$390 Mio. nun vollständig übernehmen zu wollen.

Wie gesagt, das ist nur ein Auszug aus der Liste. Die könnte im zweiten Halbjahr noch um einiges länger werden, denn China entdeckt gerade erst die Möglichkeiten dieses Übernahmespiels.

Im letzten Jahr haben chinesische Firmen nach Angaben von PricewaterhouseCoopers mit US\$12 Milliarden nur einen geringen Teil der weltweiten Übernahmen bestritten. Aber die Zeichen mehren sich, dass China jetzt erst so richtig in das große Übernahmespiel eintreten wird.

Fazit

Gold ist sehr spannend. Keine Frage. Aber die ganz große Übernahmewelle schwappt gerade im Kupferbereich!

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ATOI assured ABG

By JOYCE TOHUI

The National Member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI has assured the ABG President, Chief John Momis that he will push for the release of the K15 million restorations and development grant to ABG.

He made these remarks at the Buka airport conference room.

He said being a responsible National leader he will raise the issue during parliament session in August this year.

He said he will make sure Bougainville gets the K15 million as required in the Bougainville Peace Agreement and will fight hard for it before the end of parliament.

MR ATOI said the money is for the people of Bougainville and he does not see any reason National government is not releasing it.

However, he called on the ABG President, Chief John Momis to make sure advice the Bougainville National MPs on outstanding issues relating to Bougainville so they can be informed and make it known during parliament sessions.

MR ATOI said to raise issues during question time in parliament gives opportunity for the media to take heed of it which will put pressure on the National government to release the money.

MR ATOI said for these issues to take effect it is very important for the ABG government to work closely with the National MPs and with combined efforts they can tackle these issues for the betterment of Bougainville.

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Use funds wisely

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Bougainville Census Coordinator, JOSEPH JEREHA highlighted the importance of using government funds appropriately when implementing government projects.

He made these remarks at the Planning office conference room.

He said the budget the census team has already used in the census numeration in Bougainville does not exceed the vicinity of K2 million.

He added although the National government has budgeted K66 million for the project but it is wise not to exhaust government funds carelessly.

He said dealing with government funds the implementers must always make sure they carry out the job in a manner which will not use up funds.

MR JERAHA said comparing to elections in Bougainville, Electoral Commission used more money and yet they do not do a full coverage of the population like census do.

MR JEREHA added it is very important when carrying out such government exercise which involved a lot of money, always budget within a reasonable label.

However, he appealed to the Bougainville Electoral Commission that in order to use less funds they must plan well for future elections.

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEA calls former Bougainville public servants

By ML

THE Bougainville Public Employees Association and Bougainville Administration is collecting data on all Bougainville and non Bougainville employees who worked in the public sector on Bougainville between 1990 and 1994.

Bougainville PEA branch secretary Hubert Kimai said they are interested mainly in public servants who served in the Health, Education and Administration divisions in that period.

He said the collection of data is for the purpose of processing their hardship allowances.

Kimai said this exercise is as per the existing Memorandum of Understanding between Bougainville PEA and Bougainville Administration on the payout of retirement benefits to public service employees who served under the then North Solomon provincial administration.

He added that they have a master list of public servants who served in the region, however getting in contact with them was very difficult and appealed to those not yet contacted to contact the Bougainville administration Human Resource division.

Those needing to obtain more information can contact the Bougainville Administration human resource division officers Paddie Tolom and Tommy Samson on 973 9795/ 7 292 6962 / 7 206 0631.

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Selau locals want answers

By ML

THE people of Selau constituency in North Bougainville want answers from the National Government on the delay in sealing of the 20km Selau to Kunua road which would cost taxpayers K20 million.

Member for Selau Terry Mose said since the ground breaking of the project in April by Acting PM Sam Abal in Bougainville, there had not been any indication of work commencing soon after.

Mose said his people had been looking forward to having their travels made easier by the sealing of the 20 km road for years and did not understand the prolonged delay in commencement of the project.

He said his constituents want the national government to come up with clear information on how soon work will commence.

He added that for the sake of transparency, the Department of Works who is facilitating this project must inform the people of Bougainville on what contract company has been awarded the project.

Mr. Mose said Selau is the gateway to Bougainville and the road project is the start to eventually sealing the rest of the highway to Central and South Bougainville.

25.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sydney experts talk land owner rights with Melanesia officials

Tensions between mining companies and landowners has been a long running issue in the Pacific.

Governments routinely struggle to balance the economic benefits of mining with the concerns of local landowners.

Academics from the University of Technology in Sydney recently met with senior land officials from Melanesia to propose ways to balance the two.

They want governments to take a bigger role in mediating discussions between mining companies and locals, to make sure all voices are heard.

Presenter: Emma Younger

Speaker: Professor Spike Boydell, Sydney University of Technology's Asia-Pacific Centre for complex real property rights

Listen here !

25.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mining safety week ready for 2012

THE first National Mining Safety Week shall be celebrated in March and April 2012 across the entire mining industry in PNG.

It was announced at the National Mining Emergency Response Forum in Port Moresby last Wednesday that Barrick Porgera Joint Venture will be hosting this event.

The mining industry in PNG, under the auspices of the Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines, organised the First National Mining Emergency Response Challenge in Lae in March, which received excellent response and support from all stakeholders and was hailed a resounding success.

At the national Mining Safety Week, all mines would conduct various safety promotional activities at their respective sites during the Safety Week period which would lead up to staging of the Mining Emergency Response Challenge in Port Moresby as a concluding ceremony.

The concept was initiated to develop closer partnerships and interaction among the different industry players and to provide an avenue for participants to learn and exchange skills and ideas.

This would generate more interest and bigger participation next year. The main purpose of these celebrations is to educate and remind people of the importance of safety at their

work places.

Speaking at the Forum meeting, PNG's Chief Inspector of Mines, Mohan Singh thanked Barrick PJV for taking up the challenge and said he had confidence in them to make the 2012 event a grand success.

25.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt questioned over K20 million

By PETERSON TSERAHA

LEADERS in the northern tip of Bougainville have questioned the National Government on the progress in the administration procedures of tendering the K20 million road upgrade and sealing of the section of the Bougainville trunk road from Kokopau to Siara, since the ground breaking ceremony was conducted with a lot of food and with no sign of a millimetre of work at least being carried out.

The same applies to the Siara Korepovi road in which K1 million was allocated.

Former ABG vice president Joseph Watawi said: "It is a must because west coast people are the worse off when it comes to suffering."

Mr Watawi was speaking on behalf of the chiefs and ordinary citizens of the Selau Suir district.

He said his people and the general public of Bougainville do not deserve lip service.

"Bougainville in fact needs a lot of catching up in terms of infrastructure development compared to the rest of the country due to the devastation experienced during the Bougainville crisis," Mr Watawi said.

Mr Watawi, when issuing the challenge, said the National Government should put its money where its mouth is and not to use symbolic groundbreaking ceremonies as part of its 2012 political campaign gimmick as the 2012 next national election is just around the corner.

Mr Watawi further stated that the national leaders, who were present at the groundbreaking ceremony, should not be part of the No Action Talk Only alliance (NATO) but they should see themselves as true proactive agents of change or better described as the "AO" team, meaning action only.

"I only hope the national politics does not have anything to do with the delay.

"I also call on the ABG leadership to apply pressure on the National Government on these commitments in order for our people to realise and benefit from these undertakings at the earliest practicable opportunity," Mr Watawi said.

"The roads and other infrastructure improvement programme should be seen as a necessary tool, which underpins our desire for a speedy economic recovery in the region towards the full realisation of our self government arrangements leading towards the conduct of referendum for independence within the specified time frame in the Bougainville peace agreement."

25.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou peace mission

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE's peace mission into south Bougainville's Konnou troubled area is near completion and the task force is asking for co-operation, vice chairman David Sisito has appealed.

Vice chairman of the Bougainville Peace Mission into the Konnou troubled zone David

Sisito, who is also the Veterans Affairs Minister, said the Peace Mission task force has already entered the troubled area and once they are done with their mission, they will advise accordingly.

Minister Sisito appealed to all the commanders of Me'ekamui, Wisai liberation front, the police force and other factions to stay out of the troubled area and let the peace mission task force handle the issue. The peace mission task force, which comprises six executives, is headed by vice president Patrick Nisira.

Mr Sisito said they have been successful so far and once everything is completed, they will advise the chairman, who is also Bougainville's vice President Mr Nisira, to announce to the people of Bougainville the outcome of the mission and the meetings they had with the disputing parties.

25.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG faces setback

By Gorethy Kenneth

BOUGAINVILLE faces a major problem with its human resource, visiting National Planning officers from Port Moresby have advised.

And the newly established autonomous region, which is optimistic that they will gain independence in five years time, faces a setback in its referendum and independence if its leaders do not seriously deal with human resource and capacity building.

The visiting officers told the Post - Courier that it is a big worry for the National Government, especially when there is a lot of loopholes in many of the departments or divisions and the Government is doing very little to sort this out.

"We have a serious problem, for example, take the Planning office, the chief executive officer knows what he is doing but after him, there is a big gap, officers surrounding him do not know what they have to do," the officers said.

"This is a fact and the Autonomous Bougainville Government seriously needs to spend a lot of time concentrating on training its human resource.

"We've been here for a week and we see there is a major problem.

"Your executives know what to do but those surrounding them need to be trained to race with the present times.

"We at the national level can do what we can but the ABG, as the autonomous region, its administration or the divisions responsible, have to recommend to the appropriate departments in Waigani, for example, the National Planning, to tell us what they need to do so we can assist in every way possible.

"We cannot just come and say okay you need to do this, you need to do that. No. We have to get the papers from the ABG in order to act on them."

The officers, who left over the weekend, said that it is a big worry for the National Government because many divisions are way behind with their capacity building and they can only do very little depending on recommendation from the ABG, but advised that the National Government stands ready to help in any way possible.

25.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Arawa biodiesel plant not for sale'

THE biodiesel plant in Arawa belongs to the people of Bougainville and is not for sale. Spokesman for Bogenvil Resources Development Corporation (BRDC) Ltd, Ben Rasin, said this in response to rumours that the project is to be sold to interested buyers by

international investor Bougainville Investment Corporation.

Mr Rasin said the biodiesel plant was established by BRDC to transform raw copra into biodiesel fuel and is one of the impact projects for the Government and people of Bougainville.

He said it is a joint venture between BRDC which owns 75 per cent and former stakeholder Invincible Resources Corporations which owned 25 per cent at the time the plant was established from which Bougainville Investment Corporation took over.

He said the project is not a stand-alone business as such operations are not allowed in Bougainville by foreign investors.

"If Bougainville Investment Corporation has any plans to sell the plant, then it should do so in consultation with BRDC personnel on the ground and should not do it in isolation of BRDC," Mr Rasin said.

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ARAWA POWER

By Aloysius Laukai

PNG POWER linesmen have been very busy since last week wiring new lines to service the former Bougainville capital, Arawa with electricity.

Linesmen were seen in nearly all streets making sure that all lines are connected when they finally switch on the power this week.

Since the Bougainville conflict ended Power to Arawa town was never restored fully despite some parts of Arawa used private generators to power their buildings.

And many of the old cables were pulled down and sold as scrap to overseas scrap metal buyers.

According to one Arawa resident, PNG POWER people have inspected their houses and have recommended that all houses be fully inspected before power is restored to individual houses.



Pictured are Linesmen busy checking power pole at section 15.

25.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONE SHOT

By Aloysius Laukai

Another civilian man was shot and wounded in the Konnou area of Buin South Bougainville yesterday(Sunday)morning.

Buin Police Station Commander, SEGEART JOHN POPUI when confirming the incident told New Dawn FM from Buin that MR. PATEI was a civilian and was in his house when DAMIEN KOIKE's men approached him and shot him on the arm.

He is now recovering at the Buin Health Centre.

PSC JOHN POPUI said that despite efforts to establish dialogue with MR. KOIKE and his mob the group continue to walk around and attack unarmed villagers.

The incident happened at a small hamlet of the main TABAGO village east of the main Tabago Parish.

New Dawn FM understands that the former Ex-combatants have been trying to establish dialogue with MR. DAMIAN KOIKE but these disturbances continue to hamper their efforts.

24.07.2011

Source: different sources

New : Interesting Bougainville Maps online !

To find out: click on the maps !



23.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

THE LAST TO LEAVE

By Aloysius Laukai in Arawa

Scrap Metal people are dismantling just about anything that they can lay their hands on from the now abandoned Panguna Copper Mine.

An Overseas ship was loading Scrap Metals when Aloysius Laukai happened to pass through the Anewa Bay area yesterday afternoon.

And pictured is what is remaining from the three Fuel Tankers that once supplied fuel to the Loloho Power House.

Plans are already underway to power any mine operation in future using Hydro Power. The ABG is talking with a Chinese Company to look at the LALUAI RIVER just south of the Aropa Airport to built the Hydro Power.

Also PNG POWER is already working on the HYDRO POWER at RAMAZON RIVER in Tinputz whilst work on the PNG SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Funded TOGARAU HYDRO in the Wakunai has already.



23.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

IURUN BRIDGE



Pictured is one of the JICA Bridges and this is the IURUN Bridge outside Tinputz Station AL

22.07.2011

Source: ESBC Resarch

Report published on 03 Jan 2010 in YALE environment 360:

Threat of Mercury Poisoning Rises With Gold Mining Boom

by Shefa Siegel

With high gold prices fueling a global gold rush, millions of people in the developing world are turning to small-scale gold mining. In many countries, including Colombia, miners are putting themselves and those who live nearby at risk by using highly toxic mercury in the refining process.

[Please read the whole report here !](#)

22.07.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Hypocritical anti-mining campaign - next step!

Watch here how simple people defend their unauthorized environmental damaging activities on the ground of the Panguna mine. Their greediness for gold is much bigger than their respect for law and order or environment. After more than twenty years of absence of any revenues through well organized mining by Bougainville Copper Limited; they hardly have another choice to survive.

Good to know: The movie maker, Clive Porabou, is financed and remote controlled by the London based left-wing anti-mining network [mines and communities](#).

Please listen here what stated independent journalist Brian Thomson on June 28th, 2011 in an interview with ABC Pacific Beat's presenter Cameron Wilson: <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/pacbeat/stories/m2003986.asx>

It's simply the opposite of what Porabou wants his audience to believe.

Verlogene Anti-Mining Kampagne - die Nächste!

Sehen Sie hier wie einfache Menschen ihre unautorisierten, Umwelt schädigenden Aktivitäten auf dem Gelände der Panguna Mine verteidigen. Ihre Gier nach Gold ist viel größer als ihr Respekt vor Recht und Ordnung oder etwa der Umwelt! Nach mehr als zwanzigjährigem Ausbleiben von jeglichen Einkünften aus gut organisiertem Förderbetrieb durch die Bougainville Copper Limited, bleibt ihnen kaum eine andere Wahl, um zu überleben.

Gut zu wissen, dass der Filmemacher Clive Porabou von der in London beheimateten linksorientierten Gruppe [mines and communities](#) finanziert und ferngesteuert wird.

Am 28. June 2011 gab der unabhängige Journalist Brian Thomson dem Hörfunksender ABC Pacific Beat ein aufschlußreiches Interview. Hören Sie hier, was er dem Moderator Cameron Wilson zu berichten wusste: <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/pacbeat/stories/m2003986.asx> .

Es ist genau das Gegenteil von dem, was Porabou sein Publikum glauben machen möchte.

22.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NET EXPANDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Court circuit now in Bougainville has widened its net on contempt of court charges to the staff of the National court now to include the EMS Manager for Boroko and two Probation officers in Buka.

Under the latest Court Orders, the EMS Manager for Boroko and the Acting Director for the National Court Recording Service, NANADAI GWAIBO have to appear before Justice John Kawi at the Buka National Court sitting next Friday.

When the National Court opened in Buka this morning, the public prosecutor, RANGAN LUKARA wanted the contempt of court made to the Director for Courts Recording Service, PAVORA MARUPI changed to the Acting Director of Courts Recording Services, NANADAI as the Director was on leave.

Justice JOHN KAWI told the court that he was not happy to get a memo from NANADAI GWAIBO stating that the National Court sitting was supposed to be held in Buka only and not in Tinputz and Arawa.

Justice John Kawi said that in 2009 it was Gazetted that Buin, Torokina, Tinputz Buka and Nissan were gazetted as places where the National Court can sit when in Bougainville.

He said that it was not proper for the Acting Director of Recording Service to make such comments to the Judge of the National and Supreme Court.

Orders for the two Probation officers in Buka is that they travel to Arawa on Saturday and prepare for the Courts on Monday.

The National Court in Arawa adjourned and will continue on Monday.

22.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville Planning board sworn-in

By JOYCE TOHUI

Bougainville's Lands Division chief executive officer Andrew Dowaro said he is pleased to see the newly-elected members of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board sworn in. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony at Hutjena recently, Mr Dowaro said this was a step forward for the lands division since he took office in 2007.

He said the Lands Division has plans to set up the Physical Planning Board and the plan has materialised.

He said for the board to grow and deliver, it must be fed with good resources so that it can carry out its work effectively and efficiently.

Mr Dowaro acknowledged and thanked those who contributed to the setting up of the board, especially the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning. He said the board would work with other stakeholders to get things moving.

22.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Vets clean up Buka

BUKA Mayor Kaut Kavop has thanked a team of veterinarians who have cleaned up Buka of stray dogs last week.

Speaking at a dinner to farewell the vets, Mr Kavop said that after the Bougainville crisis, there were suggestions to set up an RSPCA office in Bougainville because there were a lot of stray dogs within the town boundaries.

He thanked the vets for their voluntary service to Bougainville, saying it was an eye-opener.

He assured them that with the support from the Buka urban council and the Buka General Hospital, they can work together to map out this service in Bougainville.

Mr Kavop said that the presence of the vets in Bougainville is the beginning of a much bigger network in this service as they have just revived RSPCA in Bougainville.

But he said that the knowledge that they have left behind will be used and what the vets have started will be a way forward for the Buka urban council.

22.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mining Act, Mining Safety Act under review

THE Mining Act and Mining Safety Act are currently undergoing review, but not without the input of civil society, landowners, churches and others.

Speaking at the PNG Mining and Petroleum Environment Seminar on Tuesday, Secretary for the Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management (DMPGM), Nellie James said the department received comments from a wide range of stakeholders including, politicians, landowners, churches, civil society, the mining industry, the petroleum industry and from within government departments.

She said the concerns received from different stakeholders were issues to do with offshore mining, geothermal energy, mine closure and the policy and regulatory framework that dealt with financial provision for mine closure and rehabilitation and others.

"In the course of consultation, we invited comments from different stakeholders. So that the department was aware of which people and stakeholders were concerned about mining or wanted to be involved in the review process," Ms James said.

Secretary James said some of the comments from civil society and landowners included compensation for environment impact for mining activities to be addressed by policy and legislation. Civil society and landowners also made comments for environmental damages to be fair, just and equitable to the impacted community and for effective disaster management plans be a precondition under the mineral policy.

The department is finalising the review exercise that involves the Mining Act 1992, Mining Safety Act 1997 and the Offshore Mineral Policy and Mine Waste Management Policy Framework.

22.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Pest awareness needed'

COCOA farmers must be educated well about the Cocoa Pod Borer pest (CPB), but most smallholder cocoa growers are still not aware of the seriousness of the damages caused by the CPB.

Agriculture and Livestock Minister Philip Kikala, said that cocoa farmers need to be made aware of the pest in terms of its life cycle, the damages it can cause to cocoa beans, how it spreads and the measures they can take to deal with it.

"The approach to manage CPB infestation is basically the adoption of good farming practices, including but not limited to the adoption and utilisation of the technology that are currently available," Mr Kikala said.

There are currently eight cocoa producing areas which have the pest CPB. These are Kerevat in East New Britain Province, Poro settlement of Aitape in Sandaun Province, Boroi and Karkar Island in Madang, Maprik and Dreikir in East Sepik Province, Hoskins in West New Britain Province, Namatanai in New Ireland Province and Baluan Island in Manus Province.

"There is a need to address the CPB in a more concerted way and ensure that CPB infestation is reduced to less than 10 per cent of production," Minister Kikala said.

He said in 2010, the Cocoa Board received funding of K5 million from the national

government to coordinate and facilitate the management of the CPB in East New Britain, Bougainville, New Ireland and West New Britain provinces, although some portion of the funds were provided to the Madang Province for outstanding claims in relation to previous CPB work in the Bogia district.

"I have been informed by the PNG Cocoa Coconut Institute Limited during my briefing with heads of commodity agencies a few weeks ago that the agency has developed CPB tolerate hybrid cocoa clones," Mr Kikala said.

22.07.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville extends census

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

COUNTING in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is expected to end next week, says Bougainville provincial census coordinator Joseph Jeraha.

"Overall, we have done well, with 97% of our work completed," he said.

"Statistically, we had 13 districts to cover "And counting at Bana, Siwai, Wisai and Nissan were completed yesterday.

"Cooperation from the public has been very good and I would like to especially thank the people of Bana and Siwai for an incident-free counting."

He said officers involved in counting at Torokina have now progressed into "quality checks" on the data collected.

Jeraha said his officers were now in the process of collecting data from Panguna, Arawa, Kieta and the atolls districts.

They left Buka town yesterday and he expects counting to be completed next week.

He also appealed to members of the community who missed out on being counted to go to their nearest census officers so that they are included in the data collection.

"It is not too late to be counted. Our aim is to make sure everyone is counted. If you have missed out due to various reasons, please let our officers know so they can count you in," said Jeraha.

Jeraha said ensuring everyone in Bougainville was counted was very important not only for the national government but also for the Autonomous Bougainville Government as it prepared its people for the upcoming vote for referendum of independence or autonomy in 2015.

"The data we collate will go a long way in assisting the Bougainville government properly plan and implement its projects in boosting the economy of this region," said Jeraha.

He thanked more than 1000 interviewers and supervisors in Bougainville for their patience and cooperation despite having to deal with issues like difficulty in transporting officers to location on time due to the bad weather and delay in the payment of officials.

22.07.2011

Source: The National

National Court to conduct trials in Tinputz

By Aloysius Laukai

THE people of Tinputz in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, charged with serious crimes, will no longer be required to travel long distances to face the National Court.

The National Court will in future conduct hearings in Tinputz, Justice John Kawi said on Wednesday.

Kawi, who is conducting the first National Court hearing at Tinputz this week, said this was the start of an arrangement to have National Court cases heard in Tinputz.

Kawi said Tinputz and Arawa would now be included in the National Court's calendar. He said cases would be heard in the two centres and in Buka. Kawi told a small crowd during a welcome ceremony that judges would spend a week in each of the centres. After Tinputz, Kawi and his team will move to Arawa next week. He said Buin would be included in the programme once the situation there "is contained". Tinputz council of elders chairman Peter Reviri said he was pleased the Justice Department had recognised the need to hear National Court cases at Tinputz. Reviri said he first raised the matter with Justice Sao Gabi and was happy that his request had been answered. The National Court sitting in Tinputz is the first for a rural district.

21.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Telecom blackout in Buka

BOUGAINVILLEANS and business entities have been hard hit all through last week and this week because of poor banking, communications and postal services.

Bougainville's only Bank South Pacific, the local Nationwide Microbank and Post PNG and Telikom services, have had very bad and technical problems affecting their banking and operating systems.

Thousands of Bougainvilleans, specifically those travelling from outside Buka town, have been badly affected because of banking problems, Telikom problems and postal services problems since last week.

A businessman from Arawa told the Post-Courier yesterday that he sympathised with these institutions but advised they had to sort out their problems if they wanted to provide all services to the 200,000 population of Bougainville.

"Especially the bank, I am a businessman and I do corporate banking but what about those who use the normal system of banking? ATM, and all those, you see, nowadays its money talks and some of these people who use the ATM for a small amount of fee, they cannot go and do shopping at supermarkets or outlets that have EFTPOS – those shops have also run out of cash," he said.

"I sympathise with my fellow Bougainvilleans and that is not to say I am not affected. At least I run a shop where I have money every day to use on my operations, I do need the bank, Post Office and other services that use communication tools too, like Telikom.

These issues must be rectified and cannot be ignored.

"Also I hear from BSP that they are affected because of poor services from the Air Niugini airline service bringing in spare parts or other goods to use – their services are also devastating to us ordinary people of Bougainville."

21.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Awareness on weapons disposal

NATIONAL Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs is educating the high and secondary school students in Port Moresby on weapon disposal through their information packages.

The NCOBA started delivering the information packages through its monthly news magazines and "Brukim Gan" booklet which is in Tok Pisin last week.

The booklet contains information on the weapons disposal which is the third pillar of the

Bougainville Peace Agreement.

The Acting Communications manager, Terence Mose led the team last week to all high and secondary schools and handed out the information packages.

The approach they took was to get the message on weapons disposal to young people in the country so that they can understand the current political situation of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

This is also for those Bougainvillians living outside Bougainville to have clear picture of what is happening on the island and what is needed to be done for the people on the ground.

21.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

New Act used

BOUGAINVILLE Police Service officers that deal with children's cases are now fully equipped to use the Lukautim Pikinini Act as a tool in their everyday investigations and handling of police cases, this was revealed at the closing of one-week Lukautim Pikinini Act awareness workshop at Hutjena recently.

The workshop was funded by the UNICEF Bougainville office and facilitated by the Division of Community Development.

CEO Mana Kakaroutz told the graduates that her division has organised many such workshops since the new act was passed.

21.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Islanders from Carterets wait

By GORETHY KENNETH

CARTERETS Islanders, Bougainville's forgotten and sinking paradise dwellers, want an update from the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government on their resettlement program.

The islanders, who are happy to have their fresh fish and other seafood every day with whatever starchy and energy food they can find in their low-lying islands of Piul, Han and Iangain, are claiming the rise in sea level is now badly affecting their lifestyle.

But despite the setback, several other islanders from that area are saying they have been forgotten by the authorities, specifically their resettlement to Buka Island.

"That's why we are continuing with our daily chores, enjoying our fishing, seafood, breadfruit and despite the food shortage and children not attending classes, life still must go on for us," the leaders who are in Buka this week told the Post-Courier.

"We will move under the resettlement program whenever the governments are ready, in the meantime, we can only spend our days doing what we enjoy daily and that is fishing and children playing, having only two meals a day or for some, one meal a day while others feed on coconuts and sea weed all day."

Yesterday, the ABG advised the Post-Courier the preparation for the resettlement program was nearing completion and that the hiccup was a legal issue with the land at Karoola, northern tip of Buka Island where the bulk of the population will be settled.

ABG also advised the Tinputz area under the Catholic Church arrangement is also ready for more families to move in.

The National Government allocated K2 million five years ago for the resettlement program.

ABG advised funds have been used for scoping, meetings and other related resettlement

programs.

Some of the funds have also been diverted and should be released once the full program takes effect.

21.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP Atoi returns to Buka

By Fabian Gatana

Member for North Bougainville Lautu Atoi made his inaugural "return" to Bougainville yesterday after being officially sworn in.

He apologised to the people of Bougainville for his delay in getting back to the region.

He said that because of his limited time in office, he wished to work closely with the ABG president, the ABG members and the Council of Elders (COE) chairmen to plan and prioritise impact projects and how money would be spent in the region before the next parliamentary sitting on August 2.

He said that education for Bougainville will be his main priority for his time in office as he believes that education for Bougainvilleans is important for the region's prosperity.

His other priorities are setting up a disaster and emergency service, food security for the atolls and the purchase of a sea vessel to service the atolls and the island region.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Member wants explanations

By JOYCE TOHUI

The ABG Member for SELAU constituency, TERRY MOSE wants explanations as to why there is delay to the KOKOPAU-ARAWA road sealing project.

He told New Dawn FM this afternoon that he wants the National MPs and the Works Department to inform the people of Bougainville on the progress and not to leave them in suspense.

He said the project was launched in public witnessed by the people and they must know why it has not started yet.

MR MOSE said the people of Bougainville are beneficiaries of the project and are left in darkness not even knowing who the contractor is.

He added the delay to the project has raised a lot of critics among Bougainvilleans and he understands their frustrations as this has been ongoing practices to projects allocated in Bougainville.

Meanwhile, similar sentiments were raised by a Bougainvillean businessman, HENRY ONSA about the similar issue.

MR ONSA said he wants answers to this and wants to know where the K20 million allocated purposely for the project is.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Director happy

By JOYCE TOHUI

The National Statistical Office Census Director, HAJILY KELE said that she was happy with the progress of the census numeration in Bougainville. She told the media in a press conference in BUKA this morning. She said being the Census Coordinator in the 2000 census in Bougainville; things have changed dramatically which she believed Bougainvilleans are now aware of the importance to be counted in the National census. She added compared to the 2000 census they were not able to cover all the areas in Bougainville due to hiccups but this year census teams are able to do that which is a way forward. MS KELE said the census numeration is a very important project for the National government which will help the government to plan for every citizen of PNG and the big task is the possibility to count everyone. MS KELE is in the region as part of the management monitoring to see how work is being carried out by the census team in Bougainville. However, she is appealing to the people of Bougainville to make sure that they are counted and not being left out.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ONSA ON PREDICTED DROUGHT BY MARIA LAUKAI

Bougainville is not doing enough to prepare for the predicted drought in 2012, says a businessman in Bougainville, Mr. Henry Onsa. He is blaming the disaster office and the government for not carrying enough awareness to make people aware and be prepared for the disaster. Mr. Onsa said, Bougainville is not doing enough, compared to other provinces in png who are already preparing water and money for food shortage. He has accused authorities in the region to be asleep and not worried about the upcoming disaster. Mr. Onsa said the people of the region are very concerned and wondering what the government's preparation plans are as food and water shortage will become a very serious problem during the dry weather. Meanwhile, North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi has reassured that food security is still a priority and he has six months to work with local leaders in find a lasting solution to the food security issue. Speaking to New Dawn FM yesterday, Mr. Atoi said he has K3.5 million in which allocation of funds to addressing food security would be included. Attempts to contact the disaster office was unsuccessful

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Village Court officers undergo training By ML

Thirteen village courts officers from around Bougainville today graduated from a three day skills training workshop facilitated by the Division of Local Level Government at Hutjena. LLG Chief Executive Officer HUBERT KIMAI said the training is the first phase of a major project the LLG division in partnership with the Bougainville Law and Justice sector is

working on restructuring the current court system practiced in the region at the village level.

He said training has equipped the court officers to conduct proper review of the existing court system and to compile proper reports based on their findings.

Following the training, the officers will return to their villages and are expected to conduct wider consultation with their local communities so as to ensure a proper review of the existing court system.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NOT TOO LATE TO BE COUNTED BY ML

Bougainville Provincial Census Coordinator Joseph Jeraha has appealed to members of the community who missed out on being counted to approach their nearest census officers to ensure they are included in the data collection.

He said the aim of the census is to make sure everyone is counted and if for any reason, people were not counted, it was not too late to be counted.

Jeraha added that ensuring everyone in Bougainville is counted is very important not only for the national government but also for the Autonomous Bougainville Government as it prepares its people for the upcoming vote for referendum of independence or autonomy in 2015.

He said the data collected in the region would go along way in assisting the Bougainville government properly plan and implement its projects in boosting the economy in the region.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE CENSUS CONTINUES By ML

COUNTING in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is expected to end next week says Bougainville provincial census coordinator Joseph Jeraha.

Mr Jeraha said overall, Bougainville census team have done well, with 97% of their data collection completed.

He said they had 13 districts to cover of which counting at Bana, Siwai, Wisai and Nissan were completed yesterday.

He added that cooperation from the public has been very good and he especially thank the people of Bana, Wisai and Siwai for an incident free counting.

He added that officers involved in counting at Torokina have now progressed into quality checks on their data collected.

Mr. Jeraha also said his officers are now in the process of collecting data from Panguna, Arawa, Kieta and the atolls districts, having left Buka town this afternoon and he anticipates counting to be completed by next week.

21.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CENSUS PADS ARRIVE ON TIME

By ML

Much needed additional census materials were dispatched to areas in South Bougainville and the atolls immediately upon their arrival in Buka, yesterday said Bougainville provincial census coordinator Joseph Jeraha.

Jeraha said the materials mostly comprising census pads arrived just in time to be loaded onto vessel MV Andreas that left for the atolls yesterday afternoon on a six day journey carrying on board interviewers and supervisors.

The dispatch of materials from Port Moresby were delayed by a day this week when the PNG Defence Force aircraft CASA was directed to offload its cargo at Tokua airport, Rabaul on Tuesday instead of delivering it at Buka airport.

The redirecting of the PNG Defence Force aircraft to Bougainville's nearest airport being Tokua airport, follows the 2003 Bougainville Peace Agreement signed between PNG and Bougainville that included the movement of PNG military into Bougainville.

Jeraha who also thanked ABG for its quick directive also assured that the delivery of the census materials a day later would not affect the progress of counting in Bougainville which is likely to end next week.

21.07.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC Board Meets BCL Chairman Peter R. Taylor in London.

ESBC Vice President Corinna Pattijn und ESBC President Axel G. Sturm will meet Bougainville Copper Chairman Peter R. Taylor and Rio Tinto Copper experts on Monday, September 19th, 2011 at the Rio Tinto Headquarters in London. Axel G. Sturm expects a good in-depth discussion and a fruitful start into a more intensive cooperation with BCL and Rio Tinto in the future.

ESBC Vorstand trifft Bougainville Copper Chef Peter R. Taylor in London.

Am 19. September diesen Jahres werden sich ESBC Vizepräsidentin Corinna Pattijn und ESBC Präsident Axel G. Sturm mit dem Vorstandsvorsitzenden von Bougainville Copper und einigen Experten von Rio Tinto Copper in der Londoner Rio Tinto Konzernzentrale treffen. Axel G. Sturm erwartet von diesem Meeting gute informative Gespräche sowie eine Intensivierung der zukünftigen Zusammenarbeit zwischen Rio Tinto, Bougainville Copper und den ESBC.

21.07.2011

Source: The National

Panguna stakeholders bury hatchet

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A recent gathering of Panguna stakeholders resolved to establish a binding solution for peace and unity for its people.

It ended with participants signing a joint resolution called the Panguna stakeholders' Hahela understanding.

Witnessed by Autonomous Bougainville Government Minister for Peace and Reconciliation Newton Kauva, the resolution covered consensus by all parties to work in partnership through a consultative process to resolve the Panguna conflict, including addressing the issue of compensation and achieving peace, development and security. Among other decisions, the participating stakeholders agreed to recognise and reaffirm all formal resolutions including, Panguna communiqué, Tunuru resolution, Panguna (Ex-combatants/MDF) resolution and Buka Mekamui MoU (2009).

The parties to the signing included the Autonomous Bougainville government, the Mekamui government, the Mekamui government of unity, Panguna mine landowners, women in mining affected area, Bougainville Women's Federation, ex-combatants, the Mekamui Defence Force, the Council of elders, Council of chiefs, Panguna district administration, Buka-based Panguna elites and the constituency members of Ioro, Bolave, Lato, Eivo-Torau, Torokina and Baba.

21.07.2011

Source: The National

Atoi highlights goals to achieve before polls

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

NORTH Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi is focused on fulfilling his planned development priorities in his electorate before the general election next year.

Atoi made the reassurance on his arrival at Buka Airport yesterday.

Revealing his list of priorities to a small welcome party of Bougainville government ministers, administration officers and chiefs of the North Bougainville council of elders, Atoi said education, food security and development of small community impact projects were at the top of his list.

"We should invest a lot into education assistance; there are plenty of donor agencies wanting to help."

"Food security is an issue we need to address. I will work closely with local leaders to establish long-term plans of sustaining our atolls and eradicate the problem of us having to ask for funds every time we need to feed ourselves," Atoi said.

He said he had successfully secured close to K3.5 million which a Joint Budget Planning Committee would be meeting this week in Buka to prioritise allocation of.

Other high priority areas the newly-elected MP said included improving health, supporting women, youth and church projects and water and sanitation.

"With the water and sanitation project, it is still my highest priority, however the cost of this project is more than the allocated funds I have in my DSIP so I have put through a project submission for direct funding from the supplementary budget," Atoi said.

20.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Development must not harm environment'

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

DEVELOPMENT does not need to occur at the expense of harming the environment. This was the message in the opening remarks by President of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, Dr Ila Temu yesterday at the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum Environment Seminar.

Dr Temu said one key issue in terms of the mining and petroleum industry both within PNG and the world over is the challenge between the development needs of the people of that country and the responsibility associated with making sure that, that is

done not at the expense of degrading the environment.

"Development does not need to occur at the expense of harming the environment," Dr Temu said.

He said that with today's technology and available knowledge, there was no need for a 'zero-sum' game, but a 'win-win' game.

"Yes, we can have development and at the same time ensure that the negative impacts that are generated by that development are mitigated to an extent where it becomes a win-win for all the stakeholders. That is the challenge for us as in the industry in this country," Dr Temu said.

The PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum Environment Seminar, was held yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby.

More than 100 people from various mining companies, environmental groups, non-governmental groups, landowners and other interested members of the public attended. The seminar opened with various topics including the government's stance and actions on environment conservation in the country and topics and issues on environment management systems and community consultation.

The afternoon sessions focused on agriculture partnerships for sustainable development and rehabilitation and mine closure.

Today is the last day of the seminar and topics will include, waste rock and tailings management, river and lake environment studies, offshore studies and others.

20.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG miners will try to minimise environmental impact

Papua New Guinea's mining and petroleum developers say they aim to minimise the negative social and environmental impacts their operations have on the country.

Australian and other foreign companies involved in these resources in PNG, have often been accused of environmentally destructive waste disposal practices they would not do in their own countries.

The Chamber of Mines and Petroleum says any mining or petroleum operation will have a direct environmental impact on people's lives.

Executive Director Greg Anderson says it's in consultation with the government to review the country's Mining Act and the Environmental Policy to suit the changes in the industry.

He says the industry has also agreed in principal with the government to include a Mine Closure Plan as part of the application process before a mining license is granted.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Greg Anderson, Executive Director, PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum

Listen here !

ANDERSON: We have a world standard environment act and people are aiming for world class standards in all our projects. It's as you point out there's always some trade off in doing a major development in a country such as PNG which is high rainfall and very steep topography. There's always some impacts when you create or build anything. There's always a certain amount of disturbance and it's very hard to control at 100 per cent. But of courses we strive to maintain the international standards, we strive from one project to do, moving onto the next and the lessons learnt and we're always moving forward. But we are an international industry and we are aim for international standards.

NANOL: At the end of this two day conference or meeting, what is the industry thinking of

coming up with as far as their operations are concerned in terms of environmental impacts on environment by the operations of the mining companies?

ANDERSON: The idea wasn't to come out with a manifesto or something on particular environment issues or something. The idea is what you're describing, a cross fertilisation, bringing everybody together to hear how others are dealing with the problems we face, how others have got new initiatives that they're trying or have already got on the ground going that others can learn from and indeed utilise, and there's some wonderful things going, particularly say in agricultural, but in agricultural partnerships and working in social side. There's also mitigation methods that people are using in the physical side that need to be explored and discussed and for people to hear about them, so that's what it's principally about, yes.

NANOL: What is the industry's view on review of the mining laws and in terms in as far as environmental regulations is concerned and also the National Maritime Safety authority's new bill on mining pollution. Is that something the industry had an input in or it's something new and how is that going to have some sort of impact on their operations?

ANDERSON: Yeah well, the National Maritime laws which are bringing us really into parallel with the International Maritime Organisation laws etc. We work very closely with national marine on that and we were very grateful for the consultation process that took place and those laws are completed and now waiting to go before parliament and we very much applaud that initiative. With mining act, there's reviews going on at various mining legislation and we're part of that consultation process too and that has areas bringing our mining laws update, because there are aspects of the mining act, for instance of 1992. It's a good act, but it needs to be updated, because times change, of course, and some of those are environmental issues, so mine closure, which is social and physical matter, so part of its dealt in the mining act part and the environment act part. So these type of initiatives we're in consultation with.

NANOL: The mine closure plan should be part and parcel of the application for a mining permit or license, but is that something new?

ANDERSON: Well, we saw in discussion on that and the idea would be that you'd have conception mine plan in your initial mine plan as you say so that there's a concept at how you're going to close it at the very beginning and some sort of costing on it. So that is a new trend and it is bringing us into line with international situation. Of course, it varies enormously, because some projects can be 30 years life and some can be ten, and so but, of course, all of our current projects are doing mine closure planning and Ok Tedi's done an enormous amount of work and this is another one of the things to bring us in line with all international standing and we applaud that process.

20.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Students learn libraries' importance

MORE than 4000 schools in Bougainville should at least have in place an established library and resources to cater for its students by end of this year.

Staff from the advisory branch of the Office of Libraries and Archives of the National Library Service, recently spent three weeks carrying out awareness throughout the region on the importance of establishing libraries in schools and the need to improve existing libraries.

Facilitator Mary Warus, who is also library adviser to the National Library of PNG said the National Library Service (NLS) would also be providing library grants in 2011 under its K11 million Library Development Project allocated by the National Government through the Department of Education.

20.07.2011

Source: The National

City students learn about Bougainville

THE national coordination office for Bougainville Affairs has been distributing information on weapons disposal to schools in Port Moresby since July 11.

The delivery of information is to get the younger generation to understand the political situation in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

It is designed to give Bougainvilleans living in the city a clear picture of what is happening on the island.

Weapons disposal is the third pillar of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

NCOBA has issued 1,000 copies of its newsletter, Voice of Peace and 2,000 pamphlets titled Brukim Gan.

"Caritas Technical Secondary School and Port Moresby National High School were among the schools in the city which gave a positive feedback on the contents of the booklets," acting communications manager for NCOBA Terrence Mose said.

He said the history of Bougainville crisis was a lesson for the younger generation to learn from and to make important decisions in the future for the betterment of civil society.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

EDUCATION TOPS PRIORITY LIST

By Tom Kathoa

The Member for North Bougainville, Hon Lautu Atoi has placed the education of children as top priority number one.

Speaking to reporters upon his return from attending parliament session, Member Atoi said it is very important that Bougainvillean children get the best education they deserve from the government of the day.

He said he has decided to make education his number one priority because it is through and educated population that the region can move forward to achieving its objectives.

The member said he would be holding talks with the ABG government, education officials and other stakeholders on how best to achieve this.

He said apart from other major impact projects and programs, he rates education as the most important area to address.

The Member for North Bougainville said water and sanitation is also high on his agenda.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HAPPY RETURN

By Tom Kathoa

A small crowd of people greeted the arrival of the Member for North Bougainville, Hon

Lauta Atoi with a traditional welcome at the Buka Airport this morning. Among the crowd was a one time Member of Parliament, Grand Chief Sir Donatus Mola, ABG Members Hon John Tabinaman and Robert Hamal Sawa, the Chief Administrator, Mr. Lawrence Disin government officials and a number of chiefs and supporters. The return of Mr. Atoi to Bougainville is his first since his by-election victory in June this year. In welcoming Mr. Atoi, ABG Education Minister, Hon John Tabinaman said the people of North Bougainville are waiting to see the member deliver service to them. Mr. Tabinaman has assured the Member that the ABG Government would work closely with him to ensure government services get to the rural majority. Meanwhile, Member Atoi said he would like to as soon as possible get the ball rolling by meeting with the authorities to map out projects to be implemented for the benefit of the voters. This weekend he would be visiting some areas within his electorate starting with Buka District.



Autonomous Bougainville Government ministers John Tabinaman (left) and Robert Sawa (right) were part of a small crowd of officials to welcome home newly elect North Bougainville MP Lauta Atoi (centre).

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Kehali on roads

By JOYCE TOHUI

A local businessman in Bougainville, LEO KEHALI is calling on the ABG Government to fast-track the upgrading and maintenance work on the Buka town roads.

MR KEHALI said the Buka town roads are falling apart affecting businesses and the people of Bougainville are having difficulty with the roads current situation. He said fingers are pointing to the Buka urban council to fix the roads but having been the former Town Mayor; requests for funds in the past years have fallen to deaf ears. He added the upgrading and maintenance of roads needs a lot of money and the Town Authority should not be blamed for the roads bad condition. He said recently he heard the ABG Minister for works; CAROLUS KETSIMUR said there were funds available to fix the roads and questioned why the work has not started yet. MR KEHALI said he sympathized with businesses operating in Buka Town because the government has overlooked the need of upgrading these roads for a very long time. He also said the back road in Buka Town was constructed by the Buka Enterprise with its own money but now it is a government asset because the road is used by the public. MR KEHALI added Buka Town was built with sweat by Bougainvilleans going into business to develop the town and the government is not doing enough to develop the town. However, he challenged the current government to take into account his concerns and act quickly to fix the roads to benefit the people.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

**Mayor thanked vets
By JOYCE TOHUI**

The BUKA Town Mayor, KAUT KAVOP in thanking the vets said that the service they provided within the one week it is one issue that came into light. Speaking at the farewell dinner, MR KAVOP said that after the Bougainville crisis and in the peak of the restoration period, this was one idea to start something like RSPCA in Bougainville because there were a lot of stray dogs within the town boundaries. He thanked the vets for their voluntary service to Bougainville saying it was an eye opener and it is something that will get their minds together as the service is a concerned in Bougainville. He assured them that with the support from the BUKA urban council's officers and the BUKA hospital, they can work together to map out this kind of program service here in Bougainville. MR KAVOP said that the presence of the vets in Bougainville is the beginning of a much bigger network in this kind of service as they have just revived RSPCA in Bougainville. However the Town Mayor said that the knowledge that they have equipped their staffs will be utilized and what the vets have started will be a way forward for the BUKA urban council to take on this kind of service as they did in ARAWA in the past.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

**Onsa frustrated
By JOYCE TOHUI**

A Bougainville Businessman who is very vocal on the developments occurring in Bougainville, HENRY ONSA is frustrated over the slowness to kick start the Kokopau to Arawa road-sealing project. MR ONSA said the National MPs did the ground breaking ceremony at Kokopau and partied over it and yet no work has started. He questioned the delay to the project and wants to know where the K20 million

earmarked for this project is.

He added there are many projects in Bougainville still hanging loose and yet leaders do not consider these problems.

He is calling on the National government and the ABG government to look into these matters and fast-track the situation.

MR ONSA said the people of Bougainville are longing for such services and they must not be fooled.

He called on the people of Bougainville to speak up for their rights and not let the government walk over them.

He said since the ABG government has no oppositions to oppose its decisions, we the people must be the oppositions.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lauta arrives

By JOYCE TOHUI

The newly elected member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI today arrived in Bougainville for its first official appearance as the sworn in Member for North Bougainville in the National parliament.

He was met at the Buka airport by the ABG Ministers and members and government officials and was given a traditional welcome by the ieta group.

In his welcome remarks, ABG Minister for Education, John Tabinaman assured MR ATOI of the ABG's government support and urged him to work closely with all the levels of governments in Bougainville.

MR TABINAMAN said he believed the people of North Bougainville are happy for him as their representative in the National parliament and requests for MR ATOI to pay visits to constituencies in his electorate.

In his response, MR ATOI said he is prepared to visit his constituencies and see his people and gauge their views on the current situations they are faced with.

He also requests for his people to be patient and assured them that within the six months period in office they will see some real developments.

However, he said that there are long and short term developments to look at and according to funds available he will prioritize what to really benefit his people right now.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUC Farewells vet

By JOYCE TOHUI

An Australian vet, MICHELLE BINGLEY with assistant vet nurse a pathologist, JUSTIN LAUDERDALE were farewelled at a small gathering at HANIS INN.

BUKA urban council hosted the farewell dinner to thank the vets for spending time in Bougainville in treating animals and teaching pet owners on ways to take care of their pet animals.

MS BINGLEY told the gathering that it was a real eye opener coming here and very challenging to treat animals as animals in Bougainville are treated much differently from Australia.

She said about sixty dogs were treated and thanked the people of Bougainville in taking part in the project especially for the good of their pets.

She believed in the future more animals will be treated and she will try to get more volunteers from Australia to come and help in order to keep the project going.

20.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NATIONAL COURT ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz

The first National Court Sitting in Tinputz today ended in style with the Judge, JUSTICE JOHN KAWI jailing two National Court staff for contempt of Court.

Yesterday the court sentenced two men to jail one to TWENTY YEARS whilst the other was sentenced to four years.

They will serve their sentence at the BEKUT JAIL outside of Buka town.

The sitting this morning ended when the presiding judge, JUSTICE JOHN KAWI found out that the court recorder MR. CHARLIE KOGORA did not arrive in Tinputz with the Court recording equipment.

He then ordered that MR. KOGORA be immediately apprehended and jailed at the Bekut jail until he appears before Justice John Kawi at the Buka National Court next Friday for contempt of court.

The court also ordered that the director of Court Recording Services, MS PAVORA also appear to JUSTICE JOHN KAWI in Buka next Friday also for contempt of court as her staff did not provide the Recorder to Tinputz on time.

The National court sitting resume on Friday in Arawa.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TINPUTZ TOP

By Tom Kathoa



Little known Tinputz District in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was the first district to have established Local Level Government during the colonial era.

Prior to Papua New Guinea gaining independence, the government system in place was the Local Government Councils with their elected leaders known as councilors.

Tinputz C.O.E. Chairman, Peter Reviri said the Tinputz district was the first in the country to have an LLG known as Teop/Tinputz Local Government Council.

At present Tinputz have the largest C.O.E covering two constituencies, Taunita/Tinputz and Taunita/Teop.

All these two COEs are headed by one Chairman who operates out of the Tinputz Office.

Chairman Reviri revealed this during a meeting with a judge of the National Court, Justice John Kawi last night.

Justice Kawi is in Tinputz hearing national court cases there for the first time in the court's history.

Mr. Reviri told the judge and his party that Tinputz is not that bad as portrayed by the media.

He said law and order has improved very much with the deployment of regular and auxiliary police in the area.

And, he has assured them of a safe stay in the district.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

YOU'RE FRONT LINE

By Tom Kathoa

Bougainville police have again been reminded of their responsibility as law enforcers in the community.

They have been told that as front line law enforcers, they must conduct themselves in a manner acceptable to the community.

Visiting National Court Judge, Justice John Kawi told a police guard of honor that police men and women are the front line law officers.

And as such they must be neat, presentable and honest, be punctual and serve the community with honesty.

The courts and the C.I.S officers are the last line of people to carryout and complete the job started by the police in arresting offenders.

Justice Kawi told police men and women that he shares their hardships in terms of proper accommodation, uniform and transport, but the problem is not only confined to the police department.

He said housing is a problem faced by all government departments, but this should not be used as an excuse not to perform their duty to the state.

The judge commended the small police contingent in Tinputz for putting up a good show.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KOT ENTERS TINPUTZ

By Tom Kathoa

People of Tinputz District in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville charged with serious crimes that attract the attention of the national court will not be required to travel long distance to face the courts.

The national court will in future conduct its hearing in Tinputz according to a Judge of the National Court, Justice John Kawi.

Mr. Kawi who is conducting the first National Court hearing at Tinputz this week said this is the start of a lasting arrangement for national court cases to be held at Tinputz.

Judge Kawi said Tinputz and Arawa will now be included in the national court's calendar allowing judges to conduct court hearing at these two centers including Buka.

Justice Kawi told a small crowd during a welcome ceremony yesterday that judges will spend one week in each of these centers.

After Tinputz, the judge and his team would move to Arawa next week to hear national court matters in that area.

He said Buin would be included in the program once the situation there is contained.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Tinputz C.O.E., Mr. Peter Reviri said he is pleased that the Justice Department has recognized the need to hold national court cases at Tinputz.

Mr. Reviri said he first raised the matter with another judge, Justice Sao Gabi and is happy that his call has been answered.

The national court sitting in Tinputz is the first for a rural district to host a national court hearing.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CENSUS 2011

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI/ML

Censuses in the three wards in the TINPUTZ area have been completed.

MR LAUKAI met the Census Officers in TINPUTZ this morning taking the last names of people in the area.

The Team Supervisor, MR SAMUEL HEPIP told NEW DAWN FM that they have completed the TINPUTZ area.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PACIFIC TO BENEFIT

By Aloysius Laukai

Nine Pacific small island states most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change will benefit from a new climate resilience project (worth €11.4 million) funded by the European Union (EU) and to be implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) over the next four years.

The project, entitled Increasing Climate Resilience of Pacific Small Islands States through the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) will support the governments of nine Pacific countries, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu, in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change. These countries have been selected because of their particular vulnerability, linked to their size and geophysical characteristics.

The project will promote the development of long term strategies and approaches to adaptation planning and it will pave the way for more effective and coordinated aid delivery on climate change at the national and regional level.

Pacific small island states presently have limited capacity to clearly articulate detailed adaptation strategies and successfully mainstream climate change aspects into their national and sector response strategies. They also lack the capacity to identify priority investment plans and timelines to respond to projected impacts in the key sectors vulnerable to climate change.

The project will therefore assist countries to develop more detailed climate change response strategies and investment plans and to integrate these into consistent overarching national climate change response frameworks. In addition, the project will also provide assistance to countries to help identify, design and implement practical on-ground climate change adaptation activities, in accordance with their established priorities. At least one concrete adaptation project will be implemented in each of the nine countries.

At regional level, the project will strengthen the capacity of key regional organisations to deliver climate change related scientific, technical and information services to countries (for example, through the development of analytical tools and information exchange mechanisms) and it will reinforce regional mechanisms to better coordinate the flow of climate change funding in the Pacific. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will play an important role in this regard.

The project was officially launched today by Ms Fiona Ramsey, Chargée d'Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific and SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers.

'With the billions that have been pledged globally for climate change adaptation and mitigation, this project will position Pacific small island states to access these funds and use them to ensure outcomes that meet their people's needs,' said Dr Rodgers.

'The project will help countries put in place climate change programmes and management arrangements that enable them to effectively absorb the increased flows of climate change finance that will be required to meet the future adaptation challenges they face.'

The project is funded in the framework of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). The project will also help translate into action and take forward the objectives of the Pacific-EU Joint Initiative on Climate Change.

This Pacific-EU Joint Initiative on Climate Change aims to enhance the political dialogue on climate change between the EU and the Pacific region, in view of developing common understanding and joint responses in the international debate whenever possible. It also aims to improve the effectiveness of cooperation on climate change issues in the Pacific region and mobilise funding from the EU and other international partners for climate change response in Pacific Island countries.

The project is consistent with the objectives of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC).

EU is made up of 27 member states who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

SPC is a Pacific-based intergovernmental organisation that assists the Pacific Island countries and territories by delivering a wide range of technical, research, educational and planning services. It has 26 members comprising 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and four metropolitan members: Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TOTOBU ON CULTURE

By Aloysius Laukai

A cultural group leader from Kupon in Nagovis says that revitalization of cultural music and dances was good for Bougainville's identity.

MR. MICHAEL TOTOBU who led a team from Nagovis to the REEDS FESTIVAL in Kieta told New Dawn FM from Nagovis that it was good to teach the young generations to practice these music and dances.

He said that the people of Nagovis would be organizing a similar festival for their district in two months time in preparation for another festival that would be held in the Wakunai district later this year.

MR. TOTOBU said that those selected from the Nagovis festival would then represent the people of Nagovis at the Wakunai festival.

The Nagovis group acted a traditional wedding ceremony continuing to a final feast to end mourning for a death.

New Dawn FM has documented this year's Reeds Festival on DVD for the Reeds Festival Committee.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NATIONAL COURT IN TINPUTZ

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Court will for the first time have one of its court circuits in Tinputz starting tomorrow.

Justice JOHN KAWI will hear four cases in Tinputz starting tomorrow and will continue to Arawa on Friday.

He will hear National Court cases in Arawa starting Monday next week.

Justice John Kawi last year heard cases for the first time in Arawa which has also paved the way for more National court circuits to be heard in Arawa and mainland Bougainville as a whole.

The cases in Arawa were long time and outstanding cases all the way from Buin and Siwai in South Bougainville.

Witnesses told New Dawn FM news in Arawa, that it was easy for the National Court to hear cases in places like Arawa as the people from Buin in South Bougainville usually find it difficult to go all the way to Buka.

Also this also helped the Police personnel in transporting remandees and witnesses to the National Court in Buka.

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TINPUTZ CONVICTED

By Aloysius Laukai

The National Court sitting for the first time in Tinputz district, Bougainville has today sentenced BENSON SIVORO of VANAGU village Tinputz to twenty years with hard labour for sexually penetrating a young girl under the age of sixteen years.

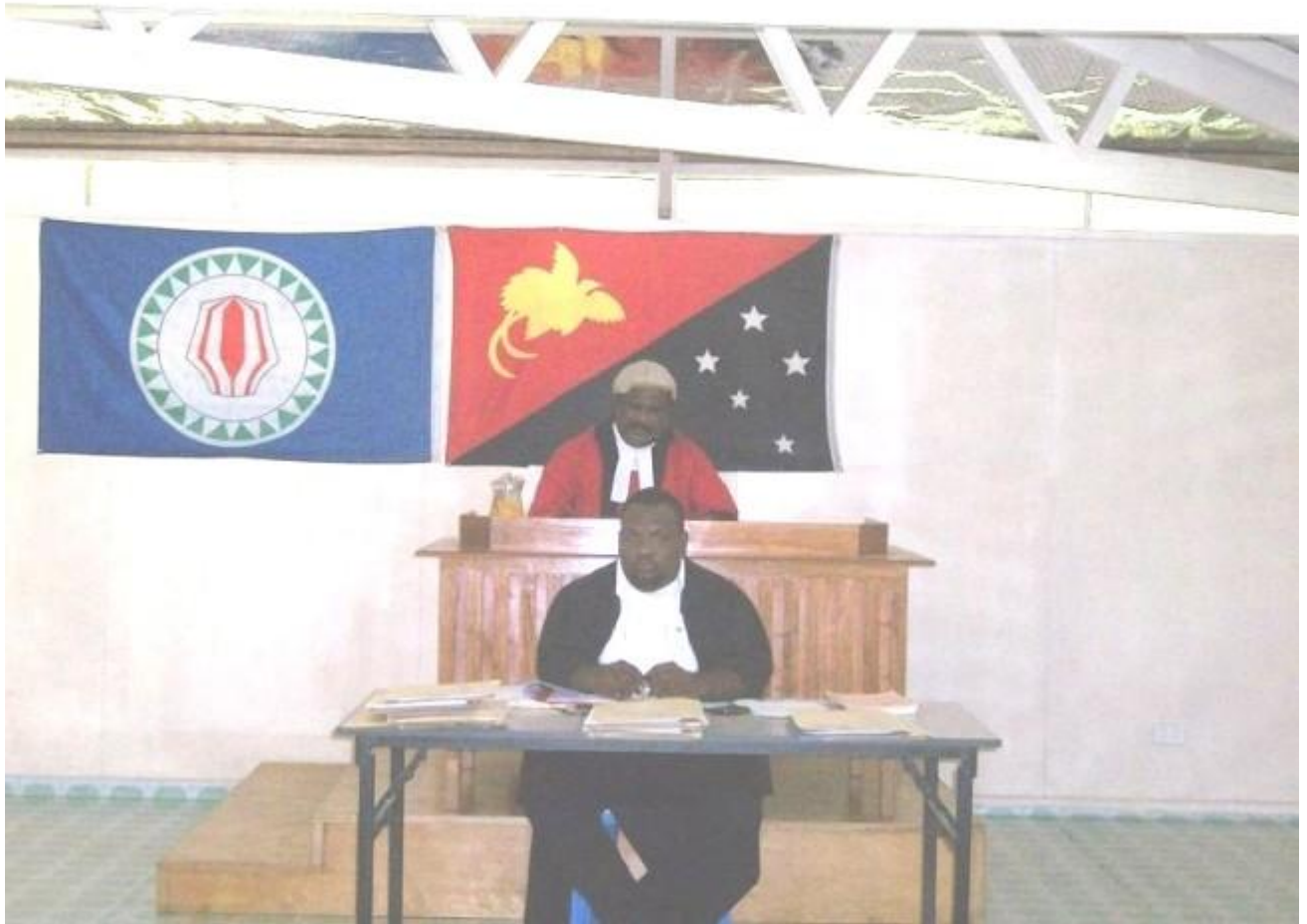
In announcing the sentence, presiding Judge, JUSTICE JOHN KAWI suspended four years taking into account, the mitigating factors operating in his favour.

He will now serve 16 years jail at the Bekut Jail outside Buka town.

The court heard that the accused had sexual intercourse with his 15 year old step daughter who was aged about 16 years.

In making his judgement, Justice John Kawi said that the offence of sexual penetration of a girl under the age of 16 years committed by a 40 years old man constitutes to a serious breach of trust authority and dependency that it calls for an immediate deterrent custodial sentence.

The National Court sitting in Tinputz today heard four cases all involving sexual penetration of minors by more older men in the communities.



**Picture of the temporary National Court House in Tinputz
Pictured is Judge John Kawi and Associate Boskey Horta**



Picture of Judge John Kawi inspecting Tinputz Police Guard of Honour this morning.
Pictures: Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz



Picture of Tinputz Police at this mornings parade

19.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Census 2011

By Aloysius Laukai in Tinputz

Census update in three wards in the Tinputz area have been completed. I met Census officers in Tinputz this morning taking the last names of people in the area. Team Supervisor Samuel Hepip (centre) told New Dawn FM that they have completed Tinputz. He is pictured here with Interviewers, Lynna Vaeviri (left) and Titus Laman



19.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville inter-district reconciliation set

Central and South Bougainville to bury the past in island's first peace ceremony involving two districts

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE first ever inter-district reconciliation is now set, between central and South Bougainville, particularly Koianu in central and Oria in South.

The two areas share the border of central and south Bougainville on the east coast of the island, in which fierce fighting took place during the crisis.

Fear still grips them up to this day, especially mothers are not free to walk around even today.

The plans for the proposed reconciliation came about when the Central Bougainville parliamentary select committee carried out an awareness campaign in the Koianu area last month. Last week Tuesday, the committee went back to meet with the community up in Beresinau village.

The team was led again by chairman and member for Eivo/Torau Melchior Dare, and was made up of his deputy and member for South Nasioi John Ken, regional peace reconciliation and weapons disposal officer Jude Arriss, projects officer Dorcas Awasi and consultant for the peace office Aaron Peter, veterans officer Atua Tehana, Kieta District executive manager Lucy Traverts and the Koianu peace liaison officer Tony Bovora .

The delegation went in to assess the impact of the awareness and to meet with the Koianu peace committee.

Mr Ken stressed the importance of the reconciliation, and said he was happy with the initiative of the people of Koianu about their desire for lasting peace, especially with the people of Oria.

The whole Koianu community was present, including former combatants (veterans) peace steering committee, women, chief youths and church elders.

The meeting was a success and was applauded by all who attended.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government was challenged by the Koianu peace steering committee chairman Moses Siparu to continue to support with funds.

The meeting resolved that both sides are ready for the long awaited peace for Koianu and Oria.

The next stage of the process will involve a meeting between the Koianu and Oria peace committees to work on cases to prepare both sides to get ready and both communities to prepare cultural obligations towards the peace and reconciliation.

18.07.2011

Source: ESBC

Schreiben der ESBC an die deutsche Zentralstaatsanwaltschaft für Wirtschaftsdelikte

**An die
Abteilung für Wirtschaftskriminalität
Staatsanwaltschaft Mannheim**

Betr.: Verdacht auf fortgesetzte organisierte strafbare Handlungen nach §263 StGB in Zusammenhang mit dem Handel von Aktien der Bougainville Copper Limited (ISIN : PG0008526520)

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

als Präsident der European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper vertrete ich eine große Anzahl von Aktionären aus Deutschland. Insgesamt vertrete ich 14 Millionen von insgesamt etwas über 400 Millionen Aktien.

In den letzten Jahren haben einige unserer Mitglieder versucht, so auch ich, einen Eintrag in das Aktionärsregister unseres Unternehmens zu erwirken.

Bedauerlicherweise fast in allen Fällen ohne Erfolg. Hintergrund unserer Bemühungen ist es, auf diesem Wege zu verhindern, dass unsere Aktien von den Lagerstellen, bzw. Nominee-Banken an Leerverkäufer verliehen werden.

Unser Begehren wurde seitens der die Depots haltenden Institute stets mit dem Hinweis, dies sei nicht möglich, abschlägig beschieden.

Erstaunlicherweise ist es kürzlich einem Mitaktionär dennoch gelungen, seine Aktien gegen den Widerstand seiner Bank in das Aktionärsregister der Bougainville Copper Limited (Heimatsbörse Sydney) eintragen zu lassen. Dies legt den dringenden Verdacht nahe, dass deutsche Banken diese Dienstleistung verweigern, um in Kooperation mit den Lagerstellen bzw. Nomineebanken ein einträgliches Zusatzgeschäft zu generieren, an dem sie die Aktienbesitzer nicht teilhaben lassen wollen.

Diese Vermutung liegt nahe, da nämlich unlängst einem unserer Mitglieder – vollkommen korrekt - angetragen wurde, seine Aktien zum Verleih freizugeben, wobei ihm eine Rendite von 2% per Anno in Aussicht gestellt wurde.

Sollte es sich bewahrheiten, dass die Depot haltenden Banken ihren Kunden mögliche Erträge, die durch den Verleih der jeweiligen Aktien generiert werden können oder sogar tatsächlich generiert werden, vorenthalten werden, ist meines Erachtens nach der in § 263 StGB beschriebene Tatbestand erfüllt.

Dies gilt umso mehr, wie in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, vor vielen Jahren ein sogenanntes American Deposit Receipt (ADR) emittiert wurde, das vertraulichen Informationen zufolge widerrechtlich nur zu etwa 30% mit Aktien unterlegt war. Die ADR Richtlinien sehen indes vor, dass für jedes ADR auch eine Aktie hinterlegt sein muss. Beteiligt an der Emission dieser ADRs waren nach unseren Informationen die Bank of New York Mellon, die Citibank, J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, eventuell Lehman Bros. und als einzige europäische Bank: die Deutsche Bank AG. Im Sommer 2009 wurde das ADR Programm in Bougainville Copper quasi über Nacht eingestellt. Vorhandene Restaktienbestände wurden ab Frühjahr 2010 in den Markt ab verkauft, was einen empfindlichen Kurseinbruch bei Bougainville Copper Aktien zur Folge hatte.

Derzeit sehen wir uns trotz hervorragender Nachrichten zu unserem Unternehmen wieder einmal massiven Marktmanipulationen ausgesetzt, die vor allem in Sydney, auf algorithmischem Aktienhandel basieren. Dies ist allerdings nur dann möglich, wenn große Aktienpakete Marktteilnehmern zur Ausleihe zur Verfügung gestellt werden, um damit quasi Leerverkäufe zu ermöglichen. Es ist wohl auszuschließen, dass einer der beiden Hauptaktionäre, Rio Tinto oder der Staat Papua Neuguinea, den Verleihemarkt befeuern. Verbleiben also nur noch die Nomineebanken bzw. die großen Lagerstellen wie etwa Computershare Australia, die Bank of New York Mellon oder aber die Tochter der Deutsche Börse AG, Clearstream, als Initiatoren dieses Schattengeschäfts.

Wir gehen davon aus, dass dies sehr wohl mit Wissen und im Auftrag der Depots haltenden Institute geschieht.

Unser Unternehmen, die Bougainville Copper Limited, ist mit etwa 400 Millionen Aktien ein kleiner Fisch. Sollte sich aber unser Verdacht erhärten und sollten weitere Anleger in anderen Unternehmen ebenfalls von solchen Geschäften betroffen sein, bei denen ihre Aktien ohne ihr Wissen und/oder ohne ihre ausdrückliche Zustimmung verliehen werden, sodann eröffnet sich ein ganz anderes Bild: Unseres Erachtens nach wäre das ein gigantischer Betrug am ahnungslosen Privatinvestor.

Bitte, teilen Sie mir mit, ob Sie sich dieser Angelegenheit annehmen können und – wenn ja – mit welchen Informationen ich Ihnen hilfreich sein kann.

Zusätzlich finden Sie auf unserer Homepage www.bougainville-copper.eu eine Fülle von Dokumenten zu unserem Unternehmen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Axel G. Sturm
Präsident ESBC

18.07.2011

Source: Islands Business

Battle intensifies over Bougainville copper

Claims that Rio Tinto funded the civil war and fostered atrocities on Bougainville are being resurrected as a hurdle to the reopening there of the copper mine, whose proven reserves are worth at least \$50 billion.

BUKA, PNG (THE AUSTRALIAN) ----- Claims that Rio Tinto funded the civil war and fostered atrocities on Bougainville are being resurrected as a hurdle to the reopening there of the copper mine, whose proven reserves are worth at least \$50 billion. Today the opposition to the mine is strongest overseas, especially among Australia's trade unions and non-government organisations. The Australian Greens have also joined the attacks. This is happening just as the reopening, after a full renegotiation of the terms, is winning overwhelming support on impoverished Bougainville; more than 97 per cent support it, according to Bougainville president John Momis. The day after SBS One's Dateline program about Bougainville was broadcast on June 26, the Bougainville Copper Ltd share price slumped 18 per cent. German investor Axel Sturm, possibly the company's largest individual shareholder, said "confidence in BCL, which is equated with confidence in Bougainville and its people, has been severely damaged. Months of re-polishing Bougainville's image [have] been spoiled within a few hours." The program hinged on a 10-year-old affidavit signed while he was in opposition by Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Michael Somare, whose family announced this week that he will retire because he is seriously ill in a Singapore hospital. Somare, who was foreign minister as Bougainville lurched into civil war, signed the affidavit that claimed "the actions taken by PNG to reopen the mine were not done for any public benefit except derivatively as the money the government made in its joint venture with BCL would trickle down to benefit the PNG citizenry". The mine provided the PNG government with about 20 per cent of its annual income when it was forced to close 22 years ago. Somare signed the affidavit that said that Rio "controlled the government" of which he was a part. It said: "BCL was directly involved in the military operations on Bougainville, and it played an active part. It supplied helicopters, which were used as gunships, the pilots, troop transportation, fuel, and troop barracks. It knew bloodshed was likely to occur because it instructed the government of PNG to reopen the mine 'by whatever means necessary'." It said that although BCL participated in "the atrocities", "no provision in the peace agreement addresses or resolves any civil liability or international law claim, which I understand are the issues in this litigation". However, Rabbie Namaliu, the prime minister during the first four years of the conflict, told Inquirer that the Iroquois helicopters used by the PNG army were deployed under an agreement he signed with Australia's then-prime minister Bob Hawke in Canberra. Nicole Allmann, now living in Queensland and who watched the SBS program, said: "The four Iroquois helicopters that were given to the PNG Defence Force by Australia were operated, maintained and crewed by Heli Bougainville for the PNGDF. "I worked for Heli Bougainville during the crisis and did all of the invoicing. I invoiced the PNG Defence Force for this and not BCL." Namaliu said that "under the state of emergency laws, the controller can command access to any logistics support he requires". By the time the government deployed troops, BCL's staff had left Bougainville leaving vehicles behind, some of which were commandeered. "To suggest that Rio did it deliberately is factually wrong. When I heard about those claims, I thought the whole thing was rather unfair. And Sir Michael is not in a position to make any response." But after the SBS program Western Australian Greens Senator Scott Ludlam

demanded: "Rio Tinto must reveal the full extent of its involvement in the Bougainville war. And the Australian government must also explain its own role, and what it knew about the role of BCL. It's time for the whole truth behind it to be known." Ludlam claimed that the war drove half of the population from their homes, and that "the conflict claimed 15,000 lives". This total remains guesswork, although many did die who would have survived sickness before the war. Many additional deaths also occurred on mainland PNG because of the impact on health care of the sudden loss of government income. A report in Socialist Alternative earlier this year said "it is a sign of the madness of capitalism that Rio Tinto did not close down BCL". The publication praised union efforts at the Rio Tinto annual meeting in Melbourne last year to oppose the mine's reopening. The union members included "a delegation of miners from Hunter Valley, maritime workers from the Victorian branch of the MUA", and the CFMEU (Mining and Energy section). It said that "if you wondered why socialists say Australia is the major imperialist power in this region, here's your answer", the Bougainville conflict. The BCL executive chairman Peter Taylor, who is also now president of the Australia PNG Business Council, denied the allegations made in the affidavit signed by Somare. He recently led a business delegation to Bougainville, in what was the first visit to the island by a BCL chairman for more than 20 years. Somare's affidavit is being used in a class action initiated a decade ago in California, being conducted by the famous contingency fee lawyer Steve Berman. This action, another barrier to reopening the mine, has already been struck out once, but has been reintroduced because it has become a crucial test case for the extraterritorial reach of US courts. Its original US connection was that it was backed by Alexis Holyweek Sarei, a former Catholic priest and diplomat who married an American former nun, Claire. He said that if he returned to PNG from California, where he was living, he risked "grave harm". But he did return, and a year ago was elected to the Bougainville parliament, which strongly backs the reopening. He is one of the 20 people named in the action. Lawrence Daveona, an executive member of the Panguna Landowners Association that represents the people who own the mine site, has declared the association's full support of the moves to renegotiate the Bougainville Copper Agreement, and its opposition to the court case. The case, which accuses Rio Tinto -- 53.58 per cent owner of BCL, with 19.06 per cent owned by the PNG government and 27.36 per cent by other shareholders -- of war crimes, was set up by US lawyer Paul Stocker, now 87, a friend of Somare who once lived in PNG. Stocker has said: "I can't think of anything (Rio) did that wouldn't make Adolf Hitler happy." The case claims Bougainvilleans who worked for the mine, "all of whom were black", operated in "slave-like" conditions. Mekere Morauta, PNG prime minister when the class action was filed, said at the time that even if successful it would not be enforceable in PNG because of the Compensation Act there. Bougainvilleans will vote within four years on whether they want to split from PNG. This heightens the stakes for the reopening of the mine, with Bougainville wishing to secure the lion's share of the revenues, and also possibly some or all of PNG's equity. The determination of BCL to reopen the mine itself, underlined by chairman Taylor, creates a formidable obstacle to potential competitors. China is the likely buyer of most of the mine product, and Chinese interests have been associated with Bougainville. Momis was formerly PNG's ambassador to China. But last weekend a group of Chinese businesspeople who had expressed an interest in investing in real estate on Bougainville were barred by landowners from visiting the mine site at Panguna. One landowner, former combatant Chris Uma, said: "We did not fight for the Chinese to come over".

18.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Doctor urges ABG to educate people

By FABIAN HAKALITS

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has been challenged to invest in education for greater autonomy developments.

Dr Jerome Semos - a social scientist and Divine Word University's Head of PNG Studies Department said this at the recent sixth ABG Day celebrations in Madang.

He said education and literacy are the vehicles that would drive development in the autonomous region.

"Tangible investments in education and high literacy have been the drivers of Bougainville's successes and quality achievements in the past. Before the crisis, Bougainville had one of the highest indicators of education and literacy in PNG and Melanesia at 97 per cent," Dr Semoso said.

"By making education and literacy universal for all Bougainville children and young people; we will achieve our dream. We should do this now and leap forward with the rest of PNG and the Pacific region."

Dr Semos also said the biggest challenge for Bougainville is the rebels' gun culture in parts of Bougainville, which must be eliminated and neutralised.

He said compliance with BPA and the Rule of Law and Bougainville/PNG Constitutions by ALL Bougainvilleans, including the rebels and "criminals" should be absolute or referendum will not be conducted.

He said under BPA binding requirements, PNG and international partners will not allow a referendum to be conducted in a region still ravaged by the gun-violence culture.

He said Bougainville has been undermined and weakened by a so-called "small but very alarming rebel-gun culture" in small tribal/ethnic areas of South Bougainville. He said the universal efforts of peace-building and community security in North, Central and South Bougainville have been showing positive and confident signs, the long-term sustainability and efficacy of a "NO GUNS".

Dr Semos said: "The challenge of making greater autonomy to actually work starts in the hearts and minds of Bougainvilleans.

"Greater autonomy starts with you and me; here and now; making things happen; helping yourselves, other people and organisations; become autonomous and self-reliant here and now.

"Greater Autonomy and Self-Governance will not happen from 2015 or thereafter, that are just symbolic."

Dr Semos said that the ABG has achieved the unique greater autonomy status in PNG, encapsulated in the Bougainville Constitution.

"We have achieved an efficient legislative, executive and judicial governance system based on principles and practices of transparency, accountability, good governance and the rule of law.

"The Bougainville-wide peace and security and conducting a referendum from 2015 to decide whether to remain part of PNG or political independence.

"Because of these successes and achievements, small-to-medium socio-economic and business activities, social services and industries are great potentials attracting huge foreign investment in a number of strategic resource sectors," Dr Semos said.

Dr Semos said BPA is a Bilateral as well as a Multilateral Agreement which Bougainville has to comply with and committed to for sustainability and efficacy.

He added that national, regional and global actors are watching the Bougainville case with more than great interest.

16.07.2011

Source: Lawrence Daveona

**STATEMENT REFERRING TO ROWAN CALLICKS ARTICLE IN "THE AUSTRALIAN"
by Mr. Lawrence Daveona**

Secretary of the Board of the Panguna Landowner Association

I also need to support Nicole Allman's statement that "Heli Bougainville" chopper pilots were used to fly these Iroquois helicopters that were supplied by Australian Government. Heli Bougainville was a subsidiary company of Bougainville Development Corporation (BDC) the very company I was also a subsidiary company manager of another one of its companies namely, Wear Resistant Material (PNG) Pty. Ltd at the start of the crisis in 1988. We the employees of BDC at that time knew this and it was business as usual for BDC. Provide service for PNG Government raise an invoice and get paid and there was nothing that we could do under the emergency laws that were applied on the island by PNG Government.

If our Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as an Opposition Leader at that time knew about Rio Tinto's involvement why did he not voice his concern in 1989-1991? For our PM to come up with an AFFIDAVIT in 2001 after Mr Paul Stocker had approached him to support the Class case in the US is unthinkable. Paul Stocker approached my immediate family members through his lawyer representative, Mr. Camillus Narakobi as we are principle Panguna Landowners of the Panguna mine pit area, but we refused to sign as we knew all the facts as to why the Landowner's crisis started. The whole Class case in the US Courts should be thrown out the window as far as we the Panguna Landowners are concerned as it serves no purpose and for all we know it will achieve nothing and above all "Panguna Landowners are not part of it. I know where this all class case started from and to confirm this, the whole thing began as a result of a letter written to me as the Company Secretary to Panguna Landowner's company, RMTL by our company lawyers-Warner Shand Lawyers. If it was not for this letter which I gave to my cousin Francis Ona in 1997 (as a result of me being interrogated at home in Guava) when I visited him upon his request to talk about family reconciliation, this whole Class case would not have been initiated.

I know the whole story but my family and I and the majority of Panguna Landowners never supported this Class case and still NOT support it TODAY. We are sick and tired of foreigners using us for their own end while our people are still suffering. We want to move on and help our people the best way we can.

16.07.2011

Source: MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

Returning to Bougainville's Neglected South After a Decade-long Absence

After a ten year absence, the international medical-humanitarian organisation, [Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#), has returned to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, to assist in delivering much-needed healthcare in the remote southern region of Buin.

Since April this year, a small MSF team has been working in Buin Health Centre in southern Bougainville. Ten years after the signing of the peace agreement following what has become known as the 'Bougainville Crisis', the situation in terms of access to healthcare remains dire.

The crisis, a civil war beginning in 1988 and lasting ten years, caused the deaths and displacement of tens of thousands of people, and also left the region's infrastructure in tatters. Health services were severely limited, and today there is only one functioning hospital for a population of around 200,000.

Although relatively peaceful now, and despite rebuilding efforts that have taken place since the end of the conflict, the southern area of the island continues to be neglected and access to quality healthcare for the population poses substantial issues.

"If the people living in Buin need to go to a hospital, they have six hours to travel, if they are lucky. Sometimes it can take anywhere up to ten hours or more. The only hospital is in the north, on Buka Island, and to get there, it's necessary to cross about 15 rivers and travel on roads which are not in good condition," said Patricia Convent, Head of Mission for Médecins Sans Frontières. "There are only ten qualified doctors in the whole of Bougainville, and eight of them are in Buka. People who cannot get to this area easily are therefore left without adequate medical assistance. In an area where malaria is endemic, and where maternal mortality rates are some of the highest in the Asia Pacific region, we saw that we needed to come back."

MSF is currently the only international NGO based permanently in this remote southern region of Bougainville. In Buin Health centre, the MSF team is working alongside the Division of Health to rehabilitate the facility, and to provide medical assistance in the outpatient, inpatient and maternity departments and laboratory, as well as improving the quality of antenatal and postnatal care. The team also works to improve the hygiene situation in the health centre, through the provision of clean water and better waste management. Due to the lack of qualified medical staff throughout Bougainville, staff training across all departments will also be a core component of the work.

The state of care for pregnant women will be one of the biggest priorities for MSF in Buin. In May, for example, approximately one in four pregnant women was classified as an emergency case.

"We received one woman from a nearby village, who was having seizures during her labour," said Convent. "She delivered a stillborn baby and stayed two days in a coma. We are so thankful that the woman survived, but without adequate intervention, she would certainly have died. Complications arising during delivery are common in this region, mainly because of the distances women have to travel to get to a clinic.

"For this reason, we are going to be developing a 'maternity waiting home' so women can plan to be close to the health centre before they go into labour, instead of having to travel the long distances that they normally would. In June, we had two women who delivered on their way to the health centre, simply because they could not make it in time."

Since teams began work in April, the number of patients coming to the health centre has increased significantly. In May alone, the medical team saw 741 patients, compared to 1,110 patients in the first three months of the year.

"These figures reflect the need for our return to Bougainville," noted Convent. "We've been told by a lot of patients that they remember us from previous years, and they are happy to have us here working alongside the Division of Health to improve the healthcare situation."

As part of its intervention in Bougainville, MSF intends to further evaluate the local health needs by conducting assessments throughout other areas in the southern region, and adapt the program to meet these needs accordingly. The team will be looking at how diseases such as tuberculosis are managed in the region, and whether the organisation can offer assistance in addressing these issues.

MSF will also maintain the capacity to respond to medical emergencies in the region, such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Already this year, teams were able to assist in responding to Bougainville's first ever cholera outbreak. The outbreak, confined to Buka Island, saw 521 cases in eight weeks. MSF worked alongside the local health authorities for six weeks, setting up a ten bed cholera treatment centre and two posts to provide oral rehydration salts in Lemanmanu, one and half hours' drive north of Buka Town.

MSF first began working in Bougainville in 1992. After an intervention of approximately six months, teams returned following the Bougainville Crisis from 1998 until 2001. Following assessments carried out in 2010 which found considerable gaps in the healthcare system, the decision was made to return in 2011. In May and June, teams have carried out 1576 outpatient consultations, admitted 153 patients to the inpatient department, and delivered 48 babies.

Elsewhere in Papua New Guinea, MSF is also working In the city of Lae in Morobe province, and Tari, in the Southern Highlands province. Teams are providing care for the medical and psychological consequences of sexual and domestic violence, and also carry out trauma surgery.

16.07.2011

Source: The Australian

**Battle intensifies over Bougainville copper
by Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific editor**

CLAIMS that Rio Tinto funded the civil war and fostered atrocities on Bougainville are being resurrected as a hurdle to the reopening there of the copper mine, whose proven reserves are worth at least \$50 billion.

Today the opposition to the mine is strongest overseas, especially among Australia's trade unions and non-government organisations. The Australian Greens have also joined the attacks. This is happening just as the reopening, after a full renegotiation of the terms, is winning overwhelming support on impoverished Bougainville; more than 97 per cent support it, according to Bougainville president John Momis.

The day after SBS One's Dateline program about Bougainville was broadcast on June 26, the Bougainville Copper Ltd share price slumped 18 per cent.

German investor Axel Sturm, possibly the company's largest individual shareholder, said "confidence in BCL, which is equated with confidence in Bougainville and its people, has been severely damaged. Months of re-polishing Bougainville's image [have] been spoiled within a few hours."

The program hinged on a 10-year-old affidavit signed while he was in opposition by Papua New Guinea's prime minister Michael Somare, whose family announced this week that he will retire because he is seriously ill in a Singapore hospital.

Somare, who was foreign minister as Bougainville lurched into civil war, signed the affidavit that claimed "the actions taken by PNG to reopen the mine were not done for any public benefit except derivatively as the money the government made in its joint venture with BCL would trickle down to benefit the PNG citizenry".

The mine provided the PNG government with about 20 per cent of its annual income when it was forced to close 22 years ago.

Somare signed the affidavit that said that Rio "controlled the government" of which he was a part.

It said: "BCL was directly involved in the military operations on Bougainville, and it played an active part. It supplied helicopters, which were used as gunships, the pilots, troop transportation, fuel, and troop barracks. It knew bloodshed was likely to occur because it instructed the government of PNG to reopen the mine 'by whatever means necessary'."

It said that although BCL participated in "the atrocities", "no provision in the peace agreement addresses or resolves any civil liability or international law claim, which I understand are the issues in this litigation".

However, Rabbie Namaliu, the prime minister during the first four years of the conflict, told Inquirer that the Iroquois helicopters used by the PNG army were deployed under an agreement he signed with Australia's then-prime minister Bob Hawke in Canberra.

Nicole Allmann, now living in Queensland and who watched the SBS program, said: "The four Iroquois helicopters that were given to the PNG Defence Force by Australia were operated, maintained and crewed by Heli Bougainville for the PNGDF.

"I worked for Heli Bougainville during the crisis and did all of the invoicing. I invoiced the PNG Defence Force for this and not BCL."

Namaliu said that "under the state of emergency laws, the controller can command access to any logistics support he requires".

By the time the government deployed troops, BCL's staff had left Bougainville leaving vehicles behind, some of which were commandeered. "To suggest that Rio did it deliberately is factually wrong. When I heard about those claims, I thought the whole thing was rather unfair. And Sir Michael is not in a position to make any response." But after the SBS program Western Australian Greens Senator Scott Ludlam demanded: "Rio Tinto must reveal the full extent of its involvement in the Bougainville war. And the Australian government must also explain its own role, and what it knew about the role of BCL. It's time for the whole truth behind it to be known."

Ludlam claimed that the war drove half of the population from their homes, and that "the conflict claimed 15,000 lives". This total remains guesswork, although many did die who would have survived sickness before the war. Many additional deaths also occurred on mainland PNG because of the impact on health care of the sudden loss of government income.

A report in Socialist Alternative earlier this year said "it is a sign of the madness of capitalism that Rio Tinto did not close down BCL".

The publication praised union efforts at the Rio Tinto annual meeting in Melbourne last year to oppose the mine's reopening. The union members included "a delegation of miners from Hunter Valley, maritime workers from the Victorian branch of the MUA", and the CFMEU (Mining and Energy section). It said that "if you wondered why socialists say Australia is the major imperialist power in this region, here's your answer", the Bougainville conflict.

The BCL executive chairman Peter Taylor, who is also now president of the Australia PNG Business Council, denied the allegations made in the affidavit signed by Somare. He recently led a business delegation to Bougainville, in what was the first visit to the island by a BCL chairman for more than 20 years.

Somare's affidavit is being used in a class action initiated a decade ago in California, being conducted by the famous contingency fee lawyer Steve Berman.

This action, another barrier to reopening the mine, has already been struck out once, but has been reintroduced because it has become a crucial test case for the extraterritorial reach of US courts.

Its original US connection was that it was backed by Alexis Holyweek Sarei, a former

Catholic priest and diplomat who married an American former nun, Claire. He said that if he returned to PNG from California, where he was living, he risked "grave harm".

But he did return, and a year ago was elected to the Bougainville parliament, which strongly backs the reopening. He is one of the 20 people named in the action.

Lawrence Daveona, an executive member of the Panguna Landowners Association that represents the people who own the mine site, has declared the association's full support of the moves to renegotiate the Bougainville Copper Agreement, and its opposition to the court case. The case, which accuses Rio Tinto -- 53.58 per cent owner of BCL, with 19.06 per cent owned by the PNG government and 27.36 per cent by other shareholders -- of war crimes, was set up by US lawyer Paul Stocker, now 87, a friend of Somare who once lived in PNG.

Stocker has said: "I can't think of anything (Rio) did that wouldn't make Adolf Hitler happy."

The case claims Bougainvilleans who worked for the mine, "all of whom were black", operated in "slave-like" conditions.

Mekere Morauta, PNG prime minister when the class action was filed, said at the time that even if successful it would not be enforceable in PNG because of the Compensation Act there.

Bougainvilleans will vote within four years on whether they want to split from PNG. This heightens the stakes for the reopening of the mine, with Bougainville wishing to secure the lion's share of the revenues, and also possibly some or all of PNG's equity.

The determination of BCL to reopen the mine itself, underlined by chairman Taylor, creates a formidable obstacle to potential competitors. China is the likely buyer of most of the mine product, and Chinese interests have been associated with Bougainville.

Momis was formerly PNG's ambassador to China.

But last weekend a group of Chinese businesspeople who had expressed an interest in investing in real estate on Bougainville were barred by landowners from visiting the mine site at Panguna.

One landowner, former combatant Chris Uma, said: "We did not fight for the Chinese to come over."

15.07.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Short sellers and security lenders should be careful now!

Unauthorized security lending by nominee banks made Bougainville Copper shares drop 50 percent within the last few weeks. Short seller dominated the market and traded bearish. This slump might now come to an sudden end as the more and more investors intend to sell their BOC securities at the Fair Value price level. The actual market depth references share prices up to AUD 40! The ESBC advises its members to put sell orders on a very high level. As nominee banks only can lend shares which are not for sale, it

might happen that short sellers and market participants who lended shares may have to close their positions to avoid major losses or even bankruptcy."If all our members who own round about 14 million shares offer their shares for sale the lending market in Bougainville Copper shares will dry out easily!" says ESBC President Axel G. Sturm.

Leerverkäufer und Aktienverleiher sollten jetzt auf der Hut sein!

Der Markt für unautorisierte Aktienverleiher und Leerverkäufer beginnt enger zu werden. Hier ein Blick auf das heutige Orderbuch in Sydney, das - wie Nekro formulieren würde - eine Reihe von Eisberg-Verkaufsorders enthält. Noch weigert sich der Marketmaker in Frankfurt Verkaufsorders, die weit über dem derzeitigen Kursniveau liegen, ins Orderbuch einzustellen. Ob er das noch lange durchhalten kann ist fraglich.

"Wenn nun alle ESBC Mitglieder ihre Aktien zu Phantasiepreisen zum Verkauf einstellen würden, könnte es für die Herrschaften, die uns seit langem mit ihren Spielchen ärgern, eng werden," sagt ESBC Präsident Axel G. Sturm. Allein die ESBC Mitglieder repräsentieren mehr als 14 Millionen Aktien. Das sind Dreiviertel des BOC Umsatzes weltweit im ersten halben Jahr. Bougainville Copper Investoren sehen spannenden Zeiten entgegen.

Market Depth for BOUGAINVILLE COPPER as at 10:01:09 AM Friday, July 15, 2011

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Trade Summary - Status
Last Change % Volume Trades Open High Low
1.005 0.000 0.00 0 0 0.000 0.000 0.000
Last Traded 0 @ 0 - No trades today

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER Market Depth

BOC Buyers

Level Buy Quantity Price

1	1	2,500	0.955
2	2	15,000	0.950
3	1	10,000	0.930
4	1	3,650	0.920
5	1	2,000	0.915
6	1	3,000	0.900
7	1	1,000	0.850
8	1	40,000	0.810
9	1	6,000	0.805
10	1	2,000	0.800
11	1	13,500	0.750

BOC Sellers

Price Quantity Sell Level

1.070	1,300	1	1
1.085	3,000	1	2
1.095	20,000	1	3
1.100	17,000	1	4
1.200	5,000	1	5
1.260	9,000	1	6
1.270	550	1	7
1.360	1,127	1	8
1.400	1,000	1	9

1.450 180 1 10
 1.670 4,000 1 11
 1.690 7,000 2 12
 1.700 13,000 2 13
 1.710 4,000 1 14
 1.720 9,000 2 15
 1.740 5,000 1 16
 1.750 15,000 3 17
 1.780 4,000 1 18
 1.790 6,000 1 19
 1.800 6,000 1 20
 1.820 6,000 1 21
 1.830 4,000 1 22
 1.840 6,000 1 23
 1.850 6,000 1 24
 1.890 6,000 1 25
 1.900 7,000 1 26
 15.990 30,000 1 27
 19.990 180,000 1 28
 20.000 68,026 1 29
 34.990 100,000 1 30
 39.990 100,000 1 31
 40.000 100,000 2 32

15.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira denies news report

By FABIAN HAKALITS and Fabian Ghatana

THE vice president of Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Patrick Nisira has denied a Post-Courier report that ABG had sold the Kopra Industri Koporesin (KIK) owned Buka copra shed for more than K2 million to a foreign company, Pristine 101. The foreign company is interested to invest in Bougainville on downstream copra processing.

Mr Nisira clarified that the shed was initially owned by the Copra Marketing Board (CMB), which changed to a new business entity-KIK. KIK however, transferred the shed to Pristine 101 Limited Copra Mill.

He said the shed was bought from KIK, who before the sale, sub leased it to Coconut Products Limited (CPL).

"When CPLs lease expired, the company did not want to renew its lease. KIK then put the sale of the shed on open market which Pristine 101 Limited purchased," he said.

Mr Nisira said this arrangement is legally in order with the shed now the legal property of Pristine 101 Limited.

In 2006, the ABG through its former Commerce Minister, Joseph Watawi, said Mr Nisira made several attempts writing to KIK to transfer the shed ownership to the Bougainville Growers Association, however KIK never responded.

He said KIK, during this period, sold a number of its properties to the Growers Association in Lae and Kavieng.

"Upon learning about the sales, the Minister at that time directed the Bougainville Administration to request for the Buka copra shed to be taken over by the Bougainville Grower Association," he said.

"How can you sell a property that is not yours? The Post-Courier report does not make sense," Mr Nisira said.

He said CPL has since refused to vacate the property and the case is presently before the courts.

Meanwhile, Mr Nisira said Pristine 101 Limited have offered to give shares to the people of Bougainville, especially the copra producers in the villages and their council of elders, once it is being established. He said the company recognises the ABG's position that no investors are allowed to operate in Bougainville as a stand-alone entity.

He said ABG is quite satisfied with the company's offer, which would add value to copra and bring more money to the pockets of the village farmers.

The Government however, understands that the former Leitana Council of Elders of Buka Island in 2003 also bid for ownership of the AusAID built copra shed. Moreover, the councils of elders are active partners in developing the copra and cocoa industry in the region.

Mr Nisira called on this paper to check facts and do more research before publishing its stories.

He has also urged Pristine 101 to clarify its position on the matter.

14.07.2011

Source: ESBC Research / Tom0001

Neck to Neck!

Australia and Germany are the leading stock markets to trade Bougainville Copper shares. While Sydney's ASX faces major problems due to aggressive algorithmic trading practices, it seems that Germany's markets are yet to be infected.

Although the ESBC repeatedly has asked the ASX to stop fraudulent market behavior, the Australian Securities Exchange seems unable or even not willing to provide regular service.

This surprises even more as Frankfurt was the major market of the fraudulent American Deposit Receipt scheme (ADR) in the past. Since this ADR scheme had been cancelled in 2009, the German stock exchange enjoys increasing turn-over in the original Bougainville Copper securities.

Except few trading days, Germany delivers a better price performance than Australia.

TURN-OVER

in Bougainville Copper Limited Securities

from January 3rd to July 14th, 2011

Stock Exchange	Quantity
Australia: Sydney (ASX)	9,412,359
Germany: Frankfurt	7,731,064
Germany: Berlin	304,170
Germany: Stuttgart	698,669
Germany: Munich	267,506
Germany: Tradegate	1,452,609
Germany (all markets):	10,454,018

Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) securities are not traded in London and Port Moresby.
Turn-over over BCL shares in New York is irrelevant as it is too small.

14.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BDA PRAISED

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Education, JOHN TABINAMAN has praised the National Government for creating the Border Development Authority (BDA) to improve the people's daily livelihoods in isolated border areas.

Minister John Tabinaman said that yesterday from Buka I after returning from a two weeks trip to the Atolls. "On behalf of the atoll's people and ABG I want to thank the National Government for BDA. They (BDA) have swiftly responded to the Atoll's people's cries for much needed government assistance during this prolonged four month drought period.

BDA were able donate K100,000 by providing their barge MV Andreas with relief supplies such as food(over 500 bags of rice and garden food such as kaukau, taro and bananas), water containers, medical and education supplies ."

Mr Tabinaman added that," we now see that BDA can come and help us within a short notice. Many times no ship in the past and the Atolls people suffer. Teachers, Health and Government Officers do not arrive in time and mobility was a problem. There was no help to ship cargos. Now people can see the Government's hands through BDA. The people were relieved to see the barge."

Mr Tabinaman said that before ABG had to charter private ships and it was expensive. "Those ships had to meet up to their tight schedule runs and we had to cut short some of our trips. It was hard to do awareness and get to know the people's real conditions. Besides the ships allocated were small and did not have facilities like a health room on the ship. But now with this barge we have a medical bay with medical supplies on board." Mr Tabinaman who led an ABG team to the atolls comprising of officers from Health, Agriculture, Education, North Bougainville MP's Office and ABG Administrations said that the people from the border areas can now have access to Government services through BDA.

"Apart from delivery of these supplies, the Team also conducted medical checks and awareness on food security, disaster preparation and management etc. BDA officers also conduct awareness on the role of BDA and the people overwhelmingly heaped praises on the National Government for creating BDA."

BDA had responded after North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi appealed for assistance in the National Parliament last month saying that about 15,000 people on Nissan , Pinapel , Mortlock, Tasman , Fead and Cateret islands needed immediate relief supplies due to the drought.

Meanwhile BDA shipping officers have departed for Jayapura yesterday to take delivery of the latest BDA barge MV Bougainville Atolls. This barge will be used in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

BDA already has MV Muntai, MV Ulayut, MV Manus Atolls, MV Andreas, MV Milne bay Atolls, MV Gloucester.

BDA has also assisted many communities on Bougainville with fully drawn loans for Sawmills to build better houses.

14.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NISIRA ON COPRA SHED

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA TODAY DENIED A Post Courier report that the ABG had sold the KIK owned Buka Copra Shed for more than TWO MILLION KINA to a foreign company, PRISTINE 101 an investor interested to invest in Bougainville on downstream processing of Copra.

He said that the shed was initially owned by then COPRA MARKETING BOARD(CMB) which was changed to a new Business entity the KOPRA INSDASTRI KOPORESIN(KIK).

The Vice President said that previously KIK leased the Shed to Coconut Products Limited (CPL) but when their lease period expired the company did not renew the lease but put the shed for sale on the open market resulting in the sale to Pristine 101.

He says that the arrangement is legally in order.

MR. NISIRA further explained the ABG in 2006 through the former Minister for Commerce and Industry, JOSEPH WATAWI did make several attempts in writing to KIK to transfer ownership of the Shed to the Bougainville Growers Association but KIK never responded.

He said that KIK during this period sold a number of its properties to Growers Associations in Lae and Kavieng.

The ABG Vice President said that the ABG as a Government had nothing to do with the sale as it was a normal business transaction between KIK and Pristine 101.

He questioned how can you sell a property that is not even yours and that the Post Courier report does not make sense.

14.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG cabinet approves deal

JOYCE TOHUI

THE establishment of the Bougainville-China Cooperation Committee (BCCC) which was approved by the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) was announced recently to the Bougainville House of Representatives by the ABG president chief John Momis. The committee's responsibility in Bougainville is to support and facilitate Chinese investments in the Autonomous region of Bougainville, which followed the signing of the seven Memorandums of Understandings (MOU) between the ABG and the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, Minqing Chamber of Commerce and other companies in China last year.

The Bougainville – China Cooperation (BCCC) will focus on:

- n developing an all round strategic partnership with China to attract Chinese investors to invest in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville on large scale and quantity basis

- n source and secure foreign aid from the Chinese Government

- n develop and facilitate social, economic, cultural and technical exchange programs between Bougainville and China

- npromote mutual understanding, support and friendship between the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the Republic of China.

ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira will head the BCCC as chairman and would have a

cross representation from the Bougainville community including women, former combatants and the business sector in Bougainville.

The Bougainville Cabinet has directed its administration to source K300,000.00 for the initial funding of the committee.

Mr Momis also said his cabinet has approved the establishment of a Bougainville import and export wholesale company to be responsible for the direct importing of goods from China and exporting of agriculture, marine and other produce from Bougainville.

14.07.2011

Source: Island Business

Bougainville's foreign investor worry

Autonomous Bougainville Government leadership has lost touch with reality, especially when dealing with foreign investor issues in the region, Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso, said. Because of this, a recent business meeting chaired by Semoso agreed in principle that beginning June 8, no more foreign businesses will be allowed to operate in Buka, Bougainville, in areas like retail, transport and agriculture, wholesale, tourism and hospitality, and other reserved lists of activities. This has been endorsed by the Bougainville Executive Council. "I want to warn businesshouses who use locals as fronts to sell their stocks, that they will be dealt with. I will not allow or want to see mistakes repeated in PNG where foreigners have gone as far as selling 'buai' or smoke, taking away the livelihood of some 25,000 lives. Not under my leadership. We need to get our leadership right," he said.

13.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Watawi: No 'influence' in sale of copra shed

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE sale of the former Copra Marketing Board property in Buka was never influenced by the 2009 or former Autonomous Bougainville Government, former trade minister Joseph Watawi said.

This is the copra shed and its controversial issues, published in the newspaper yesterday, which was bought by Pristine 101 co. Ltd.

In response to an article in the Post-Courier yesterday, Mr Watawi accused and raised concerns in the manner in which CPL continued to block or deny copra producers of north Bougainville the opportunity to enjoy value addition on the copra commodity which for many years was neglected.

"Pristine was invited by the former ABG in 2009 through the BEC decision to come and set up a copra crushing mill in Buka or somewhere in north Bougainville as there was already a government decision as well to establish a bio diesel plant in Arawa, central Bougainville," Mr Watawi said.

"Upon that invitation, Pristine Co. Ltd positively responded to the ABG invitation to come and establish the copra crushing plant and also on that note they made an offer to KIK to purchase the property for the purpose of establishing the copra mill here in Buka," Mr Watawi said.

"Pristine currently has a seven per cent PNG national ownership and was willing to offer shares to ABG however, due to lack of funds ABG was not able to buy shares in the business. The company has indicated its willingness to offer shares to the ABG and the people as part of its long term investment in Bougainville.

"Pristine Co Ltd now being the legal owner and in honouring the former ABG decision in

inviting them to come and set up the copra mill in Buka will go ahead and build the copra mill for the producers in north Bougainville which is likely to be commissioned next year. "Where as with CPL a 100 per cent foreign owned company listed and controlled in Malaysia does not seem to offer any other direct or indirect monetary benefits to the ABG the growers, or copra producers in north Bougainville except for dry copra buying from either licenced or unlicenced copra buyers," Mr Watawi said.

13.07.2011

Source: The National

Border unit assists Bougainville folks

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has praised the national government for creating the Border Development Authority (BDA) to improve people's lives in isolated areas.

A relieved ABG education minister John Tabinaman said yesterday from Buka, Bougainville, after returning from a two-week trip to the Atolls: "On behalf of the atolls people and ABG, I want to thank the national government for the BDA.

"They (BDA) have swiftly responded to the Atolls people's cries for much needed government assistance during this prolonged four-month drought period.

"The BDA was able to donate K100,000 by providing the barge mv Andreas and relief supplies such as food (over 500 bags of rice and garden food such as kaukau, taro and bananas), water containers, medical and education supplies.

"Teachers, health and government officers do not arrive in time and mobility is a problem."

Tabinaman said the ABG used to charter private ships which was an expensive exercise.

"Those ships had to meet their scheduled runs and we had to cut short some of our trips.

"It was hard to do awareness and get to know the real conditions people faced.

"But now with this barge we have a medical bay with medical supplies on board."

Tabinaman, who led an ABG team comprising officers from health, agriculture, education, North Bougainville MP's Office and ABG administrations to the atolls, said the people from the border areas could now have access to government services through the BDA.

"Apart from delivery of these supplies, the team conducted medical checks and awareness on food security, disaster preparation and management."

The BDA responded after North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi appealed for help in Parliament for the drought-stricken islanders.

BDA shipping officers left yesterday for Jayapura, in Indonesia, to take delivery of the latest BDA barge mv Bougainville Atolls.

12.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebels run away

By GORETHY KENNETH

POLICE are still investigating unconfirmed reports of two Me'ekamui soldiers shot in south Bougainville – one instantly dead and another seriously wounded.

Reports reaching the Post-Courier detailed the shooting was done by disgruntled freedom fighters, however police reported that no confirmed reports have been received from the south.

Meanwhile, a group of rebels associated with south Bougainville notorious Me'ekamui gang leader Damien Koike who ran away from the trouble seeking refuge are in Buka

and have nowhere to go.

The rebel hardliners said there are some in other parts of the north seeking refuge while others are in Panguna – claiming they do not want to be part of the fighting in south Bougainville.

They told the Post-Courier yesterday that they wanted to seek help from the Autonomous Bougainville Government in Buka and any other non-government organisations but were advised to wait for the ex-combatant group to come back from the south so that they would be dealt with.

But ABG yesterday advised they were not aware of these people but stressed that they should make their presence known so that they could be assisted.

The runaway hardliners told the paper they are scared of being referred to the hands of the law and arrested and charged.

12.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna LO teams up

By MOHAMMAD BASHIR

A PRINCIPAL landowner leader of the Panguna mine has opted to team up with the newly established Papa Mama Graun Pati and apply the production sharing concept being propagated by the party's president and prominent lawyer Peter Donigi.

Peter Kove, whose father Mathew Kove was killed by his uncle the late Francis Ona on suspicion the former was siding with CRA, said no amount of money would fix the psychological damage done to his people.

Mr Donigi's concept of 49 per cent for land-rights holders and 51 per cent for developers concept would settle the differences among his people.

"I have come to Port Moresby because I have heard so much about Peter Donigi and wanted to meet him and learn from him how we could move forward. I am looking for solutions for my people. So far, no one has come up with commitment on behalf of my people. Mr Donigi has opened my eyes to many possibilities and I think now we can move on," he said. Mr Kove said the law must be changed before locals do business with foreign businesses.

"The Donigi Plan is the only way forward. The land right holders must have 49 per cent production sharing or there will be no project. With the 49 per cent, we can settle our differences between ourselves so that we can move forward with the project. We do not have to wait for the government or foreign companies to contribute to peace making, we will settle our differences and the foreign investor must be one that is willing to enter into a production sharing contract with us, If not, we are not interested in doing any deals," he said.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SPEECH

By Aloysius Laukai



President of the Christensen Foundation, **DIANE CHRISTENSEN** speaking at the ceremony yesterday.
The Melanesian Program Officer **Catherine Sparks** watching.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

VANUATU HERE

By Aloysius Laukai

A Parliamentary member and Minister for Justice in Vanuatu, **RALPH REGENVENU** says that Melanesia is the last frontier that the world is looking to for natural scenery and resources.

He was speaking as one of the speakers at the Reeds festival yesterday.

Minister Ralph called on the people of Bougainville to protect their land, culture and resources from foreign exploitation.

He said that Melanesia like Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon islands are the last places on earth where the people still have land at their own hands.

The minister said that because of their land they do not need money to buy food as these food and proteins are readily available to them.

He said this is not so in other places who have to buy for everything including water and food.



Pictured is the Minister being carried by a Wakunai Kaur group.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MINISTER CONTRIBUTES

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Tourism JOE EGILIO contributed ONE THOUSAND KINA to the REEDS Festival through his Ministerial staff JASON MONSON.

The minister who is receiving medical attention in Port Moresby was able to assist through his staff and also his prepared speech was read by his staff.

He said that he supported the work the late WILLIAM TAKAKU has started and it is now up to the people to continue and upgrade into a full Bougainville festival.

The Minister said that his office is pleased to support such activities that promote cultural activities and the preservation so that our future generations can also benefit from.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REEDS A SUCCESS

By Aloysius Laukai

The two-day Reeds festival that was held at Tubiana near Arawa was described as a success.

Meekamui chief CHRIS UMA said that he was happy that the celebration conclude without incident.

He told New Dawn FM that this was the main aim of the Bougainville struggle to promote the identity of Bougainville and the festival has just achieved that.

MR. UMA thanked all the people that had attended the festival and hopes to see much bigger festival in the future.

New Dawn FM estimates that more than five thousand people including the participants attended the ceremony.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REEDS ENDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The two-days Reeds festival ended just after lunch with all participants sharing 8 pigs and all the food that was hanging on the food stall since the start of the festival.

According to Chief PETER GARUAI the two-day ceremony attracted seventeen groups from Inus down to Bana district.

He was speaking at the end of the celebrations this afternoon.

Chief Garuai said that the first Reeds festival in 2009 attracted 13 groups and this year the numbers have increased.

MR. GARUAI also thanked all the people including overseas friends that have gathered for the festival.

The Christensen fund team returned by road to Buka where they boarded a chartered plane to Port Moresby.

MR. GARUAI urged the people to remain united and return for the next show in 2013.



Background is the Picture of the Food Stall with 8 Pigs to be shared with all participants.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Opening of huge Bougainville mine off agenda until Panguna re-united

A road map has been developed to bring reconciliation and development to the Panguna district in the central part of the main island of Papua New Guinea's Bougainville.

It was the key outcome of a workshop in Buka last week which aimed to resolve outstanding issues around the huge Panguna copper and gold mine, which has lain idle since the start of the civil war 22 years ago.

There's a push to re-open the mine but the workshop made clear that this question can't be considered until the region is unified.

Former Bougainville cabinet minister, Madeleine Toroansi, says the key is bringing the various village communities together so they form a united voice.

"So the first part of that is getting the unification of Panguna landowners and those that are affected in relation to Panguna and getting them through the process of rehabilitation, through the process of reconciliation."

Former Bougainville cabinet minister, Madeleine Toroansi.

12.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

REEDS FESTIVAL OPENS IN STYLE

By Aloysius Laukai in Arawa

The second REEDS Festival started in style this morning with all participants lining up in their traditional attires to allow the sponsors of the event President of the US based Christensen Foundation, DIANE Christensen her husband and daughter plus Board members of the Foundation to walk in the middle to the stage.

This was the second Reeds Festival since the first festival was held in 2009.

The festival was started by the late WILLIAM TAKAKU with funding support from Christensen funds.

Speakers at the Opening ceremony spoke highly of the vision the Late William had to resurrect dying cultures due to modern influences.

The late Takaku wanted the Reeds festival as a mark of Bougainville's unique style in making music with the Bamboo (kaur).

The show of Bougainville's unique styles were then displayed until late in the afternoon.



Groups stood in two lines in full traditional gear whilst the main Sponsors walked to the stage.



Picture of a Dance group ready to perform at the ceremony

11.07.2011

Source: The National

Chinese delegation visits Panguna By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A seven-man delegation of Chinese investors visited the Panguna mine site last Wednesday.

Bougainville government officials said contrary to a Post-Courier report they had not been chased away from the mine.

The officials said there had been a misunderstanding with a former combatant commander that nearly led to the investors being turned away from entering the mine site.

Another ex-combatant commander, Ishmael Toroama, on hearing of the delegation's dilemma, travelled to Panguna and ensure that the investors visit was not disrupted. Toroama, in a recent ex-combatant commander's meeting, had on behalf of former commanders in the region, expressed support for economic initiatives taken by the Autonomous Bougainville Government and had assured that the former combatants would be working in unity to boost economic growth in the region.

The Bougainville government officials said the recent lot of Chinese investors were mainly interested in mining investment opportunities in the region.

Another group of investors from China are expected on Wednesday, to look at investment opportunities on hydro energy resources.

Their visit this week will bring close to 30 Chinese investors who have visited the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in the past two months.

11.07.2011

Source: The National

Momis predicts bright future for Bougainville

By JACOB POK

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis has assured his people that Bougainville would be economically independent in the next five to six years. He said during the sixth anniversary celebration of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in Port Moresby that dependency had affected the people and urged them to work hard to achieve positive economical benefits in the region.

He said Bougainville's economy had suffered during the crisis from 1988 to 1997, the "terrible years of violence and conflict".

Momis said despite their suffering, peace was finally reached.

He said the peace process was successful unlike other countries where peace processes often failed and turned into violence.

He said the ABG aimed to fully revive the economy of Bougainville with equal distribution of services to all people.

Momis said the people would manage their own affairs to ensure good governance prevailed in the region.

He said nepotism and corruption would be eradicated.

He said foreigners who conducted business dealing with a few landowners for self-gain would be discouraged and would also be kicked out of Bougainville.

Momis said the ABG had plans for securing and creating employment opportunities for youths in the region.

He said because many youths were unemployed, they turned to illegal activities which caused conflicts.

He said the PNG government was to commit K500 million to assist Bougainville in its socio-economic recovery.

The celebration was to mark Bougainville's autonomy, which it received on June 16, 2005, from the PNG government.

10.07.2011

Source: ESBC

Sudden mysterious US interest in Bougainville

As the re-opening of the giant Panguna mine is only a few steps away, the island of Bougainville faces an up-rising interest by US based groups as the so called "Tall J Foundation" or the "Christensen Fund". Tall J seems to be some disguised company that is allegedly interested in stealing gold from the Panguna lower tailings. However, Christensen's background is not really clear as well: Founded by a former president of Utha mining, Allen D. Christensen, the Christensen Fund today supports cultural projects and "biodiversity". It cannot be excluded that the fund might have strong hidden financial interest behind its grandmother-like president Diane Christensen and her "mission & vision". All information about possible economic interest of both groups are very welcome and will be published here. It seems interesting to the ESBC that these foundations appear on scene when half way of the road to the re-opening of the Panguna mine. It also seems quite remarkable that an official Chinese delegation had been refused to access the Panguna mine area one week ago while "grandma" Mrs. Christensen enjoyed a warm welcome on the mine site this weekend. Furthermore it is also remarkable that nobody ever heard of these groups during late Joseph Kabui's or James Tanis'

presidency. Therefore the ESBC asks: Are they these "the carpetbaggers who are running around misleading ignorant people" as President John Momis stated recently?

10.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Christensen Fund Team on Bougainville

Pictures by Aloysius Laukai



The team were able to visit the closed Panguna mine.

They are pictured with Panguna Chief PHILIP TAKAUNG at the mine pit.



Diane (right) and Catherine welcomed in Arawa by a cultural group.



Picture of the team ready for lunch at the Cateret Resettlement Project in Tinputz on their way to Arawa.

10.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Christensen Fund Team in Bougainville By Aloysius Laukai

The Christensen family and Board members of the [Christensen Fund](#) are in Bougainville for the biannual two-day Rheeds festival that is starting tomorrow at Tubiana.

The festival started by the late William Takaku with assistance from the fund starts tomorrow with participants arriving in Arawa yesterday and today for the event.

The team arrived in Buka on Saturday and went straight to Tinputz and had lunch at the Cateret Resettlement Project in which the funds also assisted in the past.

The team arrived in Arawa just after 5pm to a welcome ceremony at section 10 Arawa.

On Sunday the team visited the closed Panguna mine site also saw the tailings site before visiting the mine site.

They later went to PIDIA village the home of the late William Takaku and visited his grave.

They had lunch at Pidia village before going for a swim at AROVO island.

They will attend the Rheeds Festival today and tomorrow before returning on Tuesday.



Diane Christensen welcomed on Buka airport

09.07.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited, Compushare Australia, ESBC

New : Bougainville Copper Limited Top Shareholder Listing updated !

Neu : Liste der größten Aktionäre von Bougainville Copper Limited aktualisiert !

Nouveau : Les plus grands actionnaires de Bougainville Copper Limited - la mise à jour !

08.07.2011

Source: Blog Microkhan.com

The New Filibusters

When last we checked in on Bougainville's Panguna copper mine, there was considerable talk of reopening the long-shuttered operation—much to the consternation of indigenous groups who have long fought for a more equitable distribution of the

proceeds. Now comes word that a few Americans might be sticking their nose in the island's business, thereby threatening Panguna's future:

The president of autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, says a shadowy American group, with links to a militant rebel group, is de-stabilising his government.

The rebel group calling itself the Me'ekamui Tribal Nation, which refuses to acknowledge the government's legitimacy, reportedly has the backing of the so-called Tall J Foundation.

Mr Momis says he's met the Americans who he understands want to begin extracting alluvial gold in Bougainville.

"I don't know very much about them. All I know is that they're a menace. They are trying to sabotage all our efforts to create unity and a sense of responsibility, to get ourselves prepared for re-opening of the [Panguna] mine. They are more or less carpetbaggers, running around misleading ignorant people."

Okay, then, so what is the Tall J Foundation? Records are spotty, indeed—I couldn't find a corporate listing in the United States. This forum post from 2010 suggests that Tall J has been soliciting investors for some time now, with a fantastic promise of 500 percent returns. If the poster is to be believed, the company's director is one Stephen M. Strauss, with addresses in both Texas and Olive Branch, Mississippi. I got another pop on that exact name through a recent SEC case, in which a Stephen M. Strauss stands accused of orchestrating a pump-and-dump stock scheme while head of the Chilmark Entertainment Group. (One of the press releases alleged to have played a role in that scheme can be read [here](#).)

Coincidence? Well, Chilmark was headquartered in Southaven, Miss., just a stone's throw from Olive Branch, so I'm thinking the answer is "no."

The only other easily accessible trace of Tall J is this LinkedIn listing for one James Blackmore. But I can find no connection between Blackmore and Strauss—at least not yet.

The bottom line is that it seems that a tiny, shady-seeming investment concern actually appears to be wreaking genuine havoc on the Bougainville peace process. That immediately made me think of such infamous 19th-century filibusters as William Walker, who fomented great chaos in Latin America in the service of making fortunes. This is why private interests really shouldn't be permitted to assume roles that might destabilize shaky governments; corporate self-interest is typically more at odds with international order than diplomatic self-interest.

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORKSHOP CLOSE

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Finance Minister, MR. ALBERT PUNGHAU says Bougainville needs to unite and create good governance, rule of law and remove weapons to attract investors into the region.

He says although Bougainville is rich with Natural Resources we do not have the capacity the technical know how and the funds to develop these resources.

And for these to become a reality Bougainvilleans need to unite forget the past and work together to achieve what Bougainville has been dreaming of.

MR. PUNGHAU made these remarks in his capacity as the Acting President at the closing of the Panguna Stakeholders meeting tonight.

He officially closed the workshop tonight.



ANGELA KAVARUI President of the Panguna Women's Federation **SIGNING** the Joint Resolution at Hahela on Buka island.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai



Pictures of the Signing of the Joint Resolution tonight at Hahela Buka Island.
 Pictured is Meekamui's Chief Administrator, LORD WILLIAM MUNGTA
 Picture by Aloysius Laukai

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville's Panguna workshop lays out strategy before any mining

A workshop involving communities around Panguna in Papua New Guinea's Bougainville has concluded there'll be no green light for more mining until there's been reconciliation and development in the villages around the mine.

A week long workshop, orchestrated by the mining minister in the autonomous Bougainville Government, Michael Oni, aimed to resolve outstanding issues ahead of a possible mine re-opening.

A former cabinet minister, Madeleine Toroansi, who's from near Panguna, says they've developed a strategy and have called for the ABG to create a timetable for it.

"The first is the unification of the factions in Panguna itself and the next phase will involve the mediation team for structural reforms, for an administration structure that will work in Panguna to make sure the message of this workshop goes down, so the message of peace and the process of peace is understood by the people of Panguna."

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Panguna meet ends by Aloysius Laukai

The weeklong Panguna Stakeholders meeting ended this evening with the group signing a Resolution on the Progress of Peace and unity for the people of Panguna. Please note attached is the joint resolution released tonight from the Hahela Conference Room.

MR. PARIU in his closing remarks said that the people of Panguna are united to move forward with the ABG to develop Panguna and Bougainville as a whole.
See attachment

PANGUNA STAKEHOLDERS' HAHELA UNDERSTANDING

1. The Autonomous Bougainville Government, the People of Panguna; the Meekamui Government, the Meekamui Government of Unity, the Panguna Mine Landowners, the Women In Mining Affected Area, the Bougainville Women's Federation, the Ex-Combatants, the Meekamui Defence Force, the Council of Elders, Council of Chiefs, the Panguna District Administration, the Buka based Panguna Elites, and the Constituency Members of Ioro, Bolave, Lato, Eivo/Torau, Torokina, Baba, and thereafter referred to as the "PARTIES" having met at Hahela YC Conference Hall for the first time from 4th – 8th July 2011 acknowledged and appreciated;

a) Each other's individual and collective peace building efforts, the Autonomous Bougainville Government, AUSAID SPSN Programme, the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville and the Facilitators for their support and commitment in the overall Peace-building Process and more specifically for convening the Week-long Hahela Consensus Building Workshop.

2. The Parties had deliberations and reached a general consensus;

a) To strive to work in partnership through a participatory and consultative process to resolve the Panguna conflict including addressing issue of compensation and achieve Peace, Development and Security.

b) To seek the relevant support of the Autonomous Bougainville Government to pursue the Panguna Peace and Development Process towards a Culture of Peace and Prosperity.

c) To recognize and reaffirm all formal resolutions including; Panguna Communiqué, Tunuru Resolution, Panguna (Ex-Combatants/MDF) Resolution, Buka Meekamui MOU (2009), and further agree that a review process shall be undertaken to align and mainstream these resolutions and agree and resolve;

i. To strengthen and empower the established peace-building and development initiatives that include the Meekamui Unification Process, the Panguna Mine Landowner Process, the Ex-Combatant & Meekamui Defence Force Process, the review and strengthening process of the Panguna District Administration and Local Governance, the establishment of the Panguna Police Station and all other economic developments and social services, programs and projects;

ii. To explore an inclusive Management and Coordination Options that is appropriate to the aspirations of the people of Panguna in partnership with the current political,

administration and development partners to implement peace-building and development initiatives.

iii. In the interim the Ministry for Natural Resources to take lead in maintaining constant consultation with stakeholders and resource personnel in Panguna (and throughout Bougainville) and inform on process to date.

iv. To request and receive Funding from the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the Government of Papua New Guinea and Development Partners including AUSAID for the continuation of ongoing peace-building activities and to implement other formalized programmes and projects.

d) The above clauses (i, ii & iii) will commence within three months as of the date of the signing of this understanding.

3. The Parties certify that the Panguna Stakeholders' Hahela Understanding is a true record of the general understanding arising from their Hahela Consensus Building Workshop and that amendment, omissions and any changes are restricted to the Parties in a formal Meeting convened for such.

4. Signed this day, Friday 08th July 2011 at YC Conference Hall, Hahela Catholic Mission Station of Buka District, Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Signed;

Panguna Stakeholders

William Mungta Benedict Ienu Noah Doko

Meekamui Government Meekamui Government of Unity Meekamui Defence Force

Boniface Arunara Martin Musimuko Angela Kabarui

Ex-Combatants Council of Elders Womens' Representative

Tony Pungpara Paul Lundo Albert Kaliana

Coastal Corridor LOA Fish Owners' Association Lower Tailings LOA

Paul Tabuio Michael Parui Francis Kabarui

Middle Tailings LOA Upper Tailings LOA Special Mining Lease LOA

Peter Miriona Theresa Jaingtong Jude Genu

Port-Mine-Access LOA Arawa Siokate LOA Uruawa LOA

Scholly Meuka Dr. Cyril Imako Blaise Iruinu

Women in Mining Panguna Buka Based Elites Council of Chiefs

ABG Constituency Members;

Hon. M Oni Hon. M Dare Hon. S Suako

Ioro Eivo/Torau Torokina

Hon. L Uakai Hon. W Lawabua Hon. W Silamai

Bolave Lato Baba

ABG Administration

Mr. Lawrence Disin

Chief Administrator

Witnessed By:

Hon. Newton Kauva

Minister for Peace and Reconciliations

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CEO happy

By JOYCE TOHUI

Chief Executive Officer for the Lands Division in Bougainville, ANDREW DOWARO was happy to see the newly elected members of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board sworn in yesterday at HUTJENA.

Speaking at the ceremony, MR DOWARO said that this was a step forward for the lands division since he took office in 2007.

He said that his division has plans to set up the Physical Planning Board and now it has been realized.

He added that for the Board to grow and deliver it must be fed with good resources so that it can carry out its work effectively and efficiently.

MR DOWARO acknowledged and thanked those who contributed to the setting up of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board, especially the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning and he believed that they will work together to get things moving.

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BEC commended

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Deputy Secretary for the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, OSWEL TOLOPA thanked the Bougainville Executive Council for a very important and milestone appointment for the establishment of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board.

He made these remarks during the swearing in ceremony of the Board members at HUTJENA yesterday.

MR TOLOPA said that it is very important for planning to come through and this was the result of their office working together with the Lands Division here.

He said that this was one of the department's roles in rolling out powers and functions to various boards in provinces including Bougainville.

He added that it is an equal important under the National constitution's commitment with National Government and ABG that it is imminent for Bougainville to have its own Board which cannot be avoided.

MR TOLOPA said that it was a milestone for the ABG to recognize the important functions of Physical Planning.

Speaking on behalf of his minister, he said that the establishment of the board will pave the way forward for development in the region.

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Director on Board

By JOYCE TOHUI

The Deputy Director for Urbanization, ELIAS MASTA took the opportunity yesterday to

briefly explain on the roles and functions of the Physical Planning Board at the swearing in of the Board members at HUTJENA.

He said that the role of the Board is to make sure that there is development plans in the province.

He added that there are four types of development plans, provincial, urban, local and subject development plan.

MR MASTA said that the Autonomous region of Bougainville itself will have one provincial development plan, three local plans and urban development plans.

He explained that under the urban development plans it will have its own local plans and currently there are three urban areas which are BUKA TOWN, HUTJENA and KOKOPAU.

MR MASTA said that this was up to the Board members to look at it later.

However he said that 90% of the Board's work is to assess and control developments that will occur according to this plan.

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Parents warned

By Aloysius Laukai

Parents who do not send their children to school could be arrested and charged under the LukautimPikinini Act starting next year.

This was revealed by the CEO for education on Bougainville, BRUNO BABATO today.

MR. BABATO was speaking at the closing of the LukautimPikinini Act awareness workshop for the Bougainville Police Service Personnel at Hutjena this afternoon.

He said that starting next year, the education department will implement a policy that states that Education for a child would start at the age of 6.

MR. BABATO said that this means that the Education Department can use the LPA to charge parents who do not let their children to school for violating the Right of the child to School.

08.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PROTECT CHILD

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service officers that deal with Children's cases are now fully equipped to use the LukautimPikinini Act as a tool in their everyday investigations and handling of Police cases.

This was revealed at the closing of a one-week LukautimPikinini Act awareness workshop at Hutjena this afternoon.

The workshop was funded by UNICEF Bougainville office and facilitated by the Division of Community Development.

The CEO for the division, MRS. MANA KAKAROUTZ told the graduants that her division has organized many such workshops since the new act was passed by the National Parliament in 2009.

She said that the new law supersedes the Welfare act which is a colonial law and does not really address issues affecting PNG today.

The CEO for Community Development said that the new LPA concentrates on the

protection of a child.

She said that although the division has no funds under ABG, they are able to run these programs with funds from donors such as UNICEF and also under the Law and Justice Sector.

08.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville teachers end training By PETERSON TSERAHA

PANGUNA has made history again by hosting a six weeks long course for elementary school teachers, mainly from south and central Bougainville.

Ever since after the Panguna Communiqué signing, this was the first time something regarding education has happened in Panguna.

The trainer directed training was sponsored by the Bougainville Copper Foundation (BCF) and the PNG Sustainable Development.

All trainees graduated last week Thursday at the Panguna Primary School and were challenged to uphold the importance of education in Bougainville.

Chairman of Ioro 1 Council of elders, Martin Misimoko told the graduates that their main aim is to eliminate illiteracy.

"I challenge every one of you here that you have one specific aim and that is to fight against illiteracy and make every Bougainvillean know how to read and write," Mr Misimoko said.

Mr Misimoko said a lot of teachers in Bougainville have been committing a big sin by running away from classes, most of the times during their fortnight day, saying that they often go drinking around in town, especially in the main centres like Buin Arawa and Buka.

"You have to portray your professionalism at all costs for the sake of the future of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville," he said.

08.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville landowners work towards united position on mine re-opening

Moves are afoot on Bougainville to set up organisations to represent landowners in negotiations on the possible re-opening of the Rio-Tinto owned Panguna Copper Mine.

The mine was closed in 1989 after it sparked a bloody civil war and its re-opening is still opposed by some members the rebel Me'ekamui group .

Bougainville President John Momis sees it as the way to give Bougainville the financial self-reliance it needs to make a real choice in a planned referendum on independence.

Landowners would have to approve any re-opening of Panguna, but at the moment they have no voice because there's no organisation to represent them.

Australian National University lawyer, Anthony Regan, is working for the Bougainville Autonomous government, assisting landowners to set up their representative bodies.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Anthony Regan, Research Fellow, Australian National University

Listen here !

07.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STAKEHOLDERS

By Aloysius Laukai

The Panguna unification Stakeholders meeting is progressing very well with final presentations to be made tomorrow morning.

So far all parties in and around Panguna have voiced their views for the first time at this forum.

Representatives include former Panguna Land Owner Association members, New Panguna Landowners Association members, both the Mekamui factions of Original Mekamui and Mekamui Unity government and leaders from the Panguna District Administration, and some leaders around the Panguna area.

The workshop will end with a joint declaration on the way forward for PANGUNA and Bougainville as a whole.

New Dawn FM understands that this is the first forum in which all stakeholders are free to talk on issues which is affecting the people of Panguna and surrounding villages.

07.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

NEW BOARD

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville for the first time sworn in its first Board members of the Physical Planning Board which will plan and approve infrastructures in the towns throughout Bougainville.

The members were sworn in after completing a weeklong training in Buka this afternoon. The training was facilitated by officers from the National Department of Land and Physical Planning.

The Board would be chaired by the Bougainville Chief Administrator, LAWRENCE DISING.

Other members are the CEO for Lands, Andrew Dowaro, Civil Works Engineer, SEMION ITAMAI, Surveyor CLEMENT SIPARA, Business Representative, THOMAS RABAN and the only woman member representing South Bougainville, AGNES NARA.

In his remarks this afternoon, the ABG minister for Lands, MICHAEL ONI said that this was a sign of progress towards draw down of Lands powers to Bougainville from the National Government.

Minister Oni said that the establishment of the Physical Planning Board would oversee the development of Cities and Towns throughout Bougainville.

And that this was the first step towards achieving some planning within our Towns.

He said whilst the ABG was talking about development in the districts the establishment of the Board was timely.

07.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis thanks PNG for return of Correctional Services

By JOYCE TOHUI

Autonomous Bougainville Government PRESIDENT John Momis has expressed heartfelt gratitude to PNG Government for the return of Correctional Institutional Services (CS) to Bougainville.

President Momis made these remarks at the passing out of the 25 new graduates from a training organised at the Hutjena Training School recently in Buka.

He thanked CS Minister Tony Aimo for his commitment over a long period of time to see that the vision was realised.

Mr Momis said the ABG government and its people are grateful for this help from the PNG government and hoped for a bright future.

He also paid tribute to CS officers who lost their lives at Kuveria on the cause of their duties at the start of the Bougainville conflict and praised them for their service and commitment they had for Bougainville.

He said that there was a reason to celebrate the event, seeing the importance and presence of law and order in society as without Police and CS services, Bougainville cannot build the harmonious society it preaches about.

"All of us have come out of ashes and we all must collaborate with everyone on Bougainville to develop the region and I thanked the people of Bekut for allowing their land to be used for this project," said Mr Momis.

Meanwhile, the CS Minister, in responding to this remarks, said that peace was finally returning to Bougainville, thus making it possible for CS to return to Bougainville after 22 years of absence.

"We were trying to come back to Bougainville but due to land problems, we could not make it earlier," explained Mr Aimo.

Mr Aimo thanked AusAID and ABG for securing the land at Bekut and further thanked AusAID for funding the project at the cost of K4.5 million.

He also thanked the ABG for contributing its share of funds for the project.

07.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Eluh: Law and order will be restored

BOUGAINVILLE Police Chief Thomas Eluh has assured Bougainvilleans that law and order will be restored in the south.

The Assistant Commissioner, ACP Eluh said the attack on his policemen recently will not stop him putting more police work into the areas of South Bougainville.

Mr Eluh said he will not be deterred and called on police to do their work to protect people and property in those areas.

He said the communities will ask why there is no police presence if the killings continue and he is determined to put a stop to that.

Police Chief Eluh said that he cannot sit around relaxing when many innocent people have died and still many people's lives are at risk and living in fear.

"I will encourage my men to continue more police work into the areas as part of their duty to enforce law and order in the communities to look after the people," said Mr Eluh.

"Killings in South Bougainville are ongoing and those involved must be apprehended to face the full force of law."

He strongly urged the people of Bougainville to unite and put an end to the vicious killings and work with the police to track down those involved as this was an ongoing problem, especially in South Bougainville and it must not be tolerated anymore.

"I believed that the people of Bougainville are tired of such cruel behaviours and long to see an ending to these inhuman activities," ACP Eluh said.

07.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Red Cross doing a lot in Bougainville

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE Red Cross chairperson, Aida Kenneth, said that the Red Cross branch has been carrying out a lot of positive programs in communities.

She said that one of the programs which they are trying to promote and implement is a youth program called youth's as agents of behavioural change (YABC).

She added that the YABC training program is to try and help youths in all districts in Bougainville but awareness must be carried out.

Ms Kenneth said that the awareness has started already with help from National Youth Coordinator from the head office in Port Moresby who visited a few weeks ago.

She also said the National Youth Coordinator started the awareness with the urban youths in town who were interested in the program.

Ms Kenneth explained that there are seven steps to the program but the first is to help them set up the groups and their aims and objectives of what they want to do.

"The youths will be assisted in developing their youth constitution in order to look after their groups," said Ms Kenneth.

The Red Cross chairperson said these are some steps involved in this training, however, there are more.

06.07.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Quick end to Panguna sightseeing trip

A CHINESE delegation was reportedly "chased out" of the Panguna mine on Bougainville Island by Me'ekamui Defence Force soldiers.

The Chinese visitors were on a "sightseeing" visit of the old suspended mine and were invited to the island by the Autonomous Bougainville government, according to the Post-Courier.

The newspaper further reported the Chinese delegation was part of a group of businessmen who signed seven memorandum of understanding agreements in China earlier this year to develop Bougainville in partnership with the ABG.

As cash copper prices could be back on the road to \$US10,000 a tonne, deposits of the magnitude of Panguna will be in even stronger demand.

However, visiting the mine remains a dangerous exercise.

MDF commander Chris Uma reportedly said they did not fight for the Chinese to come over.

"We are still in the negotiating process so let the landowners and Bougainvilleans decide," he told the Post-Courier.

Panguna was the world's fourth largest copper mine in the months before it closed in 1989 and had produced 9 million ounces of gold and 3 million tonnes of copper from 1972.

The civil war is long over and Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper is making steady progress to reopen the mine.

In May BCL executive chairman Peter Taylor told the Australia PNG Business Council the reconciliation process on Bougainville was generally “going very well”, while a timeframe for a possible return to mining might be around three to five years.

The ABG is set to vote for full independence from Papua New Guinea in 2015.

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Calls for MPs to honour promises

By AL



Michael Pariu

Chairman of Panguna Landowners Association Michael Pariu has called on Bougainville regional member Fidelis Semoso and national member for Central Jimmy Mirintoro to honour their commitment to fund reconciliation processes in Panguna.

Mr Pariu raised this concern today to ABG minister for veterans affairs David Sisito after hearing from the minister that the state had released Bougainville's K15 million restoration and development grant.

He said early this year, the regional member Mr Semoso had pledged K300,000 towards the reconciliation of Panguna landowners whilst Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Mirintoro had pledged K400,000 towards the same cause.

According to Mr Pariu, the ABG through vice president Patrick Nisira had also pledged another K300,000 which the Panguna landowners are now waiting to receive.

He added that the people of Panguna are prepared and waiting for the funds to host their final reconciliation ceremonies.

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville receives K15 million

By AL

The National Government this week granted Bougainville's Restoration and Development grant of K15 million for this year.

This was announced by ABG Minister for Veterans Affairs David Sisito this morning at the Panguna stakeholders consultative workshop currently being held at Hahela, Buka. Mr Sisito also warned on the proper use of the money and appealed to especially the Bougainville national members of parliament to stop giving cash to former combatant commanders at Panguna.

He cautioned that such actions would only prolong the process of reconciliation in the area.

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Lands minister swears in Board

By AL

National minister Lands and Physical Planning Lucas Dekena will tomorrow swear in newly elected members of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board in Buka.

Bougainville minister for Natural Resources Michael Oni said the inauguration of the board is another step towards autonomy for Bougainville.

He said through the board, Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) can make planning decisions with regard to Physical Planning areas in Bougainville.

Oni added that in line with the delegation of powers, the department of Lands and Physical planning conducted an induction workshop for the board in the last two days.

The workshop, hosted at the Bougainville administration conference room, focused on training the elected members on their roles and responsibilities.

It also emphasized on good governance based on transparency and accountability of the board.

The appointment of the Bougainville Physical Planning Board is in line with conditions set in a memorandum of understanding signed between the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning and ABG's division of Lands and Physical Planning.

The Lands and Physical Planning MOU was part of eight other MOUs signed on the handing down of delegated powers from the National Government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government during a Joint Supervisory Body meeting on Feb 17 in Port Moresby.

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Elementary teachers certified

By AL

Thirty-three elementary teachers in the Panguna district last Friday received certificates after completing six weeks of training hosted at the Panguna Primary School.

The training is part of a three year course towards attaining a certificate in elementary teacher training.

Of the 33, 20 teachers were from Catholic run agency schools and 13 were from Seventh Day Adventist schools.

The event was witnessed by members of the community and representatives of PNG Sustainable Development Program or PNGSDP who were co-funders of the project.

PNGSDP chief programme officer Camillus Midire said PNGSDP had contributed K22, 184 with co-funding support from the Bougainville Copper Fund.

Mr Midire said it was fitting for PNGSDP to be assisting the people of Panguna in recognition of Panguna mine's contribution to the economy of PNG in the past.

He acknowledged the other partners that took the lead in developing the program especially the PNG Education Institute, Marist Project Sankamap, Catholic Agency and [Bougainville Copper Fund](#).

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KAMMA IS SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE MP

By AL

After a hard fought battle starting straight after national elections in November 2007 with former contestant Micheal Laimo, the Supreme Court last Friday ruled Steven Pirika Kamma as the duly elected national member of Parliament for South Bougainville. Following the 2007 national elections, Mr Kamma, who was runner-up by 17 votes filed an election petition challenging Mr Laimo's win.

The National Court in February 2008 declared the election of Mr Laimo null and void and ordered a recount of all ballot papers.

In October 2008, Mr Kamma was declared as duly elected following the recount of votes. Both the PNG Electoral Commission and Mr Laimo then filed for reviews on the National Court decision which were rejected by the court.

When the last of these applications for leave were dismissed by Chief Justice Salamo Injia in June 2009, the applicants in one last move to oust Kamma, applied to the Supreme Court for a review of the National Court judgment.

A three man bench of Justices Salatiel Lenalia, David Cannings and John Kawi ruled last Friday that none of the alleged mistakes by the National Court amounted to errors of law and therefore dismissed case.

Mr Kamma has 13 months remaining before the next general elections to complete implementation of all planned projects for South Bougainville.

06.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville workshop ponders Panguna reopening

Landowners and ex-combatants from around the huge Panguna mine in Papua New Guinea's Bougainville have presented their concerns at a workshop in Buka.

The week long meeting, called by the Autonomous Bougainville Government's ministry of natural resources, aims to resolve outstanding issues ahead of a possible re-opening of the mine.

Don Wiseman reports:

"The Panguna Landowner Association's deputy chair, Michael Pariu, says both his group and the ex-combatants say it's critical they be involved in any negotiations to re-open the mine. He says they have a right to be heard at the negotiating table with the mine's owner, Bougainville Copper Ltd. Mr Pariu says his organisation backs the re-opening of Panguna, but any negotiations would have to include agreement on a compensation package for the damage caused by the mine. He says there would also need to be a roadmap laying out how the villages around Panguna can be rehabilitated and developed. The workshop was also told that the ABG would provide more than 400,000 US dollars to assist the reconciliation process among the Panguna communities."

06.07.2011

Source: The National

Former soldiers call for peace

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

FORMER combatants in Bougainville have ordered fighting factions in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville to a ceasefire immediately to allow peace talks in the

area to proceed.

The 110 former commanders who met last week at Tsiroge Catholic health centre to address the ongoing local conflict in the Konnou area resolved to give all factions until September to address the issue.

In a motion moved by former commander Damien Kora and seconded by Peter Naguo, the ex-combatants consultative meeting resolved to:

- * Dispatch a high-powered unarmed delegation comprising of selected ex-combatants representatives of the North, South and Central veterans on a Konnou Peace Mission to open dialogue with the Damien Koike faction, Mongai Home Guards, WILMO faction, Konnou Freedom Fighters and Struggling for Peace faction;

- * The Autonomous Bougainville Government make available funding and facilitate the logistics required to facilitate the Konnou peace mission delegation;

- * See that by the end of this year, a series of reconciliation ceremonies arranged, organised and held between the ex-combatant factions, groups, communities and individuals throughout the region to foster peace efforts and weapons disposal preparations, paving the way towards the referendum on independence; and,

- * Ensure the Konnou peace mission delegation make its report available by September.

The ex-combatants agreed to three other resolutions including support for economic activities initiated by the ABG and the reopening of the Panguna mine.

05.07.2011

Source: Islands Business

Chinese tycoons chased out of Panguna

A Group of Chinese tycoons invited by the Autonomous Bougainville Government were “chased out” of Panguna and denied access to the mine site over the weekend by the self-styled Me’ekamui Defence Force soldiers.

BUKA, PNG (POST COURIER/RNZI) ----- A Group of Chinese tycoons invited by the Autonomous Bougainville Government were “chased out” of Panguna and denied access to the mine site over the weekend by the self-styled Me’ekamui Defence Force soldiers. Chris Uma, Me’ekamui Defence Force commander, told the Post-Courier from Arawa that the time was not right for outsiders to visit the mine, especially the Chinese. “We did not fight for the Chinese to come over,” Uma said. “We are still in the negotiating process so let the landowners and Bougainvilleans decide.” The ABG leaders refused to comment yesterday and the Chinese delegation, accommodated at a guesthouse in Buka, also refused to comment. But ABG Parliament officials said the issue was being politicised and resulted in the Chinese being locked out or chased out of Panguna when they went for a sightseeing visit. The group arrived in Buka on Saturday and travelled to Arawa with the hope of “sightseeing” on the Panguna mine. These are the group that are part of the business tycoons chain that signed part of the seven MOUs in China early this year to come and develop Bougainville in partnership with the ABG. Meanwhile, the president of autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, says a shadowy American group, with links to a militant rebel group, is de-stablising his government. The rebel group calling itself the Me’ekamui Tribal Nation, which refuses to acknowledge the government’s legitimacy, reportedly has the backing of the so-called Tall J Foundation. Momis said he met the Americans who he understands want to begin extracting alluvial gold in Bougainville. He called them carpetbaggers. “I don’t know very much about them. All I know is that they’re a menace. They are trying to sabotage all our efforts to create unity and a sense of responsibility, to get ourselves prepared for re-opening of the [Panguna] mine. They are more or less carpetbaggers, you know, running around misleading ignorant people,” President Momis told Radio New Zealand International. A spokesperson for the Me’ekamui Tribal Nation says it has no links with

the Tall J Foundation. Last month, the Tribal Nation failed in its attempts to set up a conference at the Hilton Hotel in Cairns to canvas issues it says are hampering a resumption of mining at the huge Panguna site.

05.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader says American group destabilises government

The president of autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, says a shadowy American group, with links to a militant rebel group, is de-stablising his government.

The rebel group calling itself the Me'ekamui Tribal Nation, which refuses to acknowledge the government's legitimacy, reportedly has the backing of the so-called Tall J Foundation.

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"I don't know very much about them. All I know is that they're a menace. They are trying to sabotage all our efforts to create unity and a sense of responsibility, to get ourselves prepared for re-opening of the [Panguna] mine. They are more or less carpetbaggers, running around misleading ignorant people."

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Last month, the Tribal Nation failed in its attempts to set up a conference at the Hilton Hotel in Cairns to canvas issues it says are hampering a resumption of mining at the huge Panguna site.

The ESBC already reported on May 9th, 2011 on these ongoing activities and pointed out that this might cause problems in the future! Find out more in the [News 05.2011](#) !

05.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chinese tycoons chased out of Panguna

A GROUP of Chinese tycoons invited by the Autonomous Bougainville Government were "chased out" of Panguna and denied access to the mine site over the weekend by the self-styled Me'ekamui Defence Force soldiers.

Chris Uma, Me'ekamui Defence Force commander, told the Post-Courier from Arawa that the time was not right for outsiders to visit the mine, especially the Chinese.

"We did not fight for the Chinese to come over," Uma said. "We are still in the negotiating process so let the landowners and Bougainvilleans decide." The ABG leaders refused to comment yesterday and the Chinese delegation, accommodated at a guesthouse in Buka, also refused to comment. But ABG Parliament officials said the issue was being politicised and resulted in the Chinese being locked out or chased out of Panguna when they went for a sightseeing visit. The group arrived in Buka on Saturday and travelled to Arawa with the hope of "sightseeing" on the Panguna mine.

These are the group that are part of the business tycoons chain that signed part of the

seven MOUs in China early this year to come and develop Bougainville in partnership with the ABG.

05.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville cops dispel 'arms' talks

By Fabian Gatana

SPECULATIONS that Bougainville police will be re-arming themselves to tackle lawlessness by criminal Damien Koike and his faction in South Bougainville are not true. Rumours have been circulating that Bougainville police were planning to arm themselves for the first time since the peace agreement was signed, banning police from carrying firearms.

Central Bougainville police station commander Sergeant Herman Birenka said that these rumours were not true and that directives had to come from the National Government in order for police personnel to carry arms to conduct their duties.

He said police personnel in South Bougainville have been merely monitoring the situation closely and reporting back to headquarters

He said police are not directly involving themselves in the armed conflict and have no plans to arm themselves and get involved unless orders are issued directly from the National Government.

He said to do so would be in breach of the Peace Agreement and would also paint a bad picture about the Bougainville Police Service.

Meanwhile, a group of ex-combatants who want to see that Bougainville gains independence, have taken it upon themselves to resolve the situation in south Bougainville, particularly Konnou and Sininai.

The group have taken up arms and hope to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

05.07.2011

Source: The National

Court: Kamma is South Bougainville MP

THE Supreme Court last Friday unanimously dismissed two applications to review the decisions of the national court on the election of Steven Pirika Kamma for South Bougainville.

After a hard-fought battle starting straight after elections in November 2007, with Kamma in the runner-up position contesting the election of Michael Laimo, the former has come a full circle and comprehensively seized the job as MP, just 13 months shy of the next general elections.

Following the elections, Kamma, who was runner-up by 17 votes filed an election petition challenging Laimo's win.

The National Court in February 2008 declared the election of Laimo null and void and ordered a recount of all ballot papers but excluding one contentious box.

In October 2008, Kamma was declared as duly elected following a recount of votes.

Both the electoral commission and Laimo filed for reviews of the National Court decisions arriving at the overturning of Laimo's win, all of which were rejected at every turn by the court.

When the last of these applications for leave were dismissed by Chief Justice Salamo Injia in June 2009, the applicants sought one final recourse which was to apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the judgment based on the slip rule raising nine points. Slip rule applications are a legal avenue available to aggrieved parties to apply to the

Supreme Court to correct mistakes or slips in a judgement that are not attributable to the conduct of a party or its lawyer. It is a slip by the judge.

The three-man bench of Justices Salatiel Lenalia, David Cannings and John Kawi ruled last Friday that none of the nine alleged mistakes or slips brought before the court for adjudication “amount to errors of law, let alone glaring mistakes or errors” and struck out all nine.

The court further ruled that some of the alleged mistakes were a rehash of arguments already made before the judge who dismissed the leave applications and so the applications before it were likewise dismissed.

“None of the arguments about alleged errors or slips or mistakes on the part of the chief justice as a single judge of the Supreme Court in his decision of June 5, 2009 have merit. The slip rule applications must fail.”

Costs were awarded against the parties who made or supported the applications.

The judges were of the opinion that if any slip rule application has been “defeated as comprehensively as the two before us, it may be difficult to avoid the conclusion that the application has been an abuse of process.

“In our view, too many unmeritorious slip rule applications are being made.

“The fairest way of reducing the amount of court time wasted may be to award costs...”

05.07.2011

Source: The National

Rio Tinto urged to come clean on Bougainville

MINING giant Rio Tinto must reveal the full extent of its involvement in the Bougainville war, the Australian Greens said yesterday. It comes in the wake of revelations by SBS television that Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had given evidence under oath on the decisive role of the company's subsidiary in the conflict.

Greens Senator Scott Ludlam said in a media statement in Canberra that the Australian government must also explain its own role in the war, and what it knew about the role of Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper Ltd in the conflict.

“The outgoing prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare, while leader of the opposition in 2001, stated in a sworn affidavit that BCL was the driving force behind the military action in Bougainville, and the blockade of the island, to re-open the copper mine.

“His view has been backed by the former head of PNG Defence Force Major-Gen Jerry Singirok.

“In light of these revelations, as BCL's parent company, Rio Tinto must come clean on Bougainville,” Ludlam said.

Sir Michael's evidence, by way of an affidavit, was part of an ongoing class action in the US against Rio Tinto which started in 2001, brought by victims of the conflict.

“Sir Michael has said under oath that Rio Tinto demanded the blockade of Bougainville and military action, and that BCL provided helicopters, transport, fuel, barracks and pilots for the PNG government's war against the Bougainville rebels.

“If this is found to be true, will Rio Tinto compensate the victims of this war?

“And what was the involvement of our own government in this?”

Ludlam said the BCL copper mine at Panguna provided the PNG government with about 20% of its revenue while the Bougainville locals' gain from the mine was a derisory amount of income and a ruined environment.

This led to local resistance and the PNG government responded with a brutal crack-down.

“This war drove half the population of Bougainville from their homes.

“By 1995, 64,000 people were in refugee camps and 10% of the population died.

“The Australian government was supplying weapons and training to the PNG army while the PNG government vowed to kill anyone who broke a blockade on the island, a

blockade that kept out medical supplies.

"This was a horrendous, bloody war on our own doorstep. It's time for the whole truth behind it to be known," Ludlam said.

05.07.2011

Source: New Dawn on Bougainville

Panguna stakeholders meet

By AL

A weeklong consultative workshop for Panguna stakeholders starts tomorrow at the Bougainville Diocesan centre in Hahela, Buka Island.

The workshop will involve stakeholders of the Panguna area, political leaders, administration officers, ex-combatants and representatives from the church, companies, landowners, women and council of elders.

It is being facilitated by the Autonomous Bougainville Government ministry of Natural Resource.

According to minister for natural resources Michael Oni, the workshop aims to identify a coordinated approach to resolving outstanding issues in Panguna district and Ioro constituency.

Mr Oni said the consultative workshop is a vital activity also aimed at supporting the overall peace, reconciliation and unification programs and developments in other parts of Bougainville as well.

According to the program, tomorrow's presentations will be made on the current status of peace building in Panguna by ABG, Me'ekamui factions, Catholic church and UNDP.

Wednesday's program will look at developing a consensus of peace and development in Panguna leading to the drafting of a strategy to strengthening peace in Panguna on Thursday.

The workshop will end on Friday with proposing the way forward for Panguna.



Panguna stakeholder meeting in Hahela, Buka Island

05.07.2011

Source: New Dawn on Bougainville

Konnou cease fire

By AL

Fighting factions in the Konnou Constituency have been ordered to cease fire and to allow for peace talks to be initiated in the area.

This was the order issued by 110 Ex-commanders from the North, Central and South of Bougainville last week at the Ex-combatants consultative meeting held at Tsiroge Catholic Health Centre.

The former commanders have given all factions involved in the Konnou conflict until September to address the Konnou conflict.

In a motion moved by former commander Damien Kora and seconded by Peter Naguo, the ex-combatants consultative meeting resolved to;

- * dispatch a high powered unarmed delegation comprised of selected ex-combatants representatives of the North, South and Central veterans on a Konnou Peace Mission to open dialogue with Damien Koike faction, Mongai Home Guards, WILMO faction, Konnou Freedom Fighters and Struggling for Peace faction.

- * that the ABG make available funding and facilitate the logistics required to facilitate the Konnou Peace Mission delegation,

- * that by the end of this year, a series of reconciliation ceremonies be arranged, organized and held between the ex-combatant factions, groups, communities and individuals throughout the region to foster peace efforts and weapons disposal preparations, paving way towards referendum of independence and

* that the Konnou Peace Mission delegation to make its report available by September this year.

The ex-combatants also agreed on three other resolutions including support for economic activities initiated by the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the re-opening of Panguna mine.

05.07.2011

Source: New Dawn on Bougainville

Dog catching deadline

By AL

All residents of Buka town who have dogs are being urged to register their dogs with the Buka Urban Council before Thursday or risk having their dogs caught and medically killed by Buka Urban Council.

This is because starting tomorrow, Buka Urban Council officers will be on patrol to catch stray dogs who have been tearing up rubbish around town which is posing a health risk for residents in town and nearby villages.

Buka Urban Council officer Lawrence Kumis says the stray dogs caught will be medically killed by a visiting vet from Australia who arrives in Buka on Wednesday.

Apart from providing this service, the vet, Dr Michelle Bingly, will also provide medical treatment and minor operations on registered pets needing medical assistance.

Ms Kumis says registration of pets is K5 and K20 for any pet needing medical operation. All medical treatment is free.

She thanks the people of Australia, especially Australia non government organization Animal Liberation, RSPCA and a few Australian families for their kind donation of more than K6000 in enabling the visit of the Australian vet to Bougainville.

Ms Kumis says the vet's visit from June 7 to 12, will be a first for the region.

04.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisiria challenges former combatants

BOUGAINVILLEANS have been asked if they are ready and prepared for Independence. Autonomous Bougainville Government vice President Patrick Nisira posed the question while speaking to former ex-combatants at Tsiroge.

They were preparing for their mission to Konnou and Sininai to try and solve the law and order problems.

Mr Nisiria spoke about the significance of timing to prepare for Bougainville's economic prosperity and fiscal self-reliance.

"Are you ready for Independence? Are you prepared to take no for an answer if the result of the referendum was not in your favour? Will you respect the popular choice of the majority of people?" Mr Nisira yelled at the ex-combatants.

"I am saying this because I would like to move this peace process from its present status of fixing the pains of conflict to a more economic development oriented process that will lay the foundation for Bougainville's referendum and possible independence.

"We need only to do four important things collectively to achieve a better and wealthier Bougainville for us and for the future Bougainville generation," he said.

These are:

- Unification for all Bougainvilleans;
- Economic development to enable Bougainville to reach fiscal self-reliance by 2015 (the year for the wakeup call for Bougainville's referendum for independence);

- Rid Bougainville of all weapons of war; and
- Respect for the rule of law.

“Taking this into consideration, we the former combatants should again restate our goals, which to me, is none other than independence.

“This is our peace process. Time has come for us to participate more meaningfully in the process that we started in 1997 in Burnham and Lincoln and the Bougainville Peace Agreement that we, together with our political leaders, successfully negotiated with GoPNG and signed on August 30, 2001.

“Independence will not be decided until the ABG and the GoPNG are satisfied that the requirement of the Peace Agreement and the laws that implement the Agreement had been adhered to,” he said.

04.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG pins hopes on 7 deals

BOUGAINVILLE has high hopes the seven Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) signed in China would help the region prepare for its economic prosperity and fiscal self-reliance.

And the ABG is also optimistic these MOUs signed with multi-billion business houses of China will enhance and help Bougainville prosper through to referendum and economic independence.

ABG vice President Patrick Nisira said this in his address to ex-combatants during their meeting and preparation to move into Konnou and Sininai to sort out the law and order situation in south Bougainville.

“The Government of China, the various Chambers of Commerce in China and the businesses that have prudent records in China have signed seven MOUs with us,” he said.

“The Chinese are ready and willing to invest huge amounts of money in Bougainville, not only for their benefit, but also for us in Bougainville. Their government is aware of the situation we are placed in. China has also experienced the pains that we have gone through – maybe worse. They are genuine. They understand fully well the ABG’s policy in the “no standalone” business in Bougainville. All foreign investments in the region must be through partnership with Bougainvilleans.

“The first investment opportunity that is on offer is the declaration of the Kokopau township into a special economic zone which in turn will deliver a new multi-billion dollar “harmonious town”.

“This is the arrangement that ABG has gainfully engaged in besides talking to other potential investors, both within PNG and abroad.

“We do not have the luxury of time, as I have often quoted, we only have four years to 2015 and nine years to 2020. We must provide the environment that would be conducive for change. We cannot forever sit back and accept the way things are. We need change, change for the better welfare of our families and our future generation and we have to create change now,” Mr Nisira said.

04.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Somare, Pruaitch out

By PETER KORUGL

TWO senior ministers facing leadership tribunals were suspended from office last Friday by operation of a Supreme Court ruling that leaders referred to a tribunal must step down from office with immediate effect.

Public Enterprises Minister Arthur Somare and Finance and Treasury Minister Patrick Pruaitch, both facing separate leadership tribunals over misconduct charges, were automatically suspended from office by a three-member Supreme Court bench.

The leadership tribunal investigating Mr Somare's alleged misconduct in office charges starts today while Mr Pruaitch's case is pending before a National Court.

The Supreme Court also ruled that any move to take out court injunctions against leadership tribunal proceedings are viewed as abuse of process and should be declined without exception.

And if the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso, is also referred to a Leadership Tribunal by the Public Prosecutor, he will also be suspended from office.

The Supreme Court decision last Friday clarified that the Constitution was specific that all public office holders except for the Prime Minister and a few others, are automatically suspended from office when they are referred to a leadership tribunal.

The Ombudsman Commission and the Public Prosecutor's Office are expected to write to the two MPs to inform them of the judgement today and its effect.

Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika, Justice Nicholas Kirriwom and Justice Ambeng Kandakasi clarified the operations of the law on the suspension of leaders facing misconduct charges when dismissing the constitutional reference filed by Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare on the powers of the Ombudsman Commission to investigate and refer leaders in April this year.

In its deliberations, the Supreme Court reviewed two earlier decisions it made in the Patrick Pruaitch case, in which in the earlier decision, the same court suspended Pruaitch but this was overturned in the second judgement when the same matter returned to the same court.

"In developed democracies, people who hold public office, who become the subject of allegations and investigations for any misconduct in office, readily either resign or step aside to allow for the investigations and the due process of the law to take its course. They do this out of respect for themselves, the integrity of the office they hold and respect for the due process of law," the Supreme Court ruled.

The court ruled that the tradition of voluntary stepping down in the light of allegations and accusations of misconduct in office or criminal conduct of a public office holder became part of PNG's democracy and tradition.

It cited two cases involving sitting MPs stepping aside, the first being Opai Kunangel and then Sir Julius Chan.

"It is becoming a norm for most leaders in PNG who are subject of allegations and investigations for misconduct in office or criminal offences to continue to occupy their offices and are readily applying for injunctive orders," the court ruled.

"Some of them are interfering into the proper conduct of investigations. Others are doing everything they possibly can to remain in office, continue to function and in most instances are either committing more misconduct in office from tampering with evidence, interfering with witnesses, swindling of funds or abusing their powers knowing that they may not last long in those offices."

The court touched on the first case involving Pruaitch and reaffirmed what the first judgment highlighted about duly appointed tribunals being left frustrated and unable to perform.

"This will make a mockery of the Leadership Code, particularly the work of the Ombudsman Commission in enforcing the Leadership Code. The inquiries will continue to be stalled and the leaders whose integrities are already called into question will continue to discharge leadership responsibilities," the court ruled.

The three-man bench upheld the ruling in the first Pruaitch case that a leader who is referred to a leadership tribunal is automatically suspended from office if the leader had not already stood down voluntary. The court stated that the decision in the second Pruaitch case did not refer to any authorities in the way the decision in Pruaitch case No. 1 did and arrived at the view that, the question of suspension does not arise until the

charges and statement of reasons are presented to the leadership tribunal. It observed that Pruaitch case No. 2 did not refer, discuss and demonstrate how various authorities and provisions of the Constitution and the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leaders Decision No. 1 referred to and relied upon, were wrong and therefore no good law for them to follow. The court also ruled that Pruaitch case No. 2 failed to note that the Constitution provides for automatic suspension of leaders that were subject of investigations and referred to a leadership tribunal except for the Prime Minister and others covered under specific provisions, given the importance of the office they held.

04.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cult groups on the surge

BOUGAINVILLE police are battling an increasing number of cargo cult groups springing up throughout the region and many are getting out of hand.

There is one in North Bougainville, two in Central Bougainville and two others in south. Police yesterday told the Post-Courier that they are having difficulties trying to stop them from their sexual and other demonic activities.

Police cannot arrests the cargo cult groups and their leaders – the kings and queens. The public is also concerned about these worldly activities and are calling on authorities including police to step in and arrest the culprits.

In Central Bougainville, police have been called on to investigate the activities of a certain cult group operating in the Aita area, Wakunai District.

Wakunai Police Station Commander, Sgt Oscar Tugein, recently said that concerns have been raised by various church leaders, village chiefs, school management boards and others in the Aita and surrounding areas for police to immediately move in and arrest the cult leaders who are alleged to have been misleading the local people for years.

Those involved in the bizarre cult movement are ex- followers of two mainstream churches located in the Aita area.

Police intelligence reports from the “fertile marijuana cultivating Aita zone” revealed that the cult group, has already cleared a pathway leading from its “headquarters” near Kukuavo Village to a location adjacent to Turima Primary School and the Christian Missionary Fellowship (CMF) run Aita Grammar School, in preparation for the arrival of “the black king” whom they believe will bring them goods (cargo) and other free services. The cult members have stopped their children from attending school from fear that the children might be brainwashed with “worldly education system.”

04.07.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Bougainville proposes two funds for economic development

Bougainville's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has proposed the creation of two funds to help the autonomous PNG region's economic development.

They are the endowment fund and a business development fund.

The ministry's CEO, Albert Kinani says the business development fund is aimed at helping Bougainvilleans set up small to medium-sized businesses or improve existing ones.

Mr Kainani says the endowment fund is a future fund concept to allow the government to invest revenues from natural resources developments.

He says he's confident the Autonomous Bougainville Government cabinet will approve the proposals.

Presenter: John Papik

Speaker: Albert Kinani, CEO, Bougainville's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

Listen here !

03.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville police armed for first time

Police in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville are to carry guns for the first time, as the province struggles to overcome a militant faction in the south of the main island.

Last week a group of former combatants were dispatched to Konnou to speak with Damian Koike who leads a rebel group blamed for dozens of killings and other crimes over the past five years.

The former combatants will call on Mr Koike to give himself up but if this doesn't work the ABG president, John Momis, says force may have to be used and this could mean dispatching armed police.

"We are now arming our police as police can't be unarmed so I think once you have armed police, not that they will go out and willy nilly attack people, but police must be armed to deal with an armed confrontation."

John Momis says police will not carry guns in the course of their regular duties.

He says there is now just a remote possibility his government will seek the return of international peacekeepers.

02.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Birds Eye view of the PROPOSED Mega City on Bonus Plantation



01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville secures release of promised PNG funds

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, has won a commitment from the national government that funds due under the peace agreement will be transferred promptly.

Mr Momis has been in Port Moresby for talks with the acting prime minister, Sam Abal, and the new finance minister, Patrick Pruaitch.

He says Bougainville is badly in need of the 15 million kina, or 6.5 million US dollars, that is guaranteed to the province on an annual basis, but the allocation for the current year is still to come through.

Mr Momis says he's very happy with the outcome of the meetings and says he expects the money to be released over the weekend.

"We need every toia that we can get in order to deal with the landowners, you know, the landowner groups around Panguna to prepare them for us to look at the review of the Bougainville copper agreement, to talk to the national government, to talk with BCL, to deal with the lack of development around Panguna."

Bougainville president, John Momis.

01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Free from Dependency syndrome

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

In order to build peace through economic prosperity, we must first free our self from the dependency syndrome, advised Bougainville President Chief John Momis.

Highlighting Bougainville's economic progress recently, Mr Momis said the time for change is now and all Bougainvilleans must work to spread economic development widely and fairly based on the good foundations established in the early stages of the Bougainville peace process.

He said Bougainville has grown in development since the main Bougainville conflict ended 14 years ago.

This, he said is indicated by the region's economy that was almost dead in 1997 but has now burst into life.

Indicating some of these positive developments, Mr Momis said Cocoa and copra dominate in Buka and the North while Gold production contributes in Central and South. These commodities he added is the lifeblood of PMV's, stores, building and earth moving and many other businesses.

He assured that working for peace based on equitable economic development is the direction for Bougainville but cautioned that it is one that will take time to bring the benefits.

01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Nisira calls for support

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Bougainville vice president Patrick Nisira has called on all ex-combatants throughout Bougainville to once again participate more meaningfully to paving the way for referendum for independence set for 2015.

He said this can be done by all former combatants ensuring all requirements of the Bougainville Peace Agreement is achieved.

Speaking to the former combatants at Tsiroge Catholic Health Centre yesterday, Mr Nisira said that the time had come for all former combatants to once again participate in the peace process like they did in 1997 which lead to the successful negotiation and signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001.

He advised that by working together with the people of Bougainville and the ABG, all stakeholders needed only to do four important things to achieve a better and wealthier Bougainville for the current and future generations.

These were, Unification of all Bougainvilleans, Economic development to enable Bougainville to reach financial self reliance by 2015, Total removal of all weapons of war and Respect for the rule of law.

Mr. Nisira urged that the former combatants uphold peace through peaceful means for the common good of the people of Bougainville.

01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BBA supports trade with China

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

Bougainville business Association or BBA supports the joint venture opportunities presented by China and Bougainville governments to directly import and export goods from China and Bougainville, BBA executive committee director Thomas Rabanz stated yesterday.

He said as mandated by the business community, the Bougainville government's responsibility is to skillfully negotiate for the best deal.

Mr Rabanz said the importing of goods direct from China based wholesalers and

exporting Bougainville produce like Cocoa and Copra to China will benefit everyone including those buying shares in the joint venture deal.

He said the deal is 60 percent Bougainville own and 40 percent Chinese to which ABG, BBA, Women organizations, veteran affairs, youth groups and New Bougainville Party have been invited to buy shares in.

Mr Rabanz said the import and export business would enable businesses from PNG and other Pacific nations to shop in Bougainville rather than go all the way to China.

In addition, he said Bougainville is the centre of the Pacific and closer to China which geographically is viable to trade without the use of middle man to do business.

01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Australian vet to visit Bougainville

By JOYCE TOHUI

An Australian vet, Doctor MICHELLE BINGLEY will arrive in Bougainville next Wednesday and will be in the region for a week.

MARILYN HAVINI told New Dawn FM's talk show yesterday that Dr BINGLEY is a very experienced vet and will be in Bougainville to treat animal's especially dogs.

She said that Dr BINGLEY will help the BUKA urban council's health division to collect stray diseased dogs and give them injection to put them out of suffering.

She added that these stray animals will be captured using special noose by the Town Council's workers.

MRS HAVINI said that she will also help Bougainvilleans to control the breeding of these animals.

She called on Bougainvilleans who wants to stop their dogs from breeding to bring them along for operation either male or female.

She said that there are also other treatments that will be provided for the pets to ensure they are healthy to keep at homes.

She also said that the project is for the urban areas but interested persons who love animals especially their pets can also bring them for treatment.

MRS HAVINI stated that if we take ownership of our animal pets these will help the BUKA urban council in keeping our towns clean, healthy and free of disease.

01.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville secures release of promised PNG funds

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, has won a commitment from the national government that funds due under the peace agreement will be transferred promptly.

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Bougainville copper agreement, to talk to the national government, to talk with BCL, to deal with the lack of development around Panguna.”
Bougainville president, John Momis.

31.08.2011

Source: Pacific Island Report/ABC Radio Australia

SOLOMONS, BOUGAINVILLE VOW TO STOP GUN-RUNNING

Police faced with associated criminal activity

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia, Aug. 31, 2011) – Police in Solomon Islands and Bougainville have pledged to work together to stop guns being carried across the border.

Years of conflict in both countries has led to a ready supply of small arms. And police say they have received reports of people moving across the border freely when carrying weapons.

Solomon Islands Assistant Police Commissioner Edward Sikua told Pacific Beat both countries were looking to develop strategies to monitor the movement of arms across the border.

"Certainly because of the conflicts on both sides of the border, the issue of arms moving across this border is an issue for both police forces," he said.

Assistant Commissioner Sikua was in Bougainville earlier this year to hold meetings with his Bougainville counterpart.

He said the movement of guns was not the only issue troubling police.

"There's lots of criminal activity happening along the border and it's in the interests of both forces to work together to address these activities," he said.

"It is a big concern for us, for all police forces - there are plenty of criminal activities."

31.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Travel Air touches down in Buka

CONTROVERSIAL local airliner Travel Air touched down in Buka last Thursday with an aim to be the first to operate the Aropa airport.

Eremas Wartoto was in the training run that saw him and his wife Louisa land in Buka for the first time since it landed in Port Moresby from the Netherlands.

Mr Wartoto and his team were met at the airport by Regional MP for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso.

Mr Wartoto said that he would start operating the Buka leg in September and appealed for the people of Bougainville, specifically central to re-open the Aropa airport and Buin airstrip so service can be delivered into the bulk of the population, which was in the Kieta and Buin areas.

Mr Semoso said he stood ready to help the airline - Mangi Lo Peles so that services could be restored.

Both leaders said a proposal was already presented to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to allow for the airline to operate and serve the people of Bougainville.

31.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Wartoto's release irks top cops

By TODAGIA KELOLA

A SENIOR police officer was suspended yesterday for approving the K5000 police bail that temporarily set free businessman Eremas Wartoto from the Boroko Police Cells in Port Moresby.

Mr Wartoto had earlier been arrested, charged with misappropriation and locked up by the National Government appointed special investigation team 'Task Force Sweep' looking into alleged fraudulent activities in the Department of National Planning and Monitoring.

NCD Central Commander Fred Sheekiot said a senior officer within his command has been suspended for granting the bail and he is considering whether to get their legal officers to apply for the revocation of the bail or some conditions to accompany the bail.

The release of Wartoto irked the NCD Central Police Command and the NEC appointed Investigation team who made the arrest on Monday.

NCD Metropolitan Commander Joseph Tondop said he was approached by lawyers acting for Mr Wartoto and he advised them that because Wartoto's charges involved a substantial amount of money and the right channel would be to apply to the National Court.

Chairman of the Investigation Task Force Sweep Sam Koim, in a statement expressed concern over how Police had granted bail to Wartoto when he was put into the cell on Monday.

He said Mr Wartoto was arrested at around 1.30pm and was released at around 4.20pm on a Police Bail of K5000.

"The Prisoner was charged with misappropriation and a request was in place for refusal of police bail. The Prisoner was charged on an indictable offence and the National Court had the jurisdiction to deal with the issue of Bail.

"As a matter of protocol and procedure, when there is a request for a refusal of bail, the Police Officer who is exercising powers as a bail authority should have checked with the investigation and arresting officers as to reasons for the request for refusal.

"That is usually done to ensure that if bail can be granted, then there must be conditions set that accompany the grant of the bail. In this case, that was not done. For the Police Command to usurp the powers of the National Court and grant bail without consulting the investigating officers is highly irregular," said Mr Koim. But he said that bail is available for the prisoner to apply as a matter of right for such offences, it must be applied to the proper forum and there are conditions that need to be considered.

30.08.2011

Source: The National

Wartoto charged

By JACOB POK

KOKOPO businessman Eremas Wartoto has been arrested, questioned and charged by Port Moresby police.

He was locked up at the Boroko police station for three hours yesterday before being released on a

K5,000 police bail.

Wartoto has been charged with misappropriation of K7 million of rehabilitation of education sector implementation (RESI) funding for the Kerevat National High School.

He confirmed with The National last night that his charges were in relation to the school RESI funds.

The school funds involved more than K7 million made in two separate payments.

Special task force on corruption chairman Sam Koim told The National that Wartoto was also being investigated for the K10 million development funds from National Planning and Monitoring which he used to start his airline company, Travel Air, and "a myriad of other companies he owns or controls".

Wartoto, when contacted last night, said he would release a media statement today.

Koim said in a statement Wartoto was the first to be arrested by the task force appointed by the NEC on Aug 11 to investigate allegations of corruption at the department involving about K2 billion.

Yesterday's arrest related to more than K7 million that Wartoto had allegedly received through two separate payments for Kerevat National High School.

Koim said he was charged with misappropriation under section 383(A)(91) of the Criminal Code Act.

"As a matter of law, he is presumed innocent until proven guilty. He must now go through the normal criminal process in court to prove his innocence of the charge laid against him."

Wartoto is expected to appear in court this week.

30.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Funding woes for Bougainville troupe's tourism promotion

Attempts to send a 70 strong troupe of traditional musicians and cultural performers from the autonomous Papua New Guinea of Bougainville around the world could founder for lack of funding.

The Bougainville Tourism Office is planning to send the troupe first to a PNG anniversary event in Brisbane in two weeks, with the aim of promoting the province as a holiday destination and to provide opportunities for the musicians.

One of the organisers, Siwi Aipe, says they're approaching politicians and leading businesses for the nearly 300 thousand US dollars needed for air fares and expenses, but haven't raised any money yet.

He says Tourism Office hopes the troupe around the world will be the start of a big thing.

"We'll provide an avenue for Bougainvillean musicians, especially, to travel to other parts of the world. Apart from providing marketing and promoting [for] Bougainville, they will providing music as an income." (Bougainville Tourism official Siwi Aipe)

30.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG awaits its ruling powers

IT is now six years since the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and no powers have been fully drawn down from the National Government to the ABG.

The National Government has also been accused of "ignoring" and dragging the whole issue and both governments are way behind with the Joint Supervisory Body meetings to address them.

ABG vice President Patrick Nisira briefly said the draw-down of powers to Bougainville was an issue that needed immediate attention, especially from the National Government. ABG President John Momis also indirectly, during the high-powered trilateral meeting between the United Nations, the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government,

mentioned the lack of National Government interest in fast-tracking the issue of the draw-down of powers to his government.

The ABG leadership was concerned that by now the immediate draw-down of powers for the Education, Health and Agriculture Departments together with the region's own timing to Bougainville should have been given to them fully.

Mr Nisira said the draw-down on the mining powers was slow because of the 15-steps that had to be abided to by the two governments.

Mr Momis acknowledged that the issue of capacity was a problem for the ABG but asked what the National Government was doing to help the ABG to address the issue of its capacity building.

Members of the National Government team from Foreign Affairs in the meeting indicated that they could not comment on these issues because they were not the right people to give the response.

30.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Leader: Support women's bill

NORTH Bougainville women leader Elizabeth Burain has challenged the O'Neill-Namah Government to act on special temporary measures for women in PNG, specifically to have more women as members of the national parliament before the issue of writs for the 2012 National Elections.

Ms Burain was speaking as chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Pacific Region.

She said women of PNG have a strong conviction that they must be given a chance to have more voices in Parliament.

"The passing of the bill will be an important step for the Government of Papua New Guinea to recognise the importance of women in society. Gender equality has been talked about many, many times. Can this become a reality on the floor of the Parliament?

"Let the people decide their women representatives in Parliament. Unfortunately, in today's competitive political arena, particularly during general elections, women candidates don't stand a chance against a male dominated society. Ninety nine per cent of male candidates are elected into Parliament.

"I therefore strongly urge the Government to give PNG women a chance to be elected to Parliament under the 22 reserved seats for women. This dream will only come true for women if Parliament passes the bill. With the 2012 National General elections approaching, the Government must seriously consider this matter and accord it as a priority before the issue of writs," Ms Burain said.

30.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Ten years on Bougainville still waiting for peace dividends

Today marks the tenth anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Accords.

To mark the anniversary, a United Nations team have completed a walk across the island to encourage people to support peace. The group also visited young people and their families in villages along the way to talk to them about the challenges they face.

Presenter: Campbell Cooney

Speaker: David McLachlan-Karr, United Nations resident coordinator in Papua New Guinea

[Listen here !](#)

30.08.2011

Source: The National

Chan firm on people's land rights

MINING Minister Byron Chan said he stood by his policy statement that resource ownership rights must go back to the people provided there was wide consultation between the state, landowners and industry partners.

Speaking during a mine tour of Simberi Island last Thursday, Chan assured the business community, particularly mining sector participants, that the proposed changes to the Mining Act 1992, which has now become a heated debate in the media, would not affect their operations.

"Let me assure the business community and especially the mining industry in the country that there will be no immediate policy changes to the existing laws until a proper case study and wide consultation with the industry and relevant stakeholders is carried out," he said.

"As government, we will try as much as possible to polish up the policy that I believe will be suitable for all Papua New Guineans.

"If it means for us to go out and study other countries whose mining activities and laws are similar to what we are proposing, then let it be.

"I believe this will enlighten us to see for ourselves how best we can fine-tune the policy that we will be implementing in the government to benefit our resource-owners, non-resource owners and industry partners in the country.

"I must stress that this is not a deliberate attempt to discredit any mining firm or developer in the country. In fact there's nothing new.

"All I am saying is for developers to recognise resource owners as custodians of their own land in the proposed policy," he said.

Chan said if the developers could not accept the policy, they should “pack and move to allow other investors who are keen and can respect resource owner rights and work closely with them to bring about meaningful development”.

30.08.2011

Source: The National

Wartoto, airline crew land in Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

EXCITEMENT rippled through the crowd of onlookers as they witnessed the arrival of the ‘Mangi lo peles’ aircraft at Buka Airport last Thursday.

The Fokker 50 aircraft, which belongs to controversial Rabaul businessman and owner of Travel Air Services Eremas Wartoto, landed on Bougainville soil for the first time much to the delight of Bougainville regional MP Fidelis Semoso.

Wartoto said the short visit to Buka was a trial run for his pilot crew of two expatriates and two nationals and that a formal launch of his company’s services to the autonomous region was planned for October.

He said he accompanied his crew to Bougainville to inform the region’s leaders of his intention to provide air services to the bulk of the rural population on Bougainville.

He said flight services would include landing at Aropa Airport, where the bulk of Bougainvilleans from Central and South Bougainville were in need of air services.

Wartoto urged the Bougainville government to open Aropa Airport as soon as possible so that flights could extend to mainland Bougainville.

Semoso said the leaders and people of Bougainville appreciated this initiative and looked forward to the airline’s services.

Semoso said he had put in a submission for K700 million to the national government for establishing airport facilities at Aropa Airport.

He said the reopening of Aropa Airport was in the best interests of the people of Bougainville.

Semoso thanked Wartoto for including Bougainville as one of the primary routes his company would provide air services to, saying the cost of flying Air Niugini was too expensive and the region needed competition so that airfares would be reduced.

30.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Assurances for investors as PNG contemplates changing resource law

The Managing Director of Papua New Guinea’s Investment Promotion Authority has reassured foreign companies and developers that the country is a good place to invest in.

Ivan Pomaleu's comment comes as the new government considers handing ownership of resources below the ground from the state to customary landowners.

Legislative changes proposed by the new Mining Minister last week prompted concern in the extractive industries.

The Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has since clarified that parliament is yet to fully discuss the changes.

Ivan Pomaleu says landowners are supportive of investment as long as benefits are clearly defined.

"The environment is vibrant, activities are blooming all over the place. One of the key impetus in the whole scheme of things obviously is the major LNG Project. It demonstrated to the investing community internationally that 'hey, this is one country that you can take a look at'."

29.08.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC Calls on Interested People in China !

The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) would welcome all contact and exchange with Chinese people who are interested in Bougainville and Bougainville Copper. "We found out that our homepage is visited by quite regularly by a lot of China based people," said ESBC President Axel G. Sturm on Monday in Andorra, "we would appreciate very much to get in touch with these persons to exchange ideas. Therefore I call on all Chinese who are either based in Beijing, Hongkong or elsewhere to contact us. We are keen to know more about Chinese ambitions in Bougainville Copper and we are sure that Chinese investors are also interested in our "European view" of things. The ESBC would be delighted to initiate up a regular in-depth discussion with China."

Please contact us here: china@bougainville-copper.eu

29.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mining Minister clears air on mining policy review

RESOURCE ownership rights must go back to the people provided there is wide consultation between the state, landowners and industry partners.

Minister for Mining, Byron Chan said this during a mine tour to Simberi Island in the New Ireland Province on Thursday, where he assured the business community that the proposed changes to the Mining Act 1992, will not affect their operations.

Mr Chan reaffirmed that the government will do all it can to “polish up the policy” and make it suitable for all Papua New Guineans.

“Let me assure the business community and especially the mining industry in the country that there will be no immediate policy changes to the existing laws until proper case study and wide consultation with the industry and relevant stakeholders is carried out,” Minister Chan said.

“I must stress also that this is not a deliberate attempt to discredit any mining firm or developer in the country. In fact there’s nothing new. All I’m saying is for developers to recognise resource owners as custodians of their own land in the proposed policy.”

He said that if the developers cannot live up to the policy, they should not waste their time in the country but to pack and move to allow for other investors who respect resource owner rights and work closely with them to bring about meaningful development.

“I’d like to clear the air on landownership rights, which is the bigger issue raised here and abroad by respective mining commentators and relative industries,” he said, adding that it would take time to properly assess ownership rights with existing policies.

29.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

‘Current Mining Act is illicit’

By EVAH KUAMIN

THE current Mining Act was an illicit law the moment it was adopted from the Australian Mining Laws and introduced into the country and it has collided with the customary laws, Morobe deputy Governor Morokoi Gaiwata has said.

Mr Gaiwata said even an ordinary person with plain common sense can tell that the legal effects of unwritten customary laws were never legally terminated to allow the State to own natural resources.

He said that the rules of law in accordance with PNG customs states that before the State can take ownership of any resources from a customary land, it must first legally alienate or compulsorily acquire a customary land to take ownership of wealth and capital generated from the exploitation of any natural resources.

This process he said should take place with the full consent of the principal landowners.

Mr Gaiwata reiterated that any customary land or marine sea bed were absolute in territorial possession.

He explained that for any customary land or resource owner to sacrifice their very means of livelihood by surrendering their very possession of life to the State was unimaginable.

"Wealth and capital empowerment in modern rich resource and wealthy PNG are the biggest key issues in the country's nationhood and the current mining Act is threatening this," he said.

Mr Gaiwata also mentioned that the current law makes the National Government richer at high costs of internal resource owners and their never ending disputes. He said that it constricts and marginalises resource rich owners' rights of maximum gains to exercise their Melanesian belongingness to their neighbours, brethrens and the nation.

This act Mr Gaiwata stressed has been a foreign vehicle sent to destroy this country.

"Every mining and petroleum policy initiatives empower foreign interests with both capital wealth.

"These policy initiatives have no rationale for consolidation in the spirit of nationhood; in fact they are framed from foreign economic intelligence manipulating decision makers in the National Government and bureaucratic Waigani," he said.

He called on the National Government to immediately repeal the Act and see to it that wealth and capital generation from any mining and petroleum project from the absolute capital base to seed resource owners and other Papua New Guineans.

He added that it must also translate landowner's riches in a structure to transform PNG into a developed nation in a given time-frame.

It should be practical and realises PNG's national consciousness amid the forces of the global community.

Mr Gaiwata has also called on the National Government to appoint a committee with specific tasks to come up with a new PNG Mining Act.

29.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Islanders learn about climate change, drought

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE disaster coordinator, Franklyn Lacey said he has been carrying out awareness on issues of climate change and drought among people in the very disadvantaged areas of Bougainville like the Atolls islands.

Mr Lacey said this has been his ongoing program when delivering relief supplies or on patrol to the islands.

He said that with the help from the ABG Government, the people in these areas were made aware of the expected climate change events.

Mr Lacey believed with the knowledge the people have gained during the awareness, they would be prepared for the disasters to come.

He also said he was working closely with the National Member for North Bougainville, Lautu Atoi to secure a portion of land in the west coast area of Bougainville to plant food to help the people of the Atolls and Nissan islands.

He said the land, if secured, would be turned into an agriculture project to plant weather crops specifically to withstand the drought expected next year.

Mr Lacey said the negotiation on the land was good and the people of the area were willing to help the Government set up the program.

He also said the project will help supplement the relief supplies given to the Atolls and Nissan islands and not rice only.

25.08.2011

Source: The National

Resource transfer not govt policy, says PM

TRANSFERRING ownership of mineral and hydrocarbon wealth from the government to landowners is not a government policy yet, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said yesterday.

O'Neill made the comment to allay fears among industry participants following statements from two ministers that the new administration would change the fiscal regime governing the mining and petroleum sector.

The statements by Mining Minister Byron Chan and Planning Minister Sam Basil had jittered stocks of PNG mining companies and elicited strong protests from the industry.

O'Neill said yesterday: "This is not yet government policy. Cabinet and parliament are yet to discuss the matter."

The prime minister assured stakeholders that they would be consulted fully before any policy or law was considered.

This was the second time in as many days the prime minister has had to correct the impetuous words and actions of his new ministers.

On Tuesday, he said cabinet had not made any decision to withdraw or suspend the powers of any provincial governments including East Sepik and Morobe.

The two second-tier governments had gone to court on the basis of "speculations" based on an internal memo from Minister for Finance and Treasury Don Polye.

The mineral and hydrocarbon ownership issue was sensitive and one industry watcher said any change by the current regime "will be the single biggest mistake" and would cripple the economy.

The Chamber of Mines and Petroleum was understood to have written to O'Neill expressing the concerns of its members.

The current push was to change section 5 of the Mining Act and section 6 of the Oil and Gas Act to transfer ownership of mineral and hydrocarbon wealth from the state to landowning groups.

25.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Peace walk celebrates Bougainville accord anniversary

Today in Bougainville, a United Nations team will start a Walk for Peace across the island to mark the 10th anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Accords.

Ten years on, there are still problems in the south of the island where decision makers are trying to break a long standing impasse to bring about permanent peace.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: David McLachlan-Karr, United Nations resident coordinator in Papua New Guinea

[Listen here !](#)

25.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

UN marks Bougainville Peace Accords with highland trek

A team of walkers from the United Nations is hoping to boost ecotourism in Bougainville this week by trekking through the island's mountainous central region.

From today, the team will walk for 60 kilometres along the historic Numa Numa trail to mark the tenth anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Accords.

Papua New Guinea's UN representative David McLachlan-Karr says young people from the civil war's so-called lost generation will act as guides and the team will overnight in villages to help the local economy.

"People who are looking for something different and to explore a territory that's coming out of a civil war and trying to get back on its feet will find it a really rewarding experience and also knowing that their visit is also supporting the reconstruction of Bougainville by injecting a lifeline into those communities."

David McLachlan-Karr says the trail's not only beautiful but historic as remnants still remain from its use as a supply line for troops during the Second World War.

25.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Ten years of Bougainville peace yield mixed results, says former NZ diplomat

One of the architects of the peace on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville says ten years after the formal end to the civil war, the results are mixed.

The Bougainville Peace Accords were signed in Arawa in 2001 - four years after a New Zealand initiative brought about a truce in the protracted conflict.

John Hayes, who was a New Zealand diplomat at the time, says there have been several achievements.

“People are not killing themselves, women are not dying in child birth, people are not being raped in a lawless community. I think our police have done a great job. It’s good that we’ve got economic activity slowly, slowly improving. Perhaps on the other side of the ledger it’s a bit disappointing that we haven’t created more jobs around utilising Bougainville’s undeniable fish, timber and tourist potential.”

John Hayes

24.08.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Radical mining laws unlikely to pass cabinet

by Blair Price

PAPUA New Guinea Mining Minister Byron Chan is already starting to backtrack on his controversial mining law amendments, according to a government source who also expects a quick outcome to a Supreme Court challenge over the legitimacy of the new government.

Chan, who only officially received his ministerial post two weeks ago, has already caused considerable uncertainty to PNG-focused resource companies by outlining a plan to shift resources ownership from the government to landowner groups.

But after considerable media coverage in Australia, and possibly some opposition from colleagues in the fledgling coalition government, he might be forced to put these plans on ice.

A government source told PNGIndustryNews.net he did not think Chan’s proposed changes would happen or get through cabinet.

Ex-treasurer Peter O'Neill won an overwhelming Parliament vote to succeed Sir Michael Somare as prime minister in early August.

While Somare has remained on medical leave since April, there are doubts over whether the leadership position was actually vacant in accordance with the Constitution.

Two court challenges have failed so far, but the challenge by the East Sepik provincial government has been backed by the independent Ombudsman Commission.

In a sign the O'Neill government is worried, newly appointed Treasurer Don Poyle cut national government funding to the East Sepik provincial government last week.

This type of court action is usually fast-tracked and the government source expects an outcome from the Supreme Court in mid-September, when the court could rule on whether the formation of the O'Neill government was constitutional or not.

24.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

UN stands ready to help ABG

THE United Nations stands ready to assist the Autonomous Bougainville Government with the containment and disposal of the weapons in Bougainville, UN head in PNG David McLachlan-Karr said in an interview yesterday in Buka.

But they will not undermine the ABG's primary role as the legitimate government on the ground because they are supposed to own the process, which UN will only help if assistance is sought through the PNG Government, the due process to follow.

McLachlan-Karr said he admitted the process was slow but that was an issue that was at some stages uncontrollable, given the fact that guns always remain a controversy in every country, to which PNG and Bougainville are no exceptions.

He said the process of the weapons containment or disposal in Bougainville since the United Nations Observer Mission (UNOMB) days has slowed down and the UN could not directly get involved or carry out the program because of the procedures involved.

"The ABG is the legitimate body on the ground, who owns the process and we can't directly come in to work on the issue.

"ABG will have to request through the PNG Government and then approval will have to come from our Headquarters," he said.

But he said that the UN was ready to help, but in any case was already helping the ABG on their already established weapons disposal programs.

24.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG landowners risk being swindled under proposed mining law

A senior academic says landowners will need proper legal representation and guidance if Papua New Guinea introduce proposed changes to the country's mining laws.

The PNG government is reviewing existing laws to revert ownership of resources under the land and seabed to the traditional owners. Professor Spike Boydell from Sydney University of Technology's Asia-Pacific Centre for complex real property rights welcomes the move to make compensation for landowners more equitable. But he says there's a risk they won't be properly advised when dealing with mining investors and could sign away their property rights for short term and inadequate financial gain.

Speaker: Professor Spike Boydell from Sydney University of Technology's Asia-Pacific Centre for complex real property rights

[Listen here !](#)

23.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

UN optimistic symbolic reconciliation ceremonies will work in south Bougainville

The United Nations representative in Papua New Guinea is optimistic it can help mediate and reconcile factions in the troubled south of Bougainville.

The president of the autonomous province John Momis has said he hopes a traditional Melanesian approach will solve the impasse after earlier suggesting the need for UN peacekeepers to return.

The UN's David McLachlan-Kerr says the deployment of such a force isn't likely and the UN can assist by drawing on a decade of experience reconciling factions in other parts of Bougainville.

"It often involves the exchange of valuable items, pigs and shells and money but these things are necessary and they're part of Melanesian culture. We hope to use the expertise that we've developed to bring similar types of exercises to the people of the south."

The UN's resident co-ordinator in Papua New Guinea David McLachlan-Kerr.

23.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Guava begs for govt services

By PETERSON TSERAHA

GUAVA village, the home of reclusive leader Francis Ona which is situated directly adjacent to the Panguna mine pit is one of the less fortunate villages now in Bougainville.

A historic and successful meeting took place at Guava village last week Thursday since the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in 2005.

The central Bougainville parliamentary committee chairman and member for Eivo Torau, Melchior Dare, together with the Minister for mining and member for Ioro Michael Oni and the minister for agriculture and member for north Nasioi Nicholas Daku held a meeting at Guava village.

The meeting was attended by Francis Ona's family, women groups and the former leader's presidential bodyguards.

Ona's family and women's representative, village chiefs and youth highly applauded and commended the meeting and the ABG ministers visit to Guava village.

They said it was timely and very important to unify Guava leadership to the Autonomous Bougainville Government in preparation for the referendum vote for independence in four to eight years time.

Guava village is a historic village which has a legacy left behind by Francis Ona.

The Guava village assembly of chiefs and women strongly called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to support basic services, especially health and education and a village aid post to supply medical supplies to the sick population who spend money to go to the Arawa town clinic.

They further requested for support from the Government to help them with supplies for an elementary school in Guava.

The women also called on the ABG to consider Guava as a less fortunate place in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

23.08.2011

Source: Post Courier

Leader: Support women's bill

NORTH Bougainville women leader Elizabeth Burain has challenged the O'Neill-Namah Government to act on special temporary measures for women in PNG, specifically to have more women as members of the national parliament before the issue of writs for the 2012 National Elections.

Ms Burain was speaking as chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Pacific Region.

She said women of PNG have a strong conviction that they must be given a chance to have more voices in Parliament.

"The passing of the bill will be an important step for the Government of Papua New Guinea to recognise the importance of women in society. Gender equality has been talked about many, many times. Can this become a reality on the floor of the Parliament?

"Let the people decide their women representatives in Parliament. Unfortunately, in today's competitive political arena, particularly during general elections, women candidates don't stand a chance against a male dominated society. Ninety nine per cent of male candidates are elected into Parliament.

"I therefore strongly urge the Government to give PNG women a chance to be elected to Parliament under the 22 reserved seats for women. This dream will only come true for women if Parliament passes the bill. With the 2012 National General elections approaching, the Government must seriously consider this matter and accord it as a priority before the issue of writs," Ms Burain said.

23.08.2011

Source: Standard & Poor's

New PNG Rating published by Standard & Poor's

on 22.08.2011

[Check out here !](#)

23.08.2011

Source: The National

UN takes stock of peace agreement

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A UNITED Nations delegation is in Bougainville to review the mission's role in the Bougainville peace agreement, which was signed 10 years ago.

Resident coordinator of the UN mission in PNG David McLachlan-Karr is leading the week-long assessment team.

He said on arrival at Buka Airport yesterday that the UN and its development partners were proud of being part of the Bougainville peace process since 2001.

"After 10 years, it was a good time for the UN, the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the state to take stock of what had been achieved," McLachlan-Karr said.

"The mission is designed to be helpful, to position itself where it can provide substantial assistance and how we can support the aspect of the peace agreement."

After talks with stakeholders on the peace agreement tomorrow, the UN mission comprising New York-based UN officers from the Department of Political Affairs would lead a three-day peace-walk through the Numa Numa track from Wakunai, in East Coast Bougainville, to Torokina on the West Coast.

McLachlan-Karr said the walk would focus on youths.

"The 10 years of the peace process provides an opportunity for reflection with the youths to recognise not only their vulnerabilities but, especially, their strengths and the opportunities available," he said.

He said the peace-walk sought to draw attention to the resourcefulness of youths that should be maximised by the policy makers.

"It seeks to draw a special attention to the economic opportunities in Bougainville, especially tourism and employment potentials of the track."

Bougainville President John Momis will launch the peace walk with youths from South, Central and North Bougainville accompanying the UN delegation on the track.

23.08.2011

Source: The National

Kamma to assist Bougainville

Story by STEPHANIE ELIZAH

MINISTER for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma will work closely with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in achieving development goals for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Kamma made the assurance to a group of ABG ministers and former Bougainville Affairs minister and regional MP Fidelis Semoso at Buka Airport.

They were there with a Lontis traditional group called the Kubulow bamboo band to welcome Kamma.

Kamma said he would continue the implementation of projects initiated by Semoso, one of which was the NBC Radio Bougainville transmission expansion project of which a proposal for K4 million was presented to Kamma by ABG Communications Minister Joseph Nopei.

Semoso said the people of Bougainville were happy that the government had selected a competent and

capable minister to address the affairs of Bougainville.

"You have my full support and co-operation to complete all impact projects like the Kokopau to Siera road sealing project, Torokina oil palm project and ensure that Bougainville receives

the first K100 million of the K500 million special intervention money committed by the state this year," he said.

He urged the four national MPs including Information and Communications Minister and Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Mirintoro and North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi to work with the government.

"Without unity and co-operation between the Momis cabinet and us, we will struggle to achieve our goals for Bougainville.

"Working in unity and with strict compliance and adherence by all parties to the Bougainville Peace Agreement, we will go a long way," Semoso said.

ABG Finance Minister Albert Punghau said the awarding of the ministerial portfolio to Kamma showed the government's continued commitment to the ABG.

22.08.2011

Source: SCOOP

UN marks 10th anniversary of Bougainville Peace Accords

PRESS RELEASE

UN marks 10th anniversary of Bougainville Peace Accords with 'Empowering youth: village by village' trek

Tuesday 30 August, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Accords. The United Nations, which played an integral part in the peace process and peacebuilding efforts, will mark the occasion by conducting a cross-island trek entitled:

Bougainville Walk for Peace, Numa 2011 Empowering youth: village by village

On Thursday 25 August, a UN team, including the UN Resident Coordinator, David McLachlan-Karr, will launch the first Bougainville Walk for Peace at the Numa Numa track. The track runs east to west and starts just south of Wakunai, crosses over the Crown Prince Range and finishes at Torokina Beach. The team plans to return to Buka on Sunday 28 August.

On Thursday, before the team embarks on the trek near Wakunai, ABG officials, including ABG President Momis, will show their solidarity by joining with the UN team on a Bougainville Walk for Peace in Buka.

While many challenges still face Bougainville, one of its most immediate is that of its so-called 'lost generation' – those young people who have failed to receive the basic education and employment opportunities during the crisis years.

It is with this in mind, that thirty youths from the various villages along the track have been trained as guides. Each guide will lead the group from their village to the next, before passing

over the lead to the next guide. Youth from each of the three regions of Bougainville will also join the trek. Along the way, the UN delegation hopes to engage with the youths and their families and learn about their hopes for the future and the challenges they are facing today.

The lessons learned will then be brought back to a Youth Forum to be held in Arawa from 29 August to 2 September.

The 'Empowering youth: village by village' trek aims to raise awareness around the 'lost generation' and encourage youth in PNG and around the world to support peace in the region. With celebrations around the world marking International Youth Day in UN House, Level 14, Deloitte Tower, Douglas Street, Port Moresby

2 August, this is an opportune time to look towards Bougainville's future and the young people who will one day lead their people. The UN also hopes to raise the profile of ecotourism in Bougainville – a vital element to the reinvigoration of the region and a return to a thriving economy. We encourage all media to attend the launch of the track, where there will be opportunities for comment and photos. We welcome further interaction with the media around this initiative and ask you to contact the UN Resident Coordinator's

22.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Kauona works for peace

ONE of Bougainville's women leaders, Josephine Kauona has been working tirelessly with the UN on Bougainville to preach peace and prosperity among fighting factions of south Bougainville, specifically the Konnou constituency in Buin.

The new UNDP approach to peace building and conflict resolution which seeks to strengthen and connect remote communities with the Government is making a great impact to previously unvisited areas.

In the central region, officials involved in the peace process undertook local consultations with villagers seeking local capacities to further address peace. The peace exercise also examined the current local government structures, and decision making including nature of representations by women, chiefs, ex-combatants and youth. The approach is to involve all those parties by strengthening these institutions and its leaders to map out local conflicts and design own methods of addressing.

Rebuilding confidence and integrating former combatants was part of the outreach, with Moses Pipiro as part of the peace group.

22.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K4m proposal for Radio Bogenvil
By Daniel Tangia

BOUGAINVILLE Minister for Communication Joseph Nopei last week presented a long awaited proposal for the refurbishment of its Radio Bogenvil, the most important communication tool in the region.

Nopei presented the K4 million proposal which was initially submitted to the PNG Government through then Communication Minister Patrick Tammur when he last visited Buka last year.

Minister Kama vowed to follow up on the last K4 million proposal for the renovations of Radio Bogenvil with the current Government and assured that it will be pursued since the Communication Minister was also Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro.

Radio Bogenvil has been the only communication means for awareness programs for the people of Bougainville. It has been in a rundown state resulting from no major renovations done over the years.

21.08.2011

Source: Bougainville Tourism

Click above !

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20.08.2011
Source: Der Tagesspiegel

Die Enthüllung der Welt

Lesen Sie hier eine Würdigung von Matthias Glaubrecht zur 200. Wiederkehr des Todestages von Louis Antoine de Bougainville am 31. August 2011 !

19.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG mining industry should be worried about Mining Act changes.

A senior regional academic says the PNG mining and petroleum industry have reasons to worry about the proposed changes to the country's mining laws.

The PNG government is reviewing existing laws to revert ownership of resources on, as well as under the land and seabed to the traditional owners.

Greg Anderson, Executive Director of PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum has already warned that this will scare off investors and it'll be disastrous for the country's economy.

Doctor Colin Filer, Convenor of the Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program at the Australian National University, says PNG is likely to end up with a messy piece of legislation and court challenges.

Dr Filer is speaking here about the move to hand ownership of resources in PNG back to traditional owners.

Presenter: Sam Seke

Speaker: Doctor Colin Filer, Convenor of the Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program at the ANU

[Listen here!](#)

FILER: Well it will make the industry very nervous indeed for reasons which Greg Anderson has already outlined to you. But bear in mind, that the proposals that are circulating are not only changing the mining act, but the oil and gas act as well, and other legislation, like the land act, for example. So there are knock on affects in various sort of parts of the economy potentially there.

SEKE: What do you see happening in PNG if the government went ahead with these legislative changes?

FILER: Well, I mean we're not far out from an election. I don't think that the kind of changes they're talking about could be sensibly made before the election is conducted, because all you would get is some appallingly messy piece of legislation, which would not make sense and everybody would all end up in court, and while the court case was going on, the election would be held and who knows what the new government would decide to do about it.

SEKE: Now the Executive Director of PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum Mr Anderson has actually said that the industry would consider an advertising campaign against the bill, which he described to the Australian media anyway, as "driven by short term populism and regionalism". It's worked here in Australia where the mining industry had campaigned and toppled Kevin Rudd over the mining super tax plan, now in PNG, it's handing back ownership of resources to the people - now what level of confrontation do you see ahead of...I mean in PNG, between the miners maybe on the one hand and the government and resource owners on the other?

FILER: Well I don't know whether the industry up there is going to mount an advertising campaign, but it probably will if this is a serious proposal. People are always publishing full page adverts up there about all sorts of things and so in fact full page newspaper advertisements are used even more in Papua New Guinea as a sort of form of political dialogue than they are here in Australia.

SEKE: The people PNG and in fact I think all over the Pacific islands always believed that the land is theirs - all of it you know and the rivers and the reefs and the sea as far as the eyes can see - they've been living on them and using them for thousands of years. Now don't you think this is what maybe the proposed amendment is trying to recognise?

FILER: Well, the ownership of land, the ownership of customary land is well entrenched in legislation and in the constitution and everybody recognises that. The question about stuff under the ground, there are only two countries in the world at the moment where landowners can be the owners of sub surface mineral resources and that's in the United States and Canada to a certain degree. There is no country in the world that I know of which grants ownership of sub surface mineral resources to customary landowners whose rights must be said have not yet been established anyway. Because nobody knows who they are until such time as a process of landowner identification takes place.

SEKE: Now do you see maybe other Pacific Islands doing the same if the PNG government went ahead and actually legislate to recognise the ownership of resources, that it actually belongs landowners?

FILER: Mmm, that's an interesting point.

SEKE: I'm saying this especially when they're also talking about the sea bed, and a whole lot of other Pacific Island countries are now joining the queue to develop their underwater mineral resources.

FILER: Well again, sea bed is not in any jurisdiction normally regarded as kind of the property of customary landowners or any private landowners. It basically belongs to that state, OK, and there are even international agreements about that, like the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea. And in Papua New Guinea, the rights of customary owners to the sea have basically been limited to fishing rights under the Fisheries Management Act, which doesn't mean that customary owners own any sea bed. It just means that they own the customary right to fish within a certain distance of the shore.

SEKE: But the thing is that, they don't actually recognise that they don't own the land under the surface, six feet under the surface and also the sea bed.

FILER: Well as I say, I'm not aware of any country in the world which recognises the private ownership of sea bed, whether customary ownership or any other ownership.

SEKE: On that point as well, Simon Ekanda, a landowner representative from the PNG LNG gas project in the highlands, his view is that the Constitution recognises the customary law which recognises that landowners own what was underneath and on top and above the land. Now mining is taking place on their land and they will continue to be left out, well he's saying anyway, and be beggars in their own country now this is quite sentimental but that's how he put it anyway. Do you think he's got a point there?

FILER: Well, you've got to remember that Simon is talking about the gas project, it's not talking about mining per say. They're two different sectors. But in the legislation under both the Oil and Gas Act and under the Mining Act, there are provisions for landowners to receive a certain minimum share of the royalties, which the state collects in its capacity as the notional owner of those resources. So what's actually happened over the years is that the government has kind of conceded sort of partial ownership of sub surface resources by customary owners, by giving them a share of the royalties, which they collect as kind of the legal owners as it were and that share has actually been increasing over the years through different development forum agreements and the customary owners of the development licensed areas have actually received enormous cash payments as a result. So they're far wealthier than most rural people in Papua New Guinea, which is why a lot of rural people in Papua New Guinea would love to have a mining project or a gas project or an oil project on their land just so they can collect this nice big revenue stream from the royalties.

SEKE: Now the mining minister, he's saying that under the proposed legislative changes, the government will be a regulator, and not investor and regulator as it is now. Isn't that what the government should be doing, regulating rather than being directly involved as an investor?

FILER: In holding equity in projects, but that's a very different issue. I mean there's been a long debate about that and so people like the World Bank, for example, think that the government should not be a holder of equity in these extracted industry projects, but should simply regulate them. And at one stage the government did actually sell off its equity and basically adopted a policy that it would no longer invest in projects. But the last government decided that it was going to reverse that policy, so the Somare government said, no, no, the state should hold equity in all these big mining and oil and gas projects. OK but that's a different issue, that's nothing to do with ownership of the resource, that's about whether the government should be an investor and a regulator or just a regulator and not actually invest in these projects.

SEKE: Now what other options do you think there are for responding to concerns raised by the landowners on maybe ownership if not equitable sharing of benefits from the resources?

FILER: Well, as we've seen, in some cases, like the Ramu project for example, landowners ended up with I think 60 per cent of the royalties which the government was collecting, which was a pretty substantial share. I suppose now they're saying kind of a part of the point of this to say that landowners should receive 100 per cent of royalties as they do in the forestry sector, for example. But you could sort of then say well, the government has a right to tax that royalty stream, so the government could impose a tax on those royalties, say 40 per cent, 50 per cent, 60 per cent and the situation would be exactly the same as it is now, apart from the general confusion created by threats to change the legislation.

SEKE: Now Greg Anderson, the executive director of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum also expressed concerns about creating a dual system here. He's got a point there, do you think?

FILER: Well, his concern about that, the minister's undertaking that kind of changes to the legislation would not be retrospective, which is, of course, normally the case, because the government has made agreements to allow these projects to go ahead under the previous legislation. You can't retrospectively change everything without making the state liable to pay huge amounts of compensation to developers for breaking agreements. But what he's saying is that kind of you can't really insulate the previous agreements from new changes to the legislation, because the landowners under those agreements will start to claim the same rights as would be granted to landowners under new agreements, under new legislation, so it would destabilise the existing relationship between landowners, companies and the government under existing agreements.

19.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG leaders welcome Minister
By Fabian Gatana

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders turned out in numbers at the airport yesterday to welcome the new Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Steven Pirika Kama. Minister Kama arrived for the first time in Buka since he was appointed Minister in the O'Neill-Nama Government recently.

Former Minister Fidelis Semoso was there to welcome him with a big traditional bamboo band playing at the tarmac.

A bamboo band, from Buka, played at the airport to welcome the minister.

Bougainville women performed the traditional tsutsu (washing of the feet), the Buka way. The Buka people perform this ceremony to welcome people to the island, especially if it is the first time for the visitor.

ABG Treasurer Albert Punghau and ABG Speaker Andrew Miriki led the ABG team to the airport with other Cabinet MPs, ABG administration chief executive officers of all divisions, Administrator Lawrence Dising and his deputies Raymond Masono and Patrick Koles.

They were all at the airport to welcome their leaders.

Mr Kama paid a courtesy call on ABG President John Momis and later addressed business houses.

He also held a briefing with Secretary for Mining Nellie James and her high-level team from Port Moresby regarding the Panguna Mine and other issues.

19.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt and ABG to meet in Sept

By Fabian Gatana

THE National Government may hold its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Bougainville come September, Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kama has announced in Buka yesterday.

And in September, during the National Government Supplementary Budget, it will also be the time when ABG should receive its K15 million Development Grant from the Government.

Further, the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting, the avenue for the National Government and ABG to discuss Bougainville forward, may also be held in September in Buka but after the Supplementary Budget.

Mr Kama said this at the Buka airport on arrival from Port Moresby.

He said the first JSB was held in Port Moresby and the next one should be held in Buka later this year.

JSB is the meeting where all the government departments relating to Bougainville issues and the ABG meet to discuss and iron out specific issues of development and the drawdown of powers for Bougainville. The meeting is normally chaired by the ABG president and the PNG Government Prime Minister.

19.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG hopes for reconciliation

By Gorethy Kenneth

THE Bougainville Government peace team is hoping to meet with south Bougainville Me'ekamui rebel hardliner Damien Koike in Tonu next week.

The ABG Peace team told the Post-Courier on Wednesday that they have made a decision to bring traditional shell money and two pigs and food from the villages to Koike, to meet and reconcile with him specifically to find a lasting way for peace within the Konnou area.

Veterans Affairs Minister David Sisito will be leading his delegation to meet with Koike, who is seeking refuge in Tonu, south Bougainville, together with his peace mission team.

The two peace teams are stationed in Arawa and travel in between Buka, Arawa and Buin.

About K500,000 was allocated for the peace mission in Tonu and the operation to sort out the mess in Buin, Konnou in south Bougainville was scheduled for three weeks, it has now been extended to three months.

"We are trying our best to come up with a solution for the people of south Bougainville, specifically the Konnou area and we believe strongly that we will achieve our goals of bringing peace back into Konnou," the peace team executives said.

"Yes, there are killings, there are guns still being used and innocent lives terrorised, women, children and youths affected and most importantly the service delivery mechanism is not effective in the area because of the infighting."

Over the weekend, two people were killed, one WILMO, a government instituted organisation and one from the Me'ekamui.

On Monday, there was still gun battle among these factions and while this is happening, Koike is seeking refuge in Tonu, Siwai area of south Bougainville which is the home of U-Vistract conman Noah Musingku.

From the Konnou boys in Buin and Tonu, they could not comment on the whole issue but only said: "There is no way to peace ... peace is the way," they said.

The ABG is adamant the issue will be sorted out before three months is up by the end of this month on August 30.

19.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Contractors crying foul in Bougainville

SERVICE providers on Bougainville are crying foul over the amount of money the Autonomous Bougainville Government, its administration and the National Government owe them.

It is estimated that the ABG and its administration owe service providers in Buka town including Arawa almost K3 million.

Local contractors, hoteliers, guest houses, shipping companies, hire cars, local fuel companies, shop owners and other companies said they sympathise with the ABG for struggling to pay their dues. Outside of Bougainville, several tertiary institutions and colleges have also advised the ABG that they still needed to pay their outstanding fees for Bougainville students under the school fee assistance scheme.

This week, the ABG Peace Ministry has admitted they were facing major financial constraints to sustain the peace building initiative within the region.

A wholesaler told the Post-Courier yesterday that the ABG still owes them more than K100,000 for food supplies purchased on credit during a disaster-stricken period two years ago, which had accumulated till now.

Another, a shipping company this week complained that they could not set sail to the Atolls to serve the people and provide their service there because the ABG still needs to pay them their dues – more than K150,000.

A hotel claims the ABG and its administration still owes them almost K300,000 for services dating back several years.

The ABG yesterday advised that it was still waiting for K15 million from the National Government.

It said it sympathised with the service providers and blamed the National Government for not honouring its commitment of releasing funds so it could pay its dues.

19.08.2011

Source: The National

NZ firm to lure investors for Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Bougainville government has appointed Tuia International, a New Zealand Maori firm, to assist it in attracting foreign investment.

Autonomous Region of Bougainville president John Momis said the project was jointly funded by New Zealand Aid and AusAID.

“This project with Tuia will assist the ABG to develop a better framework to assess foreign investment proposals that will make a strong positive contribution to Bougainville.

“We want to see our people meaningfully involved as investors and suppliers and as employees.

“We also want to be proactive in promoting Bougainville overseas as a good place to do business,” he said.

He said the ABG was well aware that a number of Bougainvilleans were uneasy about foreign investment given the lessons of the past but emphasised that not all foreign investment was bad.

“ABG has always been clear that it wishes to see only responsible investment in Bougainville. Responsible investment is investment that is aligned with the values and cultures of Bougainville. It must be ethical, responsible and fair,” Momis said.

He said attracting responsible investment would be an important part of growing economic empowerment for Bougainvilleans.

19.08.2011

Source: aussieBULLS.com

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER ORD

ASX

Weekly Commentary

Our system posted BUY-IF . The previous SELL recommendation that was confirmed was made on 05.08.2011 (13) days ago, when the stock price was 0.9800 . Since then BOC.AX has gained 2.04% .

A bullish pattern has developed and a BUY-IF alert is issued. You will see if we erred slightly in the previous SELL signal. Now, the task is to confirm the validity of this bullish pattern. A confirmation will mean that we have underestimated the bullish power of the market. We are posting daily the current confirmation status, but it is still your duty to do your homework. A good starting point would be to keep an eye on futures trading to get preliminary hints about the direction of the market. Related news, events, economic data, and the world stock markets should also be closely followed prior to and during the confirmation week.

There are three possible cases of confirmation. This week, you have to follow the sessions carefully to check if these cases will hold or not:

The week opens with an upward gap, signaling a bullish sentiment in the first case. Your benchmark will be the week's opening price. If the prices stay over the benchmark, go long. Any white candlestick with an upward gap is a valid confirmation criterion.

In the second case, the week opens at a level, equal to or below the previous week's close. The benchmark is that previous close. If prices during the week stay over the benchmark, go long. Any white candlestick closing above the previous week's close is the second confirmation criterion.

If, however, in both cases, the prices during the week start coming below the benchmark, avoid buying. Sell if you feel a definite tendency in prices to close the week below the benchmark.

The third case of confirmation is rarely observed. The week opens with a big downward gap suggesting a very bearish week, and the week ends with a long white candlestick, but still closing below the previous week's close. However, such a week satisfies the third confirmation criterion and in this case the closing price of the long white candlestick is taken as the price of confirmation.

If one of the three confirmation criteria is not fulfilled, or in case of a black candlestick or a doji on the confirmation week, the BUY-IF alert remains valid, however without confirmation and the three confirmation criteria are then sought in the following week. The only exception is the long black candlestick. Any long black candlestick following a BUY-IF alert makes it (the signal) void and invalid.

We do not suggest any new short positions given the bullish alert. The short sellers should consider covering their positions if the market confirms the BUY-IF signal. Otherwise, existing short positions should be carried.

19.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville wants restorative justice approach to settling violence in south

The autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville hopes to resolve a long standing impasse in the south of the main island by taking the traditional Melanesian approach of reconciliation.

Despite six years of autonomy, few government services are available around the district of Konnou because the security of workers can't be guaranteed.

Former combatants, led by Damian Koike, have been blamed for the crime and violence, which has claimed an unknown number of lives.

President John Momis wants face to face talks with Mr Koike, who he says is concerned he could face arrest at such an event.

Mr Momis says to have a permanent peace they'll need to take a traditional Melanesian restorative justice approach.

"To assist him to pay compensation, and vice versa, because there are people on the other side who have, in fact, dealt death blows to people on Koike's side, so it's a complicated situation and we are just trying to get to the bottom of it and work out a mutually acceptable peace arrangement."

19.08.2011

Source: The Australian

Confidence the first victim of PNG's resources play
by Robin Bromby

PAPUA New Guinea's plan to hand state ownership of mineral and energy resources to landowners may be great retail politics, but it will be a disaster for investor confidence -- both in PNG itself and in any company that has tied its future to the country.

The move comes at a time when it was all going so well.

Ten years ago PNG was a hard sell to Australians, typified by the flop of New Britain Palm Oil's float, even though the company had impressive credentials.

Investors would stick with the big players -- companies such as the former Lihir Gold -- that had the financial power to withstand the politics and landowner issues, but for junior explorers it was often just too hard, and many gave up and walked away.

The other factor is that the stakes are huge, the deposits enormous. For example, joint-venture partners Newcrest Mining and Harmony Gold have upped the resource at their Wafi-Golpu project to 26.6 million ounces of gold and 4.9 million tonnes of copper.

The extent to which the tide has turned is typified by the Mt Kare gold project. Contrast the difference over 20 years: back then, the CRA-owned mine was the subject of a huge goldrush by locals and attacks on its operations, leading the company to abandon the project. But this year junior Indochine Mining took control of Mt Kare, backed by the landowners.

Kula Gold's float in November was another sure sign that the tide of investor sentiment in Papua New Guinea had turned.

It raised \$80 million through its initial public offering for a gold project on Woodlark Island, and that put it head and shoulders above the other debuting companies at the time. It still would.

There were other signs, too, that you could invest in a resources project with less political risk than had once been the case. Landowner disputes -- like the group that threatened in 2004 to close down Highlands Pacific's Kainantu gold mine -- were fading into memory. Subsequently, Highlands was able to find partners for two enormous projects that for years no one wanted to know about. A Chinese player signed up for the Ramu project, which will produce 31,500 tonnes of nickel a year -- and will go into production after landowners lost their court case against it -- and Xstrata took the lead at Frieda River, one of the world's largest copper-gold deposits with 11 million tonnes and 18 million ounces respectively.

And, most amazingly, in the past two weeks leaders on Bougainville were saying they were prepared to talk about reopening the Panguna copper mine, closed by protests in 1989.

The owner, Bougainville Copper, has high hopes of returning to the mine -- which would have been inconceivable a decade ago.

Regardless of the merits of the PNG government plan to hand resource ownership to landowners -- and you can see its point about the continuing poverty in the country -- the issue will be investor confidence.

18.08.2011

Source: ESBC

Zwei dringende Bitten an alle Investoren in Bougainville Copper!

Handelsblatt:

Zwecks besserer Überschaubarkeit der Gesamtsituation wäre ich allen, die Frau de la Motte vom Handelsblatt (delamotte@handelsblatt.com) Informationen zukommen lassen, sehr dankbar, wenn sie eine Kopie ihrer Erfahrungen ebenfalls an die ESBC schicken würden. Unsere Email Adresse ist esbc@bougainville-copper.eu !

Wichtig ist es, in den Berichten an das Handelsblatt vor allem alle normalen Bankendienstleistungen wie etwa die Beschaffung von Eintritts-/Stimmkarten für die HV, den Eintrag ins Aktionärsregister etc., die NICHT von den Banken erbracht oder sogar ausdrücklich verweigert werden, detailliert zu beschreiben und so weit wie möglich zu dokumentieren. Vergessen Sie nicht: Diese Dienstleistungen sind durch Ihre Depotgebühren abgedeckt!

Dazu zählt natürlich auch die Verweigerung der Auskunft über die tatsächliche Lagerstelle Ihrer Aktien.

Ferner müssen die Banken Ihnen darüber Auskunft geben, ob die von Ihnen gehaltenen Aktien verliehen werden und - wenn ja - warum Sie als Aktienbesitzer dann keine Beteiligung an den Gewinnen, die aus der Vermietung erzielt werden, erhalten. Wichtig wäre es auch, zu überprüfen, ob sich in den Geschäftsbedingungen Ihres Brokers/Ihrer Bank möglicherweise im "Kleingedruckten" unterschobene Einverständniserklärungen befinden, die es den Banken oder Brokern erlauben, Ihre Aktien ohne weitere Zustimmung Ihrerseits als Eigentümer zu verleihen.

Bitte, vergessen Sie nicht, Frau de la Motte auch solche Erfahrungen zu berichten, die positiv waren. Nur ein Ganzes bietet einen umfassenden Überblick!

Eindämmung des Aktienverleihs zum Zweck von Leerverkäufen

Leerverkäufe (short selling) werden zumeist getätigt, wenn es den Akteuren darum geht, den Aktienkurs zu deckeln oder sogar nach "Süden" fallen zu lassen, um später die geliehenen Aktien preiswert zurück zu kaufen um damit Gewinne einzustreichen. Seriöse, speziell Langfrist-Investoren spekulieren auf steigende Kurse, mit denen sie ihre Gewinne erzielen wollen. Shortseller schädigen Sie und Ihre Interessen! Die bisherigen Erfahrungen haben gezeigt, dass der einfachste und sicherste Weg, um eine Aktie dem Verleih zu entziehen, der ist, sie zum Verkauf einzustellen. Aktien, die ins Orderbuch eingestellt worden sind, stehen automatisch nicht mehr zum Verleih zur Verfügung!

Langfrist-Investoren sind daher gut beraten, einen möglichst hohen Verkaufspreis zu fordern, damit ihre Aktien nicht bei einer kurzen Hype veräussert werden. Als Verkaufslimit empfehlen sich derzeit Preise ab 15 Euro (AUD 20) aufwärts. Sollten Ihre Aktien aber dennoch zufällig innerhalb eines Hypes (wie etwa bei VW) verkauft werden, ist Ihre Freude umso größer, denn Sie können sie später vermutlich um ein Vielfaches billiger zurückkaufen!

Deshalb empfehle ich, dass möglichst ALLE Langfrist-Investoren von dieser Möglichkeit Gebrauch machen. Sollten im besten Falle alle von den ESBC vertretenen 14 Millionen Aktien dem Verleih entzogen werden, könnte es für Shortseller eng, ja sogar sehr eng werden.

Sollte ein Broker oder eine Depot führende Bank die Einstellung des von Ihnen gewünschten Verkaufspreises verweigern, weil er "zu weit über dem aktuellen Kurs" liegt, sollte eigentlich ein Verweis auf das Orderbuch (derzeit höchste VK Orders bis AUD 35 in Sydney!!!) genügen, um eine Einstellung der Order zu erreichen. Ansonsten sollte das Killer Argument genügen, dass jeder Investor ganz allein darüber entscheidet, zu welchem Preis er seine Aktien veräußern möchte. Die Bank kann dem Verkäufer keineswegs den Verkaufspreis vorschreiben, allenfalls empfehlen.

Im Hinblick auf etwaige Gebühren sollten die Orders langfristig eingestellt werden. Eine Abänderung oder Stornierung der Verkaufsother ist je nach Marktlage jederzeit möglich. Deshalb birgt ein solches Vorgehen Ihrerseits auch keinerlei Risiken für Sie als Investor!

Im Interesse aller, die an der Austrocknung der Marktmanipulationen bei Bougainville Copper Aktien interessiert sind, empfehle ich dringend, so wie oben beschrieben zu verfahren.

Nochmals: Diese Aufforderung richtet sich an ALLE Investoren und nicht ausschließlich an diejenigen, die in den ESBC organisiert sind!

Neues zu diesem Thema wird bei Bedarf auf www.bougainville-copper.eu veröffentlicht.

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 18. August 2011

18.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville gets aid on investment

By Daniel Tangia

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand Governments are funding a major project to assist Bougainville attract responsible foreign investment.

The ABG yesterday announced the appointment of a New Zealand Maori firm, Tuia International, to help the ABG on how Bougainville could attract responsible foreign investment.

The projects would be funded by the NZ and Australian governments through their NZAid and AusAID programs.

ABG president John Momis said the ABG has always been clear that it wished to see only responsible investment in Bougainville.

"Responsible investment is investment that is aligned with the values and cultures of Bougainville. It must be ethical, responsible and fair," Mr Momis said.

Mr Momis said the ABG was aware that a number of Bougainvilleans were uneasy about foreign investment, given the lesson of the past.

He emphasised that not all foreign investment was bad.

Attracting responsible investment would be an important part of growing economic empowerment for all Bougainvilleans, as it is in many other regions and countries around the world.

"This project with Tuia will assist the ABG to develop a better framework to assess foreign investment proposals that will make a strong, positive contribution to Bougainville.

"We want to see our people meaningfully involved as investors and suppliers as well as employees," he said

Tuia International is a New Zealand firm with wide experience in development and investment.

Tuia is widely engaged with Maori economic development in NZ.

18.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG blamed over Konnou fight

REBEL hardliners, ex-combatants and an elite Bougainvillean have blamed the Autonomous Bougainville Government for commercialising factions on Bougainville and causing a rift in the Konnou issue in the south of the island.

Arawa and Buin based hardliners, who refused to be named in fear of retaliatory attacks, told the Post-Courier the ABG should never have “put money in a brief case” and given to rebel commanders because it has now being caused the problem to escalate, specifically in Buin, the Konnou area.

The elite South Bougainvillean said the ABG should also be blamed for prolonging and creating a vacuum in the Konnou area by neglecting any service to that part of the world since the establishment of the ABG in 2005.

“All these governments should be blamed for not having and giving priority to the people of Buin, specifically the Konnou area. They ignored and gave too much time for the boys to think, practice and act and the ABG created a vacuum for the boys that’s why they became smarter than what we have now,” he said.

Two ex-combatants from Central and North Bougainville said yesterday that the recent killings and problem in the Konnou area, which saw WIMLO commander Philip Pusua shot dead, was basically personal, which had affected the whole area.

But the ABG has denied having “put money in a brief case and given to rebel commanders”.

The ABG Peace team told the Post-Courier money being referred to are those for small projects for youths and that they have never commercialised any factions in the region specifically in south to create problems.

18.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

UN to mark 10 years peace anniversary

By Fabian Gatana

THE Bougainville Autonomous Government will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement on August 30 this year.

To commemorate the occasion, a high level delegation from the United Nations is due in Bougainville this month to see how far the Autonomous Government has gone after the Peace Agreement was signed.

Also expected is a big media team from around the globe to cover this event.

The UN delegation will visit Bougainville again after their exit under the UN Observer Mission On Bougainville (UNOMB) in 2005. They were heavily involved in the Weapons Disposal program and other peace operations.

Anthony Agyenta, UN head in Bougainville, told the Post-Courier that the advance team is already in PNG but the rest of them should arrive in two weeks time.

He said the UN team will be coming back to engage with PNG, ABG and the civil society in furthering the peace mission on the island but specifically to see the progress and challenges Bougainville has endured and effectively addressed 10 years ago, since the BPA was signed on August 30, 2011.

“UN is hoping the whole of Bougainville and its leadership take August and September as the month of prayer and reflection, but it is not happening,” Mr Agyenta said.

“We are organising the civil society to progressively address this and make these months as we see it. When the UN team arrives in the region this month, we should also be talking about re-deploying a team to Bougainville to specifically help with the progress and challenges Bougainville is facing.”

A peace walk is also being organised to start on August 23 through to 27 and is aimed at involving members of the ABG and youths.

18.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou fight affects women and children

By Gorethy Kenneth

A SOUTH Bougainville woman leader wants the Autonomous Bougainville Government to seriously address the Konnou issue because every day women are living in fear of being intimidated, their sons killed or their children abused.

Konnou women leader Mary Mamatau told the Post-Courier from Buin yesterday that the situation in Konnou is still very tense.

She thanked the ABG peace team for their presence in the area but said they could have done more and addressed the issue earlier so that children can go to school, services can be delivered to their doorstep and women and youths can live a normal life, like everyone else in central and north Bougainville.

She said there is no peace in her area because guns still rule the place, men still carry guns and are fighting against each other. Factions are becoming enemies when they are supposed to be living as a family and while fighting and killings are going on in Konnou, there is no development in that area, schools and health centres are also being affected.

"It is a very big concern to us, especially the mothers of Konnou and specifically south Bougainville," Ms Mamatau said. "We are concerned because every mother on Bougainville, Buka, Arawa, Wakunai and everywhere except Buin is way ahead with her development initiatives and programs."

The women group want the ABG to sort out the issue once and for all.

18.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Census a success in Bougainville

THE 2011 National Population and Housing Census coverage has been successful in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Every census unit or village was captured despite few hiccups with remoteness of locations and logistical problems.

In Bougainville, interviewers and supervisors were given clear passage into the “no zone” areas of Panguna, Siwai, Buin, Aropa and Kieta during the enumeration without any hindrance and questions.

These areas were not covered in the 1990 and 2000 National Population and Housing Censuses because of the Bougainville conflict.

National Statistician Joseph Aka, who was on the ground in Buka and Arawa over the weekend, is satisfied that the people of Bougainville have embraced the census with open arms as the census data will be useful for the overall planning of Bougainville.

Census director Hajily Kele returned with the same news when she was in the region last month to assess the operations.

She was the Provincial Census coordinator for Bougainville in the 2000 National Population Census.

18.08.2011

Source: The National

Movement leader shot dead

BOUGAINVILLE Assistant Police Commissioner Thomas Eluh has confirmed the fatal shooting of Wissai Liberation Movement commander Philip Pusua.

Pusua died after being shot at Siniminoi in South Bougainville last week.

The late Pusua had been instrumental in uniting former resistance factions in South Bougainville under the name Konnou combined factions to combat a rise in criminal activities, including the killing of civilians allegedly by former South Bougainville combatant Damien Koike and his gang.

Eluh said the death of Pusua should be the last in the Konnou conflict.

He made these remarks when sending his condolences to Pusua's family.

Eluh said the conflict had been on-going since 2006 and could not be resolved overnight.

He said the government was trying its best to end the conflict through peaceful means as it did not want more deaths in the area.

18.08.2011

Source: The National

Police in Buka destroy 20kg bags of marijuana

Police in Buka on Tuesday destroyed more than 20kg of marijuana uprooted in the Kunua area of Northwest Bougainville last week.

The marijuana package containing dried and uprooted plants was handed over to Bougainville police by community leaders from the area.

Two chiefs from the area came to Buka police station with the package and handed it over to Buka police station commander chief Sgt Alex Gunnan and acting commissioner of Bougainville police chief Insp Huitona Tohua.

In a short ceremony held at Buka police station, Gunnan apologised to the two chiefs for not attending the uprooting of the plants at Petspets village last week because of heavy rain.

He said marijuana on Bougainville was becoming a huge concern and the Kunua and Hahon people had shown a good example to everyone by promising to clamp down on drug traffickers in the area.

Tohua thanked the chiefs and Kunua rural police officer in charge Donald Boire for the initiative taken to make Kunua a marijuana-free zone.

18.08.2011

Source: The National

NSO pleased with coverage

THE National census in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and in West Sepik have been successful despite minor hiccups, the National Statistical Office (NSO) team says.

The office and the census team reported that every census unit had been covered despite the remoteness of locations, hostile weather and logistical problems.

National Statistician Joseph Aka visited Buka and Arawa over the weekend and was satisfied with the positive response to data collection by Bougainvilleans.

NSO said officers had managed to cover all areas not included in the 1990 and 2000 national census.

These were no-go zones of Panguna, Siwai, Buin, Aropa and Kieta.

Census coordinator for West Sepik, Seth Yapriha highlighted a special case in the Amamab LLG of Vanimo-Green River district along the Indonesian border.

He said villages in the Bambom village were enumerated on the other side of Indonesia in temporary hamlets as they were there on their traditional land.

Yapriha said remote areas of Telefomin, Oksapmin and Yapsie on the PNG-Indonesian border were enumerated.

He said census forms had been completed and the provincial census co-ordinating control centre in Vanimo was now awaiting the census forms to be returned from the LLGs.

In a press statement yesterday the NSO said it anticipated that all census forms in provinces would arrive at headquarters in Waigani at the end of this month.

18.08.2011

Source: The National

Feud rocks PNG Brussels embassy
By FRANK SENGE KOLMA

THE Papua New Guinea embassy in Brussels is embroiled in a bitter feud involving a Belgian national working there and her employer, that threatens to spill into the courts of Belgium.

Belgian national Martine-Ghislaine Victoria Chaplin van Camp has complained of sexual harassment, of being locked out of her office and of not being paid for four months, among other things.

Brussels head of mission Ambassador Peter Maginde, in turn, had accused van Camp of blackmail, of removing sensitive documents and the embassy cheque book to her home.

Maginde had engaged a Belgian law firm to assist in recovering embassy property.

Whatever the truth of the matter, letters have been sent to the king of Belgium, the Queen of England as the head of state of PNG, the governor-general and the two governments repeating her accusations and making damaging remarks against not just Maginde but the work habits and character of the people of PNG.

According to van Camp, the king of Belgium had directed two of its ministers to attend to the matter.

Yesterday, a senior PNG Foreign Affairs Department officer confirmed that "several correspondence" had been received relating to the matter, adding the department had urged Maginde to resolve it.

In e-mail correspondence with The National, van Camp gave graphic accounts of the sexual harassment which she claimed took place within the embassy precincts.

It got to a stage, she claimed, where she had to stop wearing skirts and had to go into the ambassador's office accompanied by minister Alois Tabereng or third secretary Aileen Boi.

Maginde described her allegations as "absolutely false, without basis of evidence and there is no truth in it".

He said he had engaged a law firm to sue her for defamation and character assassination and to recover PNG government property.

In a letter to secretary Michael Maue on April 4, van Camp said: "Since Ambassador Peter Maginde seems unwilling to understand his obligations in respect of the legislation of his hosting country – despite the several reminders from the protocol of the ministry of foreign affairs to backpay my salaries and social security payments, as much as to provide local staff with legal contracts and their due social benefit payments – his Majesty Albert II, king of Belgium, has requested two of his state ministers to take this matter into their hands."

Van Camp confirmed she had taken her administrative work home as her office door lock was changed and she could not access her office and she could not continue because of the harassment.

Maginde responded this week by accusing her of trying to blackmail the embassy.

He said between April and May last year, she was informed that her performance level was not to "our expectations and she was taking many days off so we warned her to improve and comply with all the required instructions".

In the end, he said the situation was untenable and her employment was terminated.

Maginde said: "She is almost 60 years of age and she claims that, due to her age, the embassy is responsible to employ her.

"We have said that is not possible and, thus, have terminated her (employment) officially as of January but legally-effected as of April 2011 due to the three months' notice under the Belgian laws.

"She has been paid all her entitlements and benefits due under law.

"She says that if we terminate her, she would destroy me so that is her intention for the emails to everywhere and everybody."

He said the Belgian foreign affairs had been briefed and had asked her to return all government documents and financial accounts including cheque books.

17.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG to legislate for landowners to own mineral resources

Papua New Guinea's mining industry has expressed grave concerns over plans by the PNG government to revert ownership of minerals and resources to traditional landowners.

The mining industry warns that such a move will scare off investors and will be disastrous for the country's economy.

PNG's Mining Minister Byron Chan, says the government is reviewing existing laws to give ownership of minerals on, as well as under the land and seabed to the traditional owners.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Byron Chan, PNG's Mining Minister; Simon Ekanda, spokesperson for PNG landowners; Greg Anderson, Executive Director of PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum

[Listen here !](#)

NANOL: Mr Chan says PNG is an island of gold floating on a sea of oil.

But the minister says it's sad to see that resource owners are living in very poor conditions despite the relatively small population and the world class mining projects in the country.

He says by restoring ownership of minerals to the landowners, the government hopes to allow them to participate in the exploitation of their resources and improve their livelihoods.

Minister Byron Chan says this will be a win-win situation for the landowners and potential investors in PNG's mining and petroleum sectors.

He says currently provincial governments, landowners and people from resource project areas are either left out of the negotiation and participation processes or lose out on long term benefits.

Minister Chan says under the proposed legislative changes the government will be a regulator, and not investor and regulator as is the case now.

CHAN: The law which states that the state owns everything six foot under, both on land and sea. We'd like to replace that possibly almost immediately to revert the ownership back to the landowners and relinquish the state from owning anything from six foot below land and sea, that's what we're looking into right now.

NANOL: That is a big legislative, that will throw things into chaos, isn't it?

CHAN: No, what we are proposing would not affect existing licences. We're proposing amendments that will look into future licences etc. The current agreement won't be affected. All of these things are currently being undertaken now by the department, so that there won't be chaos and the landowners will have more relationship with mining companies themselves, government stands as the regulator.

NANOL: Some groups of landowners are supportive of the proposed changes to give ownership of minerals and resources back to them.

Simon Ekanda is a spokesperson for landowners from villages surrounding PNG's multi-billion dollar PNG LNG gas project in the PNG highlands.

He says it's about time ownership of mineral resources is given back to landowners.

EKANDA: We own what was underneath and on top and above and Constitution recognises the customary law and the customary law, the landowners get rights to own what was underneath and on top and above. So we already own it and you see how this country can move the next five years when this law has been changed and people will have money in their pocket. Now the government has taken away that right. That is a beggars in this country.

NANOL: But PNG's Mining industry has expressed grave concerns about the proposed change of the mining laws and the ownership of minerals on and under the land.

The Chamber of Mines and Petroleum says it's a mistake for the government to give back ownership to the landowners, who have no capital and investment skills.

Executive Director, Greg Anderson says it will scare off investors and will not want to work in PNG.

ANDERSON: That is of great concern to us because you have to have central government control on issuing leases and an organised system. If we tried to deal with landowners on exploration titles, I think it's just going to be a nightmare. But there's many questions that

arise with that. If the landowners own the resource and they're going to be shareholders in the project, whose going to pay for it? Where's the money going to come from? What's going to happen to royalty? How can you run a dual system and implementation will mean you've got to revise the whole mining act, which is a major task and will be of great disruption to industry in the meantime. So it is a serious issue.

NANOL: That changes of the ownership and the legal framework would only look at the new or ones that could be explored and mined later in the future, not existing ones?

ANDERSON: That means you're going to have a dual system in the country and I think it's extremely naive, because the government made a statement that they wanted to remove all the landowner problems and do you think the Engans and the Hulis and everybody else is going to be satisfied with one system for them and one system for all the new projects. I don't think it's going to work. And if you've got a policy that's completely ill defined, uncertain, nobody's going to invest on something that's uncertain and you'll scare off the explorers like you wouldn't believe. So I've got to talk it through with the government exactly what they mean, but we do not like the principle this issue of private ownership, because I don't think it's workable in Papua New Guinea.

NANOL: That was Greg Anderson, Executive Director of PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum.

But the PNG Mining Minister Byron Chan, says the government plans to have the changes to the mineral ownership and mining laws ready and put to parliament to pass into law before the 2012 general elections.

17.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville Copper Limited to involve landowners in its plans

BOUGAINVILLE Copper Limited is determined to involve landowners as part of its commitment to its long term vision for the Panguna Mine.

Company Secretary Paul Coleman reported in the company's six months to June 30, 2011 report to the Australian Stock Exchange that the company's priority would be the involvement of landowners so the company would develop an engagement program aimed at increasing awareness of the benefits of returning to mine production.

"Good progress is being made by the landowners in the establishment of companies that once completed will enable an umbrella company to be formed that will represent all

landowners in the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement,” Mr Coleman said in his report.

“(Autonomous Bougainville Government) President Momis supports the vision of returning to mining at Panguna and has publicly stated he believes the majority of the Bougainville population also supports reopening the mine.”

BCL made a loss of K3.8 million for the six months to June this year compared to a profit of K2.8 million reported for the corresponding period of last year.

The Directors have not declared a dividend in respect of the six months ended 30 June this year.

The company reported that the high Australian currency has adversely affected costs and income has been reduced as a consequence of the monies paid in to court in relation to the tax dispute.

BCL Chairman Peter Taylor was elected President of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Council and in that capacity he led a high –profile business delegation to Bougainville in May.

The visit was hosted by Mr Momis and the delegation also met with a wide range of leaders from politics, business and administration.

“The delegation was impressed with the enthusiasm for investments in Papua New Guinea and support for the reopening of BCL’s Panguna Mine,” Mr Coleman said in the statement.

17.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chinese duo could have drowned

By PETERSON TSERAHA

IT is speculated that the two Chinese that went missing in Torokina recently may have been sucked into a trench by strong currents.

The Post-Courier established this during an interview with the boat owner and some reliable sources from the company that sent the two to Bougainville.

According to the boat owner, the duo arrived on August 3 and took off from Buka to Torokina on the next day.

The boat owner instructed the passengers that they would not travel after 11 o’clock because that was the time when strong winds and rough seas were expected.

The boat owner, a local from Torokina, said that the two Chinese and their partner, who is a national from the Gulf Province, were not carrying K200, 000 to K300,000 in cash as speculated.

They were only carrying K2,000 for their transport, accommodation and meals.

He said that they were heading to Torokina to carry out an assessment on how many metals were available and take photographs which they would take back to their headquarters to organise funding for the first buy.

“They did not go there to buy brass straight away. And they were not going there to buy guns and ammunition like everybody is saying,” he said.

He said as soon as the boat arrived at Amun village, waves started swelling and the boat owner insisted that they return to Buka.

However, he said the duo saw another boat going past them and they insisted that they followed the boat.

He said that they came to the area where the biggest cave in the world is located at Korepovi when the engine encountered a problem. It stopped and it was also getting dark. As soon as the engine started again, the rough seas were getting worse. Realising this, the skipper and the boat owner removed their boots.

They kept going until they reached Laruma point when they ran out of petrol again due to the battering of the engine by the rough seas.

With the engine off, they could not do much to control the boat. Another large wave came and turned the boat upside down.

One of the Chinese was fast asleep while the other was sitting with rest of the passengers. The Gulf man held onto the boat which was breaking into two parts.

The place was now completely dark and they could not see anything. The boat owner was also clinging onto the engine and as he was trying to come to surface, something was sucking him down very hard. He made three attempts to come up and was just about to give up and go all the way down when the gulf man pulled him up to the surface.

And as they were clinging onto the last piece of the boat, another big wave crashed down on them and they went their own ways.

The boat owner said he swam towards land and just as he was gasping for his last breath, he felt sand with his foot and he realised that he had made it to ashore. He called out but there was no reply from the others. He swam to the beach, fell down with his head on a log and fell unconscious.

About half an hour later, he was awoken up by the gulf man, and they both found a track leading to a village near the boat owner's village. They reported the incident to police. Five were killed so far in this same area. Three people went missing earlier and it is suspected there might be a big trench in the Laruma point area.

17.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Islanders claim: ABG owes us

By GORETHY KENNETH

CARTERETS Islanders have accused the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government of "sweeping their problems under the carpet to gather cobwebs".

Andreas Kaholo, former council of elders chairman for Carterets, is a very angry man because the ABG still owes their shipping service - MV Kissomaru, more than K150,000 for services to the Atolls, specifically accrued from bringing relief supplies to Tasman and Mortlock and a government trip recently.

Kaholo told the Post-Courier yesterday that because the vessel is not in operation, teachers, people and students of Carterets primary school are still stranded in Buka.

"Food is running out for us in Buka. How can ABG expect us to live with people in Buka, especially when our people do not have a paid job here, gardens here or are not from here," Mr Kaholo said. "And there are students and teachers still in town and for us the crew members of Kissomaru, we need to survive as well. As we speak, we only have four packets of rice left and we survive on raw fish that we catch ourselves."

He said the Carterets islanders back in the Atolls were also affected because of the vessel not being in operation for the last two to three months because there is no money to pay for fuel and the ship crew had not been paid for the last three to four fortnights.

17.08.2011

Source: The National

Kamma: Peace tops list for Bougainville

NEWLY-appointed Bougainville Affairs Minister and member for Bougainville Steven Pirika Kamma is determined to bring about a new Bougainville and fulfil peacekeeping plans in the region.

"While the new government has less than a year until the national elections, we are determined to make a real difference," he said.

Kamma took over the Bougainville Affairs Office from Fidelis Semoso last week as a change of departmental heads took place in ministries.

On the top of his agenda the minister resolved to support peacekeeping plans that were signed 10 years ago.

"It is now almost 10 years when the Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed.

"The ABG is now in its second five-year term. The guaranteed referendum on Bougainville's political future (which is to be held in 2015–20) could now be as close as four years away," he said.

Kamma said his high-priority list included "the need to progress on a number of high impact projects".

"These include road projects, bridges, oil palm project in Torokina, establishing a border post at Kangu and rehabilitation of plantations and agricultural developments in all parts of Bougainville".

Providing employment opportunities for ex-combatants and self-help programmes for unemployed youths as well as addressing the plight of the atolls are also priorities.

Kamma will work closely with President John Momis and other leaders for the national priority of peacekeeping in Bougainville.

17.08.2011

Source: The National

Government to review mining laws

By PATRICK TALU

THE new government has vowed to urgently review all the laws on or relating to mining in the country.

Mining Minister and Namatanai MP Byron Chan said an urgent review of all mine related laws was a priority over the next nine months.

Chan said mining laws did not favour national stakeholders, including the national and provincial governments and respective resource owners.

“There must be a provision of meaningful and substantive consultation process at every step of the mining process between the provincial and local level government in whose province an exploration or development licence is granted.

“All Open MPs whose electorate is undertaking any mining activity must be included,” he said.

In respect to provisions of requiring financial and technical capacity, Chan said if it was prohibitive, then it would be failing

to give effect to the national goals and directive

principles of PNG’s constitution which wants the bulk of economic enterprises to be controlled by Papua New Guineans.

“If opportunities are denied to build the necessary experience and build technical capacity from trial and error by entering the industry then when will they get the experience and how can they build up the expertise?” he asked.

He said the enforcement of mining laws “will be reviewed in order to provide clarity as to who has the authority to do it and how it must be enforced”.

“This will have to include raising penalty fines, which at present are believed to be only a maximum of K1000,” he said.

Chan said a critical review of the Mineral Resources Authority Act was to overhaul the MRA board “so that the conflict of interest inherent in the provision of the regulated to be present with regulators is dealt with and ironed out.

“The O’Neill-Namah government is a government by the people, of the people and for the people and we will ensure that their interest becomes our utmost interest,” he said.

16.08.2011

Source: ESBC

WICHTIG!

Liebe Freunde,

heute erschien im Handelsblatt ein interessanter Artikel zum Thema Leerverkäufe (siehe unten). Soeben habe ich mit der Autorin, Frau Laura de la Motte, ein ausführliches Gespräch dazu führen können. Frau de la Motte zeigte sich sehr interessiert an den Hintergründen und Mechanismen der Leerverkäufe. Ich bot ihr an, unsere Mitglieder anzuschreiben und um Erfahrungsberichte mit ihren jeweiligen Depotbanken zu bitten. Offensichtlich, wie die Diskussionen in der Vergangenheit zeigten, ist die Praxis bei Banken und Brokern sehr unterschiedlich. Sie reicht vollkommen korrekten Angeboten, Aktien gegen Honorar verleihen zu können, bis hin zur Leugnung jedweder Verleihpraktiken. Letztere sind ja bekanntlich auch Gegenstand meiner Strafanzeige bei der Zentralstaatsanwaltschaft Mannheim. (siehe:News 07.2011)

Ich würde mich freuen, wenn möglichst viele von Euch ihre Erfahrungen in diesem Zusammenhang niederschreiben und direkt an Frau de la Motte schicken könntet. Dies würde ihre Recherchen zu dem Thema erheblich erleichtern und letztendlich auch unser aller Position als Investoren stärken können. Dies nun ist Frau de la Mottes Email-Adresse: delamotte@handelsblatt.com .

Zu Euren Erfahrungen sollten folgende Dinge zählen, die in unmittelbarem Bezug zur Ausleihe von Aktien stehen:

Verweigerung des Eintrags Eures Aktienbestandes ins Aktionärsregister
Verweigerungen der Abstimmungsunterlagen für die Hauptversammlung
Verweigerung des Blockierens Eurer Aktien für den Verleih
Verweigerung der Auskunft über die Lagerstelle Eurer Aktien
Verweigerung des Einstellens hoher Verkaufsorders ins Orderbuch mit dem Ziel, die Aktienausleihe unmöglich zu machen
Sonstige Anomalitäten im Rahmen der Depotführung, die den Verdacht auf unauthorisierte Ausleihe nahelegen

Zwecks besserer Zuordnung bittet Frau de la Motte darum, in der Betreffzeile den Text „Leerverkäufe i.S. Bougainville Copper“ einzufügen.

In meinem Gespräch mit Frau de la Motte habe ich angeregt, zusammen mit ihren Kollegen eine Art „Sonderermittlungskommission“ zu bilden, da der Umfang der Recherchen im Hinblick auf die Fülle der Banken und der betroffenen Aktien auszuufern droht.

Ferner habe ich Frau de la Motte zugesagt, sie über die Fortschritte meiner Strafanzeige in Mannheim fortlaufend zu informieren.

Bitte, beteiligt Euch rege an meinem Aufruf. Je mehr detaillierte Informationen Frau de la Motte erhält, je besser für die Umsetzung der Story.

Zwecks höherer Resonanz meines Aufrufs werde ich ihn auch auf Ariva einstellen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Axel G. Sturm
Escaldes-Engordany, 16.08.2011

Bulle & Bär:

Privatanleger können selbst dazu beitragen, Leerverkäufe zu unterbinden
von Laura de la Motte , Frankfurt

Die jüngste Talfahrt an den Aktienmärkten und ganz besonders der Crash der Aktie der französischen Großbank Société Générale in der vergangenen Woche hat die Debatte um die Macht der Spekulanten an den Börsen wieder angeheizt. Während die Politik darüber diskutiert, ob der Handel mit geliehenen Wertpapieren – sogenannte Leerverkäufe – verboten werden sollte, können Privatanleger selbst aktiv werden und die Spekulation nicht mehr unterstützen, indem sie ihre eigenen Wertpapiere nicht mehr verleihen.

Es gibt zwei Arten von Leerverkäufen: gedeckte und ungedeckte. Beide Varianten eignen sich dazu, auf fallende Kurse zu wetten. Bei gedeckten Leerverkäufen borgt sich ein Investor Wertpapiere von jemand anderem und zahlt dafür eine Leihgebühr. Diese geborgten Papiere verkauft er dann am Markt und streicht dafür das Geld ein. Bis zum Ablauf der Leihzeit muss er die Papiere wieder zurückkaufen. Sind die Kurse inzwischen gefallen, kostet ihn das weniger, er macht Gewinn. Gerade wenn viele Investoren sich auf ein Wertpapier eingeschossen haben, können sie durch ihre zeitgleichen Verkäufe den Kurs nach unten drücken.

Bei ungedeckten Leerverkäufen kann dieser Effekt sogar noch verstärkt auftreten. Hier verkauft der Investor Wertpapiere, die er sich zum Zeitpunkt des Verkaufs noch gar nicht geborgt hat. Möglich wird das dadurch, dass die Scheine je nach Börsenplatz erst innerhalb von zwei bis fünf Tagen effektiv auf den Käufer übertragen werden müssen. Das heißt, diese Tage hat der Investor Zeit, sich die Papiere zu borgen. Und spätestens die letzten zwei Wochen haben gezeigt, was Tage an der Börse ausmachen können. Das Problem: In der ungedeckten Form können die Verkäufe fast beliebige Volumina erreichen und entsprechend stark den Kurs schwächen.

Privatanleger müssen Wertpapierleihe zustimmen

Besonders die ungedeckten Leerverkäufe haben Politiker daher als Kern des Übels identifiziert. Doch mit einer einheitlichen Regulierung tun sie sich noch schwer. Privatanleger können aber auch selbst aktiv werden: Jeder, der ein Depot besitzt, hat bei Eröffnung einen Wertpapierdarlehensvertrag („Securities Lending“) vorgelegt bekommen und ihm womöglich zugestimmt. Diese Zustimmung lässt sich schriftlich jederzeit ändern. Komplizierter wird es bei Fondsgesellschaften. Bei vielen gehört es zum Geschäftsmodell, dass sie Papiere aus dem Fondsvermögen verleihen, um durch die Gebühren ihre Performance aufzubessern. Anlegern bleibt hier nur der Wechsel der Fondsgesellschaft. Völlig eindämmen lässt sich das Geschäft nicht. Auch Banken und Versicherer verleihen ihre Bestände. Ein Zeichen setzen können wir trotzdem.

16.08.2011

Source: The National

Uma wants Rio Tinto back

MOVES to reopen the Rio Tinto-owned Panguna copper mine in Bougainville are a step closer after a rebel leader said he was willing to negotiate with the Australian government and Rio Tinto on it.

Original Mekamui leader Chris Uma said he was willing to talk to the Australian government and Rio Tinto about re-opening the mine.

His group has controlled access to the mine site over the past two decades since a civil war shut it down.

Uma said any negotiations must recognise the original Mekamui's interests and respond to past conflict.

The statement comes after Uma allowed Australian diplomats access to the mine site for the first time since 1990.

Uma said he granted that access as a statement to show to the world that he was now talking with the Australian government.

16.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG struggles to end conflict

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is struggling to address the killings and the issue in south Bougainville, specifically the Konnou area.

ABG Peace Task force said the time frame set to address the issue has overlapped but the two peace teams established to address the fighting in the area have been working tirelessly to sort out the escalating issue.

Reports from Buin police detailed the death of two men over the weekend in Buin, as the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO), the freedom fighters and the Me'ekamui soldiers' battle with their show of strength for the weapons they have.

Reports from Arawa detailed more than 10 men under the banner of the ABG peace task force were deployed to the south to help find a solution.

While this was happening, Me'ekamui commander Damien Koike, the frontliner of the Me'ekamui soldiers is in Tonu, seeking refuge with U-Vistract man Noah Musingku. Koike and his group have indicated their confidence and neutrality of the UN in Bougainville to mediate the tension and urged the ABG and police to disarm factions.

16.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

BDA boosts shipping services to Bougainville

THE BORDER Development Authority (BDA) has a largest barge in its fleet to provide shipping services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

MV Bougainville Atolls, now on its way to Port Moresby from Samaranta city in Java Island, Indonesia, will be used in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The barge, which is expected to arrive sometimes this month, will mostly be used to provide shipping services to the isolated and scattered atolls of the Fead, Carterets, Mortlock and Tasman. It will also be used to service other areas of the AROB.

A delighted Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Education John Tabinaman recently thanked the National Government on behalf of the Atoll's people and the ABG for establishing the BDA.

"We now can see that BDA can come and help us in remote coastal border areas like Autonomous Region of Bougainville within a short notice.

"Many times in the past no ships reached the Atolls people, making them suffer. Teachers, health and government officers did not arrive on time and mobility had been a problem. There was no help to ship cargos. Now people can see the Government's hands through the BDA. The people will be relieved to see the barge," he said

Mr Tabinaman said before the Autonomous Bougainville Government had to charter private ships which was expensive.

"Those ships had to meet up to their tight scheduled runs and we had to cut short some of our trips. It was hard to do awareness and get to know the people's real conditions. Besides, the ships allocated were small and do not have facilities like a health room on the ship. But now with the MV Bougainville Atolls, we will have a medical bay with medical supplies on board," he said.

Last month, Border Development Authority responded after the North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi appealed for help, saying that about 15,000 people on the Atolls with the islands of Nissan and Pinepel needed immediate relief supplies due to the prolonged drought.

BDA provided its barge, MV Andreas and donated K100,000 worth of relief supplies such as food (more than 500 bags of rice and garden food like kaukau, taro and bananas), water containers and medical and education supplies.'

Border Development Authority already had MV Muntai, MV Ulayut, MV Gloucester, MV Manus Atolls and MV Milne Bay Atolls in its fleet of barges.

16.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Finance, a setback for peace ministry

By FABIAN GATANA

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government's Peace Ministry is facing major financial constraints to sustain the peace building initiative within the region, said Minister for Peace and Reconciliation Newton Kauva.

Mr Kauva said a submission requesting funding support from the National Government had been submitted to the Joint Supervisory Body committee.

He appealed to the new PNG Government to consider honouring its obligated commitment of K15 million development grant as stipulated in the Bougainville Peace Agreement to support the peace process.

"The Bougainville Peace Agreement is a joint creation of the people of Bougainville and the National Government of Papua New Guinea, thus I am appealing to the new Government to consider the obligated commitment of K15 million development grant.

"I am very grateful of Sam Abal and current Prime Minister Peter O'Neill who have vouched the commitment during the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Port Moresby and I am appealing to the Government to include our request in the coming supplementary budget," he said.

He said that if the Financial Management Act was holding up the immediate release of the development grant, then consideration should be given to show the National Government's commitment towards honouring the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

16.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira congratulates new Government

By Fabian Gatana

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government vice president Patrick Nisira has congratulated the new PNG Government for the appointment of two Bougainvilleans to two important ministries in the new National Government cabinet.

He said the appointment of Steven Pirika as the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Jimmy Mirintoro as the Minister for Communication reaffirmed the commitment of the National Government to involve Bougainville in the highest legislative body of PNG.

"The ABG looks forward for a correlated approach with you to lead the people of Bougainville.

"It is always a stiff challenge as leaders but the ABG has confidence that your appointments to the National Cabinet are a vital advantage to push Bougainville's progress towards referendum," he said.

He added that the two ministers should provide a strong and most important link between ABG and the National Government in negotiating Bougainville's future.

"The people of Bougainville stand with unbending belief that you will propel Bougainville's step forward," he said.

The vice president also thanked the former Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso for his time as the Minister for Bougainville Affairs.

"You have brought a lot for the people of Bougainville during the time you served the region as the honourable Minister for Bougainville Affairs," he said.

15.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Safety' now a reality in Atolls

SAFETY for Papua New Guinea's most North-Eastern communities – the MV Bougainville Atolls - has finally become a reality.

And it is thanks to the Government's speedy action through the Border Development Authority (BDA) who on Friday delivered their first ever sea craft the MV Bougainville Atolls in Port Moresby.

The barge was the seventh in a series bought under the BDA's Maritime Sea Transport Program for the country six border provinces.

BDA chief executive officer and chairman, Pomat Manuai, said the vessel was the final one under the current roll-out program under the organisation's 10-year development plan including implementation of the economic corridor policy of the Government.

In typical Bougainville fashion, there was dancing and celebration at the PNG Defence Force maritime base put on by a huge contingent from there, led by their leaders including President, John Momis.

Mr Momis was to later join new Communications Minister, Jimmy Miringtoro, in cutting the ribbon to launch the vessel and officially hand it over to the Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Steven Pirika, and the Member for North Bougainville, Lautu Atoi, representing the people of the autonomous region.

Atolls community representative, Telavika Faite, aptly articulated the sea craft was more than just a vessel, but a God-sent gift that would alleviate the pains and suffering in lives of a people whose survival and any chance of any transportation and social service delivery was dependent on fate alone.

Speaking from the heart, Mr Faite told of his people's plight and feelings of hopelessness and called into question the folly and failure of past attempts in providing adequate shipping services to the scattered Atolls population which he said was increasing.

Minister Pirika warned and cautioned against mismanagement, reminding everyone it was very well, feeling good, happy and relieved but it could all go very wrong like it had in the past with poor and reckless management.

He said he was happy and proud as the Minister Bougainville Affairs and thanked the National Government and BDA for the vessel.

Minister Miringtoro said such a huge vessel needed careful management, maintenance and sustainable funding in order for the people to realise its worth in the long term. Mr Atoi was blunter in pointing out corruption and corrupt practices that riddled management of past Bougainville vessels in MV Sankamap 1 and MV Sankamap 2 which he urged must be avoided this time.

Mr Atoi, who directly hails from the Polynesian Atolls, was overjoyed and relieved because he can directly identify with the neglect of transport, communication and other services in the past.

15.08.2011

Source: The National

Chinese pair missing at sea

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

TWO Chinese nationals are believed to be dead after the boat they were travelling in capsized in bad weather at Laruma point, off Torokina, in West Coast Bougainville.

The two Chinese were among seven passengers travelling in a banana boat from Buka to Torokina last Wednesday to buy scrap metal when the accident occurred.

Five of the passengers were PNG nationals — four were Bougainvilleans and the one from Gulf, believed to be an employee of one of the Chinese who operated a scrap metal buying business in Lae, Morobe.

The Bougainville Disaster and Emergency Office said a search party was immediately sent to look for the bodies of the two foreigners but after six days, the search was called off.

Arrangements are being made to inform the families of the two men.

In conveying his condolence to the families of the two foreigners, president of Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis warned foreign nationals visiting remote areas of Bougainville to be wary of the risks involved.

He warned of the lack of proper transportation when travelling to outlying districts.

Momis advised foreigners travelling to Bougainville to inform his government of their visit so that government assistance could be provided when needed.

Meanwhile, 16 days have passed since 11 locals, including two Western Highlanders, went missing while travelling from Karkar Island to Kubugum, on the North Coast of Madang.

The search for them enters its third week.

It is understood that the passengers had no water or food on the vessel they were travelling in.

Relative and spokesman Mamsen Atamen said the authorities had been incompetent and had failed to attend to their plea for help.

He said misleading reports by media in the province had been hard on the grieving relatives.

"Our hearts are truly broken and we have gone out of our way using whatever little we have to seek assistance," he said in Tok Pisin.

He said they had heard that the 11 people had been found at Lokobou Seventh-Day Adventist High School on the south coast of Manus and been treated at the Lombrum naval base clinic.

But when they checked at the SDA headquarters in Madang to confirm the reports, they were told that it was not true.

Mamsen said since the vessel's disappearance three weeks ago no effort had been made by the authorities to follow-up on the search.

"Upon our request for an aerial search, a fax was sent by provincial disaster office four days after the incident to the National Disaster and Emergency and National Maritime and Safety Authority in Port Moresby," he said.

"Again no follow-up had been made and so we had to intervene ourselves, only to be told that the information supplied was insufficient to warrant an aerial search.

"We certainly know that the Madang provincial disaster and emergency unit does not have the funds to carry out search and rescue but there were other avenues such as the emergency funds from the provincial government," he said.

The Madang provincial administrator could not be reached for comments.

The National Maritime and Safety office in the province, however, refused to comment on the matter.

15.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG landowners invest in Australia

A Papua New Guinean landowner company has purchased a prime property at the heart of Brisbane's Central Business District area in the Queensland state of Australia.

Mineral Resources Lihir Capital, from PNG's New Ireland province purchased "The Flight Centre House for 38 million dollars recently. Its owned by landowning villages from Lihir Island who are registered members of the Lihir Mining Area Landowners Accoaiton.

Business Development Manager Kible Bonga says it's a dream come true for the 14 000 landowners who will benefit after the Lihir Gold mine closes.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Kible Bonga, Mineral Resources Lihir Capital's Business Development Manager

Listen here !

12.08.2011

Source: The National

Anti-Asian sentiments rife in Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

ON-GOING visits by Chinese investors to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has sparked anti-Asian sentiments among a few local business people who fear losing business to the foreigners.

Since last week, some members of the Bougainville business community aired their concerns on the National Broadcasting Corporation station Radio Bougainville over the government's initiative to entertain foreigner interests over the welfare of its people. This is despite the Bougainville government assuring the local business community that all foreign enterprises in the region would not operate individually but in joint-venture arrangements with the locals.

The concern was also directed at the few foreign nationals including Australians and Asians married to Bougainville women and operating retail shops in Buka town.

This led to two Asian-run shops being looted and others forced to temporarily close down because of threats of being looted.

But a public opinion poll conducted on the anti-Asian sentiments by the business community in Buka revealed that majority of locals did not support the comments by the local business people.

The Bougainville police said they were monitoring the situation and warned individuals against any unlawful conducts including the harassment of individuals.

ABG Minister for Peace and Reconciliation Newton Kauva urged Bougainvilleans to refrain from intimidating those operating businesses in the region.

"Certain foreigners who are currently operating and competing against our small business people are married to us and our Bougainville constitution allows them to do so.

"If the people of Bougainville are not happy, then it is up to all of us to review the Bougainville constitution," Kauva said.

He said the people of Bougainville should not "press the panic button" when Chinese, Australians or Americans come to Bougainville through proper channels to look at investment opportunities.

"Foreign partnership is the way forward to achieve the economic recovery and fiscal self-reliance that we are all craving for," Kauva said.

11.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le PACIFIQUE

Bougainville: un début de réconciliation avec l'Australie

de Caroline Lafargue

Le chef de l'ancien groupe sécessionniste Me'ekamui accepte de discuter avec le

gouvernement australien. Au centre de ces discussions: la possible réouverture de la mine de cuivre de Panguna, dont les terres sont contrôlées par le Me'ekamui, qui représente les propriétaires traditionnels.

Or traditionnellement, le Me'ekamui est hostile au gouvernement australien et au géant minier australien Rio Tinto, l'exploitant de Panguna à travers sa filiale BCL.

La mine a fermé en 1989, c'est ce gisement qui a déclenché la guerre civile. Les propriétaires traditionnels s'estimaient lésés, alors que l'exploitation de Panguna apportait à l'Etat papou rien moins qu'un cinquième de ses ressources. Et les propriétaires traditionnels étaient aussi furieux de l'impact environnemental de la mine, l'un des plus grands gisements au monde.

Michael Somare, ancien Premier ministre et ministre des Affaires étrangères au début de la guerre civile, a signé un témoignage officiel révélé en juillet. Selon lui, Rio Tinto aurait lui-même fourni à la police et à l'armée papoue des hélicoptères de combat, des pilotes, de l'essence et des baraquements pour les soldats.

Quant au gouvernement australien, il est très mal vu parmi les sécessionnistes bougainvillais, car il est accusé d'avoir prêté main forte au gouvernement papou. Rabbie Namaliu, Premier ministre durant les quatre premières années du conflit, a déclaré que les hélicoptères Iroquois utilisés par l'armée papoue ont été fournis par l'Australie.

Dans ce contexte figé, Chris Uma, le général indépendantiste du Me'ekamui, a fait un geste fort il y a peu en autorisant l'ambassadeur australienne en Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, Ian Kemish, à visiter la mine de Panguna. Une première en 20 ans.

«J'ai compris que je peux résoudre le problème de Bougainville, je sais pourquoi la crise a commencé, je sais qu'elle prendra fin. C'est pour cela que j'ai décidé de laisser passer l'ambassadeur australien à mon check-point, pour bien signifier au gouvernement australien et au monde que la discussion est ouverte. La mine de Panguna pourrait rouvrir sous mon nom, Chris Uma. Mais ce n'est pas encore négocié, c'est un long processus de négociations.»

D'après John Momis, le Président de la Province autonome de Bougainville, aujourd'hui 97% des Bougainvillais sont favorables à la reprise de l'exploitation de Panguna par BCL-Rio Tinto. Il faut dire que l'économie bougainvillaise est exsangue.

Un référendum d'auto-détermination est prévu entre 2015 et 2020 à Bougainville. Si la province autonome devient indépendante, il faudra quelque chose pour tirer l'économie. Mais selon James Tanis, ancien Président de Bougainville et originaire de la région de Panguna, la mine ne sera pas encore en activité:

«C'est déjà trop tard! Même si la décision de rouvrir la mine était prise aujourd'hui, la reprise de l'exploitation ne pourrait pas se faire avant trois ans, parce qu'il faudrait d'abord consacrer au moins trois ans à la reconstruction de la mine, au minimum.»

Autre obstacle que James Tanis demande au gouvernement papou de lever: le transfert de compétences en matière minière, qui n'a toujours pas été concrétisé. Et il demande aussi des fonds de développement pour sortir Bougainville de la pauvreté.

11.08.2011

Source: The National

Chinese investors tour Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

AN eight-member team of investors from Beijing and Hong Kong left the Autonomous Region of Bougainville satisfied after spending two days looking at areas of potential investment.

The visitors, who were guests of the Bougainville China co-operation committee, were welcomed by members of the Autonomous Bougainville government and children from the Hahela Primary School.

Team spokesman Fr Francis Zhang thanked the ABG, saying they were pleased to be visiting Bougainville for the first time.

"I do hope with our prayer and co-operation, we can do something for this special island, for your country and for your province, and we do hope God will give us such amazing grace that all the people here will recognise that God loves them," Zhang said.

Zhou Jian, chairman of the visiting team, stressed the importance of co-operating with each other in the best interest of all parties.

Committee representatives said the visits by Chinese investors were expected to continue throughout the year as both parties work on creating joint ventures to boost the region's economy and improve the livelihood of the people of Bougainville.

Talks have focused on investment viability in mining, hydro, the construction of a K2.4 billion proposed city, aviation, tourism, import and export of copra and cocoa, and the wholesale import of manufactured goods directly from China.

11.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Inquiry on vessels

By Fabian Gatana

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has started an inquiry into defects of its ships – MV Sankamap I and II.

ABG leaders were grilled under the Public Accounts Committee inquiry on the two vessels, now sitting idle – one in East New Britain and the other in Buka, where it ran aground.

The Sankamap II, which was bought for more than K2 million, drifted from its berth and ran aground at Tung in the Tonsu constituency while Sankamap I was sold to a businessman in East New Britain and is reportedly sitting idle in the Simpson harbour.

The public hearing was attended by the committee members and Ms Rachel Callaghan, a committee director in the New South Wales Parliament, who is assisting the committee members and PAC staff.

Ms Callaghan is here under the twinning project between the New South Wales Government and Bougainville for a month.

The committee is now finalising their report to be presented to the house when it meets in September.

11.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Four dead in Buin

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

FOUR people are dead in Buin, south Bougainville, among them was WILMO (Wisai Liberation Movement) commander Philip Pusua and three Me'ekamui soldiers.

Police confirmed that Mr Pusua, who has been heading the Government instituted WILMO faction, was shot dead on Tuesday morning.

The Post-Courier spoke to some members of Me'ekamui who said there was a fierce battle between the WILMOs and the Me'ekamuys at Siniminoi alluvial gold mine.

According to reports reaching the Post - Courier office in Buka, the WILMOs were on the offensive side as they were raiding the gold panning area which was occupied by the Me'ekamuys.

The WILMOs planned in advance to cordon the area in the early hours of Tuesday.

Three Mekamui soldiers were shot dead during the raid but the death of the WILMO commander is still uncertain as to whether he was shot in a Me'ekamui defensive or he was shot elsewhere during the fighting.

10.08.2011

Source: ESBC

From Europe With Love!

European investors back to their senses!

After having flirted with EUR 0,70 (AUD 0.98) investors on Frankfurt Stock Exchange preferred to "wait and see". No further trades in Bougainville Copper shares had been seen after 3:39 p.m. . Bougainville Copper shares (BOU1) finished in Frankfurt at its previous day's price of **EUR 0,64** - the equivalent of **AUD 0.89** ! Turn-over was **60,782 shares**.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIRST CASE

By Aloysius Laukai

Coordinator for the Bougainville Disaster Office, Franklin Lacey says that the National Government has in-acted the Small craft act that requires all small boat owners to register and make sure that they have all life saving instruments before leaving the shores.

He said that under the new act boat owners could be charged to any mishaps such as the Torokina incident.

MR. LACEY said that investigations are continuing and the boat owner and the operator could be the first people to answer to charges under this new act.

He said that Police, Disaster Office and other Government Divisions would be involved in implementing this new act.

The Disaster Coordinator also warned all boat owners to comply with this new act.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLICE COMMENTS

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Service Assistant Commander, THOMAS ELUH says Bougainville could lose its image if actions of certain people are not stopped immediately.

He told New Dawn FM today that the recent organized lootings in Buka town is bad for Bougainville's image.

MR. ELUH says there are ways of addressing issues and taking the law into one's hand will only create more problems for Bougainville.

The ACP was also said that investigations into these activities are continuing and called on the people not to support illegal activities.

On the boat mishap in Torokina, MR. ELUH also called on the people of Bougainville to make sure that any deals with outsiders must be done with the ABG administration.

He said that incidents like the Torokina boat mishap is a classic example of people who try to deal directly with landowners and bypass the Authorities on the ground.

MR. ELUH said that investigations are continuing and persons could be charged once the investigations are completed.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MORE DEATH EXPECTED

By Aloysius Laukai

Meanwhile reports from Konnou reaching New Dawn FM office in Buka says that more death will occur unless the government intervenes.

A chief from the area called New Dawn FM and called on the Government to intervene as soon as possible as fighting in the area increases.

The chief who wants to remain anonymous said that something must be done as innocent civilians on both sides are caught in between.

He said that within the Konnou area there have been reports of fightings in many more areas which continue to put civilians at risk.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ELUH SORI

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police Commander ACP THOMAS ELUH says that the death of WILMO Commander, PHILIP PUSUA should be the last in the Konnou conflict.

Commander ELUH made these remarks when sending his condolence to the family of the late Commander.

He said that the conflict in Konnou has been going on for many years and cannot be solved overnight.

MR. ELUH said that the government was trying its best to end the conflict through peaceful means as it does not want more deaths to occur in the area.

He said that the latest was the move by former combatants to establish dialogue with the fighters in the area.

Commander ELUH is calling on all parties to stop the fighting and talk peace.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLE HAPPY

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Vice President PATRICK NISIRA today thanked the National Government for giving Bougainville two Ministries in his government.

MR. NISIRA made these remarks when congratulating the Ministers for Bougainville Affairs and member for South Bougainville, STEVEN KAMA PIRIKA and Minister for Communications and member for Central Bougainville, JIMMY MIRINGTORO.

He said that these appointments reaffirm the commitment of the Papua New Guinea National Government to involve Bougainville in the highest legislative body of Papua New Guinea.

MR. NISIRA said that the ABG is ready to work more closely with the National Government to move Bougainville forward.

The ABG Vice President also thanked the outgoing Bougainville Affairs Minister and Bougainville Regional member, FIDELIS SEMOSO for his contribution to Bougainville as the Bougainville Affairs Minister.

10.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - News

Bougainville rebel considers mine reopening

Jemima Garrett

Moves to reopen the Rio Tinto-owned Panguna copper mine in Bougainville are a step closer, after a rebel leader said he was willing to negotiate.

Original Me'ekamui leader Chris Uma said he was willing to talk to the Australian government and Rio Tinto about re-opening the mine.

His group has controlled access to the mine site in the two decades since a civil war shut it down.

Mr Uma said any negotiations must recognise Original Me'ekamui's interests and respond to past conflict.

The statement comes after Mr Uma allowed Australian diplomats access to the mine site for the first time since 1990.

Mr Uma said he granted that access as a statement to the world that he is now talking with the Australian government.

10.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Rebel leader wants to talk about reopening Bougainville copper mine

The leader of the Original Me'ekamui rebel group on Bougainville, Chris Uma says he

wants to talk with the Australian government and with mining giant Rio Tinto, about the reopening Panguna copper mine.

The mine was the spark that ignited a decade long civil war on Bougainville, a war that left thousands dead and the economy of the island on its knees.

The comments by Me'ekamui General, Chris Uma, come after he allowed a delegation of senior Australian diplomats to visit the mine site, for the first time, in more than 2 decades.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett,

Speakers: Chris Uma, leader of the Bougainville rebel group the Original Me'ekamui; James Tanis, former President of Bougainville

GARRETT: The Original Me'ekamui is the rebel group that controls access to the Panguna mine site and for decades it has been hostile to Australia and to the mine-owner, Rio Tinto because of their part in the war on Bougainville .

The decision by Me'ekamui Leader, Chris Uma, to allow Ian Kemish, the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, access to the mine is a significant breakthrough for the peace process.

The visit began with a traditional ceremony at the Me'ekamui checkpoint at Morgan Junction on the mine access road.

High Commissioner Kemish approached on foot with a live pig and a bale of rice as a reconciliation offering. There he met and shook hands with Me'ekamui leader, Chris Uma.

On a very poor phone line from Bougainville, Chris Uma, told Radio Australia that the ceremony was an important step forward.

UMA: I understand that I can solve the problem of Bougainville and I know what the Bougainville crisis started and how it will be ended. That's why I let the Australian High Commissioner through my checkpoint, to make a statement clear to the Australian government and the world that, today, we are talking.

GARRETT: As Chris Uma says he is a crucial force in solving the Bougainville crisis.

The Me'ekamui leader says his decision to let the Australian High Commissioner visit the Panguna mine site is a message to the world that he is now talking with Australia.

Former Bougainville President, James Tanis, is also a Panguna man.

He has been working for peace for 15 years.

Mr Tanis facilitated the Australian delegations' visit and he says, as Australia was part of the problem on Bougainville, it is very important that it be part of the solution.

TANIS: The problem started in Panguna, it is the birthplace of the conflict and the visit to Panguna by the representative of the Australian government is a major step forward in terms of building relationships so that together we can move forward in resolving those issues for which we have dispute over.

GARRETT: Just what did it take to make the visit possible?

TANIS: It took a lot of negotiation, a lot of patience but it was the result of everybody's effort, meaning the Australian High Commissioner's willingness to come into Panguna and Chris Uma's acceptance, because Chris Uma is the main person who manages the Morgan Junction checkpoint. That is there to enforce this view that no outsiders would come into Panguna. So it took Chris Uma a lot of understanding, a lot of change in him, to allow the Australian High Commission to go ahead and perform cultural rituals to allow him access into Panguna

GARRETT: Between 2015 and 2020 Bougainville is to hold a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea.

For that referendum to offer a real choice Bougainville needs economic self-reliance and for many people that means the re-opening of the Panguna copper mine.

The Me'ekamui have been at the heart of the independence movement.

Chris Uma says he is willing to talk about re-opening the mine, and even to give the go-ahead to mining, but there is a long way to go before that happens.

UMA: Me'ekamui government is looking forward to solve the problem of the Bougainville conflict, starting from that mine. Panguna mine can open under the name of Chris Uma.

GARRETT: So if you approve plans to re-open the mine, the mine can re-open?

UMA: It is not negotiated, yet. (It's a) very, very big job to talk about it and it's not negotiated yet.

GARRETT: Former Bougainville President James Tanis agrees that there are many obstacles ahead.

But Mr Tanis and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are working hard to create a better future.

TANIS: The main thing is that we Bougainvilleans are continuing to talk amongst ourselves, talk with the ABG (Autonomous Government of Bougainville), talk with the national government and going as far as talking with the Australians, so that still gives me hope that peace will be sorted out.

GARRETT: And just how realistic do you think it is to eventually reopen the mine, and particularly in time for the timetable for the vote on independence?

TANIS: It is already running too late! And even if we made the mine reopening decision today I do not see the mine going into operation in the next 3 years. The next 3 years might be needed for rebuilding and not the commercial activity, so 3 years at the minimum.

GARRETT: James Tanis says it is urgent that the new PNG government start the much-delayed handover of mining powers to Bougainville and that it pay up on promised development funding.

At the moment Australia is Bougainville's biggest aid donor.

Mr Tanis says an additional special package of aid for Panguna would give the peace process a better chance.

Listen here !

10.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville to use boats Act

By JOYCE TOHUI

PNG National Small Craft Act has been endorsed and will soon be implemented in Bougainville, according to the Bougainville Disaster Coordinator, Franklyn Lacey. He said a team from the Bougainville disaster office will travel to Wewak next month to get clear understandings on the roles of the Act before it will be used in Bougainville. He said the major role of the Act is purposely to ensure the safety of boats travelling in Bougainville waters.

Mr Lacey said when the Act is enforced, all boat owners should abide by the Act, if they breached the law, they can be arrested by police.

He said when the disaster team returns from Wewak, a small craft board will be established with its own administration includes executives and inspectors that will carry out the work.

He said the policy will be responsible for the safety of small craft boats not more than 20 meters.

Mr Lacey said the Bougainville disaster office is devising the policy to be implemented in the region and appealed to boat owners to work along with it.

Mr Lacey appealed to boat owners to take extra precaution while travelling at sea at this time due to strong winds.

He is calling especially to people in the outer islands of Bougainville who seek government services to make sure they are not travelling unnecessarily.

Mr Lacey said if there are boats travelling, there must be necessities on board such as extra petrol, paddle, canvas plus many more that will help them in bad times.

10.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis warning to foreigners

Bougainville President John Momis has sent his condolences to the families of two foreign nationals, believed to have drowned, in a boating mishap at Laruma Point off Torokina, Bougainville.

The two foreigners, believed to be Chinese, were among seven passengers travelling in a 40-ft banana boat from Buka to Torokina on Wednesday, August 2.

Five of the passengers were PNG nationals, four Bougainvilleans and one from the Gulf Province who is believed to be an employee of one of the two Chinese nationals who operates gold and scrap metal buying business in Lae and the two deceased. It is believed they were travelling to Torokina to buy scrap metal.

"It is an example of foreigners who are coming to Bougainville without the government's knowledge so we do not know that they are here until accidents like this happen and there is nothing the government can do," Mr Momis said.

A search party dispatched by the Bougainville Disaster office to locate the bodies of the two missing foreigners has been called off and arrangements are being made to inform the families of the missing persons.

President Momis issued a warning to foreign nationals visiting remote areas of Bougainville of the risks involved due to lack of proper transportation and the need to be aware of risks when travelling to outlying districts.

10.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Parliament approves committees

PARLIAMENT yesterday approved new Permanent Parliamentary Committee Chairmans when announced by Leader of Government Business Moses Maladina in Parliament. And the O'Neill-Namah Government among the lists, recognised the new Member for North Bougainville Louta Atoi, rewarded him with the Chairman of Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.

* Member for Markham Open Koni Iguan - chairman on Legislation

* former Minister for Environment and Conservation in the Somare-Abal Government Benny Allan, chairman on Pensions and Retirements Benefit,

* MP for North Fly Open –Chairman on Plan and Estimates,

* MP for Gazelle Open Malakai Tabar, chairman on Public Accounts,

* MP for Wosera-Gawi Ronald Asik, chairman on Communications,

* MP for Hangenofi Open Ferao Orimyo on Industry and Industrial Relations, Chairman on Transport and Civil Aviation,

* MP for Kerema Open Pitom Bombom, chairman on Justice,

* MP for Daulo Open Kondo Patrick chairman on Asian Owned and Operated Business in PNG,

* MP for North Waghi Open Benjamin Mul, chairman on Ombudsman Commission, and

* For Minister for Community Development and MP for Moresby South Dame Carol Kidu as chairman on Community Development.

Dame Carol, sitting at the middle bench this time after the change of government, rose from her seat to dispute her appointment but the Speaker Jeffery Nape over-ruled her interjection advising her that Parliament had overwhelmingly approved her nomination as chairman on Community Development.

Dame Carol was out of the country when the Opposition backed by dissatisfied government back-benchers and six ministers ousted the Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal from office last Tuesday.

She however was present for the Parliamentary Sitting yesterday and unfortunately was at the receiving end of criticisms from the O'Neill- Namah led government.

10.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Disaster preparedness vital

By JOYCE TOHUI

DISASTER preparedness is not the work of the government alone - so much of it is with the people themselves, according to Bougainville Disaster Coordinator, Franklyn Lacey when responding to questions raised on the preparedness towards the predicted drought in 2012.

"Disaster is a day to day situation for us and it is up to the people to plan well, come up with programs that will guide them to establish a good safer environment for their families," said Mr Lacey.

Franklyn Lacey said preparing for disaster is not so much with the government but eighty percent of it is the responsibility of the people in the communities.

He said if the people take heed of their responsibility, the government can do a little in carrying out awareness on what to expect during these climate change activities just to make people aware and be prepared to face the situations, however most of it is still with the people.

"Disaster preparedness is purely common sense as we are looking for ways which we can take to help us in the expected situations so we must not be relaxing too much and expecting the government to feed us every time," Mr Lacey said.

"We must not be addicted to receive only but we must work hard to sustain our own lives and the government can come in to help in whatever needs which are beyond control," he said.

Mr Lacey believed with the established knowledge that will be given from the awareness teams throughout Bougainville, the people should be able to reactivate their traditional coping measures that were used in the past to help tackle the impacts of climate change. He urged Bougainvilleans to practice good ways of give and take so that when others are in need, "we are able to help and in return, they will also help us". He said these are some measures used in the past and he is appealing to community leaders to educate and advice the people on the measures.

10.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG PM promises to deliver

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neil has promised to subsidise education from elementary up to grades 12, improve deteriorating health and education facilities and major ports in the country.

Mr O'Neil was elected by 70-24 votes in parliament on Tuesday last week, when they ousted the government of ailing Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare who is recovering in a Singapore hospital from heart surgery.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Peter O'Neil, PNG Prime Minister; Dame Carol Kidu ,PNG's only female MP and former Community Development Minister

Listen here !

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's O'Neill outlines broad agenda but opposition fails to show up

Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Peter O'Neill, has outlined a broad agenda for his week-old government.

In parliament, Mr O'Neill promised closer ties to Australia and the establishment of an independent commission against corruption.

In a wide-ranging speech, he also promised free education to students up to year 10 as part of the 2012 budget, and a reinvigoration of the nation's police force ahead of the 2012 elections.

Mr O'Neill told parliament his government will strengthen PNG's relationships particularly with neighbours Australia and Indonesia.

Since 2005, the former government of Sir Michael Somare had encouraged a "look North" policy, supporting closer ties to nations such as China, rather than Australia.

However, the opposition benches were empty, with MPs loyal to former acting prime minister Sam Abal refusing to attend the session.

The deputy prime minister, Belden Namah, later blasted opposition MPs for boycotting yesterday's first sitting of parliament.

Mr Namah condemned former acting prime minister Sam Abal and his supporters for refusing to participate in parliament a week after MPs voted 70 to 24 to oust Mr Abal and his government.

10.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Report refuted

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG Minister for Peace and Reconciliation ,NEWTON KAUVA is another Bougainville leader to lase on the Post Courier for misreporting on Bougainville issues. MR. KAUVA in a news release sent to New Dawn FM yesterday said that the Post courier report of August 2nd was totally malicious, provocative, sensational and must not be seriously taken.

He said that Bougainville and are intelligent and must not be manipulated by this unprofessional biased and hidden agenda kind of reporting.

MR.KAUVA said that the people must understand that Chinese investors are not here to invade Bougainville as the report seemed to imply.

He said that Chinese were here before colonial rule and have assisted us to prosper to this stage.

Chinese were here in Buka, Arawa and Buin as the name China towns still lives on.

We are all part of a global community and this sort of reporting will paint an adverse picture on us as discriminatory region.

At this stage when we do not have the necessary technology, capital and expertise foreign partnership is the way forward to achieve the economic recovery and fiscal self reliance that we are craving for.

He said that the Autonomous Bougainville Government had always said it all along that "There will be no stand alone Enterprise or Business" and we should not press the panic button when Chinese, Australians, Canadians etc come to our region through proper channel to look for partnership opportunities.

The Autonomous Bougainville government is well aware and is in a process of drawing up a policy to reserve certain Businesses for our people which may require less capital and our own local entrepreneurs have proven record to undertake.

The Minister further explained that certain foreigners who are currently operating and competing against our small business people are married to us and our Bougainville constitution allows them to do so.

He said if the people of Bougainville are not happy it is up to the people to decide and revisit the Bougainville constitution to make some changes to it.

Minister Kauva is further appealing to the people of Bougainville to refrain from unlawful intimidation.

09.08.2011

Source: World Bank

Sharing Mining Benefits in Developing Countries

Extractive Industries for Development

Mining projects in developing countries are increasingly expected to deliver sustainable benefits to local, regional, and national stakeholders. Many governments and companies have been considering the use of foundations, trusts, and funds (FTFs) as vehicles for

sharing the benefits of mining operations with the surrounding communities. To achieve sustainable benefits, however, mining FTFs need to be integrated into the local context.

Introduction

With more than 60 mining FTFs operating in the developing world, there is a vast breadth of experience in using these structures to share the benefits of mining. This report has sought to expand the knowledge base around the use of FTFs in the mining sector given the clear demand for additional knowledge and expertise in this field.

Background

From experiences with corporate philanthropy using FTFs in the United States in the 1930s to the modification of taxation arrangements through FTF structures in Peru in 2007, the mining industry has used FTFs to achieve various goals and to share benefits through royalty payments to governments, compensation payments to affected individuals and communities, and community investment programs.

[Click here to download the report](#) **[download as PDF !](#)**



09.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader hits back at media criticism of China deal

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, has hit back at criticism of his government's links with China.

Bougainville has recently completed a joint venture arrangement to export its agricultural produce directly to China to ensure better returns.

Mr Momis says comments published last week in the Post Courier newspaper accused him and his ministers of signing the deals for their personal benefit - accusations the president roundly rejects.

He calls the claims irresponsible.

"It is done in a transparent way, we have no hidden agenda and this sort of allegation is coming I am sure definitely from people who have had failed and corrupt deals with foreigners before, which my government is determined to stop."

09.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TO CONTEST

By Aloysius Laukai

THIRTEEN Candidates have nominated to contest the Tonsu By-election at the close of nominations yesterday.

By lunch time yesterday, only eleven candidates were still registered until the eleventh hour when two more nominated to close at 13 candidates.

Immediately after close of nominations, the electoral office held the order of draw for the ballot papers at the BELL ISI PARK in Buka town.

The final names are, Joel K. Noga a former staff of Izikiel Massat the former member for Tonsu, Eddie Mohin former ex combatant, Former Town Clerk for Arawa Town, Uzaiah Toukes, KOUT KAVOP former Government liaison officer, Buka businessmen and Philemon Tulo, former ABG staff MICHAEL TOREAS, JONATHAN RINGIN, ISRAEL KOUT, ISAAC HEKEN THOMPSON, former BCL recruitment officer, JOHN DUMIT, Methodist church Pastor, DUDLEY MATUAN, BEN TSIU CHACKCHUK, and former chairman of Leitana Council of Elders, JOEL BANAM.

Polling will begin on the tenth of September, 2011 and will end on September 15th.

Writs will then be returned to the ABG Speaker on September 28th 2011.

The Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, REITAMA TARAVARU said that he expects about FIVE THOUSAND eligible voters to cast their votes in the By-election.

MR. TARAVARU said that a total of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND KINA has been requested from the ABG for the Tonsu By-election.

09.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis condolence

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, Chief John Momis today sent his condolences to the families of the two foreign nationals (believed to be Chinese) who are still missing confirmed to have drowned in a boat mishap at Laruma point off Torokina, West coast of Bougainville.

The two Chinese were among seven passengers travelling in a 40HP 23 FT Banana boat from Buka to Torokina on Wednesday August 2nd, 2011.

Five passengers were PNG Nationals (four Bougainvilleans and one from Gulf Province). The passenger from Gulf Province is believed to be an employee of one of the Chinese Nationals, who operates a Gold and Scrap Metal buying business in Lae, Morobe Province and who was travelling to Torokina to buy scrap metal.

"This is an example of foreigners coming to Bougainville without the government's knowledge, so we do not know that they are here until accidents like this happen, and there is nothing the government can do" said the President.

A search party of locals dispatched by the Bougainville disaster office failed to locate the bodies of the two foreigners and the search has been called off.

In the meantime arrangements are being made to inform the families of the two missing

persons.

In conveying his condolences to the families of the two foreigners, ABG President JOHN MOMIS warned foreign nationals visiting remote areas of Bougainville of the risks involved due to lack of proper transportation and the need to be aware of such risks when travelling to outlying districts.

09.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG minister refutes report

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Minister for Peace and Autonomy in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Newton Kauba has been compelled to advise the people of Bougainville not to always believe in media reports.

Mr Kauba was responding to the report on the Post-Courier dated 02-08-2011 about Chinese on Bougainville as totally malicious, provocative, sensational and must not be taken seriously.

"We Bougainvilleans are very intelligent people and must not be seen to be manipulated by this unprofessionalism, biased and hidden agender reporting," Mr Kauba said.

"We must understand that Chinese investors are not here to invade us as the reports seem to imply on us," he said.

Mr Kauba further stated that Chinese were here before the colonial rule who have assisted Bougainvilleans to this stage.

"Chinese were in Buka, Buin and Kieta and in Buka old people referred to it as China town or "Tsinatong". We all are global community and this sort of reporting will paint an adverse picture on us as discriminatory region. Genuine credible investors will be scared away when they see our region as a discriminatory region," Mr Kauba said.

"At this stage when we do not have the necessary technology, capital and expertise, foreign partnership is the way forward to achieve the economic recovery and fiscal self reliance that we have been waiting for."

Mr Kauba also stressed that the Autonomous Bougainville Government had always said that "there will be no standing alone business or enterprise". And people should not press the panic button when Chinese, Australians Canadians etc. come to Bougainville through proper channels to gauge partnership and investment opportunities.

"Certain foreigners who are conducting business here on Bougainville are married here and the constitution permits them to do so. I challenge any reporter who is reporting on sensitive issues regarding Bougainville to investigate properly and come up with the real facts," he said.

09.08.2011

Source: The National

Confirmed cabinet ministries

Peter O'Neill – Prime Minister

Belden Namah – Deputy Prime Minister; Forestry and Climate Change

Don Polye – Treasury and Finance

Sam Basil – National Planning

Bart Philemon – Public Service

William Duma – Petroleum and Energy

Ken Fairweather – Housing and Urban Development

Moses Maladina – Implementation and Rural Development
 Charles Abel – Trade, Commerce and Industry
 David Arore – Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
 Dr Allan Marat – Attorney-General and Justice
 John Boito – Internal Security
 Guma Wau – Defence
 Sai Sailon Beseo – Correctional Services
 Job Pomat – Fisheries
 Ano Pala – Foreign Affairs and Immigration
 Sir Mekere Morauta – Public Enterprises
 Theo Zurenuoc – Education
 Sir Puka Temu – Agriculture and Livestock
 Thompson Harokaqveh – Environment and Conservation
 Sali Subam – Sports
 Martin Aini – Labour and Industrial Relations
Byron Chan – Mining
 Jim Miringtoro – Communication and Information Technology
Steven Kama Pirika – Bougainville Affairs
 Andrew Mald – Community Development; Religion and Family Affairs
 Mark Maipakai – Inter-Government Relations and District Development
 Francis Awesa – Transport and Works
 Puri Ruing – Civil Aviation
 Lucas Dekena – Lands and Physical Planning
 Jamie Maxtone-Graham – Health
 Benjamin Philip – Tourism, Arts and Culture
 Wake Goi – Assisting the Prime Minister on Constitutional Matters



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill (seated second left) and his team of ministers posing with Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio (seated third left). Also seated at left is Petroleum and Energy Minister William Duma, Treasurer and Finance Minister Don Polye (second right) and Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister Ano Pala. Missing from the picture is Deputy Prime Minister and Vanimo-Green MP Belden Namah.

09.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Australian official returns to PNG no-go zone

For the first time in 20 years an Australian government official has entered a remote part of Papua New Guinea that's long been considered a no-go zone.

Australia's High Commissioner to PNG Ian Kemish visited the defunct Panguna copper mine on the island of Bougainville last week.

Local resentment towards the mine sparked a decade long civil war that left several thousand people dead.

The last time an Australian official visited Panguna was in 1990.

Presenter: Liam Fox

Speaker: Ian Kemish, Australia's High Commissioner to PNG

Listen here !

08.08.2011

Source: ESBC

[ESBC press release 20110808](#)

Completely irrational!

ESBC President confirms outlook.

The President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) calls the actual sell-off of Bougainville Copper shares as 'completely irrational and misleading'. Axel G. Sturm confirms his previous positive rating of AUD 3.00 (EUR 2,19) per share as an absolute realistic price. 'The re-opening of the Panguna mine on the island of Bougainville (Papua New Guinea)', says Sturm, 'will become reality within the next 3 to 5 years as BCL Chairman Peter Taylor stated earlier this year. In so far investments in Bougainville Copper shares have to be considered as much more reliable than any investment in gold certificates'. Bougainville Copper shares have a fair value von AUD 30 to 50 once the mine is operational again (Source: ESBC Research).

Völlig irrational!

ESBC Präsident bestätigt Kursziel.

Den aktuellen Kurseinbruch bei Bougainville Copper (BCL) Aktien bezeichnet der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre (ESBC) des Unternehmens Axel G. Sturm als völlig irrational und irreführend.

Sturm bestätigte seine positive Bewertung von Anfang des Jahres (AUD 3.00/EUR 2,19) mit dem Hinweis auf die positiven Entwicklungen vor Ort, die eine Wiedereröffnung der Pangunamine (Bougainville/Papua Neuguinea) binnen des von BCL Vorstand Peter Taylor avisierten Zeitraums von 3 bis 5 Jahren absolut realistisch erscheinen lassen: „Ein Investment in Bougainville Aktien“, so Sturm, „ist allemal seriöser als der Ankauf von Goldzertifikaten.“ Laut ESBC Recherchen hat Bougainville Copper Limited einen Fair Value von AUD 30 bis AUD 50 bei voller Produktionsleistung.

08.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville China deal to eliminate middle men in international trade

The autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is establishing a joint venture with a Chinese company to eliminate middle men who it says pay low prices and make huge profits out of its agricultural exports.

The president John Momis says they want to empower the people and have collaborated with a Chinese business which'll buy the province's copra and cocoa and other goods.

He says the joint venture will ensure better returns and allow the province to access technology so it can properly prepare the foods for export.

And Mr Momis says they'll also import a range of products direct from China.

"Prepared housing, household goods, clothing, radios, mobile phones, lap tops - all the things that we buy from Rabaul wholesale businesses, Lae and Port Moresby, which are astronomically high. We know for a fact - I was in China - and things were very cheap there. We can get them straight from the factories."

08.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chinese duo die in Torokina

By Gorethy Kenneth

TWO Chinese tycoons are dead after a business trip to Torokina, south Bougainville turned into a nightmare last week.

The two men (named) were travelling with their Kerema business partner (named) and locals who invited them to Torokina on a dinghy powered by a 60 HP machine on Wednesday last week when the incident happened.

The boat suddenly capsized when big waves thumped the boat, breaking it and the machines into pieces.

The two Chinese men drowned with thousands of kina in hand.

According to the Bougainville police, the men are still missing but the Kerema partner is recovering in Torokina. It is not known how much money they were carrying and what business these men were after but according to locals from Torokina over the weekend, they had more than K200,000 in cash to buy scrap metals, specifically brash and some weapons and ammunition.

The incident has angered the local MP for Torokina so much that he has warned all other foreigners to take heed when travelling to Bougainville to make business.

Torokina Constituency MP Steven Suako expressed concerns over the mishap. He also expressed sympathy over the death of the two Chinese men in his constituency.

He said he was not aware of the travel by the Chinese to his constituency.

"I want to make it clear to my people and the public that I am not against foreigners being involved in doing business in Torokina and Bougainville. They must come through the ABG.

"The villagers from Torokina who invited the Chinese must therefore take full responsibility of what has happened. And on behalf of the people of Torokina, I wish to convey my words of condolences to the immediate family and relatives of the Chinese men who have died in the boat incident," he said.

08.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LOST AT SEA

By Aloysius Laukai

Two Chinese nationals are said to be missing after the boat they were travelling in to check for Scrap Metals in the Torokina district of Bougainville capsized in rough seas on Wednesday this week.

According to reports reaching New Dawn FM office said that the boat left at around 2 PM for Torokina which is only accessed by boat and air.

There were seven passengers in the boat at the time of the accident.

They left Buka when strong winds were just starting and did not stop until morning.

The local disaster office has notified the Chinese Embassy regarding this incident.

08.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Member frustrated

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG Member for TOROKINA, STEVEN SUAKO today expressed concern and sympathy for the dead of two Chinese in his constituency.

Member SUAKO said he is concern because ABG was not aware of their business in TOROKINA but he believed they have gone to TOROKINA to buy scrap metals.

He said the incident must be seen as a lesson to foreigners who are so desperate to do business in the Region but do not go through relevant authorities.

MR SUAKO said he was not aware of the travel by the Chinese to his Constituency and was not informed by his people regarding their business activities in the areas.

He added he wants to make it clear to his people and the public that he is not against foreigners being involved in doing business in TOROKINA and Bougainville but they must come through the ABG.

The Member said the villagers from TOROKINA who invited the Chinese must therefore take full responsibility of what has happened.

On behalf of the people of TOROKINA, he conveyed his condolences to the immediate family and relatives of the Chinese who have died in the boat incident.

08.08.2011

Source: The National

33 in cabinet

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has appointed 33 new ministers in a cabinet line-up of mostly unknowns which, he claims, "are simple and humble leaders for the people of Papua New Guinea".

However, indications were that representation from the highlands was most powerful, securing key economic positions including that of the prime minister, finance and treasury plus petroleum and energy.

Political sources said this might backfire on O'Neill and his People's National Congress party in the general election next year.

The southern region National Alliance group that defected to support the opposition was rewarded with five ministerial portfolios.

The United Resources Party, PNC and People's Party factions were rewarded with four ministries.

O'Neill said the distribution of ministries was done in consultation with political parties and leaders. East Sepik and West New Britain missed out completely.

A couple of Sepik MPs, including Wosera-Gawi's Ronald Asik and Telefomin's Peter Iwei, were evidently unhappy with their exclusion and shouted expletives during the swearing-in ceremony.

"One or two have missed out largely because of numbers; many were not been present in government and parties' decisions on who gets a ministry," the prime minister said. He said there was full consultation between the different coalition partners and he tried his best to cover all provinces in his cabinet.

"The distribution of ministries shows a humble government for the people of Papua New Guinea."

O'Neill congratulated the new ministers sworn-in by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio at Government House last Friday.

They included Ken Fairweather (Sumkar); Charles Abel (Alotau); David Arore (Ijivitari); Guma Wau (Kerowagi); **Steven Kama (South Bougainville); Jim Miringtoro (Central Bougainville);** Martin Aini (Kavieng); Jamie Maxtone-Graham (Anglimp-South Waghi); Thompson Harokaqveh (Goroka); Lucas Dekena (Gumine); Byron Chan (Namatanai); Puri Ruing (Dei); Benjamin Philip (Menyamya); Sali Subam (South Fly); Andrew Mald (Moresby Northeast); Mark Maipakai (Kikori); and Sai Beseo (Kainantu).

O'Neill also challenged the opposition members to re-join their political leaders in the new-look government.

08.08.2011

Source: The National

Probable O'Neill-Namah cabinet

WHILE all who were named ministers were sworn in last week, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is yet to officially name their portfolios.

The following is the most probable cabinet line-up based on unofficial information.

The full line-up would be announced today.

Peter O'Neill – Prime Minister

Belden Namah – Deputy Prime Minister; Forestry and Climate Change

Don Polye – Treasury and Finance

William Duma – Petroleum and Energy

Sam Basil – National Planning

Moses Maladina – Implementation and Rural Development

Francis Awesa – Works and Transport

Bart Philemon – Public Service

Sir Puka Temu – Agriculture

Sir Mekere Morauta – State Enterprises

Dr Allan Marat – Attorney-General and Justice

John Boito – Internal Security

Guma Wau – Defence

Sai Sailon Beseo – Correctional Services

Job Pomat – Fisheries

Ano Pala – Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Theo Zurenuoc – Education

Sali Subam – Sports

Martin Aini – Labour and Industrial Relations

Byron Chan – Mining

Charles Abel – Trade; Commerce and Industry

Jim Miringtoro – Communication and Information

Steven Kama – Bougainville Affairs

Andrew Mald – Community Development; Religion and Family Affairs

Mark Maipakai – Government Relations and District Development

David Arore – Higher Education

Thompson Harokaqveh – Environment and Conservation

Puri Ruing – Civil Aviation

Lucas Dekena – Lands and Physical Planning

Jamie Maxtone-Graham – Health and HIV/AIDS

Ken Fairweather – Housing and Urbanisation

Wake Goi – Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Constitutional Matters.

Benjamin Philip – Minister without portfolio

08.08.2008

Source: Post-Courier

It's time for economic development in Bougainville

FORMER Trade and Industry Secretary and Ambassador Peter Peipul says time for politics and mining in Bougainville is over and people should now be fully involved with economic development.

And it is an envy coming from Southern Highlands, a place that cannot match the very rich natural resources that Bougainville enjoys and have. The leader who says he has a very soft spot for Bougainville says it is now time for full speed economic development in that region and stressed that time for politics and mining should be set aside.

"This is my advice to Bougainvilleans. You have the largest plantations in the Southern Hemisphere, very rich natural resources, cocoa and copra and many more," Ambassador Peipul said. Ambassador Peipul said that he was very proud to see at Boroko in Port Moresby, people selling Buka soap and Buka oil that is produced in that region and said that these are the sort of things that Bougainvilleans should be more involved in.

"It's time for Bougainville to take off into economic development. You have a very rich country, mining and politics should be stopped first. You should look at downstream processing, making chocolate in the region, you have the potential. The rice mill in Bougainville is very good in South Bougainville. Economic development should be more than anything else. This copper and gold – it's a troublemaker product. We have to move our beautiful province there. "I used to run trade and industry in 1987 to 1990 and wanted to initiate this industrialisation process and downstream processing. I say this because I have a soft spot for Bougainville."

05.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG court refuses to grant injunction sought by former acting PM

The national court of Papua New Guinea has refused to grant an injunction sought by former acting prime minister Sam Abal to stop the government of Peter O'Neill.

Yesterday, Judge Gavara-Nanu found that granting the injunction - which called for Mr O'Neill and his government to cease all official activities - would cause PNG to grind a halt and spark a crisis in the 36-year-old nation.

Mr Abal lost his job as acting leader on Tuesday, after 48 government MPs joined 22 from the opposition to elect Mr O'Neill as prime minister by a vote of 70 to 24.

Mr Abal's lawyer, Davis Steven, claimed there was no vacancy in the prime ministership, which rendered Tuesday's vote on the floor of parliament invalid.

However, Judge Gavara-Nanu told the court in Port Moresby that the office was vacated when Governor-General Michael Oglio swore Mr O'Neill in on Tuesday.

The man who appointed Mr Abal as acting prime minister in April, former prime minister Sir Michael Somare, remains out of the public spotlight.

The 75-year-old self-titled "grand chief" of PNG has reportedly been in Raffles Hospital in Singapore since undergoing heart surgery.

He departed for Singapore at the end of a court-mandated two-week dismissal from office in mid-March, after being found guilty of financial misconduct dating back 20 years.

05.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Australian High Commissioner Ian Kemish visits Panguna

Who would have believed that a foreigner could pass through the barrier at the Morgan Junction and into the Panguna District of Bougainville.

Well it was true. On August 2, the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Ian Kemish, passed freely through the barrier at the Morgan Junction and into the Panguna District of Bougainville.

He was accompanied by the Head of AusAID in PNG, Stephanie Copus-Campbell and three other colleagues from the High Commission.

This was the first time that the Australian Government officials had entered the 'no-go zone' since the Bougainville crisis erupted in 1988. They did so without paying a fee.

This courtesy was extended to the Australian Government by General Chris Uma of the original government of Me'ekamui, the group that continues to man the checkpoint at the entrance to the zone.

The visit is an important sign of the gradual return to normalcy in Panguna District.

Since the signing of the Panguna Communiqué in 2007, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has had free access into the zone to deliver essential services.

The Me'ekamui Government of Unity, as signatory to the Communiqué, led the way in this regard. AusAID has been delivering development projects in Panguna for some years but it has not been able to monitor their implementation or identify additional priority areas of need as the Australian officials may now come and go freely.

The visit allowed Ms Copus-Campbell to review the condition of the road in Panguna, which is maintained by AusAID.

"Roads are critically important to service delivery," she said.

"I was heartened to see that the road was in good condition and that Bougainvillean youths were being employed to maintain it."

AusAID has also funded construction of the district administration building and an attached aid post in the Panguna township.

In addition to the projects in Panguna, AusAID has helped to improve services in the nearby centre, Arawa.

"Through the Governance and Implementation Fund, we have improved water and sanitation standards in Arawa town and helped to fund the extension of 24 hour power to the centre," Ms Copus-Campbell said.

Power is set to be activated in the coming months.

The High Commission team was accompanied by former president of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, James Tanis.

The ABG was represented by the Melchior Dare MHR, Member for the Eivo/Torau

constituency in central Bougainville.

At the beginning of the year, the Autonomous Bougainville Government started the Panguna Peace Initiative, intended over time to reconcile long-standing differences and ensure all stakeholders in Panguna become partners to the peace process. It has broad support and is making impressive progress.

Australia has been proud to back the process through the provision of a range of diplomatic advice, financial and technical assistance. An open dialogue will be essential if an agreement to eventually reopen the mine at Panguna is to be reached.

"While many challenges lie ahead, they become surmountable when Bougainvilleans are being united and working together," Mr Kemish said. Before the visit, Mr Kemish and his delegation worked with the Autonomous Bougainville Government and peace builders such as James Tanis to make the necessary preparations.

"It was important to us that the visit be conducted with respect. With help from our friends and partners in Bougainville, we were able to ensure proper courtesies were extended. The people of the district feel this is important given the previous experience with outside visits," Mr Kemish said.

These courtesies involved a ceremony at Morgan Junction with the High Commissioner walking formally through the check-point before offering tokens of respect to Chris Uma and his colleagues.

The High Commissioner also accepted local advice on where precisely he should go within the district, during what he hoped would be the first visit of the many.

"And by doing it this way," the High Commissioner said, "we have managed to build a number of new bridges."

The Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Autonomous Bougainville Government and other donors such as New Zealand, has been a committed friend to Bougainville. Since 1997, Australia has spent over K700 million on restoration and development assistance to the region.

05.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso: ABG move fishy

By GURIA KAPI

BOUGAINVILLE woman advocate and leader Francesca Semoso has called on Autonomous Bougainville Government to explain why it allowed Asians to operate general merchandise shops in Buka when a notice to remain shut had been issued by the Bougainville Business Association.

The ABG Commerce, Trade and Industry office had issued a letter to the Buka Urban LLG on July 26, two weeks after the business meeting which agreed to have the shops remain shut until August 21.

An angry Semoso has demanded an explanation from the ABG whose interest they were serving – whether they were protecting the interest of ordinary Bougainvilleans who were struggling to make ends meet with their smallscale trade stores and shops in Buka town, or the Asian who suddenly pop up in Buka town with lots of money and goods to make business in Buka.

A letter circulated in Buka town, written to the Buka Urban LLG giving approval to a Happy Sound general merchandise shop in town, has sparked criticism against the ABG as it contradicts the words of President John Momis who has preached time and time again about protecting the interest of Bougainvilleans.

The letter read: "Please arrange to provide the above company the appropriate licence(s) to operate a general merchandise shop in Buka town.

"The above has satisfied the Bougainville Investment Policy and is therefore granted approval to operate."

Ms Semoso said: "In light of the petition before the Ministry of Commerce Trade and

Industry, a decision is yet to be made by the Bougainville executive council. Until then, the current investment policy is exercised until contradicted or amended by the BEC decision after its seating.

"I am very angry and I will not allow this to happen and as long as I live in Buka town, I am not going to allow these ***** to walk all over my people. I am not going to be a mere rubbish collector on my own land. Shame on you Bougainville leaders for allowing these things to happen."

Ms Semoso was particularly angry because the BBA, of which she is an executive, made recommendations for these shops to remain shut until a deliberation on investment policies made by the BBA.

ABG Trade Commerce and Industry defied the BBA agreement and ordered the Urban Council to allow merchandise shop.

04.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOMIS CONGRATULATES

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis today congratulated PETER O'NEILL as the new Prime Minister for Papua New Guinea.

He told New Dawn FM in Buka this afternoon that he hopes to work in collaboration with the new Prime Minister and his yet to be appointed ministers.

MR. MOMIS said that although the last government made big commitments in assisting the ABG, practically the commitment was not displayed.

On the question of if he would work well with the new Prime Minister, the ABG President, said that Bougainville was given autonomy and should collaborate and work well with any Papua New Guinea Government.

04.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CROC WARNING

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville Police services is warning the people around West Coast of Bougainville island and Buka island to be wary of salt water crocodiles when they are going about their daily activities.

Police have reported that many salt water crocodiles have been sighted in these areas and are warning people to take extra care all the time.

A report from the Buka Police Station states that a five to six metres long crocodile has been sighted near Tukihing Primary School where it is believed to be nesting.

The crocodile was first sighted by a pastor from Tung Village, James Tavish who said he scared the crocodile away as it was silently swimming towards a group of school children fishing on a reef near the mouth of the Poka River.

And yesterday, a student from Tukihing Primary School, Mary Sisip had a lucky escape when she spotted the reptile in time and alerted her friends, who were using the mangroves as a toilet, to escape the stalking reptile.

The nesting crocodile is believed to be hungry and searching for easy prey near Tukihing Primary School and Poka and Tung Villages.

Police have been notified of the crocodile sightings and Acting Bougainville Police Chief Huitona Tohua has directed his Buka Police Station Commander to deal with the issue. Last month a woman from Queen Carola Harbour area, northwest Buka was carried off by a crocodile and several other attacks have also been reported to police over the last six months.

Reports from nearby Solomon Islands also indicate an increase in crocodile population ever since the crocodile skin trade was banned in the 1980s.

04.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

A LIVING LEGEND

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville woman, SR LORAIN GARASU has been described as a remarkable woman who through her Rehabilitation Centre has helped the women and children of Bougainville escape domestic violence and regain their confidence.

The Australian High Commissioner to PNG, IAN KEMISH made these remarks yesterday when presenting the Order of Australia Medal in Buka.

High Commissioner Kemish, said that SR. LORAIN has been a voice for peace, reconciliation and forgiveness in Bougainville for many years.

He said domestic and family violence is, unfortunately a far too common issue in Papua New Guinea.

In Bougainville, the issue is compounded by the fact that many families and communities are still suffering from trauma resulting from the crisis.

Sister Loraine has been raising awareness on this issue and providing practical assistance to victims for many years.

04.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira refutes Semoso's report

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government Vice President Patrick Nisira has refuted claims made by Regional MP Fidelis Semoso in the media last week.

"In my capacity as the ABG Vice President, I would like to tell the people of Bougainville that the former Bougainville Affairs Minister mustn't attack ABG, claiming that his government ABG was responsible for bank cheques that have bounced back from the BSP Buka branch," Mr Nisira said.

He said Mr Semoso's claim was "totally misleading, baseless, biased and unsubstantiated, and is fabricated by people who have assorted revulsions for this legitimate Autonomous Government on Bougainville".

"I would like to make it clear that the ABG does not control the financial matters for the Bougainville Affairs Minister and therefore has no involvement on such matters," Mr Nisira said.

He said the ABG had nothing to do with the validity of cheques issued by Mr Semoso to various small groups for small projects on Bougainville, nor has any say over how and where his funds are transferred. These are solely Mr Semoso's matters.

"The (former) Minister should not point fingers at the ABG for his own mishaps with the finance office. Bougainvilleans deserve unforged information that is equally a

representation of reality,” Mr Nisira said.

He said it is unbecoming of Mr Semoso to openly lay blame on the ABG for matters he should feel responsible for.

“It’s unprofessional and degrad-ing for a leader of such status to attack the ABG in the media, the ABG’s financial affairs are not a concern of the ABG,” Mr Nisira said.

According to the financial treasurer in Buka Paul Amera, the media report was not true and of biased nature.

“Whoever reported the matter would have known the real facts had he consulted the finance office in Buka,” Mr Amera said.

“Reporters should have valid information on such matters before publishing them,” Mr Amera said.

Mr Amera said the issue was a minor internal matter with finance and the BSP Buka branch and it shouldn’t have been blown out of proportion in the media.

“The matter has already been settled and everything is back to normal. If you have a cheque, then you will get your money from the bank, no problem for now,” Mr Amera said.

04.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Caretaker Cabinet

By PETER KORUGL

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill last night announced a 14-men caretaker cabinet which will be replaced in less than 48 hours to run Papua New Guinea when a full cabinet is finalised tomorrow (Friday).

Among those appointed were Don Pomb Polye and William Duma who were famously dumped by former Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal – an act that eventually led to disgruntled Abal foot soldiers defecting to join Mr Polye and Mr Duma to topple their former general.

Now back in the new O’Neill caretaker cabinet, they were named along with three former ministers in the former Somare Abal regime - Moses Maladina, Ano Pala and Job Pomat. Mr Polye was appointed caretaker Finance and Treasury minister while Mr Duma was put in charge of Petroleum and Energy portfolio in the caretaker cabinet Mr O’Neill announced last night.

Apart from Polye and Duma, the others are: Belden Namah - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Forest and Climate Change; Bart Philemon - Public Service and Sports; Sir Puka Temu - Agriculture and Community Development; Sam Basil - Fisheries and Health HIV AIDS; Francis Awesa - Works, Transport and Civil Aviation; Sir Mekere Morauta - State Enterprises; Dr Allan Marat - Justice and Attorney General, Labour and Industrial Relations; John Boito - Internal Security and Correctional Services; **Theo Zurecnuoc** - Education, Higher Education, **Mining**; **Job Pomat - Bougainville Affairs**, Inter Government Relations, Commerce and Industry and Housing; Moses Maladina - National Planning and Rural Development, Defence, and Ano Pala - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration.

Mr Polye will also look after the Lands and Pyhsical Planning portfolio while Mr Duma also looks after the Arts, Culture and Tourism portfolio.

Mr O’Neill said a full cabinet will be announced by tomorrow.

04.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Villagers relocated by Bougainville Copper suffer most says peace advisor.

A leading academic and adviser to the Bougainville Autonomous government says the communities who have suffered most from the Rio Tinto owned Panguna copper mine are those that were relocated from villages at the mine site or from sites affected by mine tailings.

The mine was closed down in 1989 after it sparked a bloody civil war but, with Bougainville due to hold a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea within the next ten years, moves are afoot to re-open the mine.

Landowners from the 6 mine lease areas are now going through a process to set up representative organisations to negotiate with the Rio Tinto subsidiary, Bougainville Copper Limited.

Presenter: Jemima Garrett

Speaker: Anthony Regan, a Research Fellow at the Australian National University

Listen here !

GARRETT: When it shutdown, Rio Tinto's Bougainville copper mine was one of the biggest in the world and it had been operating for 17 years.

Anthony Regan, a Research Fellow at the Australian National University has been an adviser to the parties in the Bougainville Peace process since 1994.

He says the people who have been most adversely affected by the mine are those that had to be relocated.

REGAN: The ones in the mine site were relocated up onto hard rocky ledges created by the digging of the mine pit. The relocated houses built by BCL were burnt by the army and the police in 1989 and the people are living in squatter camp conditions in scrap metal constructed houses. The septic tanks sunk into the rock are completely full, to the brim, so when it rains, and it is very high rainfall up there, water rushes down over the top of the septic tanks and there is raw sewage running through the villages. The fact that people have avoided death by cholera and typhoid is amazing.

GARRETT: The mine operator, BCL was also forced to relocate people affected by the mine's tailings.

At the time, it was considered to be too expensive to send these people home so they were moved to relatives land, either along the coast or at Moratona, around 15 kilometres inland.

REGAN: On this land of relatives, it was OK at the time because there weren't so many people but, since then, populations of the relocated people and relatives have risen dramatically. There are now thousands of relocated villagers and they have no rights to timber, to the sak sak leafing used for roofing. They have no water supply, they can't grow cash crops and tensions are developing between them and the original owners whose land is running short for their own purposes.

GARRETT: As part of the peace process set up in the wake of the civil war, Bougainville will hold a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea sometime between 2015 and 2020.

Many people believe the only way they will get a real choice during in that referendum, is if their island has at least a measure of economic self-reliance.

It is that desire for development that is behind the push to re-open the mine.

Bougainville's President, John Momis, has made it clear Panguna will not re-open without the support of the people and his government is working with landowners to set up representative associations for each of the 6 mine lease areas.

Peace process adviser, Anthony Regan, says the people of the relocated villages will be a significant voice in those associations.

REGAN: One of the reasons the landowners wanted to have separate associations for each lease area was because there are special needs, quite distinct needs, in each area and this issue alone indicates how different the needs are in the villages in the special mining lease as opposed to those in the lower tailings lease. So it will be a matter for each association to carefully document the needs and the problems of the people within their lease area and bring those to the table through the umbrella association but, in the process of setting up the associations, the Autonomous Bougainville Government, of course, is getting a tremendous window, on the issues that are facing the people, because in these long and detailed consultations the administration is having with the people, their problems are being put right on the table. I was in the tailings lease the special mining lease, in a series of meetings and the people are very clear, they know what their problems are and they are identifying them with tremendous clarity and great emotion. They really feel they have suffered, they are aware that they are the real victims of mining, and they are not opposing mining, for the future for the most part, but they are saying if it is to happen again, then it has to be done very differently and they, amongst others, have to be looked after in very different ways.

GARRETT The Bougainville Autonomous government is keen to ease the suffering of the relocated villagers but it is relying on funding promised by Port Moresby.

Until now the PNG government has been slow to deliver. With the current turmoil in Waigani hopes of receiving that \$40 million soon, are fading.

04.08.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill names caretaker team

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill yesterday announced a 14-member caretaker cabinet while calling on the outgoing government to respect parliamentary democracy in his election to the top post.

But ousted acting prime minister Sam Abal hit back, saying he had been unseated by default and stealth (story on Page 3).

The caretaker ministers included Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, Don Polye, William Duma, Francis Awesa, Sam Basil, Sir Puka Temu, Sir Mekere Morauta, Bart Philemon, Dr Allan Marat, John Boito and Theo Zurenuoc.

The old faces in the new line-up are Job Pomat, Moses Maladina and Ano Pala while O'Neill had advised the governor-general to decommission the rest of the Somare cabinet.

He said his full cabinet would be announced before parliament resumed next Tuesday.

O'Neill said that the interim cabinet was made up of experienced, talented and vibrant young leaders.

"The immediate task of the new government is to prepare the country for a decent and fair general election next year," he said.

O'Neill was due to call his first cabinet meeting yesterday afternoon to set the course for the new government in the next 10 months.

He also received a call in the afternoon from his Australian counterpart Julia Gillard to

congratulate him on his election as prime minister (see separate story).

"There are many challenges facing the country in health, education, transport infrastructure, land and justice and massive corruption in government and we are serious in addressing them.

"We will not be vindictive but to be accountable to our people," O'Neill said.

"We will be working for the majority of the people, not for a few individuals but for accountability and transparency.

"There are some decent policies of the former government that we will maintain like the Vision 2050, district services improvement programme and the district treasury roll-out programme. Programmes that we have lost we will review and move them forward."

O'Neill also called on the former government to respect parliamentary democracy.

"It is an indication of our people's desire to have change.

"The number 70-24 is not a one-vote majority. I appeal to them to be responsible and respect the wishes of our people through the parliamentary process."

He said any legal challenges would be defended fully.

Vanimo-Green MP and former opposition leader Namah thanked O'Neill for appointing him as deputy prime minister.

"There are many challenges ahead of us but we have a good team of experienced and talented leaders to address them.

"The people of Papua New Guinea, you have been calling for change and this government is for change," Namah said.

03.08.2011

Source: The Australian

PNG vote weakens link to Michael Somare era

by Rowan Callick, Asia Pacific editor

PAPUA New Guinea's parliamentarians yesterday swept aside Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal and replaced him, by 70 votes to 24, with another Highlander, Peter O'Neill. This distances PNG further from the era of Prime Minister Michael Somare, who remains seriously ill after four months in a Singapore hospital.

It positions Mr O'Neill to become, within a few weeks, the prime minister, until the national election due next year. It also clears the decks for the passage of urgently needed legislation.

Mr O'Neill is likely to make it a priority to resolve the issue of Sir Michael's health -- dispatching three doctors as required by the constitution to learn whether the Prime Minister is incapable of returning to office, as the Somare family has indicated.

If the doctors make such an assessment, this will be conveyed via Governor-General Michael Ogio to the Speaker, who will convene parliament once more for a vote that would almost certainly formalise Mr O'Neill's new status.

He leads the People's National Congress, a minority party in the governing coalition dominated by Sir Michael's National Alliance.

Mr O'Neill is the son of an Australian magistrate and his wife from the Southern Highlands, where he represents the Ialibu-Pangia constituency.

He switched from being leader of the opposition in 2004-07, to joining the Somare government after the last election.

A successful businessman before entering parliament, he is strongly pro-development and a firm backer of the \$16 billion gas project being built in the Southern Highlands, which is owned by ExxonMobil, Oil Search, Santos and PNG government interests.

He replaced Patrick Pruaitch as treasurer and finance minister early last year, after Mr Pruaitch had to step down over corruption charges.

A slight cloud also remains over Mr O'Neill, following a commission of inquiry into dealings of the National Provident Fund in 2002.

Five weeks ago, Mr Abal reshuffled his cabinet and gave the job back to Mr Pruaitch. Mr

O'Neill was demoted to works and transport. This move pushed Mr O'Neill towards the opposition, and appeared to alienate him from the Somare "first family".



Peter O'Neill welcomed in Buka in April 2011

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville leader hopes Damien Koike will agree to talks under UN banner

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, John Momis, has invited a former militant leader, who's blamed for widespread criminality, to meet for talks.

Damien Koike's group's been blamed for ongoing lawlessness around Konnou in the south of the main island, including a number of murders.

Mr Momis says they want him to lay down his arms and allow police and other government services into the area.

The president says that after an approach from the Koike camp, he's now written to suggest they meet on neutral ground for talks facilitated by the local United Nations representative.

"And I think this is a very good opportunity which we ourselves, the government, and Koike's mob should accept with both hands and have this meeting because it serves no-one any good when there is constant fighting."

President Momis says he hopes the talks can happen within the next week.

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GARASU HONOURED

By Aloysius Laukai

The Australian Government has this afternoon awarded SR.LORAINIE GARASU of the NAZARETH REHABILITATION CENTRE in Chabai ,Honor of Australia Award which is bestowed only to Australian citizens.

The special award was presented at the Bougainville Administration Conference room by the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, IAN KEMISH.

In presenting the award, High Commissioner Kemish said that the people of Australia do recognize the work of Sr. Loraine in promoting rehabilitation and reconciliation through her work throughout the years.

He said that SR. LORAINIE has been talking in many parts of the world highlighting issues that must be addressed on Bougainville following the conflict on the island.

He said he first met SR. LORAINIE in a small town in Germany some years back talking about Bougainville when he was the High Commissioner for Australia in Germany.

In response, Award recipient, SR. LORAINIE said that she first did not want to accept the award but had to accept the award after talking to many people about the award.

She said that her work is to work with simplicity and not to ask for any reward as her reward for her work is awaiting her in heaven.

The ceremony was witnessed by family members and friends.

In March 2009, SR. LORAINIE received the US State Department's international women of courage award.

The award was presented to Sr Garasu in Buka by the US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Ms Leslie Rowe. The announcement also marked this year's International Women's Day.

The award was established to pay tribute to women around the world who courageously champion human rights in their communities, and whose personal sacrifice is an inspiration to all people who seek peaceful change.



Pictured is Australian High Commissioner to PNG Ian Kemish putting the medal on SR LORAIN this afternoon.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Foreign Businesses welcome

By JOYCE TOHUI

Bougainville President Chief John Momis says Bougainville will allow Foreigners to do business on Bougainville on Bougainville's terms that is no stand alone businesses. He said this was why his government emphasized strongly on joint venture business and discourages stand alone business by foreigners.

Mr Momis said since crisis Bougainville businesses were buying goods from wholesalers in PNG and these companies have made a lot of money but they have never shared any equity to benefit the people.

He added that is why the ABG encouraged Bougainvilleans to go into joint venture businesses and benefit from these activities.

Chief Momis urged the people not to harshly chase foreign businesses operating in Bougainville but follow procedures already established to address these activities.

He appealed to Bougainvilleans to accept investors to invest on Bougainville so that Bougainville can be self reliant economically.

ABG President warned foreign businesses entering Bougainville to adhere to Bougainville's policy on investment.

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Tonsu by-election begins

By Aloysius Laukai

WRITS for the Tonsu By- Election was issued late Monday evening by the Autonomous Bougainville House of Representatives speaker Andrew Miriki .

This immediately effected the start of nominations for candidates contesting for the Tonsu constituency open seat in North Bougainville.

The by-election is being held to elect a new member to represent the people of Tonsu constituency in the Autonomous Bougainville House of Representatives after former member Ezekiel Masatt resigned from his post to contest in the North Bougainville national by-election in March this year.

The successful candidate declared will serve the people of Tonsu for a period of four years until the next ABG election in 2015.

Yesterday was a quiet affair at the Bougainville electoral office in Buka, with no nominations received by returning officer Gordon Semoso although locals anticipate more than 15 candidates registering their intentions to contest by end of this week.

Bougainville electoral commissioner Reitama Taravaru said yesterday that the by-election was proceeding despite the commission not yet receiving its K170,000 for election administration from the Autonomous Bougainville Administration.

"We have five weeks from close of nomination next week to polling, that is enough time for administration to release some money if not all of the money. Our biggest cost will be the printing of ballot papers, we will be printing about 6000 ballot papers," said Taravaru. He advised that based on the updated electoral roll prepared for the by-election, 4,500 eligible voters will be going to the polls next month.

As of this afternoon only three people have nominated.

They are a former public servant, JOEL NOGA, former combatant, EDDIE MOHIN and former Leitana Council of Elders leader, JOEL BANAM.

More people are expected to nominate before close of nomination this Friday.

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Momis encouraged Bougainvilleans

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG President Chief John Momis is calling on Bougainvilleans to work together to take up steps that will empower them economically.

He said most times people criticized the government for not providing services like education, health and roads but the government has no money available to provide these services.

He added monies given by the National government to ABG it's totally inadequate and cannot provide for the services needed.

Mr Momis said funds also given by the Australian government, European Union plus others including the Japanese government in building bridges in Bougainville are highly appreciated but also not enough.

Chief Momis urged Bougainvilleans to break the chain of dependency syndrome to be free and not to ask for money all the time.

He encouraged the people to unite, stand firm and work together for economic empowerment at all levels for the 270 thousand Bougainvilleans.

Mr Momis said people in Bougainville must work together for a common goal that is to develop Bougainville.

03.08.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville, China sign business deal

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville and China will start a joint-venture import-export business in October.

ARB President John Momis said his government was working on first joint-venture company with China for the import and export of manufactured goods by October. Momis said the joint venture arrangement would effectively cut down on high mark-up charges which middle-men placed on goods imported from China.

"We will cut down on the unnecessary costs that greedy businessmen place on goods that they buy cheaply from China. Our people throughout the region would benefit from affordable store goods imported directly from China," Momis said.

In return, Bougainville will export agriculture commodities including cocoa, copra and fruits such as banana, pineapple and mangoes to generate revenue for the region.

"We are talking with NARI and CCI to establish training for our farmers.

"Through this arrangement, our farmers would be able to learn modern scientific skills to help grow good farm produce and learn ways of preserving produce for export," he said. He said mining was another alternative revenue-generating source for the region which his government was working closely with stakeholders including landowners and the national government on.

Momis said the process of drawing down mining powers to the autonomous region was too slow.

"I personally am not happy at how slow the process is going and those involved say it is because we have no capacity.

"We will find capacity, we will find sources to help develop capacity, we have to think outside the box for ways to generate revenue," he said.

03.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Mass defection installs new PNG PM

Papua New Guineans are waking up to a new political landscape after the shock appointment of a new Prime Minister.

A mass defection from the government's ranks paved the way for the appointment of Peter O'Neil as the country's new leader.

Many people will welcome the new government but it doesn't have much time to show it's any better than the one it replaced.

Presenter: Liam Fox

Speaker: Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister; Susuve Laumea, political commentator

Listen here !

It's not called the land of the unexpected for nothing.

Nearly a decade of rare political stability under the leadership of Sir Michael Somare has come to an abrupt end.

He was replaced by Peter O'Neill during a dramatic sitting of Parliament.

Mr O'Neill was the Works Minister until he and several other government MPs defected to the opposition yesterday.

The opposition used its bolstered numbers to have the PM's office declared vacant and then elected Mr O'Neill as the country's new leader.

"Circumstances beyond our control have led to this situation at present," Mr O'Neill told parliament..

"It is not easy to replace a man of such stature, but Mr Speaker, we will do our best to work in the best interest of our country."

The circumstance Mr O'Neill is referring to is the lengthy absence of Sir Michael Somare. The 75 year old has been in hospital in Singapore for nearly four months recovering from several heart operations.

Without his influence the government became paralysed by infighting and the competing ambitions of senior ministers tore it apart.

Sir Michael remains in intensive care and its unclear if he's been made aware of the new political reality.

Long time journalist and political commentator Susuve Laumea says the country is in uncharted waters.

"This has never happened before in the 36 years of PNG's independence, it's the first time a Prime Minister has been turfed out of office using a very obscure provision of parliamentary practice," he says.

Nevertheless Mr Laumea says many Papua New Guineans will be happy to see the end of the Somare government.

"There was popular disenchantment from the public for what was happening in government," he says.

"The amount of corruption that was allegedly taking place, the misappropriation of money and a few other unpopular decisions of government.

"And I think the nation was also looking for a change of government."

But the issue is far from settled.

The man who until yesterday was the acting Prime Minister says Mr O'Neill's election was illegal.

Sam Abal says there was no legal documentation to prove the PM's office was vacant and the speaker of parliament "committed an illegal act".

In a statement in which he still describes himself as the acting PM Mr Abal says he'll challenge the legality of yesterday's events in court.

Meanwhile Mr O'Neill says a caretaker government will be put in place today and a cabinet decided over the weekend.

It remains to be seen what if any benefit the change will have for the people of PNG.

With less than a year before national elections are due to be held, the new government doesn't have long to prove it's different to the one it replaced.

03.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Political discontent inspires PNG defections

In Papua New Guinea a new Prime Minister has been sworn in following weeks of uncertainty.

Disgruntled government MPs joined forces with the Opposition to have the prime minister's office declared vacant.

Several government MPs this afternoon abandoned the now former acting Prime Minister Sam Abal, who was appointed by the-then incumbent, Sir Michael Somare, who suffered ill health.

Many political observers were not surprised by the latest turn of events.

Presenter: Sen Lam

Speaker: Paul Barker, director, Institute of National Affairs, Papua New Guinea

Listen here !

BARKER: There'd been a lot of discontent in the Opposition and some government members had been looking for a way for some time, to displace, or at least to show that they wanted change. And of course, many of them felt frustrated over the last few months, by various mechanisms that the Speaker and the sitting government, applied to restraint opportunities of having votes of no confidence, including by actions of the Speaker, but also by long intervals between parliamentary sessions. Parliamentarians were frustrated, among other things, by the very limited amount of time that they have had over the last year or so, actually in parliamentary sessions, and having a chance to ask questions, to debate, to go through normal parliamentary business.

LAM: So was due process followed in this latest episode, when government MPs effectively joined forces with the Opposition, to have the PM's office declared vacant?

BARKER: Yes, they were exploring what the mechanisms that were going to be allowed and for some time, there'd been discussion of the health of the former prime minister Somare, who'd not been attending parliament because of ill health, for many months. There'd been an acting prime minister, for that interval. In a way, they were exploring what the options were, and I think the Opposition looked at some alternatives, which included that if he hadn't been attending parliament for more than a certain period of time, his position was declared vacant. And for a long time, they'd not had an opportunity to get acquiescence from the Speaker to even consider the tabling of a vote. This time around, they obviously did get the ear of the Speaker and then for a vote for a new Prime Minister to be held.

LAM: And the new PM of course is Peter O'Neill, he's the former Works minister - what else do we know about him?

BARKER: Well, he was only for a very short time, the former Works minister. For a longer period of time of late, he was the Treasury and Finance minister, where he seemed to be doing a good job. I think the department staff found that he was responsive and good to work with, and he'd put together the 2011 budget, for a start. But going back, he's from the Southern Highlands province, his mother is from Southern Highlands, his father was 'Kiap' or an old District Officer from the er... from Australia. He's certainly an able, a determined, bright individual, and an astute politician, and certainly ambitious.

LAM: So secure is Mr O'Neill's tenure, given the fairly unconventional manner in which he was anointed?

BARKER: WELL, really, it's not that unconventional, from PNG standards. In the old days, we used to have vote of no-confidence sort of regularly and no one had ever served their full five-year term in office. And it was only really with the passing of the Integrity on Political Parties legislation in 2002, which gave the security of tenure to a sitting government for a full term because it made it just harder for members of parliament, not impossible, but it made it harder for members of parliament to go against the party and the selected Prime Minister that they'd committed themselves to at the beginning of the term.

LAM: In terms of governance, and good governance for Papua New Guinea, how useful is this Opposition initiative?

BARKER: Well, they're going to have office, really effectively, for only eight months and they've really got to demonstrate if they want to be able to secure office next year,

they've got to demonstrate that they can run an effective government, hopefully, a transparent government that focuses on what the public really is crying out for. The public has been upset over the last period of time because they've been hearing the high growth rate, the good government revenue, and yet they're not seeing improvements in their lives, in terms of roads and services. So if this current government in their short term can demonstrate they can actually move a few things in the positive direction, they will get Brownie Points for that, and it'll probably help them during the next election. But if they are seen to be doing what some people in the public have perceived to be prevalent in recent months, which is, some members abusing the district or electoral funds, and particularly, the development budget, then that will probably undermine their prospects at the next election.

03.07.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's ousted acting PM to challenge decision in court

The man ousted as Papua New Guinea's acting prime minister says he will challenge the decision in court.

The country has a new prime minister after disgruntled government MPs joined forces with the Opposition to have the prime minister's office declared vacant.

MPs then voted to make former treasurer, Peter O'Neill, the replacement for ailing leader Sir Michael Somare.

The vote ousted Sam Abal, whom Sir Michael had appointed acting prime minister in his absence.

Mr Abal has vowed to take up the battle in the nation's courts and accused Speaker Jeffery Nape of hijacking parliamentary procedures to allow the vote.

03.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FUNDRAISING BEGINS

By Aloysius Laukai

The total troupe members is 70. YK bamboo band makes up to 40 of equal gender.

Corporate Dinner at Kuri Village Resort is Scheduled to be held on Saturday 11th August 2011. About K5000 is needed to meet all cost including food. Entertainment will be provided by the travelling troupe.

Port Moresby fundraising is Corporate Dinner scheduled to be held at Gateway Hotel up to 50 tables are target to be sold at K200 per head. The cost of food and drinks is expected to cost K60,000.

The group urgently needs sponsors to pay K5,000 to secure the venue. Salome Rihata is organizing Port Moresby fundraising.

The whole event is programmed by Esther Hamer from PNG Consul Office in Brisbane, Australia.

She is involved with Accommodation, air ticketing, other logistics. Brian Semoso is assisting her with seeking sponsorship on hire of music instruments and venue for fundraising performance by the travelling troupe.

Top Bougainville musicians on the list are led by Bernard Hanga, Emmanuel Muganau, Marchellin Puso, Freddy Maneo to name a few.

Full information will be out on the Bougainville Tourism and New Dawn websites soon.

The total trip is expected to cost more than K300,000.

For urgent assistance please contact Lucian Taria or Siwi Aipe on email
bougainvilletourism@gmail.com



Committee Members in Buka are as follows, From left to Right. Benard Hanga, Marchelline Puso, Joachim Mas. Lucian Taria, Aloysius Laukai seated is the Chairman Patrick Koles and Siwi Aipe. Not pictured is Graham Kakarouts
Picture by Aloysius Laukai



Picture of the Group taken at YAPARU POINT on Pororan Island.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

03.08.2011

Source: The National

NA plans court bid to stop PM

NATIONAL Alliance party parliamentarians are expected to file an injunction today to stop the appointment and swearing-in of Peter O'Neill as prime minister.

While the National and Supreme Court registry in Waigani yesterday received only a faxed letter from National Alliance MPs on their intention to file an injunction, a registry source said the application was likely to be filed today.

It was reported late yesterday that a stay order had been issued on the appointment of Ialibu-Pangia MP O'Neill as the new prime minister.

Late yesterday evening, the Waigani National and Supreme Court yard had diplomatic vehicles from the Australian High Commission whose officers were reportedly trying to find out from the court registrar out about the legal situation.

A vehicle was turned away at the gates and the driver told by the guards to come back today.

03.08.2011

Source: The National

'No vacancy in PM's post'

LEGAL opinion yesterday agreed that there was no vacancy in the position of prime minister.

Government lawyer Peter Donigi said: "This is just outright illegality. The section 142 process (as stipulated in the Constitution) has been initiated. It has not been concluded yet.

"What happened today (yesterday) amounts to a vote of no confidence in the prime minister.

"This would mean that section 105 (1) (b) of the constitution is invoked which states that if a vote of no confidence is successful within the 12 month period before elections then parliament is dissolved and fresh elections be called," he said.

"I agree that there is no vacancy in the office of the PM.

"The Opposition leader has no right to declare the office vacant.

"That office can only become vacant if one of the events outlined in section 142(5) exists."

03.08.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill is PM

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

IALIBU-Pangia MP Peter O'Neill is the new prime minister, winning by an overwhelming 70-24 votes in a surprise election orchestrated by the opposition in parliament yesterday. Disgruntled MPs of the National Alliance-led coalition government crossed the floor with O'Neill in what was a major political coup to dismantle the nine-year coalition of ailing Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare who had, in April, handed over the rein to Wabag MP Sam Abal.

The election yesterday saw a major split in the coalition with NA's southern, islands and

highlands blocs and partners United Resources, Pangu and People's Action parties. The only party that moved together across the floor was O'Neill's People's National Congress which was rewarded with the prime minister's post. Up until yesterday, he was works minister.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ano Pala, Internal Security Minister Mark Maipakai, Tourism Minister Guma Wau, Lands Minister Lucas Dekena, Provincial Affairs Minister Job Pomat and Environment Minister Benny Allan broke ranks to side with the opposition and vote in the new prime minister.

While congratulatory messages poured in, the ousted Abal maintained that there was no vacancy in the post of prime minister, adding that he would challenge the election in court (see separate story).

Legal opinion from leading lawyers also agreed there was no vacancy but said the law was silent on whether or not parliament could declare a vacancy in circumstances such as what persists, where the incumbent prime minister has been absent from duty for three months.

When parliament started at 2pm, Speaker Jeffery Nape, who had been in camp with the opposition the previous night, invited Opposition leader Belden Namah who then suspended Standing Orders.

Namah, who mustered the numbers despite interjections from the government benches, declared the office of the prime minister vacant according to the Constitution.

He then moved for parliament to proceed to elect a new prime minister.

In what was apparently an orchestrated move, Nape then called for nominations for a new prime minister.

Namah then nominated O'Neill and was seconded by Hagen MP and URP leader William Duma.

Outspoken Bulolo MP Sam Basil moved to close nomination.

O'Neill accepted the nomination and Nape called for a vote.

He scored 70-24 votes to secure PNG's top post.

Parliament was suspended after the election and O'Neill, accompanied by Kandep MP Don Polye, Duma, Sir Mekere Morauta, Sir Julius Chan and other MPs, left for Government House to be sworn in.

Although there was a slight delay due to lateness of the instruments, O'Neill was eventually sworn into office by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio.

The new government then returned to parliament where the new prime minister made his statement, thanking those who elected him to the top post.

O'Neill thanked Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare for his leadership over the years and stated that "circumstances beyond our control led to this situation". He also thanked Nape for the smooth proceedings of parliament.

He said that the government had enough experience in former prime ministers in Sir Julius and Sir Mekere, former deputy prime ministers Dr Allan Marat, Polye, Moses Maladina and Sir Puka combining with young leaders for a trustworthy government.

"We are a government that will be fair and accountable to the people. A government that is responsive to their needs," O'Neill said.

"It will be a government for the majority and not a few as in the past."

O'Neill said a caretaker team would be announced today and a full cabinet announced by the weekend before parliament resumes next Tuesday.

03.08.2011

Source: The National

Sir Rabbie InterOil chairman

FORMER prime minister and senior statesman Sir Rabbie Namaliu has joined InterOil's PNG advisory board as the chairman.

It is a management group being formed to assist InterOil in discussions with government

departments in developing the Gulf LNG project.

Sir Rabbie: "I am pleased to chair InterOil's PNG advisory board, and look forward to bringing the Gulf LNG project to fruition.

"The gas project might be the most significant source of revenue for the PNG government over the next 30 years.

"It would bring jobs and infrastructure to one of our least-developed provinces and generate benefits to all the people of Papua New Guinea for many years," Sir Rabbie said.

Phil Mulacek, InterOil chief executive officer, yesterday said in a statement: "Sir Rabbie has been an inspiration and a dedicated servant to the country of Papua New Guinea for his entire career.

"We welcome him to our team and appreciate his support for our Gulf LNG project.

Sir Rabbie served as prime minister between 1988 and 1992.

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG has new PM as position declared vacant and govt MPs defect

Papua New Guinea has a new Prime Minister after disgruntled government MPs joined forces with the Opposition to have the Prime Minister's office declared vacant.

The newly-bolstered opposition successfully moved to have the vacancy declared because of veteran Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's prolonged absence from parliament.

Works and Transport Minister Peter O'Neill then won a vote on the floor of parliament and was elected prime minister.

Mr O'Neill, an MP from the Southern Highlands, was elected by 70 votes to 24.

He had recently been demoted from the role of Treasurer after outgoing acting Prime Minister Sam Abal took over from the ailing Sir Michael whose "retirement" was announced by his family in June on health grounds.

Sir Michael has been in Singapore since April receiving medical treatment on his heart condition.

02.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Parliament elect Peter O'Neill as new Prime Minister



New Prime Minister : Peter O'Neill

Papua New Guinea has a new Prime Minister.

He is the former works minister Peter O'Neill who won a vote on the floor of parliament this afternoon in a snap election by MPs.

Mr O'Neill was elected after disgruntled government M-Ps joined forces with the Opposition to have the prime minister's office declared vacant.

The newly bolstered opposition successfully moved to have the prime minister's office declared vacant because of Sir Michael Somare's ongoing absence due to poor health.

Mr O'Neill takes over from the acting prime minister Sam Abal.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: PNG Correspondent, Liam Fox

[Listen here !](#)

02.08.2011

Source: ESBC Research

OUSTED !

A sudden end of a long career as politician!

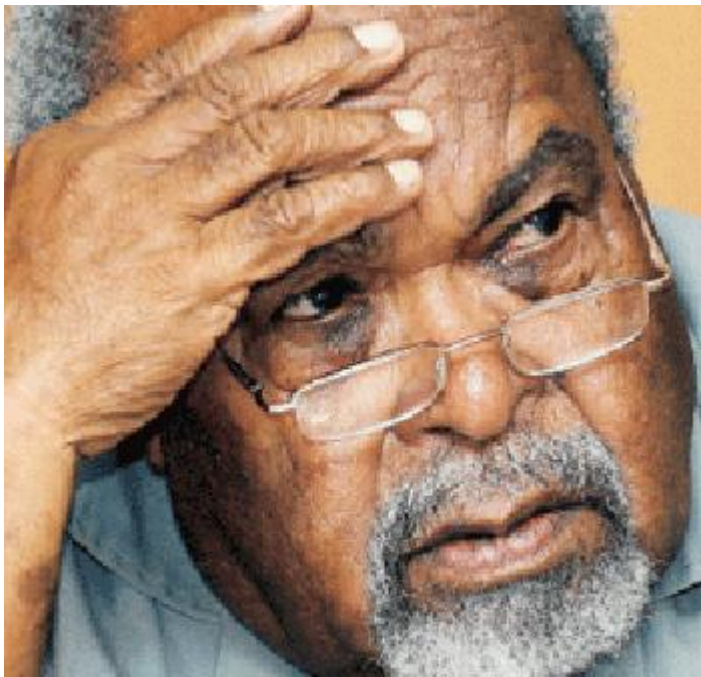
After months of absence due to major heart problems, Sir Michael Somare, 75, has been ousted as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea today. Former Treasurer and Work Minister Peter O'Neil is supposed to become elected as new Prime Minister.

In the past, Somare repeatedly had been in focus amongst others for misconduct in office and allegations as corruption. Sir Michael is considered to be one of the founding fathers of Papua New Guinea. He is also supposed to be behind the so called California law suite accusing mining giant Rio Tinto, set up by his alleged friend US lawyer Paul Stocker, now 87.

In the past Somare also tried to install his son, Arthur Somare, as his successor as Prime Minister. Arthur Somare actually faces a trial for misconduct in office.

Since spring this year Sir Michael stays at the Singapore Raffles Medical Centre for treatment. He was replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Sam Abal.

Sir Michael Somare was supposed to entertain a good relationship to China while his relations to former colonial power Australia were moderate.



Ousted as Grand Chief : PNG Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare

02.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG urged to re-open Cairns consulate

Australia PNG Business Council president Peter Taylor has called for the PNG government to reopen the Cairns consulate to facilitate the flow of business between both countries.

"PNG is enjoying an almost unprecedented boom in business activity, and one of the side effects is the arrival congestion at Jackson's International Airport. This congestion could be reduced if more people arrived on flights from Cairns, instead of mostly originating from Sydney and Brisbane, where their visas for travel to PNG have been issued," Mr Taylor said.

"The Business Council encourages the PNG Government to move quickly to re-open the Cairns Consulate to facilitate issue of visas for the growing number of visitors seeking to enter PNG through Australia's northern gateway, including the increasing number of business people from northern Queensland now doing business in PNG. This should be

of benefit to the business communities of both neighbouring nations.”

Mr Taylor noted that there was a lot of scope for both governments to work together to streamline visa and travel arrangements for travel in each direction, and in particular for the reduction of arrival congestion at Jackson’s Airport.

Mr Taylor made the suggestion during a visit to PNG which included a meeting with acting Prime Minister Sam Abal.

He said the Business Council appreciated the support Mr Abal had provided for its inter-country work during his tenure as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and looked forward to further opportunities to work together.

“Mr Abal is a strong supporter of government engaging positively with business to advance economic and employment growth in PNG and the Council is committed to continuing its contribution to PNG’s economic development,” Mr Taylor said.

Peter Taylor, who was elected President of the Australia PNG Business Council in May, is continuing a round of introductory meetings with a range of other government senior officials and business leaders.

02.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG leaders quizzed over boom in Chinese projects

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government leaders have been called on to explain to the people of Bougainville why the region is “infested with Chinese” and what has become of the Bougainville Resource Development Corporation/Invincible deal.

“Everywhere we go, it’s China here, China there, China mining, China mega city and China plantations, and China, China, China,” an angry former fighter cum businessman who requested anonymity said.

“Not long Bougainville will be tured into China! I say this because we are hearing about the Chinese mega city at Kokopau, Chinese having equity in all plantations, Chinese MOUs signed in China on tourism and hospitality, airlines industry, helicopter and not to mention mining - that’s all there is to their interest. We also hear there is so much million of US dollars parked in a foreign account belonging to some ABG leadership. This calls for an explanation.

“What has come about of the BRDC/Invincible deal? The last we heard of it was immediately after the inauguration in June 2010 when the ABG announced they were investigating it and since then, nothing has come about. Or is it because our ABG leadership has also fallen into the same trap that our sincere first ABG president, the late Joseph Kabui, got his hands burnt for it (BRDC/Invincible). The Kabui model may have been a stepping stone for ABG to follow but it looks like every time a new president comes in, he/she will also come in with his or her own model – like now we have the Chinese,” he said.

The one time rebel hardliner, who is now running his own small scale agricultural businesses in Buka, Arawa, Tinputu Wakunai and Buin said that he was speaking on behalf of the silent majority of Bougainvilleans.

“You know, we Bougainvilleans are soft hearted people and are too diplomatic. We don’t want to shame or question head on our leaders, but someone has to do it,” he said.

“I know my fellow Bougainvilleans will agree with me, that we are all in the dark about all these Chinese coming in, Chinese businesses and Chinese this and that. It is about time we speak up and the Autonomous Bougainville Government explain where we are heading. We need a public hearing.” Attempts to get an interview with ABG President John Momis and his Cabinet on the issue were unsuccessful.

02.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

No stability in ABG, says women reps

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has been accused of not having any stability in its leadership, a combined women group from all over the region have stated.

The women groups, consisting those from north, central and south, specifically church and leadership related, said that mothers were in the dark about what was happening in the ABG and at the National Government level.

They accused the ABG and the National Government leaders of not uniting to move Bougainville forward.

“Our women, youth and sports Minister Rose Pihei is doing well, she is working fantastically, but what we are referring to is what we are seeking explanation on – it seems the National Government Ministers are working by themselves and the ABG is working on its own,” spokeswoman Josephine Mirinu said recently.

“We are still seeing that our two instrumental leaders, those that are supposed to lead us into referendum and eventually independence, ABG President John Momis and our Governor and Minister for Bougainville Affairs Fidelis Semoso, are not working together, they are still working on different wavelengths, this is sad for us, especially when we are struggling to bring back Bougainville to its original status,” she said. “We have women’s groups who have approached the ABG with proposed community activities but they were told that the ABG was broke.”

02.08.2011

Source: The National

Taylor: Reopen Cairns consulate

PAPUA New Guinea has been urged to re-open the Cairns consulate without delay to facilitate the flow of business with Australia’s northern municipalities.

Peter Taylor, president of the Australia PNG Business Council, said: “Papua New Guinea is enjoying an almost unprecedented boom in business activity and one of the side effects is the arrival congestion at Jackson’s International Airport.

“This congestion could be reduced if more people arrived on flights from Cairns, instead of mostly originating from Sydney and Brisbane, where their visas for travel to PNG have been issued.

“The Business Council encourages the PNG government to move quickly to re-open the Consulate in Cairns to facilitate to issue of visas for the growing number of visitors seeking to enter PNG through Australia’s northern gateway, including the increasing number of business people from northern Queensland now doing business in Papua New Guinea.

“This should be of benefit to the business communities of both nations,” Taylor said.

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUG TROUPE PREPARE

By Aloysius Laukai

A Bougainville Tourism and Contemporary troupe is to perform in Brisbane Australia to commemorate Papua New Guinea’s 36th Independence Anniversary.

The troupe will include about forty bamboo band members and members of Bougainville bands who will also take part in the contemporary Bougainville music performance in Brisbane.

The troupe is currently preparing for the trip and have already started practicing and carrying out fundraising activities.

They would be having their first CORPORATE DINNER at the KURI village resort next Saturday.

Chairman of the planning group is the deputy administrator, PATRICK KOLES with members LUCIAN TAREA and SIWI from the tourism office, Benard Hanga from Niu age band, Graeme Kakarouts from Planning, Marchellin Puso and Aloysius Laukai from New Dawn FM will be the publicity officer for the group.

Bougainville was invited by the PNG Consulate in Brisbane for a group to prepare and participate at this year's independence celebrations.

Funding for this trip would be from sponsor's donations and fundraisings.

The group is appealing to Bougainvilleans within Bougainville and abroad to support as this would be the first Bougainville group to market Bougainville as a tourism destination.

The group will have fundraisings in Port Moresby before departing for Australia. Place and time will be confirmed later for Bougainvilleans in POM CITY.

For more information please go to the Bougainville Tourism website or talk to the Tourism people on Facebook registered as Bougainville Tourism. Also watch for a promotional video on Youtube sometimes this week.

Committee Members in Buka are as follows, From left to Right.

Benard Hanga, Marchelline Puso, Joachim Mas, Lucian Taria, Aloysius Laukai seated is the Chairman Patrick Koles and Siwi Aipe. Not pictured is Graham Kakarouts
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

Picture of the Group taken at YAPARU POINT on Pororan Island.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

HARASSMENT CONDEMNED

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG Speaker, ANDREW MIRIKI today condemned the sexual harassment of a staff from the New South Wales Parliament in Buka town at the weekend.

And, he has commended Bougainville Police for quickly apprehending the suspect who is believed to be a youth from Ieta village.

The incident happened on Sunday morning while the NSW Parliament staff was out for an early morning walk from the Destiny Guest House towards Buka market.

The harassment of the female staff has raised concern on the staff from the New South Wales Parliament who travel to Bougainville under the New South Wales and Bougainville parliamentary partnership arrangement.

The committee director from New South Wales arrived on Saturday for her one month attachment with the Parliamentary Committee Secretariat and the Public Accounts Committee and for the incident to happen to her on the second day on Bougainville has disturbed all of us said MR. MIRIKI.

ABG Speaker MIRIKI returned yesterday after attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London, will communicate an apology letter to the Speaker of the New South Wales Parliament for what has happened and trusts that the person responsible will answer for the crime committed.

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CALL TO PRIORITISE EYE CARE

BY ML

Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice President and Health Minister Patrick Nisira has urged the national government to review its health plan with a view to ensure that eye care is recognized as an important part of health care in PNG.

Mr. Nisira claimed during the opening of Bougainville's first vision centre in Buka last Friday that over the years, governments at the national and provincial levels have given eye care very little attention.

He advised that the national government needs to ensure that there are adequate number of eye care personnel to perform reasonable quality refractions especially in remote rural areas.

Mr. Nisira also added that PNG and Bougainville need community level eye care personnel to be trained to promote awareness of eye health conditions, perform basic vision screening and referral and have proper spectacles readily available in community level.

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DRAW DOWN OF MINING POWERS SLOW

BY ML

Bougainville president John Momis says he is not happy with the current slow progress it is taking to draw down mining powers from the PNG government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Mr. Momis said mining is a means to generating more revenue for the autonomous region and constant progress needs to be made to ensure his government is able to eventually tap into mining for alternative revenue opportunities.

He said the slow progress was attributed by authorities involved to lack of capacity that Bougainville had.

Mr. Momis assured that his government would find the sources to help develop the capacity needed and urged all stakeholders to think outside the box.

He added that his government is working closely with stakeholders including landowners and the national government to ensuring all issues with mining in Bougainville is resolved.

02.08.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville set for Joint Venture with China

By ML

PRESIDENT of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville John Momis says his government will establish its first joint venture company for direct import and export of manufactured goods with China in three months time.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Mr. Momis said the joint venture arrangement would effectively cut down on high mark up charges that middle man place on goods imported from China.

He said the establishment of the import and export business will cut down on the unnecessary costs that greedy businessman place on goods that they buy cheap from China.

In return, Bougainville will export agriculture commodities including cocoa, copra and fruits like banana, pineapple and mangoes to generate more revenue for the region.

He added that ABG is in talks with NARI and CCI to establish training for Bougainville farmers.

Mr. Momis said through this arrangement, farmers would be able to learn modern scientific knowledge and skills to help grow good produce and also learn ways of preserving produce for export.

02.08.2011

Source: PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT

BOUGAINVILLE GOVERNMENT PROJECT CHECKS BOUNCE

\$438,000 worth of empty checks

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, Aug. 1, 2011) – About 1 million kina [US\$438,000] worth of cheques earmarked for special and small scale projects distributed to groups in Central Bougainville have bounced back.

And the Autonomous Bougainville Government has been blamed for the bouncing cheques.

Women groups, church, sports fraternities, youth groups and schools in Central Bougainville, Kieta and Arawa, Wakunai and rural parts of that region who have been presented cheques by Minister for Bougainville Affairs Minister Fidelis Semoso last month as funding for their proposals by groups advised the cheques have bounced back.

The K1 million project funds were sourced by Minister Semoso after he received numerous proposals from those in Central Bougainville for projects by the women, churches, youth, sports groups and schools specifically of Panguna areas.

Minister Semoso was on duty in Port Moresby all of last week and could not be reached but his office has advised the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) should answer up to the mishap because they may have diverted the Minister's funds sourced specifically to develop central Bougainville from the National Government. They explained that the funds go to the ABG's operating account and because it was released from Waigani, ABG should explain to the groups in central for the bouncing cheques. The ABG finance office and its administration was approached last week to comment but refused a word as they claimed it was an in house issue.

Minister Semoso arrived in Buka over the weekend and confirmed on the issue but told the Post-Courier that he was going to sort it out with the ABG this week because they

were the ones that might have diverted the funds sourced specifically for projects in Central Bougainville.

02.08.2011

Source: The National

Civilian shot as Konnou conflict continues

A CIVILIAN in the Konnou area of South Bougainville is recovering at the Buin health centre after he was allegedly shot by men claiming to be members of the former South Bougainville combatant leader Damien Koike.

Buin police station commander John Popui said the man was at home in Tabago when the men entered and shot him in the arm.

Popui said efforts to establish dialogue with Koike had been hampered by a group of thugs attacking unarmed villagers.

Last week, a party of five former combatants from the North and Central regions travelled to South Bougainville hoping to talk with the warring factions including Koike and the Wissai Liberation Movement.

But they had to abandon their mission and re-consider their next course of action after an ambush they suspected was intended for them was foiled by local police.

The team's visit followed a recent decision by the 110 former combatants of Bougainville to resolve on going local conflicts in the Konnou area which had taken the lives of more than 60 people including women and children.

02.08.2011

Source: The National

Vision Centre for Buka

THE people of Buka and Bougainville will not have to go to other centres for eye care. The launch of the Buka Vision Centre last Friday was a milestone for the region and for PNG Eye Care adding to its established centres in Port Moresby, Mt Hagen and Lae. The Vision Centre is an initiative of PNG Eye Care and the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE) with funding from the Australian government's Avoidable Blindness Initiative.

The Vision Centre is designed to provide quality, free eye examinations and affordable eye glasses.

The facilities will also provide a long term solution to eye care service availability.

The initiative aims to ultimately reduce avoidable blindness and vision impairment in Papua New Guinea.

The Vision Centre is supported by the Australian government's avoidable blindness initiative through the Vision 2020 Australia Global Consortium.

The Global Consortium is a partnership of nine Australian eye health and vision care organisations working to eliminate avoidable blindness and vision loss in the Asia-Pacific region.

Bougainville Vice-President and Health Minister Patrick Nisira said: "Our sight is an equally important part of our body and yet is the most neglected in the country and in the region.

"I am very happy and grateful to PNG Eye Care and its partners for bringing a much needed service to Bougainville."

Buka General Hospital chief executive officer Dr Cyril Imako also expressed his support for the new centre.

"The PNG Eye Care Centre could not have come to Bougainville at a better time.

"It has been a long time that the people of Bougainville have been in need of a local eye care centre.

"On behalf of Buka General Hospital, we are proud to be working very closely with PNG Eye Care, and I would like to welcome this service to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville."

PNG Eye Care board president and National Prevention of Blindness Committee PNG chairperson Dr Jambi Garap welcomed the new Vision Centre expansion.

"This is an exciting time for PNG Eye Care. The opening of two more vision centres, Buka and Mendi later this month, we believe is going a long way to extending long term eye care services to more remote parts of the country.

"PNG Eye Care is offering a solution: it is a fact that without affordable, accessible eye care, communities suffer.

"Sustainable vision care delivery helps create opportunities for individuals, families and ultimately the community," Garap said.

There is a desperate need for eye care services in PNG and a recent study suggested that 29.2% and 8.9% of people over the age of 50 are vision impaired and functionally blind respectively.

Uncorrected refractive error (or the need for a pair of glasses to see) and cataract are the leading causes of vision impairment.

PNG Eye Care will continue to work with ICEE to make a sustainable eye care service more accessible to people in Mendi and Buka.

01.08.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Chinese businessmen look at investing in Bougainville

The Autonomous Bougainville government in PNG has so far signed seven Memorandum Of Understanding with Chinese investors for joint venture businesses with Bougainvilleans.

Bougainville's President John Momis says the MOUs are for Chinese investments in the areas of **mining**, fishing, agriculture and import-export.

Mr Momis says his government wants joint venture businesses rather than stand alone investments.

He says this is to avoid the practice of unscrupulous businessmen flying in to make a quick buck and then disappearing.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: John Momis, President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government

Listen here !

01.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cheques bounce back in Bougainville

ABOUT K1 million kina worth of cheques earmarked for special and small scale projects distributed to groups in Central Bougainville have bounced back.

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01.08.2011

Source: Post-Courier

New vision centre for Bougainville

BOUGAINVILLEANS will now have an opportunity to have their eyes checked at their doorsteps, thanks to the setting up of a vision centre in Buka.

The PNG Eye Care was opened a Vision Centre in Buka officially on Friday.

ABG vice President Patrick Nisira was given the honour to cut the ribbon and open the centre which will serve the population of Bougainville.

Operations manager Eileen Tugum, in her brief to the media in Buka, said the centre will have two people who will provide eye screening and dispensing of spectacles.

"Buka General Hospital does not have an eye clinic and people needed glasses, and they depended on a non-government organisation Callan Services or travel long distances to Rabaul or Port Moresby and Lae for eye care services," Ms Tugum said.

"PNG eye care is a local non-governmental organisation in PNG, established in early 2008 as a capacity building initiative of the international centre for Eye Care Education (ICEE). It aims to provide affordable, accessible and good quality eye care to the people of PNG, to help eliminate avoidable blindness in PNG through its improved opportunities in education, employment and quality life."

News 09.2011

30.09.2011

Source: Bougainville Copper Limited

New BCL Presentation!

New Panguna

[Click here for PDF Download !](#)

29.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Oil Palm bid for island to start soon

BOUGAINVILLE'S multi-million kina Torokina Oil Palm project is now a step closer to being started.

Last week Hakau Investment, the company chosen to undertake the region's impact project, officially presented the report to Bougainville president John Momis and the administrator Lawrence Dising.

The report, titled 'The Torokina Oil Palm Project Rapid Rural Appraisal', was done by Hakau Investment under the project manager Jim Mann Pangari and executives Sir Aiwa Olmi and the managing director Fabian Chow.

"This report that my staff tirelessly worked on covers everything from socio-economic aspects, general infrastructure, forest surveys, soil agronomy, village profiles and clan organisations in the whole project site of Torokina," Mr Pangari said. The project implementation and timely execution will require the full co-operation of all parties concerned - which is the Autonomous Bougainville Government and its administration, the people of Torokina, landowners and various other stakeholders. It is also interesting to note the huge difference in this report compared to the first report on the same project," he said.

Mr Momis thanked the team for a job well done and said that the project was going to be the lifeline for the people of Torokina, and a trademark for the Government which will seriously help finance and develop the area which has little or no Government project presence since the war.

Mr Chow and Sir Aiwa Olmi, who presented the report, said they stood ready to assist Bougainville and provide the much needed development Torokina so deserved.

27.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira wants Bougainville to be gun-free

BOUGAINVILLE Vice-president Patrick Nisira is calling on all former combatants to work towards demilitarising the whole region.

Mr Nisira made the appeal because he wants ABG to dismantle all its "local army", basically the factions that are currently active before a date for holding the referendum for Bougainville's Independence is negotiated with the National Government of Papua New Guinea.

The former combatant has also urged his colleagues not to allow businessmen and politicians to use them for their own selfish gains.

Mr Nisira made this call during Timputz cocoa festival where more than 4000 people gathered to witness the event after the Bougainville crisis. This festival coincided with the country's 36th independence anniversary. "We should not run around after money that is offered to us by leaders or businessmen who want to misuse us for their own selfish motive but rather we should be proactively involved in ensuring that the peace agreement is implemented," he said.

27.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Two escape from cells

TWO prisoners at the Buka Police Station Cell blocks escaped in the early hours of Monday morning according to police.

Acting Police Station Commander, Chief Sergeant Alex Gunan said that prisoners forcefully bent two iron bars to make way for their escape. Chief Sergeant Gunan said police managed to stop further escapes on Monday and a contractor was called immediately to put back the iron bars on Tuesday. He said the problem was found that prisoners put salt on the iron bars to rust which made easier for them to carry out such plans.

Chief Sergeant Gunan called on authorities to speed up the work on stage two of the Bekut Prison camp as the situation was not good at the moment. He said the Buka Police Station was still looking after convicted prisoners which was not supposed to be the case.

He said the Bekut facility was only catering for low risks prisoners and work must be carried out quickly to solve such problems.

He appealed to the public to be responsible to look after members of their families and not allow them to be in such situations.

26.09.2011

Source: ESBC

Anfrage:

Lieber Axel,

ganz herzlichen Dank für den Bericht und Deine Mühen. Hast Du eine Ahnung warum heute der Kurs so drastisch fällt? Wenn die Chinesen wirklich einsteigen, wäre das

sicherlich eine Hammermeldung.
Viele Grüße Michael

Antwort:

Lieber Michael,

Offen gestanden ist mir das auch schleierhaft! Es gibt außer der Tatsache, dass es momentan keine Nachrichten gibt, eigentlich keinerlei Grund für ein solch heftiges Abtauchen des Kurses. Meine Erfahrung „no news are good news“ scheint nicht zu greifen. Auch kann ich mir kaum vorstellen, dass die von mir nur intern verbreitete Information über die taktische Erweiterung des Zeithorizonts derartige Abverkäufe zur Folge haben könnte. Die einleuchtenste Erklärung scheint mir ein erneuter Angriff der Shortseller Lobby zu sein. Ich würde mich auch nicht wundern, wenn wir in den nächsten Tagen eine heftige Gegenreaktion sehen würden. Ob diese dann die Basis für eine erneute Rally sein wird, ist schwer einzuschätzen. Das wird dann idealerweise mit einer favorablen Nachrichtenlage einher gehen müssen. Falls es, was ich nicht weiß, in Kürze zu einer Übertragungen der von PNG gehaltenen Aktien an Bougainville kommt, ist es für PM O'Neill sicherlich politisch günstiger, ein Aktienpaket zu übertragen, das „nicht viel wert“ ist.

Ungeachtet der Kursmanipulationen und derzeitigen Kursachterbahn bleibt der innere Wert unseres Investments stabil. Somit ist es eigentlich nur noch eine Frage der Zeit, wann sich dies auch in wieder steigenden Kursen manifestiert. Dass sich allerdings meine Prognose über eine zunehmende Volatilität bei BCL so massiv bemerkbar machen würde, damit habe auch ich nicht gerechnet. Erwinnere Dich bitte ein paar Tage zurück: Da wurden annähernd 500.000 Stück binnen dreier Börsentage zu weit höheren Preisen verkauft und...gekauft! Zugegeben: Die momentane Situation ist für Trader extrem verlockend: Können doch binnen weniger Tage 20, 30 oder gar 40 Prozent Gewinn eingestrichen werden.

Nun zu den Chinesen:

Ein höheres Engagement der Chinesen bei Rio Tinto (sie halten momentan knapp 10 Prozent an Rio Tinto),
siehe:

<http://translate.google.de/translate?hl=de&langpair=en%7Cde&u=http://www.reuters.com/article/2008/08/24/us-rio-chinalco-idUSSYD4698820080824>
http://www.riotinto.com/annualreport2010/additional_information/registered_shareholders.html
http://www.riotinto.com/media/18435_media_releases_20633.asp)

scheint in Australien derzeit politisch nicht durchsetzbar. Interessant ist, dass etwa 20 Prozent der Rio Tinto Aktien bei der australischen Hongkong Shanghai Bank (HSBC) Filiale gebunkert sind. Dass nun angesichts dieser Tatsache die Chinesen Interesse auch an Rio Tinto Tochterunternehmen haben, die langfristig Gewinne sowie Versorgungssicherheit versprechen, ist leicht nachvollziehbar. Das Auftauchen einer hochrangigen chinesischen Delegation in Panguna bewerte ich schon mehr als eine Bestätigung dafür. Zudem wird unsere Homepage täglich mehrmals aus China (Beijing und andere Städte) besucht. Dass sich dabei der/die Besucher vorzugsweise eines Apple Computers bedienen, mag auch als weiterer Hinweis darauf gewertet werden, dass es sich dabei um einen elitären Interessentenkreis handeln könnte. Apple Computer gelten im Reich der Mitte als absolutes Luxusprodukt, das sich nur wenige

leisten können. Die Vermutung liegt nahe, dass es sich um hochrangige Funktionäre handeln könnte.

Bis dato haben wir allerdings kein Indiz dafür, dass sich Chinesen in größerem Umfang am Markt als Aktienkäufer bemerkbar machen. Das allerdings könnte sich schlagartig von einem auf den anderen Tag ändern.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 26.09.2011

26.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Minister welcomes K15m

The Minister for Communication and Information and Member for Central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringoro has welcomed the O'Neill/Namah Government's allocation of K15m for the Autonomous Bougainville Government in its supplementary budget.

"On behalf of my constituent and the autonomous region as a whole, I sincerely commend the Government for having the welfare and wellbeing of our people on the island," Mr Miringoro said.

He said the recent actions of the new government can only augur well for the National Government immediate to longer term rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts on Bougainville.

Mr Miringoro said the onus was now on president Momis and his Cabinet to use the funds effectively and prudently before the 2013 National Budget is handed down by the Treasurer in the budget session of Parliament.

"There is not a lot of time between now and the November budget session to use these funds but I'm confident the ABG will do what is right for the people," he said.

26.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Call to help Konnou people

BOUGAINVILLE'S Disaster Office has sought immediate help for funds to help the displaced families of the Konnou constituency in south Bougainville.

There are about 3000 people in the constituency that has allegedly been displaced because of the escalating gun fights and problems among warring factions in the south. His office has received reports and requests from the people of Konnou, seeking for help and refuge.

These were the families directly affected by the problems in the Konnou area and have fled to other centres seeking refuge, now displaced and living in "care centre like" homes and with other families.

Bougainville Disaster boss Franklyn Lacey advised his office needed about K30,000 to help these people, admitting that they have no money available to help the people in the south and help ease the situation.

Lacey called on responsible authorities to come to their aid, especially the ABG and the National Disaster Office in Port Moresby including the UN to help with funding.

26.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Cocoa festival a success

By Peterson Tseraha

THE Tinputz Cocoa festival ended on a high note last week Monday with two ABG ministers present to officially close it.

The event, which was absent for a decade now, has been revived and people from Kesa in the northern tip of Buka Island right down to Kangu at the Solomon Islands border attended the much loved and missed event.

Minister for Agriculture Nicholas Daku and Minister for Communications Carolus Ketsimur were on hand to witness the closing representing the ABG.

The first ever Cocoa festival was staged in Tinputz in 1986 and due to the crisis, it was held in 2001. It has been revived last week.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Agriculture Minister Nicholas Daku said it was a significant event where the whole of Bougainville have participated.

"Since after the crisis, I haven't seen a crowd so big like what we have here in Tinputz now," Minister Daku said.

"This is the time we say thank you to the cocoa tree because it is the source of our living and we take time to celebrate the cocoa tree," he said.

Minister Daku, on behalf of the ABG, presented a cheque of K50,000 to the festival organising committee.

Festival committee chairman and former ABG member for Taonita Teop Joseph Gitovea, on receiving the cheque, commended the Autonomous Bougainville Government for its contribution towards the festival.

The event was officially closed last week but the games, especially soccer, continued until Friday.

24.09.2011

Source: Scoop

Civil society hosts Peace Agreement Dialogue

By Louise Anne Laris - FemLINKPacific Correspondent, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency

International Day of Peace - 21 September 2011, Bougainville, PNG

"Reviewing the Bougainville Peace Agreement is a crucial step forward for civil society and the Autonomous Bougainville government to reflect and set goals to achieve a positive peace on the island and to enhance efforts to prevent future conflicts," says Helen Hakena, Executive Director of Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency and the convenor of the Regional Media and Policy Network on UNSCR1325 in Bougainville. She is also a founding member of GPPAC Pacific:

'For the first time civil society group in Bougainville in collaboration with partners of the GPPAC will conduct a reflection consultation with ABG officials to look at challenges and achievements facing the peace process. This consultation is a big step calling together church groups, women's groups, ABG officials and ex-combatants to share their views on how ABG can go about with the reconciliation processes and the destruction of arms; challenges that hinder peace and security issues,' she said.

She was speaking as a convenor of a peace dialogue convened ten years since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement to review progress and consider not only

achievements, such as the staging of elections for the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, but the every day challenges confronting the Peace Process.

In an interview with Radio Australia Helen Hakena highlighted the need to engage with government bodies to address all underlying issues such as the 'unfinished' weapons disposal programme, noting that lack of arms disposal is the very core activity fueling up the continuous conflict in South Bougainville:

"In the last ten years the Peace Process has moved ahead positively but there are some challenges that impede on the peace process such as the full engagement of women in consultations,' she said adding that investment in women's participation remains vital in decision making process::

'Yes, women played a key role in bringing the Bougainville conflict to an end, but now at this time, women are silent. In formal processes even though they continue to convene programmes and dialogue events."

Hakena welcomed the support of the UNDP to assist in convening the dialogue as she called for greater participation of women in consultation processes by supporting education programmes for women to ensure they are empowered and their capacity is realized.

She strongly believes that Bougainville women can use UNSCR 1325 as a guiding tool and also as an advocacy for women in decision making and continuing our engagement with governments on the urgency of having women in decision making processes and women's representation in parliament where they can influence policy makers and where their views are changed into laws.

Questioned whether Bougainvilleans are happy with its government Mrs. Hakena said 'We are happy to have our own government particularly the reserved seats that we have for women. Women are able to contest themselves. '

Hakena also stated that Independence in Bougainville will only proceed if we are financially viable and if Bougainville government fully addresses the challenges that confront the peace process.

Meanwhile Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency together with the Minister for women Hon. Rose Pihei are having continuous consultations to organize the anniversary of the UNSC resolution 1325 come October 28th in Buka.

This event will once again bring together women's groups from around Buka and mainland who will participate in this celebrations for women, peace and security.

23.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Miringtoro lauds K15m allocation

THE Minister for Communication & Information and Member for Central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringtoro has welcomed the Government's allocation of K15m for the Autonomous Bougainville Government in its supplementary budget yesterday.

"On behalf of my constituent and the autonomous region as a whole, I sincerely commend the Government for having the welfare and wellbeing of our people on the island," Mr Miringtoro said.

He said the recent actions of the new government could only augur well for the National Government immediate to longer term rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts on Bougainville.

"As Minister Duma correctly stated, Bougainville was allocated two Ministries in the new Government line up despite the availability of some many equally capable national leaders.

"Just weeks later, the Autonomous Bougainville Government gets this belated Independence present from the National Government," Mr Miringtoro said.

The country and the ABG also recently marked the anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Mr Miringtoto said the onus was now on President John Momis and his Cabinet to utilise the funds effectively and prudently before the 2013 National Budget is handed down by the Treasurer in the Budget session of Parliament next month.

"There is not a lot of time between now and the November Budget session to utilise these funds but I'm confident the Autonomous Bougainville Government will do what is right for the region and the people.

"I stand ready as ever to work with the ABG to bring about much-needed goods and services to our people.

"I'm also confident my Central Bougainville electorate will benefit from this K15m allocation in the supplementary budget," he said.

23.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Two leaders end rivalry

TWO former election rivals, Leo Toumo Paupau and Peter Bana, from Konnou in South Bougainville made peace yesterday to make way for the National elections next year.

They both agreed that Mr Paupau will contest the ABG elections and Mr Bana will contest the South Bougainville seat in the national elections next year.

Both men said that the reason behind them sorting out their differences was to address the issue of in-fighting in the Konnou area, something they say the current leaders are not addressing seriously.

Mr Paupau said that only leaders from Konnou can solve the ongoing Konnou issue.

He said that the current leaders were 'commercialising' the problem by using it to secure monetary help to only to have the funds diverted elsewhere.

He said that people were still dying in the Konnou area and asked his people and the people of South Bougainville to stand behind them.

22.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

High-tech bridges for Buka

THE DAYS of crossing most horrific rivers on Bougainville will soon come to an end as the region prepares to witness the official opening of the first five high-tech bridges that connect Buka Islanders to the mainland.

These are presents from the Japanese people through the PNG Government under the K90 million impact projects they gave to the people of Bougainville.

These are funds to build 15 high technology bridges under their Japanese Aid Phase I project.

Kitano Group of Companies, the Japanese Company undertaking the construction of these bridges, have built these bridges and have completed four while also working on all other bridges, racing with time to complete the whole 15 of them.

Project manager, also the ABG and PNG Government contact to the Japanese project John Kolan, yesterday advised the Post-Courier that four bridges were ready and have been "punch listed" which was a technical term for first inspection to check the bridge for any defections.

Next week Tuesday, a high-powered team is travelling from Port Moresby to do the second "punch list" before they issue the final certificate of completion.

Mr Kolan said by end of this month, five bridges should be opened and ready for use by

the public and business entities.

He said the bridges had been allocated according to districts and the four that were already complete were those in the Wakunai district.

There are eight bridges in the Wakunai District and they are labelled bridges 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The team is waiting for bridge seven to be completed before the official opening in two weeks time.

Bridges one and two are in the Kieta district (Bakanobi) and bridges 11, 12, 13, 14 (Irong) are in the Tinputs district while bridge number 15 is the Rawa - in the Selau/Suir district.

Mr Kolan said that they were already in the process to apply for Phase II from the Japanese Government which will detail the wet crossings in south Bougainville for the Government of Japan to fund.

There are altogether about 40 wet crossings between Kokopau (Buka) and Arawa while there are 27 wet crossings between Arawa and Buin, which also includes Siwai and Nagovis.

Mr Kolan said the bridges would be a plus for the wet crossers of Bougainville and would save a lot of vehicles and population travelling on the Buka-Arawa highway.

22.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka gets set for major cleanup

A MAJOR "Go-Green" Cleanathon is underway in Buka, north Bougainville to be held this Friday and Saturday and spearheaded by the Bank South Pacific (BSP) Buka branch.

All schools in the vicinity of Buka town and surrounding Buka island will do a major cleanup exercise on Friday around their school areas and residences, and on Saturday, the public is expected to clean up from Hutjena oval right down to Buka town, Sohano island and Kokopau.

BSP Buka branch Go-Green Cleanathon organisers yesterday told the Post-Courier the bank was serious about keeping Buka town and schools clean. They advised that the cleanathon will be staged nationwide, and Buka being no exceptions, the staff would be out in full force to carry out the exercise to help keep Buka town, the schools, Sohano Island, Kokopau and surrounding town area/villages clean.

Hahela Primary School and Hutjena Secondary Schools that includes Sohano Primary will lead the cleanathon on Friday with surrounding Buka town schools while BSP Buka branch officials will head the exercise over the weekend – specifically Saturday, starting from Hutjena oval down to Buka town.

22.09.2011

Source: The National

K15mil goes to autonomous region

THE national government has allocated K15 million to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to honour a commitment towards the peace and restoration programme.

The funding is a development grant to ABG which was part of the peace agreement.

Treasury and Finance Minister Don Polye, in his supplementary budget speech to parliament, said the previous government did not provide funding for it in the 2011 budget.

He said they were now correcting that in the supplementary budget.

Petroleum and Energy Minister William Duma, during the budget debate, thanked the new government for allocating funds to Bougainville.

He said Bougainville was part of PNG and he was pleased to note that K15 million had been allocated to the ABG.

Duma said President John Momis would be happy that the new government had given recognition to Bougainville including the appointment of two ministers in Steven Kama and Jim Miringtoro to cabinet.

"The previous government paid only lip service to the people of Bougainville," Duma said.

He said the supplementary budget was well thought-out and well-structured.

The funding came under the contractual obligations and other commitments totalling K94.5 million. Other obligations included the LNG ministerial commitments (K40 million), coastal vessels programme (K17 million), district markets (K8.5 million), outstanding legal settlement of Downer Construction (K5 million), petroleum agreements (K5 million), financial audit and legal advice (K2 million) and air services investigation (K2 million).

21.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Date not set yet for JSB

THE Bougainville leaders have not come up with a set date to hold the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting to further the drawdown of powers and other development issues of Bougainville.

The Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting is the avenue for the National Government and ABG including donor partners to discuss Bougainville forward.

ABG political backbenchers are questioning when the JSB will be held because the issue is holding up many things for Bougainville to move forward.

Last month, new Bougainville Affairs Minister Pirika Kama announced they may hold the meeting this month after the Supplementary Budget, but to date, no word has surfaced on the dates.

21.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

One day reflection on peace process

BOUGAINVILLE is observing the International Peace Day today with a one-day reflection on the peace process so far.

The UNDP in collaboration with the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Leitana Negan Women's Development Agency, a leading non-government organisation in the region, will facilitate with the Pacific Centre for peace building a one-day reflection on the peace process in Bougainville.

It will be held with national stakeholders from government and civil society.

In a statement sent out yesterday, it stated as the world prepares to observe International Peace Day on September 21, the Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) project will also commemorate the day through various activities across the Pacific.

CPAD is a Pacific peace community made up of governments and civil society from four Pacific island countries, as well as various CROP agencies. It is facilitated and supported by UNDP.

In the Solomon Islands, the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace with assistance from UNDP-Pacific Center's Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit and the

Pacific Center for Peacebuilding, will hold a three day dialogue for National Peace Stakeholders to map the countries peace efforts and discuss the National Peace Policy. A special ceremony will mark International Peace Day in the morning of September 21. UNDP's interns from the University of the South Pacific have produced short video clips for YouTube from pictures and footage taken at the 'Paint for Peace Party' during the Hibiscus Festival held in August this year in Suva. Members of the CPAD project will also hold a number of events in Fiji and the Pacific, they include: FemLINK PACIFIC, Citizens Constitutional Forum (CCF) and Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA).

21.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Bougainville should tap into rice industry'

BOUGAINVILLE imports 11,000 tonnes of rice worth more than K40 million year, a Bougainville Agriculture specialists working in remote Kunua, Allan Simon announced recently.

And the region is blessed with rich soil and specifically vast environment conducive to planting rice, that is why Bougainville should now seriously tap into the rice industry by planting its own and save millions of kina.

"If Bougainville wants to be independent, we have to save money that is used to import rice by planting rice in Bougainville because each year 11,000 tonnes of rice worth more than K40 million is imported," said Simon

"Rice is the most important staple food in Bougainville and importing it cost big monies that can be saved by the people planting their own rice.

This K40 million spent on rice could be saved and used elsewhere or simply put Bougainville can save this money to spend on other necessary items," he said.

Mr Simon relayed this message recently in remote Kunua district, north Bougainville where an international workshop on rice planting was held.

The event was the first of its kind in Bougainville under a Regional Rice Training workshop jointly sponsored by JICA PNG, OISCA and DPI Office in Kunua.

21.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's beer, cigar prices to rise

By Gorethy Kenneth

PRICE of beer and cigarette will increase drastically by five per cent in Bougainville come November, Autonomous Bougainville Government Treasurer Albert Punghau announced this yesterday.

And beer and cigarette coming in from Solomon Islands or direct from Asia through Kangu beach and Kieta Port may face a hefty tax (import tax and the normal tax) once arrangements are in place.

In an interview with the Post-Courier, Punghau outlined that liquor and cigarettes would be taxed heavily under the ABG's policy to increase internal revenue for Bougainville.

Mr Punghau said that Bougainville stands to benefit by December and onwards, a total of K7 million revenue from taxing liquor and about K2.5 million from cigarette.

He said that after the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representative passed the Liquor and Cigarettes tax policy he introduced to parliament last week, the price of beer will increase by 75 toea a can/bottle and cigarette to be 20 toea a stick.

He specified that the price increase would be charged on wholesalers.

"For example in a layman's language, if a carton of green can beer is going at K78 at the wholesale price, you will have to add K18 on top of that and the total of a green can carton will be K96.

"For the white can carton costing K93.80 at the wholesale price, K18 on top of that will be K111.80 precisely," Mr Punghau specified. "Or simplified further, if a green can costs K4.50, you add 0.75 toea on top of that to increase to about K5.25, that's what it means.

"And this takes effect about the first of November this year and revenue should be coming into Bougainville by December," he said.

Last week, when the debate on the bill to increase tax on liquor and cigarette was being read in the ABG Parliament, most of the members wanted taxes be introduced in the Export of Copra and Cocoa exported out of Bougainville.

Some talked about vehicle registrations and insurance as other revenue earning measures that the government has to look at to increase its internal revenue. The Member for Hagogohe, Robert Hamal Sawa even wanted road tax to be introduced in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville while other members talked about legalising homebrew and raise funds by way of tax.

20.09.2011

London Talks a Success

ESBC President Axel G. Sturm, ESBC Vice President Mrs. Corinna Pattijn met on Monday with Bougainville Copper Chairman Peter Taylor in the Rio Tinto Headquarter at London Paddington. "We had an very good exchange of information and agreed to intensify our contact in future," said Mr. Sturm on Tuesday in London. On Wednesday Mr. Sturm will meet with Rio Tinto Shareholder Relations Head Mark Shannon to discuss relevant questions as financing of the re-opening of the Panguna mine, short selling activities in BCL etc..

20.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

No date set for JSB talks

BOUGAINVILLE leaders have not come up with a set date to hold the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting to further the drawdown of powers and other development issues of Bougainville.

The Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting is the avenue for the National Government and ABG including donor partners to discuss Bougainville forward. ABG political backbenchers are questioning when the JSB will be held because the issue is holding up many things for Bougainville to move forward.

Last month, new Bougainville Affairs Minister Pirika Kama announced they may hold the meeting this month after the Supplementary Budget, but no word has surfaced on the dates.

Mr Kama also announced that the National Government may hold one of their September National Executive Council (NEC) meetings in Bougainville.

The National Government will convene Parliament today and Bougainville leaders are hoping the Supplementary Budget would be introduced as this will also be the time when ABG should receive its K15million Development Grant from the government. JSB is the meeting where all National Government Departments relating to Bougainville issues and the ABG meet to discuss and iron out specific issues of development and the drawdown of powers for Bougainville. The meeting is normally chaired by the ABG President and the PNG Government Prime Minister.

20.09.2011

Source: The National

Momis pays tribute to Chief

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville President John Momis has paid tribute to Sir Michael Somare as the first prime minister.

Momis thanked Sir Michael for establishing provincial governments, fighting for the rights of Panguna landowners and continuing peace-building on Bougainville.

He said although PNG had a diverse culture and more than 800 languages, Sir Michael and others had the vision to liberate the nation from foreign exploitation.

Momis said at that time, the people were not ready but the leaders had the vision for PNG to become a nation of a thousand tribes.

He made the remarks in Buka last Friday.

19.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis pays tribute to our founding leaders

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis has paid tribute to former leaders who had the vision to liberate PNG from colonial masters to become a nation of thousand tribes.

Bougainville joined the rest of PNG in celebrating the country's 36th year of Independence. Celebrations were held at the Hutjena Oval, Buka island, while another major event was staged in Tinputz to coincide with the Tinputz Cocoa Festival.

And Momis, one of the founding fathers of PNG, used the occasion to deplore the deteriorating state of the country, especially the social indicators and other issues.

He said that corruption, greed, misuse of public funds and public properties were killing Papua New Guinea after 36 years of independence and warned that marginalising of the people could be a recipe for disaster.

He said leaders like Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Sir Julius Chan, Sir John Guise, Sir John Kaputin and many more stood firm to have PNG independent despite many prophets of doom who doubted the eventual outcome.

Mr Momis, while paying tribute to Chief Somare, said he led the nation in the last 36 years to become one united and progressive nation in the world.

The celebrations at Hutjena, although not packed, was attended by a few ABG leaders, especially the local ABG member for Titalato Cosmas Sohia and newly elected North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi.

Mr Momis said that even though PNG was a resource rich country, the people remained poor and most were living below poverty line because of bad leadership.

He said what was happening was not in line with what the first leaders wanted for PNG and appealed to the new Government to stop and think and re-direct their attention, adding that something must be done to review the course of the country.

He called on all Bougainvilleans to make sure they get rid of corruption and make the region a better place for the future generation to enjoy.

Another ABG member David Sisito also paid tribute to Sir Michael and other leaders who shaped PNG and brought it to independence. He said that the Kieta people still held high regard for the Sir Michael because of the establishment of Pangu Pati branch -

Napidakoi Navito, which is still active today. Late Sir Paul Lapun and Sir Michael established the party before the Independence of PNG.

19.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WRITS RETURNED

By Aloysius Laukai

Writs for the Tonsu Bye election was returned to the Speaker of the ABG House today as scheduled whilst the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected member for Tonsu has been deferred to Wednesday this week.

This is because the new member, JOEL LATU BANAM was in Madang at the weekend when he was declared as the new member for Tonsu last Friday night.

The new member, JOEL LATU BANAM could not secure seat for today and Tuesday however he is expected to arrive in Buka this Wednesday.

17.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BANAM HEADS HOME

By Aloysius Laukai

The former Leitana Council of Elders Chairman, JOEL LATU BANAM was declared as the newly elected member for Tonsu constituency in the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The Returning Officer for the Tonsu Byelection declared MR. BANAM at 1230 just after midnight at the Buka counting centre.

MR. BANAM has tried several seats both in the National Parliament and the ABG until he came home last night.

He was in Madang when he was declared but would be in Buka by Monday to be sworn in as the new member for Tonsu.

Electoral Commissioner for Bougainville, REITAMA TARAVARU in welcoming the new member elect also thanked election officials including candidates supporters and scrutineers for the good conduct during election and up to declaration last night.

He said that he was happy everything went smoothly.

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TONSU COUNT ON

by Aloysius Laukai

Former Leitana Council of Elders strongman, JOEL BANAM is leading after count three for the Tonsu Bye election.

Counting for the TONSU Byelection started at 10 am this morning and will continue until the winner is declared sometimes tonight.

13 candidates are vying for the top TONSU seat in the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The seat was securely held by the former ABG Vice President IZEKIEL MASSAT since 2005 but was left vacant when the former member resigned early this year to contest the North Bougainville seat in the Papua New Guinea National Parliament.

This seat was left vacant when the former member for North Bougainville became the Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

MR. MASSAT won back his Tonsu at last Year's ABG General election.

He is not contesting this by election.

After Count three, Joel Banam was leading with 444 votes whilst the second place is held by FORMER Government Liason Officer, Kout Kavop with 351 votes

The others are Joel Noga on 246 and is running 3rd out of the 13 candidates.

Other Candidates are, UZZAIAH TOUKES is on 123, Dudley Matuan is on 185,

Eddie Mohin is on 64, Michael Toreas is on 218. Israel Kout is on 72, Isaach Heken

Thompson is on 80, Jonathan Ringin is on 65, Philimon Tulo is on 93, Ben Tsiu

Chackchuck is on 110 whilst the first on the elimination list is John Dumit who scored only 49 votes.

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS PRAISED

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis today paid tribute to former Papua New Guinea leaders who had the vision to liberate Papua New Guinea from colonial masters to become a nation of thousand tribes.

MR. MOMIS made these remarks in Buka today as Bougainville joined the rest of Papua New Guinea to commemorate 36th Independence anniversary for the country.

He said leaders like Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Sir Julius Chan, Sir John Guise, Sir John Kaputin and many more stood firm to get Papua New Guinea get independence despite many prophets of doom saying that this will not happen.

MR. MOMIS said Chief Somare has led the nation in the last 36 years to become one united and progressive nation in the world.

The celebration in Buka was held at the Hutjena oval whilst one big celebration in Tinputz coincided with the bi annual event, TINPUTZ COCOA FESTIVAL.

Speakers at today's celebration included the local ABG member for Tsitalato, COSMAS SOHIA and the new member for North Bougainville, LAUTA ATOI.



Pictured is President Momis at Hutjena this morning.
Picture by Therese Ericson

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POOR PNG

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President Chief John Momis says corruption, greed, misuse of public funds and public properties is killing Papua New Guinea after 36 years of independence.

He said that even though PAPUA NEW GUINEA was a resource rich country the people remained poor and most are living below poverty line because of bad leadership. MR. MOMIS made these remarks at the Independence celebration in Buka this morning. He said what is happening is not in line with what the first leaders wanted in Papua New Guinea.

The ABG President said that this has to stop and something must be done to review the course of the country.

He called on all Bougainvilleans to make sure they get rid of corruption from Bougainville.

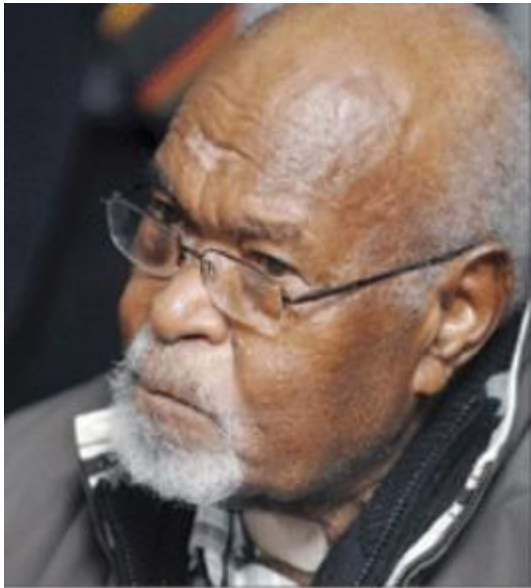
16.09.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

ESBC:

The Old Man and the Painful Loss of Power

Somare address sheds light on health



PNG's former and ailing Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare has addressed the nation to coincide with the country's independence day.

In an extended speech Sir Michael explained his reasons for challenging his disqualification as an MP.

Earlier this month speaker Jeffry Nape disqualified Sir Michael for missing three consecutive meetings of parliament.

Sire Michael also said he is continuing to visit his doctors and expects he will be able to continue to serve the people of PNG.

Presenter:

Speaker: Sir Michael Somare, PNG's former Prime Minister

Listen here !

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BOUG Clebrates with PNG

by Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville has joined the rest of PNG in celebrating the country's 36 Independence commemoration.

Celebrations are currently being held at the Hutjena Oval on Buka island and in Tinputz to coincide with the Tinputz Cocoa Festival.

Will give you some pics of the celebrations later today....

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

TONSU COUNT ON

by Aloysius Laukai

Counting for the TONSU Byelection started at 10 am this morning and will continue throughout the weekend.

13 candidates are vying for the top TONSU seat in the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The seat was securely held by the former ABG Vice President IZEKIEL MASSAT since 2005 but was left vacant when the former member resigned early this year to contest the North Bougainville seat in the Papua New Guinea National Parliament.

This seat was left vacant when the former member for North Bougainville became the Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

MR. MASSAT won back his Tonsu at last Year's ABG General election.

He is not contesting this by election.

New Dawn FM will be posting results at the count continues. Good luck to the 13 candidates.

16.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

36th

By Aloysius Laukai

The management and staff of New Dawn FM Community Radio on Buka island wishes Happy 36th Independence Celebrations to all Papua New Guineans and Friends of PNG in PNG and abroad.

Happy celebrations and wish you a bright future.

GOD BLESS PNG!

15.09.2011

Source: Kathweb - Katholische Presseagentur Österreich

Neuguinea: Kirche trägt den Aufbau nach dem Bougainvillekrieg

Bischof von Bougainville, Unabali, im "Kathpress"-Gespräch über kirchlichen Einsatz für Frieden - Dreikönigsaktion unterstützt Kirche in Bougainville bei Hilfsprojekten im Schul- und Gesundheitsbereich

Wien-Port Moresby, 15.09.2011 (KAP) Die große Bedeutung der Kirche für den Wiederaufbau nach zehn Jahren Bürgerkrieg auf der Pazifikinsel Bougainville hat der Bischof der Insel, Bernard Unabali, betont. Im Gespräch mit "Kathpress" erläuterte Unabali die kirchlichen Bemühungen um Versöhnung und den Einsatz der Kirche für den gesellschaftlichen, wirtschaftlichen und politischen Wiederaufbau der Region. Sowohl in ihrer gesellschaftlichen Arbeit als auch im innerkirchlichen Leben setze er dabei sehr stark auf Laien, so der Bischof, der sich auf Einladung der Dreikönigsaktion in Wien aufhielt.

Die Insel Bougainville gehört zu Papua Neuguinea. Als "North Solomons Province" bildet sie zusammen mit der Nachbarinsel Buka eine der 19 Provinzen des Landes. Ein Jahrzehnt lang - von 1988 bis 1998 - wurde auf der gebirgigen, mit tropischem Regenwald bedeckten Insel Krieg geführt. Die secessionistische "Bougainville Revolutionary Army" (BRA) kämpfte gegen die Streitkräfte der Zentralregierung Papua Neuguineas. Dem Krieg fielen bis zu 20.000 Bewohner der Insel zum Opfer. 2001 wurde schließlich nach langen Verhandlungen ein Friedensabkommen unterzeichnet, das Bougainville Autonomie zugesteht, und ein Unabhängigkeitsreferendum in zehn bis fünfzehn Jahren vorsieht.

Bischof Unabali hatte während des Bürgerkriegs in einer Landpfarre im Südwesten der Insel die Stellung gehalten. Dabei sei er auch zwischen die Fronten geraten und habe zwischen den Streitparteien zu vermitteln versucht, berichtet der 54-jährige Bischof: "Aufgabe der Kirche muss es immer sein, sich für den Frieden einzusetzen." Das habe er den Regierungssoldaten ebenso klarzumachen versucht, wie den Rebellen, wenn er mit ihnen Gottesdienst feierte.

Bischof Unabali stammt aus Bougainville, er studierte u.a. in Rom Theologie und wurde 1985 zu Priester geweiht. 2005 wurde er Weihbischof von Bougainville, 2010 Diözesanbischof.

Traumatisierte Bevölkerung

Der Bürgerkrieg habe nicht nur eine völlig zerstörte Infrastruktur sondern auch eine in weiten Teilen traumatisierte Bevölkerung hinterlassen, so Unabali. Ein großes Problem stellten junge Männer ohne Lebensperspektive dar, die einen Teil ihrer Kindheit und Jugend im Bürgerkrieg verbracht hatten, ohne Möglichkeit, eine Schule zu besuchen. Augenscheinlichste Folgen seien exzessiver Missbrauch von Alkohol und erhöhte Gewaltbereitschaft.

Seit dem Waffenstillstand 1998 gebe es deshalb Bemühungen zum Wiederaufbau von berufsbildenden Schulen, um solchen Jugendlichen eine Ausbildung zu ermöglichen. Dabei sei die Kirche die zentrale Kraft, betonte der Bischof. 72 Prozent der Schulen in Bougainville werden unter der Leitung der katholischen Kirche geführt.

Derzeit leide das Schulsystem vor allem an der schlechten Verwaltung der Schulen durch Schulleiter, die für ihre Aufgaben nicht vorbereitet bzw. ausgebildet wurden. "Kaum jemand in Bougainville hat jemals gelernt, mit Geld, umzugehen", so Bischof Unabali. Die Folge seien Schulen, die nicht erhalten werden können; Lehrer, die nicht bezahlt werden, demotiviert sind und nicht zum Unterricht erscheinen.

Hier setze die Kirche mit Programmen zur Verbesserung der Management-Fähigkeiten der Direktoren an. Die Projekte werden von der Dreikönigsaktion unterstützt.

Die Dreikönigsaktion unterstützt in der Diözese Bougainville neben kirchliche Bildungsprogrammen im Schulbereich auch solche im Gesundheitswesen. Durch den Bürgerkrieg wurde das Gesundheitssystem fast vollständig zerstört. Viele medizinischen Fachkräfte hatten die Insel während des Bürgerkriegs verlassen, es herrscht großer Mangel an Ärzten und Krankenschwestern. Ein Bildungsprogramm der Diözese betrifft die Weiterbildung in traditionellen medizinischen Praktiken, die auch in Grundschulen gelehrt werden.

Politische Unabhängigkeit

Zur Frage, wie er zu einer möglichen Unabhängigkeit Bougainvilles von Papua Neuguine in zehn Jahren stehe, meinte der Bischof, dass sich die Kirche einer solchen Unabhängigkeit nicht verschließen werde. Allerdings müssten alle politischen, wirtschaftlichen und gesellschaftlichen Voraussetzungen gegeben sein, dass dies nicht zum Schaden der Bevölkerung vor sich gehe.

Die überwiegende Mehrheit der rund 180.000 Einwohner von Bougainville ist römisch-katholisch. Bischof Unabalis Diözese umfasst 33 Pfarren. Für die Seelsorge stünden ihm aber nur rund 25 Priester zur Verfügung. Umso größer sei die Bedeutung der Laien. Gut ausgebildete Katechisten würden für die Seelsorge in seiner Diözese sorgen, so der Bischof. Schon sein Vorgänger Bischof Gregory Singkai habe seit Mitte der 1970er-Jahre begonnen, eine einheimische Kirche von Bougainville zu formen. Waren damals noch 90 Prozent der Geistlichen auf Bougainville ausländische Missionare, so seien nun schon rund 50 Prozent des Klerus Einheimische.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POLLING END

By Aloysius Laukai

Polling for the TONSU by-election ended today and counting would start tomorrow Friday.

According to reports from the Bougainville Electoral Commission, Counting would be held at the MARK MURAVA Building in Buka town.

Thirteen candidates are vying for the top post in the Tonsu constituency left vacant when the former member, IZEKIEL MASSAT resigned early this year to contest the North Bougainville seat by election.

The North Bougainville seat was also left vacant when the former member, was elevated to take up the Governor General's post.

The winner from the Tonsu by election would serve the people of Tonsu in the next four years.

New Dawn FM will carry live the Tonsu By election counting from the counting centre.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WORK READY

By Aloysius Laukai

The Bougainville Library project is about to take another step forward when VSA volunteer Barry Binding leaves Wellington on September 20 to spend six weeks developing a project management plan for the \$350,000 building.

The library – or stori haus – is the inspiration of Wellington writer Lloyd Jones, whose 2007 Man Booker Prize-winning novel Mister Pip is set in Bougainville.

As well as developing a project management plan, Mr Binding will also organise the timber needed for the project, and will prepare the site for building.

The library is being built on the grounds of Arawa High School in Arawa, the former capital of Bougainville. It has been designed by Wellington architect Paul Kerr-Hislop and will be built by trainee carpenters from Arawa Carpentry. VSA helped set up Arawa Carpentry in 1999 as part of the reconstruction process following 10 years of civil war.

Mr Binding, a Kapiti Coast builder, returned from a two-year VSA assignment based at Arawa Carpentry in May 2010. While he was there he built a model of the library to give local people a chance to see what it will look like. He is one of several VSA volunteers who have been closely involved with the library project.

He is looking forward to returning to Bougainville to start the next stage of the process.

It's really exciting to finally be getting ready to build the library. It will be a great asset for the people of Bougainville, and everyone is really looking forward to seeing being able to use it."

Once the project management plan has been developed and approved, Mr Binding will return to Bougainville as a VSA volunteer in February 2012 to spend six months supervising the building process.

Lloyd Jones, chair of the Bougainville Library Trust, says he is delighted Mr Binding is involved in the project.

We couldn't have got the project underway without VSA, and no-one is more qualified or suitable to the task of building the library than Barry. He spent two years living in Bougainville, and he is held in very high esteem there."

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

INDEPENDENCE

BY Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville will celebrate with the rest of the country Papua New Guinea's 36th Independence anniversary tomorrow.

According to a brief programme produced by the Bougainville Administration, Celebrations would be held at the Hutjena oval on Buka island.

Students from nearby schools will also participate at tomorrow's celebrations.

According to the Official programme, the local ABG Member for Tsitalato COSMAS SOHIA will give the welcome speech.

Whilst other speeches would come from the newly elected member for North Bougainville LAUTA ATOI and Regional member for Bougainville.

The keynote address will be given by the ABG President Chief John Momis.

Meanwhile in the Tinputz district celebrations for the 36th independence anniversary started with Sports on Monday and would include the annual Tinputz Cocoa Festival tomorrow.

All celebrations would end on Saturday.

15.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville gets Independence presents

BOUGAINVILLEANS have a special Independence present from Papua New Guinea and the people of Japan through the official opening of the first four high-tech bridges that connect Buka Islanders to the mainland.

The Japanese Government, through the PNG Government, allocated K90 million for 15 high tech bridges to be built on Bougainville under their Japanese Aid Phase I project. Kitano Group of Companies have completed four and are now working on others in a race against time to complete the total 15 bridges.

Project manager, also the ABG and PNG Government contact to the Japanese project, John Kolan, yesterday advised the Post-Courier that four bridges are ready and have been "punch listed", a technical term for first inspection to check the bridges for defects. Next week Tuesday, a high-powered team is travelling from Port Moresby to do the second "punch list" before they issue the final certificate of completion.

Mr Kolan said by end of this month, five bridges should be officially opened and ready for use by the public and mostly business entities.

Mr Kolan said the bridges had been allocated according to districts and the four that are already completed are those in the Wakunai district. There are eight bridges in the Wakunai District and they are labelled bridges 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The team is waiting for bridge seven to be completed before the opening in two weeks time. Bridges one and two are in the Kieta district (Bakanobi) and bridges 11, 12, 13, 14 (Irong) are in the Tinputz district while bridge number 15 is the Rawa - in the Selau/Suir district. Kolan said that they are in the process of applying for Phase II from the Japanese Government.

15.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa to get new library

BOUGAINVILLE'S estranged capital, Arawa, should have a big library built by end of the year, the Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) has announced.

The Bougainville Library project is about to take another step forward when VSA volunteer Barry Binding leaves Wellington on September 20 to spend six weeks developing a project management plan for the \$350,000 building.

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15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

FIFTEEN SHOULD BE OKAY

By Aloysius Laukai

THE ABG President, JOHN MOMIS has assured parliament that the FIFTEEN MILLION KINA from the national government would be available after next week.

He made these comments in Parliament this afternoon when answering question when these funds would become available.

The member for HAGOGOHE, Robert Hamal Sawa wanted to know if these funds would be available quickly as the region was really down.

ABG President John Momis said that he was assured that the supplementary budget in the National Government would be held next week and that the FIFTEEN MILLION KINA would be made available then.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ACTION QUICK

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG has no funds to fix the lights at the Buka Hospital's Operating Theatre.

This was the response made by the Minister for Health and Vice President, PATRICK NISIRA when responding to calls for the government to intervene and fix the problem facing Buka hospital.

MR. NISIRA told ABG Parliament this afternoon that his division has received reports of the poor lights at the Operating Theatre and would fix the problem soon.

He said that because of the financial situation of the ABG they did not address the problem earlier.

Minister Nisira was responding to calls made by the member representing women of North Bougainville, ELIZABETH BURAIN who questioned the Minister for Health if he knew that the light at the Hospital's operating Theater was out.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LIQUOR AND SMOKE TAXED

By Aloysius Laukai

Liquor and Cigarettes would be taxed heavily under the ABG 's policy to increase internal revenue for Bougainville.

The ABG House of Representative this morning passed the Liquor and Cigarettes tax policy after the Minister for Finance and Planning, ALBERT PUNGHAU introduced to parliament this morning.

After lengthy debate by the ABG House it was finally passed after three readings.

Most of the members when commenting on the bill wanted taxes be introduced in the Export of Copra and Cocoa exported out of Bougainville.

Some talked about Vehicle registrations and insurance as other revenue earning measures that the government has to look at to increase its internal revenue.

The member for Hagogohe, Robert Hamal Sawa even wanted road tax be introduced whilst other members talked about legalizing Home brew and raise funds by way of tax.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG ON

By Aloysius Laukai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government's House of representative is currently sitting for its September session this week.

The sitting started yesterday and would end tomorrow.

Today the house looked at several policy presentations and approved two.

One was for the increased taxing of Beer and Smoke whilst the other was for more awareness to be carried out on HIV and AIDS.

This policy would be to make sure that more awareness is made around the region to make sure the most vulnerable people are made aware of the dangers of HIV and AIDS.

The members discussed the need to educate the young people especially in the rural areas and including the outer islands.

15.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BDO to help Konnou

By JOYCE TOHUI

Bougainville Disaster Office is seeking funds to help the displaced families of the Konnou constituency.

Bougainville Disaster Coordinator, Franklyn Lacey told New Dawn FM this morning that more than 3 thousand people have been displaced due to the ongoing fighting in the Konnou areas.

He said in the meantime the Bougainville Disaster Office has no money available to help the situation and is seeking help from the ABG, National Disaster Office and UNDP to help with funding.

Mr Lacey said Disaster Office needs about 30 thousand kina to help the people with basic needs such as food, gardening tools and temporary shelter.

He said the fighting in Konnou has prompted situations where the people have abandoned homes, gardens and are not carrying out economic activities that can sustain their needs.

The Disaster Coordinator said the Konnou issue is a situation that is affecting the livelihoods of many innocent people and is calling on authorities to be responsible to help.

14.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Bougainville Copper Chart Analyze

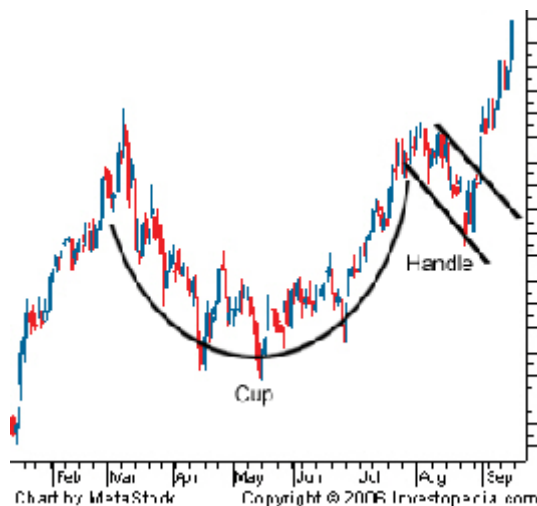
Cup and handle

- a bullish chart pattern!

The cup and handle formation (also called the cup with handle formation) is a bullish chart pattern that is defined by a chart where a stock drops in value, then rises back up to the original value, then drops a small amount in value, and then rises a small amount in value. The "cup and handle" formation was discovered by William O'Neil, Founder of Investor's Business Daily, and explained in his top selling book, "How to Make Money in Stocks."

→ [wikipedia](#)

Typical "cup and handle" chart



Bougainville Copper Chart Frankfurt
09/2011



[Click here for some more astonishing cup and handle chart examples !](#)

14.09.2011

Source: The National

Future of Ramu mine threatened

THE names Pagazi, Nokomboi, Imurumba and Maure mean nothing to the rest of PNG outside of Bundi, Raicoast and Madang.

They are actually clan names, not individuals, who lay claim to the land on which the multi-billion-kina Ramu nickel/cobalt mine operations extend over.

However obscure these clans might have been in years past, they will create ripples on a national and international level in the not-too-distant future if they carry out their threat to stop the commissioning of Ramu NiCo over what they claim are unsatisfactory benefits sharing agreements.

It is incumbent upon the government to prevent that from happening, not by strong arm tactics but by the simple, least costly and most effective way – talking.

The landowners claim that:

IThe Minerals and Resources Authority has unnecessarily delayed expediting a review of the Memorandum of Agreement;

IThere has been an unnecessary delay by the Lands Titles Commission to appoint offers

to deliberate on land matters;

Landowners have not participated in equal benefits sharing agreements since 2000; and
The benefits enjoyed by the company do not equate to the value of contracts awarded where costs incurred by the contractors are higher resulting in losses for contracting companies.

David Tigavu, chairman of the Kurumbukari Landowners Association, said relevant government departments responsible for the completion of the project have themselves to blame.

“Where is the Lands Titles Commission who is supposed to be identifying genuine landowners? When is the land hearing going to begin? The memorandum or agreement (MoA) review is already 10 years late. Where is the Mineral and Resources Authority?

“We need to fast track and have a comprehensive benefits agreement in place which should be contained in the MoA. If there are no benefits, then, there will be no mine.

“I have been supporting the project from the beginning and have seen the company struggling without the support of the provincial and national government,” Tigavu said.

The landowners do appear to be mischief makers at this time. The company’s operation has been delayed for long periods by a protracted court case over its proposal to dump tailings into the Basamuk. Throughout these landowning clans have been silent and in Tigavu’s words supportive of the company.

That case was finally settled two weeks ago. Now Tigavu is agitating to interrupt work again which, if successful, will again cost many millions of kina in lost time.

Our view is that Tigavu and company are not wrong. They have been patient. They have let their grievances be known through the right channels to the right authorities applying the right means.

Now, they agitate because certain processes that ought to have happened many moons ago are yet to be done. The fault lies entirely with state entities that ought to be out there doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Where is the Mineral Resources Authority? Where is the Lands Titles Commission? Is a review of the MoA needed or not? Is one overdue as claimed by Tigavu?

These are questions that must be answered and quickly.

It might well be that Tigavu is wrong. It might be that he is trying to shift the goal posts now that the project is finally coming on stream.

Whatever it is the onus is on the state authorities including the government to answer the queries.

Tigavu’s frustration afflicts all other resource project landowners.

We are reminded of the ludicrous sounding K10 billion bill that was delivered to the State and Bougainville Copper mine in April 1988 by Panguna landowners.

It was laughed off and nobody in government thought to move a muscle to find out if the Panguna landowners might have a case behind the ludicrous bill. The result was the disaster that is the Bougainville crisis.

However silly sounding a landowner request or demand might be, it does not hurt for government officers to respond, to calm tempers and allay fears or to carry out their duties diligently if need be.

That is all that is required, we are certain.

It is, after all, their job.

14.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

‘Bougainvilleans should not rush into mining’

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

MINING should not be the first thing on every Bougainvilleans mind, Me’ekamui spokesman Philip Takaung said.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the Paruparu Jaba road the Me’ekamui

vice president said the environment should be the first thing people should be mindful about.

"We mustn't let money lure us into disaster and damage our natural habitat destroying the eco system and we be evacuated somewhere to live," Mr Takaung said.

He made these statements after landowner groups from other mine areas such as Tore in Kunua, west Bougainville and Karato in the central Bougainville west coast border, made their intentions known to invite exploration companies into their areas.

"Don't be fooled by money, and remember what we all fought for, because when a lot of people see money they become greedy and forget about others," he said.

"A lot of us especially ex-combatants can admit it right now are very greedy and we have lost our goals and visions of what we fought for because of greed for money," Mr Takaung said.

"How would you feel if you give away your sacred land, your fishing and hunting grounds to a certain mining company and if they relocate you to some place else, would you adapt to the climate there and the vegetation?" Mr Takaung said.

"We fought and thousands of our brothers and sisters, the ones we fought alongside with sacrificed their lives for the sake of us the surviving ones, don't let their blood be spilled on greed and selfishness," he said.

13.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville to tab visitors

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

ANY individual or group from within PNG or abroad willing to come to Bougainville to carry out their planned activities should first consult the National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA).

This is because NCOBA is the legitimate authority responsible for controlling and coordinating the movement of people traveling in and out of Bougainville.

And those who fail to comply with this direction will be dealt with accordingly, that is the stern warning from new Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma.

Mr Kamma had decided to take this tough stand after learning that in the past, there was no control and coordination over the influx of people with business interests who frequently travel into the region.

"You have to know that this is the office responsible for controlling and coordinating all the activities happening in Bougainville.

"So if you want to come and do your business in Bougainville, you must first consult NCOBA.

"NCOBA is there to serve the interest of the people of Bougainville," Mr Pirika said.

He said this is to avoid any inconvenience that may arise, especially when those who travel into the region undetected encounter any mishap during their stay in Bougainville.

Mr Pirika has already directed the Director General for NCOBA, Ellison Towalom, to thoroughly screen and monitor the movement of people into the region.

Meanwhile, Member for Torokina constituency in the ABG, Steven Suako, has applauded the move taken by Mr Kamma.

He said it is about time movements of people into Bougainville should be thoroughly monitored.

13.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Shark attacks French envoy

A FRENCH diplomat working for the European Union in the country was airlifted to Australia on Monday following a shark attack.

Thomas Viot, 30, was kite-surfing off Port Moresby when he was bitten by what he believed was a 2m Tiger shark on Sunday afternoon.

"I managed to ride back with my kite-surf; I was bleeding badly and I do not know how but I managed to ride back," Viot told AFP from his hospital bed in Port Moresby before being evacuated to Brisbane.

The EU economist had been in PNG for two-and-a-half years and said there were always "plenty" of sharks at the reef, but he did not see the creature before it struck.

He vowed to return to kite-surfing once he had recovered.

"It is not my first surfing accident. I got attacked by a stingray at the beginning of the year, and I always go back," he said.



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13.09.2011

Source: Malum Nalu Blog

Speech by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill at a Brisbane business luncheon, Friday, September 9, 2011

Thank you, Sir Rabbie Namaliu, Frank Kramer and your team from Kramer Ausenco and Norton Rose for organising this business luncheon.

I am honoured to have been asked to address this gathering of very important investment friends and development partners of Papua New Guinea today.

I see among you the who's who of PNG's mining and petroleum investment sector and I am proud.

It gives me an added pleasure, on this occasion, to be able to talk to you as the new executive head of a new government PNG's elected leaders created over a month ago. In fact, today marks the 38th day of the new government's existence in office.

I know you are all eager to hear what I have to say about my government's attitude to foreign investment in PNG under my watch over the next few months and beyond.

I know you have questions to ask in light of some early ministerial pronouncements with respect to equity participation and ownership issues in PNG's mining and hydrocarbon sectors in particular.

Let me say that I am here to put your questions and your curiosity to rest so that we can all move ahead to higher levels of understanding, progress and achievement hand in hand.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

First of all though, it is only fair that I make a brief mention of the change of government and leadership in Papua New Guinea on August 02.

We changed the Somare-led government because it needed to be changed. That government lost focus on assertive and decisive political and government leadership.

Worse, it lost focus on the nation's budgeted national development and public investment programmes.

For seven months, since the beginning of the year, but more so in the five months, that my predecessor had left the leadership of the nation to an Acting Prime Minister, uncertainty reigned. Chaos was not too far away.

Political instability crept in. Corruption and misappropriation of hundreds of millions of Kina for budgeted national development and public investment programmes became the order of the day.

Our situation was not helped when a small group of Ministers closely linked to Sir Michael Somare and the National Alliance Party became reckless and did as they pleased in the Grand Chief's prolonged absence on account of his illness.

The government of Papua New Guinea had effectively been "hijacked" by this small group of Ministers, who used and abused the serious illness of the then Prime Minister to subvert the parliamentary and cabinet processes and abuse public funds and property.

Public money became ring-fenced by these Ministers and used or abused as they pleased for programmes outside of those approved under this year's national budget.

Unstable political and government leadership mixed with reckless management of the nation's public finances was recipe for irreparable national dysfunction of major proportions.

In a nutshell, the former government led by Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and his hand-picked former Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal had to be changed to save our nation from becoming the "Dysfunctional Blob" that our friends from this side of the Coral Sea love to describe us.

My friends, 70 Members from both sides of the political divide in Papua New Guinea's 109-Member Parliament could not have been wrong when they overwhelmingly voted to "correct a correctable" political and government leadership impasse in our country.

That impasse was undoubtedly starting to harm our national integrity, development and services delivery and importantly, investor confidence.

Under our system of government, Prime Ministers are chosen and removed by the National Parliament. The Head of State has no role, no reserve powers.

We used the inherent lawmaking authority of our Legislature as one of three arms of government within a democratic framework to underpin the parliamentary change of government.

The process is being tested in the courts. We uphold the rule of law and we respect our legal, and our constitutional processes. It is a pity the former government did not do so. Had it done so the events I have outlined would not have been necessary.

Let me summarise the position. I lead a properly constituted government; it has a strong and coherent parliamentary majority. And it blends experience, competence, and integrity, with youth and enthusiasm.

It is probably the most experienced and qualified, and broadly based and representative, government in our history as a nation.

Early indications are that most Papua New Guineans are happy with the change of leadership and government.

We have moved swiftly to complete a number of unfinished legislative businesses of Parliament and are functioning assertively and decisively to cleanse the system of corrupt elements.

My government has already established an investigative team to probe various financial abuses including the disappearance of millions Kina of PNG's development budget for 2011 in the first quarter of this year.

CHALLENGES AND MOVING FORWARD

Let me move on to some of the challenges - and opportunities - we face as a government.

One of my first challenges as Prime Minister is to address corruption and the abuse of public money.

In the short term we have appointed an investigator to quickly examine suspicious financial transactions that occurred outside the proper processes during the final months of the last government.

But in the medium term we will do what should have been done years ago - establish a well-resourced Independent Commission against Corruption. That was one of the first commitments of my new government.

The best way to wage war against corruption is to significantly increase the prospects of detection, and successful prosecution. That is what the new commission will be charged with doing.

The current system is simply not working. It has not been working for years.

My government faces enormous challenges in improving basic service delivery, and in rebuilding and expanding vital national infrastructure - such as roads ports and electricity.

This is the infrastructure you and other investors need to effectively develop our vast mineral, oil and gas resources in particular.

Money is not really the problem. The capacity to spend it effectively is.

We have serious public sector capacity and delivering problems. Devolving delivery to local communities, and using the resources of our churches and NGO's, is helping to improve service delivery.

But there is a long way to go. Time is not on our side. The national elections are less than a year away, but we will use every day between now and then to try and address some of these great challenges.

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Let me now turn to the issues you all want to hear about today. Papua New Guinea needs foreign investment dollars.

I say this without a shadow of doubt and with all sincerity. I am realistic enough to also say that wanting foreign investment and expecting it on a golden platter is not a one way street. Yes, it's a two-way street. We give to you as well as you give us.

In the first few days of coming into office, a number of statements pertaining to the various equity and ownership positions were made by a number of my ministers.

Let me reassure you that the goal-posts have not been shifted and relocated.

The playing field remains the same and shall be maintained that way for the foreseeable future.

In the mining industry, the applicable law provides for 30% equity for PNG to take up in any new mining project.

Similarly, the equity position provided by the PNG Oil and Gas Act provides a 22.5% equity stake for PNG.

The PNG government, affected provincial governments and landowner communities share these equity and other benefits provided under the respective applicable laws.

If local interests demand higher equity position for landowners and provincial governments, the onus is on the National Government to resolve such demand from our equity position as stipulated by the Mining and Oil and Gas Acts respectively.

We can also make adjustments under the applicable tax regimes to reward provinces that host these multi-billion dollar mining and petroleum projects with some percentage of tax benefits derived from these projects.

The most-important agenda of my government, with respect to the mining and petroleum industries, is to create an enabling environment within which projects can be developed peacefully and benefits and multiplier business opportunities derived thereof are shared fairly among all stakeholders.

There is no need at the present time to destabilise mining and petroleum industry developers and investors with a law designed to compromise or reduce their present respective equity position.

The applicable laws have not changed. Changes may and will occur in the future but they will have to be driven by a win-win formula for all stakeholders in a predictable manner.

These changes – when they are desired and when they do occur - will take place with and after comprehensive dialogue and discussion with you and with all other affected parties including landowners in Papua New Guinea.

Let me also reassure you that my government is about being inclusive right across the board on all matters of national affairs.

And that includes all aspects of the foreign investment and natural resource extraction industries sectors in PNG.

My government is not about creating sovereign risks for my nation's foreign investment and development potential.

My government is not about making life difficult for foreign investors, especially those that have invested millions of dollars in speculative exploration and later to develop and underpin emerging world class mining and hydrocarbon industries in PNG.

My government respects the principle of finders keep and finders share. That is the spirit within which we will, and we shall all operate under my watch.

I have cautioned, and will caution again, my ministers and State-owned corporations, involved in the mining and hydrocarbon industry, to desist promptly from giving misleading signals to the foreign investment sector.

It is not my government's position to create insecurity, political risk or threaten foreign investment with expropriation. Some of these negative signals have been made since my government took office.

I will vigorously investigate this deception targeted at the progress of the two multi-billion dollar LNG projects and take corrective action in the coming days.

Let me reiterate in the strongest terms that I lead an inclusive and consultative government that will not fall back on the bad habits of governments that have been in power previously in PNG.

I am serious about the bigger interests of the nation - not corruption and vindictive personalised agenda of my ministers or persons who seek to actively use my ministers to further their deceptive agenda in the mining and petroleum industries in particular.

MINING SECTOR

We have world class gold, copper and nickel resources.

Ok Tedi gold and copper mine has been a mainstay of the PNG economy since independence.

Lihir gold mine has been a strong performer for our economy.

Wafi gold prospect has the resource potential to be the biggest gold and copper mine in the Southern Hemisphere.

This will further boost the PNG economy in the next 20 years. It will be a significant contributor to the government's coffers in the future.

Ramu nickel mine adds significant weight to the mineral resource boom now taking place in PNG.

HYDROCARBON SECTOR

The two multi-billion dollar LNG projects – PNG LNG being developed by a consortium led by ExxonMobil and Oil Search Limited and Gulf LNG, being established by InterOil Corporation and its partners – both world class projects.

These are projects with potential to create revenue in-flows for PNG like never before.

On August 9, I stated in my initial policy statement that every effort will be made by my government to assist these two projects to meet their initial production timelines in 2014.

My position has not changed.

I will ensure there are no political and bureaucratic interference in their progress.

All dealings with regard to these two projects shall be transparent and predictable. The importance of these two projects can neither be overstated nor understated.

To give these projects the prominence they deserve, I will dedicate a senior member of my staff in the coming days as a direct link in my office, whose job it will be to actively liaise directly with the responsible ministry, department and LNG Facilitation Office to ensure this two projects are not hampered in their progress by political and bureaucratic nepotism.

The PNG LNG project needs all the help that my government can give, and we shall do that as a matter of priority, to address all outstanding landowner issues and resolve them so that there are no further delays in progressing this project to production.

Similarly, my government will not tolerate any interference designed to delay progress of the Gulf LNG project. Gulf LNG is nearing a Final Invest Decision by the end of this year and all assistance will be given by my government to fulfil all their requirements to arrive at FID.

I want to see these two projects developed together.

RESPECTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT

In concluding, my government respects the commitment of foreign investment companies that have stayed loyal to PNG in both the good and bad economic times PNG has face since the early 1990s.

We welcome new foreign investment initiatives in our booming mining and petroleum sectors.

However, we would like to see that new investors and returning investors respect those that are already operating in PNG. We would like to see that potential investors come through the front door with their goodies.

In all sincerity, the last thing we all want is to destabilise existing well-meaning investors who have long-haul interests and commitment as PNG's development partners.

My government believes in being predictable and forthright in our dealings with all foreign investors in our nation's various natural resource sectors.

12.09.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville NGO says residents ignored drought warnings

An NGO in Papua New Guinea's autonomous province of Bougainville says residents had ignored warnings to prepare for a drought which is currently affecting more than six-thousand people.

The President of the North Bougainville Women's Federation, Hona Holan says the Government gave sufficient warning to people, particularly in Buka and the islands of the Caterets and Nissan, to grow more crops.

She says people have not taken heed of the warnings.

"Well I think that the chiefs should have been involved because a lot of people live in the communities with chiefs, so they should monitor their own communities and just see that the communities, the people are involved in planting whatever crops can last during the drought, or give more awareness to the people on how they can save water."

Hona Holan says many residents from the remote islands are no relying on water and food provisions from the Government.

12.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUC reminds sellers

By JOYCE TOHUI

Buka Urban Council's Environmental Health Officer, Lawrencia Kumis is reminding mothers again of the health requirements imposed on the sale of cooked food at the Buka market.

She told New Dawn FM this morning that during inspections last Friday there were little problems where fish were not properly wrapped.

Ms Kumis warned that if sellers are not abiding by the rules these certain items will be removed at the market.

She said so far so good mothers are following the rules and it stays that way.

Ms Kumis also called on customers to always remember to wash their hands before touching and eating cooked food to avoid sickness.

The Environmental Health Officer called on the people of Bougainville to always practice basic hygiene as prevention is better than cure.

She said prevention is priceless but to find cure costs so much when an outbreak of a disease occurs.

12.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PRODUCERS AWARDS

By Aloysius Laukai

The International Association for Women in Radio and Television is calling for female producers, directors and journalists working with radio, TV and film documentaries around the world to submit entries to the 2011 IAWRT Awards for Excellence in Documentary Making.

The Documentaries must be about women who are making a difference to their own lives or the lives of other women around the world.

The deadline for submission of entries is on October 15, 2011.

In making the announcement, Program and Communication Officer, MIMI COLOMA RICAMUNDA said that the award is to recognize women for their work around the world. She said that more details including rules and entry form can be downloaded from the internet on www.iawwrt.org/awards .

12.09.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MOU SIGNED

By Aloysius Laukai

Pacific island leaders witnessed on September 7th the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Chief Executive Officers of the region's two key intergovernmental technical agencies to solidify and further strengthen commitment to collaboration and partnership for sustainable development in the Pacific Island region.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Mr David Sheppard, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) signed the MOU during the meeting of Smaller Islands States Leaders held in conjunction with the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum Meetings being held in Auckland this week.

SecretaryGeneral of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Tuiloma Neroni Slade, welcomed the signing of the agreement, noting that it is encouraging to see formal institutional arrangements to guide the relationship between the two organisations.

Under the MOU the two organizations will maximize effective cooperation and efficiency and reduce duplication in delivering services to their member countries and territories within their respective mandates.

The MOU addresses mechanisms for consultations at CEO level and also at technical and programme staff levels, participation at each organization's government body meetings and operational arrangements.

"Importantly, the MOU is designed to not be "people dependent" for effective cooperation and collaboration," said Dr Rogers. "It is an institutional partnership that will extend beyond the respective tenures of the current CEOs and will guide the working relationship between our two organizations into the future."

"The MOU will enable both SPREP and SPC to together deliver more effectively on addressing the issues affecting our region in a long term sustainable manner," said Mr David Sheppard, Director of SPREP. "SPREP views this agreement as an opportunity to further mainstream environmental considerations in sustainable development planning for the region."

The agreement comes into effect immediately upon signing (on 5th September, 2011) and will remain in force for a period of four years. It will be renewed by mutual consent at the end of the four years and shall be subjected to a review after 2years.

New Dawn FM on Bougainville gets most of its trainers from the SPC with assistance from Commonwealth of Learning based in Canada.



Minister Pirika welcomed at the Buka airport
Picture by Aloysius Laukai



New Bougainville Affairs Minister and member for South Bougainville, STEVEN KAMA PIRIKA was welcomed recently at the Buka airport by ABG Minister for finance, ALBERT PUNGHAU and Regional member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso and former Minister for Bougainville Affairs.
Picture by Aloysius Laukai

12.09.2011
Source: ESBC

Radio New Dawn Back Online!

Updated
by Aloysius Laukai

New Dawn FM would like to apologize to its viewers that due to billing problem we could not update our site in the last few weeks.

This has been sorted out and we will start updating the site as from today.

Aloysius Laukai
Manager
New Dawn FM

12.09.2011
Source: Radio New Zealand International

Fears drought is drying up food and water in Buka Island in Bougainville

There are fears that drought is diminishing food and water sources on Buka Island in Papua New Guinea's Autonomous Province of Bougainville.

The dry season is traditionally felt in Bougainville from October to April but authorities say the islands of Buka, the Carterets, Nissan, Fead, Mortlock and Tasman have experienced little rain during its wet season.

A local councillor for the Tonsu constituency in Buka District, Jessie Banam says food is running out as gardens have dried up other water sources are also scarce.

"For the water, the river waters are probably within four to five months is going to go dry. Some of our creeks at Tonsu constituency is already dry. Our only hope is our water tanks but it's not going to do much help for us."

Jessie Banam says she is rallying support from locals to write a letter seeking urgent help from the Bougainville Government.

12.09.2011

Source: The National

PM assures security for investments

PRIME MINISTER Peter O'Neill has assured foreign investors, especially in the mining and petroleum sector, that government will not create insecurity, political risk or threaten foreign investment with expropriation.

"Let me reassure you that the goal posts have not been shifted and relocated because the playing field remains the same and shall be maintained that way for the foreseeable future," he said during a business luncheon.

The lunch was hosted by **Sir Rabbie Namaliu**, Frank Kramer and the team from Kramer Ausenco and Norton Rose, last Friday in Brisbane, Australia.

O'Neill was referring to statements made by his ministers pertaining to the various equity and ownership positions, stating that these were some negative signals made since his government took office.

O'Neill said he had cautioned his ministers and state-owned corporations involved in the mining and hydrocarbon industry, to stop giving misleading signals to foreign investors. **He said the government was not about making life difficult for foreign investors who had invested millions of dollars in the exploration phases and later develop emerging world class mining and hydrocarbon industries in PNG.**

"My government respects the commitment of foreign investment companies that have been loyal to PNG in both good and bad economic times PNG has faced since the early 1990s," he said.

"We welcome new foreign investment initiatives in our mining and petroleum sectors.

"However, we would like to see that new and returning investors respect those that are already operating in PNG," the prime minister said.

O'Neill said government believed in being predictable and forthright in its dealings with all foreign investors in PNG's various natural resource sectors.

"This is not the time to destabilise mining and petroleum industry developers and investors with a law designed to compromise or reduce their present respective equity position.

"The applicable laws have not changed.

"Changes may and will occur in the future but they will have to be driven by a win-win formula for all stakeholders in a predictable manner."

12.09.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Powerful diplomacy behind Pacific Islands Forum meeting

While Pacific Island leaders were meeting in New Zealand last week, behind the scenes a much bigger game of international diplomacy was taking place.

Delegates from countries as far away as Luxembourg, Bhutan and Hungary were in Auckland to lobby Pacific Island leaders for their support in the race for a temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council.

China and the United States also sent representatives to meet with leaders on the sidelines of the forum as the two super powers vie for influence in the region.

Presenter: Simon Cullen

Speaker: John Key, New Zealand Prime Minister

SIMON CULLEN: When it comes to votes at the United Nations General Assembly, each country's vote counts equally. Meaning small Pacific Island countries, like Nauru or Tuvalu, are just as important as countries like India, with a population of more than a billion people.

And that's what has brought delegates from countries as far away as Europe to the sidelines of the Pacific Islands Forum in New Zealand this week. Many of the countries are campaigning for a temporary seat on the UN Security Council.

TUILAEPA SAILELE: Request for support are made. There have been approaches to me for meetings but their requests clashed with our meetings.

SIMON CULLEN: The Samoan prime minister, Tuilaepa Sailele, says it's not uncommon for countries to use the forum to seek support from Pacific Island leaders.

TUILAEPA SAILELE: When opportunities do arise here, you know, they do it also, this is the kind of practice we do all the time.

SIMON CULLEN: Australia is campaigning for a temporary seat on the Security Council starting in 2013. It's up against Luxembourg and Finland, but there are only two available places, and all three countries took advantage of the forum to seek support for their bids.

PASI PATOKALLIO: We're very well aware of our friendly competition. We have Australia here and we have Luxembourg here and that's, that's normal.

SIMON CULLEN: Pasi Patokallio is leading the delegation from Finland.

PASI PATOKALLIO: We are making our best case and, of course, so is Australia and so is Luxembourg. And then the sovereign nations, the countries will decide whom to support.

But being here Australia, of course, is in a different position than say from us or Luxembourg, because you're here and you have extensive links with the countries. You're a member of the Pacific Island Forums which we certainly are not. So Australia in this part of the world has, shall we say, a home advantage.

MURRAY MCCULLY: We've made it very clear to other countries that we support Australia and will do everything we can to help Australia get up in terms of that race.

SIMON CULLEN: New Zealand's foreign minister, Murray McCully.

Fiji's actively lobbying other Pacific Island countries not to support Australia's bid. But the region's leaders meeting at this week's Forum reaffirmed their support for Australia's campaign.

Murray McCully again.

MURRAY MCCULLY: Australia, which is of course a very generous donor in the region, and has played a very constructive role in regional affairs enjoys enormous goodwill from Pacific countries.

SIMON CULLEN: Another race that has been playing out behind the scenes is one between China and the United States. Both countries sent high-level representatives to the Pacific Islands Forum. The US delegation included the deputy secretary of state, Thomas Nides.

China's influence in the region is growing and the US knows it needs to step up its own efforts in the Pacific.

KURT CAMPBELL: When you look back over 15 or 20 years, it is undeniable that the United States has not performed effectively in the Pacific. But I think we've tried to reverse that.

SIMON CULLEN: Kurt Campbell is the top US diplomat for the Pacific region. He says the United States wants to work with China to help the Pacific.

KURT CAMPBELL: What we'd like to see is engagement that's transparent, that's coordinated, that is designed to meet the best interests of the people of the Pacific. That's our overall goal.

SIMON CULLEN: Do you think China is being transparent and does have the best interests of the Pacific at heart?

KURT CAMPBELL: Look I think it's a work in progress.

SIMON CULLEN: But New Zealand's prime minister, John Key, seems less concerned about the rise of China in the region.

JOHN KEY: As its wealth increases it's spreading its footprint across the world, and that includes the Pacific. And my view of that would be that aid can make a real difference to those countries and we should encourage that.

12.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville police probe foreigners

POLICE investigations into "foreign retail and wholesale business operations" in Buka town are yet to be completed, Bougainville's top cop Thomas Eluh announced on Friday. Mr Eluh told reporters in Buka last Friday that the Police investigating team was closing in on a particular Asian run retail shop operating in Buka town, and they were only

awaiting instructions from the Labour office to carry out arrests.

Early speculations and allegations detailed that most of these Asians, particularly Chinese who were married to Bougainvilleans had brought in other “family members or friends” who did not have proper work permits into the country. The allegations, according to Mr Eluh, were being investigated but that would also need an effective input from the Labour Office in Buka and Port Moresby and that of Immigrations.

He said while they were still carrying out investigations and working closely with Labour office on the issue of foreigners coming and operating, they have already finalised some of their reports and only awaiting response from other authorities before any actions could be carried out.

He also announced to the public that police were now carrying out checks at the airport and wharf, effectively in Buka, particularly to find out from every travelling foreigner what they were doing in town and who had invited them and for what reason.

12.09.2011

Source: Scoop

Bougainville Library another step closer to being built



Mr Binding with a model of the library

The Bougainville Library project is about to take another step forward when VSA volunteer Barry Binding leaves Wellington on September 20 to spend six weeks developing a project management plan for the \$350,000 building.

The library – or stori haus – is the inspiration of Wellington writer Lloyd Jones, whose 2007 Man Booker Prize-winning novel *Mister Pip* is set in Bougainville.

As well as developing a project management plan, Mr Binding will also organise the timber needed for the project, and will prepare the site for building.

The library is being built on the grounds of Arawa High School in Arawa, the former capital of Bougainville. It has been designed by Wellington architect Paul Kerr-Hislop and will be built by trainee carpenters from Arawa Carpentry. VSA helped set up Arawa Carpentry in 1999 as part of the reconstruction process following 10 years of civil war.

Mr Binding, a Kapiti Coast builder, returned from a two-year VSA assignment based at Arawa Carpentry in May 2010. While he was there he built a model of the library to give

local people a chance to see what it will look like. He is one of several VSA volunteers who have been closely involved with the library project.

He is looking forward to returning to Bougainville to start the next stage of the process.

"It's really exciting to finally be getting ready to build the library. It will be a great asset for the people of Bougainville, and everyone is really looking forward to seeing being able to use it."

Once the project management plan has been developed and approved, Mr Binding will return to Bougainville as a VSA volunteer in February 2012 to spend six months supervising the building process.

Lloyd Jones, chair of the Bougainville Library Trust, says he is delighted Mr Binding is involved in the project.

"We couldn't have got the project underway without VSA, and no-one is more qualified or suitable to the task of building the library than Barry. He spent two years living in Bougainville, and he is held in very high esteem there."

12.09.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG relocation plans amid drought near Bougainville island

The head of disaster management in Papua New Guinea's Autonomous Region of Bougainville says plans to relocate residents from remote islands are progressing.

For years the people of the Carteret Islands have been wanting to move from their flood-prone atolls to the Bougainville mainland.

The Carterets and other outlying islands including Nissan, Mortlock and Tasman islands are experiencing a severe drought.

The Bougainville Regional Disaster Director, Franklin Leslie, says so far local chiefs have given their approval for one site to be used for resettlement.

"There are final negotiations to the issue. By the end of next month they'll be signing a memorandum of agreement and then after that the MOU. So we can get these people from the atolls to resettle at this particular site. The Government has put aside two million to cater for this resettlement programme."

Franklin Leslie says within the first five years, 40 houses will be built to cater for 40 families from the outlying islands.

10.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research



Vikki John - is she turning mad?

Who will finally help poor Vikki John?

An academic officer of UTS faculty of law supposed to turn mad.

[Vikki John](#) lives in Sydney. She works as an academic officer in the Faculty of Law of the [UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY \(UTS\)](#). Her single academic publication has been published in 2004 (*'Bougainville Freedom Movement' in As Mothers of the Land, Pandanus, Canberra, Australia, pp. 85-90*).

Since many years Mrs. John grimly supports left-wing anti-mining campaigns against Rio Tinto and Bougainville Copper Limited. For many years Mrs. John kept a secret of sweet passion for late Bougainville President Joseph Kabui. Since Kabui's death in 2008 she suffers increasingly from irate out-breaks.

It is quite obvious that Vikki John suffers since a couple of years from major mental troubles as paranoiac symptoms. Until now, Mrs. John unfortunately does not receive imperative needed adequate psychiatric care yet.

Therefore, in internet forums as the Yahoo Bougainville group she still writes lunatic statements such as the following:

On 9/8/11, Vikki John <vikkibfm123@yahoo.com.au> wrote:

**> WOW, RIO TINTO ARE SO COOL. THEY HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING
WRONG. SPEW SPEW
> GOT A NEW SONG. YEAH THEY ARE SO HUMANIST VOMIT VOMIT VOMIT
> KILLED ALL OF 15000 TO 20000 OF YOU MY BOUGAINVILLE
> WOW A POWERFUL MINING COMPANY BCL CRA NOW RIO TINTO
> DO THEY CARE?
> NO SORRY THEY DONT CARE FOR YOU!
> SO NOW WILL YOU THINK ABOUT YOURSELF?
> THEY KILLED SO MANY OF YOUR PEOPLE!
> I HATE THE CREEPS.
> I KEEP VOMITTING. I KEEP VOMITTING. I KEEP VOMITTING.**

Herewith the ESBC urge the dean of the UTS faculty of law, [Professor Jill McKeough](#), and head of the personal department of the UTS to take better care of their staff and to provide psychiatric care to those who suffer from major mental problems as Mrs. John does.

10.09.2011

Source: Brisbane Times - Business Day

Waiting for the floodgates to open

China is awash with cash and the Australian resources sector is ripe with opportunity, writes John Garnaut in Beijing.

Each working day the People's Bank of China buys more than \$US2 billion (\$1.88 billion) worth of foreign currency from Chinese businesses and invests it overseas.

China's outbound direct investment - the portion that matters to Australian takeover targets - has increased 30-fold in seven years.

"We've had something like 260 projects approved since November '07, \$65 billion worth," says Frances Adamson, Australia's new ambassador in Beijing.

Advertisement: Story continues below The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, says there is more to come. "We've had three very big years and there's more coming if you actually listen to the sorts of conversations I've been listening to," he told the Herald when visiting China last week.

And Geoff Raby, the former ambassador who Adamson replaced last month, has shown his faith in the continuing investment flow by trading his senior diplomatic career for a modest portion of the China-Australia investment flow. Raby has taken directorships at five Australian firms that have tapped (or hope to tap) into China's swelling investment coffers: miners Fortescue and Oceanagold, fund manager QIC, law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Riverstone Advisory.

"Australia has always been a capital importer and China has a capital surplus and it is inevitable that it's going to flow from China to Australia," says Raby.

Raby has taken a sixth directorship, with technology firm Smarttrans, which is notable for being one of the few Australian companies sending investment money the other way.

The economics of emerging markets and fixed exchange rates imply that China's outward investment wave is just a ripple compared with what must be coming.

"We stand at the dawn of hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese mergers, acquisitions, and investments in new greenfield facilities around the world over the decades to come," write Daniel Rosen and Thilo Hanemann in the opening of a report on Chinese investment to the United States, commissioned by the Asia Society.

"If China follows the typical pattern of an emerging economy, it will ship \$US1 trillion to \$US2 trillion in direct investment abroad by 2020."

And yet, as the report points out, it hasn't happened yet.

China has invested the vast bulk of its \$US3.2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves in US bonds while deploying only a fraction to foreign direct investments. The most recent official figures show that China accounts for just \$US230 billion - a mere 1.2 per cent - of the global stock of FDI.

In 2009, China's average income had risen close to the global average but its per capita FDI share was just \$US175, compared with a global average of \$US2900. For all the hype, China's outward investment flows have not shifted much in the last few years and have remained stuck below 1 per cent of GDP, which is less than a fifth of foreign direct investment inflows into China.

In Australia, Wayne Swan's Foreign Investment Review Board has cleared the log-jam of Chinese applications and all sides say the processes have improved.

"Why the [FIRB] issue has settled down a lot from when it was a lot hotter a couple of years ago [is that now they're] all coming in with portfolio investments rather than marching in and saying we're going to do it all on our own," says Swan. "I think they are as a matter of policy diversifying."

But even in Australia, where FIRB has approved \$65 billion of investment in recent years, the reality is unremarkable.

Daniel Rosen and Thilo Hanemann of the Rhodium Group are keeping tabs on China's foreign investments across the world.

Their data base, based on media reports and other public information, suggests less than a third of those "approved" Australian deals ever came to fruition. Their data show Chinese investment into Australia hit \$3.5 billion in 2008, doubled again to \$7.2 billion in 2009 and then fell to \$1.5 billion in 2009 and \$2.7 billion in the year to date. In the past two years Australia has taken a back seat as Chinese firms have gained a foothold in Canada and South America.

The reason for China's investment temerity, it seems, is that lending money to foreign governments is easy but managing real businesses is hard. It's proving to be particularly tough for the state-owned companies that dominate the investment flow.

The leaders of these companies - known as "number one" in China - have enormous power. Their fortunes are determined by how well they impress officials higher up the tree. The ones who succeed overseas are quick to recognise that the skills and relationships that led them towards the top of the Chinese bureaucracy are not enough.

In Australia, as elsewhere, they are forced to contend with all manner of lower-level stakeholders, including minority shareholders, workers and local communities.

A fortnight ago China's top foreign ministry official, Zhang Zhijun, flew to Canberra for an annual bilateral strategic dialogue.

The meetings were productive, the relationship appeared in good shape, but the Chinese side again expressed frustration with how difficult it was to invest in Australia. The disquiet has moved on from FIRB to cumbersome red tape including environmental, heritage and labour regulations.

"It's just a general sense that investing in Australia takes so long and can be so hard," said one Chinese official, involved in the recent bilateral talks.

Exactly how long, and how hard, can depend on the company - or even which division of which company - is doing the investing.

CITIC Australia, a subsidiary of Hong Kong-listed CITIC Resources (which in turn is controlled by the state-owned parent company), has been kicking goals in Australia since signing one of China's very first overseas joint ventures, in 1984. The Portland aluminium smelter with Alcoa was strongly backed by China's original "red capitalist", Rong Yiren, and is still going strong.

CITIC Australia has been run by a respected professional, Chen Zeng, who was promoted in April to run the parent, CITIC Resources.

Zeng led CITIC Australia to be a founding investor in Ken Talbot's Macarthur Coal, where he now faces the enviable dilemma of whether to cash in his hugely profitable quarter share or mount a counter offer to Peabody's \$4.9 billion takeover.

It seems likely that FIRB has approved an application, judging by the lack of angst in China.

"Swan would not set foot in China again if he handed Macarthur to an American company by blocking the original Chinese founding shareholder," said one observer, perhaps with some exaggeration.

Rong Yiren stepped down as chairman of the CITIC group in 1993 to take the job of vice-president of China. He was replaced by Wang Jun, son of the hardline Communist Party elder Wang Zhen. Rong bequeathed a portion of his state-owned empire to his son, Larry Yung, who was given the chairmanship and a large chunk of shares in another Hong Kong-listed arm, CITIC Pacific.

In 2006 CITIC Pacific was given carriage of an iron ore project that needed to be signed for Premier Wen Jiabao's tour of Western Australia in 2006. It paid \$200 million for Clive Palmer's Sino Iron and budgeted to spend \$1.4 billion to get it producing iron ore by 2009.

The company managed to "hedge" its Australian dollar exposure with an exotic product that capped potential gains but allowed for unlimited losses if the dollar fell below US87¢. The financial crisis hit, the Aussie dollar was smashed and CITIC Pacific initially covered up losses before confessing they had risen to about \$2.7 billion.

CITIC Pacific was bailed out by Beijing. CITIC Pacific didn't know much about finance but it knew even less about iron ore mining.

It gave the construction contract and a 20 per cent equity stake to China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC) - a state-owned enterprise (SOE) that had no experience in

developed countries or in iron ore mine construction. The two SOE behemoths have been feuding ever since.

For his part, MCC boss Shen Heting has lashed Australia's regulatory environment, especially for preventing him from importing cheap Chinese workers. He faces similarly unexpected challenges in every country he has major investments in including Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan and Libya.

And he has been arguing the case that Chinese taxpayers should continue to fund his investment misadventures.

"This business is not only something we want to pursue but something we need to do for the country," Shen told Caixin Media last year.

Last month CITIC said final construction costs for the iron ore deal would blow out to \$US6.1 billion - excluding hedging contract losses - on a project that is now running two years late.

China's "go out" investment strategy became policy in 1999 and began to get noticed around the world about 2007 when China's foreign exchange reserves began to break records. But the strategy was really conceived in the 1970s and born in the 1980s in collaboration with Australia.

While the Chinese investment landscape is littered with accidents there are success stories, too, which all trace an ancestry to those innovative and reforming times.

The early resource import and investment deals were championed by visionary leaders like Hu Yaobang, Zhao Ziyang and Bob Hawke and executed by practical and open-minded businessmen. It began with CRA chairman Rod Carnegie shipping the first cargo of Australian iron ore to a trading company called China Minmetals in 1973.

In 2009 the same Minmetals company saved OZ Minerals from liquidation, earning domestic support in Australia. Minmetals has made its money back in just two years, although the success of the deal has been obscured by its complexity.

(The price tag was \$1.4 billion but Minmetals paid only \$300 million in cash while transferring \$1.1 billion in debt funding to the target company. That \$300 million was returned to the company as a special dividend before last year's re-listing in Hong Kong, while the successful share placement enabled the company to repay \$700 million of its earlier debt.)

Minmetals still controls 72 per cent of the listed company, renamed Minmetals Resources, and is probably China's most profitable non-oil overseas investment. The broader point is that the company's experiment in outsourcing management to local experts has become a model for other Chinese miners to follow.

"We have a huge number of delegations come through from SASAC [which manages Chinese government companies] looking at how we run our business from a safety and environmental point of view," says Minmetals' boss Andrew Micheltmore. "They know there are huge challenges but they want to learn."

Micheltmore plans to build a \$US20 billion mid-tier mining company within five years.

CRA's Carnegie and Russel Madigan continued to engage with China and in 1987 they signed an historic Pilbara iron ore joint venture with Sinosteel (in those days China Metallurgical Import and Export Corp).

Last year Sinosteel and Rio Tinto re-signed to continue the Channar iron ore venture, which has so far shipped 190 million tonnes of iron ore to China and is the country's most successful overseas mining venture. (Sinosteel's \$1.4 billion investment in Midwest, however, may never get off the ground).

Carnegie brought a steady stream of metal industry officials to Australia. One of them, Fei Ziwen, deputy director of a copper mine, spent three months at Bougainville copper mine in the early 1980s.

"He really stood out, he just asked so many questions, he was so sharp and an exceptionally nice guy," says Ian Bauert, who was CRA's China representative in the 1980s and has returned in the same role for Rio Tinto. Bauert entertained Fei at his parents' Gold Coast home.

Fei, who had spent much of his life as a mining engineer in Chinese gold mine shafts without dust protection, was blown away by CRA's safety and environmental standards. He returned to write a small book on how to build a modern copper mine and was given a meteoric promotion to the top of China National Nonferrous Metals Industry Corporation.

In 1988 Fei sent 22 of his brightest officials on secondments in Australia. The group included Xiao Yaqing, who ended up running the company's aluminium assets when they were hived off to form Chinalco. Xiao became known as one of the most capable and dynamic leaders after he led Chinalco's tilt at Rio Tinto.

Xiao's travel group was led by Xu Hanjing, who later joined forces with Macquarie bankers Nick Curtis and Jake Klein to found Australia's biggest investment success in China, Sino Gold. Sino Gold was valued at \$1.9 billion when it was sold to Canada's Eldorado in 2009.

Xu, who now works at Riverstone Advisory along with Curtis and the former ambassador Geoff Raby, recalls how his mentor Fei had driven China Nonferrous into modernity. Along with his reform-minded successor Wu Jianchang (Deng Xiaoping's son-in-law) Fei introduced new open cut copper mining methods, split the group into specialist areas and removed socialist-era "iron rice bowl" government programs. "All mines had their own schools, hospitals and even police but he encouraged them to do only mining."

Fei is now retired in Beijing, where he suffers from silicosis. A few years ago Xu invited him to visit Sino Gold's mine in Shaanxi province to see its community, environmental and work safety programs.

"Fei was just a mining engineer, with no political background, who worked very hard and was very smart," says Xu. "A lot of his friends had died very early because of the dust from gold mining in Liaoning. He stayed at our gold mine for four days and told me, 'This is something I dreamed of for Chinese mining industry', and immediately wrote an emotional report to premier Wen Jiabao."

Proteges of the Australian and Chinese miners who pioneered China's go-out strategy continue to have impact. But the likes of Fei Ziwen, Xiao Yaqing, Chen Zeng and Xu Hanjing don't always win the day.

When Sino Gold's Shaanxi mine was nearly exhausted, the remnants were sold to a Chinese enterprise. They stacked a new tailings dam on top of the existing one and it collapsed when a tremor struck the area. The huge body of water and mud was caught by the original Sino Gold tailings dam which held firm before it could destroy the local community.

"Even now Chinese mining is in cash mining stage, shovel by shovel, get the best vein and then get out," says Xu. "It's not stupidity but immaturity. Building a mining equity market requires further reform. The challenge with reform is when you stop rowing a boat you go backwards - and you lose."

Read more: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/world-business/waiting-for-the-floodgates-to-open-20110909-1k1uc.html#ixzz1XTUr5Nz5>

09.09.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Drought worsening on Bougainville outer islands

The head of disaster management in Papua New Guinea's Autonomous Province of Bougainville says a drought affecting 6,000 people is getting worse.

The island of Buka and outer islands including the Carterets, Nissan, Fead, Mortlock and Tasman islands have had little rain during the wet season, which runs from May to September.

The Bougainville Regional Disaster Director Franklin Leslie says the dry season has come early and left many people short on food and water.

"It is really it is already getting worse. The little water has been given by the small rainy season in the last two months have subsided. We are already feeling the pinch of it. There's no water in schools. Some schools are already cautioning children."

Franklin Leslie says the Bougainville Government has budgeted more than 700,000 US dollars to provide aid but says the PNG government is yet to provide the funds.

09.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chiefs make allowance call

By JOYCE TOHUI

BUKA chiefs are calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to pay them allowance for facing all types of risks during the Bougainville conflict.

The Chairman of Chairmen's of Buka Council of Elders, Romeo Tohiana said that chiefs deserved to be paid risk allowance for their services to the communities they served during the conflict.

"The government must compensate the chiefs similar to the risk allowance public servants would receive," said Tohiana.

Mr Tohiana said that Buka chiefs should be recognised for establishing peace and normalcy first on Bougainville.

Meanwhile, a Buka youth called on the ABG to establish a medal system to recognise chiefs and individuals who contributed in establishing and creating peace on Bougainville.

The youth, who wants to remain anonymous, said that the ABG must have a record of bravery acts of Bougainvilleans during the Bougainville conflict and the medal system is a good way of recognising their efforts.

He said that the ABG should not consider any risk allowance in cash but through the medal system in which many people in all districts can be recognised.

The youth said that paying cash as risk allowance will not work as the ABG does not have any money for these kinds of activities.

It was understood that the risk allowance owed to public servants was awarded in 2000 for the risks taken by public servants, mainly nurses and teachers, who worked during the peak of the crisis and the public servants allowance is from the National Government who was the employer of these public servants who served during the conflict.

09.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Road opens to markets

By PETERSON TSERAHA

THE new Jaba Paruparu road will enable cash crop farmers, particularly cocoa farmers, easy access to the market their cocoa in Arawa, and also mothers with their fresh produce will for the first time come down to the main market in Arawa.

National member for central Bougainville and Minister for Communication Jimmy Miringtoro allocated K2.4 million for the road which will be a history for the people of Eivo since PNG's independence.

Member for Eivo Torau in the Autonomous Bougainville Government Melchior Dare said a lot of mothers in his constituency were now fortunate because their fresh produce would be sold at the market in Arawa.

"My people are very business-minded people, we have a lot of cocoa in Eivo but we spend something like a whole week to take all of them down here then pay for a car again and then go down to the buying depot in Arawa town," Mr Dare said.

"Our main aim is to revive the Region's economy through cash crops and that is what we here in Eivo Torau are doing and this new road, which will soon be constructed, will enable us to come down to the markets more conveniently and easily."

"Our mothers will be happy because they will be supplying the whole of Arawa with fresh produce straight from their gardens."

Cocoa in the Eivo area is of the best quality on Bougainville and the people of Paruparu will now be very happy to contribute to Bougainville's economy.

The people of Eivo are now very grateful to the Communications Minister Jimmy Miringtoro for funding the road which will enable them to conduct their business easily.

09.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Environment is vital'

By PETERSON TSERAHA

MINING should not be the first thing on every Bougainvillean's mind, Mekamui government of Unity Vice President Philip Takaung said.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Paruparu Jaba road, Philip Takaung said the environment should be the first thing people should be cautious and mindful

about.

"We mustn't let money lure us into disaster, and damage our natural habitat by destroying the eco system and we will be evacuated somewhere to live," MrTakaung said.

He made these statements after landowner groups from other mine areas like Tore in Kunua west Bougainville and Karato in the central Bougainville west coast border, are intending to invite exploration companies into their areas.

"Don't be fooled by money, and remember what we all fought for, because when a lot of people see money, they become greedy and forget about others.

"A lot of us, especially us the ex combatants, I can admit it right now that we are very greedy. We have lost our goal and vision of what we fought for."

He said that when mining comes in, the baby greedy monster will grow until it eats up every body and leaves no one. "How would you feel when you give away your sacred land and your fishing and hunting grounds, to a mining company and you are relocated to some other place?" he asked.

09.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tonsu people go to the polls tomorrow

POLLING for the Tonsu by-election will start on Saturday, September 10 and will end on 14.

Candidates have up to today to carry out last minute campaigns in the area.

According to the polling schedule, two teams will run the election between this Saturday and next Wednesday to cover all villages in the Tonsu Constituency.

Team one would cover Kahule Primary School and surrounding villages, Tung, Poka and Novah Primary School whilst Team two will cover Novah 2, Matsungan island, Hetal and Petats island.

Thirteen candidates are vying for Tonsu's seat in the by-election.

They are Joel Noga, Michael Toreas, Kout Kavop, John Dumit, Dudley Matuan, Joel Banam, Ben Tsiu, Philimon Tulo, Eddie Mohin, Uzaiah Toukes, Israel Kout, Jonathan Ringin and Isaach Heken Thompson.

Meanwhile, Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, Reitama Taravaru said the Tonsu by-election was on track as planned and did not encounter any problems.

"Tonsu people are working closely with the Bougainville electoral officers contributing to the smooth running of the election," said Mr Taravaru. Mr Taravaru believes the Tonsu election will end successfully as seen by the involvement of the Tonsu constituents.

The winning candidate in the Tonsu by-election will represent the people of Tonsu in the ABG parliament in the next four years.

08.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Bulls Back in BOC?



The actual BOC chart shows a massive bullish outbreak (**little light green ring**) from an extreme bearish scenario (**orange channel**) after a preceding highly bullish performance (**green channel**) in BOC share prices. A classic "W" formation is unclear yet but the chart could be interpreted as the beginning of one.

The latest analyzes on Bougainville Copper Limited share was published by [BuySellTips](#) and kindly provided to the ESBC!

[Find out more here!](#)

08.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Chinalco - A Future Partner for Bougainville Copper?

Find out here how Chinese industry metal giant Chinalco is already linked with Rio Tinto:

Rio Tinto, Chinalco Yunnan to mine copper in Chile

- ROBB M. STEWART
- From:Dow Jones Newswires
- September 08, 2011 11:53AM



Rio and Chinalco have also partnered to mine copper in mainland China. Source: The Australian

COPPER explorer Chinalco Yunnan Copper Resources said today it will partner Rio Tinto in a project in northern Chile, making its third such agreement for the region with the mining giant.

A Chilean subsidiary of Chinalco Yunnan will be able to earn a stake in the project by helping fund exploration work, and will have an option to enter a joint venture with Rio. The Candelabro porphyry copper and molybdenum prospect, is some 60km north of BHP Billiton's Cerro Colorado mine, and covers about 4200ha.

Chinalco Yunnan said the advanced project will be drilled ahead of the Caramasa and Palmani copper prospects in the region, where it also has agreements with Rio to farm-in to the projects.

The company's subsidiary can earn a 40 per cent stake in the Candelabro project with drill work and an investment of \$US8 million (\$7.5m), including a minimum spend of \$US250,000 in the first year, after which Rio will have 90 days to either resume management of the project, or grant the company a further three years to invest \$US15m to take its interest to 60 per cent. If Rio maintains its 60 per cent controlling stake, then a joint venture company will be formed between the companies, it said.

Related Coverage

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Chinalco Yunnan's largest shareholder is a majority-owned unit of Aluminium Corp of China, or Chinalco, which holds a 21 per cent interest and is also Rio's largest shareholder with a 9 per cent stake.

Rio and Chinalco in June formed a joint venture to explore mainland China for copper and other minerals, and the pair is also developing a prospective iron ore deposit in Guinea.

Rivals Rio Tinto, Chinalco set up copper resources exploration tie-up

- From:AAP
- June 02, 2011 10:26am

Source: The Australian

RIO Tinto and Chinalco have agreed to jointly explore copper resources in mineral-hungry China.



The deal comes as relations between Rio and China, its biggest customer, slowly improve after four of its staff were jailed in Shanghai for bribery and stealing commercial secrets last year during tense iron ore pricing talks.

Chinalco will take a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture -- Chinalco Rio Tinto Exploration -- while Rio will hold the rest, the Anglo-Australian mining firm said.

The agreement to explore for "world-class mineral deposits" is still subject to Chinese regulatory approval and follows the signing of a non-binding memorandum of understanding in December, it said.

"Security of supply of key minerals is, I know, an issue of the highest importance for China," Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese said at a signing ceremony.

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"Rio Tinto wishes to be a strategic partner to China in the supply, development and also the discovery of those resources."

Rio will appoint the general manager of the joint venture, which is expected to be based in Beijing, while Chinalco will nominate the chairman, chief financial officer and deputy general manager, the statement said.

Chinalco president Xiong Weiping said in the statement access to resources was "critical" for many major economies and the joint venture with Rio could "potentially create commodity supplies to benefit the global economy".

The joint venture will initially focus on copper exploration but coal and potash resources could be explored "at a later date", the statement said.

Chinalco is seeking to diversify from aluminium into other sectors such as coal, iron ore, rare earths and copper to become a global mining firm.

The case against the Rio staff, which followed the company's decision in 2009 to scrap a tie-up with Chinalco, its shareholder, hurt ties between Beijing and Canberra and stoked concerns among foreign investors about the rule of law in China.

Rio Tinto signs off Chinalco deal

- Rachel Hewitt
- From:Herald Sun
- June 01, 2011 11:30pm

Rio Tinto chief executive Tom Albanese has signed an exploration deal.

Source: The Australian



Tom Albanese

MINING giant Rio Tinto will explore China for copper and other minerals after inking a deal with Chinalco.

Rio chief executive Tom Albanese and Chinalco president Xiong Weiping yesterday signed the joint venture exploration deal at a ceremony in Beijing.

The miner said copper would be the immediate exploration priority, and coal and potash could be later targets.

"Given that mainland China is highly prospective, the joint venture has the potential to create valuable opportunities for both partners," Mr Albanese said.

Chinalco will hold the controlling stake in the joint venture, at 51 per cent, while Rio's interest will be 48 per cent. The deal is subject to approval from Chinese regulators. The signing ceremony follows a non-binding memorandum of understanding between the companies in December last year.

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Mr Albanese said formalising the deal was "an important milestone" in the expanding relationship between Rio and China.

Rio's ties with China frayed in 2009 with the arrest of Shanghai-based executive Stern Hu, but have since improved. Rio shares gained 5c, or 0.06 per cent, to \$81.55 yesterday.

Rio signs another JV with Chinalco

- DAVID FICKLING
- From: Dow Jones Newswires
- April 27, 2011 10:43AM

RIO Tinto will enter a joint venture with Chinalco's Australian subsidiary to explore for copper in Chile.

China Yunnan Copper Australia's (CYU) main shareholder is Yunnan Copper Industry, which is in turn majority-owned by Chinalco. Chinalco is also the largest shareholder in Rio Tinto, holding around 9 per cent of its UK-listed shares.

CYU said today it would explore Palmani and Caramasa, two tenements close to BHP Billiton's Cerro Colorado mine with good prospects for porphyry, a copper ore which often contains significant quantities of gold, silver and molybdenum. The company could earn a 40 per cent interest in each project if it spends a minimum of \$US18 million over five years on the two projects.

Last December, Rio Tinto and Chinalco announced a joint venture to carry out exploration activities in China, although the companies haven't said which commodities they would be looking for.

The companies' largest joint venture, the Simandou iron ore project in the west African country of Guinea, saw progress last week when Rio Tinto signed a deal with Guinea's government that will allow Guinea to raise its eventual stake in the project to 35 per cent. Chinalco has agreed to pay \$US1.35 billion to Rio Tinto to take a 44.65 per cent stake in the project, which is currently 95 per cent owned by Rio Tinto and 5 per cent by the World Bank's International Finance Corp. That stake would diminish as Guinea's ownership of Simandou rises.

08.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Murder 'likely' on Asian duo

By GORETHY KENNETH

POLICE in Bougainville have not ruled out a possible murder of the two Asians who travelled to Torokina on a business trip and are allegedly still missing after one month. Bougainville's disaster office called off the search after a month of looking for them.

These Asians, specifically Chinese, were on an alleged mission to Torokina accompanied by a Gulf man and four other locals in a "fact finding mission" to check on brass and scrap metal in that part of the island.

According to the boat skipper, the two Chinese may have been sucked by strong current into a trench. This trench, according to the boat skipper, is not known by most people and authorities in the region. He said the two arrived on August 3 and took off from Buka to Torokina the next day.

The boat owner said he told the passengers that after 11 o'clock, they would not go because that was the time when strong winds and rough seas were expected. He said that they were heading to Torokina to do an assessment on how many metals were available and to take photographs to take back to their headquarter to get funding for the first buy when the boat overturned.

But locals and relatives of the two Asians have questioned Bougainville authorities why only the Chinese were "missing" and supposedly taken by the unknown trench and not the locals and the Gulf man accompanying them.

Assistant Commissioner of Police in Buka Thomas Eluh said that the investigation was still underway.

07.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG plans major projects

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government will now have to find about K200 million to fund approved projects anticipated to start this year.

ABG Works Minister Carolus Ketsimur told the Post-Courier that the ABG had approved three major projects that now need full attention from the Bougainville Restoration and Development Authority (BRADA) office.

Mr Ketsimur said the projects approved included:

- n ALL feeder roads in Bougainville (1000 kilometres) to be maintained and developed, which would cost about K120 million;

- n A new boat for the Atoll Islanders to cost about K8 million; and

- n The reconstruction of the Siara-Sipai or Keriaka Road that was cut off by the sea years ago which would cost about K30 million.

"Cabinet has approved the projects as per detailed and we are looking at it in the next four years as the time frame," Mr Ketsimur said.

"We now have to find the money which will come through our BRADA office...but we are also hoping we get some money from the National Government's Supplementary Budget to kick start all these projects."

Mr Ketsimur said the ABG is serious about developing all feeder roads on Bougainville because they are the lifeline to the development and effective service delivery in remote and rural areas.

07.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bill from Raffles

By PETER KORUGL

The Government had to fork out K2.5 million to pay for minders and visitors for Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare while he was hospitalised in Singapore.

The Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council, which paid the money, was trying to account for the funds because there was a strict ban on visits to Sir Michael while he was in Singapore.

"We do not know why such a huge amount of money was paid out to these minders and visitors who were clearly not needed there. As we all know, no visits were allowed while Sir Michael was in hospital," a senior government official said.

Details of the expenses incurred and paid for by the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council show that Betha Somare, daughter of Sir Michael, incurred the highest with K192,583.14, while Ms Seke Ua Karingal, Sir Michael's personal assistant, spent K191,224.81. Next on the list was Lady Veronica Somare who spent K171,825.34, followed by Richard Gogo who spent K143,200.09 and Constable John Keai spent K107,594.91.

Rodney Kamus spent K104,733.79 followed by brother of Sir Michael, Paul Somare with K76,350.60. A Mr Tambon Tara spent K76,268.01 while Const. Rodney Eminoni spent K87,081.42.

The huge expenses has shocked Moresby North-West MP and Minister for Public Enterprises, Sir Mekere Morauta who yesterday said the payment was simply outrageous.

"I am not being mean or discourteous. I wish the Chief a speedy recovery. I am delighted that he appears to be well enough to have come home," Sir Mekere said. "But private medical expenses are private medical expenses. All Members of Parliament have access to medical insurance, and none of us should expect the State to pay our private bills."

Sir Mekere said the fact was many months ago Sir Michael took leave, appointed an Acting Prime Minister, and went to Singapore for medical treatment.

"He did not fall sick while on duty travel. He gave up the position of Prime Minister but still took a whole entourage with him – family members, protocol officers, police officers –

for him to lie in a hospital bed. And it was presumed the people of PNG would foot the bill,” Sir Mekere said.

He said the Somare family should re-pay the State all the medical expenses and costs associated with their recent stay in Singapore.

“It is an insult to Papua New Guineans that government money has been used to pay these costs. Our own health services are so rundown; they are not staffed properly; people are dying daily for want of drugs, of equipment that works, and of accurate diagnosis. Every day we hear of a Papua New Guinean family fundraising to send a family member overseas for medical treatment that is not available here. These people don’t have a government department that forks out millions for them.

“Please Sir Michael, have some decency and assure the nation that you will pay for your own medical expenses. “Having a clear conscience in this regard will give you peace of mind and help your recovery,” Sir Mekere said.

07.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chief enters House as a humble man

By JONATHAN TANNOS

FOUNDING father of the nation Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare, was the humblest of all leaders yesterday when he was brought into Parliament in a wheelchair during the ringing of the bells at 10am.

He was given the back seat in the middle benches and being minded by a towering Member for Nawaie and former Speaker of Parliament, Timothy Bonga.

Mr Bonga had to stoop low to converse and listen to the recuperating Chief every now and then when waiting for Speaker, Jeffery Nape, to enter the chamber.

Then all heads turned when co-founder of the nation and New Ireland Governor, Sir Julius Chan, walked in and after being told of Sir Michael’s presence walked straight to greet and say hello to him.

This caused complete silence as Members turned in their seats to solemnly watch the two founding leaders converse including members of the public sitting in the upper galleries.

They engaged in a quick casual conversation smiling and on Sir Julius’ return to his seat in the Government backbenches, Prime Minister Peter O’Neill also walked in and went along to greet the Chief.

Such was the respect accorded to Sir Michael whose presence seemed to have caused the chamber to be filled well before the ringing of the bells.

Soon after, Mr Nape made his entry starting proceedings for the day including prayers and calling for petitions and statements.

He then swore in new Kundiawa-Gembogl MP, Tobias Kulang.

Sir Michael witnessed all the proceedings from his wheelchair and was to have made a statement but his feeble attempt in putting his hands up to do so went unnoticed by the Speaker.

He was then wheeled out of the chamber after Mr Nape acknowledged his presence and commenced paying tribute to him.

07.09.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sir Michael Somare dumped from PNG parliament

It's been a dramatic year in Papua New Guinea politics but there's been yet another bizarre turn of events.

The man described as the father of the nation, has been unceremoniously kicked out of parliament.

Sir Michael Somare has been disqualified as an MP for absenteeism but his family says the move is illegal and they'll fight it in court.

Presenter: PNG correspondent Liam Fox

Speakers: Jeffrey Nape, Speaker of the PNG parliament; Arthur Somare, PNG MP and son of former prime Minister Sir Michael Somare

FOX: It makes Julia Gillard's dispatch of Kevin Rudd look soft and cuddly by comparison.

NAPE: Honorable members, this morning I did a letter to the Honourable member for East Sepik, that he cease to hold office as of today.

FOX: Late yesterday, after most non-government MPs had left the parliamentary chamber, the Speaker Jeffrey Nape dropped a bombshell. He said the member for East Sepik, Sir Michael Somare had missed three consecutive sittings of Parliament ♦ which is a Constitutional trigger for disqualification.

NAPE: For these reasons it is my decision that the seat of East Sepik province is vacant. I've advised the Governor General and the Sergeant at Arms of the parliament accordingly.

FOX: Sir Michael is far more than just the member for East Sepik. He's known as the father of the nation, the Grand Chief, PNG's first prime minister after independence in 1975. Until a month ago he'd led the country for nine unbroken years.

Yesterday he appeared in Parliament for the first time after a lengthy stay overseas where he underwent three heart operations.

The 75 year old looked frail as he sat in a wheelchair at the back of the chamber.

The new Prime Minister Peter O'Neill came over for a chat and shook his hand.

When proceedings began the Speaker welcomed him warmly back to the house.

Sir Michael stayed only briefly, just long enough he hoped, to avoid being disqualified for his lengthy absence.

But it wasn't to be and he wasn't there when the Speaker wielded the axe.

ARTHUR SOMARE: I think it's absolutely deplorable this sort of behaviour action at this particular time. It's certainly nothing that Papua New Guinea can be proud of.

FOX: Arthur Somare is Sir Michael's son and also an MP. He says his father is taking his disqualification calmly.

Mr Somare says he has advice from the clerk of parliament that Sir Michael has not missed three sittings.

ARTHUR SOMARE: This is an issue that will be challenged; it will be challenged in the courts of Papua New Guinea. We still have the rule of law here, they may not believe it, but I believe it.

FOX: He believes the real motive is an attempt to derail another court case, which is

challenging Sir Michael's removal from the Prime Minister's office.
That happened a month ago while the Grand Chief was overseas.

A mass defection of government MPs allowed the opposition to have the PM's office declared vacant, and then vote in Peter O'Neill as the new Prime Minister.

The Speaker played a central role in that drama as well.

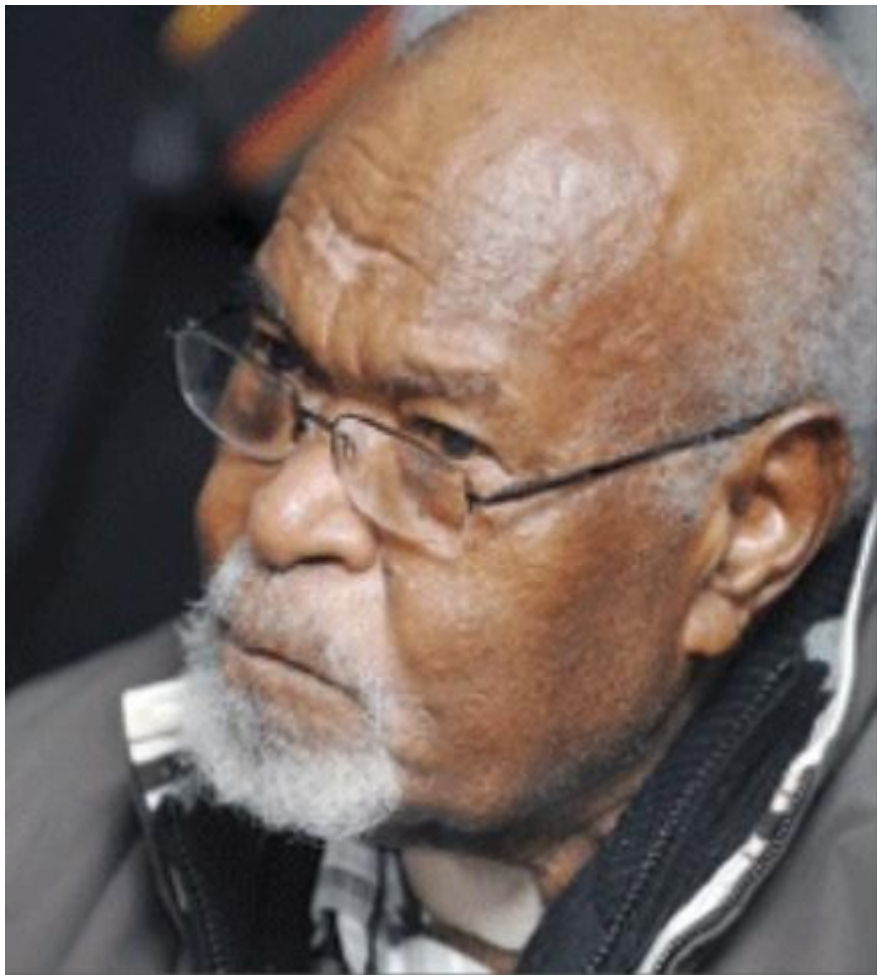
It looks as though it'll be left to PNG's Supreme Court to clean up another political mess.

06.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Farewell Sir Michael !

"Grand Chief" Sir Michael Somare - the man who demolished and dismantled his own monument!



06.09.2011

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald

Somare loses his seat in PNG parliament

by Eoin Blackwell, AAP Papua New Guinea Correspondent

Sir Michael Somare has been disqualified from Papua New Guinea's parliament just hours after making a dramatic return after a five-month absence.

The 76-year-old former prime minister had arrived back in PNG from Singapore on Sunday to prevent the attempt by the government of Peter O'Neill to unseat him.

Speaker of the house Jeffery Nape ended the 43-year career of PNG's first prime minister, affectionately known as the father of the nation, just before 6pm (AEST) on Tuesday. "It is now my solemn duty to advise you that by operation of Section 104(2) (d) of the constitution your former seat, East Sepik Provincial, is now vacant," Mr Nape said in a statement which he read out in parliament after Sir Michael had left the chamber.

"I have advised the governor-general and the sergeant at arms of the parliament accordingly. I shall announce my decision to the parliament when it next meets."

Mr Nape said Sir Michael did not have leave to be absent from parliament for the five months he was in Singapore recovering from heart surgery.

Under PNG law, a sitting member forfeits their seat if they miss more than three consecutive sittings.

Sir Michael's daughter, Betha Somare, told AAP her father - who until Sunday had been in Singapore recovering from three heart operations - was unavailable for comment.

Sir Michael made a brief appearance in the chamber but was not present when Mr Nape disqualified him.

Dressed in a light grey suit and sitting in a wheelchair, the self titled Grand Chief sat quietly as MPs assembled ahead of the Speaker's address.

He was there for the beginning of the speech, when Mr Nape praised his role in promoting democracy and acknowledged his long service to the nation and to the parliament.

"Sir, I want you to know that through our lives together in parliament and during the period I have known you, I realise that you kept... the tradition of democracy at all times," Mr Nape said.

"Thank you Grand Chief."

Sir Michael raised his hand to speak but said nothing and waved a blue piece of paper before leaving the chamber.

Opposition MPs interrupted Mr Nape's speech, calling out "shame" and "disgrace", as the Speaker justified the August 2 decision to declare the prime ministership vacant, which allowed Peter O'Neill to be elected prime minister.

"You're destroying this country, you're killing this country," opposition MP Nipa Kutubu shouted at Mr Nape.

Also voicing her concern of the constitutionality of the August decision to dump the Somare government was PNG's lone female MP, Queensland-born Dame Carol Kidu.

Treasurer Don Polye responded to the protests, calling on opposition MPs to "shut up and sit down".

Opposition MPs tried to produce a letter from the clerk of parliament that they said showed Sir Michael was still prime minister.

Before parliament began, Sir Michael's son, Arthur Somare, told journalists the clerk's letter showed there was no vacancy in the prime ministership.

Arnold Amet, former attorney-general under the Somare government, urged the Speaker to allow debate after he had finished his speech.

As debate continued, 10 opposition MPs, including Mr Amet, walked out of the chamber. MPs then went on to discuss other business before Mr Nape resumed his statement on Sir Michael, announcing the disqualification just before parliament adjourned.

Earlier, more than 1000 people gathered outside parliament to voice their support for the government and opposition.

Some held signs urging Sir Michael to resign, while other signs proclaimed Mr O'Neill was a grass roots PM.

The peaceful gathering was watched by a heavy police presence.

06.09.2011

Source: ESBC Research / Bloomberg

Rio Tinto's Palabora Sell-Off Inspires Investors Worldwide!

Rio Tinto's unexpected sale of its asset [Palabora Mining Co. \(South Africa\)](#) seems having fired investor fantasies in Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL). BCL shares soared 10 percent today in Sydney and even 17 percent in Frankfurt at 11am local time. Bougainville Copper's fair value is AUD 30 to AUD 40 per share once the Panguna mine is re-opened.

Palabora is producing 80,000 metric tonnes of copper. BCL will produce 510.25 M pounds of copper or 232,000 metric tonnes of copper plus 631,000 ounces of gold worth some USD1.2 billion, silver plus molybdenum. Palabora has a known mine life of 5 years; BCL has 14 years. Palabora is worth USD700 million. BCL is worth some USD400 million.

In so far Bougainville Copper Limited is actually an extremely undervalued, solid and promising investment !

Rio, Anglo Aim to Sell \$700 Million Holding in Copper Producer Palabora

By Jesse Riseborough and Jana Marais

Sep 5, 2011 Rio Tinto Group and Anglo American Plc (AAL), which together own about three-quarters of Palabora Mining Co., said they plan to sell their entire holdings in the South African miner as it no longer fits their investment objectives.

Palabora's main asset, a mine that produces copper and magnetite, "is no longer of a sufficient scale" for either Rio or Anglo, and a sale process for their stakes has started, the companies said today. Rio holds about 58 percent of Palabora and London-based Anglo almost 17 percent. Their combined holding is valued at about \$700 million based on the closing price of Palabora stock in Johannesburg trading today.

The Palabora operation accounted for 8 percent of Rio's mined copper output in the first half of this year, according to Liberum Capital Ltd. The Phalaborwa, Limpopo province-based company is South Africa's only producer of refined copper, with output of about 80,000 metric tons annually.

Mining is scheduled to end at Palabora's operation in early 2016, while a study to extend the mine's life to 2030 is under way, Rio said. The company, which has been an investor since Palabora Mining was incorporated in 1956, declined to estimate the cost of prolonging the production period, in an e-mailed response to queries.

"Rio Tinto is no longer the natural owner of Palabora due to the limited opportunity to significantly expand copper mining," Andrew Harding, chief executive officer of Rio's copper unit, said in a statement.

'Solid Future'

"We believe Palabora has a solid future under an owner who can develop the magnetite business alongside the existing copper and vermiculite operations," Harding said.

Palabora Mining's copper smelter would need investment to ensure it complies with emissions legislation due in 2016. Rio declined to estimate the cost of this, in its e-mailed response to questions.

Palabora has advanced 44 percent in the last 12 months, giving it a market value of 6.74 billion rand (\$945 million.) The stock declined 2.3 percent to close at 139.51 rand today. The balance of its shares are held by private investors.

Rio Tinto, the world's second-largest mining company, fell 5.1 percent to 3,488.5 pence at the close of London trading today. Anglo American dropped 3.6 percent to 2,368.5 pence.

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To contact the editor responsible for this story: John Viljoen at jviljoen@bloomberg.net

06.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PM's chair for O'Neill

THERE is no court order stopping Member for Ialibu-Pangia Peter O'Neill in occupying the Prime Minister's chair when Parliament resumes at 2pm this afternoon.

Mr O'Neill was elected overwhelmingly as Prime Minister on the floor of Parliament on August 2, 2011, when MP for Wabag Sam Abal was Acting Prime Minister while Sir Michael Somare was away in Singapore on medical leave.

Speaker of Parliament, Jeffery Nape, is expected to formally advise Sir Michael which seat he will occupy when he walks into the chamber at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

On entry, Sir Michael will, for the first time since his hospitalisation in April this year, come face-to-face with his ousters of August 2, 2011.

Normally ushers or the Sergeant-at-Arms advise Members on seating arrangements according to listings from the Speaker's office.

Minders and staff said on Sir Michael's arrival from Singapore on Sunday morning, the Chief would attend the sitting of which he himself said was physically able to do.

He said this to dispel questions over his fitness to physically move around and conduct his duties to which he said he was ready to undertake.

This is despite the indifference with his physical appearance which suggest the need for more time to recuperate adequately.

But the sitting is equally critical for both Sir Michael and the new O'Neill-Namah Government because the dispossessed Prime Minister has to physically be present to avoid being absent from the House over three consecutive sittings.

Failure to do so carries the automatic disqualification penalty as a Member of Parliament. For the new government, it needs an absolute majority to pass its supplementary budget, of which some prior commitments running into the millions have already been made to different sectors.

High on the government's list of priorities is free education of which an amount of between K600 million and K700 million have already been committed.

National scholarships and student allowances will also be funded under the supplementary budget as announced by Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, at the University of PNG last week.

The O'Neill-Namah Government is also expected to make the bill on new provinces, Jiwaka and Hela provincial boundaries as priority and debate on the Womens Bill when Parliament resumes this afternoon.

06.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill urged to deliver

FORMER Bougainville Affairs Minister and Regional MP for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso has called on Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Government to deliver on the commitments made to Bougainville.

Mr Semoso specifically asked the government to deliver the first K100 million from the K500 million earmarked for Bougainville in this month's Supplementary Budget.

"I am calling on the Prime Minister Mr O'Neill, now that he is the PM, to honour the commitment made by the former Somare-Abal Government to deliver the first K100 million in this year's or this month's Supplementary Budget," Mr Semoso said.

He said when the PM was the treasurer, his government then was the architect for these funds for Bougainville. "Now that he is the Prime Minister, he must live up to that commitment that we made to the people of Bougainville and release the first K100 million," he said.

06.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Weapons supplied by police: Rumours

By GOROTHY KENNETH

THERE are speculations that Bougainville Police are supplying weapons to factions involved in the Konnou issue of south Bougainville.

But Bougainville's top cop, Assistant Commissioner of Police Thomas Eluh will not have that speculation go by unchecked and unchallenged, for if it is true, someone is getting a kick out of the force.

On Friday, while confirming that the Konnou issue was getting out of hand, an irate Mr Eluh announced that the speculations were being investigated he liked to believe from the outset that there were not true.

"As a believer of true peace, I'd like to believe, this is not true, but we are looking at these speculations," Mr Eluh said.

Eluh strongly appealed to the people of south Bougainville and the people of the whole of Bougainville to help put their hands together to achieve one common goal and that was to be united to help solve the Konnou issue so that the lives of the people of south Bougainville will not be at stake and for the killings to stop.

He told a press conference that police operations was not the solution for the Konnou area – that Bougainvilleans themselves had the solution, that is why he had appealed strongly for a united Bougainville people and leadership to address the problem at stake. Mr Eluh also believes that a peace mission from outside may be an answer to the problems in the Konnou area but strongly believes the Bougainvilleans themselves have the answers to the problems faced in that part of the south.

"I want to go into Konnou myself or like to go and meet with Damien Koike myself but I want a concerted effort and understanding from everyone involved and the factions at hand and I want to appeal to all the factions to work together with me," he said. "I don't believe the police operation is the solution for the Konnou. Bougainvilleans have the solution."

He also singled out the issue of the Bougainville Police Service not having the capacity to handle bigger issues like that of Konnou, and take for example the Panguna mine, if re-opened and should ever anything of bigger problems arise – they would not have the capacity to contain it.

“The Konnou issue, if we don’t handle it properly, might cause major problems, we have to find better means. I have written to Damien Koike because I want to talk to him myself and assure him that we want to talk and let him talk about his issues, but I am still waiting for his response,” he said.

Mr Eluh said he was adamant a peaceful solution for the Konnou area would be reached only if everybody was united to tackle the matter.

06.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K2.4m road opened

By PETERSON TSERHAHA and CHRIS BARIA

Yesterday, Minister for Communications and member for central Bougainville, Jimmy Miringtoro attended a ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a road from Oune to Paruparu in the Eivo Torau constituency which he funded at the cost of K2.4 million in the Panguna District.

On arrival at Kounuku village, he was carried on a high chair by the people of Oune and Paruparu who are grateful that the work on the long awaited road was to begin soon. Showing true partnership and unification with the Autonomous Bougainville Government, he was accompanied by ABG member for Eivo Torau Melchior Dare member for Terra and Deputy Speaker Robin Wilson, Women’s Central member Joan Jerome and member for South Nasioi John Ken. In declaring that the road be open for construction, the Minister said that he had walked the area and had experienced how difficult it was for the people in the area to transport their cocoa and other produce.

06.09.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville, Solomons fight gun smuggling

POLICE in the Solomon Islands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have pledged to work together to stop guns being carried across the border.

Years of conflict in both countries has led to a ready supply of small arms. And police say they have

received reports of people moving across the border freely when carrying weapons.

Solomon Islands assistant police commissioner Edward Sikua said both countries were looking to develop strategies to monitor the movement of arms across the border.

“Certainly because of the conflicts on both sides of the border, the issue of arms moving across this border is an issue for both police forces,” he said.

Sikua was in Bougainville earlier this year to hold meetings with his Bougainville counterpart.

He said the movement of guns was not the only issue troubling police.

“There is lots of criminal activity happening along the border and it is in the interests of both forces to

work together to address these activities.

“It is a big concern for us, for all police forces – there are plenty of criminal activities,” he said.

05.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Mining law won't deter investors: Chan

MINING minister Byron Chan has reassured PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum executive director Greg Anderson that the proposed amendment to the Mining Act 1992 will not deter investors.

In a brief meeting with Mr Anderson on Friday, Mr Chan said he was looking forward to working with the chamber to see how best they can fine tune the policy to accommodate all stakeholders.

The Minister, however, said as it is now, the current call for the Act to change is a political one and there is a great need for consultation by all stakeholders before it is made a policy.

Mr Chan early last month upon taking office as the new mining minister, made a bold policy statement that resource ownership rights must go back to the people.

He outlined that the O'Neill-amah Government will focus on four key policy Issues that include:

- * Recognition and protection of traditional landowner's right to mineral ownership on or under their traditional land and seabed;
- * Urgent review of the mining legal regime;
- * Deep-sea mining; and
- * Environmental protection.

The ramifications has somewhat made instant ripples on the international scene and what has been described by Mr Anderson as "extremely naive".

Mr Chan explained that his statement is principally the same through with greater landowner rights, though the policy would take at least six months before the "policy changes" be brought to Parliament for debate.

Mr Chan said this would take time to properly assess with other existing policies and an appropriate case study to be done by his department, MRA and all industry stakeholders to properly substantiate the proposed changes, though until then the "status quo remains" business as usual.

05.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

There can only be one PM, says O'Neill

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill is adamant that he is the Prime Minister.

He was speaking after returning from the MSG summit in Fiji on Saturday.

"There can only be one Prime Minister in the country and Parliament has made the decision.

"Should he (Sir Michael) wishes to challenge this decision, has to go back to Parliament,"

Mr O'Neill told the media in a press conference upon his return from Fiji.

Like Mr O'Neill, Finance and Treasury Minister Don Polye yesterday said the National Alliance Party has suffered with Sir Michael as their leader and has decided to move forward.

"He (Sir Michael) is irrelevant to the current scenario. He is yesterday and Papua New

Guinea is living in the future, and National Alliance has had recent changes.

"Wish the Grand Chief all the best as the past as Papua New Guinea moves forward with the current team into the future," Mr Polye said.

Mr O'Neill said it is common knowledge that Sir Michael was a citizen of PNG and he was free to go in and out of the country as and when he wants to.

He said PNG was a democratic country where the freedom of movement, freedom of choice and freedom of association are enjoyed by every citizen.

"He (Sir Michael) is already in court, his con of family or other people with vested interest are already in court. We respect the independence of the judiciary and we will wait until they make their decision," Mr O'Neill said.

Mr Polye said yesterday that the National Alliance thanked the Grand Chief for his leadership in the past and as the new leader, he would modernise and clean up corruption in the party before it moves into the 2012 national elections.

"I have a duty as the new NA leader to consolidate the Government as a significant player. PNG must progress forward and not dwell in the past," Mr Polye said.

05.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Frail, but high spirited Somare says he will fight

By JONATHAN TANNOS

GRAND Chief, Sir Michael Somare, yesterday stepped back on home soil to an emotional and rousing national hero's welcome looking frail but highly spirited.

And he will turn up in Parliament on Tuesday afternoon but as to sitting arrangements, he has not yet been formally advised by the Clerk or Speaker where he will sit.

His return is critical to maintaining his seat by being physically present in Parliament so as not to miss three consecutive sittings which would have disqualified him as a Member of Parliament.

On arrival, he emphasised respect for the Constitution was paramount and he would await the final verdict of the Supreme Court reference over his displacement on August 2, 2011 while undergoing medical treatment in Singapore.

He had undergone three heart operations since April. Incidentally the father of the nation, as he is affectionately known, arrived home on Father's Day.

Sir Michael said he still had the fighting spirit and his medical team say his recovery has been satisfactory.

He said he had been ill for a long time, causing some loss of memory but insisted "I am a fighter and I have made it to work".

Although a little bit more soft spoken than he normally is, Sir Michael stepped off the Singapore inbound flight just before 9am and walked through the arrival terminal and into the VIP lounge unaided but with his walking stick.

The international arrival terminal entrance was jammed packed with people from all walks of life and virtually from almost all

provinces in the country loudly hailing his return.

A traditional sing-sing group from his home province of East Sepik also put on a welcome performance.

He was met at the airport by senior bureaucrats, staff, National Alliance party executives, family members and members of his original Cabinet.

In the VIP lounge, he was met by an emotional Governor General, Michael Ogio, whose flight to East New Britain Province was delayed in order for him to officially welcome Sir Michael before departing.

Ironically, no member of the O'Neill-Namah Cabinet turned up to meet Sir Michael with the other high ranking officials.

In the VIP lounge, he paused to take a quick rest after the long flight and where he gave a very brief statement to VIPs and officials

in his soft-spoken but still charismatic manner witnessed by the Governor General. "It is us that would destroy this nation and it is

us that would make the nation," Sir Michael said when emphasising respect for the Constitution.

He said while the nation was on the verge of progress, he warned of tough times ahead as well.

He said having reflected from the outside, there was a need to be accountable and responsible for actions taken which should be correct and in accordance with the Constitution.

While acknowledging the presence of the Governor General and members of his former cabinet, Sir Michael urged bureaucrats to perform

their normal duties and mainly to uphold the laws of the land. Outside the VIP lounge, he met a delegation of East Sepik leaders and

senior citizens who came to welcome him. He was then whisked away to the arrival entrance to board his official vehicle to be taken to his home to rest.

His vehicle was swamped by supporters spilling outside the driveway virtually blocking traffic for a while.

On departure his windows were wound down in order for him to wave at the crowd of well wishers. Doctors accompanying him are insisting he takes as much rest as he can.

05.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill: Welcome Sir Michael but ...

By PETER KORUGL

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday returned home to a rousing welcome, but not to his old job as Prime Minister and also leader of the National Alliance Party.

Sir Michael stepped out of the commercial Air Niugini flight from Singapore, looking frail but declaring to members of his former

cabinet at the VIP lounge that he was a proven fighter and he will win.

"I am a fighter and I will make it work," Sir Michael said in a soft voice, devoid of the power and force that usually put political foes in their places.

He was clearly referring to his health but the question remains as to whether he will win the battle to regain his job as Prime

Minister or the leadership of the National Alliance Party, which he has held together for the past nine years.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, when asked on Saturday what Sir Michael's return means

for the political situation, he said: "There can only be one Prime Minister in the country and Parliament has made the decision. Should he (Sir Michael) wish to challenge this decision, he has to go back to Parliament," Mr O'Neill told the media in a press conference upon his return from Fiji on Saturday.

Like Mr O'Neill, Finance and Treasury Minister Don Polye said the National Alliance Party has suffered under Sir Michael as leader and NA has decided to move on.

"He (Sir Michael) is irrelevant to the current scenario. He is yesterday and Papua New Guinea is living in the future, and National Alliance has had recent changes," Mr Polye said.

"Welcome Sir Michael, but we need to move on," Mr O'Neill said.

"Wish the Grand Chief all the best as the past as Papua New Guinea moves forward with the current team into the future," Mr Polye said.

Mr O'Neill said it is common knowledge that Sir Michael was a citizen of PNG and he was free to go in and out of the country as and when he wants to.

He said PNG was a democratic country where the freedom of movement, freedom of choice and freedom of association are enjoyed by every citizen.

"He (Sir Michael) is already in court, his con of family or other people with vested interest are already in court. We respect the independence of the judiciary and we will wait until they make their decision," Mr O'Neill said.

Mr Polye said yesterday that the National Alliance thanked the Grand Chief for his leadership in the past and as the new leader, he would modernise and clean up corruption in the party before it moves into the 2012 national elections.

"I have a duty as the new leader of NA to consolidate the O'Neill/Nama Government as a significant player. PNG must progress forward and not dwell in the past," Mr Polye said.

05.09.2011

Source: The National

Somare's bill put at K3.7m

THE state has paid **K3.7 million** to keep Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare in Singapore's Raffles Hospital and for **related costs**.

The **actual hospital bill is less than K1 million but travel and accommodation expenses and sustenance allowances for his family, minders and visitors blew up the amount to K3,718,981.82. An amount of K67,703.52 was still outstanding as of Aug 29.**

The ESBC understand that the Somare family and friends enjoyed a splendid holiday in Singapore for more than K 2,7 m which represents 856.000 Euro or AU\$ 1,116 !!!

All the expenses was borne by the Prime Minister's Department, which does not have any allowances within its budget for the medical expenses of the prime minister, deputy prime minister and other ministers of government, department sources said.

Sources also said Prime Minister Peter O'Neill had directed his department to transfer all future expenses to parliament and to have parliament reimburse the department's expenses so far.

At any time, there had always been three security officers (*ESBC: Three security officers for a private stay in one of the safest countries of the world?!? Normally the state of Singapore provides sufficient security for all foreign statesmen who stay in Singapore!*) and a protocol officer in attendance at the hospital as well as Lady Veronica, press secretary and daughter Betha Somare and personal assistant Seki Karingal. All their expenses were met by the department.

This came to light as the Grand Chief jetted in on an Air Niugini commercial flight from Singapore yesterday morning to an emotional welcome at the Jackson International Airport.

It was important that Sir Michael was in the country to attend tomorrow's sitting of parliament. To miss it would mean his third consecutive absence, rendering Sir Michael an automatic disqualification as the regional parliamentary representative of East Sepik. The Grand Chief spoke briefly upon his arrival yesterday, looking frail but walking without assistance.

Scores of people, including Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio, who broke with protocol to be present personally to meet Sir Michael, wept openly when they saw the former prime minister who had been in a Singapore hospital for the past four months.

Sir Michael greeted the airport crowd and spoke briefly on health care, clearly avoiding the events of Aug 2 and the election of O'Neill as prime minister.

"The days ahead of us are tough but I am one of those who have proven to be a fighter and to make things work," Sir Michael said.

A strategy meeting is expected to be held by the Somare camp today for tomorrow's parliament meeting.

The topic of where Sir Michael would sit would feature prominently with expectations that he would attempt to occupy the prime minister's chair.

05.09.2011

Source: The National

Dreams, hopes turn to nightmares

IT is likely that when Papua New Guineans read the **WikiLeaks** reports below, they will be incensed.

They are likely to respond by telling the United States and Australia, and everybody else, to go "jump" and to stop "meddling" in the affairs of small nations like Papua New Guinea.

That emotional reaction is to be expected but let us take a more rational view.

Let us take a dispassionate look at Papua New Guinea from a distance, to view ourselves through the eyes of others.

To say it does not have problems is unrealistic, but, is it a "failing" or "failed state" as Australians view PNG or a "totally dysfunctional blob" like the United States views it?

With its 36th Independence just two weeks off, does Papua New Guinea measure up?

At Independence, all the conditions were set for a purposeful drive down the middle of Development Boulevard towards a prosperous and industrial nation status.

The dream set out in five noble goals in the National Goals and Directive Principles were clear, persuasive and free of nightmares. The nightmares, when they did come, tragically were in the real world.

Within a mere 12 months, the dream was given a shocking dose of reality. One province – North Solomons – threatened secession and, to keep the year-old union of hundreds of tribal nations together, PNG was lumped with a provincial government system it was not prepared for and which has not worked for it in all its 36 years.

In a couple more years, leadership squabbles divided the once-united house and the

nemesis of all prime ministers – the infamous motion of no-confidence – was introduced and ran riot for a full two decades.

The focus on development shifted as different ideas and differing priorities emerged about the way to bring it about.

The political instability manifested itself in many ways upon the young nation. PNG's mineral and petroleum wealth was mined or pumped out but the proceeds were not flowing into renewable and sustainable industries such as agriculture.

Forest resources were and continue to be depleted at a faster rate than the nation's ability to re-grow them. The sea and river systems are teeming with fisheries and other marine resources but are being stolen and the nation sits helpless to fend off the thieving fleets.

A full-scale insurrection ravaged one province, North Solomons, for a decade and a half. The "unity in diversity" phrase, so proudly asserted at Independence, in reality, has become so that the more fitting description today would be that there would be "unity but for diversity".

The various regions and tribes have shown a singular reluctance to sacrifice their independence for the greater good of the nation.

Despite huge mineral and hydrocarbon resources, Papua New Guinea depends far more on international trade for consumables and upon aid from off-shore for its development efforts than on its own resources and efforts. This is tragic.

Public debt levels far exceed the nation's ability to repay on reasonable terms. Fiscal deficits each year are very high driven to such outlandish levels by high public expenditure, all too often over and above budgeted levels. These drives up inflation so that a population starved of cash in the rural sector watches helplessly as prices soar beyond their ability to even pay for the most basic needs.

The public service has grown too fat while its will and ability to deliver services have grown too thin.

The number of unemployed people is growing with the education system pushing out some 50,000 new graduates each year but there are jobs available each year for less than 10,000. This will now increase ten-fold with the universal primary education and the free education policy.

Infrastructure nationwide is very poor. Poorer still has been the will and desire to maintain what little infrastructure exists.

Lawlessness, graft, corruption, and drugs and arms smuggling are growing at a healthy rate but law enforcement is malnourished and chronically ill. Multinational crime has sown its seeds here and terrorism is at PNG's doorsteps.

Why has a set of beautiful plans, dreams and hopes turned into a living nightmare?

What has gone wrong along the way?

The reasons are many but principal among them is the issue of good governance, leadership and management.

05.09.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Somare returns to PNG after five months in Singapore



Papua New Guinea's veteran politician, Sir Michael Somare, has returned to Port Moresby after spending five months in Singapore for medical reasons.

Sir Michael returned for tomorrow's session of parliament to avoid being disqualified as an MP for missing three consecutive sittings.

Last week, he issued a statement declaring he was still the prime minister and intended completing his term.

A month ago, Sir Michael was controversially replaced by Peter O'Neill after a parliamentary vote declared the prime minister's office was vacant.

The legality of the action is being challenged in the courts.

04.09.2011

Source: The Courier

PNG exposed as 'dysfunctional blob'

by PHILIP DORLING

PAPUA NEW GUINEA is trapped in "Ponzi politics" being practised by deeply corrupt politicians who have enriched themselves on resource revenue and Australian aid , according to US diplomatic reports.

Australian government officials are reported as saying generational change in PNG politics following the departure of founding father and former prime minister Sir Michael Somare was a "false hope", and the PNG government was a "totally dysfunctional blob".

The damning assessments of political and economic life in Australia's nearest neighbour are contained in confidential US embassy cables leaked to WikiLeaks.

In a November 2008 briefing, the US embassy in Port Moresby noted that resource revenues and Australian aid have served "more to enrich the political elite than to provide social services or infrastructure. There are no large-scale local businessmen, but numerous politicians are relatively well off."

PNG is Australia's largest recipient of foreign aid and in 2011-12 will receive more than \$480 million from the country.

Anxious to avoid diplomatic offence, Australian government ministers and officials rarely talk openly about corruption and maladministration in PNG, preferring to speak of "strengthening governance" and helping "institution building".

However, the leaked cables from the US embassy in Port Moresby provide grim assessments of PNG's chaotic political system and failing public administration. In May 2007, in a cable titled "Ponzi politics", the US embassy presented a damning pen picture of PNG politics.

"Steeped in traditional magic and innocent of modern economies, PNG's citizens prove easy marks for Ponzi schemes which proliferate throughout the country," the embassy said. "Now it's election time ... and the politicians are dusting off their bottles of snake oil. Viewed from afar, or from a national perspective, it's an appalling spectacle of disregard for governance."

It went on: "If all politics is local, politics in PNG - with 830 languages, myriad cultures and thousands of clans - is Tip O'Neil (sic) on steroids ... Though this government, and the current crop of leaders on the national scene, have presided over a steady, nationwide deterioration of services - closure of health centres and schools, collapse of effective policing and a steady rise in violent crime - little mention of this can be expected during the campaign to come."

In the run up to the 2007 election, the US embassy reported that "the pork has hit the fan" as Sir Michael reallocated ministerial portfolios. One promoted minister was described as "the government's chief bagman for the corrupt forestry industry". A former health minister was "mostly remembered for his insistence that he was just a politician and therefore could not be held responsible for the fact that the country's hospitals had run out of medicines while his ministry was still flush with cash".

The report gave a damning judgment on the Somare administration's commitment to law and order: "The single most pressing problem facing PNG is the almost total collapse of the police force. So it is doubly disappointing that the effective [Police Minister Bire] Kimisopa was pushed aside. The portfolio has little control over expenditure. But his focus likely discomfited Somare and his cronies for the same reasons they worked to scuttle a large-scale Australian package which threatened to dramatically improve police performance."

The leaked US cables are ambiguous about Sir Michael's financial interests and their effect on political decisions and public policy. However, they noted a "strange" shift in PNG government policy that potentially increased its financial exposure in legal action being taken by Bougainville residents against company Bougainville Copper. "Given the way things are done here, the general suspicion is that PM Somare has been given a financial incentive to reverse the previous government's position on the case. Certainly, it

would be very typical of Melanesia if what the government saw as in its nation's interest also redounded to the individual benefit of its leadership. It is worthy of note that Paul Nero (sic, Nerau), a plaintiff and the current PNG [consul-general] in Brisbane, is very much a Somare man."

The US cables confirm that, privately, Australian officials have no illusions about the state of the PNG government. After a mid-2007 discussion on political and economic developments with Australian high commission staff in Port Moresby, the US embassy reported: "One Australian analyst described generational change as a 'false hope', while other Australian officers described the PNG public service as a 'totally dysfunctional blob' that is great at planning but appalling at implementation."

Speaking to the US embassy in September 2009, the then opposition leader and former prime minister Sir Mekere Morauta lamented the collapse of effective government decision-making.

"AusAID is out of control," he said. "I don't mean that Australia is being naughty. What I mean is that, out of desperation over lack of government direction, they are funding projects of their own choosing. The government cannot truly be said to be in charge of how and where foreign assistance is spent."

However, as an example of poorly planned Australian assistance, Sir Mekere cited money spent on infrastructure projects such as road-building, new schools and hospitals.

"Our problem is not a need for new infrastructure. At this point, we cannot even maintain the infrastructure we have."

Following a long illness Sir Michael was removed from office, though he is still protesting that his ousting has been illegal. Peter O'Neill, who had served as treasurer in the Somare government, was elected Prime Minister by a parliamentary vote on August 2. He has declared his desire to "restore open, honest governance".

02.09.2011

Source: Scoop

Senior Officials to Meet on Women, Peace and Security at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting

[Auckland, September 2] In the Pacific, despite women's leadership in peace building, organizing dialogue, providing inputs to defence reviews, mediating between conflicting parties, ending violence against women and defending human rights, women's participation in peacebuilding is still a matter for debate. Women struggle to be heard and are not given sufficient recognition and resources to up-scale their work.

However, there has been significant groundwork at the regional and national level that has created an opportunity and momentum to strengthen regional efforts and stimulate national action.

Pacific government officials, non government organisations and development partners will meet in Auckland at a side event at the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting to provide advice and offer guidance on the development of a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The Regional Action Plan will provide a broad framework to assist Pacific Island Countries to develop relevant national programmes and strategies on women, peace and security and to accelerate implementation of United Nations

Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

Deputy Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Fekita 'Utoikamanu and co-chair of the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security will speak about the relevance and necessity of involving women in peace and security decision making. Co-chair, Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Executive Director, FemLINKPACIFIC will present on the establishment of a regional media and policy network on the UN Security Council's Resolution 1325. The UN SCR 1325 is the first resolution ever passed by the UN Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

Tracy Vienings, Senior Adviser and Team Leader of the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre will present the strategy on developing a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Joy Kere, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace in Solomon Islands will explain how the Regional Action Plan is linked with national initiatives, and share the experience of her country in developing a National Action Plan. Minister Rose Pihei, Autonomous Bougainville Government, (via audio recording) and Helen Hakena, Executive Director, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency and Member of Asia-Pacific High Level Advisory Group on 1325, will share their experiences on similar efforts in the Autonomous Bougainville Region, Papua New Guinea.

The side event is a key part of the strategy to develop the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by seeking inputs from senior officials on content and process and preparing the ground for country level initiatives in 2012 – 2013. It is organised by Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with assistance from UNDP Pacific Centre as secretariat of the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

02.09.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sir Michael Somare declares he's still PNG Prime Minister

Papua New Guinea's founding father Sir Michael Somare is on his way home from Singapore where he's been recovering from heart surgery over the past few months.

Sir Michael says he's still the country's Prime Minister and intends turning up to parliament on Tuesday. That's despite Peter O'Neill, once a finance minister in the Somare government, being promoted to the top job last month by a majority vote of parliament after the prime ministership was declared vacant. The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its verdict later this month on whether Mr O'Neill's appointment was unconstitutional. Sir Michael who arrives home at the weekend says he's been forced to return to ensure that he's parliamentary seat of East Sepik is not declared vacant because of his absence.

His son, Arthur, also an MP has welcomed his father's return but repeated his desire for his father to retire.

Presenter: Claudette Werden

Speakers: Arthur Somare, PNG MP

[Listen here !](#)

SOMARE: We've essentially been forced by O'Neill/Nama government to bring him back

to Papua New Guinea, otherwise as I say there would be a vacancy in his East Sepik regional seat.

WERDEN: But I understand you had already announced his retirement when he was ill and you actually still want him to retire.

SOMARE: Absolutely and I made it clear to the press conference at the time that my public expression and my family's desire to have this public expression that Sir Michael, my father, at the age of 75 was coming to a period and because of his health, we wanted him to retire that's absolutely correct. But that does not give anyone the authority to push him out or to retire him, essentially he has to resign from office and I still want that to happen because of his health condition and because of his age as well, there is no issue there.

WERDEN: I understand he considers himself to still be the leader of PNG, do you agree with him as well?

SOMARE: He's taken a few, he's been silent for a period of time, for 4 months and within that 4 month period on August the 2nd, a vote in the parliament which is now the subject of a Supreme Court reference, was taken by Peter O'Neill who calls himself the Prime Minister. The question is before the Supreme Court, they'll determine that particular matter. But as I said, Sir Michael has been silent for 4 months and has come out and made a statement that he believes himself to still be the legitimate Prime Minister. My contention is that the primary question of whether or not the O'Neill/Nama government was constitutionally formed and legitimate, is a question for the Supreme Court, they will answer that in a short period of time and they'll determine whether or not Sir Michael is the Prime Minister or Mr O'Neill is the Prime Minister. But I have sufficient doubts in my mind that the government was constitutionally formed, that it is legitimate and as such I support the section 19 reference.

WERDEN: But given the fact that as you say, he's 75, he's recovering from heart surgery are you confident that he is healthy enough to return to lead the country?

SOMARE: I think I have made my views quite clear, I am desirous that my father will retire and retire shortly, that he will not be pushed out, that he will take that decision at his own will, in his own free time.

WERDEN: So this issue is about him doing it on his terms?

SOMARE: No ma'am, it's not about that at all, this whole issue is about the constitution of PNG, the laws of PNG which I believe have been breached.

02.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bogus firms on the rise in ARB

BOUGAINVILLE is now faced with another major problem. Some foreign companies are entering the region proposing to set up businesses with bogus sections and allotments detailed in their registration applications from the PNG Investment Promotion Authority.

The Post-Courier is in possession of at least three applications for business certification and registrations by specifically Chinese companies to IPA, proposing to operate businesses on locations that have Bougainvillean businesses already set up and in full operation.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government, Commerce Division was approached since last month for verification of these foreign businesses, but had refused to respond and comment. The IPA office confirmed there were businesses with confusing addresses but they were still being verified.

One business company, (named), venturing in freezer wholesaling, has put down a section and allotment belonging to a mainland Bougainvillean, who is already operating his business.

Two other Chinese companies have also put down locations where businesses have already been set up by Bougainvilleans in Buka town.

Two Chinese companies have Section 6, Allotment 16 as their proposed operating location.

This location belongs to a local business entity, a Bougainvillean businesswoman operating her haus kai and guest house and freezer company.

But this location also accommodates an ABG Political Party that is very much aligned to the current Momis-Nisira led government.

The companies have all Chinese as directors and shareholders who are based in Port Moresby, China and Madang, depicting ABG's policies on joint venture partnership.

The Bougainville Business Association has raised serious concerns over the issue but has not made any comment because it wants to verify the information before making statements and appropriate recommendations.

The Chinese Embassy was contacted but advised this newspaper that the issue was strictly a private arrangement with the ABG and the companies involved and that they had no input in it.

But the Embassy office executives appealed to these Chinese companies to abide by the ABG laws including that of the PNG Government.

ABG President's office was contacted for comment but numerous attempts to get through him failed.

02.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chan explains developer's wealth

MOST resource owners in the country must be made aware that for so long considerable wealth has been siphoned through public equities and not from the actual sale of minerals.

They are misled to believe that resource developers make millions of kina through the sale of commodities such as gold, copper, silver and nickel.

Mining Minister Byron Chan highlighted this during his first ministerial visit to the landowners and company executives of multi-million kina Lihir and Simberi mines. "Most of us have little knowledge about the way resource developers make money. We've been led to believe that their benefit comes from the sale of gold, copper, silver, nickel and carbon energy.

"But since taking office I have come to learn that significant wealth is accumulated in the public equities that are bought, sold, and traded on international stock exchanges using our resources. Company stocks soar on news of the granting of exploration and mining licenses and, to date, no party in Papua New Guinea has seen any tangible benefit," he said.

Mr Chan who is also the Member for Namatanai, the richest electorate in Papua New Guinea that houses the world class mines in its backyard such as Lihir, Simberi and Nautilus wants to see new changes for resource owners and the nation at large.

He also would like to see more dialogue between mining companies and industry partners to fully understand clearly the motive behind his proposed amendments to the Mining Act 1992.

The minister raised this concern after learning that both foreign and local commentators in the media misunderstood the nature of his move and what it meant for resource owners in Papua New Guinea.

He reiterated that the O'Neill /Namah Government will focus on four key policy Issues that include:

- Recognition and protection of traditional landowner's right to mineral ownership on or under their traditional land and seabed;
- Urgent review of the mining legal regime;
- Deep-sea mining and
- Environmental protection.

The minister noted the four policy directions would take time to be properly assessed with other existing policies and an appropriate case study will be done by the mining department and MRA and local and international advisors and consultations with all industry stakeholders to properly substantiate the proposed changes.

The policy would take at least six months before the "policy changes" be brought to Parliament for debate.

01.09.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Chan's mixed messages

by Blair Price

MINING Minister Byron Chan has attempted to downplay the impacts of his proposal to hand over national government control of resources to community landowner groups.

Chan's comments during a recent tour to Allied Gold's Simberi mine in Papua New Guinea, as reported by a PNG newspaper, did not seem entirely reassuring for the mining industry.

"Let me assure the business community and especially the mining industry in the country that there will be no immediate policy changes to the existing laws until proper case study and wide consultation with the industry and relevant stakeholders is carried out," Chan said, according to the Post-Courier.

"I must stress also that this is not a deliberate attempt to discredit any mining firm or developer in the country. In fact there's nothing new.

"All I'm saying is for developers to recognise resource owners as custodians of their own land in the proposed policy."

Yet he also reportedly said that developers who could not live up to his policy should not waste their time and "pack and move" to allow other investors in who "respect resource owner rights".

"I'd like to clear the air on land ownership rights, which is the bigger issue raised here and abroad by respective mining commentators and relative industries," Chan enigmatically told the newspaper.

PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum executive director Greg Anderson has already labelled Chan's ideas as "extremely naive".

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is the only member of the government to publicly voice any concerns. O'Neill has said Chan's proposals were not policy yet and cabinet was yet to discuss them.

A government source has previously told PNGIndustryNews.net he did not think Chan's proposed changes would happen or get through cabinet.

JP Morgan analysts doubt that PNG's parliament will approve it and believe the amendments to existing resources legislation will require 75% support of the 109-seat parliament.

"Given what is at stake for PNG's economic future, we think it is highly unlikely to jeopardise its investment reputation by introducing such legislation," JP Morgan said.

Comments in the blogosphere also indicate that some PNG nationals are not enthusiastic about the possibility of national resources being used to benefit small communities as opposed to all of the people of PNG.

01.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna LOs disappointed

PANGUNA Landowners Association executives have expressed their disappointment on how both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government leaders are handling their mine issues.

Interim chairman Chris Damana, interim deputy chairman Michael Pariu and interim secretary Lawrence Daveona have lashed out at the way in which they are not being assisted despite so many calls by both the National Government and ABG Members of Parliament to open the Panguna mine. They also lashed out at the BCL for not helping them.

Up to this day, the following commitments have not been fulfilled:

- * THE former Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Fidelis Semoso, K240,000 since November 2010;

- * ABG, vice president, Patrick Nisira K300,000 since February of this year;

- * Member for Central now Minister for Communication, Jimmy Miringtoro K400,000 since February of this year.

- * Member for South Bougainville and now Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Steven Kamma Pirika K400,000 (Promised on his behalf by Fidelis Semoso in Arawa since February this year).

"Panguna landowners and their people must not be used by Members of both Parliaments for their own self glorification and political interest," the leaders said.

"Our people have suffered enough. You have seen fit to entertain ex-combatants with K5 million and from what we know, ABG has assisted us with K76,000 during James Tanis' time for the two reconciliations, one in Guava and the other in Pakia for Pinei Valley. "We still have our programmed reconciliations for the Lower Tailings, Upper Tailings and Kupe Valley.

"BCL too is of no help at all. It has tied up our Social Inconvenience Compensation Payment (SIC) with ABG as if ABG was a signatory to our 1986 Supplementary Agreement. For all we know, ABG is a new entity and a bi-product of Bougainville Peace Agreement and BCL has got no right at all to keep our people chained to this new entity. It should abide by our agreement and have the funds released to us so that PLOA can stop begging ABG which is cash strapped. "The landowners have been blamed for the Bougainville crisis which has caused untold sorrow and suffering to many. The PNG economy plundered from the good old days of Bougainville Copper Limited's mine operations," they said.

01.09.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka stages forum

SHOPS in Buka were literally closed half of the morning because of a forum staged in Buka for leaders of the Autonomous Bougainville Government to respond to questions raised on the protection of local small business holders in the region.

Malasang Women's Group, led by former ABG deputy speaker Francesca Semoso arranged a forum for the leaders both National Parliament and ABG so that they could explain to them what policies were in place and what the leaders were doing to protect the interest of Bougainvilleans who were sweating to make their living with trade stores, wholesaling, retailing, Kaibar and selling of goods in Buka town.

ABG president John Momis, his vice Patrick Nisira and their cabinet talked to the people of Bougainville who were present at the Bel Isi Park yesterday. Mr Momis spoke of the importance of foreign investment in Bougainville to boost the economy of the newly established region. He also spoke of the arrangements the ABG is now engaged in to bring a wholesaler from Japan so Bougainville trade store owners will not have to go to Rabaul for goods.

News 10.2011

31.10.2011

Source: Post Courier

NZ commits to help PNG

THE Papua New Guinea and New Zealand governments yesterday signed an agreement on Joint Commitment for Development.

PNG Foreign Affairs Minister Ano Pala and New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully signed an agreement on an understanding that both governments will establish a shared vision for achieving long-term development outcomes for the people of PNG, including achieving of the Millennium Development Goals. Under the mutual commitments, New Zealand Government will support an increasing proportion of its aid spending; deliver effective and tangible projects that support economic development objectives.

Also under the commitments, the New Zealand Government will provide long-term and predictable help to the focal sectors which include agriculture, electricity, health, scholarships and training, and the **Bougainville issues**.

It will look at increasing work through PNG's finance and procurement systems as such systems have been independently reviewed and found to be robust, transparent and efficient.

The New Zealand Government will work at a sector level with other donors and where possible align projects into a broader sector programme.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pala said PNG Government would ensure that coherent, long term, well prioritised sector plans were developed, maintained and reflected in national and provincial planning and budget processes.

"Our country will ensure to strengthen the results frameworks, monitoring systems and costing of sector plans," he said.

"PNG Government will also co-ordinate development partner assistance in sectors via regular sectoral working group discussions.

"Our government under the agreement shall work actively towards strengthening its planning, budgeting and reporting systems and improve public financial management." He said PNG Government would provide a clear guidance on areas that it wanted New Zealand to invest in.

31.10.2011

Source: Post Courier

MP raises boat woes

By Fabian Gatana

ATOLLS MP Frank Pasini Marena is disgusted at the way MV Bougainville Atolls is being

managed.

He said twice now, the vessel had run aground on separate voyages and he has voiced his concern that if the vessel is not looked properly, his people of the atolls could lose a vital link of their lifeline.

He said the vessel had been in the region for only a month now and already there were signs of mismanagement of the the vessel.

"During the launching ceremony of the vessel the ABG President John Momis and I gave out a strong message for the people of Bougainville to take ownership of the vessel and to look after it."

"It seems that these words have fallen on deaf ears and I am concerned on the effect this will have on my Atolls people who are dependent on shipping for their livelihood," he said.

The member also questioned the vessel being docked at a private ramp other than the designated government ramp.

He called on the the government appoint a specialist to look after the vessel and its operations to that peoples of the Atolls and other regions of the ABG could benefit from its services.

30.10.2011

Source: Weekend Courier

NZ High Commissioner in Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



THE New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw's trip to Bougainville last week has been hailed by many as a success. Ms Crawshaw (picture), who was in Bougainville from October 17-21 of this month was able to travel all the way down to Siwai and Buin in South Bougainville, thus, becoming the first diplomat to have traveled to many parts of south Bougainville. Ms Crawshaw was accompanied by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Kamma and Mark Tacon from the New Zealand Prime Minister's office in Wellington. Upon arriving in Buka Ms Crawshaw paid a courtesy call to the Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis. During their brief discussion, both leaders discussed security issues currently experienced on Bougainville, which the New Zealand High Commissioner greatly appreciated after learning about the reconciliation ceremonies currently undertaken by the different warring factions in parts of south Bougainville. During her week-long stay in the region, Ms Crawshaw was able to visit Tonu high school and Ameu district office in Siwai district. She also visited the Buin police station, Kangu wharf, Buin Specialised Training Centre (BSTC) and the Buin secondary school. She was also able to offer words of encouragement to the students and staff of the schools that she visited. Ms Crawshaw also expressed to those that she met that she was very happy to have taken the trip, adding that she hopes to visit Bougainville again in future. Ms Crawshaw and her delegation departed Bougainville last Friday.

30.10.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville's weak govt unable to stop looting

BY MARTYN NAMORONG

THE FRIENDLY SMILES, calm turquoise tropical sea and palm-fringed white sandy beaches are a facade in this group of South Pacific islands with a tortured history.

But the main island of Bougainville is indeed Treasure Island.

Home to one of the world's largest known copper and gold deposits, Panguna mine proved to be a curse. The violent civil war that began in 1988 was exacerbated by a blockade of the island by the Papua New Guinea government.

An estimated 15 000 people died in the fighting and as a result of the blockade, which involved the cutting off of essential medicines to the people.

The blockade existed until a ceasefire was brokered in 1994. However, in rebel held territories, the looting had already begun.

Tony Kevi was a young boy when the crisis began in 1988. His mother is a Panguna landowner. This is how he described the looting and infighting that ensued in rebel held territories.

"We couldn't get enough of the material things the white man could give us," he says. "It was obvious, you know, when after the ceasefire when we chased off the [PNG government], we started fighting amongst ourselves over cars."

Tony said that one rebel commander would pull a car out of another's hands and there would be trouble. Today the looting continues in various forms.

Albert Kinini heads the screening committee of the Commerce Department of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. He estimates that about K300 million worth of alluvial gold is illicitly leaving the island.

The Bougainville government does not receive any revenue from these exports. Much of the alluvial gold mining is being carried out in the tailings region and at Panguna.

The Commerce Department is currently screening applications for scrap metal buyers. Indeed, a lot of scrap metal is being exported from the former mining region through the port of Arawa.

No one really knows the value of the exports and the once again, the government does not collect revenue from this activity.

But perhaps the biggest resources coup has been the story of the speculative investment by Invincible Resources of Canada, giving it access to every single oil, gas and mining activity on Bougainville.

For the cheap price of K20 million, Invincible Resources owns 70% of a company created by an Act of Parliament in Bougainville.

The company, known as Bogenvil Resources Development Company, was given exclusive rights to all mining and oil and gas activity under the Act.

Meanwhile a 30 000 hectare oil palm project is to be developed at Torokina on Bougainville's west coast. Hakau Investments, a company linked with Lae-based businessman Sir Henry Chow, is currently undertaking surveying and feasibility studies.

The area contains tracts of tropical hardwood that are expected to be clear felled and sawn into timber. The project is being opposed by the member of the Bougainville House of Representatives along with members of the six landowning clans.

All of these activities are taking place in the context of a policy and legislative vacuum. There are currently no mining, forestry or fisheries policies and enabling legislation. Bougainville's fledgling government also lacks institutional and financial capacity.

This has resulted in many foreign businesses bypassing the government and dealing directly with local landowners and leaders. One such case involves partnerships between landowners and foreign interests in a project called Nisina Mines within the lower tailings region of Panguna.

So the looting that began after the departure of Papua New Guinea's military and police forces continues today in various forms. Powerful and influential men are amassing

wealth and weapons to protect their interests. The government is weak and its exercise of authority limited.

"People are back into materialism, and we are repeating the same things. It's all about what I can get for me today. The real threat here is that people have virtually forgotten what it was like during the blockade," warns Tony Kevi.

28.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tidying up Panguna!



IT would not be long before all the scrap metals at the former Panguna mine in Central Bougainville will be removed and transported out from the area to the Loloho wharf for shipment to overseas buyers. Every day, trucks carrying scrap metals could be seen driving up and down the Panguna mountain. Pictured is a truck owned by one of the scrap metal companies transporting a ball mill up the Panguna mountain. The ball mill is a machine that was used to crush ore during the operations of the mine. Words and picture:

WINTERFORD TOREAS

28.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka hospital gets new steriliser

By ALEX MUNME

BUKA General Hospital has a new central sterilising unit called the pre-vac steriliser - thanks to Steven Greenleaf of Sterilising Equipment Sales and Services, a company based in Cairns, Australia.

The machine was officially launched and handed over to Buka General Hospital in its sterilising room yesterday (Thursday) witnessed by senior hospital staff, doctors and nurses.

During the commissioning ceremony, a contract document was also signed to verify that the machine was installed, tested, commissioned and training on how to operate and maintain all aspects of the machine was also carried out successfully.

These state of the art machines are described to be the best in the latest technology and are distributed to nine centres including Buka, Port Moresby, Lae, Manus, Kavieng, Kundiawa and others.

One of these machines is estimated to the value of more than K200, 000.

Buka General Hospital CEO Dr. Cyril Imako, Director Medical Staff Dr Barnabas Matanu and Mathew Monei thanked the company for such wonderful and best equipment that will be used in the hospital to sterilise linen, equipment, tools that are used in the operating theatre, delivery room, outpatient and hospital wards for the safety of all patients. Mr Monei also laid down the rules on who to be responsible for operating the machine and to be very cautious on handling the machine to avoid damage and lengthy time of replacement.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Board urged to plan land use

THE newly established Bougainville Physical Planning Board recently held its first board meeting which was attended by the ABG member for Natural Resources Michael Oni and a team from the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

Mr Oni officially opened the meeting and challenged the board to address the need to start planning the use of land for development purposes in all Bougainville towns.

He emphasised that the work of the board would be faced with challenges as the board would be faced with the job of correcting lots of unplanned and improvised land use activities and developments built without proper plans and approved by authority.

He also stressed that the ABG would help the Physical Planning Board to be effective and efficient in addressing physical planning needs in developing the region.

The board discussed the need for a Buka Urban Development Plan for Buka town to address uncontrolled development and use of land in and around the town.

The plan will also include policies on type and size, scale and nature of built infrastructure and a guide to development for the future growth of the town.

ABG chief administrator Thomas Raban was appointed as the deputy chairman (as stipulated in the Physical Planning Act 1989), to lead six board members.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's case may proceed in US

BOUGAINVILLEANS being represented in a class action case in California, the United States of America, have won a major victory on Tuesday this week when an appeals court ruled that their case may proceed in US courts.

Brent Walton of Hagens Berman told the Post-Courier from the United States that "unless the US Supreme Court steps in and stops the case, Bougainvilleans will get their day in court in the USA. That is the upshot of the whole opinion."

The Bougainvilleans who allege mining company Rio Tinto (RIO) worked with the Papua New Guinea Government to destroy their culture and commit genocide, took the mining giant to court and since 2000, it has been on-going in the US.

Last year the case was dismissed and the lawyers representing the Bougainvilleans appealed against the decision.

On Tuesday this week the lawyers representing the landowners won a major victory when the court ruled in their favour allowing the case to proceed in U.S. courts.

The Bougainvilleans include Alexis Sarei, Paul Nearu, Thomas Tamausi, Aloysius Moses, Raphael Niniku, Gabriel Tareasi, Linus Takinu, Leo Wuis, Michael Akope, Benedict Pisi, Thomas Kobuko, John Tamuasi, Norman Mouvo, John Osani, Ben Korus, Namira Kawona, Joan Bosco, John and Magdalene Pigolo.

Hagens Berman has represented the residents of Bougainville, since the late 1990s.

Rio Tinto operated a mine on the island. After an uprising by the residents of Bougainville forced Rio to close the mine, the company allegedly provided transportation for PNG troops who were brought in to reopen it.

When these tactics failed, the PNG government instituted a military blockade, which the plaintiffs allege lasted 10 years and led to the deaths of nearly 10,000 people.

In a statement from the managing partner for Hagens Berman and attorney for the residents of Bougainville Steve Berman could not wait to commend his team for the case decision.

"We are obviously very pleased with the ruling today by the Court of Appeals," said Berman. This has been a marathon of a case, and Rio Tinto has been using every tool available to delay answering for their actions."

The residents of Bougainville allege that Rio Tinto's mining operations on the island resulted in the dumping of billions of tons of toxic waste, heavily polluting previously pristine waters.

According to the lawsuit, this resulted in the exposure of dangerous chemicals to local residents, dispossessing them of their ancestral lands and destroying their culture.

The case was originally filed on September 18, 2000.

The case was sent to the Court of Appeals when Rio Tinto questioned the District Court's ruling that the plaintiffs were entitled to pursue claims of war crimes and genocide in U.S. courts without exhausting legal options in PNG first.

By a vote of seven-to-four, the Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court's ruling.

The court also ruled that the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) does not preclude the charging of corporate defendants for genocide and war crimes.

Rio Tinto had claimed that only individuals could be charged under the statute.

"Rio has already delayed this case for over a decade, and many of its victims have passed on," said Steve Berman. "We look forward to taking this case back to the District Court and holding Rio responsible for its actions."

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Doc's plan for needy

By JOYCE TOHUI

A senior doctor from the Buka hospital is calling on the people of Bougainville who have the heart to help others to join the Rotary Club for Bougainville which he is proposing to establish in Bougainville.

Dr Joe Vilosi has initiated help for people in need in the past and has come up with the idea to form a proper club to help the needy.

He said as a member of the Rotary Club, he was helping to deliver kind services in small ways for people who sought help.

Dr Vilosi said he was concerned about people helping people through own initiatives and not waiting for free handouts.

He said he believed the people of Bougainville had the heart for the needy and he wanted to resurrect these good attitudes.

Currently, he said, he was working together with people who were willing to help to start up the Bougainville Rotary Club.

The doctor said the club aimed mainly to help deliver small services to the people in little ways possible.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

On a mission to turn tables around

BOUGAINVILLEANS, specifically the missionaries are on a mission to turn tables around and start going abroad to help the needy.

Last month the Christian Mission Fellowship –Bougainville made a request to all Pacific Island nations to come to Bougainville and help raise funds to send 20 missionaries to remote Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Milne Bay – three locations identified which are under the poverty line.

CMF elite from Fiji, Solomon Islands and in PNG, the New Guinea Islands, Southern Region, the Highlands Region and Bougainville came together and last weekend at the Wakunai Bible College held a fundraiser which earned about K100,000.

Regional MP for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso gave more than K45,000 towards the mission of which K43,000 allocated from his discretionary funds and about K2000 from his family and businesses.

Fiji CMF team told the Post- Courier it was time to turn tables and instead of being seen all the time as the third world nations or always on the receiving end from the first world nations - it was now time to give back a hand to the needy.

Mr Semoso who commended the church organisers for a job well done, also presented K1500 to the Solomon Island team and hosted the Fiji team in Buka. He gave an ear bashing to the church elders and appealed to them to successfully carry out their mission.

Pastors in charge said in Wakunai that the money raised was to send a group of 20 young and old men and women as missionaries to go and help a very remote village in Western Province of Solomon Islands. This village in the Solomons is up in the mountains, and has been neglected by the SI Government and through the CMF Solomons, help is now underway.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fiji's Giant in Bougainville



“What do I need to eat to be your size?” this is the question Bougainville Regional MP Francis Semoso and other leaders that were in Aioro, Wakunai, asked recently when they met one of the South Pacific’s giants Kaliova Seleiwau who is currently in Wakunai for the Regional Christian Mission Fellowship. They call him the giant – he’s 2.5 metres tall and is only 29 years old from Fiji town, but lives in Kansas City, USA. He’s travelled all the way from US under the Extreme International Christian Mission to help his Fiji counterparts donate to the CMF (story this week). But he has surely

caught even the attention of leaders with his height!

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches celebrate

By ALEX MUNME

THE Colonial administrative centre of the then North Solomons Province Sohano Island was the centre for religious activities and celebrations last weekend near Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Seventh Day Adventist and United Churches held separate programs just next to each other simultaneously.

SDA held Children's Emphasis Day with a double blessing when three unexpected guests arrived on Sabbath morning to add flavour to their prepared program.

Pastor and aircraft pilot Roger Millist and his wife flew in from Goroka while Children's Ministry director and Local Mission director Pastor Kove Tau arrived from Rumba, headquarter of the SDA in Bougainville.

For the Children's Emphasis day it was all children's turn, who conducted religious programs on Sabbath (Saturday) and on Sunday they had physical activities.

United Church had displays of art and craft for sale and other goods on Saturday which was part and parcel of their celebrations, and held all spiritual activities on Sunday.

The UC program was a nationwide celebration with the theme 'God'S shaping and moulding in the last 40 years.

The program was to celebrate what was achieved from 1971 to 2011 in the mission and ministry of the church.

Sunday's program kicked off with marching, followed by worship. Member for Tewa constituency in the ABG Reverend Joseph Nopei was among those who were guest speakers at the celebrations on Sunday.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Haku 'dances' risky

CHURCH workers and chiefs of the Haku constituency have condemned dances held during the day or 'Pitanlan' as it is called in the local Halia dialect.

These dances seen as fundraising activities started in the Halia area and the craze has spread to other parts of Buka. It usually starts early in the morning and ends late into the night.

The chiefs and church workers in the Haku area have aired their grievances, saying that this fundraising activity was promoting promiscuity and alcohol and drug abuse.

They also argue that there is a high incidence of unprotected sexual activity happening at these dances that will contribute to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

They called for these fundraising activities to be banned, saying young girls and boys, including students were learning how to consume alcohol from their elders which was contributing to the fall in their education.

27.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

US Appeal Court revives Bougainville challenge against Rio Tinto

A lawsuit filed by Bougainville residents against mining company, Rio Tinto is set to be revived.

A U-S federal Appeals Court has reversed a decision to throw out the lawsuit which alleges the mining company aided the PNG government in genocide and war crimes. The lawsuit was filed in 2002, 13-years after the mining company's activities prompted a civil war in Bougainville.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Steve Berman, attorney for the Bougainville land owners

Listen here !

BERMAN: Well the ninth-circuit court of appeals agreed that the case could go forward allegedly that Rio Tinto was involved in the commission of war crimes and genocide, which are two international law recognised claims that are universal to all countries.

COUTTS: Well what will you be asking for in this suit?

BERMAN: We're going to be asking for compensation to the ten-thousand or more people who are injured or killed during the uprising.

COUTTS: How many people does that involve, how many people are you actually representing?

BERMAN: Well it's a proposed class action in the United States and in a class action you only need to name a few, the idea is you don't want to bog the courts down with thousands of claims at once. So you have a few people represent the interests of class and the class in this case we think is about ten to 14-thousand people.

COUTTS: Will you be getting testimony, because these are serious charges, genocide and all the other charges you've just listed, will you be getting personal testimony to back that up?

BERMAN: Yes we already have some, we have affidavits from the former commander in chief and from a former prime minister that they were directed by Rio Tinto to take whatever steps were necessary, including violence and killing, to re-open the mine and they gave some details on that. But now we're going to go and start getting the records and show in our view that Rio Tinto financed the helicopters and troop carriers and communications devices, and the means that the government used to try to suppress the uprising.

COUTTS: And it also includes racial discrimination and crimes against humanity all lumped in together?

BERMAN: Well the court dismissed the racial discrimination and crimes against humanity claims, but the racial discrimination claims kind of still falls within the genocide claims, so there's not really a loss there.

COUTTS: Can you just explain the point of that particular aspect of the case?

BERMAN: Well the court found that racial discrimination under American law, the alien torch statute, someone can sue for a violation of international law, and the Supreme

Court recently said those violations have to be laws that every nation, every civilised nation recognises. And believe it or not the court found that not all civilised nations recognise racial discrimination as a violation of the law. So they threw out the racial discrimination claim, on the other hand they said we did allege enough to suggest that the mining company looked at the Bougainvilleans as a separate people who they had no compunction or were not worried about polluting their environment, ruining their lifestyle, ruining their property and physically maiming them, and that was enough to state a claim.

COUTTS: And some dissenting judges have protested against allowing a lawsuit to proceed in the federal courts brought by non-US residents against a non-US company. That is an interesting point?

BERMAN: Well the mining company raised an issue as had other corporations that have been sued under this law that says the US should not be adjudicating claims against foreign companies where the acts take place for example, in this case they took place in Bougainville. But other courts, and the majority in this case said statute speaks very broadly and if you can get jurisdiction over the defendant, in this case Rio in the United States, then you're entitled to bring the case here. And the historical notion we believe that underlies the law dates all the way back to piracy where a court, in that case piracy, which is what the act was passed to in part address, the idea was that someone commits a tort anywhere in the world, piracy is a universally condemned tort, if you catch that person in the United States you can sue them for that even if it occurred somewhere else, and that's what's happening here. And Rio Tinto has a huge presence in the United States, over 47 per cent of their assets or revenues are derived from North America, so the court found we had jurisdiction over them here and that's why we're suing them in the United States.

COUTTS: And is part of the claim too, because there's been talk of mining beginning again in Bougainville, are you taking any action against that happening?

BERMAN: We're not, that's not part of the case. But I'm told by my clients that Rio is trying to re-open the mine and there's a pretty strong viewpoint, many people in the Bougainville area that Rio cannot and should not be permitted to re-open the mine until they address and redress the wrongdoing that they committed years ago.

COUTTS: I.E. this court case?

BERMAN: Right, I mean the mine is hugely valuable, copper prices have gone up and it's a scarce resource and it was the world's largest copper mine, still a lot of copper out there, it's a valuable asset and they want it, but I don't think they're going to get it unless they remedy the wrongs that they've committed.

COUTTS: When do you think you'll get this case before the courts?

BERMAN: Well now we're going to go back down to the trial court and ask for discovery taking their testimony to proceed, I suspect that Rio's going to ask the US Supreme Court to hear this case.

26.10.2011

Source: MINING WEEKLY

Rio Tinto could engage more with host countries – CEO

By: Esmarie Swanepoel

PERTH (miningweekly.com) – Diversified miner Rio Tinto CEO Tom Albanese said on Wednesday the company was striving to increase its engagement with government representatives in the countries where it operates, but acknowledged that more could be done.

“As I look at the Rio Tinto journey over the past ten years, I think we have done a better job, at the local level, of addressing the highest standards of environment, employing health and safety measures, as well as community engagement. But frankly we haven’t done enough in terms of engagement of host countries,” Albanese said.

“I think that it is something that we as an organisation should recognise and learn from, and that is one of the top priorities that we put to the Rio Tinto team on a global basis.”

Albanese’s comments at the second day of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and Business Forum in Perth came after the revival of an 11-year old genocide and war crimes lawsuit in the US Federal Appeals Court.

The claims relates to violent clashes between the government of Papua New Guinea and residents of the Bougainville Island in the late 1980s, where Rio operated the Panguna copper/gold mine until 1989.

Newswire Reuters reported that the suit was revived on behalf of around 10 000 current and former residents of the Bougainville Island, who claim that the mine polluted the island and forced native workers to live in “slave-like” conditions. The report also stated that residents contended that after workers began to sabotage the mine in 1988, Rio Tinto goaded the government into exacting retribution and conspired to impose a blockade that resulted in the deaths of some 10 000 civilians by 1997.

While not addressing the claims on Wednesday, Albanese told the CHOGM and Business Forum that the company was working towards not only being a local partner, but also a stronger national partner.

Meanwhile, Albanese also said that Rio was looking to increase its investment in Africa.

“Rio Tinto has been a long-standing investor in Africa. We have been involved in Africa for over 50 years and currently have significant operations or developments in seven countries, with a number of exploration activities in other African countries.

“We would like to continue to invest in Africa,” Albanese told delegates.

“I am of the firm belief that Rio Tinto has been under-invested in Africa, and also that Africa itself is under-explored for natural resources and has much, much more potential to continue to deliver product and valuable exports to the global markets.”

Albanese said that it was his opinion that the next generation of significant resource projects would be found in Africa.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Economic recovery in Bougainville

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

SURVEY findings have shown evidence that there is economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville following a window of peace made possible through an international peacekeeping operation.

The survey conducted in the four urban centres; Buka, Selau, Buin and Arawa showed that income per capita was K3, 863 at 2010 prices, while it was K783 at 1983 prices.

Dr Charles Yala, a researcher with the University of New South Wales in Australia and a research associate at the National Research Institute (NRI) said from 1999 to 2003, a series of international interventions took place.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally sponsored peacekeeping operation that ended the decade long conflict," Dr Yala said when presenting the findings from the survey.

"Given that peace, they (people of Bougainville) invested in prosperity, which is a change in the level of income and welfare improvement," he said.

Dr Yala said in the survey the research team found that people were beginning to invest in permanent housing, and this was a sign that they wanted to maintain peace.

"Investment into permanent housing signals perceptions of sustained peace," he said.

Dr Yala said after the conflict there was rebound in economic activity.

He said the Buin market was a hub of activity, even gold smelting and cocoa production had become some of the main activities the people of Bougainville took part in.

Dr Yala said the six-year window of peace provided room for the community to be drawn into the economy and for trade to grow amongst communities.

He said more research still needed to be done.

Director of NRI, Dr Thomas Webster said when people are engaged in economic activity, when they see their incomes to meet their basic needs; there is an incentive to maintain peace.

"So the suggestion is infighting has stopped and people have started to engage in some economic activities but the research was on the basis of trying to find out what are the economic activities that are going on and whether there's an opportunity to identify those so the governments can intervene for more permanent peaceful environment," Dr Webster said.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis calls on Bougainville to honour peace deal

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government President, John Momis has called on the people of Bougainville to honour the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

Mr Momis said the creation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement was recognised as one of the best in the world and yet Bougainvilleans are ignorant of this agreement.

He said the Peace Agreement was entered into for the purposes of the unification of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and not just a few.

He urged the people of Bougainville not to play with the Peace Agreement as a game but rather take it seriously, as the document represents the sovereign will of all the people of Bougainville.

Mr Momis said Bougainville has survived the core challenges and difficulties in the past years and must stand firm to build a better nation.

He said having reached this point in time in Bougainville's historical development and to dishonour the Peace Agreement will cast a stain on the pure motives and good intentions of those who fought to end the Bougainville crisis and those who sought to bring peace to Bougainville.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira told ex-combatants to stop fighting

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG vice President Patrick Nisira has called on the former combatants of Bougainville to stop fighting each other because they have already fought for the good of Bougainville during the crisis.

He reminded former combatants to always remember that they fought for the people to protect their environment in the past years.

He said that a lot of Bougainvilleans lost their lives in the Bougainville conflict and why combatants continue to fight today.

Mr Nisira said Bougainville has already signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement for the unification of the people of Bougainville and they must respect this agreement because it is the sovereign will of all Bougainvilleans.

He urged the former combatants to proactively involve in ensuring that the peace agreement is protected and implemented as key stakeholders and to provide a safe and secure environment for the civil society enjoy.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville supports Semoso

By Fabian Gatana

EX-COMBATANTS and people of Tinputz and Wakunai have affirmed their support for the Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso, who is currently facing charges of misappropriation.

Peter Baka, a former commander and spokesman for the ex-combatants of Tinputz and Wakunai, said the people of his area have physically seen a lot of changes take place and have pledged to stand behind the member.

He said Mr Semoso has funded a lot of projects in the area such as the establishment of roadside markets, funding for the local health centre and school and also providing funding for the recent cocoa festival.

“The people in the area are now benefiting from the projects the member has undertaken. The women have a set place to sell their produce whereas in the past they used to sell their produce on the ground and the health centre and schools have also been refurbished, thanks to Mr Semoso,” he said.

Mr Baka said Mr Semoso’s quality of bringing himself down to the local grassroots level was the reason why the people of the Tinputz/Wakunai area regarded him as a true leader. He said whatever the outcome of his investigations, the people of Wakunai area will still stand by their leader.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tonu High School gets new vehicle

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



TRANSPORTATION will not be a problem anymore for the staff and students of Tonu High School in the Siwai District of South Bougainville, thanks to the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Member for South Bougainville Steven Kamma.

Last Thursday Mr Kamma came to the aid of the school by presenting the keys of a new Toyota Landcruiser vehicle to the school's head teacher To'osih Lising.

Before handing over the keys to Mr Lising, Mr Kamma challenged the staff, students and the landowners of the area where the school is located to look after the vehicle.

"I am happy to deliver this vehicle to you. It was bought at a cost of K168,000. However, I appeal to you all to look after this vehicle. I don't want you to do anything that may damage this vehicle," Mr Kamma said.

He warned that if they do not look after the vehicle he will not be funding any more projects in the school.

Head teacher Mr Lising thanked Mr Kamma for the vehicle, saying that the donation was timely because it will greatly ease the transportation problems currently faced by the school. He also assured Mr Kamma that they will look after the vehicle. Apart from Tonu High School, another brand new landcruiser was also presented by Mr Kamma to the Buin Specialized Training Centre in Buin last week.

Both vehicle presentations were witnessed by the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw.

26.10.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville updates electoral roll

By ELIZABETH VUVU

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville is set to begin its electoral roll update programme with the PNG Electoral Commission setting aside K400,000 for the exercise. Unlike other provinces that begun their electoral roll updating last year in preparation for next year's general election, Bougainville was conducting its by-election for the North Bougainville seat from January to May followed by the Tonsu by-election in the local assembly which ended last month.

Election manager Reitama Taravaru said they were now preparing to go into their roll updating programme, which was expected to take four weeks.

He said applications from assistant returning officers had been received and would be forwarded to the commission.

Taravaru said the council of elders and village assembly clerks would be engaged in the programme as enrolment agents.

"By mid-November, we should be collecting our updated data from the field and two weeks will be used for quality check before we forward all data to the electoral commission for auditing and printing," he said.

Taravaru said of the region's three electorates, they would give priority to the two biggest – North Bougainville and Central Bougainville – which had 10 constituencies between them.

Deployment of returning officers would take place next week as they make supervisory visits to the constituencies.

Taravaru said K250,000 from the allocated K400,000 would be used for the programme.

26.10.2011

Source: The National

Setbacks highlighted

A SURVEY by the National Research Institute reveals that infrastructure on Bougainville cannot cope with the economic activity taking place in the autonomous region.

NRI director Dr Thomas Webster had urged the government to address the problem and place emphasis on infrastructures such as roads and banking facilities in the region.

"A survey of households in urban Bougainville leaves us with a message for our government that there is tremendous economic activity taking place in the province but infrastructures like roads and banking systems cannot cater for it," Webster said.

"The initial survey data provides evidence of an economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally-sponsored peace-keeping operation that ended the decade-long conflict."

Head of the survey Dr Charles Yala said more economic activity would lead to peace being fully attained in the region.

"With such a boom in economic activity, we need to get the locals involved in cocoa production, build permanent houses and do other worthwhile things."

26.10.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville lawsuit against mining giant revived in US Court of Appeals

A U.S. federal appeals court has revived a lawsuit seeking to hold Rio Tinto responsible for human rights violations and thousands of deaths linked to its huge Panguna copper and gold mine in Papua New Guinea's Bougainville province.

A divided 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed a lower court's dismissal of claims against the mining giant for genocide and war crimes, while upholding the dismissal of claims for racial discrimination and crimes against humanity.

A civil war, prompted by the mining company's activities, erupted in 1989, with an estimated 20 thousand lives lost.

Judge Mary Schroeder wrote that the complaint alleges purposeful conduct undertaken by Rio Tinto with the intent to assist in the commission of violence, injury, and death, to the degree necessary to keep its mines open.

The 6-5 decision on Tuesday revives an 11-year-old lawsuit on behalf of about 10,000 current and former Bougainville residents.

But some dissenting judges protested against allowing a lawsuit to proceed in federal courts brought by non-U.S. residents against a non-U.S. company.

A Rio Tinto spokesman, says the company will defend itself vigorously against what it calls improper claims.

25.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville deal with China fruitful

BOUGAINVILLE'S China Cooperation Committee (BCCC) under the chairmanship of Autonomous Bougainville Government vice President Patrick Nisira has done so much since its approval in June this year.

Apart from facilitating multi-billion kina companies from China to visit to help Bougainville, the BCCC has also established entities which would also help boost the economy of Bougainville and specifically to secure Chinese government aid, promote commercial, technical and cultural exchange, develop Bougainville China cooperation strategy, develop Bougainville social and economic development strategy and policy and conduct awareness programs related to cooperation with China among others.

According to Bougainville China Economic Cooperation Strategy report obtained by the Post-Courier, companies from China who visited to help Bougainville in its economic prosperity, especially to help build up strategic partnership with China to secure Chinese Government aid, attract Chinese investment and achieve direct trading access to China to cut off middlemen and achieve full autonomy by implementation of Bougainville Peace Agreement to allow the people to compare the autonomy and full independence before referendum and see Bougainville China Cooperation as a strategy to achieve the full autonomy. They include:

- * Hosia Engineering Design Company and Ruike Construction Company;
- * Honghua Group – the Global Second Largest Manufacturer of Oil Drilling Platforms (this company supplied drilling platforms to LNG Project) and Hengsen Chemical – a famous company in China;

* **Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group – the Second Largest Copper Mining Company in China;**

(Find out more about an important Tongling 3 billion investment in 2010 - HERE!!!)

- * Hunan Hydro & Power Design Institute – the Second Largest Institute in China

- * Sun Innovation Group Company – a famous multi-industrial company based in

Hongkong (they came by the private jet)

The BCCC had developed and had BEC approved on mid July 2011 the package strategy for establishing comprehensive economic structure and system in Bougainville. Because of Bougainville's low revenue income, lack of capacity (government and economy), low employment rate (25% employed in formal sector) and big fiscal gap (K93,566,500 in 2010).

ABG's legal arm approved BCCC on June 12, 2011.

This economic system will enable Bougainville to accelerate economic growth, achieve economic independence, and support Bougainville social welfare development.

The report also details that BCCC over the last five months has:

- * Established Bougainville Public Investment Corporation Limited – 100% ABG owned company. (This business arm provides a legal position for ABG to go into any joint venture and creates the second source of revenue for the goal of ABG fiscal self-reliance).

- * Established Bougainville General Development Corporation Limited – 52% ABG & 48% Chinese investors. (This company will serve as a headquarter company and play a leadership role in establishing every industrial development capacity company in JV with Chinese investors).

- * Established Bougainville Import & Export General Corporation Limited – 60% Bougainvillean & 40% Chinese investors. (This company will build up direct access into Chinese manufacturers and market by cutting off all middlemen, so as to reduce selling price in Bougainville, and increase Bougainvillean products export volume to create direct and significant benefit for all Bougainvilleans).

- * Established Bougainville Energy & Water Development General Corporation Limited – 15.6% ABG, 84.4% Chinese investors. ABG can buy back more shares for a maximum 52% share of this company in future. (This is a large capital and high expertise capacity company for developing the hydropower and water conservancy infrastructure projects, to build up Bougainville own power and water supply systems).

BCCC will also take a great effort to develop proper strategy and policy for development of the following industries/sectors, and identify credible Chinese investors to establish relevant joint venture capacity companies within 24 months in mining, construction, bank, shipping, airline, tourism, Special Economy Zone Development, agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquatic, legal service, security service, academy of social and economy strategy planning.

25.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Lifestyle disease rife on Atolls

by PETERSON TSERAHA

LIFestyle diseases are a major concern in the Atolls of Bougainville, visiting medical officials to the atolls recently found this out on the maiden voyage of the BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls to Mortlock and Tasman Islands. Diabetes, asthma, broken bones top the list of the kind of lifestyle diseases on Mortlock Island. The type of diet is a major contributing factor which leads to diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. These types of diseases are curable only if regular shipping is guaranteed on a monthly or weekly basis to supply drugs and other medical supplies. Shown in this picture is Dr Patrick Mallisson Dio, a medical officer from the Buka general hospital examining a patient at the Mortlock Island aid post.

25.10.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

ABG to hold three-day resource summit for all Bougainvilleans

All Bougainvilleans have been invited by the Autonomous Bougainville Government to a Bougainville Development Resource Summit in Arawa from 27th to 29th October.

The invitation is to discuss resource development issues that have affected Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, including land, minerals, oil and gas, fishing, forestry, agriculture and carbon trading.

Topics for discussion include:

- CODE OF CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS
- RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMARY LAND, RESOURCE OWNERSHIP & RIGHTS
- TYPES OF CONTRACTS FOR EXTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES
- FAIR SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS
- PNG DOMESTIC LAWS, INCLUDING LAND ACT 1996, MINING ACT 1992 AND OIL & GAS ACT 1998

Guest speakers will include constitutional lawyer, Mr Peter Donigi, President of the Mama Papa Graun Party.

For queries about the summit, please contact Justin Borgia 72375139 and Denis Kuiai 71505652

25.10.2011

Source: The National

Probe ordered for Buka Hospital

HEALTH Minister Jamie Maxtone-Graham has instructed his department secretary to investigate allegations of medical drug shortage at the Buka Hospital yesterday.

His instructions came after one of the hospital staff called for help as the hospital was running low on drugs.

The phone call also coincided with the launching of the public complaint hotline at his office to receive complaints on health issues. Maxtone-Graham said he did not know the hospital was running low on drugs and told the acting secretary Pascoe Kase to immediately investigate and take action if the reports were true.

Kase also said he was unaware of the report but would find out.

Meanwhile, he said for the first time AusAID was helping the government to provide medical equipment and drugs to health facilities in the country.

Kase said in the past, deliveries were done at the provincial level but AusAID had shouldered some of the burden and rural health centres and aid posts would receive their supplies.

The government will take over the exercise when AusAID finishes the project.

24.10.2011

Source: The National

NRI studies Bougainville economic recovery efforts

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE National Research Institute (NRI) will tomorrow release findings of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

The Bougainville Research Project was a collaborative project between the NRI and the Buka campus of UPNG, University of New South Wales, the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring.

The research was funded by the Asia Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence.

The aim of the research was to find out the phase of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville and the findings will be made know to the media tomorrow at the NRI Library.

NRI communication units in an email said that Phase 1 of the project was completed and the survey results will be presented to the government and the International Donor Community.

The email stated that about 20 students studying at the Buka Campus of UPNG were trained as research assistants and conducted surveys covering Buka, Selau, Arawa and Buin.

It said the survey data provided evidence of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

The results of the survey were presented to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the wider community covering the survey sites of Buka, Selau, Arawa and Buin during the first week of this month.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Laptops go missing on ship

By GORETHY KENNETH

ONE of Bougainville's computer and accessories companies has lost more than K200,000 worth of computer laptops and projectors.

Buka Police yesterday said that the company (named) lost the laptops and projectors while onboard the ship of a major shipping company.

Police could not provide full details of the incident but advised the investigations were still being carried out.

The company (named) told the Post- Courier that more than 80 laptops worth more than K200,000 went missing and several other projectors on the ship probably in Port Moresby, Lae or at the Buka wharf.

The executives of the company said that the investigations were still being carried out but appealed to the public to report to the police or the company anyone selling laptops on the street.

Reports have already been received that there were some people selling Toshiba laptops on the streets of Buka and Arawa for a quick K500.

An appeal has been put out for the public to report anyone selling laptops, specifically Toshiba brands in town.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

TSC to transfer powers to AROB

By BOLA NOHO

TEACHING Service Commission will transfer its powers and functions to the Department of Education and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville at the end of this week.

The caretaker Chairman for Teaching Services Commission (TSC) Jerry Kuhena announced last week that the combined joint implementation group (JIG) was currently in a meeting in Bougainville to discuss the issue.

He said the meeting would discuss ways to transfer TSC powers and functions to the Department of Education (DoE) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) education division.

"This meeting is important because it will discuss the transfer of powers and functions of TSC and DoE to ABG Education Division," said Mr Kuhena.

He said JIG comprised of senior officers of DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC.

The JIG agenda for the meeting included implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG Education division's human resources in order for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

He also said they would discuss the policy on the implementation of powers and functions that would be developed.

"This policy will provide directions to DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC on the implementation of powers and functions," said Mr Kuhena.

He said the meeting would require proposed restructure for ABG Education's feedback from JIG committee members mainly from DoE and TSC. Mr Kuhena said the feedback would improve the proposed restructure for ABG Education before it was endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management. He said they would also discuss the budget. A Memorandum of Understanding states that the budget for ABG Education functions would be supported by DoE, TSC and ABG.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Maternity ward for Manetai

MEMBER for Central Bougainville and Minister for Communications, Jimmy Miringoro cut the ribbon to his funded maternity ward in Manetai, and also welcomed the first mother in, who gave birth to a whopping 3.9 kg baby girl minutes later.

The official opening of the ward recently happened in the presence of ABG Minister for LLG Joseph Nopeii, member for Eivo Torau Melchior Dare, South Nasioi member John Ken, Health CEO Anthony Pumpara, Bougainville chief administrator Lawrence Disin and Roselyn Kenneth Ausaid rep.

The cry for the people of Eivo Torau had been answered for a new maternity ward to be built in Manetai health centre.

"But I will remain steadfast in my belief that health and education are two most important sectors that will continue to demand more of our attention and resources," Miringoro said.

A firm believer in a healthy and educated country, he will ensure that these two important sectors continue to get due attention in his central Bougainville electorate.

The Manetai health centre was built at the cost of K500, 000 and is of high quality, with ceramic tiles electrical wiring and air-condition with in built shower and toilet facilities. A hot water system was also installed.

AusAID through GIF (Governance Implementation Fund) chipped in K40, 000 for beddings and furniture.

"As much as I have assisted schools in the electorate in my first term in the National

Parliament, I have also endeavoured to lend a helping hand to our health facilities,” the minister said.

“I make particular mention of the upgrading of the Manetai and Wakunai health centers as these are two areas where many of our people are concentrated.”

Constituency member for Eivo Torau in the ABG Melchior Dare on behalf of his constituency and the ABG thanked Minister Miringtoro and commended him for being a good servant of the people.

“With Minister committing help to us it shows a good partnership and working relationship with the ABG and the National Government, and that is the cooperation that will make Bougainville move forward,” Mr Dare said. Mothers in the Eivo Torau constituency have applauded the members help.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aropa airport awaits opening

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill recently announced the National Government will re-open Aropa Airport. The airport has been closed due to withdrawal of government services at the start of Bougainville crisis. The airport is key to efforts to rebuild Bougainville. A quick visit to the airport yesterday revealed the runway is in good condition. The grounds are covered in tall grass and trees. If the airport is to be reopened, a lot of work has to be done. Words and pictures by BLAISE NANGOI in Bougainville.



21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis calls for unity

President proposes deal for factions to achieve first three BPA pillars

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis is calling on the people of Bougainville to come together and remove the blockades of unity for Bougainvilleans.

He has proposed an agreement that all factions in Bougainville will collaborate to achieve the first three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

He said the pillars of Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal were of paramount importance to decide on the future of Bougainville.

He said he was very conscious some factions feel rightly or wrongly that they were not a party to the Bougainville Peace Agreement and that they were not bound by its dictates.

Chief John Momis said the Peace Agreement was entered into Bougainville for the purposes of the unification of all Bougainvilleans and not just some.

Mr Momis said the document was about more than any single group or faction and the time had come to accept it as a document representing the sovereign will of all

Bougainvilleans.

Mr Momis added not every faction could be included in the negotiations that brought about the Bougainville Peace Agreement and not every faction wanted to be included but that should not be an excuse.

President Momis said having reached this point in time in the historical development and to dishonor the peace agreement would cast a stain on the pure motives and good intentions of those who fought to bring an end to the crisis in Bougainville and who sought to bring about peace to Bougainville.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP urges guns disposal

FORMER combatants in Bougainville who are still in possession of weapons have been challenged by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma to destroy them. Mr Kamma said those still in possession of these arms would always be tempted to kill people, therefore these weapons must be immediately destroyed.

He suggested that one of the options that could be followed was that these weapons could be given to the village chiefs so they could arrange for the weapons destructions. Mr Kamma said he believed that lasting peace could only be achieved in Bougainville through peaceful means.

The above statement was delivered by Mr Kamma during a reconciliation ceremony which was held last week at Mongai village in the Buin district of South Bougainville.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's historic moment

BABIES who were born during the Bougainville crisis have now added colour to Bougainville's education history.

They had completed high school, graduated from grade 10 at Arawa High School last Friday.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville and education experts can now clearly see how everyone had struggled for 10 years up to this stage where kids born in the crisis have graduated.

The 15th graduation of grade 10 students at Arawa since the establishment on October 14 (after the crisis) was attended by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology and Member for Central Bougainville Jimmy Miringtoro.

Before entering politics, Mr Miringtoro was one of the pioneering teachers at the high school when normal classes were re-established there after the 10-year conflict in which he donated K1 million kina for the school to be upgraded to secondary level.

Among those who attended were adviser to the Prime Minister Jeffery Kaki, Central commissioner James Koivo Education Chief Executive Officer Bruno Babato, Headmaster Paul Lapun, Veterans Minister David Sisito and Kieta District Executive Manageress Lucy Traverts.

The minister thanked all the teachers who had taught with him during the difficult times when they struggled to bridge the 10-year gap in the education brought on by the crisis. He commended the teachers and the board members who took up the challenge to make Arawa High School a success story. The Minister also said that transforming Arawa High School to secondary school was quite expensive because the school needed proper infrastructure, a good library and school materials such as textbooks on

subjects taught in schools throughout the country. When announcing free education that the O'Neill-Namah Government was introducing next year, Mr Mirintoro asked the students' parents to take note that free education was not free in the sense that it comes at a high cost to the Government. "To enable this program, we have had to make some hard decisions to directly help the people of this nation as education is becoming quite expensive," he said.

In response to speculations on K5 million committed by the former Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal to Arawa High School, the Minister said this money was misappropriated by the previous government. However, he said gave an undertaking that he and his officers would do their utmost to try and secure funds equivalent to what was promised by Mr Abal earlier. The Minister concluded his speech announcing that the O'Neill-Namah Government was committed to helping Bougainville by strengthening the autonomous arrangement for the people.

The graduation ceremony ended with prize giving and the presentation of certificates plus entertainment. Many of those who attended the graduation said this was the best graduation yet at Arawa High School which they hoped would start classes as a secondary high school for the first time.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

TSC to transfer education powers

By BOLA NOHO

TEACHING Service Commission will transfer its powers and functions to the Department of Education and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville at the end of this week.

The caretaker chairman for teaching services commission (TSC), Jerry Kuhena announced early this week that the combined joint implementation group (JIG) was currently in meeting in Bougainville.

He said they would discuss ways to transfer TSC powers and functions to the Department of Education (DoE) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) education division.

"This meeting is important because it will discuss the transfer of powers and functions of TSC and DoE to ABG Education Division," said Mr Kuhena.

He said JIG comprised of senior officers of DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC.

The agenda items that JIG will discuss include implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG Education Division's human resources in order for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

He also said they would discuss the policy on the implementation of powers and functions that would be developed.

"This policy will provide directions to DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC on the implementation of powers and functions," said Mr Kuhena.

He said the meeting would require proposed restructure for ABG Education's feedback from JIG committee members mainly from DoE and TSC.

Mr Kuhena said the feedback would improve the proposed restructure for ABG Education before it is endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management (DPM).

He said they would also discuss the budget for implementation. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between DoE, ABG Education Division, TSC and ABG Education the budget for ABG Education functions would be supported by DoE, TSC and

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Suspended over inmate's death

By FABIAN GATANA

A SENIOR Bougainville police officer has been suspended from office pending an internal investigation over the death of a remandee.

Buka Police Station Commander Chief Sgt Alex Gunan was immediately suspended for 21 days and is now being investigated for engaging Sakias Parerea on a private assignment on Monday where he was electrocuted.

Bougainville Police Chief ACP Thomas Eluh said that the remandee was one of two inmates that were released to carry out private electrical work on the concern officer's residential area.

He said that while trying to erect a metal pole, it came into contact with a live power cable nearby, injuring one Cleland Kiha and instantly killing Parerea. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Buka General Hospital.

Mr Eluh said that serious disciplinary charges will be laid on the officer concerned after investigations are completed by Criminal Investigations Officers.

Mr Eluh passed his condolences to the family, relatives and friends of the Parerea.

He also thanked Wakunai chiefs and ABG members for containing the situation.

The late Parerea 25 years of Takukupa village in Wakunai, had been in custody since August 19 for armed robbery and was to have appeared for mention in court on Tuesday.

The body of Parerea was escorted by police to his village on Wednesday after a post mortem was conducted at Buka General Hospital.

21.10.2011

Source: The National

Minister pushes roads upgrading

ROAD infrastructure upgrading and maintenance is crucial in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Communication and Information Minister and Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro says.

He said while the education and health sectors remained his top priorities, he was aware of the importance of a good road network in his Central Bougainville electorate, particularly the 175km main highway from Buka to Arawa on the mainland.

He said maintaining proper feeder roads and bridges was crucial to the people.

He said he had allocated funds for the following road upgrading projects in his electorate:

- I Paruparu Road

- (K2.4 million);

- I Kakarapaia Road K800,000;

- I Orami Road K300,000; and,

- I Koianu Road K900,000.

Miringtoro said he allocated K800,000 for the upgrading of the Sipuru Road in the Kongara area.

"The road upgrading and maintenance should complement the 15 bridges that are being built along the main highway with the assistance of the Japanese government," he said.

Miringtoro said when the bridges were completed and commissioned, his people would no longer spend sleepless nights on the sides of the highway because of flooded and impassable rivers.

"My JDP&BPC and I have tried to make the best decisions to put this limited money into right use.

"For example, last year my JDP&BPC made a decision to assist the Arawa High School with K1 million for its senior science laboratory and administration block," Miringtoro said.

He said other projects

approved by the JDP&BPC and completed included:

- | K800,000 to build a Kieta district office at Toniva;
- | K600,000 for capacity-building in the Panguna district;
- | K1.1 million for Manetai and Wakunai health centres;
- | K200,000 for PNG Power; and
- | K500,000 for Arawa Airstrip upgrading.

20.10.2011

Source: ESBC

Schreckt deutsche Staatsanwaltschaft vor der Macht der Banken zurück?

Die Staatsanwaltschaft Mannheim ist in Deutschland zentral verantwortlich für Wirtschaftskriminalität aller Art.

Die Verfolgung einer Anzeige des ESBC-Präsidenten Axel G. Sturm gegen Unbekannt wegen Betruges, gegebenenfalls sogar bandenmäßigen Betruges wurde am 09.08.2011 auf dem Wege einer Verfügung von der Mannheimer Staatsanwaltschaft eingestellt.

Gegenstand der Anzeige war die unerlaubte, gewerbsmäßige Verleihung von Aktien durch Depotbanken verbunden mit der Unterschlagung der aus diesen Geschäften generierten Gewinne zum Nachteil der Bankkunden bzw. der Depotinhaber. Dieser begründete Verdacht hatte sich aus den Erfahrungen von Aktionären der Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) mit ihren Depotbanken ergeben. BCL ist Eigentümerin einer der weltweit größten Kupfer-, Gold- und Silberminen.

Der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre von BCL, Axel G. Sturm, die sich in den ESBC organisiert haben, hat zwei Vermutungen dazu, warum die Ermittlungen eingestellt wurden: „Vielleicht ist die Staatsanwaltschaft Mannheim personell hochgradig unterbesetzt, so dass aufwendige Ermittlungen wie in diesem Falle nicht möglich sind. Dafür spricht die Tatsache, dass die Nachricht über die Einstellung der Ermittlungen dem Antragsteller erst nach wiederholter anwaltlicher Nachfrage übermittelt wurde. Es könnte aber auch sein, dass die Banken Druck gemacht haben. Wie auch immer: Es widerspricht meinem Rechtsempfinden, dass diese Angelegenheit nicht verfolgt werden soll, obwohl zweifelsfrei der Verdacht krimineller Machenschaften vorliegt. Dies ist angesichts der schwierigen Beweislage derzeit noch reine Spekulation.“ Ein weiterer Grund für die Einstellung, so Sturm, könne aber auch der ohnehin prekären Situation europäischer Banken geschuldet sein, die angesichts der sogenannten Euro-Krise unter Beschuss geraten sind. Sollte sich Sturms Verdacht erhärten, könnte leicht eine Lawine losgetreten werden, die in eine weitere Bankenkrise mündet. Denn: Es ist nicht auszuschließen, dass eine Vielzahl weiterer Aktien von Banken und Brokern für unautorisierte Lendinggeschäfte genutzt werden.

Sturm kündigte an, er werde weitere Schritte unternehmen, um besseren Verbraucherschutz für Bankkunden einzufordern.

Bitte lesen Sie die Einstellungsverfügung hier !



Die ESBC danken Herrn Rechtsanwalt Peter A. Seitz, Stuttgart, für seine freundliche Unterstützung in dieser Angelegenheit.

→ www.rechtsanwalt-seitz.de

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis to honour old agreements

By JOYCE TOHUI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government president chief John Momis has promised to honor agreements made between the Mekamui Unity Government, the people of Panguna and the former James Tanis Government to resolve all outstanding differences in the area.

Mr Momis said the commitment made by the former Tanis government to consult the Mekamui Unity Government and the Chamber of Clans Paramount Council and the Panguna Landowners would still be continued.

He said his Government would continue dialogue on their issues and concerns, in particular the seven points adopted for further dialogue between the ABG and the Mekamui in March, 2010.

Meanwhile, he has also commended the former factional leaders of Bougainville for helping the ABG in its efforts to unite all factions on Bougainville.

Mr Momis commended Chris Uma for the efforts he made to re-establish peace and normalcy in the Panguna area.

And also his intervention to make sure that three representatives of the ABG, including the chief administrator were allowed free passage to Buin recently.

Mr Momis said these efforts were good and pointed to everyone working towards one unified Bougainville.

The president said the ABG had encouraged dialogue with Ishmael Toroama, the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army commander, who continues to take an active interest in supporting the peace process in Central Bougainville.

He said that these are some clear way forward in the process of unification of Bougainville.

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tanis to head reconciliations

By JOYCE TOHUI

FORMER ABG President, James Tanis has been appointed by the Bougainville President Chief John Momis to lead all peace efforts on Bougainville. President Momis made the announcement when highlighting the need for coordinated efforts in creating peace and cooperation with the various factions within the autonomous region.

Mr Momis said that since his inauguration last year, he had been talking of unification throughout Bougainville.

He said that the unification of the people of Bougainville was an overarching issue of fundamental importance as it was upon this single issue that the future social, economic and political progress of Bougainville would depend on.

Mr Momis said Mr Tanis had accepted to work closely with the Bougainville administration in ensuring that the peace building initiatives of the former government were continued to achieve Bougainville's goals.

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Warring clans make peace

By JOYCE TOHUI

SOUTH Bougainville can enjoy peace and normalcy once again after witnessing the signing of the Hongorai ceasefire agreement between two warring parties in the Siwai district of South Bougainville.

The Hongorai ceasefire agreement was signed between Paul Ihiarah and Edward Kesipoto and the South Bougainville Police at Muwoku village in the Siwai district last Sunday.

Chairman of the events committee and the Chairman of the Siwai Ex-combatants Association, Michael Komoiki commended the warring parties in the commitment made to sign the ceasefire agreement and urged them to look after the agreement and make it work because it must lead to reconciliation and finally weapons disposal.

Speakers at the ceremony expressed similar sentiments that they want to see the ceasefire signing ceremony bear fruit to end the ongoing conflict in the Siwai district of South Bougainville.

The ABG member for Motuna Huyono Tokunutui and Minister for Finance, Treasury and Planning, Albert Punghau was heavily involved in the reconciliation program.

The ceremony was also witnessed by the ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira, government officials, Bougainville Police Service ACP Thomas Eluh, and the UN team on Bougainville.

20.10.2011

Source: email from Vikki John to ESBC

Good Old Vikki at her Best !

20 October 2011

Attention:

Mr Axel Sturm , President, The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) - <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/>

By email to: sturm@bougainville-copper.eu and ESBC@bougainville-copper.eu

And To: Peter R Taylor, Chairman, Bougainville Copper Limited - <http://bcl.nlawebdesigns.com/>

Referenced here at ESBC: <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/chairman-s-address.html>

By email to: infor@bcl.com.pg

Offending Publication: <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/news-september-2011.html>

Header Title: Who will finally help poor Vikki John?

An academic officer of UTS faculty of law supposed to turn mad.

Dear Sirs,

Please see my email below sent to the moderator of the Bougainville Forum on 19 October 2011. In that email I have noted legal advice that the September article published under the above header title is defamatory of me.

Please remove the offending article and advise me the moment this is done - thank you.

Regards,
Vikki John

Memo to: Warwick Brooker, Moderator for the Bougainville Forum

From: Vikki John

Re: Email Posting on 11 September 2011 by Axel G Sturm, President of 'The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper'

<http://www.bougainville-copper.eu> - ESBC@bougainville-copper.eu - sturm@bougainville-copper.eu

Since the receipt of an email from Axel Sturm against me I have refrained from responding partly because of impending leave (from which I have now returned) and partly because I wished to take legal advice concerning defamation against me by Mr Sturm.

The email was a copy of Mr Sturm's website September News article (10.09.2011) under the title: Who will finally help poor Vikki John. My legal advice is that the article is highly defamatory of me. Also, the Chairman of (BCL) Bougainville Copper Ltd Mr Peter Taylor has defamed me, by association, in endorsing Axel Sturm's website publication under his own banner title of Chairman's Address. Since Mr Sturm's defamatory material is published on the internet at his website address (<http://www.bougainville-copper.eu>), I am able to commence a damages claim in the New South Wales jurisdiction in accordance with the Australian High Court decision called The Gutnick Case (cf: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/12/10/1039379819086.html>). That case establishes the legal point that, with reference to an internet publication, a person can be

defamed within the jurisdiction of wherever the article or publication is read. However, these are not issues to concern members of this forum.

Axel Sturm was not content to defame me on his website, he also published his article by sending it to my employer at the University of Technology Sydney. This was a malicious action on his part intending that I be harmed in my employment. But there is a deeper motive as to why Mr Sturm sent such a highly personally offensive post to my employer and that is to 'warn' me off the Bougainville forum. By turning the personally offensive spotlight on me, Mr Sturm is seeking to rid the forum of my viewpoints that are critical of his pro-mining interests. In warning me off by this behavior Mr Sturm is also setting a precedent that could be used to warn off any forum member by targeting them personally with offensive email publications, and publishing it external to the forum. Forum members targeted in this way would hesitate to dare express viewpoints that are different to Mr Sturm's concerning 'the Bougainville Question on a return to mining'. And this strategy is designed to turn this forum into a 'quasi-independent' voice on the Bougainville mining question so he can use this 'voice' as a marketing tool for exerting upward pressure in a volatile market on BCL share pricing.

What do we know of Axel Sturm and what are his personal financial interests in Bougainville? Reportedly, the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) hold some 10 million shares (see Keith Jackson's blog: ESBC Spins a Comeback for B'ville Copper

http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2010/11/esbc-spins-a-comeback-for-bville-copper.html). From a corporate business registered in the notorious tax-free Tax Haven of Andorra, Axel Sturm provides brokerage services to the ESBC shareholder block. He buys and sells for a commission and of course the greater the shareholder price the greater the commission. As for registering his business in Andorra, that is typical of Mr Sturm setting up in a tiny Principality that has been notorious not just as a tax-free zone that attracts all kinds of dubious money-changers but because of the secrecy surrounding its banking laws. Ironically, for Axel Sturm, the recent (April 2011) elections gave a clear mandate to the Democrats to reintroduce laws on the lifting of Banking Secrecy and to imposing a value-added tax on corporations - that may see the end to Mr Sturm's beloved Tax-Haven.

I don't know how many shares in Bougainville Copper are personally owned by Mr Sturm, but in terms of personal holdings coupled with his brokerage business in ESBC shares, and faced with a historically declining share value, Mr Sturm is desperate at every turn, and at every opportunity, to talk up the value of Bougainville Copper shares and to talk down disquiet or unrest at the prospects of a Panguna mine start-up (note that BCL share prices have slid from around \$1.50 in May 2011 to \$0.86c today -

<http://bcl.nlawebdesigns.com/media/miscellaneous.html>).

The personal offensive has become Mr Sturm's hallmark in dealing with disagreements over Bougainville. When faced with overwhelming facts or differences of opinion, Mr Sturm resorts to calling one 'mental'. For example, here are some extracts from Axel Sturm's response to Bougainvillean Clive Porabu whose Mekamui website news is fast gaining International respect for bringing real-life news and song from the ground on the thoughts and aspirations of Bougainvilleans:

Clive: In this regard, the closing down of Panguna Mine involved blood and the loss of lives of twenty thousand fighters, innocent children, men and women from the Southern tip to the Northern isles of Mekamui/Bougainville.

Sturm: You know very well that only approximately 1200 people were killed by unrest on Bougainville. The others died because of lack of medicines and normal death in that period. ... Stop to publish all that bullshit now or are you mentally sick??

Clive: Let us not sink it [Bougainville] with all the craziness for the copper and gold business. For the love of Earth.

Sturm: What bullshit is this? . . . So, Clive, wake up and re-build Bougainville like many others do! Or are you happy to be an outlaw and a notorious liar?? . . . Are you sure that you are not possessed by some kind of bad demon???

(the complete exchange can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/ur1sq>)

It is expected that being a member of a forum that engages in big questions and issues that concern a people will give rise at times to robust, contentious, and passionate outbursts about the issues being discussed. But it is also to be expected that forum discussion is kept within the forum. And it is also expected that personally offensive information will be left out of the discussion. It is also expected that one member won't go outside the forum to another member's employment and try to harm them. Axel Sturm has violated these forum rules AND is warning me (and other members of the forum) that he will not stop at publishing offensive commentary outside of the forum if that's what it takes to silence views he does not agree with.

Axel Sturm should be banned from the forum as a clear statement that intimidation by defamation within the forum and outside of it will not be tolerated.

Vikki John

UTS CRICOS Provider Code: 00099F

DISCLAIMER: This email message and any accompanying attachments may contain confidential information.

If you are not the intended recipient, do not read, use, disseminate, distribute or copy this message or

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Before opening any attachments, please check them for viruses and defects.

Think. Green. Do.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Dear Warwick,

19.10.2011

Source: The National

Buka hosts education consultations

TALKS are underway in Buka on the transfer of powers and functions of the Teaching Service Commission and the Education Department from the national government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Commission caretaker chairman Jerry Kuhena said a joint implementation group consisting of the commission, education department, and the ABG education division began meeting on Monday.

He said the agenda included:

- Implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG education division's human resources for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently;

- Policy on the implementation of powers and functions to be developed. This policy will provide directions to the department, ABG and the commission on powers and functions;

- I Departmental restructure for the ABG education division which will require feedback from committee members. The feedback will improve the proposed restructure of the ABG education department before it is endorsed by the Personnel Management department.

- Budget for implementation. According to the memorandum of understanding between the parties, they will support the budget for the ABG education functions;and

- Meetings to be co-chaired.

Kuhena said future meetings would be held as planned.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

PNG, Aust form talks panel

PAPUA New Guinea and Australia have agreed to establish a high-level committee that would carry out regular talks for effective business and economic development outcomes.

The committee would comprise representatives from business and government of both countries that is set to meet at more regular intervals than the formal ministerial dialogues already established between the two neighbours.

The proposal for closer dialogues and problem-solving came jointly from the Business Council of Papua New Guinea (BCPNG) and the Australia PNG Business Council (APNGBC), led by its president Peter Taylor.

The joint bodies met in Canberra with foreign ministers Ano Pala and Kevin Rudd during the recent visit to Australia by PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

"The councils see this meeting as part of ongoing engagement between business and government extending beyond today's meeting," Taylor, who is also chairman of the Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), said.

"To achieve the most effective outcomes, we believe we need continuous engagement between us during the periods between the formal meetings," Taylor said.

"We welcomed the agreement by ministers to our proposal for the immediate

establishment of a bilateral committee of business and senior officials to meet regularly to create effective outcomes to business and economic development issues.”

“Among many positive discussion points, we talked about sovereign wealth funds to conserve and build PNG’s mineral revenues, capacity building in the Royal Papua New Guinea Police Constabulary and capacity building in the PNG Lands Department.”

Taylor said that they also lodged a formal submission from businesses to relevant ministers, which covered a range of important topics including the proposed economic relations agreement, ownership of mineral resources in PNG.

Other issues taken up involved immigration, work permits, improved air freight deals between Australia and PNG, third-country workers transiting to and from PNG and economic infrastructure.

Taylor said the council looked forward to working with its business colleagues in PNG and with both governments to advance these and other issues through the bilateral business and officials committee and at future ministerial forums.

18.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atolls cry out for regular shipping links

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

ATOLLS people on Bougainville have called on the ABG and the Border Development Authority for regular shipping services to the outer islands.

BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls made its maiden voyage to the Bougainville atolls last week Thursday to Mortlock and Tasman Islands.

The people in those islands entirely depend on shipping alone for transportation of people and goods and services.

People, especially the ones in Mortlock Island, said Tasman islanders were quite lucky that they had to go down to Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands for goods and services, but Mortlock island was completely isolated and cut off from the rest of the world.

The trip was an emergency run in which two critically ill patients were brought in to the Buka hospital, one from Mortlock and one from Tasman.

Doctor attached with the Buka hospital Patrick Dio who was sent to help evacuate sick people and assess the health situation in the atolls, said regular shipping is greatly needed in order to stock up medical supplies.

On Tasman Island at the moment, food rations have run out and the regular ship that comes to Ontong Java is not working.

Mortlock Islands health officer Simon Spilda said the current population for Mortlock Island was 310 excluding those living in Buka and other parts of PNG.

Tasman has a high population of 639 and when included with those living outside the population, it goes up to 936.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

Miringtoro: Sector neglecting teachers

CENTRAL Bougainville MP and Communication and Information Minister Jimmy Miringtoro said teachers are often “left behind” in the country’s education system.

“Through experience, I have seen for myself that teachers are left behind to teach only inside the classroom but the stakeholders forget about their part in supporting the school to move in a positive direction,” he said.

“In many instances, the school administration forgets about their contribution.

“As a result, the interest of the school starts to diminish. This is a sign of weak leadership in the management of the school.”

He was speaking last Friday during Arawa High School's 15th graduation ceremony.

Miringtoto said the school must be seen as a “success story.”

“We started this school with a few dedicated teachers and a small number of students who took the challenge to come out of their communities, knowing the importance of education and the future of our children which was put to the test by the Bougainville crisis.

“Knowing the significance of this school, when it acted as pivotal point in restoration and peace building, I had to be present here to celebrate this special occasion with you,” he told the graduating Grade 10 students.

Miringtoto said the school would take in its first Grade 11 classes next year.

“Many of you may be aware that transforming this school to secondary school status is going to be quite expensive.

“To reach secondary school status, we need proper infrastructure, curriculum materials for students and teachers and a proper library,” he said.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

Police praises border post

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has welcomed the national government's initiative to establish a border post at Kangu beach.

ARB assistant police commissioner Thomas Eluh said the post would help “to monitor and enforce law and order along the border between Solomon Islands and the autonomous region”.

“It will boost the capacity of police, Customs, National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority and immigration to effectively handle border affairs,” Eluh said.

He said the border area had been “a haven for criminal activities such as the exchange of firearms and drugs”.

The sale of stolen items and equipment across the border had been difficult to trace and recover.

Last week, Eluh met with the Solomons acting police commissioner and the Regional Assistant Mission to the Solomon Islands (Ramsi) commander where he raised concern over illegal activities along the border.

17.10.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20111017 ENGLISH VERSION

A Strong Mark of Confidence!

ESBC President buys 1 million Bougainville Copper shares more.

The President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Mr. Axel G. Sturm, announced on Monday that he intends to double his investment in Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) from 1 million to 2 million shares within the next weeks. Mr. Sturm who recently met BCL chairman Peter Taylor in London is extremely bullish in BOC shares as he found out that the Rio Tinto subsidiary BCL will not need to dilute the share price by emitting new shares to shoulder the re-opening of the giant Panguna mine in

Central Bougainville. The cost of this operation is estimated 3 billion US\$. Furthermore: Mr. Sturm appreciates a lot that Bougainville Copper Limited is in contact with Rothschild Bankers. Rothschild's are linked worldwide and well known for discreet brokerage in joint-ventures, mergers or buy-outs. "The involvement of Rothschild bankers in BCL may be a first evidence for serious Chinese interest in our company," says Mr. Sturm, "I wouldn't be surprised if Chinalco or any other huge Chinese company would soon make a bid on BCL. That makes sense as Chinalco already holds a stake of round about 10 percent in Rio Tinto." Just recently a first-class delegation from China has visited the mine-site on Bougainville. Mr. Sturm estimates a realistic buy offer "not less than AUD 10 per share." This could be an interesting deal for the Chinese as the fair value of Bougainville Copper shares are estimated AUD 30 to AUD 50 once the mine is in operation again.

ESBC press release 20111017 GERMAN VERSION

Starker Vertrauensbeweis!

ESBC Präsident bestätigt den Kauf einer weiteren Million Bougainville Copper Aktien.

Der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre der Bougainville Copper Limited (ESBC) bestätigte am Montag, dass er vorhabe, in den nächsten Wochen eine weitere Million Aktien einer der weltweit größten Kupfer, Gold und Silberminen zu erwerben. Sturm, der sich unlängst in London mit dem Vorstandsvorsitzenden von Bougainville Copper (BCL), Peter Taylor, getroffen hatte, gibt sich extrem bullish: „Nach meinen Informationen wird es keine Verwässerung der Aktien durch die Ausgabe neuer Papiere geben. Die für die Wiedereröffnung der Pangunamine notwendigen drei Milliarden US\$ können offensichtlich problemlos am Geldmarkt beschafft werden.“ Mehr noch begeistert Sturm aber, dass Bougainville Copper in Kontakt mit der namhaften Rothschild Bank ist: „Dieses Bankhaus ist nicht nur weltweit vernetzt, sondern genießt zudem den Ruf einer ersten Adresse wenn es um die Vermittlung internationaler Joint-Ventures, Merger oder Unternehmensübernahmen geht.“ Gerüchte darüber, dass sich Hauptaktionär Rio Tinto von BCL trennen könne, kursieren ohnehin seit langem: Der kürzliche Überraschungsbesuch einer hochrangigen chinesischen Delegation in der seit 1989 stillliegenden Pangunamine hat entsprechende Vermutungen eher noch befeuert. Sturm vermutet, dass ein etwaiges Übernahmeangebot nicht unter AUD 10 liegen dürfte: „Als Käufer kämen etwa Chinalco, die ohnehin schon 10 Prozent an Rio Tinto ihr Eigen nennen, infrage oder aber ein anderer chinesischer Multi. Speziell für die Chinesen könnte das ein ausgesprochen interessanter Deal sein, denn der Fair Value der Bougainville Copper Aktie liegt zwischen AUD 30 und AUD 50 wenn die Mine erst einmal wieder begonnen hat, zu produzieren.“

17.10.2011

Source: The World News - The International News Magazine

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Women Call the Shots on Mega Copper Mine

by Catherine Wilson

BUKA, Bougainville , Oct 17 (IPS) - Whether the world's largest open-cut mine on this island territory of Papua New Guinea (PNG) will resume copper and gold production, after being mothballed for 22 years, will depend on how satisfied matrilineal landowners are with the proposals.

The women landowners are already raising issues about the potential impact on their land and communities if copper mining resumes at the site in the central mountainous district of Panguna.

"What sort of mining and with what process will it reopen?" asks Patricia Tapakau, president of the Panguna Women in Mining, an organisation which represents women in 13 mining affected villages. "We need to know, because we don't want any more destruction. We have had enough of that."

The Panguna copper mine opened in 1969 when Bougainville was under Australian colonial administration and customary landowners were excluded from the Bougainville Copper Agreement between the Australian government and the mining company, Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia.

For 20 years, the Barapang, Kurabang, Basikang and Bakoringku clans, customary landowners of the mine pit, endured devastation of their land and waterways by waste from what was the mine, community evictions and negligible share in profits.

In 1989, following BCL's refusal to pay the landowners' demand of 10 billion kina (454 million dollars) compensation, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) forced the mine to close.

The PNG government, a major owner (19.06 percent) of the operating company, Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), alongside British multinational, Rio Tinto (53.58 percent), imposed a blockade on the island and a 10-year civil war followed during which 20,000 people died, communities suffered human rights abuses and infrastructure was destroyed.

Helen Hakena, director of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, a local NGO, counsels women victims of violence and develops leadership capacity and awareness of land rights in communities. She said a significant achievement since the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement was the formation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in 2005.

"We have our own government in place and a lot has been achieved in terms of peace-building and the laying down of arms," Hakena recounted. "The setting up of businesses here has been a good thing, and schools and other institutions have been opened."

However, the population of Bougainville has doubled from 175,000 in 2000 to over 300,000 now, and with the island's current revenue deriving mainly from international aid donors, public services remain limited. Many villages lack electricity, clean water and adequate medical services.

The ABG views potential mining revenues as vital to developing services and attaining economic self-sufficiency for the second pillar of the Peace Agreement, a referendum on independence from PNG within the next 5-10 years.

In May, BCL chairman Peter Taylor visited Bougainville with a business delegation and held preliminary discussions with Bougainville President John Morris about reopening the Panguna mine, which the company estimates has reserves of 3.5 million tonnes of copper and 12.7 million ounces of gold.

Taylor stated publicly that he expects the ABG and landowners to lead in mining negotiations. However, women landowners remain concerned that the customary value of land as a source of livelihood will give way to corporate interests that see land as an expendable resource.

"The important thing about the land is that, to us, it is like a mother, because we feed on the land," said Joanne Dateransi. "We always depend on land; it cannot be compared to money."

The women say the economic potential of local industries, such as cocoa, copra and tourism must be fully explored first and unresolved issues, following the mine's abandonment, must be addressed, including financial compensation and environmental damage.

"The first thing, the government and the company, they have to pay that 10 billion kina, which is part of the (landowners') demands, then the killings and the damage has to be paid. Then we talk about the mining issue," said Panguna landowner Lynette Ona.

"The chemicals are still there in the river," she said. "No one drinks the water, there is no fish there, it is still the same," said Ona who promotes the participation of women in local politics and plans to be candidate in the 2012 Bougainville elections.

An environmental report on the Panguna mine by Applied Geology Associates (1998) spoke of thousands of tonnes of tailings including toxic metals such as mercury, lead and zinc. Tailings flowing into the nearby Jaba river decimated fish and contaminated water supplies and crops.

"It (BCL) has to come up with a very good plan on how to dispose of toxic waste," stated Coleman. What has happened as a result of the mine being closed is the (improved) fertility of the soil. We never had coconuts (during the mine's operation) in our own village, now you can see trees full of coconuts."

Long-term political and social unity is also a key issue with reconciliation and weapons disposal incomplete. A survey, supported by PNG's 'Post Courier' newspaper, of 500 families in Central Bougainville affected by the civil war death toll of 1,629, showed households still in possession of weapons.

"We will not take away all the guns," Hakena said. "But there needs to be a priority set by the government in getting those arms out before the (possible) reopening of the Panguna mine."

However, a decision on whether the mine will reopen is still to be made by the ABG, landowners, the PNG government and BCL.

ABG's chief mining officer, Stephen Burian, said new mining laws were being drafted with assistance from the World Bank, but a review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement, a precondition to mine negotiations, awaits unification of all landowners in mining affected areas under the Panguna Landowners Association and an independent environmental audit made.

The Panguna community also includes the Mekamui hardliners, comprising many former BRA fighters, who control access to the Panguna mine and have not yet agreed to any mining proposals.

What is clear is that the mine's future is in the hands of Bougainville people who want to see strategies of economic development that preserve human rights, social cohesion, environment and culture.

"We want to develop, but to redevelop from the mistakes, not to repeat the mistakes (of the past)," said Tapakau.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebel faction disbands

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Bougainville Freedom Fighters (BFF) has now been disbanded, that's the message from its founder Martin Kongkei.

The announcement was made during a reconciliation ceremony held last week at Mongai village between Mr Kongkei and families of two Me'ekamui soldiers he had shot dead in 2006. It is understood that that incident had triggered Mr Kongkei to form the BFF and stage war against the Me'ekamui faction, controlled and led by Damien Koike.

It is believed that the two - Tony Magatu and Moini Koki, were Kongkei's first cousins and their deaths had resulted in division, hatred and above all, fear among Mr Kongkei's family and families of the dead fighters. However, this feud has now been solved

following the reconciliation.

"Freedom Fighters was started here in October 2006 and it will end here today," Mr Kongkei said.

During the reconciliation, he had pleaded for forgiveness from the family members of the two cousins.

His plea was accepted and Mr Kongkei and the families had agreed to bury their hatchet and live as happy families again. The event was witnessed by ABG President John Momis, Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Kamma, head of Bougainville Police Service ACP Thomas Eluh, ABG minister for Community Development Rose Pihei and the people of Mongai.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP helps with funds for new health centre

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

PEOPLE of Muguai village in the Buin district of South Bougainville will soon be using their new health centre.

This follows a decision by the South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma to fund the completion of the health centre.

Mr Kamma, who is also the Bougainville Affairs Minister, had previously allocated K150,000 in 2008 towards the construction of the building.

Since this health centre project was a joint initiative of both Mr Kamma and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, counterpart funding for the completion of the building was supposed to be met by the ABG.

However, due to financial constraints faced by the Autonomous Bougainville Government, it was not able to meet its commitment, resulting in the incompleteness of the building.

The funding allocated by Mr Kamma was used up in the first phase of building the house, with more work still needed to be done.

During a recent inspection visit to Muguai about two weeks ago, Mr Kamma expressed grave concern following the ABG's failure in honouring its commitment to counter-fund the project.

He then pledged to allocate another K200,000 to complete the project.

Kakai Builders, a local building company from Buin, has been engaged by Mr Kamma to complete the project.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atolls cry out for regular shipping links

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

ATOLLS people on Bougainville have called on the ABG and the Border Development Authority for regular shipping services to the outer islands.

BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls made its maiden voyage to the Bougainville atolls last week Thursday to Mortlock and Tasman Islands.

The people in those islands entirely depend on shipping alone for transportation of people and goods and services.

People, especially the ones in Mortlock Island, said Tasman islanders were quite lucky that they had to go down to Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands for goods and services,

but Mortlock island was completely isolated and cut off from the rest of the world. The trip was an emergency run in which two critically ill patients were brought in to the Buka hospital, one from Mortlock and one from Tasman. Doctor attached with the Buka hospital Patrick Dio who was sent to help evacuate sick people and assess the health situation in the atolls, said regular shipping is greatly needed in order to stock up medical supplies. On Tasman Island at the moment, food rations have run out and the regular ship that comes to Ontong Jaba is not working. Mortlock Islands health officer Simon Spilda said the current population for Mortlock Island was 310 excluding those living in Buka and other parts of PNG. Tasman has a high population of 639 and when included with those living outside the population, it goes up to 936.

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia Television

A Great Success!

For his first time Peter O'Neill visited Australia as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. He was accompanied amongst others by **Bougainville Copper Chairman Peter Taylor** who is the actual President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches play key role - Pirika

CHURCHES play an important part in the integral development of people therefore they should be adequately funded by the government, that's the bold message from the Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

Since his declaration two years ago as the member-elect, Mr Kamma has always lived up to his words by continuing to fund the different church denominations in his south Bougainville electorate.

Last week Mr Kamma again presented more than K100, 000 worth of cheques to these different denominations.

Out of these funding allocations, K50, 000 was given to Turiboiru Parish in the Buin district. This funding will go towards the fundraising drive for the construction of a new church building.

Apart from Turiboiru Parish, Mr Kamma also presented K30, 000 to the Piano Parish for maintenance work to be carried out at the church building.

K49, 000 was also presented to the Kidron Ministry in Siwai district, while K15, 000 was given to the Assemblies of God (AOG) denomination at O'ohai village in Siwai.

Mr Kamma has also funded K10, 000 towards the fundraising drive for the completion of the Kokopau Catholic Church chapel.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Destroy guns: Kamma

FORMER combatants in Bougainville who are still in possession of weapons have been challenged by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma to destroy them. Mr Kamma said those still in possession of these arms will always be tempted to kill people, therefore these weapons must be immediately destroyed. Mr Kamma suggested that one of the options that could be followed is that these weapons can be given to the village chiefs so they can arrange for the weapons destructions.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

45 per cent of Bougainville's children not in school

By Fabian Gatana

ACCORDING to a recent survey conducted in Bougainville, about one in every three children living in urban areas are not in school. The survey, carried out in February by Professor Satish Chand from the University of New South Wales with the National Research Institute (NRI), UPNG and the Buka Open Campus, found from their preliminary findings that about 50 per cent of the urban population in Bougainville were young between the ages of 15 to 20 of which, 45 per cent were not attending school. Prof Chand said this is an alarming figure compared to figures from the pre-crisis years where only about two per cent did not receive any formal education. He said the research carried out was to establish Bougainville's economic recovery after the 10-year conflict to try to recreate economic data.

13.10.2011

Source: The National

South Bougainville groups make peace

BOUGAINVILLE minister for finance and planning Albert Punghau has welcomed the peace initiative taken by his people to stop fighting. Punghau, who is the member for Motuna Huyono Tokunutui in the autonomous region's house of assembly, said he wanted his people to reconcile with each other and work for peace and development. He made these remarks last week at the ceasefire ceremony of warring factions in the Siwai area, South Bougainville. Punghau said he was pleased to see his people resort to peace instead of fighting each other over nothing. He said their continuous infighting was a threat to the referendum on independence which would take place in four years. He thanked Paul Hirah and his faction for their understanding and willingness to talk peace with the police in South Bougainville. The ceremony was witnessed by the United Nations peacekeeping team on Bougainville.

13.10.2011

Source: The National

Momis pays tribute to Bonai

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis last night paid tribute to one of Bougainville's leaders from the former North Solomons provincial government, the late Martin Bonai.

Speaking at Bonai's requiem mass at the Hahela Parish, Momis said Bonai had been an intelligent Bougainvillean who served his people well as the former member for Bagana electorate.

Bonai was the principal of the Bougainville copper mine training college before the Bougainville conflict.

Bonai died at his home in Lae, Morobe, and his body was flown home yesterday.

His casket stayed overnight in Buka for the ABG leaders to pay their last respects before it left for his final resting place, at Nagovis.

Bonai was the former deputy premier under the Joseph Kabui-led North Solomons provincial government that was suspended at the height of the Bougainville conflict in 1988.

He was working with former member for North Bougainville (now Sir) Michael Ogio in 1992 when he suffered a stroke that left him paralysed on one side of his body.

He will be buried tomorrow.

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG and Australian prime ministers talk in Canberra

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard says Papua New Guinea's mining boom offers an historic opportunity to improve the lives of PNG's people.

She's met with her PNG counterpart Peter O'Neill in Canberra today and announced a number of new aid projects to help with the economic transition.

They include assistance to set up a sovereign wealth fund and secondments for PNG officials in Australian government departments.

Mr O'Neill's told a parliamentary audience that his government's committed to stamping out corruption and ensuring the proceeds of the mining boom don't go to waste.

Presenter: Joanna McCarthy

Speakers: Julia Gillard, Australian Prime Minister; Peter O'Neill, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister; Tony Abbott, Australian opposition leader

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG PM talks about leadership and relationship with Australia

To find out more about the two leaders' discussions in Canberra, the relationship

between the two countries and leadership issues in PNG, Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent, Sean Dorney spoke to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill says he wants to see a business-like relationship between the two countries rather than one where PNG is relying on Australian aid.

In this interview, he also spoke about why he felt it was necessary for him to take over the leadership of PNG from the ailing former prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare.

Presenter: Sean Dorney

Speaker: Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of Papua New Guinea

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

The substance of talks between PMs Gillard and O'Neill

For more on the current visit by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to Australia, Pacific Beat spoke to Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent.

We asked Sean Dorney to give us his take on the substance of the discussions between prime ministers Julia Gillard and Peter O'Neill.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Sean Dorney, Australia Networks pacific correspondent

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Aus and PNG business leaders' bigger role in ministers summit

Business leaders involved in trade and commerce between Papuan New Guinea and Australia have welcomed the decision to allow them to make a bigger contribution to the annual ministerial summit.

Each year the ministers from both countries hold an annual meeting, and this year's was held in Canberra ahead of the meeting between PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

It was decided that business leaders and senior trade officials from both countries will make up a new committee to facilitate dealings between the two countries.

With PNG looking to earn significant wealth from its LNG deposits, sovereign wealth and building the capacity of government there to handle it are still matters of concern.

This week's meeting was also the first chance the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council has had to talk with PNG's new leaders.

President of the council is confident they can work together.

Presenter: Pacific Correspondent, Campbell Cooney

Speaker: **Peter Taylor**, President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council

13.10.2011

Source: NBC News/Islands Business

PNG prepares for first State wedding

PORT MORESBY, PNG (NBC News) --- Papua New Guinea is preparing its first State wedding.

The State Wedding is being prepared for Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio (*ESBC: Ex-Bougainville MP*) on Saturday 22 October.

The Vice Regal's office has announced Sir Michael will wed Esmie Ereoli from Solomon Islands.

Catholic Archbishop John Ribat will preside over marriage ceremony at the St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Port Moresby.

A State reception will follow at State Function Room, Parliament House.

12.10.2011

Source: The National

Semoso cited for torturing woman

By JEFFREY ELAPA

ANOTHER parliamentarian has been cited for misconduct in office for, among other things, torturing and assaulting a woman.

Fidelis Semoso, Bougainville regional MP, was yesterday referred by the public prosecutor to the leadership tribunal on these misconduct allegations.

The allegations come 24 hours after the Ombudsman Commission found that Kikori MP Mark Maipakai had an extra-marital affair seven years ago to warrant his referral to the public prosecutor for misconduct in office.

Six misconduct allegations were levelled at Semoso, who was Bougainville affairs minister in the previous government, including the assault and torture of the woman (named).

Acting public prosecutor Camillus Jacob Sambua said yesterday Semoso's file was referred to his office by the Ombudsman Commission and after perusal, he was now asking Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia to appoint a leadership tribunal to inquire into this and other allegations relating to misappropriation of more than K3.5 million.

The latter allegations were:

- I Misappropriation of K2.7 million from the South Bougainville feeder road project funds without proper tender process;
- I Semoso benefiting with K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Water Ltd;
- I Misapplication of K1.4 million from the South Bougainville feeder road project;
- I Winning a contract under false pretence; and
- I Failure to declare interest.

While Maipakai, who is inter-government relations and rural development minister, will wait to see whether he is referred to a leadership tribunal, Semoso becomes the fourth MP this year to face a tribunal after former prime minister Sir Michael Somare who was suspended for two week for failing to submit annual returns; his son Angoram MP Arthur Somare for misappropriation and for failing to submit annual returns; and Aitape-Lumi MP Patrick Pruaitch for misappropriation.

Somare and Pruaitch are still fighting their cases in court.

Sambua said that there was sufficient, cogent and credible evidence to refer Semoso to the leadership tribunal.

He also confirmed receiving Maipakai's charges which included filing a late return and failing to provide additional information.

He would make a decision in due course on whether or not to refer the leader to the leadership tribunal.

Maipakai has denied the charges against him, saying he would fight them to clear his name.

12.10.2011

Source: The National

Peace process reaches South Bougainville

THE process of reconciliation that has begun in central and north Bougainville finally wound its way to South Bougainville last week to touch communities which have, until now, remained apart – separated by differences and hatred.

In moving ceremonies at various locations, President John Momis called for individuals who harboured grief, remorse and hatred to come forward and deal with their situation. Momis headed out last Wednesday with a large delegation of ABG officials, including ABG ministers and members, the chief administrator, the Bougainville assistant commissioner of Police, CEOs, and UN representative for an official visit to South Bougainville.

Momis was also accompanied by General Chris Uma, commander of the Mekamui defence force and chairman of the Clans Paramount Council.

This was significant as Uma and his Mekamui had refused to participate in the Bougainville peace agreement.

The presence of Uma now sends a powerful signal that the Mekamui and its leadership was prepared to work with the Autonomous Bougainville Government for the unification of Bougainville.

Momis, who has made peace and reconciliation one of the pillars of his administration, told people at each gathering that once there was peace throughout Bougainville he would make it his priority to have the people become active in decision making at all levels for their own welfare.

One of the hallmarks of the "Momis Way" right from the early days of decentralisation in PNG is "devolving power to people so as to enable them to have a right to participate in their affairs".

There were emotion-filled moments at Mongai, Mogoroi and Sininnai villages where the reconciliation ceremonies occurred during Holy Mass.

It was a solemn yet festive atmosphere during which time people of all different backgrounds and differing views put aside long-held differences, grievances and pain over events of the past and came together.

A similar ceremony was held later in the day at Damien Koike's village.

Koike gave his commitment to stage an overall reconciliation ceremony befitting the dignity and stature of the President as soon as events would permit him to return.

The same spirit of unification and reconciliation prevailed the ceremony held on Saturday between the President and the Original Mekamui at Arawa and on Sunday between the people of Siwai and Buin.

Momis reminded the crowd that the "crisis" was over and that the great desire of the people of Bougainville was for peace and reconciliation.

He said with this would come economic prosperity and social development.

Momis while acknowledging that many people were seeking compensation from the government for losses suffered during the crisis, said no compensation would be paid in stances of individual culpability and responsibility.

This position, he said, was “firm and inflexible”.

The fact that peace and reconciliation has now occurred in South Bougainville now sets the stage for socio-economic progress, Momis said.

12.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG committed to sovereign wealth fund

To Canberra where Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has made his first official visit to Australia.

His arrival at Parliament House this morning was marked by a 19 gun ceremonial salute.

The Prime Minister then got down to business, meeting with his Australian counterpart Julia Gillard and addressing a parliamentary audience on the future of the PNG Australia relationship.

Peter O'Neill's visit also comes on a historic day for the Australian parliament, with the passage through the lower house of the government's carbon pricing scheme.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speakers: Joanna McCarthy, Canberra correspondent; Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister; Julia Gillard, Australian Prime Minister; Tony Abbott, Australian opposition leader

Listen here !

12.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

COVER REPORT: Somare's successor Can new Prime Minister Peter O' Neill succeed? by Rowan Callick



An accountant who put on his first pair of shoes when he was 16 in order to visit his father's relations in Melbourne, has in six short weeks taken a firm grip on the steering wheel in Papua New Guinea.

But PNG is notoriously resistant to direction. It is on the cusp between rapid, overdue modernisation and sinking back to tribalised subsistence.

Can its new leader succeed? This is the question on everyone's lips in the nation of 7 million people.

Sir Michael Somare has been at the forefront of public life there for an extraordinary 42 years.

But now Sir Michael, “the chief,” has lost his seat in parliament due to his absence during prolonged illness and

is most unlikely to return—although a court challenge on his behalf could still disrupt the new government's entrenchment.

Taking Sir Michael's place as Papua New Guinea's recently elected prime minister is Peter O'Neill, who comes from the populous heartland, the Highlands.

He indicated he is determined to usher in a new era for that nation of constant promise—and as frequent despair.

He flew to Nadi for the Engaging with the Pacific meeting and then on to the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' summit in Auckland last month, and gave an important speech to businesspeople in Brisbane on the way home.

He revealed in Brisbane that he has already cautioned, "and will caution again, my ministers and state-owned corporations involved in the mining and hydrocarbon industry to desist promptly from giving misleading signals to the foreign investment sector. My government is not about making life difficult for foreign investors."

A fresh style

O'Neill brings to the position a fresh style, very different from that of the veteran 75-year old founding father Sir Michael, and from that of the extrovert, "big man" braggadocio of previous leaders to emerge from the Highlands.

He needs to move fast since the next national election is due in mid-2012, although if he both performs well administratively and keeps his coalition team intact through smart politics—a rare combination in PNG history—he could look to a new term in charge after that.

He has already impressed by introducing rapidly bills to make education free to grade 10 and to create a seat dedicated for women in each province, guaranteeing that the new parliament will have at least 22 women MPs where now it has just one, Carol Kidu.

"Women deserve to participate in the decision-making process and in the management of our country," O'Neill said.

His next urgent legislation is to create a new province for his home area, the Southern Highlands, where PNG's first liquefied natural gas project is being built by ExxonMobil for \$A16.5 billion, and which Southern Highlanders have threatened to destroy if they do not get a new provincial government in time for next year's election.

As a 46-year old former accountant and businessman, he is bright, courteous, thoughtful. His father was an Australian "kiap" or patrol officer who arrived in PNG in 1949 and stayed until he died in 1982. His mother was from Pangia in the Southern Highlands.

As the first outsider to be based in the Ialibu-Pangia district, O'Neill's father had established basic government services in the area.

"So the older generation know him very well," said O'Neill, speaking in Auckland following the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Summit.

Later in his career, his father worked as a magistrate, for which he shifted to Mount Hagen, then Goroka—also in the Highlands.

O'Neill grew up in his mother's home village until he joined his father in Goroka when he turned 15. The first time he wore a pair of shoes was when his father brought him to Melbourne, aged 16.

His father was born in the then working class suburb of Williamstown, now a fashionable area with views across the marina and Port Phillip Bay to the Melbourne city skyline.

"I'm still in touch with relatives in Melbourne," O'Neill said.

He attended high schools in Ialibu in his home province of Southern Highlands—today the centre of an oil and gas bonanza—and in Goroka, before studying at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Port Moresby.

He said: "I didn't follow my father into law because I had grown up poor and I thought I'd have a better chance through accountancy. I was fairly reasonable with numbers."

He became slightly involved in student politics at UPNG where Ben Micah—who later became an MP and whom he has appointed as his chief of staff—was a student union leader. "That was when communism was still around," said O'Neill with a grin.

He joined international firm Coopers and Lybrand from university, then formed his own

small partnership with a New Zealand accountant in Port Moresby, before returning to the Highlands, to Goroka.

He established a trading business there and sold it in 1988 when he moved back to the capital.

He was then appointed executive chairman of the government-owned PNG Banking Corporation, which was to be privatised under Sir Mekere Morauta's prime ministership. It is now the highly successful Bank South Pacific, with interests across the islands region.

O'Neill was asked to help rescue other failing state corporations including insurance firms that he merged to create, in partnership with German giant Allianz, Pacific MMI, now the country's biggest insurer.

A report on the National Provident Fund's financing of an apparently over-priced office tower, in which O'Neill played a role, recommended his referral to the public prosecutor. But no action was taken. This has been his only public brush with misbehaviour, one that has effectively been left behind.

How he got into politics

In 2002, he stood for parliament for the area where he grew up, Ialibu-Pangia in the Southern Highlands. He won the seat for the People's Solidarity Party, and when it merged with the People's National Congress, taking the latter's name, he soon became the party leader.

He said: "I went into politics out of a sense of frustration at the way decisions were being made and a sense of obligation to my father's efforts to bring some level of government services to my area.

"Growing up in the village environment, I knew very well the limitations of opportunities and the services that my people suffered—and are still suffering. There was no power, no running water, no road."

Boarding during the week, every weekend he walked 28 kilometres from his high school to his home in Ialibu, to collect the food he needed for the following week.

Now the road has been upgraded. But there is still no power or running water in the village, named Paiyomari.

O'Neill speaks, besides English and Pidgin, his mother's language and two other languages from the Southern Highlands. "That places me in a much better position to communicate with my constituents."

He became a minister very quickly after being elected in 2002, being given the labour and industrial relations portfolio by the then prime minister Sir Michael, and later the more high profile public service ministry.

"It was quite challenging at first," he said, "coming from a different business background and adapting to how a government operates."

In 2004, his party quit the government over its disagreement with Sir Michael's bid to extend the grace period before an election, within which a no confidence motion cannot be moved.

"We felt that governments need a level of accountability, and that such a change would be undemocratic, leaving the government unchallengeable for too long."

O'Neill then became Leader of Opposition until the following election, in 2007.

"I enjoyed that position," he said, "because it gave me an opportunity to set up my own policy alternatives and build up my political skills in debating and making sure the government was held accountable."

After the election, he returned to the coalition in Sir Michael's government, returning to his former Ministry of Public Service before being given, as a reflection of his growing authority, the senior role of Treasurer.

When Sir Michael fell ill and flew for operations to Singapore, he appointed Sam Abal as acting prime minister, and Abal demoted O'Neill to the works portfolio.

But O'Neill had felt from his time as opposition leader, that he had the capacity to become prime minister. Seizing the opportunity was something else though.

And within the labyrinthine world of PNG politics, O'Neill has made his mark not only through his decent bearing and intelligence, but also through his sense of timing—and his consistent luck, which attracts others to join him.

He also, he said, focused on learning to become more responsible, aware of that impending burden.

When Abal began reshuffling his Cabinet and taking more far-reaching decisions in the absence of Sir Michael, O'Neill realised the moment had come when PNG should seek "a mandated leader to take the country into the elections in 2012".

And that would be him.

Planning a change

O'Neill said he started planning a change in government immediately after Abal's reshuffle. "I began speaking with the Opposition parties about forming a credible government, a government of unity in a way, in preparation for the election."

It came down to two names, he said: Don Polye, the former foreign minister—also a highlander—and himself. In a secret ballot in the caucus room in parliament, O'Neill came out on top. He has since given Polye the big consolation prize of Treasury.

"I was reasonably confident," he said. He has reinforced his position by appointing a Cabinet of 33, and 11 Vice Ministers—providing him with 80 percent of the votes he needs to pass legislation.

And he has already differentiated his administrative style from Sir Michael's by keeping his office door constantly open to his ministers.

O'Neill said: "Michael Somare is an iconic figure in our country, well respected and fatherly to many of us. I wished things could have been done differently" with the succession.

"But for more than 8 months, decisions were being made which were not mandated, the government was serving the interests of a minority in parliament and not governing for the people and the country. Papua New Guineans were entitled to know how their leader was doing."

Sir Michael now "needs to retire with dignity and respect," he said.

O'Neill said: "We all know how we have squandered our opportunities in the past. Some of us are determined not to make the same mistakes again. And aware that we are in government for less than 12 months, we are focussing on a very few areas, education being our number one priority.

"We are now spending 20 percent of our budget on education and that is likely to increase to 25 percent by 2012. We are also revamping the health system, including centralising drugs purchase and supply, which has been bound up with corruption in the past, and rehabilitation of the six major referral hospitals."

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT PM O'NEILL

David Conn, Chief Executive of PNG's biggest business chamber, the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

"Many of our members support the change of government and welcome many of the decisions already enacted, the officials replaced, and of course the announcements made to improve governance and tackle corruption. Time will tell whether these come to fruition of course.

"Peter O'Neill has been a successful businessman and thinks like one, so we feel we can talk to him openly and constructively. PNG is on the cusp of greatness again and if we cannot harvest the benefits from this impending economic boom this time, social unrest may mean we do not get another chance."

Peter Korugl, News Editor of Post Courier newspaper:

"O'Neill was a weak opposition leader but he is very popular now and generating more support here as days go by, because people were fed up with the old government and he is focusing on issues that are very close to the heart of the people right now."

Paul Barker, Executive director of PNG's leading think tank, the Institute of National Affairs:

"In his time in government, he's always performed soundly. As Treasurer, he listened to staff and acted prudently. "He earlier tended to go along with the sounder Cabinet members, including those seeking to restrain logging companies. He's always been ambitious and it was clear he was eager to go for the top job. He has made good and programmatic allies, timing his shifts better than some others.

"He has a mixed team of capable, young and talented and older, experienced, broadly honest members, plus some from the old guard who have a bad track record, whom he'll have to keep reined in."

12.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fidelis Semoso to face tribunal

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso (left) will face a leadership tribunal for alleged misconduct in office.

The Acting Public Prosecutor, Camillus Sambua yesterday requested the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, to appoint an appropriate Leadership Tribunal to inquire into the allegations of misconduct.



The former Minister for Bougainville Affairs and deputy leader NGI for the National Alliance was yesterday stood down from office by operation of the law until a tribunal deals with the allegations and hands down its decision.

Mr Semoso becomes the latest leader to be referred to the Leadership Tribunal over breaches of the Leadership Code.

The allegations include: alleged misappropriation of K2.7 million from South

Bougainville Feeder Road Project funds without proper tender process; benefit of public funds valued at K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Waters Ltd and misapplication of K1 million from South Bougainville Feeder Roads.

Semoso is also alleged to have assaulted and tortured a Ms Therese Marrie Hani Hapoot; winning a contract under false pretence; and failure to declare his interest.

Mr Sambua said he has perused the file and found that there is sufficient, cogent and credible evidence to refer the matter to an appropriate Leadership Tribunal.

Referral of Mr Semoso followed a day after the Ombudsman Commission referred two-term MP and Minister for Inter Government Relations Mark Maipakai to Mr Sambua to be investigated over an extra-marital affair seven years ago and late lodging of his annual statements.

The Ombudsman Commission, found enough evidence against Maipakai to refer him to the public prosecutor to be investigated for misconduct in office.

11.10.2011

Source: The National

Expert: Aussie banks a haven for fat cats

AUSTRALIA may be sheltering hundreds of millions of black dollars funnelled out of South Pacific countries, including Papua New Guinea, by corrupt politicians and public officials, a conference in Brisbane on law and order and good governance in Australia and the Pacific region has been told.

This money laundering was being tolerated by a disinterested Australian federal government, the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) reported, quoting a good governance expert Prof Jason Sharman of the University of Griffith.



The newspaper quoted Sharman (picture) as saying that PNG, in particular, was believed to suffer from the avarice of some of its officials and politicians.

He added that a senior police officer recently claimed the country lost as much as 50% of its budget – about A\$1.9 billion – every year through fraud and corruption.

Sharman called on the Australian government to drop its “nonchalant attitude” towards the problem, which, he said, hamstrung regional aid, governance and security policies.

“Recent research on grand corruption has emphasised the importance of following the money trail to determine where corrupt senior officials hide their stolen assets,” he said. “The answer is often that wealth looted from poor countries is held in rich countries with large, stable financial centres and which share historical ties with the victim country.”

But, he said, Canberra had displayed a lack of interest in pursuing foreign corruption in Australia. An example of this, he said, was the bribery scandal enveloping the Reserve Bank in relation to foreign bribes allegedly paid by employees of its part-owned subsidiaries, Note Printing Australia and Securrency.

The government has ignored that case and has three times blocked a move in the Senate to launch a parliamentary inquiry.

“The government doesn’t care about Australia playing host to the proceeds of foreign corruption,” Sharman said.

He said he first became concerned about the role of Australia in embezzlement and corruption in the South Pacific while undertaking research for the World Bank about the problem in Africa.

“If you’re a corrupt leader and you’re stealing millions ... through embezzlement or taking bribes, then you don’t want to keep it at home, you want to put it somewhere international.”

He said his research showed that money tended to flow to the former coloniser, or the nearest thing. Given that many South Pacific politicians and officials study in Australia and have family and friends here, Australia would be the closest thing to a coloniser.

The SMH said evidence gathered by several international organisations had made particular claims about politicians from Papua New Guinea – which had undergone a minerals boom in recent years – buying property in Queensland with their corrupt profits.

11.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Too many political parties

Abau MP Sir Dr Puka Temu launched a new political party last Saturday. Currently, Agriculture Minister in the O'Neill-Namah regime, Sir Puka was a founding member of the once powerful National Alliance Party and at one time, held the Deputy Prime Minister's post. It was mooted in political circles at that time that if the Grand Chief Sir Michael should retire at the end of this term of Parliament, Sir Puka was a contender for the leadership of the NA and Prime Minister's post. That was not to be for Sir Puka, a medical doctor by profession, who found he could not work with certain members of the Somare Government. He and current Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah left to join the Opposition in a failed move to oust the Somare Government. Now they have succeeded to overthrow the Somare-Abal regime, things are shaping up differently for the former NA loner in the former Opposition.

The launching of Our Development Party comes several months after former Chief Ombudsman Commissioner Ila Geno launched his PNG Constitutional Democratic Party. Mr Geno, known for referring the biggest number of politicians to the Public Prosecutor for leadership code breaches, aims to fight corruption when he gets into Government and although only a few months old, the party has already won the Kundiawa-Gembogl by election and has Party General Secretary Tobias Kulang in Parliament.

The two political parties are based in the Southern region and both Sir Puka and Mr Geno are going to take their parties into the coming national elections with the view to win and form Government. In the next few months, Papua New Guineans will most likely see the registration of more political parties as we move closer to the 2012 national elections. We are unable to give the definite number of new political parties that are expected to be formed but if the number of political parties that were registered for the 2007 national elections is of any indication, the number will be quite substantial.

As at the July 2007 national elections, there were 45 political parties. The number will go up to 49 when the four active political parties in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are included. The list of parties in alphabetical order are: Advance PNG Party ; Christian Democratic Party; Economic Endeavour Party; Human Rights Protection Party; Liberal Party; Melanesian Alliance Party; Melanesian Labour Party; Melanesian People's Party; National Alliance Party; National Front Party; Nation Transformation Party; National Vision for Humanity Party; New Generation Party; One People Party; Pan Melanesian Congress Party; Papua and Niugini Union Pati; Party for Justice and Dignity; People's Action Party; People's Democratic Movement ; People's Destiny & Development Party; People's Development Party; People's First Conservative Party ; People's Freedom Party; People's Heritage Party; People's Labour Party; People's National Congress Party; People's Progress Party; People's Resource Awareness Party ; People's Solidarity Party; People's Welfare Party; Pipol First Pati; PNG Party; PNG Country Party ; PNG First Party; PNG Greens Party; PNG Integrity Party; PNG Labour Party; PNG National Party; PNG Revival Party; Rural Pipols' Pati; Simple People's Party; True People's Party; United Party; United Resources Party and Yumi Reform Party.

There are four active ones in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. This is a lot of political parties and will cause confusion in the elections.

11.10.2011

Source: The National

Chan: Aust mining investment secure

MINING minister Byron Chan has reassured his Australian counterpart Martin Ferguson that Australia's investment in the mining sector in PNG will not be deterred by the proposed amendments to the mining act.

Chan, who was accompanied by MRA acting managing director Kepas Wali and first secretary Gaius Toaligur, met with Ferguson, Australia's minister for Resources and Energy in Melbourne last Friday after returning from a mining conference in Accra, Ghana where he (Chan) briefed him of the current mining review and other policy issues the government will undertake.

"I assured the Federal Minister on Australia's huge investment in PNG's mining sector that there is no immediate changes to the act to give ownership back to landowners. Currently, the State owns the resources," Chan said.

He told Ferguson that the decision to make the amendment to the 1992 Mining Act was only political but he made an undertaking to immediately set up a special committee to look into the changes.

"I cannot change the policy overnight with PNG already having multi-billion kina companies operating in the extractive industry.

"Anything to change will be drastic and a big blow to the economy.

"However, my immediate agenda now is to look into the Mining Act and amend certain provisions after consultation with all stakeholders so that landowners, government and investors equally benefit," he said.

Chan noted that he would be pushing for a policy to be in place within the proposed mining act for the creation of an environment protection and rehabilitation fund.

"The fund will assist mining areas and increase benefit for landowners and provincial governments where mining operations are currently in progress," he said.

Meanwhile, Ferguson thanked Chan and said the meeting was a step forward for the two countries and paved the way for the upcoming Australia – PNG bilateral ministerial forum in Canberra this week.

10.10.2011

Source: Solomon Times online

PNG and Solomon Islands Seek Greater Economic Integration

Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are championing moves for greater integration of the economies of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Prime Minister Danny Phillip met in Port Moresby on Thursday and signed a joint communique' to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions, including tariffs, between the two nations.

The two leaders discussed and exchanged views on bilateral issues of mutual interest that included opening up shipping and air services to Bougainville, increased scholarship quota for Solomon Islands students and opening up teaching positions for surplus teachers from the Solomon Islands.

Officials of the two Melanesian Spearhead nations will work to formalize the agreement soon.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands would work to formalize similar agreements with the other MSG nations and with other neighboring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Island were close neighbors with cultural links and the two countries would further enhance that relationship with increased development assistance.

10.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG PM O'Neill makes first visit to Australia tomorrow.

Australia's relationship with its former colony Papua New Guinea has improved somewhat after the years when John Howard was prime minister when the feelings were definitely frosty.

That better feeling between the two neighbours gets a chance this week to become even stronger when the recently installed PNG leader Peter O'Neill arrives in Canberra tomorrow for his first meeting with his Australian counterpart Julia Gillard.

The two-day visit comes days after Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd travelled to PNG and met with Mr O'Neill and his ministers.

PNG is still the largest recipient of Australian aid - although with revenue from its massive LNG project due to begin in 2014, the question of aid dependency and a change in the relationship between the two countries are certain to figure during this latest meeting of government ministers.

Presenter: Michael Cavanagh

Speakers: Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia

CAVANAGH: Since the Australian Labor party came to power, efforts have been made to improve relations between the two countries.

Under the previous Coalition government a number of incidents and observations such as PNG being likened to a failed state did not help matters.

Making it worse was the action by security guards at Brisbane airport in March 2005 to have the then PNG prime minister Sir Michael Somare remove his shoes during a routine search.

PNG was one of the first places Kevin Rudd travelled to soon after becoming Australian Labor prime minister and the now conservative opposition's deputy leader Julie Bishop recently toured there.

Mr Rudd was back there recently as Foreign Minister handing over 40 million Australian dollars in aid as part of a wider Asian Development Bank rural health scheme.

Australia for 2011/2012 is providing nearly 437 million Australian dollars in assistance to PNG.

Despite aid being a major component of the relationship between the two countries, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia Charles Lepani says this visit will continue the recent push to take the links to another level...

LEPANI: This is elevating our maturing relations but it will also be a feature of this trip that he will be talking about future arrangements moving development co-operation from PNG's aid dependence upon Australia to trade and economic co-operation basically which matures our bi-lateral relations and co-operation to an economic level where we are equal partners equal sovereign states dealing with each other in friendly terms.

CAVANAGH: Mr O'Neill's visit is his first as leader -- it is part of an already planned gathering of ministers from the two nations.

It also comes as he faces a possible legal challenge over his replacing of Sir Michael Somare as prime minister - although the High Commissioner does not see that as a problem in his dealings with Australia as it is a domestic political issue.

Mr O'Neill goes to the polls around the middle of next year and regardless of the outcome one long time observer of PNG says Australia will be facing a change in attitude from the leaders of its northern neighbour.

Dr Ron May lived in PNG for six years and has had long involvement with the country in a variety of ways including his present role with the Society & Governance in Melanesia Program.

He says we are seeing the start of a different group of people in power in PNG -- and they view Australia differently...

MAY: He is the beginning of a shift he is a younger man and there will be younger people coming through as well. Whoever comes in to office next year after the elections in 2012 is bound to be one of the younger politicians. Increasingly we will see this new younger generation coming through who will be more pre-disposed to looking toward Asia maintaining their relations with Australia of course but increasingly taking advantage of the aid that is coming in from China the investment that is coming in from China, Korea, Malaysia and other parts of Asia.

CAVANAGH: How will he use that then in his dealings with Australia then?

MAY: Well I think Papua New Guinean leaders have always been quite sharp at using the threat of looking elsewhere to keep Australians in line. Of course it is not a very effective line because the Australian aid dominates the incoming aid pattern quite substantially but nonetheless the suggestion that they will move closer to Asia is something I think keeps Australian governments on their toes with Papua New Guinea.

CAVANAGH: One issue which is certain to provoke debate while Mr O'Neill is in Australia is the question of Australia's off-shore processing of asylum seekers. A recent High Court decision for the time being has scuttled Canberra's plan for those arriving by boat hoping to be allowed to live in Australia to be taken to Malaysia for processing. This has revived a push in some quarters for the resumption of a similar scheme that operated in PNG when John Howard was Australia's prime minister. So far the Julia Gillard Australian Labor government has resisted the pressure for the facility on Manus Island to be again used.

Although PNG's man in Canberra, Charles Lepani says it will be raised during Mr O'Neill's stay.

LEPANI: This government is very keen to co-operate with your government on regional solution to refugee and asylum processing problems. PNG as you know is a signatory to refugee convention so these issues will be discussed but we will be asking and our prime minister and his colleague ministers will be asking their Australian counterparts to update them on the legal issue of the high court ruling and the political up date on how it is going to resolve itself because we, our government under prime minister O'Neill is ready and willing to cooperate with Australia on any solutions through Manus processing centre how ever mechanism could be established and agreed to between our two governments.

Listen here !

07.10.2011

Source: Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)

Bougainville Copper Limited (BOC) share price UP 16.67 percent !

07.10.2011

Source: Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)

BOUGAINVILLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMIT

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO DISCUSS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PNG & BOUGAINVILLE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN ARAWA FROM THE 27TH – 29TH OCTOBER 2011, AT THE SHARPE MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER, 8AM TO 4PM.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDES;

- CODE OF CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS
- RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMARY LAND, RESOURCE OWNERSHIP & RIGHTS
- TYPES OF CONTRACTS FOR EXTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES
- FAIR SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS
- PNG DOMESTIC LAWS, INCLUDING LAND ACT 1996, MINING ACT 1992 AND OIL & GAS ACT 1998
- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

“RESOURCES INCLUDE LAND, MINERALS, OIL & GAS, FISHING, FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, CARBON TRADE, ETC ”

GUEST SPEAKER:

CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER & EMBASSADOR MR. PETER DONIGI
A PROMINENT LAWYER AND PRESIDENT OF THE MAMA PAPA GRAUN PARTY,
WITH
VALUABLE EXPERIENCES & EXPOSURE TO BOTH NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
LAWS ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTITUTION

PARTICIPANTS:

EVERY BOUGAINVILLEANS

For queries, please contact Justin Borgia 72375139 and Denis Kuiai 71505652

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

All Bougainville to decide 'who to mine'

PREPARATIONS are now underway for an agreement to be signed between former fighters and Panguna landowners to decide who to bring into Bougainville to mine Panguna.

A meeting was held on September 9 in Arawa headed by Michael Otoroa, on behalf of the former fighters and Chris Damana, the Chairman of the Landowner Group. Already references and a decision is pending on the latter.

Elite leaders, who also attended the meeting, included Sam Kauona of Isina Resource Holdings and Bougainville's known former ex-fighters.

Veterans Affairs and Peace Minister David Sisito told the Post-Courier in an interview that decisions made included the Panguna mine pit to be owned by both landowners and former fighting men.

"But, if BCL decides to come back to mine Panguna, then they must liaise with the landowners and the Autonomous Bougainville Government," Mr Sisito said.

He also said that it was also recommended that four Panguna landowners, including Mr Damana and elites from other resources areas would take a tour to visit some reputable mining companies outside of Papua New Guinea who had good practices on environmental damage controls in order to come up with their own.

Mr Sisito also stressed that BCL, if still interested to mine in Bougainville, would only talk about the Panguna Mine Pit and not any other licence tenements it claims to hold.

"Let me remind the world that the crisis was brought on by CRA and Rio Tinto to make us fight amongst ourselves and Bougainville has won this war, its land and the resources," he said. I as the chief of all the ex-combatants am encouraging all ex-combatants and the people of Bougainville to form Incorporated Land Groups (ILGs) and form landowner companies so you can start applying for exploration licences over your own land."

The statement comes in after witnessing so many foreigners coming into Bougainville with "kids' toys" to try and lure locals to allow for exploration in the region.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

China regarded as ABG's ally

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government vice president Patrick Nisira says foreign direct investment specifically from the People's Republic of China is good for Bougainville.

Speaking as the Chairman of the Bougainville China Co-operation Committee (BCCC), Mr Nisira has outlined the positives of engaging Chinese companies and has blamed the media for not helping with positive awareness on the ABG's intentions to engage the Asian foreign investment companies.

"As with China, Bougainville is now looking to open up, with a measure of control that looks at efficiently dealing with fundamental issues that were responsible for the outbreak of the Bougainville conflict in 1988, while progressing economic development," Mr Nisira said.

"The economic model of China, although developed under a socialist political economic system, bears certain characteristics that may be beneficial to the development of an investment economic framework that allows the ABG to have greater control over the economic interests of the region, at the foreign direct investment level."

He said while the argument raged on about who should be categorised as a genuine ABG investment partner, Bougainville could be left to the whims of a few people who would rather see this new Autonomous Government fail, and pretended to give advice.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG passes several bills

By Daniel Tangia

BOUGAINVILLE'S Autonomous Government leaders have passed several bills in their last Parliament sitting, an indication the newly established Government is serious in its draw down of powers and working towards referendum.

They include:

- * Public Holidays Act 2011
- * HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act 2011
- * Bougainville Senior Appointment Committee Act 2011 and
- * Liquor and Alcohol Act 2011

ABG President John Momis tabled his Bills on the Public Holidays Act 2011, now giving ABG the power to declare its own calendar of events – especially the public holidays. This Act will also provide protection to citizens working in Bougainville from being compelled to make payments on Public Holidays.

Mr Momis' Bougainville Senior Appointment Committee Act 2011 is a guide for the ABG to follow in appointing of the constitutional office holders. It also prescribes the procedures that will be followed in the appointment of constitutional office holders.

07.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

PNG leader in Australia next week

Papua New Guinea's recently installed prime minister, Peter O'Neill is to make a two-day visit to Australia.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (RADIO AUSTRALIA) ---- Papua New Guinea's recently installed prime minister, Peter O'Neill is to make a two-day visit to Australia. The visit next week comes just after Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd, spent 24 hours in PNG and had a meeting with Mr O'Neill. During that trip, Mr Rudd pledged \$A40 million as part of an Asian Development Bank remote health program. Apart from meeting Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard during the two-day trip, Mr O'Neill will hold talks with other federal government ministers including Mr Rudd. For 2011-12, Australia is giving just over \$482 million in aid to PNG.

07.10.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Issues in Perspective

PM O'Neill: Bougainville's Aropa airport to be re-opened in December



A lone standing radio tower at Aropa airport in the autonomous region of Bougainville. A brick structure, which can be seen in the distance, is all that remains of the Air Niugini terminal which was destroyed during the 10-year conflict.

Aropa airport, the international gateway to the shut Bougainville copper mine, will be re-opened in December.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said this yesterday when concluding bilateral discussions with his Solomon Islands counterpart Danny Philip in the PNG capital Port Moresby.

He said PNG and the Solomon Islands have agreed to cooperate on a number of joint border development programs, which would see the establishment of border posts at strategic locations along the border between the autonomous region of Bougainville (AROB) and the Solomon Islands.

The two leaders have agreed to hold a joint PNG-Solomon Islands cabinet meeting in the AROB in early December. The joint cabinet meeting, the first of its kind between the two neighbouring Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) nations, will coincide with the official reopening of the airport.

Mr O'Neill said the PNG and Solomon Islands national airlines – Air Niugini and Solomon Airlines – will schedule two special flights to Aropa on the day of its official reopening.

Arawa-based Bougainvilleans, speaking on condition of anonymity to Papua New Guinea Issues in Perspective, said work is yet to start to clear the airport in preparation for its reopening.

The airport was the scene of heavy fighting during the 10-year Bougainville Crisis and is overgrown with bush. A burnt out brick structure is all that remains of what was once the Air Niugini terminal as well as a lone standing radio tower.

The venue of the joint PNG-Solomon Islands cabinet meeting is yet to be confirmed but it is likely to be held in the former Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) mining township of Arawa, not far from Aropa airport and the Panguna copper mine.

The Somare government had indicated last year that it envisaged the mine re-opening in 2012 at the cost of US\$4 billion; however Rio Tinto has reportedly said it did not have a time-table to open the mine.

The O'Neill government, which came into office in August, is unlikely to announce any major policy decisions relating to the mine's re-opening until after the 2012 general election. Though, that is dependent on the coalition government winning re-election to office.

Read more: <http://pngperspective.webnode.com/news/pm-oneill-bougainvilles-aropa-airport-to-be-opened-in-december/>

07.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

Solomon Islands PM visits PNG

Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Danny Philip, is visiting Papua New Guinea for two days - his first to the country since being elected PM in the Solomons general election last year.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (NBC) ----- Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Danny Philip, is visiting Papua New Guinea for two days - his first to the country since being elected PM in the Solomons general election last year. He touched down at the Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby on a commercial Air Niugini flight after midday on Wednesday. Mr Philip was treated to a red carpet welcome with a gun salute. On hand to welcome him was a PNG government delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister, Ano Pala, and National Capital District Governor, Powes Parkop. A guard of honor was also held by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force for the Solomons Prime Minister. He paid a courtesy call on Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio, yesterday Prime Minister Peter O'Neill hosted a dinner for his visiting counterpart last night. The official program begins today with round table bilateral meeting after which a joint communique will be signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Saga over body removal

THE Bougainvillean, who kept a Japanese soldier's body since 1965, has expressed disappointment in the manner in which the Japanese Government and the PNG Museum had come and taken the body away without any proper "thankyou".

The Post-Courier published several stories and a feature on this early this year – the fact that this Bougainvillean stumbled onto this dead body when he was only 17 years in 1965 and since then, even during the Bougainville Crisis he guarded and looked after the body in a small coffin like his own.

Anthony Savanotsi is now 63 years old.

Last month, the Japanese officials from the Japanese Embassy and an officer from the PNG Museum travelled to remote Tatakots village, in the Selau/Suir District to bring the body back to Japan for proper burial.

But despite presenting them with Bougainville's traditional shell money - The Beruana, Mr Savanotsi said he was unhappy.

"I wasn't looking for compensation, no! At least a good explanation of a small thank you

gift for me and my family.

"It's not like I stumbled onto that body yesterday or while in the bush recently.

"I was 17 years old and found the body of this army when I was returning from my plantation work and I have kept it since then, changing wood for coffin five times or six and guarding it very well during the Bougainville Crisis.

"Even before I met my wife and had a family, I already had this body with me and he was like our first born. I am very unhappy about the way they came and got the body," Mr Savanotsi said. PNG official (named) told me he was going to do a proposal for me and my clan or village for generators to power electricity to our village but what good houses will have power? All are saksak (sago) made houses.'

But PNG Museum officers yesterday defended that the UN Convention had passed a law to protect all dead bodies from the war – not to be compensated.

PNG Museum, however, said that they wanted the family to do a proposal for the generators instead the family refused and threatened to sue the Japanese Government and the PNG Government and had not co-operated with them for this proposal to bring generators to power their villages. Mr Savonotsi and his clan members now want the Japanese Government and the PNG Museum to give a project of heavy equipment to the village so they can use it as their means of generating money.

They will see the ABG next week for help on this matter.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

US to check Buka 'wreck'

THE discovery of an aircraft wreck in the waters of Buka Island of Bougainville, believed to be of the remains of the famous aviatrix-Amelia Earhart is far from over.

It is believed that the wreck at the depth of 70 metres north-west of Buka hold some some answers to the 74-year mystery of the disappearance of Ms Earhart.

Local fishermen diving for sea cucumber on Matsungan Island 12 years ago stumbled into this wreck now believed to be the world's mysterious flyer. The Post- Courier ran stories on this for a week in March.

More than seven decades after aviator Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan disappeared while attempting her ill-fated flight around the world, a Bougainville local group still hopes to finally confirm that the plane, lying in a sea bed, about two kilometres from land is that of the flyer.

The expedition team, carrying out the investigations since 2000, had not given up despite numerous calls for them to cancel the expedition.

Worldwide divers and experts have claimed Ms Earhart's plane wreck was somewhere in Kiribati or the Pacific Ocean and that the wreck in Matsungan Island, off Buka town, is not the one the world is looking for.

But the expedition team from Buka Island, who are handling the investigations and have been for the last 12 years, still claim the wreck is that of the world famous aviatrix.

Local divers have been hard at work trying to complete the final expedition before the wreck is officially announced.

A team of divers from outside Bougainville and one from the United States are expected to travel to Bougainville before end of this month or possibly by end of November to complete the final task.

The Matsungan Island plane wreck expedition team is in contact with a US team of officials and they have been given a check list.

The team had identified that:

- * there are two skulls still in the plane, one at the pilot side.;
- * the plane is a twin tail aircraft;
- * the front with antenna loop is still intact;
- * the window at the right side is above the wing;

- * the front rivets are in the middle of the windscreen and
- * the plane's left wing is damaged and grossly covered in coral.

The team have been working for the last eight months to confirm the checklist, and have had difficulties in clearing the coral out of the left wing, which is half open, to confirm the fuel fillers. The International team are making arrangements for their divers to travel to Buka to check out the last bits before official announcements are made.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG gives K100m to Solomon Islands ... K20m each year for five years

By John Pangkatana

PAPUA New Guinea has signaled a change in the shift of their foreign policy with a bumper K100 million commitment to neighbouring Solomon Islands.

This is certainly among PNG's largest commitment overseas, in particular to a Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) member.

It is also deemed that PNG and the Solomon Islands will work to formalise a similar agreement with other MSG nations (Vanuatu and Fiji) and other neighbouring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

This commitment and change is geared towards overseas aid has heightened since the recent 66th United Nations general assembly in New York, where PNG was represented by the Prime Ministerial delegation.

The arrangement with the Solomon Islands is set to strengthen long serving ties, especially with a K20 million surge to boost their economy each year for the next five years.

This is an increase of K20 million on top of the present K80 million grant aid program that goes to support their internal development programs. The announcement was made following bilateral talks between the PNG Government team led by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration Ano Pala, Treasurer Don Polye and National Planning Minister Sam Basil.

The Solomon Islands team led by Prime Minister Mr. Danny Philip, included his Minister for Education and Human Resources Development Mr. Dickson Ha'amori and other senior government officials.

Issues of mutual interest discussed included:

- * Labour mobility;
- * Removal of work permit and visa requirements for both countries
- * Removal of trade barrier duties and taxes
- * Opening up of shipping and air services to Bougainville
- * Increase scholarship quota for SI students
- * Opening up of teaching positions for surplus teachers from SI.

The culmination of the one-day talks led to the joint communiqué signing ceremony yesterday between PNG Prime Minister Mr. Peter O'Niell and Mr. Philip.

Mr. Philip expressed his Government's gratitude towards the support from PNG and saw a bright future ahead in relation to the positive round-table talks.

Playing the big brother role in the region, Mr. O'Niell yesterday said the relationship continues to grow in terms of trade between the two countries. "This communiqué will further enhance that relationship and lead to increase support from PNG in the coming years," Mr. O'Niell added. He stated that within the agreement some of the grant will go towards the continuation of tertiary education assistance for SI students studying at PNG Universities and other tertiary institutions. This stemmed from a recent proposal by the SI Government to consider continuing the grant assistance, with the existing program for assistance expiring at the end of this year. The grant scheme was initiated in 1997. The round-table talks also sought to push for economic integration, where both countries

agreed to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions including tariffs between the two countries. Both Prime Ministers agreed to lift existing restrictions. Mr.O'Niell further announced that PNG would formalise similar arrangements with other Melanesian Spearhead Government nations Vanuatu and Fiji as well. The other area of concern was for both countries to consolidate towards cooperating better on joint border development programs.

07.10.2011

Source: The National

PNG, Solomons aim for greater integration

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PAPUA New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are championing moves for greater integration of the economies of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Solomon Islands counterpart Danny Phillip met in Port Moresby yesterday and signed a joint communiqué' to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions, including tariffs, between the two nations.

The two leaders discussed and exchanged views on bilateral issues of mutual interest that included opening up shipping and air services to Bougainville, increased scholarship quota for Solomon Islands students and opening up teaching positions for surplus teachers from the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands Prime Minister is on a three-day official visit.

Officials of the two Melanesian Spearhead nations will work to formalise the agreement soon.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands would work to formalise similar agreements with the other MSG nations (Vanuatu and Fiji) and with other neighbouring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands were close neighbours with cultural links and the two countries would further enhance that relationship with increased development assistance to the Solomon Islands.

He said PNG would give the Solomon Islands K100 million as grant aid over the next five years to support its internal development programmes.

This is an increase of K80 million from the K20 million grant aid programme.

O'Neill said some of the grant would go towards the continuation of tertiary education grant assistance for Solomon Islands students studying at PNG universities and other tertiary institutions.

The Solomon Islands recently proposed to the PNG government to consider continuation of PNG's generous tertiary education grant assistance for its students studying in PNG when the existing programme of assistance expired at the end of this year.

O'Neill committed the PNG Government to continuing the grant for five more years.

The grant scheme to the Solomon Islands was initiated by former PNG prime minister, the late Sir William Skate in 1997.

The neighbours agreed to cooperate on joint border development programmes.

The programme will involve management and development of border posts at strategic points of the common border between the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the outer islands of the Solomon Islands closest to PNG.

The two leaders agreed to hold a joint meeting of their respective Cabinets in the ARB in early December.

06.10.2011

Source: The National

Momis to honour peace agreements

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis will honour agreements aimed to resolve outstanding differences in the area.

The agreements were made between the Mekamui unity government, the people of Panguna and the former ABG government under former president James Tanis.

Momis said commitments made by the Tanis government to consult the Mekamui unity government and the chamber of clans' paramount council plus the Panguna landowners would be continued and strengthened by his government.

He said his government would continue dialogue on the issues, in particular, the seven-point agenda adapted for further dialogue between the ABG and the Mekamui in March 2010.

He made the comment when announcing the appointment of Tanis as the lead negotiator for the ABG in restoring unity between all factions on Bougainville.

Momis highlighted the need for a co-ordinated effort in creating peace and cooperation among factions on Bougainville.

He said since his inauguration last year, he had been talking of unification in Bougainville.

He said it was an over-arching issue of importance that their social, economic and political progress depended on.

Momis said Tania had accepted to work closely with the Bougainville administration in ensuring that the peace building initiatives of the former government were continued to unite all factions.

He said the ABG had encouraging dialogue with Ishmael Toroama, the former BRA commander who continued to take an active interest in supporting the peace process in Central Bougainville.

06.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's economy recovering: Survey

THERE are about two kilograms of gold smelted in Buka, a week costing \$114,000 (K268,000) and about 16,000 tonnes of cocoa shipped out of Bougainville, a preliminary survey has found.

And Bougainville's "green gold" the betelnut industry is also providing economic means for many families in the region together with other basic fiscal activities such as cocoa, copra and small scale business activities.

The preliminary findings from a research undertaken by the National Research Institute and the University of New South Wales with help from the Australian Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government indicates there are lot more economic activities happening in Bougainville now but with minimum data/record keeping from the ABG.

Professor Satish Chand from the University of New South Wales yesterday presented an overview, from a groundwork survey of households in Buka, Selau, Arawa, Buka and Buin, providing evidence of an economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally sponsored peacekeeping operation that ended the decade long conflict," Chand presented.

"This recovery is helping to sustain peace that in turn undergirds investment. The above

is the nexus between peace and prosperity.”

In his findings, Professor Chand concluded that:

- * Per capita income for urban Bougainville = K3,863 at 2010 prices (or K783 at 1983 prices).

- * Large regional disparities in rates of and prospects for economic growth – policy implications.

- * Trade is building bridges between communities that were fractured by the conflict - policy implications.

- * Broad based growth creates a constituency for peace – who are the entrepreneurs in post-conflict Bougainville.

“In conclusion, I say that:

- * The six-year window of peace provided room for the community to be drawn into the economy;

- * Trade between communities is growing;

- * Investment into permanent housing signals perceptions of sustained peace;

- * The economic interdependencies between communities previously in conflict is rising;

- * Peace founded on (broad-based) prosperity has hope; and

- * Impact of the reopening of mine.

06.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Carteret resettlement may hold lessons for Pacific

With warnings about unsustainable numbers of people on low lying atolls and the possibility of having to resettle them elsewhere, is there anything to be learned from a resettlement scheme which is already happening in the Pacific?

The Carteret islands north of the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville are atolls which are sinking slowly.

There's a plan to resettle many of the 2,700 inhabitants on the mainland of Bougainville which aims at having 1,700 of them transplanted within ten years.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Ursula Rakova, executive director of the aid charity Tulele Peisa

Listen here !

06.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches unite to restore Bougainville

By Gorethy Kenneth

MORE than 5000 church goers in Bougainville are expected to gather in Buka this month for a major peace and unity intervention.

Last Friday, Selau/Suir churches launched their operational network and are now awaiting the major group launch later this month.

Bougainville now needs “Gods Kingdom Network” to get all churches into a common ground that calls for peace, reconciliation, harmony and unification of all factions in the region.

The North Bougainville Kingdom Network, comprising all churches in Bougainville, have formed themselves (like they did during the crisis) to come together and start a major

church intervention to bring Bougainville together again come October 28, 2011. Chairman of the North Region Kingdom Network Pastor Donald Posonei and his vice Pastor Tony Katsin told the Post-Courier yesterday that they have organised themselves and are arranging with the mainline churches - the Catholic Church, the United Church (UC) and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) - to launch their network program and kick start their proposed intervention.

Pastor Posonei said that about 5000 church personnel were expected to be in Buka late this month to launch the program. It will cost the churches between K150,000 to K200,000 to run it. North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi has contributed about K25,000 to help kick start the program.

05.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville west coast road gets upgraded

By PETERSON TSERHAHA

The Bougainville west coast road is now being upgraded to enable much easier movement of cars and people.

Worth K1 million, the project undertaken by the National Works Department, will include culverts that will cost up to K300,000 to be placed in three main rivers of the road.

National Works manager for Bougainville Aura Pangka said work had already started.

Mr Pangka was at the Move River in Rapoma area of the Selau constituency on Friday to see for himself the first two culverts built into the once wet crossing and damaged bridge.

When it rains, vehicles stay overnight as they cannot cross.

The west coast road had deteriorated over the past years and the travelling public had relied heavily on boats to travel to their villages.

"We have started work on the first river and then we will be moving to the next two.

"We will be backfilling and at the same time putting baskets to ensure the culverts are solid enough to withstand high tides," Mr Pangka said.

It is a sigh of relief for the locals as they can now bring their cocoa and copra to the market at much more affordable prices.

So far, the trunk road has been maintained well and the travelling public is happy that the national works are living up to their duty.

05.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt urged to honour Abal pledge

By Daniel Tangia

THE Board of Governors of Asitavi High School in Wakunai, Central Bougainville, want an update on the K5 million pledged by the former acting Prime Minister Sam Abal for the school.

Mr Abal visited Asitavi High School, Bougainville's only all girls high school in May this year and pledged K5 million to help maintain the school.

The BOG fear that the new Government led by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill will quash the pledge and not honour it.

Chairman Joe Pais has called on the National Government to release that K5 million regardless of the change.

The board is also calling on the Regional MP Fidelis Semoso, Communications Minister Jimmy Miringtoro, who is also the Central Bougainville MP, and Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kamma to chase up the money so that the board can be able to

carry out renovations and maintenance of the school.

“St Mary’s School boasts of its contribution of many women leaders of Bougainville and PNG in the past 40 years and it is our turn to ensure that future generation of girls achieve the best education,” Mr Pais said.

Mr Abal made the pledge after visiting the school and seeing the deteriorating state of the dormitories and classrooms.

News 10.2011

31.10.2011

Source: Post Courier

NZ commits to help PNG

THE Papua New Guinea and New Zealand governments yesterday signed an agreement on Joint Commitment for Development.

PNG Foreign Affairs Minister Ano Pala and New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully signed an agreement on an understanding that both governments will establish a shared vision for achieving long-term development outcomes for the people of PNG, including achieving of the Millennium Development Goals. Under the mutual commitments, New Zealand Government will support an increasing proportion of its aid spending; deliver effective and tangible projects that support economic development objectives.

Also under the commitments, the New Zealand Government will provide long-term and predictable help to the focal sectors which include agriculture, electricity, health, scholarships and training, and the **Bougainville issues**.

It will look at increasing work through PNG’s finance and procurement systems as such systems have been independently reviewed and found to be robust, transparent and efficient.

The New Zealand Government will work at a sector level with other donors and where possible align projects into a broader sector programme.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pala said PNG Government would ensure that coherent, long term, well prioritised sector plans were developed, maintained and reflected in national and provincial planning and budget processes.

“Our country will ensure to strengthen the results frameworks, monitoring systems and costing of sector plans,” he said.

“PNG Government will also co-ordinate development partner assistance in sectors via regular sectoral working group discussions.

“Our government under the agreement shall work actively towards strengthening its planning, budgeting and reporting systems and improve public financial management.” He said PNG Government would provide a clear guidance on areas that it wanted New Zealand to invest in.

31.10.2011

Source: Post Courier

MP raises boat woes

By Fabian Gatana

ATOLLS MP Frank Pasini Marena is disgusted at the way MV Bougainville Atolls is being managed.

He said twice now, the vessel had run aground on separate voyages and he has voiced his concern that if the vessel is not looked properly, his people of the atolls could lose a vital link of their lifeline.

He said the vessel had been in the region for only a month now and already there were signs of mismanagement of the the vessel.

"During the launching ceremony of the vessel the ABG President John Momis and I gave out a strong message for the people of Bougainville to take ownership of the vessel and to look after it."

"It seems that these words have fallen on deaf ears and I am concerned on the effect this will have on my Atolls people who are dependent on shipping for their livelihood," he said.

The member also questioned the vessel being docked at a private ramp other than the designated government ramp.

He called on the the government appoint a specialist to look after the vessel and its operations to that peoples of the Atolls and other regions of the ABG could benefit from its services.

30.10.2011

Source: Weekend Courier

NZ High Commissioner in Bougainville

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



THE New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw's trip to Bougainville last week has been hailed by many as a success. Ms Crawshaw (picture), who was in Bougainville from October 17-21 of this month was able to travel all the way down to Siwai and Buin in South Bougainville, thus, becoming the first diplomat to have traveled to many parts of south Bougainville. Ms Crawshaw was accompanied by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Kamma and Mark Tacon from the New Zealand Prime Minister's office in Wellington. Upon arriving in Buka Ms Crawshaw paid a courtesy call to the Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis. During their brief discussion, both leaders discussed security issues currently experienced on Bougainville, which the New Zealand High Commissioner greatly appreciated after learning about the reconciliation ceremonies currently undertaken by the different warring factions in parts of south Bougainville. During her week-long stay in the region, Ms Crawshaw was able to visit Tonu high school and Ameu district office in Siwai district. She also visited the Buin police station, Kangu wharf, Buin Specialised Training Centre (BSTC) and the Buin secondary school. She was also able to offer words of encouragement to the students and staff of the schools that she visited. Ms Crawshaw also expressed to those that she met that she was very happy to have taken the trip, adding that she hopes to visit Bougainville again in future. Ms Crawshaw and her delegation departed Bougainville last Friday.

30.10.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

Bougainville's weak govt unable to stop looting

BY MARTYN NAMORONG

THE FRIENDLY SMILES, calm turquoise tropical sea and palm-fringed white sandy beaches are a facade in this group of South Pacific islands with a tortured history.

But the main island of Bougainville is indeed Treasure Island.

Home to one of the world's largest known copper and gold deposits, Panguna mine proved to be a curse. The violent civil war that began in 1988 was exacerbated by a blockade of the island by the Papua New Guinea government.

An estimated 15 000 people died in the fighting and as a result of the blockade, which involved the cutting off of essential medicines to the people.

The blockade existed until a ceasefire was brokered in 1994. However, in rebel held territories, the looting had already begun.

Tony Kevi was a young boy when the crisis began in 1988. His mother is a Panguna landowner. This is how he described the looting and infighting that ensued in rebel held territories.

"We couldn't get enough of the material things the white man could give us," he says. "It was obvious, you know, when after the ceasefire when we chased off the [PNG government], we started fighting amongst ourselves over cars."

Tony said that one rebel commander would pull a car out of another's hands and there would be trouble. Today the looting continues in various forms.

Albert Kinini heads the screening committee of the Commerce Department of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. He estimates that about K300 million worth of alluvial gold is illicitly leaving the island.

The Bougainville government does not receive any revenue from these exports. Much of the alluvial gold mining is being carried out in the tailings region and at Panguna.

The Commerce Department is currently screening applications for scrap metal buyers. Indeed, a lot of scrap metal is being exported from the former mining region through the port of Arawa.

No one really knows the value of the exports and the once again, the government does not collect revenue from this activity.

But perhaps the biggest resources coup has been the story of the speculative investment by Invincible Resources of Canada, giving it access to every single oil, gas and mining activity on Bougainville.

For the cheap price of K20 million, Invincible Resources owns 70% of a company created by an Act of Parliament in Bougainville.

The company, known as Bogenvil Resources Development Company, was given exclusive rights to all mining and oil and gas activity under the Act.

Meanwhile a 30 000 hectare oil palm project is to be developed at Torokina on Bougainville's west coast. Hakau Investments, a company linked with Lae-based businessman Sir Henry Chow, is currently undertaking surveying and feasibility studies.

The area contains tracts of tropical hardwood that are expected to be clear felled and sawn into timber. The project is being opposed by the member of the Bougainville House of Representatives along with members of the six landowning clans.

All of these activities are taking place in the context of a policy and legislative vacuum. There are currently no mining, forestry or fisheries policies and enabling legislation. Bougainville's fledgling government also lacks institutional and financial capacity.

This has resulted in many foreign businesses bypassing the government and dealing directly with local landowners and leaders. One such case involves partnerships between

landowners and foreign interests in a project called Nisina Mines within the lower tailings region of Panguna.

So the looting that began after the departure of Papua New Guinea's military and police forces continues today in various forms. Powerful and influential men are amassing wealth and weapons to protect their interests. The government is weak and its exercise of authority limited.

"People are back into materialism, and we are repeating the same things. It's all about what I can get for me today. The real threat here is that people have virtually forgotten what it was like during the blockade," warns Tony Kevi.

28.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tidying up Panguna!



IT would not be long before all the scrap metals at the former Panguna mine in Central Bougainville will be removed and transported out from the area to the Loloho wharf for shipment to overseas buyers. Every day, trucks carrying scrap metals could be seen driving up and down the Panguna mountain. Pictured is a truck owned by one of the scrap metal companies transporting a ball mill up the Panguna mountain. The ball mill is a machine that was used to crush ore during the operations of the mine. Words and picture: WINTERFORD TOREAS

28.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka hospital gets new steriliser

By ALEX MUNME

BUKA General Hospital has a new central sterilising unit called the pre-vac steriliser - thanks to Steven Greenleaf of Sterilising Equipment Sales and Services, a company based in Cairns, Australia.

The machine was officially launched and handed over to Buka General Hospital in its sterilising room yesterday (Thursday) witnessed by senior hospital staff, doctors and nurses.

During the commissioning ceremony, a contract document was also signed to verify that the machine was installed, tested, commissioned and training on how to operate and maintain all aspects of the machine was also carried out successfully.

These state of the art machines are described to be the best in the latest technology and are distributed to nine centres including Buka, Port Moresby, Lae, Manus, Kavieng, Kundiawa and others.

One of these machines is estimated to the value of more than K200, 000.

Buka General Hospital CEO Dr. Cyril Imako, Director Medical Staff Dr Barnabas Matanu and Mathew Monei thanked the company for such wonderful and best equipment that will be used in the hospital to sterilise linen, equipment, tools that are used in the operating theatre, delivery room, outpatient and hospital wards for the safety of all patients.

Mr Monei also laid down the rules on who to be responsible for operating the machine and to be very cautious on handling the machine to avoid damage and lengthy time of replacement.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Board urged to plan land use

THE newly established Bougainville Physical Planning Board recently held its first board meeting which was attended by the ABG member for Natural Resources Michael Oni and a team from the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

Mr Oni officially opened the meeting and challenged the board to address the need to start planning the use of land for development purposes in all Bougainville towns.

He emphasised that the work of the board would be faced with challenges as the board would be faced with the job of correcting lots of unplanned and improvised land use activities and developments built without proper plans and approved by authority.

He also stressed that the ABG would help the Physical Planning Board to be effective and efficient in addressing physical planning needs in developing the region.

The board discussed the need for a Buka Urban Development Plan for Buka town to address uncontrolled development and use of land in and around the town.

The plan will also include policies on type and size, scale and nature of built infrastructure and a guide to development for the future growth of the town.

ABG chief administrator Thomas Raban was appointed as the deputy chairman (as stipulated in the Physical Planning Act 1989), to lead six board members.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's case may proceed in US

BOUGAINVILLEANS being represented in a class action case in California, the United States of America, have won a major victory on Tuesday this week when an appeals court ruled that their case may proceed in US courts.

Brent Walton of Hagens Berman told the Post-Courier from the United States that "unless the US Supreme Court steps in and stops the case, Bougainvilleans will get their day in court in the USA. That is the upshot of the whole opinion."

The Bougainvilleans who allege mining company Rio Tinto (RIO) worked with the Papua New Guinea Government to destroy their culture and commit genocide, took the mining giant to court and since 2000, it has been on-going in the US.

Last year the case was dismissed and the lawyers representing the Bougainvilleans appealed against the decision.

On Tuesday this week the lawyers representing the landowners won a major victory when the court ruled in their favour allowing the case to proceed in U.S. courts.

The Bougainvilleans include Alexis Sarei, Paul Nearu, Thomas Tamausi, Aloysius

Moses, Raphael Niniku, Gabriel Tareasi, Linus Takinu, Leo Wuis, Michael Akope, Benedict Pisi, Thomas Kobuko, John Tamuasi, Norman Mouvo, John Osani, Ben Korus, Namira Kawona, Joan Bosco, John and Magdalene Pigolo.

Hagens Berman has represented the residents of Bougainville, since the late 1990s.

Rio Tinto operated a mine on the island. After an uprising by the residents of Bougainville forced Rio to close the mine, the company allegedly provided transportation for PNG troops who were brought in to reopen it.

When these tactics failed, the PNG government instituted a military blockade, which the plaintiffs allege lasted 10 years and led to the deaths of nearly 10,000 people.

In a statement from the managing partner for Hagens Berman and attorney for the residents of Bougainville Steve Berman could not wait to commend his team for the case decision.

"We are obviously very pleased with the ruling today by the Court of Appeals," said Berman. This has been a marathon of a case, and Rio Tinto has been using every tool available to delay answering for their actions."

The residents of Bougainville allege that Rio Tinto's mining operations on the island resulted in the dumping of billions of tons of toxic waste, heavily polluting previously pristine waters.

According to the lawsuit, this resulted in the exposure of dangerous chemicals to local residents, dispossessing them of their ancestral lands and destroying their culture.

The case was originally filed on September 18, 2000.

The case was sent to the Court of Appeals when Rio Tinto questioned the District Court's ruling that the plaintiffs were entitled to pursue claims of war crimes and genocide in U.S. courts without exhausting legal options in PNG first.

By a vote of seven-to-four, the Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court's ruling.

The court also ruled that the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) does not preclude the charging of corporate defendants for genocide and war crimes.

Rio Tinto had claimed that only individuals could be charged under the statute.

"Rio has already delayed this case for over a decade, and many of its victims have passed on," said Steve Berman. "We look forward to taking this case back to the District Court and holding Rio responsible for its actions."

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Doc's plan for needy

By JOYCE TOHUI

A senior doctor from the Buka hospital is calling on the people of Bougainville who have the heart to help others to join the Rotary Club for Bougainville which he is proposing to establish in Bougainville.

Dr Joe Vilosi has initiated help for people in need in the past and has come up with the idea to form a proper club to help the needy.

He said as a member of the Rotary Club, he was helping to deliver kind services in small ways for people who sought help.

Dr Vilosi said he was concerned about people helping people through own initiatives and not waiting for free handouts.

He said he believed the people of Bougainville had the heart for the needy and he wanted to resurrect these good attitudes.

Currently, he said, he was working together with people who were willing to help to start up the Bougainville Rotary Club.

The doctor said the club aimed mainly to help deliver small services to the people in little ways possible.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

On a mission to turn tables around

BOUGAINVILLEANS, specifically the missionaries are on a mission to turn tables around and start going abroad to help the needy.

Last month the Christian Mission Fellowship –Bougainville made a request to all Pacific Island nations to come to Bougainville and help raise funds to send 20 missionaries to remote Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Milne Bay – three locations identified which are under the poverty line.

CMF elite from Fiji, Solomon Islands and in PNG, the New Guinea Islands, Southern Region, the Highlands Region and Bougainville came together and last weekend at the Wakunai Bible College held a fundraiser which earned about K100,000.

Regional MP for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso gave more than K45,000 towards the mission of which K43,000 allocated from his discretionary funds and about K2000 from his family and businesses.

Fiji CMF team told the Post- Courier it was time to turn tables and instead of being seen all the time as the third world nations or always on the receiving end from the first world nations - it was now time to give back a hand to the needy.

Mr Semoso who commended the church organisers for a job well done, also presented K1500 to the Solomon Island team and hosted the Fiji team in Buka. He gave an ear bashing to the church elders and appealed to them to successfully carry out their mission.

Pastors in charge said in Wakunai that the money raised was to send a group of 20 young and old men and women as missionaries to go and help a very remote village in Western Province of Solomon Islands. This village in the Solomons is up in the mountains, and has been neglected by the SI Government and through the CMF Solomons, help is now underway.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fiji's Giant in Bougainville



“What do I need to eat to be your size?” this is the question Bougainville Regional MP Francis Semoso and other leaders that were in Aioro, Wakunai, asked recently when they met one of the South Pacific’s giants Kaliova Seleiwau who is currently in Wakunai for the Regional Christian Mission Fellowship. They call him the giant – he’s 2.5 metres tall and is only 29 years old from Fiji town, but lives in Kansas City, USA. He’s travelled all the way from US under the Extreme International Christian Mission to help his Fiji counterparts donate to the CMF (story this week). But he has surely

caught even the attention of leaders with his height!

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches celebrate

By ALEX MUNME

THE Colonial administrative centre of the then North Solomons Province Sohano Island was the centre for religious activities and celebrations last weekend near Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Seventh Day Adventist and United Churches held separate programs just next to each other simultaneously.

SDA held Children's Emphasis Day with a double blessing when three unexpected guests arrived on Sabbath morning to add flavour to their prepared program.

Pastor and aircraft pilot Roger Millist and his wife flew in from Goroka while Children's Ministry director and Local Mission director Pastor Kove Tau arrived from Rumba, headquarter of the SDA in Bougainville.

For the Children's Emphasis day it was all children's turn, who conducted religious programs on Sabbath (Saturday) and on Sunday they had physical activities.

United Church had displays of art and craft for sale and other goods on Saturday which was part and parcel of their celebrations, and held all spiritual activities on Sunday.

The UC program was a nationwide celebration with the theme 'God'S shaping and moulding in the last 40 years.

The program was to celebrate what was achieved from 1971 to 2011 in the mission and ministry of the church.

Sunday's program kicked off with marching, followed by worship. Member for Tewa constituency in the ABG Reverend Joseph Nopei was among those who were guest speakers at the celebrations on Sunday.

27.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Haku 'dances' risky

CHURCH workers and chiefs of the Haku constituency have condemned dances held during the day or 'Pitanlan' as it is called in the local Halia dialect.

These dances seen as fundraising activities started in the Halia area and the craze has spread to other parts of Buka. It usually starts early in the morning and ends late into the night.

The chiefs and church workers in the Haku area have aired their grievances, saying that this fundraising activity was promoting promiscuity and alcohol and drug abuse.

They also argue that there is a high incidence of unprotected sexual activity happening at these dances that will contribute to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

They called for these fundraising activities to be banned, saying young girls and boys, including students were learning how to consume alcohol from their elders which was contributing to the fall in their education.

27.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

US Appeal Court revives Bougainville challenge against Rio Tinto

A lawsuit filed by Bougainville residents against mining company, Rio Tinto is set to be revived.

A U-S federal Appeals Court has reversed a decision to throw out the lawsuit which alleges the mining company aided the PNG government in genocide and war crimes.

The lawsuit was filed in 2002, 13-years after the mining company's activities prompted a civil war in Bougainville.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Steve Berman, attorney for the Bougainville land owners

Listen here !

BERMAN: Well the ninth-circuit court of appeals agreed that the case could go forward allegedly that Rio Tinto was involved in the commission of war crimes and genocide, which are two international law recognised claims that are universal to all countries.

COUTTS: Well what will you be asking for in this suit?

BERMAN: We're going to be asking for compensation to the ten-thousand or more people who are injured or killed during the uprising.

COUTTS: How many people does that involve, how many people are you actually representing?

BERMAN: Well it's a proposed class action in the United States and in a class action you only need to name a few, the idea is you don't want to bog the courts down with thousands of claims at once. So you have a few people represent the interests of class and the class in this case we think is about ten to 14-thousand people.

COUTTS: Will you be getting testimony, because these are serious charges, genocide and all the other charges you've just listed, will you be getting personal testimony to back that up?

BERMAN: Yes we already have some, we have affidavits from the former commander in chief and from a former prime minister that they were directed by Rio Tinto to take whatever steps were necessary, including violence and killing, to re-open the mine and they gave some details on that. But now we're going to go and start getting the records and show in our view that Rio Tinto financed the helicopters and troop carriers and communications devices, and the means that the government used to try to suppress the uprising.

COUTTS: And it also includes racial discrimination and crimes against humanity all lumped in together?

BERMAN: Well the court dismissed the racial discrimination and crimes against humanity claims, but the racial discrimination claims kind of still falls within the genocide claims, so there's not really a loss there.

COUTTS: Can you just explain the point of that particular aspect of the case?

BERMAN: Well the court found that racial discrimination under American law, the alien torch statute, someone can sue for a violation of international law, and the Supreme Court recently said those violations have to be laws that every nation, every civilised nation recognises. And believe it or not the court found that not all civilised nations recognise racial discrimination as a violation of the law. So they threw out the racial discrimination claim, on the other hand they said we did allege enough to suggest that the mining company looked at the Bougainvilleans as a separate people who they had no compunction or were not worried about polluting their environment, ruining their lifestyle, ruining their property and physically maiming them, and that was enough to state a claim.

COUTTS: And some dissenting judges have protested against allowing a lawsuit to proceed in the federal courts brought by non-US residents against a non-US company. That is an interesting point?

BERMAN: Well the mining company raised an issue as had other corporations that have been sued under this law that says the US should not be adjudicating claims against foreign companies where the acts take place for example, in this case they took place in Bougainville. But other courts, and the majority in this case said statute speaks very broadly and if you can get jurisdiction over the defendant, in this case Rio in the United States, then you're entitled to bring the case here. And the historical notion we believe that underlies the law dates all the way back to piracy where a court, in that case piracy, which is what the act was passed to in part address, the idea was that someone commits a tort anywhere in the world, piracy is a universally condemned tort, if you catch that person in the United States you can sue them for that even if it occurred somewhere else, and that's what's happening here. And Rio Tinto has a huge presence in the United States, over 47 per cent of their assets or revenues are derived from North America, so the court found we had jurisdiction over them here and that's why we're suing them in the United States.

COUTTS: And is part of the claim too, because there's been talk of mining beginning again in Bougainville, are you taking any action against that happening?

BERMAN: We're not, that's not part of the case. But I'm told by my clients that Rio is trying to re-open the mine and there's a pretty strong viewpoint, many people in the Bougainville area that Rio cannot and should not be permitted to re-open the mine until they address and redress the wrongdoing that they committed years ago.

COUTTS: I.E. this court case?

BERMAN: Right, I mean the mine is hugely valuable, copper prices have gone up and it's a scarce resource and it was the world's largest copper mine, still a lot of copper out there, it's a valuable asset and they want it, but I don't think they're going to get it unless they remedy the wrongs that they've committed.

COUTTS: When do you think you'll get this case before the courts?

BERMAN: Well now we're going to go back down to the trial court and ask for discovery taking their testimony to proceed, I suspect that Rio's going to ask the US Supreme Court to hear this case.

26.10.2011

Source: MINING WEEKLY

Rio Tinto could engage more with host countries – CEO

By: Esmarie Swanepoel

PERTH (miningweekly.com) – Diversified miner Rio Tinto CEO Tom Albanese said on Wednesday the company was striving to increase its engagement with government representatives in the countries where it operates, but acknowledged that more could be done.

“As I look at the Rio Tinto journey over the past ten years, I think we have done a better job, at the local level, of addressing the highest standards of environment, employing health and safety measures, as well as community engagement. But frankly we haven’t done enough in terms of engagement of host countries,” Albanese said.

“I think that it is something that we as an organisation should recognise and learn from, and that is one of the top priorities that we put to the Rio Tinto team on a global basis.”

Albanese’s comments at the second day of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and Business Forum in Perth came after the revival of an 11-year old genocide and war crimes lawsuit in the US Federal Appeals Court.

The claims relates to violent clashes between the government of Papua New Guinea and residents of the Bougainville Island in the late 1980s, where Rio operated the Panguna copper/gold mine until 1989.

Newswire Reuters reported that the suit was revived on behalf of around 10 000 current and former residents of the Bougainville Island, who claim that the mine polluted the island and forced native workers to live in “slave-like” conditions. The report also stated that residents contended that after workers began to sabotage the mine in 1988, Rio Tinto goaded the government into exacting retribution and conspired to impose a blockade that resulted in the deaths of some 10 000 civilians by 1997.

While not addressing the claims on Wednesday, Albanese told the CHOGM and Business Forum that the company was working towards not only being a local partner, but also a stronger national partner.

Meanwhile, Albanese also said that Rio was looking to increase its investment in Africa.

“Rio Tinto has been a long-standing investor in Africa. We have been involved in Africa for over 50 years and currently have significant operations or developments in seven countries, with a number of exploration activities in other African countries.

“We would like to continue to invest in Africa,” Albanese told delegates.

“I am of the firm belief that Rio Tinto has been under-invested in Africa, and also that Africa itself is under-explored for natural resources and has much, much more potential to continue to deliver product and valuable exports to the global markets.”

Albanese said that it was his opinion that the next generation of significant resource projects would be found in Africa.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Economic recovery in Bougainville

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

SURVEY findings have shown evidence that there is economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville following a window of peace made possible through an international

peacekeeping operation.

The survey conducted in the four urban centres; Buka, Selau, Buin and Arawa showed that income per capita was K3, 863 at 2010 prices, while it was K783 at 1983 prices. Dr Charles Yala, a researcher with the University of New South Wales in Australia and a research associate at the National Research Institute (NRI) said from 1999 to 2003, a series of international interventions took place.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally sponsored peacekeeping operation that ended the decade long conflict," Dr Yala said when presenting the findings from the survey.

"Given that peace, they (people of Bougainville) invested in prosperity, which is a change in the level of income and welfare improvement," he said.

Dr Yala said in the survey the research team found that people were beginning to invest in permanent housing, and this was a sign that they wanted to maintain peace.

"Investment into permanent housing signals perceptions of sustained peace," he said.

Dr Yala said after the conflict there was rebound in economic activity.

He said the Buin market was a hub of activity, even gold smelting and cocoa production had become some of the main activities the people of Bougainville took part in.

Dr Yala said the six-year window of peace provided room for the community to be drawn into the economy and for trade to grow amongst communities.

He said more research still needed to be done.

Director of NRI, Dr Thomas Webster said when people are engaged in economic activity, when they see their incomes to meet their basic needs; there is an incentive to maintain peace.

"So the suggestion is infighting has stopped and people have started to engage in some economic activities but the research was on the basis of trying to find out what are the economic activities that are going on and whether there's an opportunity to identify those so the governments can intervene for more permanent peaceful environment," Dr Webster said.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis calls on Bougainville to honour peace deal

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government President, John Momis has called on the people of Bougainville to honour the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

Mr Momis said the creation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement was recognised as one of the best in the world and yet Bougainvilleans are ignorant of this agreement.

He said the Peace Agreement was entered into for the purposes of the unification of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and not just a few.

He urged the people of Bougainville not to play with the Peace Agreement as a game but rather take it seriously, as the document represents the sovereign will of all the people of Bougainville.

Mr Momis said Bougainville has survived the core challenges and difficulties in the past years and must stand firm to build a better nation.

He said having reached this point in time in Bougainville's historical development and to dishonour the Peace Agreement will cast a stain on the pure motives and good intentions of those who fought to end the Bougainville crisis and those who sought to bring peace to Bougainville.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Nisira told ex-combatants to stop fighting

By JOYCE TOHUI

ABG vice President Patrick Nisira has called on the former combatants of Bougainville to stop fighting each other because they have already fought for the good of Bougainville during the crisis.

He reminded former combatants to always remember that they fought for the people to protect their environment in the past years.

He said that a lot of Bougainvilleans lost their lives in the Bougainville conflict and why combatants continue to fight today.

Mr Nisira said Bougainville has already signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement for the unification of the people of Bougainville and they must respect this agreement because it is the sovereign will of all Bougainvilleans.

He urged the former combatants to proactively involve in ensuring that the peace agreement is protected and implemented as key stakeholders and to provide a safe and secure environment for the civil society enjoy.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville supports Semoso

By Fabian Gatana

EX-COMBATANTS and people of Tinputz and Wakunai have affirmed their support for the Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso, who is currently facing charges of misappropriation.

Peter Baka, a former commander and spokesman for the ex-combatants of Tinputz and Wakunai, said the people of his area have physically seen a lot of changes take place and have pledged to stand behind the member.

He said Mr Semoso has funded a lot of projects in the area such as the establishment of roadside markets, funding for the local health centre and school and also providing funding for the recent cocoa festival.

“The people in the area are now benefiting from the projects the member has undertaken. The women have a set place to sell their produce whereas in the past they used to sell their produce on the ground and the health centre and schools have also been refurbished, thanks to Mr Semoso,” he said.

Mr Baka said Mr Semoso’s quality of bringing himself down to the local grassroots level was the reason why the people of the Tinputz/Wakunai area regarded him as a true leader. He said whatever the outcome of his investigations, the people of Wakunai area will still stand by their leader.

26.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tonu High School gets new vehicle

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



TRANSPORTATION will not be a problem anymore for the staff and students of Tonu High School in the Siwai District of South Bougainville, thanks to the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Member for South Bougainville Steven Kamma.

Last Thursday Mr Kamma came to the aid of the school by presenting the keys of a new Toyota Landcruiser vehicle to the school's head teacher To'osih Lising.

Before handing over the keys to Mr Lising, Mr Kamma challenged the staff, students and the landowners of the area where the school is located to look after the vehicle.

"I am happy to deliver this vehicle to you. It was bought at a cost of K168,000. However, I appeal to you all to look after this vehicle. I don't want you to do anything that may damage this vehicle," Mr Kamma said.

He warned that if they do not look after the vehicle he will not be funding any more projects in the school.

Head teacher Mr Lising thanked Mr Kamma for the vehicle, saying that the donation was timely because it will greatly ease the transportation problems currently faced by the school. He also assured Mr Kamma that they will look after the vehicle. Apart from Tonu High School, another brand new landcruiser was also presented by Mr Kamma to the Buin Specialized Training Centre in Buin last week.

Both vehicle presentations were witnessed by the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG Marion Crawshaw.

26.10.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville updates electoral roll

By ELIZABETH VUVU

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville is set to begin its electoral roll update programme with the PNG Electoral Commission setting aside K400,000 for the exercise. Unlike other provinces that begun their electoral roll updating last year in preparation for next year's general election, Bougainville was conducting its by-election for the North Bougainville seat from January to May followed by the Tonsu by-election in the local assembly which ended last month.

Election manager Reitama Taravaru said they were now preparing to go into their roll updating programme, which was expected to take four weeks.

He said applications from assistant returning officers had been received and would be forwarded to the commission.

Taravaru said the council of elders and village assembly clerks would be engaged in the programme as enrolment agents.

"By mid-November, we should be collecting our updated data from the field and two weeks will be used for quality check before we forward all data to the electoral commission for auditing and printing," he said.

Taravaru said of the region's three electorates, they would give priority to the two biggest – North Bougainville and Central Bougainville – which had 10 constituencies between them.

Deployment of returning officers would take place next week as they make supervisory visits to the constituencies.

Taravaru said K250,000 from the allocated K400,000 would be used for the programme.

26.10.2011

Source: The National

Setbacks highlighted

A SURVEY by the National Research Institute reveals that infrastructure on Bougainville cannot cope with the economic activity taking place in the autonomous region.

NRI director Dr Thomas Webster had urged the government to address the problem and place emphasis on infrastructures such as roads and banking facilities in the region.

"A survey of households in urban Bougainville leaves us with a message for our government that there is tremendous economic activity taking place in the province but infrastructures like roads and banking systems cannot cater for it," Webster said.

"The initial survey data provides evidence of an economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally-sponsored peace-keeping operation that ended the decade-long conflict."

Head of the survey Dr Charles Yala said more economic activity would lead to peace being fully attained in the region.

"With such a boom in economic activity, we need to get the locals involved in cocoa production, build permanent houses and do other worthwhile things."

26.10.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville lawsuit against mining giant revived in US Court of Appeals

A U.S. federal appeals court has revived a lawsuit seeking to hold Rio Tinto responsible for human rights violations and thousands of deaths linked to its huge Panguna copper and gold mine in Papua New Guinea's Bougainville province.

A divided 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed a lower court's dismissal of claims against the mining giant for genocide and war crimes, while upholding the dismissal of claims for racial discrimination and crimes against humanity.

A civil war, prompted by the mining company's activities, erupted in 1989, with an estimated 20 thousand lives lost.

Judge Mary Schroeder wrote that the complaint alleges purposeful conduct undertaken by Rio Tinto with the intent to assist in the commission of violence, injury, and death, to the degree necessary to keep its mines open.

The 6-5 decision on Tuesday revives an 11-year-old lawsuit on behalf of about 10,000 current and former Bougainville residents.

But some dissenting judges protested against allowing a lawsuit to proceed in federal courts brought by non-U.S. residents against a non-U.S. company.

A Rio Tinto spokesman, says the company will defend itself vigorously against what it calls improper claims.

25.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville deal with China fruitful

BOUGAINVILLE'S China Cooperation Committee (BCCC) under the chairmanship of Autonomous Bougainville Government vice President Patrick Nisira has done so much since its approval in June this year.

Apart from facilitating multi-billion kina companies from China to visit to help Bougainville, the BCCC has also established entities which would also help boost the economy of Bougainville and specifically to secure Chinese government aid, promote commercial, technical and cultural exchange, develop Bougainville China cooperation strategy, develop Bougainville social and economic development strategy and policy and conduct awareness programs related to cooperation with China among others.

According to Bougainville China Economic Cooperation Strategy report obtained by the Post-Courier, companies from China who visited to help Bougainville in its economic prosperity, especially to help build up strategic partnership with China to secure Chinese Government aid, attract Chinese investment and achieve direct trading access to China to cut off middlemen and achieve full autonomy by implementation of Bougainville Peace Agreement to allow the people to compare the autonomy and full independence before referendum and see Bougainville China Cooperation as a strategy to achieve the full autonomy. They include:

- * Hosia Engineering Design Company and Ruike Construction Company;
- * Honghua Group – the Global Second Largest Manufacturer of Oil Drilling Platforms (this company supplied drilling platforms to LNG Project) and Hengsen Chemical – a famous company in China;

* **Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group – the Second Largest Copper Mining Company in China;**

(Find out more about an important Tongling 3 billion investment in 2010 - HERE!!!)

- * Hunan Hydro & Power Design Institute – the Second Largest Institute in China

- * Sun Innovation Group Company – a famous multi-industrial company based in

Hongkong (they came by the private jet)

The BCCC had developed and had BEC approved on mid July 2011 the package strategy for establishing comprehensive economic structure and system in Bougainville. Because of Bougainville's low revenue income, lack of capacity (government and economy), low employment rate (25% employed in formal sector) and big fiscal gap (K93,566,500 in 2010).

ABG's legal arm approved BCCC on June 12, 2011.

This economic system will enable Bougainville to accelerate economic growth, achieve economic independence, and support Bougainville social welfare development.

The report also details that BCCC over the last five months has:

- * Established Bougainville Public Investment Corporation Limited – 100% ABG owned company. (This business arm provides a legal position for ABG to go into any joint venture and creates the second source of revenue for the goal of ABG fiscal self-reliance).

- * Established Bougainville General Development Corporation Limited – 52% ABG & 48% Chinese investors. (This company will serve as a headquarter company and play a leadership role in establishing every industrial development capacity company in JV with Chinese investors.

- * Established Bougainville Import & Export General Corporation Limited – 60% Bougainvillean & 40% Chinese investors. (This company will build up direct access into Chinese manufacturers and market by cutting off all middlemen, so as to reduce selling price in Bougainville, and increase Bougainvillean products export volume to create direct and significant benefit for all Bougainvilleans).

- * Established Bougainville Energy & Water Development General Corporation Limited – 15.6% ABG, 84.4% Chinese investors. ABG can buy back more shares for a maximum 52% share of this company in future. (This is a large capital and high expertise capacity company for developing the hydropower and water conservancy infrastructure projects, to build up Bougainville own power and water supply systems).

BCCC will also take a great effort to develop proper strategy and policy for development of the following industries/sectors, and identify credible Chinese investors to establish relevant joint venture capacity companies within 24 months in mining, construction, bank, shipping, airline, tourism, Special Economy Zone Development, agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquatic, legal service, security service, academy of social and economy strategy planning.

25.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Lifestyle disease rife on Atolls

by PETERSON TSERAHA

LIFestyle diseases are a major concern in the Atolls of Bougainville, visiting medical officials to the atolls recently found this out on the maiden voyage of the BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls to Mortlock and Tasman Islands. Diabetes, asthma, broken bones top the list of the kind of lifestyle diseases on Mortlock Island. The type of diet is a major contributing factor which leads to diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. These types of diseases are curable only if regular shipping is guaranteed on a monthly or weekly basis to supply drugs and other medical supplies. Shown in this picture is Dr Patrick Mallisson Dio, a medical officer from the Buka general hospital examining a patient at the Mortlock Island aid post.

25.10.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Mine Watch

ABG to hold three-day resource summit for all Bougainvilleans

All Bougainvilleans have been invited by the Autonomous Bougainville Government to a Bougainville Development Resource Summit in Arawa from 27th to 29th October.

The invitation is to discuss resource development issues that have affected Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, including land, minerals, oil and gas, fishing, forestry, agriculture and carbon trading.

Topics for discussion include:

- CODE OF CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS
- RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMARY LAND, RESOURCE OWNERSHIP & RIGHTS
- TYPES OF CONTRACTS FOR EXTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES
- FAIR SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS
- PNG DOMESTIC LAWS, INCLUDING LAND ACT 1996, MINING ACT 1992 AND OIL & GAS ACT 1998

Guest speakers will include constitutional lawyer, Mr Peter Donigi, President of the Mama Papa Graun Party.

For queries about the summit, please contact Justin Borgia 72375139 and Denis Kuiai 71505652

25.10.2011

Source: The National

Probe ordered for Buka Hospital

HEALTH Minister Jamie Maxtone-Graham has instructed his department secretary to investigate allegations of medical drug shortage at the Buka Hospital yesterday.

His instructions came after one of the hospital staff called for help as the hospital was running low on drugs.

The phone call also coincided with the launching of the public complaint hotline at his office to receive complaints on health issues. Maxtone-Graham said he did not know the hospital was running low on drugs and told the acting secretary Pascoe Kase to immediately investigate and take action if the reports were true.

Kase also said he was unaware of the report but would find out.

Meanwhile, he said for the first time AusAID was helping the government to provide medical equipment and drugs to health facilities in the country.

Kase said in the past, deliveries were done at the provincial level but AusAID had shouldered some of the burden and rural health centres and aid posts would receive their supplies.

The government will take over the exercise when AusAID finishes the project.

24.10.2011

Source: The National

NRI studies Bougainville economic recovery efforts

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE National Research Institute (NRI) will tomorrow release findings of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

The Bougainville Research Project was a collaborative project between the NRI and the Buka campus of UPNG, University of New South Wales, the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring.

The research was funded by the Asia Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence.

The aim of the research was to find out the phase of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville and the findings will be made know to the media tomorrow at the NRI Library.

NRI communication units in an email said that Phase 1 of the project was completed and the survey results will be presented to the government and the International Donor Community.

The email stated that about 20 students studying at the Buka Campus of UPNG were trained as research assistants and conducted surveys covering Buka, Selau, Arawa and Buin.

It said the survey data provided evidence of economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

The results of the survey were presented to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the wider community covering the survey sites of Buka, Selau, Arawa and Buin during the first week of this month.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Laptops go missing on ship

By GORETHY KENNETH

ONE of Bougainville's computer and accessories companies has lost more than K200,000 worth of computer laptops and projectors.

Buka Police yesterday said that the company (named) lost the laptops and projectors while onboard the ship of a major shipping company.

Police could not provide full details of the incident but advised the investigations were still being carried out.

The company (named) told the Post- Courier that more than 80 laptops worth more than K200,000 went missing and several other projectors on the ship probably in Port Moresby, Lae or at the Buka wharf.

The executives of the company said that the investigations were still being carried out but appealed to the public to report to the police or the company anyone selling laptops on the street.

Reports have already been received that there were some people selling Toshiba laptops on the streets of Buka and Arawa for a quick K500.

An appeal has been put out for the public to report anyone selling laptops, specifically Toshiba brands in town.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

TSC to transfer powers to AROB

By BOLA NOHO

TEACHING Service Commission will transfer its powers and functions to the Department of Education and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville at the end of this week.

The caretaker Chairman for Teaching Services Commission (TSC) Jerry Kuhena announced last week that the combined joint implementation group (JIG) was currently in a meeting in Bougainville to discuss the issue.

He said the meeting would discuss ways to transfer TSC powers and functions to the Department of Education (DoE) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) education division.

"This meeting is important because it will discuss the transfer of powers and functions of TSC and DoE to ABG Education Division," said Mr Kuhena.

He said JIG comprised of senior officers of DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC.

The JIG agenda for the meeting included implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG Education division's human resources in order for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

He also said they would discuss the policy on the implementation of powers and functions that would be developed.

"This policy will provide directions to DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC on the implementation of powers and functions," said Mr Kuhena.

He said the meeting would require proposed restructure for ABG Education's feedback from JIG committee members mainly from DoE and TSC. Mr Kuhena said the feedback would improve the proposed restructure for ABG Education before it was endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management. He said they would also discuss the budget. A Memorandum of Understanding states that the budget for ABG Education functions would be supported by DoE, TSC and ABG.

24.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Maternity ward for Manetai

MEMBER for Central Bougainville and Minister for Communications, Jimmy Miringoro cut the ribbon to his funded maternity ward in Manetai, and also welcomed the first mother in, who gave birth to a whopping 3.9 kg baby girl minutes later.

The official opening of the ward recently happened in the presence of ABG Minister for LLG Joseph Nopeii, member for Eivo Torau Melchior Dare, South Nasioi member John Ken, Health CEO Anthony Pumpara, Bougainville chief administrator Lawrence Disin and Roselyn Kenneth Ausaid rep.

The cry for the people of Eivo Torau had been answered for a new maternity ward to be built in Manetai health centre.

"But I will remain steadfast in my belief that health and education are two most important sectors that will continue to demand more of our attention and resources," Miringoro said.

A firm believer in a healthy and educated country, he will ensure that these two important sectors continue to get due attention in his central Bougainville electorate.

The Manetai health centre was built at the cost of K500, 000 and is of high quality, with ceramic tiles electrical wiring and air-condition with in built shower and toilet facilities. A hot water system was also installed.

AusAID through GIF (Governance Implementation Fund) chipped in K40, 000 for beddings and furniture.

"As much as I have assisted schools in the electorate in my first term in the National

Parliament, I have also endeavoured to lend a helping hand to our health facilities,” the minister said.

“I make particular mention of the upgrading of the Manetai and Wakunai health centers as these are two areas where many of our people are concentrated.”

Constituency member for Eivo Torau in the ABG Melchior Dare on behalf of his constituency and the ABG thanked Minister Miringtoro and commended him for being a good servant of the people.

“With Minister committing help to us it shows a good partnership and working relationship with the ABG and the National Government, and that is the cooperation that will make Bougainville move forward,” Mr Dare said. Mothers in the Eivo Torau constituency have applauded the members help.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Aropa airport awaits opening

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill recently announced the National Government will re-open Aropa Airport. The airport has been closed due to withdrawal of government services at the start of Bougainville crisis. The airport is key to efforts to rebuild Bougainville. A quick visit to the airport yesterday revealed the runway is in good condition. The grounds are covered in tall grass and trees. If the airport is to be reopened, a lot of work has to be done. Words and pictures by BLAISE NANGOI in Bougainville.



21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis calls for unity

President proposes deal for factions to achieve first three BPA pillars

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis is calling on the people of Bougainville to come together and remove the blockades of unity for Bougainvilleans.

He has proposed an agreement that all factions in Bougainville will collaborate to achieve the first three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

He said the pillars of Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal were of paramount importance to decide on the future of Bougainville.

He said he was very conscious some factions feel rightly or wrongly that they were not a party to the Bougainville Peace Agreement and that they were not bound by its dictates.

Chief John Momis said the Peace Agreement was entered into Bougainville for the purposes of the unification of all Bougainvilleans and not just some.

Mr Momis said the document was about more than any single group or faction and the time had come to accept it as a document representing the sovereign will of all

Bougainvilleans.

Mr Momis added not every faction could be included in the negotiations that brought about the Bougainville Peace Agreement and not every faction wanted to be included but that should not be an excuse.

President Momis said having reached this point in time in the historical development and to dishonor the peace agreement would cast a stain on the pure motives and good intentions of those who fought to bring an end to the crisis in Bougainville and who sought to bring about peace to Bougainville.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP urges guns disposal

FORMER combatants in Bougainville who are still in possession of weapons have been challenged by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma to destroy them. Mr Kamma said those still in possession of these arms would always be tempted to kill people, therefore these weapons must be immediately destroyed.

He suggested that one of the options that could be followed was that these weapons could be given to the village chiefs so they could arrange for the weapons destructions. Mr Kamma said he believed that lasting peace could only be achieved in Bougainville through peaceful means.

The above statement was delivered by Mr Kamma during a reconciliation ceremony which was held last week at Mongai village in the Buin district of South Bougainville.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's historic moment

BABIES who were born during the Bougainville crisis have now added colour to Bougainville's education history.

They had completed high school, graduated from grade 10 at Arawa High School last Friday.

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville and education experts can now clearly see how everyone had struggled for 10 years up to this stage where kids born in the crisis have graduated.

The 15th graduation of grade 10 students at Arawa since the establishment on October 14 (after the crisis) was attended by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology and Member for Central Bougainville Jimmy Miringtoro.

Before entering politics, Mr Miringtoro was one of the pioneering teachers at the high school when normal classes were re-established there after the 10-year conflict in which he donated K1 million kina for the school to be upgraded to secondary level.

Among those who attended were adviser to the Prime Minister Jeffery Kaki, Central commissioner James Koivo Education Chief Executive Officer Bruno Babato, Headmaster Paul Lapun, Veterans Minister David Sisito and Kieta District Executive Manageress Lucy Traverts.

The minister thanked all the teachers who had taught with him during the difficult times when they struggled to bridge the 10-year gap in the education brought on by the crisis. He commended the teachers and the board members who took up the challenge to make Arawa High School a success story. The Minister also said that transforming Arawa High School to secondary school was quite expensive because the school needed proper infrastructure, a good library and school materials such as textbooks on

subjects taught in schools throughout the country. When announcing free education that the O'Neill-Namah Government was introducing next year, Mr Mirintoro asked the students' parents to take note that free education was not free in the sense that it comes at a high cost to the Government. "To enable this program, we have had to make some hard decisions to directly help the people of this nation as education is becoming quite expensive," he said.

In response to speculations on K5 million committed by the former Acting Prime Minister Sam Abal to Arawa High School, the Minister said this money was misappropriated by the previous government. However, he said gave an undertaking that he and his officers would do their utmost to try and secure funds equivalent to what was promised by Mr Abal earlier. The Minister concluded his speech announcing that the O'Neill-Namah Government was committed to helping Bougainville by strengthening the autonomous arrangement for the people.

The graduation ceremony ended with prize giving and the presentation of certificates plus entertainment. Many of those who attended the graduation said this was the best graduation yet at Arawa High School which they hoped would start classes as a secondary high school for the first time.

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

TSC to transfer education powers

By BOLA NOHO

TEACHING Service Commission will transfer its powers and functions to the Department of Education and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville at the end of this week.

The caretaker chairman for teaching services commission (TSC), Jerry Kuhena announced early this week that the combined joint implementation group (JIG) was currently in meeting in Bougainville.

He said they would discuss ways to transfer TSC powers and functions to the Department of Education (DoE) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) education division.

"This meeting is important because it will discuss the transfer of powers and functions of TSC and DoE to ABG Education Division," said Mr Kuhena.

He said JIG comprised of senior officers of DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC.

The agenda items that JIG will discuss include implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG Education Division's human resources in order for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

He also said they would discuss the policy on the implementation of powers and functions that would be developed.

"This policy will provide directions to DoE, ABG Education Division and TSC on the implementation of powers and functions," said Mr Kuhena.

He said the meeting would require proposed restructure for ABG Education's feedback from JIG committee members mainly from DoE and TSC.

Mr Kuhena said the feedback would improve the proposed restructure for ABG Education before it is endorsed by the Department of Personnel Management (DPM).

He said they would also discuss the budget for implementation. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between DoE, ABG Education Division, TSC and ABG Education the budget for ABG Education functions would be supported by DoE, TSC and

21.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Suspended over inmate's death

By FABIAN GATANA

A SENIOR Bougainville police officer has been suspended from office pending an internal investigation over the death of a remandee.

Buka Police Station Commander Chief Sgt Alex Gunan was immediately suspended for 21 days and is now being investigated for engaging Sakias Parerea on a private assignment on Monday where he was electrocuted.

Bougainville Police Chief ACP Thomas Eluh said that the remandee was one of two inmates that were released to carry out private electrical work on the concern officer's residential area.

He said that while trying to erect a metal pole, it came into contact with a live power cable nearby, injuring one Cleland Kiha and instantly killing Parerea. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Buka General Hospital.

Mr Eluh said that serious disciplinary charges will be laid on the officer concerned after investigations are completed by Criminal Investigations Officers.

Mr Eluh passed his condolences to the family, relatives and friends of the Parerea.

He also thanked Wakunai chiefs and ABG members for containing the situation.

The late Parerea 25 years of Takukupa village in Wakunai, had been in custody since August 19 for armed robbery and was to have appeared for mention in court on Tuesday.

The body of Parerea was escorted by police to his village on Wednesday after a post mortem was conducted at Buka General Hospital.

21.10.2011

Source: The National

Minister pushes roads upgrading

ROAD infrastructure upgrading and maintenance is crucial in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Communication and Information Minister and Central Bougainville MP Jimmy Miringtoro says.

He said while the education and health sectors remained his top priorities, he was aware of the importance of a good road network in his Central Bougainville electorate, particularly the 175km main highway from Buka to Arawa on the mainland.

He said maintaining proper feeder roads and bridges was crucial to the people.

He said he had allocated funds for the following road upgrading projects in his electorate:

- I Paruparu Road

- (K2.4 million);

- I Kakarapaia Road K800,000;

- I Orami Road K300,000; and,

- I Koianu Road K900,000.

Miringtoro said he allocated K800,000 for the upgrading of the Sipuru Road in the Kongara area.

"The road upgrading and maintenance should complement the 15 bridges that are being built along the main highway with the assistance of the Japanese government," he said.

Miringtoro said when the bridges were completed and commissioned, his people would no longer spend sleepless nights on the sides of the highway because of flooded and impassable rivers.

"My JDP&BPC and I have tried to make the best decisions to put this limited money into right use.

"For example, last year my JDP&BPC made a decision to assist the Arawa High School with K1 million for its senior science laboratory and administration block," Miringtoro said.

He said other projects

approved by the JDP&BPC and completed included:

- | K800,000 to build a Kieta district office at Toniva;
- | K600,000 for capacity-building in the Panguna district;
- | K1.1 million for Manetai and Wakunai health centres;
- | K200,000 for PNG Power; and
- | K500,000 for Arawa Airstrip upgrading.

20.10.2011

Source: ESBC

Schreckt deutsche Staatsanwaltschaft vor der Macht der Banken zurück?

Die Staatsanwaltschaft Mannheim ist in Deutschland zentral verantwortlich für Wirtschaftskriminalität aller Art.

Die Verfolgung einer Anzeige des ESBC-Präsidenten Axel G. Sturm gegen Unbekannt wegen Betruges, gegebenenfalls sogar bandenmäßigen Betruges wurde am 09.08.2011 auf dem Wege einer Verfügung von der Mannheimer Staatsanwaltschaft eingestellt.

Gegenstand der Anzeige war die unerlaubte, gewerbsmäßige Verleihung von Aktien durch Depotbanken verbunden mit der Unterschlagung der aus diesen Geschäften generierten Gewinne zum Nachteil der Bankkunden bzw. der Depotinhaber. Dieser begründete Verdacht hatte sich aus den Erfahrungen von Aktionären der Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) mit ihren Depotbanken ergeben. BCL ist Eigentümerin einer der weltweit größten Kupfer-, Gold- und Silberminen.

Der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre von BCL, Axel G. Sturm, die sich in den ESBC organisiert haben, hat zwei Vermutungen dazu, warum die Ermittlungen eingestellt wurden: „Vielleicht ist die Staatsanwaltschaft Mannheim personell hochgradig unterbesetzt, so dass aufwendige Ermittlungen wie in diesem Falle nicht möglich sind. Dafür spricht die Tatsache, dass die Nachricht über die Einstellung der Ermittlungen dem Antragsteller erst nach wiederholter anwaltlicher Nachfrage übermittelt wurde. Es könnte aber auch sein, dass die Banken Druck gemacht haben. Wie auch immer: Es widerspricht meinem Rechtsempfinden, dass diese Angelegenheit nicht verfolgt werden soll, obwohl zweifelsfrei der Verdacht krimineller Machenschaften vorliegt. Dies ist angesichts der schwierigen Beweislage derzeit noch reine Spekulation.“ Ein weiterer Grund für die Einstellung, so Sturm, könne aber auch der ohnehin prekären Situation europäischer Banken geschuldet sein, die angesichts der sogenannten Euro-Krise unter Beschuss geraten sind. Sollte sich Sturms Verdacht erhärten, könnte leicht eine Lawine losgetreten werden, die in eine weitere Bankenkrise mündet. Denn: Es ist nicht auszuschließen, dass eine Vielzahl weiterer Aktien von Banken und Brokern für unautorisierte Lendinggeschäfte genutzt werden.

Sturm kündigte an, er werde weitere Schritte unternehmen, um besseren Verbraucherschutz für Bankkunden einzufordern.

Bitte lesen Sie die Einstellungsverfügung hier !



Die ESBC danken Herrn Rechtsanwalt Peter A. Seitz, Stuttgart, für seine freundliche Unterstützung in dieser Angelegenheit.

→ www.rechtsanwalt-seitz.de

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis to honour old agreements

By JOYCE TOHUI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government president chief John Momis has promised to honor agreements made between the Mekamui Unity Government, the people of Panguna and the former James Tanis Government to resolve all outstanding differences in the area.

Mr Momis said the commitment made by the former Tanis government to consult the Mekamui Unity Government and the Chamber of Clans Paramount Council and the Panguna Landowners would still be continued.

He said his Government would continue dialogue on their issues and concerns, in particular the seven points adopted for further dialogue between the ABG and the Mekamui in March, 2010.

Meanwhile, he has also commended the former factional leaders of Bougainville for helping the ABG in its efforts to unite all factions on Bougainville.

Mr Momis commended Chris Uma for the efforts he made to re-establish peace and normalcy in the Panguna area.

And also his intervention to make sure that three representatives of the ABG, including the chief administrator were allowed free passage to Buin recently.

Mr Momis said these efforts were good and pointed to everyone working towards one unified Bougainville.

The president said the ABG had encouraged dialogue with Ishmael Toroama, the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army commander, who continues to take an active interest in supporting the peace process in Central Bougainville.

He said that these are some clear way forward in the process of unification of Bougainville.

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tanis to head reconciliations

By JOYCE TOHUI

FORMER ABG President, James Tanis has been appointed by the Bougainville President Chief John Momis to lead all peace efforts on Bougainville. President Momis made the announcement when highlighting the need for coordinated efforts in creating peace and cooperation with the various factions within the autonomous region.

Mr Momis said that since his inauguration last year, he had been talking of unification throughout Bougainville.

He said that the unification of the people of Bougainville was an overarching issue of fundamental importance as it was upon this single issue that the future social, economic and political progress of Bougainville would depend on.

Mr Momis said Mr Tanis had accepted to work closely with the Bougainville administration in ensuring that the peace building initiatives of the former government were continued to achieve Bougainville's goals.

20.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Warring clans make peace

By JOYCE TOHUI

SOUTH Bougainville can enjoy peace and normalcy once again after witnessing the signing of the Hongorai ceasefire agreement between two warring parties in the Siwai district of South Bougainville.

The Hongorai ceasefire agreement was signed between Paul Ihiarah and Edward Kesipoto and the South Bougainville Police at Muwoku village in the Siwai district last Sunday.

Chairman of the events committee and the Chairman of the Siwai Ex-combatants Association, Michael Komoiki commended the warring parties in the commitment made to sign the ceasefire agreement and urged them to look after the agreement and make it work because it must lead to reconciliation and finally weapons disposal.

Speakers at the ceremony expressed similar sentiments that they want to see the ceasefire signing ceremony bear fruit to end the ongoing conflict in the Siwai district of South Bougainville.

The ABG member for Motuna Huyono Tokunutui and Minister for Finance, Treasury and Planning, Albert Punghau was heavily involved in the reconciliation program.

The ceremony was also witnessed by the ABG Vice President, Patrick Nisira, government officials, Bougainville Police Service ACP Thomas Eluh, and the UN team on Bougainville.

20.10.2011

Source: email from Vikki John to ESBC

Good Old Vikki at her Best !

20 October 2011

Attention:

Mr Axel Sturm , President, The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) - <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/>

By email to: sturm@bougainville-copper.eu and ESBC@bougainville-copper.eu

And To: Peter R Taylor, Chairman, Bougainville Copper Limited - <http://bcl.nlawebdesigns.com/>

Referenced here at ESBC: <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/chairman-s-address.html>

By email to: infor@bcl.com.pg

Offending Publication: <http://www.bougainville-copper.eu/news-september-2011.html>

Header Title: Who will finally help poor Vikki John?

An academic officer of UTS faculty of law supposed to turn mad.

Dear Sirs,

Please see my email below sent to the moderator of the Bougainville Forum on 19 October 2011. In that email I have noted legal advice that the September article published under the above header title is defamatory of me.

Please remove the offending article and advise me the moment this is done - thank you.

Regards,
Vikki John

Memo to: Warwick Brooker, Moderator for the Bougainville Forum

From: Vikki John

Re: Email Posting on 11 September 2011 by Axel G Sturm, President of 'The European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper'

<http://www.bougainville-copper.eu> - ESBC@bougainville-copper.eu - sturm@bougainville-copper.eu

Since the receipt of an email from Axel Sturm against me I have refrained from responding partly because of impending leave (from which I have now returned) and partly because I wished to take legal advice concerning defamation against me by Mr Sturm.

The email was a copy of Mr Sturm's website September News article (10.09.2011) under the title: Who will finally help poor Vikki John. My legal advice is that the article is highly defamatory of me. Also, the Chairman of (BCL) Bougainville Copper Ltd Mr Peter Taylor has defamed me, by association, in endorsing Axel Sturm's website publication under his own banner title of Chairman's Address. Since Mr Sturm's defamatory material is published on the internet at his website address (<http://www.bougainville-copper.eu>), I am able to commence a damages claim in the New South Wales jurisdiction in accordance with the Australian High Court decision called The Gutnick Case (cf: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/12/10/1039379819086.html>). That case establishes the legal point that, with reference to an internet publication, a person can be

defamed within the jurisdiction of wherever the article or publication is read. However, these are not issues to concern members of this forum.

Axel Sturm was not content to defame me on his website, he also published his article by sending it to my employer at the University of Technology Sydney. This was a malicious action on his part intending that I be harmed in my employment. But there is a deeper motive as to why Mr Sturm sent such a highly personally offensive post to my employer and that is to 'warn' me off the Bougainville forum. By turning the personally offensive spotlight on me, Mr Sturm is seeking to rid the forum of my viewpoints that are critical of his pro-mining interests. In warning me off by this behavior Mr Sturm is also setting a precedent that could be used to warn off any forum member by targeting them personally with offensive email publications, and publishing it external to the forum. Forum members targeted in this way would hesitate to dare express viewpoints that are different to Mr Sturm's concerning 'the Bougainville Question on a return to mining'. And this strategy is designed to turn this forum into a 'quasi-independent' voice on the Bougainville mining question so he can use this 'voice' as a marketing tool for exerting upward pressure in a volatile market on BCL share pricing.

What do we know of Axel Sturm and what are his personal financial interests in Bougainville? Reportedly, the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC) hold some 10 million shares (see Keith Jackson's blog: ESBC Spins a Comeback for B'ville Copper

http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2010/11/esbc-spins-a-comeback-for-bville-copper.html). From a corporate business registered in the notorious tax-free Tax Haven of Andorra, Axel Sturm provides brokerage services to the ESBC shareholder block. He buys and sells for a commission and of course the greater the shareholder price the greater the commission. As for registering his business in Andorra, that is typical of Mr Sturm setting up in a tiny Principality that has been notorious not just as a tax-free zone that attracts all kinds of dubious money-changers but because of the secrecy surrounding its banking laws. Ironically, for Axel Sturm, the recent (April 2011) elections gave a clear mandate to the Democrats to reintroduce laws on the lifting of Banking Secrecy and to imposing a value-added tax on corporations - that may see the end to Mr Sturm's beloved Tax-Haven.

I don't know how many shares in Bougainville Copper are personally owned by Mr Sturm, but in terms of personal holdings coupled with his brokerage business in ESBC shares, and faced with a historically declining share value, Mr Sturm is desperate at every turn, and at every opportunity, to talk up the value of Bougainville Copper shares and to talk down disquiet or unrest at the prospects of a Panguna mine start-up (note that BCL share prices have slid from around \$1.50 in May 2011 to \$0.86c today -

<http://bcl.nlwebdesigns.com/media/miscellaneous.html>).

The personal offensive has become Mr Sturm's hallmark in dealing with disagreements over Bougainville. When faced with overwhelming facts or differences of opinion, Mr Sturm resorts to calling one 'mental'. For example, here are some extracts from Axel Sturm's response to Bougainvillean Clive Porabu whose Mekamui website news is fast gaining International respect for bringing real-life news and song from the ground on the thoughts and aspirations of Bougainvilleans:

Clive: In this regard, the closing down of Panguna Mine involved blood and the loss of lives of twenty thousand fighters, innocent children, men and women from the Southern tip to the Northern isles of Mekamui/Bougainville.

Sturm: You know very well that only approximately 1200 people were killed by unrest on Bougainville. The others died because of lack of medicines and normal death in that period. ... Stop to publish all that bullshit now or are you mentally sick??

Clive: Let us not sink it [Bougainville] with all the craziness for the copper and gold business. For the love of Earth.

Sturm: What bullshit is this? . . . So, Clive, wake up and re-build Bougainville like many others do! Or are you happy to be an outlaw and a notorious liar?? . . . Are you sure that you are not possessed by some kind of bad demon???

(the complete exchange can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/ur1sq>)

It is expected that being a member of a forum that engages in big questions and issues that concern a people will give rise at times to robust, contentious, and passionate outbursts about the issues being discussed. But it is also to be expected that forum discussion is kept within the forum. And it is also expected that personally offensive information will be left out of the discussion. It is also expected that one member won't go outside the forum to another member's employment and try to harm them. Axel Sturm has violated these forum rules AND is warning me (and other members of the forum) that he will not stop at publishing offensive commentary outside of the forum if that's what it takes to silence views he does not agree with.

Axel Sturm should be banned from the forum as a clear statement that intimidation by defamation within the forum and outside of it will not be tolerated.

Vikki John

UTS CRICOS Provider Code: 00099F

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Dear Warwick,

19.10.2011

Source: The National

Buka hosts education consultations

TALKS are underway in Buka on the transfer of powers and functions of the Teaching Service Commission and the Education Department from the national government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Commission caretaker chairman Jerry Kuhena said a joint implementation group consisting of the commission, education department, and the ABG education division began meeting on Monday.

He said the agenda included:

- Implementation work schedules for training and work attachments to support the ABG education division's human resources for them to perform their functions effectively and efficiently;

- Policy on the implementation of powers and functions to be developed. This policy will provide directions to the department, ABG and the commission on powers and functions;

I Departmental restructure for the ABG education division which will require feedback from committee members. The feedback will improve the proposed restructure of the ABG education department before it is endorsed by the Personnel Management department.

- Budget for implementation. According to the memorandum of understanding between the parties, they will support the budget for the ABG education functions;and

- Meetings to be co-chaired.

Kuhena said future meetings would be held as planned.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

PNG, Aust form talks panel

PAPUA New Guinea and Australia have agreed to establish a high-level committee that would carry out regular talks for effective business and economic development outcomes.

The committee would comprise representatives from business and government of both countries that is set to meet at more regular intervals than the formal ministerial dialogues already established between the two neighbours.

The proposal for closer dialogues and problem-solving came jointly from the Business Council of Papua New Guinea (BCPNG) and the Australia PNG Business Council (APNGBC), led by its president Peter Taylor.

The joint bodies met in Canberra with foreign ministers Ano Pala and Kevin Rudd during the recent visit to Australia by PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

"The councils see this meeting as part of ongoing engagement between business and government extending beyond today's meeting," Taylor, who is also chairman of the Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), said.

"To achieve the most effective outcomes, we believe we need continuous engagement between us during the periods between the formal meetings," Taylor said.

"We welcomed the agreement by ministers to our proposal for the immediate

establishment of a bilateral committee of business and senior officials to meet regularly to create effective outcomes to business and economic development issues.”

“Among many positive discussion points, we talked about sovereign wealth funds to conserve and build PNG’s mineral revenues, capacity building in the Royal Papua New Guinea Police Constabulary and capacity building in the PNG Lands Department.”

Taylor said that they also lodged a formal submission from businesses to relevant ministers, which covered a range of important topics including the proposed economic relations agreement, ownership of mineral resources in PNG.

Other issues taken up involved immigration, work permits, improved air freight deals between Australia and PNG, third-country workers transiting to and from PNG and economic infrastructure.

Taylor said the council looked forward to working with its business colleagues in PNG and with both governments to advance these and other issues through the bilateral business and officials committee and at future ministerial forums.

18.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atolls cry out for regular shipping links

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

ATOLLS people on Bougainville have called on the ABG and the Border Development Authority for regular shipping services to the outer islands.

BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls made its maiden voyage to the Bougainville atolls last week Thursday to Mortlock and Tasman Islands.

The people in those islands entirely depend on shipping alone for transportation of people and goods and services.

People, especially the ones in Mortlock Island, said Tasman islanders were quite lucky that they had to go down to Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands for goods and services, but Mortlock island was completely isolated and cut off from the rest of the world.

The trip was an emergency run in which two critically ill patients were brought in to the Buka hospital, one from Mortlock and one from Tasman.

Doctor attached with the Buka hospital Patrick Dio who was sent to help evacuate sick people and assess the health situation in the atolls, said regular shipping is greatly needed in order to stock up medical supplies.

On Tasman Island at the moment, food rations have run out and the regular ship that comes to Ontong Java is not working.

Mortlock Islands health officer Simon Spilda said the current population for Mortlock Island was 310 excluding those living in Buka and other parts of PNG.

Tasman has a high population of 639 and when included with those living outside the population, it goes up to 936.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

Miringtoro: Sector neglecting teachers

CENTRAL Bougainville MP and Communication and Information Minister Jimmy Miringtoro said teachers are often “left behind” in the country’s education system.

“Through experience, I have seen for myself that teachers are left behind to teach only inside the classroom but the stakeholders forget about their part in supporting the school to move in a positive direction,” he said.

“In many instances, the school administration forgets about their contribution.

“As a result, the interest of the school starts to diminish. This is a sign of weak leadership in the management of the school.”

He was speaking last Friday during Arawa High School's 15th graduation ceremony.

Miringtoto said the school must be seen as a “success story.”

“We started this school with a few dedicated teachers and a small number of students who took the challenge to come out of their communities, knowing the importance of education and the future of our children which was put to the test by the Bougainville crisis.

“Knowing the significance of this school, when it acted as pivotal point in restoration and peace building, I had to be present here to celebrate this special occasion with you,” he told the graduating Grade 10 students.

Miringtoto said the school would take in its first Grade 11 classes next year.

“Many of you may be aware that transforming this school to secondary school status is going to be quite expensive.

“To reach secondary school status, we need proper infrastructure, curriculum materials for students and teachers and a proper library,” he said.

18.10.2011

Source: The National

Police praises border post

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville has welcomed the national government's initiative to establish a border post at Kangu beach.

ARB assistant police commissioner Thomas Eluh said the post would help “to monitor and enforce law and order along the border between Solomon Islands and the autonomous region”.

“It will boost the capacity of police, Customs, National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority and immigration to effectively handle border affairs,” Eluh said.

He said the border area had been “a haven for criminal activities such as the exchange of firearms and drugs”.

The sale of stolen items and equipment across the border had been difficult to trace and recover.

Last week, Eluh met with the Solomons acting police commissioner and the Regional Assistant Mission to the Solomon Islands (Ramsi) commander where he raised concern over illegal activities along the border.

17.10.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 20111017 ENGLISH VERSION

A Strong Mark of Confidence!

ESBC President buys 1 million Bougainville Copper shares more.

The President of the European Shareholders of Bougainville Copper (ESBC), Mr. Axel G. Sturm, announced on Monday that he intends to double his investment in Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) from 1 million to 2 million shares within the next weeks. Mr. Sturm who recently met BCL chairman Peter Taylor in London is extremely bullish in BOC shares as he found out that the Rio Tinto subsidiary BCL will not need to dilute the share price by emitting new shares to shoulder the re-opening of the giant Panguna mine in

Central Bougainville. The cost of this operation is estimated 3 billion US\$. Furthermore: Mr. Sturm appreciates a lot that Bougainville Copper Limited is in contact with Rothschild Bankers. Rothschild's are linked worldwide and well known for discreet brokerage in joint-ventures, mergers or buy-outs. "The involvement of Rothschild bankers in BCL may be a first evidence for serious Chinese interest in our company," says Mr. Sturm, "I wouldn't be surprised if Chinalco or any other huge Chinese company would soon make a bid on BCL. That makes sense as Chinalco already holds a stake of round about 10 percent in Rio Tinto." Just recently a first-class delegation from China has visited the mine-site on Bougainville. Mr. Sturm estimates a realistic buy offer "not less than AUD 10 per share." This could be an interesting deal for the Chinese as the fair value of Bougainville Copper shares are estimated AUD 30 to AUD 50 once the mine is in operation again.

ESBC press release 20111017 GERMAN VERSION

Starker Vertrauensbeweis!

ESBC Präsident bestätigt den Kauf einer weiteren Million Bougainville Copper Aktien.

Der Präsident der europäischen Aktionäre der Bougainville Copper Limited (ESBC) bestätigte am Montag, dass er vorhabe, in den nächsten Wochen eine weitere Million Aktien einer der weltweit größten Kupfer, Gold und Silberminen zu erwerben. Sturm, der sich unlängst in London mit dem Vorstandsvorsitzenden von Bougainville Copper (BCL), Peter Taylor, getroffen hatte, gibt sich extrem bullish: „Nach meinen Informationen wird es keine Verwässerung der Aktien durch die Ausgabe neuer Papiere geben. Die für die Wiedereröffnung der Pangunamine notwendigen drei Milliarden US\$ können offensichtlich problemlos am Geldmarkt beschafft werden.“ Mehr noch begeistert Sturm aber, dass Bougainville Copper in Kontakt mit der namhaften Rothschild Bank ist: „Dieses Bankhaus ist nicht nur weltweit vernetzt, sondern genießt zudem den Ruf einer ersten Adresse wenn es um die Vermittlung internationaler Joint-Ventures, Merger oder Unternehmensübernahmen geht.“ Gerüchte darüber, dass sich Hauptaktionär Rio Tinto von BCL trennen könne, kursieren ohnehin seit langem: Der kürzliche Überraschungsbesuch einer hochrangigen chinesischen Delegation in der seit 1989 stillliegenden Pangunamine hat entsprechende Vermutungen eher noch befeuert. Sturm vermutet, dass ein etwaiges Übernahmeangebot nicht unter AUD 10 liegen dürfte: „Als Käufer kämen etwa Chinalco, die ohnehin schon 10 Prozent an Rio Tinto ihr Eigen nennen, infrage oder aber ein anderer chinesischer Multi. Speziell für die Chinesen könnte das ein ausgesprochen interessanter Deal sein, denn der Fair Value der Bougainville Copper Aktie liegt zwischen AUD 30 und AUD 50 wenn die Mine erst einmal wieder begonnen hat, zu produzieren.“

17.10.2011

Source: The World News - The International News Magazine

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Women Call the Shots on Mega Copper Mine

by Catherine Wilson

BUKA, Bougainville , Oct 17 (IPS) - Whether the world's largest open-cut mine on this island territory of Papua New Guinea (PNG) will resume copper and gold production, after being mothballed for 22 years, will depend on how satisfied matrilineal landowners are with the proposals.

The women landowners are already raising issues about the potential impact on their land and communities if copper mining resumes at the site in the central mountainous district of Panguna.

"What sort of mining and with what process will it reopen?" asks Patricia Tapakau, president of the Panguna Women in Mining, an organisation which represents women in 13 mining affected villages. "We need to know, because we don't want any more destruction. We have had enough of that."

The Panguna copper mine opened in 1969 when Bougainville was under Australian colonial administration and customary landowners were excluded from the Bougainville Copper Agreement between the Australian government and the mining company, Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia.

For 20 years, the Barapang, Kurabang, Basikang and Bakoringku clans, customary landowners of the mine pit, endured devastation of their land and waterways by waste from what was the mine, community evictions and negligible share in profits.

In 1989, following BCL's refusal to pay the landowners' demand of 10 billion kina (454 million dollars) compensation, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) forced the mine to close.

The PNG government, a major owner (19.06 percent) of the operating company, Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), alongside British multinational, Rio Tinto (53.58 percent), imposed a blockade on the island and a 10-year civil war followed during which 20,000 people died, communities suffered human rights abuses and infrastructure was destroyed.

Helen Hakena, director of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, a local NGO, counsels women victims of violence and develops leadership capacity and awareness of land rights in communities. She said a significant achievement since the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement was the formation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in 2005.

"We have our own government in place and a lot has been achieved in terms of peace-building and the laying down of arms," Hakena recounted. "The setting up of businesses here has been a good thing, and schools and other institutions have been opened."

However, the population of Bougainville has doubled from 175,000 in 2000 to over 300,000 now, and with the island's current revenue deriving mainly from international aid donors, public services remain limited. Many villages lack electricity, clean water and adequate medical services.

The ABG views potential mining revenues as vital to developing services and attaining economic self-sufficiency for the second pillar of the Peace Agreement, a referendum on independence from PNG within the next 5-10 years.

In May, BCL chairman Peter Taylor visited Bougainville with a business delegation and held preliminary discussions with Bougainville President John Morris about reopening the Panguna mine, which the company estimates has reserves of 3.5 million tonnes of copper and 12.7 million ounces of gold.

Taylor stated publicly that he expects the ABG and landowners to lead in mining negotiations. However, women landowners remain concerned that the customary value of land as a source of livelihood will give way to corporate interests that see land as an expendable resource.

"The important thing about the land is that, to us, it is like a mother, because we feed on the land," said Joanne Dateransi. "We always depend on land; it cannot be compared to money."

The women say the economic potential of local industries, such as cocoa, copra and tourism must be fully explored first and unresolved issues, following the mine's abandonment, must be addressed, including financial compensation and environmental damage.

"The first thing, the government and the company, they have to pay that 10 billion kina, which is part of the (landowners') demands, then the killings and the damage has to be paid. Then we talk about the mining issue," said Panguna landowner Lynette Ona.

"The chemicals are still there in the river," she said. "No one drinks the water, there is no fish there, it is still the same," said Ona who promotes the participation of women in local politics and plans to be candidate in the 2012 Bougainville elections.

An environmental report on the Panguna mine by Applied Geology Associates (1998) spoke of thousands of tonnes of tailings including toxic metals such as mercury, lead and zinc. Tailings flowing into the nearby Jaba river decimated fish and contaminated water supplies and crops.

"It (BCL) has to come up with a very good plan on how to dispose of toxic waste," stated Coleman. What has happened as a result of the mine being closed is the (improved) fertility of the soil. We never had coconuts (during the mine's operation) in our own village, now you can see trees full of coconuts."

Long-term political and social unity is also a key issue with reconciliation and weapons disposal incomplete. A survey, supported by PNG's 'Post Courier' newspaper, of 500 families in Central Bougainville affected by the civil war death toll of 1,629, showed households still in possession of weapons.

"We will not take away all the guns," Hakena said. "But there needs to be a priority set by the government in getting those arms out before the (possible) reopening of the Panguna mine."

However, a decision on whether the mine will reopen is still to be made by the ABG, landowners, the PNG government and BCL.

ABG's chief mining officer, Stephen Burian, said new mining laws were being drafted with assistance from the World Bank, but a review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement, a precondition to mine negotiations, awaits unification of all landowners in mining affected areas under the Panguna Landowners Association and an independent environmental audit made.

The Panguna community also includes the Mekamui hardliners, comprising many former BRA fighters, who control access to the Panguna mine and have not yet agreed to any mining proposals.

What is clear is that the mine's future is in the hands of Bougainville people who want to see strategies of economic development that preserve human rights, social cohesion, environment and culture.

"We want to develop, but to redevelop from the mistakes, not to repeat the mistakes (of the past)," said Tapakau.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Rebel faction disbands

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

THE Bougainville Freedom Fighters (BFF) has now been disbanded, that's the message from its founder Martin Kongkei.

The announcement was made during a reconciliation ceremony held last week at Mongai village between Mr Kongkei and families of two Me'ekamui soldiers he had shot dead in 2006. It is understood that that incident had triggered Mr Kongkei to form the BFF and stage war against the Me'ekamui faction, controlled and led by Damien Koike.

It is believed that the two - Tony Magatu and Moini Koki, were Kongkei's first cousins and their deaths had resulted in division, hatred and above all, fear among Mr Kongkei's family and families of the dead fighters. However, this feud has now been solved

following the reconciliation.

"Freedom Fighters was started here in October 2006 and it will end here today," Mr Kongkei said.

During the reconciliation, he had pleaded for forgiveness from the family members of the two cousins.

His plea was accepted and Mr Kongkei and the families had agreed to bury their hatchet and live as happy families again. The event was witnessed by ABG President John Momis, Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Kamma, head of Bougainville Police Service ACP Thomas Eluh, ABG minister for Community Development Rose Pihei and the people of Mongai.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MP helps with funds for new health centre

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

PEOPLE of Muguai village in the Buin district of South Bougainville will soon be using their new health centre.

This follows a decision by the South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma to fund the completion of the health centre.

Mr Kamma, who is also the Bougainville Affairs Minister, had previously allocated K150,000 in 2008 towards the construction of the building.

Since this health centre project was a joint initiative of both Mr Kamma and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, counterpart funding for the completion of the building was supposed to be met by the ABG.

However, due to financial constraints faced by the Autonomous Bougainville Government, it was not able to meet its commitment, resulting in the incompleteness of the building.

The funding allocated by Mr Kamma was used up in the first phase of building the house, with more work still needed to be done.

During a recent inspection visit to Muguai about two weeks ago, Mr Kamma expressed grave concern following the ABG's failure in honouring its commitment to counter-fund the project.

He then pledged to allocate another K200,000 to complete the project.

Kakai Builders, a local building company from Buin, has been engaged by Mr Kamma to complete the project.

14.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atolls cry out for regular shipping links

BY PETERSON TSERAHA

ATOLLS people on Bougainville have called on the ABG and the Border Development Authority for regular shipping services to the outer islands.

BDA vessel MV Bougainville Atolls made its maiden voyage to the Bougainville atolls last week Thursday to Mortlock and Tasman Islands.

The people in those islands entirely depend on shipping alone for transportation of people and goods and services.

People, especially the ones in Mortlock Island, said Tasman islanders were quite lucky that they had to go down to Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands for goods and services,

but Mortlock island was completely isolated and cut off from the rest of the world. The trip was an emergency run in which two critically ill patients were brought in to the Buka hospital, one from Mortlock and one from Tasman. Doctor attached with the Buka hospital Patrick Dio who was sent to help evacuate sick people and assess the health situation in the atolls, said regular shipping is greatly needed in order to stock up medical supplies. On Tasman Island at the moment, food rations have run out and the regular ship that comes to Ontong Jaba is not working. Mortlock Islands health officer Simon Spilda said the current population for Mortlock Island was 310 excluding those living in Buka and other parts of PNG. Tasman has a high population of 639 and when included with those living outside the population, it goes up to 936.

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia Television

A Great Success!

For his first time Peter O'Neill visited Australia as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. He was accompanied amongst others by **Bougainville Copper Chairman Peter Taylor** who is the actual President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches play key role - Pirika

CHURCHES play an important part in the integral development of people therefore they should be adequately funded by the government, that's the bold message from the Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma.

Since his declaration two years ago as the member-elect, Mr Kamma has always lived up to his words by continuing to fund the different church denominations in his south Bougainville electorate.

Last week Mr Kamma again presented more than K100, 000 worth of cheques to these different denominations.

Out of these funding allocations, K50, 000 was given to Turiboiru Parish in the Buin district. This funding will go towards the fundraising drive for the construction of a new church building.

Apart from Turiboiru Parish, Mr Kamma also presented K30, 000 to the Piano Parish for maintenance work to be carried out at the church building.

K49, 000 was also presented to the Kidron Ministry in Siwai district, while K15, 000 was given to the Assemblies of God (AOG) denomination at O'ohai village in Siwai.

Mr Kamma has also funded K10, 000 towards the fundraising drive for the completion of the Kokopau Catholic Church chapel.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Destroy guns: Kamma

FORMER combatants in Bougainville who are still in possession of weapons have been challenged by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kamma to destroy them. Mr Kamma said those still in possession of these arms will always be tempted to kill people, therefore these weapons must be immediately destroyed. Mr Kamma suggested that one of the options that could be followed is that these weapons can be given to the village chiefs so they can arrange for the weapons destructions.

13.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

45 per cent of Bougainville's children not in school

By Fabian Gatana

ACCORDING to a recent survey conducted in Bougainville, about one in every three children living in urban areas are not in school. The survey, carried out in February by Professor Satish Chand from the University of New South Wales with the National Research Institute (NRI), UPNG and the Buka Open Campus, found from their preliminary findings that about 50 per cent of the urban population in Bougainville were young between the ages of 15 to 20 of which, 45 per cent were not attending school. Prof Chand said this is an alarming figure compared to figures from the pre-crisis years where only about two per cent did not receive any formal education. He said the research carried out was to establish Bougainville's economic recovery after the 10-year conflict to try to recreate economic data.

13.10.2011

Source: The National

South Bougainville groups make peace

BOUGAINVILLE minister for finance and planning Albert Punghau has welcomed the peace initiative taken by his people to stop fighting. Punghau, who is the member for Motuna Huyono Tokunutui in the autonomous region's house of assembly, said he wanted his people to reconcile with each other and work for peace and development. He made these remarks last week at the ceasefire ceremony of warring factions in the Siwai area, South Bougainville. Punghau said he was pleased to see his people resort to peace instead of fighting each other over nothing. He said their continuous infighting was a threat to the referendum on independence which would take place in four years. He thanked Paul Hirah and his faction for their understanding and willingness to talk peace with the police in South Bougainville. The ceremony was witnessed by the United Nations peacekeeping team on Bougainville.

13.10.2011

Source: The National

Momis pays tribute to Bonai

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis last night paid tribute to one of Bougainville's leaders from the former North Solomons provincial government, the late Martin Bonai.

Speaking at Bonai's requiem mass at the Hahela Parish, Momis said Bonai had been an intelligent Bougainvillean who served his people well as the former member for Bagana electorate.

Bonai was the principal of the Bougainville copper mine training college before the Bougainville conflict.

Bonai died at his home in Lae, Morobe, and his body was flown home yesterday.

His casket stayed overnight in Buka for the ABG leaders to pay their last respects before it left for his final resting place, at Nagovis.

Bonai was the former deputy premier under the Joseph Kabui-led North Solomons provincial government that was suspended at the height of the Bougainville conflict in 1988.

He was working with former member for North Bougainville (now Sir) Michael Ogio in 1992 when he suffered a stroke that left him paralysed on one side of his body.

He will be buried tomorrow.

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG and Australian prime ministers talk in Canberra

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard says Papua New Guinea's mining boom offers an historic opportunity to improve the lives of PNG's people.

She's met with her PNG counterpart Peter O'Neill in Canberra today and announced a number of new aid projects to help with the economic transition.

They include assistance to set up a sovereign wealth fund and secondments for PNG officials in Australian government departments.

Mr O'Neill's told a parliamentary audience that his government's committed to stamping out corruption and ensuring the proceeds of the mining boom don't go to waste.

Presenter: Joanna McCarthy

Speakers: Julia Gillard, Australian Prime Minister; Peter O'Neill, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister; Tony Abbott, Australian opposition leader

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG PM talks about leadership and relationship with Australia

To find out more about the two leaders' discussions in Canberra, the relationship

between the two countries and leadership issues in PNG, Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent, Sean Dorney spoke to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill says he wants to see a business-like relationship between the two countries rather than one where PNG is relying on Australian aid.

In this interview, he also spoke about why he felt it was necessary for him to take over the leadership of PNG from the ailing former prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare.

Presenter: Sean Dorney

Speaker: Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of Papua New Guinea

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

The substance of talks between PMs Gillard and O'Neill

For more on the current visit by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to Australia, Pacific Beat spoke to Australia Network's Pacific Correspondent.

We asked Sean Dorney to give us his take on the substance of the discussions between prime ministers Julia Gillard and Peter O'Neill.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Sean Dorney, Australia Networks pacific correspondent

Listen here !

13.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Aus and PNG business leaders' bigger role in ministers summit

Business leaders involved in trade and commerce between Papuan New Guinea and Australia have welcomed the decision to allow them to make a bigger contribution to the annual ministerial summit.

Each year the ministers from both countries hold an annual meeting, and this year's was held in Canberra ahead of the meeting between PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

It was decided that business leaders and senior trade officials from both countries will make up a new committee to facilitate dealings between the two countries.

With PNG looking to earn significant wealth from its LNG deposits, sovereign wealth and building the capacity of government there to handle it are still matters of concern.

This week's meeting was also the first chance the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council has had to talk with PNG's new leaders.

President of the council is confident they can work together.

Presenter: Pacific Correspondent, Campbell Cooney

Speaker: **Peter Taylor**, President of the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council

13.10.2011

Source: NBC News/Islands Business

PNG prepares for first State wedding

PORT MORESBY, PNG (NBC News) --- Papua New Guinea is preparing its first State wedding.

The State Wedding is being prepared for Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio (*ESBC: Ex-Bougainville MP*) on Saturday 22 October.

The Vice Regal's office has announced Sir Michael will wed Esmie Ereoli from Solomon Islands.

Catholic Archbishop John Ribat will preside over marriage ceremony at the St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Port Moresby.

A State reception will follow at State Function Room, Parliament House.

12.10.2011

Source: The National

Semoso cited for torturing woman

By JEFFREY ELAPA

ANOTHER parliamentarian has been cited for misconduct in office for, among other things, torturing and assaulting a woman.

Fidelis Semoso, Bougainville regional MP, was yesterday referred by the public prosecutor to the leadership tribunal on these misconduct allegations.

The allegations come 24 hours after the Ombudsman Commission found that Kikori MP Mark Maipakai had an extra-marital affair seven years ago to warrant his referral to the public prosecutor for misconduct in office.

Six misconduct allegations were levelled at Semoso, who was Bougainville affairs minister in the previous government, including the assault and torture of the woman (named).

Acting public prosecutor Camillus Jacob Sambua said yesterday Semoso's file was referred to his office by the Ombudsman Commission and after perusal, he was now asking Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia to appoint a leadership tribunal to inquire into this and other allegations relating to misappropriation of more than K3.5 million.

The latter allegations were:

- I Misappropriation of K2.7 million from the South Bougainville feeder road project funds without proper tender process;
- I Semoso benefiting with K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Water Ltd;
- I Misapplication of K1.4 million from the South Bougainville feeder road project;
- I Winning a contract under false pretence; and
- I Failure to declare interest.

While Maipakai, who is inter-government relations and rural development minister, will wait to see whether he is referred to a leadership tribunal, Semoso becomes the fourth MP this year to face a tribunal after former prime minister Sir Michael Somare who was suspended for two week for failing to submit annual returns; his son Angoram MP Arthur Somare for misappropriation and for failing to submit annual returns; and Aitape-Lumi MP Patrick Pruaitch for misappropriation.

Somare and Pruaitch are still fighting their cases in court.

Sambua said that there was sufficient, cogent and credible evidence to refer Semoso to the leadership tribunal.

He also confirmed receiving Maipakai's charges which included filing a late return and failing to provide additional information.

He would make a decision in due course on whether or not to refer the leader to the leadership tribunal.

Maipakai has denied the charges against him, saying he would fight them to clear his name.

12.10.2011

Source: The National

Peace process reaches South Bougainville

THE process of reconciliation that has begun in central and north Bougainville finally wound its way to South Bougainville last week to touch communities which have, until now, remained apart – separated by differences and hatred.

In moving ceremonies at various locations, President John Momis called for individuals who harboured grief, remorse and hatred to come forward and deal with their situation. Momis headed out last Wednesday with a large delegation of ABG officials, including ABG ministers and members, the chief administrator, the Bougainville assistant commissioner of Police, CEOs, and UN representative for an official visit to South Bougainville.

Momis was also accompanied by General Chris Uma, commander of the Mekamui defence force and chairman of the Clans Paramount Council.

This was significant as Uma and his Mekamui had refused to participate in the Bougainville peace agreement.

The presence of Uma now sends a powerful signal that the Mekamui and its leadership was prepared to work with the Autonomous Bougainville Government for the unification of Bougainville.

Momis, who has made peace and reconciliation one of the pillars of his administration, told people at each gathering that once there was peace throughout Bougainville he would make it his priority to have the people become active in decision making at all levels for their own welfare.

One of the hallmarks of the "Momis Way" right from the early days of decentralisation in PNG is "devolving power to people so as to enable them to have a right to participate in their affairs".

There were emotion-filled moments at Mongai, Mogoroi and Sininnai villages where the reconciliation ceremonies occurred during Holy Mass.

It was a solemn yet festive atmosphere during which time people of all different backgrounds and differing views put aside long-held differences, grievances and pain over events of the past and came together.

A similar ceremony was held later in the day at Damien Koike's village.

Koike gave his commitment to stage an overall reconciliation ceremony befitting the dignity and stature of the President as soon as events would permit him to return.

The same spirit of unification and reconciliation prevailed the ceremony held on Saturday between the President and the Original Mekamui at Arawa and on Sunday between the people of Siwai and Buin.

Momis reminded the crowd that the "crisis" was over and that the great desire of the people of Bougainville was for peace and reconciliation.

He said with this would come economic prosperity and social development.

Momis while acknowledging that many people were seeking compensation from the government for losses suffered during the crisis, said no compensation would be paid in stances of individual culpability and responsibility.

This position, he said, was “firm and inflexible”.

The fact that peace and reconciliation has now occurred in South Bougainville now sets the stage for socio-economic progress, Momis said.

12.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG committed to sovereign wealth fund

To Canberra where Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has made his first official visit to Australia.

His arrival at Parliament House this morning was marked by a 19 gun ceremonial salute.

The Prime Minister then got down to business, meeting with his Australian counterpart Julia Gillard and addressing a parliamentary audience on the future of the PNG Australia relationship.

Peter O'Neill's visit also comes on a historic day for the Australian parliament, with the passage through the lower house of the government's carbon pricing scheme.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speakers: Joanna McCarthy, Canberra correspondent; Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister; Julia Gillard, Australian Prime Minister; Tony Abbott, Australian opposition leader

Listen here !

12.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

COVER REPORT: Somare's successor

Can new Prime Minister Peter O' Neill succeed?

by Rowan Callick



An accountant who put on his first pair of shoes when he was 16 in order to visit his father's relations in Melbourne, has in six short weeks taken a firm grip on the steering wheel in Papua New Guinea.

But PNG is notoriously resistant to direction. It is on the cusp between rapid, overdue modernisation and sinking back to tribalised subsistence.

Can its new leader succeed? This is the question on everyone's lips in the nation of 7 million people.

Sir Michael Somare has been at the forefront of public life there for an extraordinary 42 years.

But now Sir Michael, “the chief,” has lost his seat in parliament due to his absence during prolonged illness and

is most unlikely to return—although a court challenge on his behalf could still disrupt the new government's entrenchment.

Taking Sir Michael's place as Papua New Guinea's recently elected prime minister is Peter O'Neill, who comes from the populous heartland, the Highlands.

He indicated he is determined to usher in a new era for that nation of constant promise—and as frequent despair.

He flew to Nadi for the Engaging with the Pacific meeting and then on to the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' summit in Auckland last month, and gave an important speech to businesspeople in Brisbane on the way home.

He revealed in Brisbane that he has already cautioned, "and will caution again, my ministers and state-owned corporations involved in the mining and hydrocarbon industry to desist promptly from giving misleading signals to the foreign investment sector. My government is not about making life difficult for foreign investors."

A fresh style

O'Neill brings to the position a fresh style, very different from that of the veteran 75-year old founding father Sir Michael, and from that of the extrovert, "big man" braggadocio of previous leaders to emerge from the Highlands.

He needs to move fast since the next national election is due in mid-2012, although if he both performs well administratively and keeps his coalition team intact through smart politics—a rare combination in PNG history—he could look to a new term in charge after that.

He has already impressed by introducing rapidly bills to make education free to grade 10 and to create a seat dedicated for women in each province, guaranteeing that the new parliament will have at least 22 women MPs where now it has just one, Carol Kidu.

"Women deserve to participate in the decision-making process and in the management of our country," O'Neill said.

His next urgent legislation is to create a new province for his home area, the Southern Highlands, where PNG's first liquefied natural gas project is being built by ExxonMobil for \$A16.5 billion, and which Southern Highlanders have threatened to destroy if they do not get a new provincial government in time for next year's election.

As a 46-year old former accountant and businessman, he is bright, courteous, thoughtful. His father was an Australian "kiap" or patrol officer who arrived in PNG in 1949 and stayed until he died in 1982. His mother was from Pangia in the Southern Highlands.

As the first outsider to be based in the Ialibu-Pangia district, O'Neill's father had established basic government services in the area.

"So the older generation know him very well," said O'Neill, speaking in Auckland following the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Summit.

Later in his career, his father worked as a magistrate, for which he shifted to Mount Hagen, then Goroka—also in the Highlands.

O'Neill grew up in his mother's home village until he joined his father in Goroka when he turned 15. The first time he wore a pair of shoes was when his father brought him to Melbourne, aged 16.

His father was born in the then working class suburb of Williamstown, now a fashionable area with views across the marina and Port Phillip Bay to the Melbourne city skyline.

"I'm still in touch with relatives in Melbourne," O'Neill said.

He attended high schools in Ialibu in his home province of Southern Highlands—today the centre of an oil and gas bonanza—and in Goroka, before studying at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Port Moresby.

He said: "I didn't follow my father into law because I had grown up poor and I thought I'd have a better chance through accountancy. I was fairly reasonable with numbers."

He became slightly involved in student politics at UPNG where Ben Micah—who later became an MP and whom he has appointed as his chief of staff—was a student union leader. "That was when communism was still around," said O'Neill with a grin.

He joined international firm Coopers and Lybrand from university, then formed his own

small partnership with a New Zealand accountant in Port Moresby, before returning to the Highlands, to Goroka.

He established a trading business there and sold it in 1988 when he moved back to the capital.

He was then appointed executive chairman of the government-owned PNG Banking Corporation, which was to be privatised under Sir Mekere Morauta's prime ministership. It is now the highly successful Bank South Pacific, with interests across the islands region.

O'Neill was asked to help rescue other failing state corporations including insurance firms that he merged to create, in partnership with German giant Allianz, Pacific MMI, now the country's biggest insurer.

A report on the National Provident Fund's financing of an apparently over-priced office tower, in which O'Neill played a role, recommended his referral to the public prosecutor. But no action was taken. This has been his only public brush with misbehaviour, one that has effectively been left behind.

How he got into politics

In 2002, he stood for parliament for the area where he grew up, Ialibu-Pangia in the Southern Highlands. He won the seat for the People's Solidarity Party, and when it merged with the People's National Congress, taking the latter's name, he soon became the party leader.

He said: "I went into politics out of a sense of frustration at the way decisions were being made and a sense of obligation to my father's efforts to bring some level of government services to my area.

"Growing up in the village environment, I knew very well the limitations of opportunities and the services that my people suffered—and are still suffering. There was no power, no running water, no road."

Boarding during the week, every weekend he walked 28 kilometres from his high school to his home in Ialibu, to collect the food he needed for the following week.

Now the road has been upgraded. But there is still no power or running water in the village, named Paiyomari.

O'Neill speaks, besides English and Pidgin, his mother's language and two other languages from the Southern Highlands. "That places me in a much better position to communicate with my constituents."

He became a minister very quickly after being elected in 2002, being given the labour and industrial relations portfolio by the then prime minister Sir Michael, and later the more high profile public service ministry.

"It was quite challenging at first," he said, "coming from a different business background and adapting to how a government operates."

In 2004, his party quit the government over its disagreement with Sir Michael's bid to extend the grace period before an election, within which a no confidence motion cannot be moved.

"We felt that governments need a level of accountability, and that such a change would be undemocratic, leaving the government unchallengeable for too long."

O'Neill then became Leader of Opposition until the following election, in 2007.

"I enjoyed that position," he said, "because it gave me an opportunity to set up my own policy alternatives and build up my political skills in debating and making sure the government was held accountable."

After the election, he returned to the coalition in Sir Michael's government, returning to his former Ministry of Public Service before being given, as a reflection of his growing authority, the senior role of Treasurer.

When Sir Michael fell ill and flew for operations to Singapore, he appointed Sam Abal as acting prime minister, and Abal demoted O'Neill to the works portfolio.

But O'Neill had felt from his time as opposition leader, that he had the capacity to become prime minister. Seizing the opportunity was something else though.

And within the labyrinthine world of PNG politics, O'Neill has made his mark not only through his decent bearing and intelligence, but also through his sense of timing—and his consistent luck, which attracts others to join him.

He also, he said, focused on learning to become more responsible, aware of that impending burden.

When Abal began reshuffling his Cabinet and taking more far-reaching decisions in the absence of Sir Michael, O'Neill realised the moment had come when PNG should seek "a mandated leader to take the country into the elections in 2012".

And that would be him.

Planning a change

O'Neill said he started planning a change in government immediately after Abal's reshuffle. "I began speaking with the Opposition parties about forming a credible government, a government of unity in a way, in preparation for the election."

It came down to two names, he said: Don Polye, the former foreign minister—also a highlander—and himself. In a secret ballot in the caucus room in parliament, O'Neill came out on top. He has since given Polye the big consolation prize of Treasury.

"I was reasonably confident," he said. He has reinforced his position by appointing a Cabinet of 33, and 11 Vice Ministers—providing him with 80 percent of the votes he needs to pass legislation.

And he has already differentiated his administrative style from Sir Michael's by keeping his office door constantly open to his ministers.

O'Neill said: "Michael Somare is an iconic figure in our country, well respected and fatherly to many of us. I wished things could have been done differently" with the succession.

"But for more than 8 months, decisions were being made which were not mandated, the government was serving the interests of a minority in parliament and not governing for the people and the country. Papua New Guineans were entitled to know how their leader was doing."

Sir Michael now "needs to retire with dignity and respect," he said.

O'Neill said: "We all know how we have squandered our opportunities in the past. Some of us are determined not to make the same mistakes again. And aware that we are in government for less than 12 months, we are focussing on a very few areas, education being our number one priority.

"We are now spending 20 percent of our budget on education and that is likely to increase to 25 percent by 2012. We are also revamping the health system, including centralising drugs purchase and supply, which has been bound up with corruption in the past, and rehabilitation of the six major referral hospitals."

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT PM O'NEILL

David Conn, Chief Executive of PNG's biggest business chamber, the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

"Many of our members support the change of government and welcome many of the decisions already enacted, the officials replaced, and of course the announcements made to improve governance and tackle corruption. Time will tell whether these come to fruition of course.

"Peter O'Neill has been a successful businessman and thinks like one, so we feel we can talk to him openly and constructively. PNG is on the cusp of greatness again and if we cannot harvest the benefits from this impending economic boom this time, social unrest may mean we do not get another chance."

Peter Korugl, News Editor of Post Courier newspaper:

“O’Neill was a weak opposition leader but he is very popular now and generating more support here as days go by, because people were fed up with the old government and he is focusing on issues that are very close to the heart of the people right now.”

Paul Barker, Executive director of PNG’s leading think tank, the Institute of National Affairs:

“In his time in government, he’s always performed soundly. As Treasurer, he listened to staff and acted prudently. “He earlier tended to go along with the sounder Cabinet members, including those seeking to restrain logging companies. He’s always been ambitious and it was clear he was eager to go for the top job. He has made good and programmatic allies, timing his shifts better than some others.

“He has a mixed team of capable, young and talented and older, experienced, broadly honest members, plus some from the old guard who have a bad track record, whom he’ll have to keep reined in.”

12.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Fidelis Semoso to face tribunal

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso (left) will face a leadership tribunal for alleged misconduct in office.

The Acting Public Prosecutor, Camillus Sambua yesterday requested the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, to appoint an appropriate Leadership Tribunal to inquire into the allegations of misconduct.



The former Minister for Bougainville Affairs and deputy leader NGI for the National Alliance was yesterday stood down from office by operation of the law until a tribunal deals with the allegations and hands down its decision.

Mr Semoso becomes the latest leader to be referred to the Leadership Tribunal over breaches of the Leadership Code.

The allegations include: alleged misappropriation of K2.7 million from South

Bougainville Feeder Road Project funds without proper tender process; benefit of public funds valued at K470,000 from the K2.7 million awarded to Millennium Waters Ltd and misapplication of K1 million from South Bougainville Feeder Roads.

Semoso is also alleged to have assaulted and tortured a Ms Therese Marrie Hani Hapoot; winning a contract under false pretence; and failure to declare his interest.

Mr Sambua said he has perused the file and found that there is sufficient, cogent and credible evidence to refer the matter to an appropriate Leadership Tribunal.

Referral of Mr Semoso followed a day after the Ombudsman Commission referred two-term MP and Minister for Inter Government Relations Mark Maipakai to Mr Sambua to be investigated over an extra-marital affair seven years ago and late lodging of his annual statements.

The Ombudsman Commission, found enough evidence against Maipakai to refer him to the public prosecutor to be investigated for misconduct in office.

11.10.2011

Source: The National

Expert: Aussie banks a haven for fat cats

AUSTRALIA may be sheltering hundreds of millions of black dollars funnelled out of South Pacific countries, including Papua New Guinea, by corrupt politicians and public officials, a conference in Brisbane on law and order and good governance in Australia and the Pacific region has been told.

This money laundering was being tolerated by a disinterested Australian federal government, the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) reported, quoting a good governance expert Prof Jason Sharman of the University of Griffith.



The newspaper quoted Sharman (picture) as saying that PNG, in particular, was believed to suffer from the avarice of some of its officials and politicians.

He added that a senior police officer recently claimed the country lost as much as 50% of its budget – about A\$1.9 billion – every year through fraud and corruption.

Sharman called on the Australian government to drop its “nonchalant attitude” towards the problem, which, he said, hamstrung regional aid, governance and security policies.

“Recent research on grand corruption has emphasised the importance of following the money trail to determine where corrupt senior officials hide their stolen assets,” he said. “The answer is often that wealth looted from poor countries is held in rich countries with large, stable financial centres and which share historical ties with the victim country.”

But, he said, Canberra had displayed a lack of interest in pursuing foreign corruption in Australia. An example of this, he said, was the bribery scandal enveloping the Reserve Bank in relation to foreign bribes allegedly paid by employees of its part-owned subsidiaries, Note Printing Australia and Securrency.

The government has ignored that case and has three times blocked a move in the Senate to launch a parliamentary inquiry.

“The government doesn’t care about Australia playing host to the proceeds of foreign corruption,” Sharman said.

He said he first became concerned about the role of Australia in embezzlement and corruption in the South Pacific while undertaking research for the World Bank about the problem in Africa.

“If you’re a corrupt leader and you’re stealing millions ... through embezzlement or taking bribes, then you don’t want to keep it at home, you want to put it somewhere international.”

He said his research showed that money tended to flow to the former coloniser, or the nearest thing. Given that many South Pacific politicians and officials study in Australia and have family and friends here, Australia would be the closest thing to a coloniser.

The SMH said evidence gathered by several international organisations had made particular claims about politicians from Papua New Guinea – which had undergone a minerals boom in recent years – buying property in Queensland with their corrupt profits.

11.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Too many political parties

Abau MP Sir Dr Puka Temu launched a new political party last Saturday. Currently, Agriculture Minister in the O'Neill-Namah regime, Sir Puka was a founding member of the once powerful National Alliance Party and at one time, held the Deputy Prime Minister's post. It was mooted in political circles at that time that if the Grand Chief Sir Michael should retire at the end of this term of Parliament, Sir Puka was a contender for the leadership of the NA and Prime Minister's post. That was not to be for Sir Puka, a medical doctor by profession, who found he could not work with certain members of the Somare Government. He and current Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah left to join the Opposition in a failed move to oust the Somare Government. Now they have succeeded to overthrow the Somare-Abal regime, things are shaping up differently for the former NA loner in the former Opposition.

The launching of Our Development Party comes several months after former Chief Ombudsman Commissioner Ila Geno launched his PNG Constitutional Democratic Party. Mr Geno, known for referring the biggest number of politicians to the Public Prosecutor for leadership code breaches, aims to fight corruption when he gets into Government and although only a few months old, the party has already won the Kundiawa-Gembogl by election and has Party General Secretary Tobias Kulang in Parliament.

The two political parties are based in the Southern region and both Sir Puka and Mr Geno are going to take their parties into the coming national elections with the view to win and form Government. In the next few months, Papua New Guineans will most likely see the registration of more political parties as we move closer to the 2012 national elections. We are unable to give the definite number of new political parties that are expected to be formed but if the number of political parties that were registered for the 2007 national elections is of any indication, the number will be quite substantial.

As at the July 2007 national elections, there were 45 political parties. The number will go up to 49 when the four active political parties in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are included. The list of parties in alphabetical order are: Advance PNG Party ; Christian Democratic Party; Economic Endeavour Party; Human Rights Protection Party; Liberal Party; Melanesian Alliance Party; Melanesian Labour Party; Melanesian People's Party; National Alliance Party; National Front Party; Nation Transformation Party; National Vision for Humanity Party; New Generation Party; One People Party; Pan Melanesian Congress Party; Papua and Niugini Union Pati; Party for Justice and Dignity; People's Action Party; People's Democratic Movement ; People's Destiny & Development Party; People's Development Party; People's First Conservative Party ; People's Freedom Party; People's Heritage Party; People's Labour Party; People's National Congress Party; People's Progress Party; People's Resource Awareness Party ; People's Solidarity Party; People's Welfare Party; Pipol First Pati; PNG Party; PNG Country Party ; PNG First Party; PNG Greens Party; PNG Integrity Party; PNG Labour Party; PNG National Party; PNG Revival Party; Rural Pipols' Pati; Simple People's Party; True People's Party; United Party; United Resources Party and Yumi Reform Party.

There are four active ones in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. This is a lot of political parties and will cause confusion in the elections.

11.10.2011

Source: The National

Chan: Aust mining investment secure

MINING minister Byron Chan has reassured his Australian counterpart Martin Ferguson that Australia's investment in the mining sector in PNG will not be deterred by the proposed amendments to the mining act.

Chan, who was accompanied by MRA acting managing director Kepas Wali and first secretary Gaius Toaligur, met with Ferguson, Australia's minister for Resources and Energy in Melbourne last Friday after returning from a mining conference in Accra, Ghana where he (Chan) briefed him of the current mining review and other policy issues the government will undertake.

"I assured the Federal Minister on Australia's huge investment in PNG's mining sector that there is no immediate changes to the act to give ownership back to landowners. Currently, the State owns the resources," Chan said.

He told Ferguson that the decision to make the amendment to the 1992 Mining Act was only political but he made an undertaking to immediately set up a special committee to look into the changes.

"I cannot change the policy overnight with PNG already having multi-billion kina companies operating in the extractive industry.

"Anything to change will be drastic and a big blow to the economy.

"However, my immediate agenda now is to look into the Mining Act and amend certain provisions after consultation with all stakeholders so that landowners, government and investors equally benefit," he said.

Chan noted that he would be pushing for a policy to be in place within the proposed mining act for the creation of an environment protection and rehabilitation fund.

"The fund will assist mining areas and increase benefit for landowners and provincial governments where mining operations are currently in progress," he said.

Meanwhile, Ferguson thanked Chan and said the meeting was a step forward for the two countries and paved the way for the upcoming Australia – PNG bilateral ministerial forum in Canberra this week.

10.10.2011

Source: Solomon Times online

PNG and Solomon Islands Seek Greater Economic Integration

Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are championing moves for greater integration of the economies of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Prime Minister Danny Phillip met in Port Moresby on Thursday and signed a joint communique' to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions, including tariffs, between the two nations.

The two leaders discussed and exchanged views on bilateral issues of mutual interest that included opening up shipping and air services to Bougainville, increased scholarship quota for Solomon Islands students and opening up teaching positions for surplus teachers from the Solomon Islands.

Officials of the two Melanesian Spearhead nations will work to formalize the agreement soon.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands would work to formalize similar agreements with the other MSG nations and with other neighboring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Island were close neighbors with cultural links and the two countries would further enhance that relationship with increased development assistance.

10.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG PM O'Neill makes first visit to Australia tomorrow.

Australia's relationship with its former colony Papua New Guinea has improved somewhat after the years when John Howard was prime minister when the feelings were definitely frosty.

That better feeling between the two neighbours gets a chance this week to become even stronger when the recently installed PNG leader Peter O'Neill arrives in Canberra tomorrow for his first meeting with his Australian counterpart Julia Gillard.

The two-day visit comes days after Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd travelled to PNG and met with Mr O'Neill and his ministers.

PNG is still the largest recipient of Australian aid - although with revenue from its massive LNG project due to begin in 2014, the question of aid dependency and a change in the relationship between the two countries are certain to figure during this latest meeting of government ministers.

Presenter: Michael Cavanagh

Speakers: Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia

CAVANAGH: Since the Australian Labor party came to power, efforts have been made to improve relations between the two countries.

Under the previous Coalition government a number of incidents and observations such as PNG being likened to a failed state did not help matters.

Making it worse was the action by security guards at Brisbane airport in March 2005 to have the then PNG prime minister Sir Michael Somare remove his shoes during a routine search.

PNG was one of the first places Kevin Rudd travelled to soon after becoming Australian Labor prime minister and the now conservative opposition's deputy leader Julie Bishop recently toured there.

Mr Rudd was back there recently as Foreign Minister handing over 40 million Australian dollars in aid as part of a wider Asian Development Bank rural health scheme.

Australia for 2011/2012 is providing nearly 437 million Australian dollars in assistance to PNG.

Despite aid being a major component of the relationship between the two countries, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia Charles Lepani says this visit will continue the recent push to take the links to another level...

LEPANI: This is elevating our maturing relations but it will also be a feature of this trip that he will be talking about future arrangements moving development co-operation from PNG's aid dependence upon Australia to trade and economic co-operation basically which matures our bi-lateral relations and co-operation to an economic level where we are equal partners equal sovereign states dealing with each other in friendly terms.

CAVANAGH: Mr O'Neill's visit is his first as leader -- it is part of an already planned gathering of ministers from the two nations.

It also comes as he faces a possible legal challenge over his replacing of Sir Michael Somare as prime minister - although the High Commissioner does not see that as a problem in his dealings with Australia as it is a domestic political issue.

Mr O'Neill goes to the polls around the middle of next year and regardless of the outcome one long time observer of PNG says Australia will be facing a change in attitude from the leaders of its northern neighbour.

Dr Ron May lived in PNG for six years and has had long involvement with the country in a variety of ways including his present role with the Society & Governance in Melanesia Program.

He says we are seeing the start of a different group of people in power in PNG -- and they view Australia differently...

MAY: He is the beginning of a shift he is a younger man and there will be younger people coming through as well. Whoever comes in to office next year after the elections in 2012 is bound to be one of the younger politicians. Increasingly we will see this new younger generation coming through who will be more pre-disposed to looking toward Asia maintaining their relations with Australia of course but increasingly taking advantage of the aid that is coming in from China the investment that is coming in from China, Korea, Malaysia and other parts of Asia.

CAVANAGH: How will he use that then in his dealings with Australia then?

MAY: Well I think Papua New Guinean leaders have always been quite sharp at using the threat of looking elsewhere to keep Australians in line. Of course it is not a very effective line because the Australian aid dominates the incoming aid pattern quite substantially but nonetheless the suggestion that they will move closer to Asia is something I think keeps Australian governments on their toes with Papua New Guinea.

CAVANAGH: One issue which is certain to provoke debate while Mr O'Neill is in Australia is the question of Australia's off-shore processing of asylum seekers. A recent High Court decision for the time being has scuttled Canberra's plan for those arriving by boat hoping to be allowed to live in Australia to be taken to Malaysia for processing. This has revived a push in some quarters for the resumption of a similar scheme that operated in PNG when John Howard was Australia's prime minister. So far the Julia Gillard Australian Labor government has resisted the pressure for the facility on Manus Island to be again used.

Although PNG's man in Canberra, Charles Lepani says it will be raised during Mr O'Neill's stay.

LEPANI: This government is very keen to co-operate with your government on regional solution to refugee and asylum processing problems. PNG as you know is a signatory to refugee convention so these issues will be discussed but we will be asking and our prime minister and his colleague ministers will be asking their Australian counterparts to update them on the legal issue of the high court ruling and the political up date on how it is going to resolve itself because we, our government under prime minister O'Neill is ready and willing to cooperate with Australia on any solutions through Manus processing centre how ever mechanism could be established and agreed to between our two governments.

Listen here !

07.10.2011

Source: Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)

Bougainville Copper Limited (BOC) share price UP 16.67 percent !

07.10.2011

Source: Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)

BOUGAINVILLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMIT

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO DISCUSS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PNG & BOUGAINVILLE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN ARAWA FROM THE 27TH – 29TH OCTOBER 2011, AT THE SHARPE MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTER, 8AM TO 4PM.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDES;

- CODE OF CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS
- RECOGNITION OF CUSTOMARY LAND, RESOURCE OWNERSHIP & RIGHTS
- TYPES OF CONTRACTS FOR EXTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES
- FAIR SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS
- PNG DOMESTIC LAWS, INCLUDING LAND ACT 1996, MINING ACT 1992 AND OIL & GAS ACT 1998
- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

“RESOURCES INCLUDE LAND, MINERALS, OIL & GAS, FISHING, FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, CARBON TRADE, ETC ”

GUEST SPEAKER:

CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER & EMBASSADOR MR. PETER DONIGI
A PROMINENT LAWYER AND PRESIDENT OF THE MAMA PAPA GRAUN PARTY,
WITH
VALUABLE EXPERIENCES & EXPOSURE TO BOTH NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
LAWS ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTITUTION

PARTICIPANTS:

EVERY BOUGAINVILLEANS

For queries, please contact Justin Borgia 72375139 and Denis Kuiai 71505652

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

All Bougainville to decide 'who to mine'

PREPARATIONS are now underway for an agreement to be signed between former fighters and Panguna landowners to decide who to bring into Bougainville to mine Panguna.

A meeting was held on September 9 in Arawa headed by Michael Otoroa, on behalf of the former fighters and Chris Damana, the Chairman of the Landowner Group. Already references and a decision is pending on the latter.

Elite leaders, who also attended the meeting, included Sam Kauona of Isina Resource Holdings and Bougainville's known former ex-fighters.

Veterans Affairs and Peace Minister David Sisito told the Post-Courier in an interview that decisions made included the Panguna mine pit to be owned by both landowners and former fighting men.

"But, if BCL decides to come back to mine Panguna, then they must liaise with the landowners and the Autonomous Bougainville Government," Mr Sisito said.

He also said that it was also recommended that four Panguna landowners, including Mr Damana and elites from other resources areas would take a tour to visit some reputable mining companies outside of Papua New Guinea who had good practices on environmental damage controls in order to come up with their own.

Mr Sisito also stressed that BCL, if still interested to mine in Bougainville, would only talk about the Panguna Mine Pit and not any other licence tenements it claims to hold.

"Let me remind the world that the crisis was brought on by CRA and Rio Tinto to make us fight amongst ourselves and Bougainville has won this war, its land and the resources," he said. I as the chief of all the ex-combatants am encouraging all ex-combatants and the people of Bougainville to form Incorporated Land Groups (ILGs) and form landowner companies so you can start applying for exploration licences over your own land."

The statement comes in after witnessing so many foreigners coming into Bougainville with "kids' toys" to try and lure locals to allow for exploration in the region.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

China regarded as ABG's ally

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government vice president Patrick Nisira says foreign direct investment specifically from the People's Republic of China is good for Bougainville.

Speaking as the Chairman of the Bougainville China Co-operation Committee (BCCC), Mr Nisira has outlined the positives of engaging Chinese companies and has blamed the media for not helping with positive awareness on the ABG's intentions to engage the Asian foreign investment companies.

"As with China, Bougainville is now looking to open up, with a measure of control that looks at efficiently dealing with fundamental issues that were responsible for the outbreak of the Bougainville conflict in 1988, while progressing economic development," Mr Nisira said.

"The economic model of China, although developed under a socialist political economic system, bears certain characteristics that may be beneficial to the development of an investment economic framework that allows the ABG to have greater control over the economic interests of the region, at the foreign direct investment level."

He said while the argument raged on about who should be categorised as a genuine ABG investment partner, Bougainville could be left to the whims of a few people who would rather see this new Autonomous Government fail, and pretended to give advice.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG passes several bills

By Daniel Tangia

BOUGAINVILLE'S Autonomous Government leaders have passed several bills in their last Parliament sitting, an indication the newly established Government is serious in its draw down of powers and working towards referendum.

They include:

- * Public Holidays Act 2011
- * HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act 2011
- * Bougainville Senior Appointment Committee Act 2011 and
- * Liquor and Alcohol Act 2011

ABG President John Momis tabled his Bills on the Public Holidays Act 2011, now giving ABG the power to declare its own calendar of events – especially the public holidays. This Act will also provide protection to citizens working in Bougainville from being compelled to make payments on Public Holidays.

Mr Momis' Bougainville Senior Appointment Committee Act 2011 is a guide for the ABG to follow in appointing of the constitutional office holders. It also prescribes the procedures that will be followed in the appointment of constitutional office holders.

07.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

PNG leader in Australia next week

Papua New Guinea's recently installed prime minister, Peter O'Neill is to make a two-day visit to Australia.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (RADIO AUSTRALIA) ---- Papua New Guinea's recently installed prime minister, Peter O'Neill is to make a two-day visit to Australia. The visit next week comes just after Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd, spent 24 hours in PNG and had a meeting with Mr O'Neill. During that trip, Mr Rudd pledged \$A40 million as part of an Asian Development Bank remote health program. Apart from meeting Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard during the two-day trip, Mr O'Neill will hold talks with other federal government ministers including Mr Rudd. For 2011-12, Australia is giving just over \$482 million in aid to PNG.

07.10.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Issues in Perspective

PM O'Neill: Bougainville's Aropa airport to be re-opened in December



A lone standing radio tower at Aropa airport in the autonomous region of Bougainville. A brick structure, which can be seen in the distance, is all that remains of the Air Niugini terminal which was destroyed during the 10-year conflict.

Aropa airport, the international gateway to the shut Bougainville copper mine, will be re-opened in December.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said this yesterday when concluding bilateral discussions with his Solomon Islands counterpart Danny Philip in the PNG capital Port Moresby.

He said PNG and the Solomon Islands have agreed to cooperate on a number of joint border development programs, which would see the establishment of border posts at strategic locations along the border between the autonomous region of Bougainville (AROB) and the Solomon Islands.

The two leaders have agreed to hold a joint PNG-Solomon Islands cabinet meeting in the AROB in early December. The joint cabinet meeting, the first of its kind between the two neighbouring Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) nations, will coincide with the official reopening of the airport.

Mr O'Neill said the PNG and Solomon Islands national airlines – Air Niugini and Solomon Airlines – will schedule two special flights to Aropa on the day of its official reopening.

Arawa-based Bougainvilleans, speaking on condition of anonymity to Papua New Guinea Issues in Perspective, said work is yet to start to clear the airport in preparation for its reopening.

The airport was the scene of heavy fighting during the 10-year Bougainville Crisis and is overgrown with bush. A burnt out brick structure is all that remains of what was once the Air Niugini terminal as well as a lone standing radio tower.

The venue of the joint PNG-Solomon Islands cabinet meeting is yet to be confirmed but it is likely to be held in the former Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) mining township of Arawa, not far from Aropa airport and the Panguna copper mine.

The Somare government had indicated last year that it envisaged the mine re-opening in 2012 at the cost of US\$4 billion; however Rio Tinto has reportedly said it did not have a time-table to open the mine.

The O'Neill government, which came into office in August, is unlikely to announce any major policy decisions relating to the mine's re-opening until after the 2012 general election. Though, that is dependent on the coalition government winning re-election to office.

Read more: <http://pngperspective.webnode.com/news/pm-oneill-bougainvilles-aropa-airport-to-be-opened-in-december/>

07.10.2011

Source: Islands Business

Solomon Islands PM visits PNG

Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Danny Philip, is visiting Papua New Guinea for two days - his first to the country since being elected PM in the Solomons general election last year.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (NBC) ----- Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Danny Philip, is visiting Papua New Guinea for two days - his first to the country since being elected PM in the Solomons general election last year. He touched down at the Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby on a commercial Air Niugini flight after midday on Wednesday. Mr Philip was treated to a red carpet welcome with a gun salute. On hand to welcome him was a PNG government delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister, Ano Pala, and National Capital District Governor, Powes Parkop. A guard of honor was also held by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force for the Solomons Prime Minister. He paid a courtesy call on Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio, yesterday Prime Minister Peter O'Neill hosted a dinner for his visiting counterpart last night. The official program begins today with round table bilateral meeting after which a joint communique will be signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Saga over body removal

THE Bougainvillean, who kept a Japanese soldier's body since 1965, has expressed disappointment in the manner in which the Japanese Government and the PNG Museum had come and taken the body away without any proper "thankyou".

The Post-Courier published several stories and a feature on this early this year – the fact that this Bougainvillean stumbled onto this dead body when he was only 17 years in 1965 and since then, even during the Bougainville Crisis he guarded and looked after the body in a small coffin like his own.

Anthony Savanotsi is now 63 years old.

Last month, the Japanese officials from the Japanese Embassy and an officer from the PNG Museum travelled to remote Tatakots village, in the Selau/Suir District to bring the body back to Japan for proper burial.

But despite presenting them with Bougainville's traditional shell money - The Beruana, Mr Savanotsi said he was unhappy.

"I wasn't looking for compensation, no! At least a good explanation of a small thank you

gift for me and my family.

"It's not like I stumbled onto that body yesterday or while in the bush recently.

"I was 17 years old and found the body of this army when I was returning from my plantation work and I have kept it since then, changing wood for coffin five times or six and guarding it very well during the Bougainville Crisis.

"Even before I met my wife and had a family, I already had this body with me and he was like our first born. I am very unhappy about the way they came and got the body," Mr Savanotsi said. PNG official (named) told me he was going to do a proposal for me and my clan or village for generators to power electricity to our village but what good houses will have power? All are saksak (sago) made houses.'

But PNG Museum officers yesterday defended that the UN Convention had passed a law to protect all dead bodies from the war – not to be compensated.

PNG Museum, however, said that they wanted the family to do a proposal for the generators instead the family refused and threatened to sue the Japanese Government and the PNG Government and had not co-operated with them for this proposal to bring generators to power their villages. Mr Savonotsi and his clan members now want the Japanese Government and the PNG Museum to give a project of heavy equipment to the village so they can use it as their means of generating money.

They will see the ABG next week for help on this matter.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

US to check Buka 'wreck'

THE discovery of an aircraft wreck in the waters of Buka Island of Bougainville, believed to be of the remains of the famous aviatrix-Amelia Earhart is far from over.

It is believed that the wreck at the depth of 70 metres north-west of Buka hold some some answers to the 74-year mystery of the disappearance of Ms Earhart.

Local fishermen diving for sea cucumber on Matsungan Island 12 years ago stumbled into this wreck now believed to be the world's mysterious flyer. The Post- Courier ran stories on this for a week in March.

More than seven decades after aviator Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan disappeared while attempting her ill-fated flight around the world, a Bougainville local group still hopes to finally confirm that the plane, lying in a sea bed, about two kilometres from land is that of the flyer.

The expedition team, carrying out the investigations since 2000, had not given up despite numerous calls for them to cancel the expedition.

Worldwide divers and experts have claimed Ms Earhart's plane wreck was somewhere in Kiribati or the Pacific Ocean and that the wreck in Matsungan Island, off Buka town, is not the one the world is looking for.

But the expedition team from Buka Island, who are handling the investigations and have been for the last 12 years, still claim the wreck is that of the world famous aviatrix.

Local divers have been hard at work trying to complete the final expedition before the wreck is officially announced.

A team of divers from outside Bougainville and one from the United States are expected to travel to Bougainville before end of this month or possibly by end of November to complete the final task.

The Matsungan Island plane wreck expedition team is in contact with a US team of officials and they have been given a check list.

The team had identified that:

- * there are two skulls still in the plane, one at the pilot side.;
- * the plane is a twin tail aircraft;
- * the front with antenna loop is still intact;
- * the window at the right side is above the wing;

- * the front rivets are in the middle of the windscreen and
- * the plane's left wing is damaged and grossly covered in coral.

The team have been working for the last eight months to confirm the checklist, and have had difficulties in clearing the coral out of the left wing, which is half open, to confirm the fuel fillers. The International team are making arrangements for their divers to travel to Buka to check out the last bits before official announcements are made.

07.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG gives K100m to Solomon Islands ... K20m each year for five years

By John Pangkatana

PAPUA New Guinea has signaled a change in the shift of their foreign policy with a bumper K100 million commitment to neighbouring Solomon Islands.

This is certainly among PNG's largest commitment overseas, in particular to a Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) member.

It is also deemed that PNG and the Solomon Islands will work to formalise a similar agreement with other MSG nations (Vanuatu and Fiji) and other neighbouring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

This commitment and change is geared towards overseas aid has heightened since the recent 66th United Nations general assembly in New York, where PNG was represented by the Prime Ministerial delegation.

The arrangement with the Solomon Islands is set to strengthen long serving ties, especially with a K20 million surge to boost their economy each year for the next five years.

This is an increase of K20 million on top of the present K80 million grant aid program that goes to support their internal development programs. The announcement was made following bilateral talks between the PNG Government team led by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration Ano Pala, Treasurer Don Polye and National Planning Minister Sam Basil.

The Solomon Islands team led by Prime Minister Mr. Danny Philip, included his Minister for Education and Human Resources Development Mr. Dickson Ha'amori and other senior government officials.

Issues of mutual interest discussed included:

- * Labour mobility;
- * Removal of work permit and visa requirements for both countries
- * Removal of trade barrier duties and taxes
- * Opening up of shipping and air services to Bougainville
- * Increase scholarship quota for SI students
- * Opening up of teaching positions for surplus teachers from SI.

The culmination of the one-day talks led to the joint communiqué signing ceremony yesterday between PNG Prime Minister Mr. Peter O'Niell and Mr. Philip.

Mr. Philip expressed his Government's gratitude towards the support from PNG and saw a bright future ahead in relation to the positive round-table talks.

Playing the big brother role in the region, Mr. O'Niell yesterday said the relationship continues to grow in terms of trade between the two countries. "This communiqué will further enhance that relationship and lead to increase support from PNG in the coming years," Mr. O'Niell added. He stated that within the agreement some of the grant will go towards the continuation of tertiary education assistance for SI students studying at PNG Universities and other tertiary institutions. This stemmed from a recent proposal by the SI Government to consider continuing the grant assistance, with the existing program for assistance expiring at the end of this year. The grant scheme was initiated in 1997. The round-table talks also sought to push for economic integration, where both countries

agreed to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions including tariffs between the two countries. Both Prime Ministers agreed to lift existing restrictions. Mr.O'Niell further announced that PNG would formalise similar arrangements with other Melanesian Spearhead Government nations Vanuatu and Fiji as well. The other area of concern was for both countries to consolidate towards cooperating better on joint border development programs.

07.10.2011

Source: The National

PNG, Solomons aim for greater integration

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

PAPUA New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are championing moves for greater integration of the economies of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Solomon Islands counterpart Danny Phillip met in Port Moresby yesterday and signed a joint communiqué' to remove all economic barriers and imposition of work permit requirements, labour mobility and trade restrictions, including tariffs, between the two nations.

The two leaders discussed and exchanged views on bilateral issues of mutual interest that included opening up shipping and air services to Bougainville, increased scholarship quota for Solomon Islands students and opening up teaching positions for surplus teachers from the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands Prime Minister is on a three-day official visit.

Officials of the two Melanesian Spearhead nations will work to formalise the agreement soon.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands would work to formalise similar agreements with the other MSG nations (Vanuatu and Fiji) and with other neighbouring Pacific nations outside of the Melanesian sub-region.

O'Neill said PNG and the Solomon Islands were close neighbours with cultural links and the two countries would further enhance that relationship with increased development assistance to the Solomon Islands.

He said PNG would give the Solomon Islands K100 million as grant aid over the next five years to support its internal development programmes.

This is an increase of K80 million from the K20 million grant aid programme.

O'Neill said some of the grant would go towards the continuation of tertiary education grant assistance for Solomon Islands students studying at PNG universities and other tertiary institutions.

The Solomon Islands recently proposed to the PNG government to consider continuation of PNG's generous tertiary education grant assistance for its students studying in PNG when the existing programme of assistance expired at the end of this year.

O'Neill committed the PNG Government to continuing the grant for five more years.

The grant scheme to the Solomon Islands was initiated by former PNG prime minister, the late Sir William Skate in 1997.

The neighbours agreed to cooperate on joint border development programmes.

The programme will involve management and development of border posts at strategic points of the common border between the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the outer islands of the Solomon Islands closest to PNG.

The two leaders agreed to hold a joint meeting of their respective Cabinets in the ARB in early December.

06.10.2011

Source: The National

Momis to honour peace agreements

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government President John Momis will honour agreements aimed to resolve outstanding differences in the area.

The agreements were made between the Mekamui unity government, the people of Panguna and the former ABG government under former president James Tanis.

Momis said commitments made by the Tanis government to consult the Mekamui unity government and the chamber of clans' paramount council plus the Panguna landowners would be continued and strengthened by his government.

He said his government would continue dialogue on the issues, in particular, the seven-point agenda adapted for further dialogue between the ABG and the Mekamui in March 2010.

He made the comment when announcing the appointment of Tanis as the lead negotiator for the ABG in restoring unity between all factions on Bougainville.

Momis highlighted the need for a co-ordinated effort in creating peace and cooperation among factions on Bougainville.

He said since his inauguration last year, he had been talking of unification in Bougainville.

He said it was an over-arching issue of importance that their social, economic and political progress depended on.

Momis said Tania had accepted to work closely with the Bougainville administration in ensuring that the peace building initiatives of the former government were continued to unite all factions.

He said the ABG had encouraging dialogue with Ishmael Toroama, the former BRA commander who continued to take an active interest in supporting the peace process in Central Bougainville.

06.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville's economy recovering: Survey

THERE are about two kilograms of gold smelted in Buka, a week costing \$114,000 (K268,000) and about 16,000 tonnes of cocoa shipped out of Bougainville, a preliminary survey has found.

And Bougainville's "green gold" the betelnut industry is also providing economic means for many families in the region together with other basic fiscal activities such as cocoa, copra and small scale business activities.

The preliminary findings from a research undertaken by the National Research Institute and the University of New South Wales with help from the Australian Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government indicates there are lot more economic activities happening in Bougainville now but with minimum data/record keeping from the ABG.

Professor Satish Chand from the University of New South Wales yesterday presented an overview, from a groundwork survey of households in Buka, Selau, Arawa, Buka and Buin, providing evidence of an economic recovery in post-conflict Bougainville.

"It is the first evidence of economic recovery following the window of peace provided through an internationally sponsored peacekeeping operation that ended the decade long conflict," Chand presented.

"This recovery is helping to sustain peace that in turn undergirds investment. The above

is the nexus between peace and prosperity.”

In his findings, Professor Chand concluded that:

- * Per capita income for urban Bougainville = K3,863 at 2010 prices (or K783 at 1983 prices).

- * Large regional disparities in rates of and prospects for economic growth – policy implications.

- * Trade is building bridges between communities that were fractured by the conflict - policy implications.

- * Broad based growth creates a constituency for peace – who are the entrepreneurs in post-conflict Bougainville.

“In conclusion, I say that:

- * The six-year window of peace provided room for the community to be drawn into the economy;

- * Trade between communities is growing;

- * Investment into permanent housing signals perceptions of sustained peace;

- * The economic interdependencies between communities previously in conflict is rising;

- * Peace founded on (broad-based) prosperity has hope; and

- * Impact of the reopening of mine.

06.10.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Carteret resettlement may hold lessons for Pacific

With warnings about unsustainable numbers of people on low lying atolls and the possibility of having to resettle them elsewhere, is there anything to be learned from a resettlement scheme which is already happening in the Pacific?

The Carteret islands north of the Papua New Guinea Island of Bougainville are atolls which are sinking slowly.

There's a plan to resettle many of the 2,700 inhabitants on the mainland of Bougainville which aims at having 1,700 of them transplanted within ten years.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Ursula Rakova, executive director of the aid charity Tulele Peisa

Listen here !

06.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Churches unite to restore Bougainville

By Gorethy Kenneth

MORE than 5000 church goers in Bougainville are expected to gather in Buka this month for a major peace and unity intervention.

Last Friday, Selau/Suir churches launched their operational network and are now awaiting the major group launch later this month.

Bougainville now needs “Gods Kingdom Network” to get all churches into a common ground that calls for peace, reconciliation, harmony and unification of all factions in the region.

The North Bougainville Kingdom Network, comprising all churches in Bougainville, have formed themselves (like they did during the crisis) to come together and start a major

church intervention to bring Bougainville together again come October 28, 2011. Chairman of the North Region Kingdom Network Pastor Donald Posonei and his vice Pastor Tony Katsin told the Post-Courier yesterday that they have organised themselves and are arranging with the mainline churches - the Catholic Church, the United Church (UC) and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) - to launch their network program and kick start their proposed intervention.

Pastor Posonei said that about 5000 church personnel were expected to be in Buka late this month to launch the program. It will cost the churches between K150,000 to K200,000 to run it. North Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi has contributed about K25,000 to help kick start the program.

05.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville west coast road gets upgraded

By PETERSON TSERHAHA

The Bougainville west coast road is now being upgraded to enable much easier movement of cars and people.

Worth K1 million, the project undertaken by the National Works Department, will include culverts that will cost up to K300,000 to be placed in three main rivers of the road.

National Works manager for Bougainville Aura Pangka said work had already started.

Mr Pangka was at the Move River in Rapoma area of the Selau constituency on Friday to see for himself the first two culverts built into the once wet crossing and damaged bridge.

When it rains, vehicles stay overnight as they cannot cross.

The west coast road had deteriorated over the past years and the travelling public had relied heavily on boats to travel to their villages.

"We have started work on the first river and then we will be moving to the next two.

"We will be backfilling and at the same time putting baskets to ensure the culverts are solid enough to withstand high tides," Mr Pangka said.

It is a sigh of relief for the locals as they can now bring their cocoa and copra to the market at much more affordable prices.

So far, the trunk road has been maintained well and the travelling public is happy that the national works are living up to their duty.

05.10.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Govt urged to honour Abal pledge

By Daniel Tangia

THE Board of Governors of Asitavi High School in Wakunai, Central Bougainville, want an update on the K5 million pledged by the former acting Prime Minister Sam Abal for the school.

Mr Abal visited Asitavi High School, Bougainville's only all girls high school in May this year and pledged K5 million to help maintain the school.

The BOG fear that the new Government led by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill will quash the pledge and not honour it.

Chairman Joe Pais has called on the National Government to release that K5 million regardless of the change.

The board is also calling on the Regional MP Fidelis Semoso, Communications Minister Jimmy Miringtoro, who is also the Central Bougainville MP, and Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kamma to chase up the money so that the board can be able to

carry out renovations and maintenance of the school.

“St Mary’s School boasts of its contribution of many women leaders of Bougainville and PNG in the past 40 years and it is our turn to ensure that future generation of girls achieve the best education,” Mr Pais said.

Mr Abal made the pledge after visiting the school and seeing the deteriorating state of the dormitories and classrooms.

News 11.2011

30.11.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill says mining leases extended

THE mining lease agreement for Bougainville expired last Friday but the mining lease agreement automatically extends for another 21 days as per the Mining Act, parliament has been told.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said this when responding to a series of questions by National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop.

Parkop asked if the government was going to review the mining release agreement that expired last Friday.

He said many people in Papua New Guinea and Bougainvilleans had gone through hard times and he asked why there should not be any review.

He asked if there was any moratorium in place for any further exploration in any other part of the autonomous region.

He asked if a review could be done with a year-to-year lease agreement.

O'Neill said there would not be any review because of an automatic 21-year extension clause under the Bougainville agreement.

He said the Bougainville mining agreement did not cater for any review nor did it allow the government to cancel it.

He said the government would be consulting with the people and the ABG to find a solution to review the 21-year automatic extension.

30.11.2011

Source: Australia Network News

Bougainville signs final peace agreement

Warring factions in the south of Papua New Guinea's autonomous Bougainville province have signed an historic peace agreement at a reconciliation ceremony in the village of Mogoroi.

The Konnou Constituency was the last part of the island to undertake reconciliation after the nation's last civil war in 1990.

The deal will allow government services to return to the area.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis says while they facilitated the agreement, it was the warring factions who initiated it.

"It's a very clear demonstration that all the factions will lay down arms to work to find true reconciliation and peace," Mr Momis said.

"It will take some time for us to work out just exactly what we need to do to engage them in a social economic program."

30.11.2011

Source: The National

Chan: Govt addressing mineral ownership

MINING Minister Byron Chan yesterday took a cautious approach to address the sensitive “mineral ownership” issue at the opening of a four-day mining and petroleum seminar in Port Moresby yesterday.

“The government is very mindful of the sensitivity and expectations surrounding the issue of mineral ownership,” Chan said

“The government is trying to address the issue through the development of an effective and tangible benefit distribution mechanism that will give greater participation to our people in the development and exploitation of our mineral resources within the constitutional directive to ensure equal and fair distribution to all citizens of PNG in accordance with the laws and policy priorities,” he said.

Speaking after Prime Minister Peter O’Neill’s opening address, Chan said the government was “well aware” that the real issue was accountability and transparency in the use and application of mine- derived benefits by provincial governments and landowners and the government’s inability to implement service delivery to affected areas as well as capacity issues among stakeholders.

He said in his short time as the mining minister, he had realised that the government’s state teams in their respective agencies had “always upheld the constitution” regardless of the challenges that faced them.

He said the constitution called for “wise use to be made of our natural resources” and “equal distribution of wealth to all our people”.

Consistent with the Constitution, the Mining Act 1992 declared exploration and mining to be public purposes for a reason that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society that has proper regard for the rights and dignity of mankind and that the discovery, appraisal, development and exploitation of minerals to be in the national interest.

“These are the guiding principles that require us to ensure the distribution of wealth is shared amongst our people, and not centred on one particular area to the exclusion of all others.”

30.11.2011

Source: The National

O’Neill: Mining, oil drive economy

PRIME Minister Peter O’Neill yesterday acknowledged that PNG’s mining and petroleum sector has been the most “aggressive driver of our nation’s good economic fortunes for almost a decade”.

Speaking at the opening of the four-day mining and petroleum conference in Port Moresby’s Gateway Hotel yesterday, he said his government took note of the sector’s contribution to “stabilising and growing our economy since the economic melt-down of the 1990s.

“Indeed the mining and petroleum sector continues to enjoy exciting new discoveries and developments. We support and share in the excitement.

“Our government expects that the strong performance in the sector will prevail over the next decade and beyond,” he said.

O’Neill said his government would not take a confrontational approach to have its way against resource developers and make specific mention of his support for all the LNG projects being developed including the US\$15 billion PNG LNG project.

Horizon Papua will soon start construction work on its gas stripping project in the Stanley gas fields near Ok Tedi mine.

Talisman Energy and its partners, including Kina Petroleum, were also on the verge going into production at the Ketu and Elevala gas fields.

InterOil Corp was making steady progress in the Elk/Antelope gas fields with O'Neill's support despite reservations from Minister William Duma and his departmental head Rendle Rimua and the state-owned Petromin Holdings Ltd.

At a press conference, O'Neill gave his undivided support for the InterOil Gulf LNG project even in its fragmented form of gas stripping that involved an LNG plant and a floating LNG, instead of a single large scale project as previously determined under an agreement signed between the State and InterOil in December 2009.

He indicated that the government would rescind previous NEC decisions and allow InterOil to proceed with its re-scoped and phased project.

O'Neill said the Gulf province was one of the least developed and neglected provinces in the country for a long time.

The province had produced some well-educated manpower for the country and it was only fair that the province should host the US\$6 billion project with the support of Gulf Governor Havila Kavo, he said.

30.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Foreign businesses welcome: Momis

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis said that Bougainville will allow foreigners to do business on Bougainville, on Bougainville's terms.

Mr Momis said that is why his government emphasises strongly on joint venture (JV) business and discourages stand alone businesses by foreigners.

"Since the crisis, Bougainville businesses were buying goods from wholesalers in Papua New Guinea and these companies have made a lot of money but they have never shared any equity to benefit the people," Mr Momis said. He said that is why the ABG encouraged the people of Bougainville to go into JV businesses and benefit from these activities.

30.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Drivers of the economy

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

PAPUA New Guinea's mining and petroleum sector has been the most aggressive driver of the nation's good economic fortunes for almost a decade.

In his opening address at the 2011 Mining and Petroleum seminar yesterday at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said the government acknowledges the sector's contribution to stabilising and growing the economy since the economic melt-down of the 1990s.

"With such a promising outlook and the expectation of huge inflows of revenue to the State's coffers in the next 10 to 15 years, from new mining ventures and from LNG projects, our government is moving decisively to establish the Sovereign Wealth Fund," Mr O'Neill said.

"The thinking behind the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) is to absorb these unprecedented revenue windfalls and thereby palming off inflationary pressures," he said.

"Of course we want to ensure the nation has savings to call upon for urgent development

needs including key infrastructure and meeting budget they arise in the future,” Mr O’Neill said.

“When we look back to the years when we had the Bougainville Mine, Misima Mine, Porgera and even Ok Tedi, we look at the mismanagement of the wealth that was created by these mines,” he said.

“The funds or the revenue that we had has been squandered to the effect that the benefit of that wealth is not shown in the communities and the services that Government provides throughout the country,” he stressed.

“We believe very strongly that if we do not protect the wealth that has been created by this industry by a structure like the Sovereign Wealth Fund, I think we will again squander the opportunity that these projects are presenting to the country,” Mr O’Neill said.

He said public consultations were underway to gauge views of the SWF and former Prime Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu has already been ear-marked to chair the fund.

“Legislation for establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund will be put through Parliament next week,” he said.

“I am very pleased to say that next week; parliament will sit down and introduce the legislation. I am expecting the support of all members of Parliament because this is crucial for the country. We cannot afford to play politics with it,” he said.

The Mining Seminar is held on November 29-30 and the Petroleum Seminar will be held on December 1-2.

The Mining seminar will also give participants the opportunity to learn more about new mines such as the Hidden valley and Ramu mines, and the world’s first deep sea mine, Solwara1.

The Petroleum seminar will provide updates to current activities in the petroleum sector such as the PNG LNG Project and other LNG developments.

‘Honour K5m vow’ By JOYCE TOHUI

CHARIMAN of the Board of Governors of Saint Mary’s Asitavi High School on Bougainville, Joe Pais is calling on the Papua New Guinea National Government to honour the commitment of K5 million made to the school by the former Acting Prime Minister, Sam Abal when he visited the School in May this year.

Mr Pais said that the K5 million pledge was made by Mr Abal after visiting the school and seeing firsthand the deteriorating state of the school buildings which include classrooms and dormitories. Mr Abal was accompanied by Bougainville Affairs Minister then and the regional member for Bougainville.

Mr Pais said that the school’s Board met last week and discussed the need to follow up this commitment because the change of government could change this commitment. The chairman also called on Bougainville MPs Fidelis Sermoso, Jimmy Miringtoro and Steven Kama to follow up this commitment.

30.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

5000 to Witness South Bougainville Reconciliation

ONE GOVERNMENT FOR BOUGAINVILLE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS says that Bougainville will not move forward

unless the people unite and work together under one government. He was speaking at the Konnou Ceasefire ceremony at Mogoroi village in Buin yesterday.

MR. MOMIS said that since he was elected as the ABG President he has been advocating unity in diversity by all Bougainvilleans.

MR. MOMIS was responding to calls by the Chairman of the Konnou Peace Committee, CHRIS MOTA who wanted the ABG and Mekamui to dissolve their differences and form just one government instead of confusion the people.

MR. MOTA in his welcome speech said that the situation in Konnou deteriorated because the people were divided into following two governments of ABG and the Mekamui controlled from Tonu in Siwai.

The ABG President also thanked the people of Konnou for working together and organizing the ceremony without assistance from the government.

More than Five thousand people braved the rain to witness the ceremony.



Crowd at the ceremony

Siwai group from Monoitu carried a live Pig to the ceremony with the group carrying it on a uprooted palm tree with its roots and leaves intact.



Siwai group presenting a pig

29.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Konnou Ceasefire

By Aloysius Laukai

The Konnou Ceasefire ceremony at Mogoroi village in Buin went well without problems and by the end of the day a lot of people who had doubts and mixed feelings on the ceremony went home satisfied that the peace could last.

The moving ceremony had all factions of the conflict stand in line and shook hands with the former enemies looking at their eyes and saying sorry to each other.

We will post more pics and stories on this historical event that could create peace and total normalcy for Bougainville.

Pictured below are Damian Koike, President John Momis and UNDP Boss on Bougainville Anthony Agenta



Damian Koike signs ceasefire agreement



Fighters shaking hands



procession of fighters



Khaur Group



Linus Konokung

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis in epic return to Panguna

By GORETHY KENNETH

BOUGAINVILLE'S president John Momis will now go back to Panguna 21 years after his abduction in 1990 by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

President Momis' visit to Panguna will be historical as he has never stepped on Panguna soil since his abduction by the late Francis Ona's commandos from Tinputz in the mid 1990s.

He was taken hostage to Guava and kept there in captivity before being released some months later. The story of Mr Momis becoming a Prisoner of War (PoW) in Guava village is such that a reconciliation is still pending.

He was kept a prisoner for almost six months in Panguna by the late Ona and his men. One of Bougainville's instrumental leaders (named) was handed a gun to kill Momis but he let him escape after several pleas by Mr Momis.

Mr Momis was a priest at that time and to date his "legs" have never set foot in Panguna (Read story in the Weekend Courier).

Mr Momis also, had never visited Panguna even when he was the Regional Member for Bougainville in the National Parliament. He is now going back there early next month to see his people and to further negotiations for the development of Bougainville, because that is where the heart of the Panguna Mine lies.

The Bougainville administration is now in preparation to facilitate his visit to Panguna tentatively before the JSB meeting in Buka.

The JSB will be held on December 5.

The people of central Bougainville specifically Panguna and Guava have invited Mr Momis to visit the place and address his people in that part of the world.

The Panguna management consultative committee meeting held recently in Buka was briefed of the planned visit by the president.

"This is a long overdue matter that must take place as soon as practically possible," the meeting was told.

"At this meeting an official invitation was extended to President Momis and he accepted and preparations will now begin by PMCC stakeholders in consultations with ABG Administration officials to make this event a reality."

On the same note, Bougainville Copper Limited chief executive Paul Coleman is now being invited officially by the PMCC and specifically the people of Panguna to visit the area where the giant mine pit lies idle. Mr Coleman's visit will happen after Momis' official trip. Mr Coleman already visited Panguna but that was on an invitation by those who were involved in the Panguna Scrap Metal operations, which BCL has been facilitating.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Two parts on BCA review

THE Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) review process will take on two phases as explained by the legal brains behind the planning.

Autonomous Bougainville Government legal chief executive officer and Tony Reagan, the Australian legal adviser in a recent meeting on the review of the BCA, explained that phase 1 would include preparation now until 2013 and this would involve the following:

- * Incorporation of individual Lease area associations and the umbrella landowner association;
 - * Conflict resolution work in central and south Bougainville;
 - * Conduct of baseline studies on Environmental, social, health and other baseline studies in the Mine Lease areas;
 - * Public Awareness throughout the region and development of appropriate capacity and negotiation position by each party including a joint position by the ABG and Panguna Landowners Association and;
 - * Reaching an agreed process for conduct of negotiations and conclusion of agreement.
- Phase two (2) will include Conduct of Review and negotiations which will also include:
- * Each party to be represented by a negotiating team, led by an appropriately authorized lead negotiator;
 - * ABG/PLA joint negotiating team;
 - * Each team to be supported by appropriate technical advice;
 - * Separate negotiation tables to deal with environment, social, and the financial aspects of negotiations.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis lauds PM O'Neill

BOUGAINVILLE president John Momis last week thanked PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill for his decision not to approve the renewal of the Special Mining Lease (SML) held by Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) in Panguna for the last 42 years.

He said that through the Peace Agreement and through the Constitutional arrangements and the Strategic Framework on the Drawdown of Mining Powers and Functions, the

PNG government would not exercise mining powers and functions on Bougainville. This he said meant that the National Government would not exercise powers in relation to any mining related issues including powers and functions that relate to the BCA and the re-negotiation of this agreement.

"While my Government has undertaken considerable work in consultation with landowners and the National Government in preparation of the BCA re-negotiation, I am happy to hear of reports that the Prime Minister has agreed not to renew the Special Mining Lease held by BCL, but to consult with the ABG on issues concerning mining matters on Bougainville," he said.

Mr Momis added that the ABG and the Panguna Management Consultative Committee had agreed to re-negotiate the Bougainville Copper Agreement (BCA) with BCL, the National Government and any other interested developer. "The ABG has established a steering group to undertake preparatory programmes in relation to the re-negotiation of the BCA," he said.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Technical trainers in ratings conference

By ALEX MUNME

TWENTY-eight vocational education training or TVET technical officers throughout the country attended a National Rating Conference held at the Kuri Village Resort Hotel last week in Buka, Autonomous region of Bougainville.

The week long annual conference normally held in November each year was attended by technical officers from PNGTA, PNGTSC, regional advisers and inspectors throughout the nation. Among them was Deputy Secretary for TES Damien Rapise, Assistant Secretary for TVET Jayasundara Banda and Teachers Savings Commission NGI Regional Adviser Anthony Tsora.

During the conference, 225 teacher's performance records from technical colleges, business colleges and vocational training colleges were evaluated, assessed and rated. The national rating was done in order to maintain the highest level of quality teachers in all technical, business and vocational schools in the country.

After the ratings, teachers either get promoted or otherwise undergo training to meet the required standard. The conference ended on Friday with a field trip to Tinputz to talk to the people on converting Tinputz Specialized Training Centre to Bougainville Technical College.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Peace assured for NEC meet

By ALEX MUNME

THE Teachers Service Commission Regional Adviser to NGI Anthony Tsora while appealing to the National Government not to move the coming NEC meeting scheduled for January next year from Arawa to Kavieng has assured that there will be peace during the meeting.

Mr Tsora said during his involvement with the people in the peace signings and the restoration of education in Bougainville particularly the people of Arawa and Panguna, he saw them as being genuine.

He also added that security would not be a problem as the people were already looking forward to the meeting.

He said the meeting would be a boost to the Education Department of Bougainville and the Bougainville Administration and the change in its venue would be a slap in the face for them.

He said K6million marked for the meeting was reasonable.

Meanwhile, he congratulated the new Education Board for taking office at the same time urged them to fully utilise the Autonomy of education in Bougainville.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Haku school rep shows ire over funds

By Fabian Gatana

VICE Chairman of Haku High School in Bougainville, Jan Tenevi expressed his disappointment on the amount of funding allocated for the school in the ABG's supplementary budget.

He said the amount of funding earmarked for the school was not what they had expected and said that this would force the school to not enrol a second batch of grade nine students next year.

He said currently the school was occupying a four-in-one classroom borrowed from a nearby primary school to cater for its first intake of grade nine students.

He said financially the school was struggling to operate and the amount allocated to the school in was just another slap in the face.

He said the school had been struggling since classes commenced in the beginning of the year without any government assistance.

He said a submission had been presented to the ABG earlier this year for funding to build new classrooms, an administration building and ablution blocks and when approved were promised that it would be included in the supplementary budget but the money allocated was not what they had hoped for. The school will be celebrating its first year in operation on Thursday with a little gathering for staff and students.

29.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Dealer urges honesty

A YOUNG copra producer from Tinputz, North Bougainville is appealing to all copra farmers and dealers to work together with honesty, truth and with real trust to ensure copra quality is maintained to avoid sudden drop in its current increasing price.

The youth who requested anonymity said the past selfish actions by some unthoughtful farmers who added foreign matter and water to increase weight must not be practised this time. He said North Bougainvilleans depended entirely on copra for their daily living after the cocoa pod borer destroyed cocoa in their area. He said those producing and buying copra should do so properly to maintain quality. He said farmers wanted to make money overnight by drying copra too quickly with temporary copra dryers made of leaves and twigs which was not right.

29.11.2011

Source: The National

State 'recovers' K100m

By ELIAS LARI

MORE than K100 million belonging to the state has been recovered by the operation Task Force Sweep and is now in the government account.

These funds have been misused by politicians, public servants, government department and companies operating in the country.

Minister for Trade Commerce and Industry Charles Abel revealed this last Friday in Mt Hagen at the launching of the Western Highlands cooperative society.

Abel said this was what the government was trying to do in order to get rid of corruption. He said the task force had done a very good job to recover public funds diverted into wrong use and was also punishing people involved.

"Thieves need to go to jail and whatever that belongs to state and the people must be recovered and returned to them," Abel said.

He said now that the money had been recovered many people would be arrested for the misuse of public funds.

He said the government was making sure that public funds were put into good use for the people to benefit from.

Abel did not reveal where the money was recovered from.

28.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Militant rehab a priority in south Bougainville says president

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says rehabilitation of former militants in the Konnou area is a priority.

John Momis says today's signing of the Konnou Agreement, at the village of Mogoroi, marks the first truce between warring factions in the Konnou constituency.

The region has been shut off from government services for years because of fighting and criminal activities, partly blamed on groups led by Damian Koike, who will sign the agreement in Mogoroi.

President Momis says the fighting has gone on for a long time and the young men involved have been traumatised.

"Number one: trauma counselling. They need to go through a process of being counselled, rehabilitating them, maybe putting them through some kind of training and giving them assistance to be engaged in gainful socio-economic activities."

President John Momis says the Bougainville government will be asking donors and the Papua New Guinea government for the necessary funding.

28.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KONNOU CEASEFIRE

By Aloysius Laukai

The people of Konnou are preparing for the long awaited Ceasefire scheduled for 9am tomorrow Tuesday November 29th, 2011.

This afternoon officials from the ABG including the ABG President Chief JOHN MOMIS and the Chief Administrator Lawrence Dising and ABG Ministers left Buka for Buin to witness the ceremony tomorrow.

The ceremony will be held at MOGOROI village which is the home of MR. DAMIAN KOIKE.

28.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville truce comes after frightening for local women - advocate

A male advocate for the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Bougainville says women in the area where a truce is to be signed have spent months living in fear.

The Konnou Agreement, to be signed tomorrow in the village of Mogoroi, marks the first truce between warring factions in the Konnou constituency of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province.

The signing will include Mogoroi based militant leader, Damian Koike, who has led a faction that's been accused of rampant criminality in the district.

Leitana Nehan's Francis Semoso says the violence has resulted in many women in the area fleeing their villages.

"When people were fighting, the factions, the soldiers actually went into other villages, in broad daylight they were actually shooting, sometimes they would kill people while people were watching. That was two or three months ago, four months ago."

Francis Semoso says he's heard that over the past few months the fighting also closed down some schools.

28.11.2011

Source: European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre

Earthquake on Bougainville

Magnitude M 4.7

Region BOUGAINVILLE REGION, P.N.G.

Date time 2011-11-28 01:24:53.0 UTC

Location 5.69 S ; 154.87 E

Depth 146 km

Distances 946 km NE Port Moresby (pop 283,733 ; local time 11:24:53.7 2011-11-28)

97 km NW Arawa (pop 40,266 ; local time 11:24:53.7 2011-11-28)

93 km NW Panguna (pop 2,916 ; local time 11:24:53.7 2011-11-28)

28.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG told to spend K100m

THE National Government has directed that the Bougainville Government to spend K100 million of the K500 million allocated for impact projects in the region on a major infrastructure development program.

Bougainville leaders spent last week in Port Moresby in followup meetings with Waigani

bureaucrats to discuss and come up with plans and recommendations for the National Government on how they will use the first K100 million.

The major issue at hand is the road infrastructure program. The allocation was going to come out of the National Government's 2012 Budget that was supposed to be handed down tomorrow (Tuesday). Last Friday, Parliament was adjourned to December 6, now posing a question of whether this money is going to be appropriated this year.

ABG and National Government leaders also met to discuss further the agenda for the Joint Supervisory Body meeting that is going to be held in Buka on December 5.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is expected to lead the National Government team while ABG President John Momis will lead his ABG team and wait in Buka for the the talks.

This is the most powerful body that makes decisions and recommendations on the way forward for Bougainville taking into account the Bougainville Peace Agreement and its Constitution.

Issues at hand to discuss on JSB would be the referendum, the drawdown of powers, weapons disposal, Panguna Mine and other matters of concern by both Governments.

28.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville Konnou agreement to be signed in ritual ceremony

The President of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says he expects tomorrow's signing of the Konnou Agreement to follow ceremonial ritual.

John Momis says the signing, at the village of Mogoroi, marks the first truce between warring factions in the Konnou constituency.

The region has been shut off from government services for years because of fighting and criminal activities attributed to groups led by Damian Koike, who comes from Mogoroi.

President Momis says the area is the last part of south Bougainville to undertake reconciliation after the war on the island.

"They're following a traditional ritualist ceremony. I haven't seen any written, legal documents but I presume they will be following traditional, processes of reaching a truce, restorative justice phase and actual reconciliation."

President John Momis says he hopes his presence at the ceremony will signal the government's commitment to peace in the area

28.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville gun-free

NORTH and Central Bougainville are almost gun-free, a senior official says.

But the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs director Ellison ToWallom last week said South Bougainville posed a risk for cross-border security breach by citizens between the Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

He said since the Bougainville crisis in 1989, this had been a growing concern for authorities.

28.11.2011

Source: The National

Youths say it with pictures

YOUNG men and women at Tinputz in North Bougainville have discovered that using photography is an effective way of informing their leaders about issues which place the sexual and mental health of youths at risk.

After undergoing six months of training on basic photography, 24 youths with the assistance of CARE International Bougainville programmes, staged a one-day mini exhibition last Wednesday to showcase their acquired skill.

The photos on display captured various activities that their peers are involved in including homebrew, drug trafficking and pornography on mobile phones.

Chief of Suako village Owen Kasi said he was impressed with what the youths had learnt.

28.11.2011

Source: The National

Somare family 'honey pot' dismantled

THE Independent Public Business Corporation (IPBC) and its state-owned enterprises were seen as the Somare family "honey pot" with family members and cronies appointed to its various boards, parliament was told last week.

Public Enterprises Minister Sir Mekere Morauta said in a report tabled in parliament that IPBC became a super ministry that overlooked all processes.

"Deals were done with no commercial sense and have proven to be of little or no benefit to the public."

He said the IPBC had "completely lost focus" of all other SOEs as they were more concentrated on the LNG project.

Sir Mekere said under his leadership, the ministry was going through the process of sorting out the mess as many irregularities were identified during the leadership of Arthur Somare.

"Reports on all SOEs indicated poor performances," he said.

27.11.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

Second guessing the Mining Act

By Phil Fitzpatrick

EARLIER IN THE YEAR, Mines Minister Byron Chan peremptorily announced that the government planned to hand state-owned mineral rights back to traditional landowners.

Amid the uproar, prime minister Peter O'Neill managed to reassure the miners that this was not the case and apologised for the sudden dents in their shareholder's wallets.

It was the first of several cases of government ministers jumping the gun. Hopefully, after the last instance involving the Supreme Court, the message has got through and O'Neill's stress levels have returned to normal.

There is no doubt that the Mining Act will either be rewritten or amended. The current one goes back to 1992 and is not really up to dealing with the massive resource development and all the associated problems that are going on in Papua New Guinea at the moment.

If the Act is amended or re-written there are a number of key elements that need to be addressed.

Social mapping and landowner identification studies, just like those required under the Oil and Gas Act, need to be introduced. Under the latter Act preliminary studies are conducted before a company is allowed entry onto an exploration tenement and in detail if the project proceeds to the production stage.

These studies provide the company with an appreciation of the people in the area of a tenement and allow landowners to have an input into the exploration and development process. At the moment the inconsistency between the two Acts simply serves to confuse people.

Despite the earlier announcement it is very unlikely that landowners will get ownership of the minerals under their land. It is unfortunate that their expectations were unnecessarily raised but in reality the complications, legalities and inequities inherent in such a system are too great to be practical.

This doesn't mean that there should not be provision for landholders to have greater equity in mining projects over and above any proportional royalties they might normally receive.

The way to do this would be to legislate so that they can negotiate deals over equity directly with the mining companies. It would also be good if the provinces, and even local level government, could get a cut of that action too.

The money would still have to be controlled through a trust arrangement but it would be a great way to get kinas out to the people.

Something should also be done to improve the process of dispute resolution between companies and landowners. At the moment the companies are being accused of bully boy tactics and the landowners of making spurious claims.

Claims by fake landholders are also ruining what should really be a mutually beneficial two-way street. A logical way of doing this might be to broaden the role of the Mining Warden.

The take-up of land for the purposes of mining is done on a leasehold basis from the state. The conditions for the return of rehabilitated land to the traditional landowners once a mining project runs its course should also be clarified in the Act.

Peter O'Neill has embarked on a campaign to tackle political and bureaucratic corruption. It would be useful if the Act reflected this in some way; possibly legislating so that people in public office, including their immediate families, involved in dealing with mining projects are not allowed to derive any financial benefit from insider knowledge or through bribery would be good.

This should be extended for some time beyond the life of both the project and/or the person's tenure in their position.

Offshore mining, of the sort envisaged by Nautilus and other companies needs to be incorporated in the Act. Issues like the disposal of tailings will need to be addressed, either in the Mining Act or through a related Act.

The logical way to do this would be to extend the way in which Environment Impact Studies are conducted prior to the development stage.

There probably also needs to be some re-jigging and streamlining of the way royalty payments are calculated and paid. At the moment payments are made following a series of regular production reports submitted by the companies. Quite often these are disputed.

A simpler method must be possible. Perhaps the companies could make royalty payments based on their own internal book keeping. Inspection and appeal provisions would keep everyone honest and it would take a big load off the government.

Finally, the maximum equity available to the state in a mining development needs to be fixed. At the moment it is more or less negotiable and, as has been clearly

demonstrated, the government is short of skilled negotiators. A rate in the 25 – 35% range would seem appropriate.

When and if any of this might happen is anyone's guess but it is an urgent issue and sometime before or immediately after the next election would be ideal.

The next cab off the rank could be the 1992 Forestry Act.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

TEAM TO VISIT BOUGAINVILLE

By T.TOVI

A medical team comprising of Pathology lab experts will be visiting Buka General Hospital in early February 2013.

The team will be visiting BGH to carry out awareness and training on pathology lab exercises and top of the range pathology equipment.

BGH is looking to purchase new equipment for its pathology lab as the current lab is not functioning to its full capacity.

A source from the Hospital revealed that the dates of their arrival were not set yet and that the program is to be a joint partnership with Canadian AID donors.

New Dawn FM understands that under the current management Buka General Hospital has had a lot of help from international donors.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

HAHELA SITS EXAMS

By T.TOVI

120 grade eight students yesterday sat for their higher school certificate exams at Hahela primary School.

The three classes of grade eights from Hahela Primary were joined by two classes of Kamarau International Grade eight students.

Head invigilator Ms Maseia Salenin from Malasang Primary says that the students on Monday started off with their English paper.

She added that out of the New OBE system this lot of grade eights was the second batch to graduate under the new OBE system.

She says the exams will end on Friday with the students to sit for their combine subjects exams.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

YOUTHS CHALLENGED TO CHANGE

By T.TOVI

A participant of the Photo Voice Project which was launched in Tinputz yesterday has challenged fellow youths to speak out.

Peer Educator Ronald Micah from Poho Village Assembly says that he was happy to be part of the project as he saw that it helped the youths in sharing their problems.

He explained that as youths they felt that village elders and community leaders were ignoring the problems that were facing the youths.
He says that the photo voice project really showed many of the issues and challenges faced by many youths in the Tinputz areas.
He also encouraged the youths of Bougainville to speak out in any way possible in whatever problems or issues they were facing to their leaders.
He says Bougainville youths are the leaders of tomorrow and have to be brought up well in order for them to lead Bougainville well.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

PHOTOVOICE EXHIBITION LAUNCHED

By T.TOVI

Youths from the Tinputz area were privileged yesterday in launching a photo voice mini exhibition.
The aim of the project was to show what problems that were affecting youths and also to help village elders make better decisions for them.
Communication officer for CARE International and Facilitator, Maureen Santana says that the 6 week program really showed the youths to express themselves.
The 26 participants who took part in the training were taught communication skills through the use of the camera and the photos which they had taken.
Maureen told New Dawn FM that this was the first of its kind in Bougainville and says that more similar programs have been planned.
The mini exhibition will be showcased in the major upcoming exhibition which will be held in Buka later this month.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

BUKA GH SHORT ON DRUGS

By T.TOVI

The Buka General Hospital will be closing its outpatient due to the shortage of drugs in the Hospital.
Director for Medical Services Dr Banabas Matanu says the closer was due to the lack of drugs in the hospitals dispensary.
Dr Matanu says the shortage was because the normal supply which the hospital receives from Rabaul has cut down after one of the drug warehouses in Rabaul was burnt down.
Staffs have been ordered to give nonresidential patients the first dosage and the rest will have to be purchased from city pharmacy.
The closure will be for an indefinite period until the medical drug supply is restored to normalcy for Buka General Hospital.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Farewell.

IT will be a teary farewell for more than 200 trainee teachers, when they say goodbye to

education stakeholders at the Buka wharf in Bougainville tomorrow.

The 280 second year trainees from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Kabaleo) Teachers College are headed for Rabaul, East New Britain on MV Kokopo Queen after spending five weeks on practical training at 28 primary schools throughout Buka Island.

Kabaleo Teachers College Head of Professional Development Strand Baiyu Olewale said the trainees and their twelve lecturers will take with them fond memories of their time spent with the people of Bougainville.

"We are very thankful of the first class hospitality we were given by parents, teachers and the communities we lived with. Unlike New Ireland and East New Britain where our students had to fend for themselves, in Buka, our students were taken in by families and looked after with no cost to us at all," said Olewale.

He added that the students had only high praises for the parents who took the trainees in and catered for their meals and accommodation and also ensured the trainee's safety.

Olewale said the care and support received in Buka had led to close to 20 of the trainee teachers lodging their request to work in Bougainville next year, much to the delight of the Bougainville education appointment officer.

He said also that teaching practice had successfully achieved the program's aim to practice integrated teaching and child centered learning, to explore, observe, learn and share experiences and trial knowledge of teaching and learning and to uphold and practice Christian faith.

Olewale added that these second year trainees will achieve another milestone when they graduate with Diploma in teaching certificates this week.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Bougainville nurses not paid

NURSES at the Catholic run Pearouki Health Centre in Tinputz, North Bougainville have been without pay for the last five fortnights, said senior officer Tabitha Vavitos.

Vavitos said the inconsistency in providing salary wages for the sixteen nurses including community health workers has been ongoing since early this year and the situation had gone worse with no salaries in the last five fortnights.

"We are family mothers with children in school. We need our money to pay for our needs. We don't know where the hold up is but we appeal to Catholic Health Services to sort this issue out," said Vavitos.

She said the concerned nurses wrote a letter to Bougainville Catholic Health Services seeking assistance.

"We sent a letter to Catholic Health Secretary and Churches Medical Council (CMC) informing them of our situation, the CMC responded that salary grants for catholic health centres is coming every month but we not getting our fortnights," said Vavitos.

New Dawn Fm was unsuccessful in obtaining a response from the Catholic Health Secretary.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Chiefs call for road support

COMMUNITY elders of Namatua village at Tinputz, North Bougainville have called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) for assistance in completing road works initiated by member for North Bougainville Lautu Atoi.

Village leader Haymond Kite appealed to ABG minister for works and transport Carolus Ketsimur last Friday to assist with funding support for the 11km of road that links Namatua village one and two and Ture-Sure village to Tinputz district. He said the road had been graded and widened by South Bougainville Engineering but further work on the road ceased last week.

In a desperate bid to seek Ketsimur's attention, Kite had to walk the 11 km to Tinputz district administration to meet the minister who was attending a mini photovoice exhibition hosted by Care International PNG.

"I wanted the minister to see for himself how important the road is to the more than 3000 people in the area. I am glad that the minister has committed to include Namatua road as one of the feeder road projects for next year," said Kite.

Ketsimur said ABG would embark on maintenance of prioritised feeder roads throughout the autonomous region next year.

"We will be upgrading the feeder roads prioritised according to their economic value of allowing access to resources that would boost our internal revenue. For Namatua road, we will be looking at working in partnership with Atoi," said Ketsimur.

27.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn in Bougainville

Bougainville youths reach out in pictures

YOUNG men and women at Tinputz in North Bougainville have discovered that using photography is an effective way of informing their leaders on issues that place the sexual and mental health of youths at risk.

After undergoing six months of training on basic photography, 24 youths with the assistance of CARE International Bougainville programs, staged a one-day mini exhibition last Wednesday to showcase their acquired skill.

The photos on display, captured various activities that their peers are involved in including homebrew, drug trafficking and download of pornography on mobile phones. Chief of Suako village Owen Kasi said he was impressed with what the youths had learnt.

"Please forgive us, many of us leaders are at times ignorant or turn a blind eye to these issues that affect our young. Many times, we leaders place ourselves too high that we isolate ourselves from your issues.

"Continue to show us through your photos, the issues you face so we leaders can address them on our level," he said.

Participant photographers Hubert Boemapet and Ronald Micah of Pohov village said they now have the confidence to reveal in pictures the hidden activities their peers get involved in.

"We need our leaders to see what we youths get involved in when the leaders don't improve basic services to our areas like doing good roads and supplying us medicine," said Boemapet.

Micah added that because of bad road conditions, most of the young men at Tinputz are into cultivating and trafficking marijuana.

"Because our roads are bad, it is too much of hard work to carry copra bags from our village to town and store goods from there back home, so we turn to selling marijuana because it is light to carry and on a good sales day, we can get up to two thousand kina," said Micah.

25.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Referendum on agenda

REFERENDUM for Bougainville is now high on agenda for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

And, according to the director for the National Co-ordination office of Bougainville Affairs, Ellison ToWallom, the implementation of autonomy is currently in progress.

In practical terms, a key aspect of implementing the autonomous arrangements is the drawdown of powers and functions from Waigani to Buka.

Already, five symbolic powers have been transferred. These are community development, sports, liquor licensing, public holidays and time zones.

Mr ToWallom said they are now implementing the transfer of powers and functions by various departments to divisions within the Bougainville administration.

"The methodology of transfer is arranged through joint signed MoUs during past Joint Supervisory Body meetings," he said.

He said the following national government agencies have signed their MoUs with the ABG:

- * Mining and Geohazards Management
- * Internal Revenue Commission;
- * Education;
- * Teaching Service Commission;
- * National Forest Authority;
- * Commerce and Industry;
- * Community Development;
- * Health; and
- * Lands and Physical Planning.

"We anticipate signing the following MoUs on December 5 at the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting in Buka. They include:

- * Police;
- * Works; and
- * National Fisheries Authority;

"We also anticipate that the JSB will endorse an over-arching policy framework within which the transfer process will be implemented.

"The implementation of the Autonomous arrangements on Bougainville is indeed a challenging one from both the National Government, the ABG and our donor partners.

"Because while we grapple with the implementation challenges of the three pillars contained in the Bougainville Peace Agreement, we also need to encourage investment that will enhance the economic sustainability of autonomy itself," he said.

25.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville faces audit team

Auditors are back in Buka to interview authorities over major deficiencies pertaining to millions of kina in public monies that have not been acquitted accordingly.

But while this is happening, those expected to be lined up for the auditing have fled Bougainville for Port Moresby or other destinations to avoid standing before the auditors. The auditors from the Auditor-General's office visited Buka last month to follow up on a letter they sent to the Bougainville Administration asking for an explanation on the use of millions of kina which have not been acquitted.

According to the auditors the final audit report for the Autonomous Bougainville Government accounts for the fiscal year ending December 31 2008 and 2009 are not looking good especially for the North Bougainville Treasury funds and the North Bougainville District Support Improvement Program (DSIP) funds.

"We are here to perform our duties and out final audit inspection carried out in respect of the accounts and records of the Bougainville Autonomous Government for the fiscal year ended 31st December 2008 and 2009 as required under Section 13 (5) of the Organic Law on Provincial governments and Local level Governments, read in conjunction with Section 16 of the Audit Act, 1998, (as amended) and Section 71 of the Public Finances (Management) Act, 1995 (as amended) has now been completed," the auditors said in the report.

"Our major observations on the deficiencies noted together with perceived consequences and relevant recommendations for rectification."

They told the Post-Courier the final audit report will have to be made public by the Auditor-General once presented on the floor of Parliament.

The Post Courier has been privy to the preliminary report which states that records for millions of kina belonging to the people of Bougainville have not been properly acquitted and could have been misused.

The auditor's report details that one major problem with the deficiencies is because of the heavy involvement of third party companies.

25.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville mining lease expires

By JONATHAN TANNOS

THE Bougainville Mining Lease cannot be reviewed, despite its expiration yesterday, because of an automatic 21-year extension clause under the Bougainville Agreement. Such is the case facing the once prolific world copper producer but the Government will be working with all affected stakeholders, including landowners to find ways to reverse the process.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill explained to Parliament yesterday that both the Bougainville Mining Agreement and the Mining Lease Agreement did not allow the Government to cancel it.

He said even amendments to the Autonomous Government of Bougainville Act could change the 21-years automatic recurring lease extension period.

He was answering questions from National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop, who raised questions over the matter, adding considering the hardships both Bougainville and the country went through why there could not be a cancellation to mining lease.

He also asked if a moratorium on exploration was in place for any regions of Bougainville.

Mr O'Neill said the Government was working closely with all stakeholders including landowners, eventhough they had indicated they were not interested in the renewal of the mining lease. He said on the question of the current mining lease agreement provisions, it would be useful to work together to review the 21-year automatic extension clause and find legal means to remove it.

25.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Peace assured for NEC meet in Arawa

By ALEX MUNME

THE Teachers Service Commission Regional Adviser to NGI Anthony Tsora while appealing to the National Government not to move the coming National Executive Council meeting scheduled for January next year from Arawa to Kavieng, has assured

that there will be peace during the meeting.

Mr Tsora said that during his involvement with the people in the peace signings and the restoration of education in Bougainville, particularly the people of Arawa and Panguna, had been seen as real genuine people.

He said security would not be a problem as the people were already looking forward to the meeting.

Mr Tsora said the meeting would be a boost to the Education Department of Bougainville and the Bougainville Administration and the change in its venue would be a slap in the face for them.

He said the K6 million marked for the meeting was reasonable.

25.11.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill to attend Bougainville meet

By SAMUEL RAITANO

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill is expected to attend the joint supervisory body (JSB) meeting in Buka next month.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government expects to sign a memorandum of understanding with the national government to transfer the powers of the police, works and National Fishery Authority.

It is expected that the supervisory body will endorse an over-arching policy framework within which the transfer process will be implemented.

A joint technical team comprising officials from the national government and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville met on Wednesday and yesterday to finalise documentation and endorse agenda items for the meeting.

The National Coordination office of Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) said the meeting was set for Dec 5.

The joint technical meetings will be conducted by the NCOBA director and chief administrator, while the JSB will be co-chaired by the deputy Prime Minister and the ABG President.

In the transfer of powers and functions, the Bougainville Peace Agreement had stipulated that Bougainville must have financial and human resources in order to undertake the task of implementing the transferred functions under the autonomous arrangements.

However, NCOBA director Ellison ToWalom said with the rate of progress, the achievement could not be realised as yet given that the referendum was to be legally held between 2015 and 2020.

"It is with this challenge that the national government must transfer public service powers and the functions with the responsibility of funding and manpower support to the ABG while it (ABG) will provide the policy and legal direction under the proposed arrangement."

25.11.2011

Source: The National

Churches in ABG miss out

BUDGET allocation for churches in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be considered a priority once the Bougainville House of Representatives passes a bill to set aside money for the churches, Autonomous Bougainville Government Vice-President Patrick Nisira says.

He said this in response to observations made by ABG women's representative for

North, Elizabeth Burain on churches in Bougainville not being allocated money in the K24 million ABG supplementary budget passed last Friday.

"We do so much physically but spiritually if we do same, we will be better off.

"In our future budgets, we need to ensure 10% of the budget is given to churches," Burain said.

Taking into account Burain's advice, Nisira said that there was only a policy on the matter but no bill had been passed by the Bougainville House of Representatives requiring the ABG to set aside money for churches.

25.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville education board sworn in

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

EDUCATION services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are expected to improve following the swearing in of the Bougainville Education Board on Tuesday. Thirteen members from a wide section of the Bougainville community, including churches and the national government, have been tasked with aligning Bougainville's education system with the Autonomous Bougainville Government's vision for autonomy.

ABG Vice-President Patrick Nisira said the board must be aggressive in seeking to deliver ABG's aspiration of quality education for the people of the region.

"Having the vision of autonomy in mind, I challenge you, when do you intend to establish Bougainville's first university, technical colleges and other key institutions like teachers and nursing colleges. Autonomy without key education institutions cannot work," Nisira said.

He said the Bougainville Education Board must anticipate changes and steer the region's education sector in the right direction.

He said Bougainville's education sector was one of the worst functioning sectors in the region.

"I would like to see a radical change from the position we are in to a more vibrant education system," Nisira said.

He said he was honoured to be the first Bougainville vice-president to swear in a board after the Bougainville executive council endorsed the appointment of the board members.

"This is a historic occasion as for the first time BEC has appointed a board using the draw-down of some powers and functions of education from the national government to ABG," he said.

24.11.2011

Source: ESBC

New Somare scandal to come up?

The Somare family is greedy. This is well known in Papua New Guinea: During his heart surgery in Singapore in spring and summer 2011, Sir Michael's family "entourage" spent more than the double of the hospital expenses for their own pleasure: approximately 2,7 million Klna! ([see report on September 5th, 2011](#)) It was not reported if Sir Michael's son Michael jr. who was a [suspect in an attempt murder case](#) also enjoyed a nice holiday in the Asian boom town.

Today new allegations were made on this arrogant family: The PNG press reported on a dubious involvement in transactions committed by former Public Enterprise Minister Arthur Somare, a son of former Prime Minister "Grand Chief" Sir Michael Somare. Earlier Somare junior who was supposed to inherit his father's job. Actually he faces legal investigations for misconduct in office. What did Sir Michael know about his son's secret businesses? Was he perhaps even his mentor? Sir Michael Somare himself who still cannot accept his democratic removal from office in August 2011 has often been under suspicion to be also involved in doubtful activities as there is the famous California court case falsely accusing mining giant Rio Tinto for violation of human rights during the so called Bougainville crises.

If all this should be confirmed H.M. the Queen Elizabeth II should think about depriving Sir Michael of his knighthood.



Did Sir Michael's son Arthur Somare embezzle 96 million Kina?

This rather strange story was published in today's PNG newspaper **The National** - please read here what the daily newspaper reported:

24.11.2011

Source: The National

Missing K96m found in NSW bank

ALMOST K100 million owned by a state-owned enterprise has been siphoned off to a bank account in the Australian state of New South Wales and a police investigation is underway to recover the money.

Former public enterprises minister Arthur Somare and former Motor Vehicle Insurance Ltd (MVIL) manager director Dr John Mua are implicated.

The money – about K96 million – was the proceeds of the sale of 530,105,100 shares in Bank South Pacific which were owned by MVIL.

Public Enterprises Minister Sir Mekere Morauta announced details yesterday, saying he had ordered the recovery of the money.

“The sale, to an Australian company called Nominees Niugini Ltd, is now the subject of a police investigation.”

He said MVIL sold the shares when under the control of his predecessor Arthur Somare

and the former Independent Public Business Corporation (IPBC) management. According to Sir Mekere, proper processes had not been followed, and the sale was in breach of Section 45B of the IPBC Act and Section 110 of the Companies Act. The sale was not approved by the IPBC board, as required, and there was no shareholders' resolution approving the sale, as required, he added. The new IPBC board has instructed MVIL to rescind the sale contract, called an equity monetisation contract agreement while starting legal proceedings against MVIL and Nominees Niugini.

"The money is being held in an account owned by a company called Woodlawn Capital, at the Commonwealth Bank in Lismore, New South Wales," Sir Mekere said while calling on Mua to help recover the money.

"Dr Mua would save the nation a lot of money by assisting us in the recovery of the K96 million and its return to IPBC.

"For the nation to recover the money through court proceedings would be expensive and time-consuming. I would like Dr Mua to help us avoid this."

Sir Mekere said this when announcing NEC's endorsement of changes to the MVIL board, adding that no Public Enterprise chairman would be an executive chairman.

24.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Plans set to review BCA

By GORETHY KENNETH

PLANS are now underway to establish a National Government's Coordination Group to oversee the Bougainville Copper Agreement review process.

The Bougainville Copper Agreement review was as old as 1967 when it was initiated and no other reviews were made since then except for "slight negotiations" along the way. The BCA Review, if undertaken now will be a completely "new deal" as stated by the parties that would be involved in the negotiations.

The Coordination Group will be made up of the following representatives:

- * Two representatives from the ABG
- * Two representatives from the National Government
- * Two representatives from the Panguna Landowners Association and
- * One representative from the Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL)

This is from a brief from the Deputy Chief administrator for Bougainville Raymond Masono in his presentation to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Steering Committee together with the Panguna Management Consultative Committee in Buka last week.

The Group is expected, when set up to also cover the BCA Act which was also discussed including the legality of it (ACT) -the Panguna Landowners claimed it was now irrelevant and wanted a completely new deal.

The other issue discussed which the Group would take charge of was BCL's request to the National Government to extend/renew the Special Mine Lease (SML) licence.

But the Panguna Management consultative Committee is now aware the National Government had allocated K2 million to oversee the BCA Review and other Panguna mine re-opening allocations and mine related matters.

This fund will cater for the landowner's establishment, regional awareness, ABG/PLOA – BCA Secretariat and the PMCC works program (budget). There are already five of the six mine leases registered by the mining division and they include Special Mine Lease (SML), Lower Tailing Lease (LTL), Upper Tailing Lease (UTL), Port Mine Access Road Lease (PMARL) and Uruawa/Rorovana Lease (URL and the Siokate Lease (Arawa Customary Land). All these issues should be the agendas for the National Coordination Group if setup by the Government. This is the start of the Bougainville Copper Agreement Review.

24.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa meeting to cost K6m

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE bill for the planned National Executive Council Meeting in Arawa next January will cost taxpayers a whopping K6 million.

Coupled with security concerns, the Government is now considering moving the meeting away from Bougainville to Kavieng in New Ireland Province.

The proposed move has angered the Bougainville politicians, the autonomous government and their people.

Autonomous Bougainville Government President John Momis briefed the Panguna Management Consultative Committee (PMCC) meeting of the changes.

PMCC is made up of ABG leaders from the Mining division, Law and Justice, ABG Administration, ABG ministers, expatriate advisors and the Panguna Landowners.

The PMCC was told the major hurdle for the Cabinet meeting to be held in Arawa was financial constraints and security reasons.

During the meeting, there were some discussions on why the move was made as people in Arawa and Panguna had already made preparations to welcome the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Cabinet Ministers. The people of Central Bougainville raised their disappointments in the cancellation of the NEC meeting in Arawa as already preparations were underway to host the meeting.

President Momis assured he would travel to Port Moresby and meet with Mr O'Neill on the matters raised by the people of Central Bougainville. This week the National Co-ordinating Office of Bougainville Affairs (NACOPA) advised that the Joint Supervisory Body meeting, the avenue for the National Government and the ABG to discuss issues pertaining to Bougainville, was re-scheduled for December 5 in Buka. Mr O'Neill is expected to lead his National Government team to Buka for the meeting.

24.11.2011

Source: The National

Chamber: Bid on mineral rights ownership will split country

A PROPOSAL to turn ownership of mineral rights over to landowners in Papua New Guinea would split national unity and devastate the country's economically vital mining sector, the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum warned last week.

Supporters of the move led by former prime minister Julius Chan believe it would better distribute royalties from the billions of dollars reaped each year from mining and oil directly to local communities instead of relying on the central government.

But chamber executive director Greg Anderson said this would lead to chaos and could deter foreign investment in the nation's single-largest revenue earner.

The proposal was first tabled by North Fly MP Boka Kondra whose electorate covers the giant Ok Tedi mine and the proposed legislation was now dubbed as the Kondra Bill.

Supporting the move was current governor of New Ireland Sir Julius Chan whose electorate hosts two mines – Lihir gold and Simberi.

Sir Julius's son Byron became the minister under the new government and one of the first positions he took was to publicly announce a shift in favour of the Kondra Bill for landowners to own the mining and petroleum resources under the ground and the sea.

It was likely to become a key issue ahead of national election next June, which was often described as an island of gold, floating in a sea of oil surrounded by gas.

“The proposal is getting a high profile because we’re coming up to the election,” Anderson said.

The country had long been a supplier of petroleum products, copper and gold and investor confidence in exploiting more reserves had been growing.

Exxon Mobil was developing a US\$15 billion liquefied natural gas project and a consortium led by Metallurgical Corporation of China was digging a nickel mine.

Anderson said direct ownership of minerals rights could fracture the country’s national identity and promote individualism and personal greed.

A prominent lawyer Peter Donigi, who recently formed a political party in favour of resource landowners, was in Kiunga last week with Kondra where hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the mooted passage of the bill in Parliament.

The National newspaper believed that was not likely to happen with Prime Minister Peter O’Neill’s commitment recently at an investors’ luncheon in Brisbane “not to shift the goal posts”.

24.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arawa Power



PNG power workmen busy on power lines

23.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Churches not in budget

BUDGET allocation for churches in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be considered a priority once the Bougainville House of Representatives passes a bill on setting aside money for the church, says ABG vice president Patrick Nisira.

He said this in response to observations made by ABG women representative for North Elizabeth Burain on churches in Bougainville not allocated money in the K24 million ABG supplementary budget passed last Friday.

"We do so much physically but spiritually if we do same, we will be better off. In our future budgets, we need to ensure ten percent of the budget is given to churches," said Burain.

Taking into account Burain's advice, Nisira explained that presently there is only a policy on the matter but no bill has been passed by the Bougainville House of Representatives to require ABG to set aside money for churches.

23.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CARE hosts mini exhibition

LOCAL communities at Tinputz in North Bougainville will participate in Photovoice mini exhibition hosted by Care International in PNG Bougainville programs today.

The one-day exhibition launched at Tinputz is a result of CARE International's work in its Komuniti Tingim AIDS program with young men and women in four communities in Tinputz using the Photovoice project.

Photovoice is an advocacy tool used to raise awareness about issues with leaders using Photography.

Themed 'Piksa I Kamapim Toktok', the mini exhibition is expected to build a conducive environment for open dialogue and awareness raising by young men and women on issues placing their sexual reproductive health at risk.

23.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville swears in board

EDUCATION services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is expected to improve following the swearing in of the Bougainville Education Board (BEB) today.

Thirteen members from a wide section of the Bougainville community including churches and the national government have been tasked with aligning Bougainville's education system with the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) vision for autonomy.

ABG vice president Patrick Nisira urged that the board must be aggressive in seeking to deliver ABG's aspiration of quality education services for the people of Bougainville.

"Having the vision of autonomy in mind, I challenge you, when do you intend to establish Bougainville's first university, technical colleges and other key institutions like teachers and nursing colleges. Autonomy without key education institutions, cannot work," said Nisira.

He added that the BEB must anticipate changes and steer the region's education sector in the right way, citing that Bougainville's education sector was one of the worst functioning sector in the region.

"I would like to see a radical change from the studded position we are in to a more

vibrant education system,” urged Nisira.

Nisira added that he was honoured to be the first Bougainville vice president to swear in a board after the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) endorsed the appointment of the BEB members.

“This is a historic occasion as for the first time BEC has appointed a board using the draw down of some powers and functions of Education from the national government to ABG. On behalf of president John Momis, I am proud to have conducted a ceremony usually done in Waigani,” said Nisira.

ABG minister for Education John Tabinaman in congratulating the BEB said the members have a lot to do especially with the draw down of full powers and functions of education from the national government.

23.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Landowners raise concern over 10% withholding tax

By FRANK RAI

LANDOWNERS from mining project areas in PNG want appropriate authorities including Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) to review the 10 per cent withholding tax imposed on royalty payments.

Hidden Valley gold mine landowner spokesman Ben Joseph raised the concern yesterday saying he had approached several authorities within the last four years but nothing had eventuated.

Mr Joseph said MRA should tell the landowners as to why they have been taxed 10 per cent withholding tax from their royalty payments.

“I understand that the new government is embarking on reviewing the mining act and that should also include the tax laws surrounding the issue of the 10 per cent withholding tax,” he said.

Mr Joseph further questioned the system or process in the law that will allow resource owners to recover costs incurred within the period.

“Landowners who have not completed a tax return form or have obtained a certificate of compliance from Internal Revenue Commission will now have to do it. The MRA and Internal Revenue Commission must give relevant advice to these people on the recovery process,” the landowner said.

Mr Joseph also blamed the government departments for failing to properly inform the landowners on the significance of paying such taxes.

He said that this was the scenario at Hidden Valley mine where the landowners have been taxed 10 per cent withholding tax on their royalty payments.

Mr Joseph called on all mining resource owners to throw their support behind New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan and raised concerns on the governments over sighting the 10 per cent withholding tax issue.

23.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Controversial mining tax passes Australian lower house

It took hours of debate, and a last minute deal between the Government and the Greens, but the proposed minerals resource rent tax finally passed the House of Representatives in the early hours of this morning.

The Government spent much of the evening working out a deal to make up millions of dollars in revenue lost through its earlier agreement with the Independent M-P Andrew Wilkie to raise the threshold for the tax.

The Greens say they're happy with the Government's promised new revenue measures, but they're not saying what they are.

Presenter: Naomi Woodley

Speaker: Adam Bandt, Australian Greens MP; Wayne Swan, Australian Treasurer; Harry Jenkins, Parliamentary Speaker; Anthony Albanese, Government Leader of the House

Listen here !

23.11.2011

Source: The National

World Bank: PNG Economy seen to increase by 10%

THE World Bank says PNG's economic growth is expected to increase by almost 10%, but Central Bank Governor Loi Bakani told a recent meeting in the US that it was likely to hit a lower end of the double-digit mark.

While the growth may look good, that comes with risks like high inflation, it said.

With PNG "well off track" with the millennium development goals, there was likelihood of increase crime, adding extra cost-burdens on businesses.

The continued uncertainty on the global economic scene could reverse price of commodities and resource projects planned for development in the near future could be delayed. (See story in Nation news pages).

"Papua New Guinea's economy strengthened further over the first-half of this year, buoyed by a sequence of positive external developments adding to the momentum in the domestic economy.

"Expectations for GDP growth this year have been raised to near 10%.

"This will be the eighth consecutive year of expansion, the longest period of economic growth in PNG's history as an independent nation," the report said.

Titled Navigating Turbulance, Sustaining Growth, the report said PNG's new government's presentation focused on improving the quality of governance and use of public resources, raising the government's effectiveness at providing public services and ensuring all Papua New Guineans benefit from the country's current resources boom.

It said the new government's headline policy announcement was tuition-free education through to year 10, starting next year.

The government has also affirmed its commitment to maintaining macro-fiscal stability, through the introduction of an Organic Law (constitutional amendment) establishing a sovereign wealth fund to manage the government's growing natural resource revenues.

Three factors underlined the strength of PNG's economy:

- Foreign-investment funded construction projects;
- Record prices for PNG's exports, and strong government; and
- Spending financed by higher-than-expected revenues.

The current foreign direct investment-funded construction projects were approaching their peak of activity, although others are in the pipeline.

These investment projects were adding to the country's supply capacity, in sectors ranging from accommodation, through IT and transport and telecommunications to catering.

Meanwhile, up to the third quarter of this year, prices of PNG's cash crop exports like coffee, copra and palm oil returned to or exceeded the highs of mid-2008.

"Exceptional global gold and copper prices lifted the value of PNG's minerals exports, with the strength in prices enough to make up for ongoing delays or production problems at various mines," it said.

The sectors of the economy most directly impacted by these factors – particularly construction, road, air and sea transport, storage and communications – were expected to expand by as much as 20% this year.

"This strength is spilling into other sectors in the economy (for instance, retail trade), thus creating a broader dynamic.

"Even agriculture and fishery production are expected to grow by more than 4% this year as producers respond to higher cash crop prices.

"It is also raising demand for workers, with growth in employment in the formal sector accelerating to over 7% in the year to second half of this year," the WB said, quoting Bank of PNG's Business Liaison Survey.

"The strength in export values and turnover in the economy has raised government revenues.

"Government revenues are anticipated to exceed the budgeted amount by around 6.5%, which would imply an increase of about 20% over the estimated actuals for last year.

"Most of the unexpected strength, in fact, reflects the conservative assumptions for minerals prices in the 2011 budget, which have been exceeded," it said.

The report said the new government had used its additional revenues to fund its supplementary budget for this year.

"The largest new spending item was funding for the tuition-free education commitment.

"More resources were also allocated to road reconstruction and health," the report said.

23.11.2011

Source: The National

Japanese visit Bougainville to check on TV equipment

by KESSIE TADAP

TAKING ownership of donor-funded projects is important because it will ease their sustainability for the benefit of the community in the long-run, a teacher says.

This was demonstrated by a local primary school on the island of Buka, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, last week when it was visited by officials of the Embassy of Japan and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

They wanted to see the progress and the impact of a satellite dish and television monitors given to the school.

The equipment was donated under the grant assistance for grassroots human security project and supported by the Embassy of Japan.

Head teacher Talaria Joseph Nathaniel said from the initial equipment donated by JICA and through fundraising efforts from showing live programmes such as the State of Origin rugby league games, the school was able to generate income.

The school used the money to buy seven more television screens.

It has benefitted the students who can learn through televised lessons filmed at the Wardstrip Demonstration Primary School in Port Moresby and telecast nationwide.

The lessons taught through the televised lessons include mathematics and science.

Bougainville was one of the pilot provinces with East Sepik and would be used as model centres when the project was taken to other provinces, JICA representative Yoshikazu Taniguchi said.

Schools visited by the team from JICA and the embassy were Hahela Primary School and Wakunai Primary School, which is struggling to raise money to buy more monitors for the school.

22.11.2011

Source: Reuters

Falling inventories show strong global copper demand

HAMBURG, Nov 22 (Reuters) - Global copper demand remains firm despite fears of an economic slowdown and key consumer China is likely to raise imports again in November, Aurubis, Europe's biggest copper producer, said on Tuesday.

"The general view that demand is suffering due to economic concerns does not seem to fit with the inventory trend in the metal exchange warehouses," Aurubis said in a report. "Copper production does not meet the requirements."

London Metal Exchange inventories <#LME-STOCKS> have decreased continuously by a total of around 70,000 tonnes since the end of the European summer in mid-September 2011 and are now just below 400,000 tonnes, Aurubis said.

"The additional quantities registered for delivery add up to about 27,000 tonnes," it said. "The reduction will therefore continue. There are only about 74,000 tonnes in the SHFE (Shanghai Futures Exchange) warehouses. Copper stocks are thus disappearing all over the place."

Chinese copper and copper product imports rose sharply in October despite fears of a slowdown, Aurubis said.

"A higher (Chinese import) number is also expected for November, as the lower copper prices which started in early September will start having an effect," it said. "In addition to the price factor, possible production shortages at Chinese smelters play a role as well."

"They are currently struggling with low treatment and refining charges for concentrates and have announced that they would prefer to lower production than to accept lower TC/RCs."

Treatment and refining charges (TC/RCs) are the fees paid by mines and traders to smelters to refine copper concentrate into metal.

Spot TC/RCs are currently falling because strikes in mines in South America and Indonesia have lowered volumes of concentrates on international markets, increasing competition among smelters to gain sufficient supplies.

"With this combination of factors: good demand in core markets, low stocks and insufficient production, it is not surprising that a possible market shortage is anticipated for 2012," Aurubis said. (Reporting by Michael Hogan)

22.11.2011

Source: ARD Boerse

Aurubis freut sich über Energiewende

Einen Schub durch die Energiewende erwartet Europas größter Kupferproduzent. Der wachsende Bedarf an Windturbinen und Stromleitungen werde die Kupfernachfrage beflügeln, verkündete der Aurubis-Finanzchef auf dem Eigenkapitalforum.

Mit zahlreichen bunten Grafiken und Statistiken versuchte Finanzvorstand Erwin Faust die zahlreichen versammelten Investoren im Frankfurter Congress Centrum zu begeistern. Die Nachfrage nach Kupfer werde kontinuierlich steigen – von 19,3 Millionen Tonnen 2010 auf 22,9 Millionen Tonnen 2015. Neue Technologien würden die Nachfrage weiter anschieben. Faust nannte als Beispiele die unterirdischen Seekabeln, dezentrale Energieanlagen, Windturbinen, Smart Grids und Elektroautos.

Kupferangebot nimmt zu

Faust zeigte sich zuversichtlich, dass auch das Kupferangebot weltweit steige. „Die Kapazitäten werden stärker ausgebaut als in den letzten Jahren“, erklärte er auf dem Eigenkapitalforum.

Wie sich der Kupferpreis weiter entwickle, wollte der Finanzchef nicht sagen angesichts der Unsicherheit in der Weltkonjunktur. Mittelfristig werde der Kupferpreis aber hoch bleiben, glaubt er. Derzeit notiert er bei rund 7.500 Dollar pro Tonne.

Von einer Abschwächung der Weltkonjunktur sei derzeit nichts zu spüren. „Es gibt keine negativen Signale“, sagte Faust gegenüber boerse.ARD.de.

Gerüstet für drohende Blackouts

Die Energiewende sieht Faust mit einem lachenden und weinenden Auge. Einerseits treibt sie die Nachfrage nach Kupfer. Andererseits erhöht sie das Risiko von Stromausfällen und Blackouts. Auf einen möglichen Blackout sei der Konzern aber inzwischen vorbereitet, erklärte Faust in Frankfurt. Das Energieproblem habe sich abgeschwächt. In der Vergangenheit hatte Aurubis (einst Norddeutsche Affinerie) mehrfach die Energiepolitik der Bundesregierung kritisiert.

Angesichts der starken Nachfrage nach Kupfer und Kupferprodukten rechnet Faust mit guten Zahlen für das Ende September abgelaufene Geschäftsjahr 2010/11. „Wir werden klar über dem angepeilten Ziel von 260 Millionen Euro beim operativen Ergebnis liegen“, versprach er. Nach neun Monaten hatte Aurubis bereits 240 Millionen Euro an Ebit erzielt.

22.11.2011

Source: Reuters

Copper pushes higher as fundamentals offer support

By Chris Kelly and Silvia Antonioli

NEW YORK/LONDON, Nov 22 (Reuters) - Copper rose for the first time in four days on Tuesday, buoyed by signs of stronger buying interest, particularly from Asia, following the metal's steady unwind from its late October rally.

Copper pushed higher as investors returned their focus to the red metal's robust fundamentals, which have recently been overlooked amid the worrisome debt problems in Europe and the United States, and the negative implications any slowdown in the West could have on raw material demand prospects.

But the upward move lacked conviction as caution prevailed in front of the overnight release of China's HSBC Flash Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index for November, which should dictate copper's direction on Wednesday

Copper's gains bucked another down day in global equities, which fell after data showed the third-quarter U.S. economy grew more slowly than expected.

"It's been a rough few days, so this is a bit of a bounce," said Bart Melek, head commodity strategist with TD Bank Financial Group.

But he warned the European debt issues will continue to dominate market sentiment.

"We've got Italian and Spanish bond yields advancing again today, so the problems there continue. Any negative headline is

going to beat this (market) up again," he said.

Helping metals, the euro rallied against the dollar after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) beefed up its lending instruments and introduced a new six-month liquidity line, throwing help to countries at risk from the euro zone crisis.

London Metal Exchange (LME) three-month copper ended up \$20 at \$7,330 tonne. It fell as low as \$7,252 on Monday, its weakest in almost a month.

"Yesterday it got a bit overdone with all the doom and gloom. There's a disconnect between solid fundamentals, whether they're falling stocks, production shortfalls or pockets of demand and ... what is happening on the financial markets," said analyst Robin Bhar of Credit Agricole.

In New York, the key December COMEX copper contract rose 3.00 cents to settle at \$3.3330 per lb, after moving between \$3.2935 and \$3.3735.

Futures volumes, at a little more than 51,000 lots, ran about 13 percent below the 30-day norm, according to preliminary Thomson Reuters data, and should continue to be thin ahead of the U.S. Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday.

Still, the market's main focus will remain on Europe, and now the United States. Focus on the latter increased after U.S. lawmakers abandoned their high-profile effort to rein in the country's ballooning debt on Monday -- a sign that Washington likely will not be able to resolve a dispute over taxes and spending until 2013.

"Ultimately, the market is absolutely petrified of another downgrade of the U.S.," Melek said.

But demand for copper products globally remains firm, despite fears of an economic slowdown and key consumer China is likely to raise imports again in November, Aurubis, Europe's biggest copper producer, said on Tuesday.

"The general view that demand is suffering due to economic concerns does not seem to fit with the inventory trend in the metal exchange warehouses," Aurubis said in a report. "Copper production does not meet the requirements."

China's imports of refined copper rose 7.2 percent in October on the month to hit an 18-month high, fueled by steady demand.

LME copper stockpiles have been in a steady downtrend, with outflows of the metal totaling around 70,000 tonnes since the end of the European summer in mid-September 2011, and are now just below 400,000 tonnes.

Reinforcing the supply-side tightness, the International Copper Study Group (ICSG) said the world refined copper market was in deficit of 161,000 tonnes in the first eight months of the year, compared with a deficit of 339,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

An additional underpinning for copper has been an ongoing strike at a large mine in Indonesia owned by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc, which has reduced supply availability.

22.11.2011

Source: The National

Buka Hospital short of staff

By KESSIE TADAP

RECRUITING health workers for the Buka General Hospital is an immediate problem, its top administrator says.

"This is apart from the pressing need to increase the sleeping capacity for patients in the hospital wards," hospital chief executive officer Dr Ceril Imako said.

He was hosting representatives from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Embassy of Japan who were checking on equipment they donated and projects they funded at the hospital.

Imako said the hospital needed to increase its accommodation capacity for staff and patients but this could not be done because of space limitations at the current site and funding. He said the hospital was built 30 years ago with an 84-bed capacity. But, Imako said, with the increase in population, the hospital was being forced to accommodate up to 130 patients, resulting in overcrowded wards.

He said it had created another problem – staff were forced to live in villages resulting in punctuality issues.

Imako said the hospital employed 10 doctors and 160 nursing personnel but needed to recruit more to cater for the growing number of patients.

Hospital director medical services Dr Barnabas Matano said the hospital would like to roll-out more blood transfusion programmes to other areas apart from those carried out on Buka Island.

But with only one blood bank machine, "this cannot be done", he said.

Matano said installing another blood storage facility at Arawa would really help as that meant spanning a larger area to get greater blood supply for the hospital.

He said it would have to wait until the Arawa area had a proper supply.

22.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville passes K24m budget

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Bougainville House of Representatives successfully passed its supplementary budget of K24 million last Friday.

The budget, comprising K15 million of Bougainville's restoration and development grant and K9 million from other sources, is geared towards investment and the consolidation of peace and development of the autonomous region.

But Autonomous Bougainville Government Finance Minister Albert Punghau has advised that with only a month remaining before the end of this year, not all projects that received funding would be implemented and completed on time.

He said a significant portion of the budgetary allocations had been towards meeting contractual obligations of the ABG.

"This means that resources have to be made available to complete development project that have remained incomplete in the past three years because funds were re-directed to other priority areas," Punghau said.

Punghau summarised the expenditure of the 2011 supplementary budget as follows:

Headquarters operations for region wide projects (K6,058,000);

North Bougainville (K3,501,800);

Central Bougainville (K2,719,300);

South Bougainville (K2,720,900);

Buka Ring Road sealing (K5 million);

Panguna Mine negotiations (K2 million);

ABG Establishment Grant (K1 million); and
Panguna peace process (K1 million).

Punghau said other strategic expenditure items in the budget included:

Constituency support Grant (K1,025,000);
Bougainville People's Congress entitlements (K860,000);
Bougainville Export Import Corporations (BEIC) shares purchase (K500,000);
Panguna mine negotiations (K2,500,000);
Support to Parliamentary Services and Bougainville Executive Council (K500,000);
Completion of President's Office (K701,000); and
Konnou Peace Process (K100,000);

This is the first supplementary budget to be approved by the Momis-Nisira government since their election to office in June last year.

22.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou peace deal set for December

By Fabian Gatana

THE signing of the ceasefire agreement in Konnou, South Bougainville has been proposed to be held before Christmas.

ABG Vice President and Chairman of the Konnou Task Force committee Patrick Nisira made this known when commending the efforts of the task force committee and a peace mission team for restoring peace in Konnou in the Wisai area.

He also praised President Chief John Momis and his cabinet for making the decision to push for peace in Konnou.

He said that under the direction of the Task Force committee, a peace committee was sent to establish dialogue between warring parties which he said had created venues to negotiate peace.

"For the past six to eight years of the conflict in Konnou, there have been killings which have caused insecurity to women and children and have displaced a handful of families from their homes.

"Today you hear people talking about peace, reconciliation and not war," said Mr Nisira.

22.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Guesthouses under survey

A GUESTHOUSE survey analysis has been conducted in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The analysis looks at different components of interests that are importance to guesthouses and hotels as well as the Bougainville Tourism Industry Association. Regions were evaluated on seven critical areas like communication, infrastructure, awareness, water sanitation, training, electricity, law and order. These are very important areas that affect the development of the industry in Bougainville.

It also looks at the number of employees for each guesthouses, their contact addresses, facilities, as well as assessed and identified the training needs and the year of establishment. The recommendations for these issues show that despite the potential the

region has, the current limited level of development and relatively low visitor numbers are a reflection of the significant constraints which the sector faces.

The appendix gives information in details in the form of table for training needs analysis.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Members unhappy

MEMBERS of the Bougainville House of Representatives are not happy with their constitutional grant of of K1,025,000 from the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) supplementary budget that was passed last Friday.

Before approving the appropriation of the K24 million supplementary budget for this year, some members of the House said they were unhappy with the small amount of grant they were allocated.

Member for Tsitalato Cosmas Sohia urged that ABG give more money to the region's 41 constituency members so they could deliver more projects in their constituencies.

"You help us so that our constituents will know we are also delivering. This is the kind of lack of support you provided and many of our former members never made it back in the last election. It is because of us, that you are sitting in your seats," warned Sohia.

ABG members expressed disappointment at what they felt was lack of consideration in appropriating their constitutional grant of which each member would receive K25,000.

But ABG finance minister Albert Punghau assured the members that they would get more assistance as soon as the Internal Revenue Commission returns Bougainville's internal revenue of K1.2 million that is "locked up" in Port Moresby.

He said there was no time set on when IRC would release the money but when it did, the members would receive additional grant.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

House passes K24 million budget

BOUGAINVILLE House of Representatives successfully passed its supplementary budget of K24 million last Friday.

The budget comprising K15 million of Bougainville's restoration and development grant and K9 million from other sources is geared towards investment and the consolidation of peace and development of the autonomous region.

But Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) finance minister Albert Punghau has advised that with only a month remaining to the end of this year, not all projects that received funding would be implemented and completed on time.

He added that a significant portion of the budgetary allocations have been towards meeting contractual obligations of the ABG.

Punghau said this meant that resources have to be made available to complete development project that have remained incomplete in the past three years because funds were re-directed to other priority areas.

He summarized the expenditure of the 2011 supplementary budget as follows:

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- South Bougainville (K2,720,900)

- Buka Ring Road Sealing (K5 million)
- Panguna Mine Negotiations (K2 million)
- ABG Establishment Grant (K1 million)
- Panguna Peace Process (K1 million)

Punghau added that other strategic expenditure items in the budget include:

- Constituency Support Grant (K1,025,000)
- Bougainville People's Congress Entitlements (K860,000)
- Bougainville Export Import Corporations (BEIC) shares purchase (K500,000)
- Panguna Mine Negotiations (K2,500,000)
- Support to Parliamentary Services and Bougainville Executive Council (K500,000)
- Completion of President's Office (K701,000)
- Konnou Peace Process (K100,000)

This is the first supplementary budget to be approved by the Momis/Nisira government since their election to office in June last year.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville Election bill passed

BOUGAINVILLE Electoral Commission can now facilitate any elections of organizations under the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) after the Bougainville Election Amendement bill was passed by the region's House of Representatives last Friday.

The bill, which received an absolute majority of votes from the members, was to allow an amendment to the existing law which governs the Bougainville Electoral Commission on its conduct of elections in Bougainville.

Bougainville president John Momis, when presenting the bill, said the law as it is, does not allow Bougainville electoral commission to conduct elections apart from the ABG elections in Bougainville.

"This is a very important bill. Bougainville Electoral Commission must have the authority to conduct election of the Council of Elders and other elections for organizations under ABG," said Momis.

ABG member for Hagogohe Robert Sawa said in support of the bill that it was the right direction members were taking in voting for the bill.

"Bougainville Electoral Commission must be given the authority to ensure that all laws are abided to in an election on Bougainville," said Sawa.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SEMOSO GIVES TO REC

By T.TOVI

Regional Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso has given a cheque of K5000 to the Bougainville United Church Regional Executive Meeting.

He pledged his continual support to the United Church and thanked them for the work they were doing on Bougainville.

He says there are a lot of places and communities in which the United Church has had grate impact on in terms of their pastoral work and awareness.

Mr Semoso also challenged the United Church to reach out into the other parts of the region especially in the outer lying areas such as Catrets and the Fit Islands.

The REC meeting was hailed a success by the host circuit, Buka Interim Circuit at the closing dinner on Friday.

Chairman of the organizing committee, Dr Mathias Tovilu thanked the organizing team for their efforts and said that the one week meet had gone smoothly without and hiccups. The next REC will be held in Arawa in 2014

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DWU STUDENTS COMPLETE AWARENESS

By T.TOVI

A 12 member team comprising of Bougainville students studying at Divine Word University completed their awareness program at Bishop Wade Secondary.

The program which started on at Hutjena Secondary was part of their planned awareness in advocating for the importance of education.

The team told mainly grade 11 and 9 students about the importance of obtaining a high level of education.

John Taima a second year Business Studies student challenged students to be more responsible in their education.

He also told students that the region at its current state was in need for human resource mainly Bougainvillians.

The team also gave them a brief description of the different courses available at DWU and their entry requirements.

Fellow students from South and Central Bougainville are carrying out similar awareness programs and will be expected to be completed by the end of next week.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GRADE EIGHTS SIT FOR EXAMS

By T.TOVI

More than 800 grade eights around Bougainville today set for their exams which started of this morning.

The one week exam which was canceled from its original date to the 21st of November commenced today with students sitting for their English paper.

With the introduction of the Outcome Based Educational system this will be the third lot of grade 8 students who will be graduating under the system.

CEO for the Division Of Education, Mr Bruno Babato in an interview told New Dawn FM that the new OBE system which had faced problems in its initial implementation stages is now functioning well.

He says the problem with it was that the current teachers had not had training on the new system which during 2011 academic year the problem was solved with many of them receiving training.

Mr Babato says many of the grade 8 students this year have performed well with the new system and expects it to improve in the coming year.

The one week exam will end on Friday where students will sit for their maths paper.

21.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Grade 8's Sit for Final Exam

By Aloysius Laukai in Arawa.

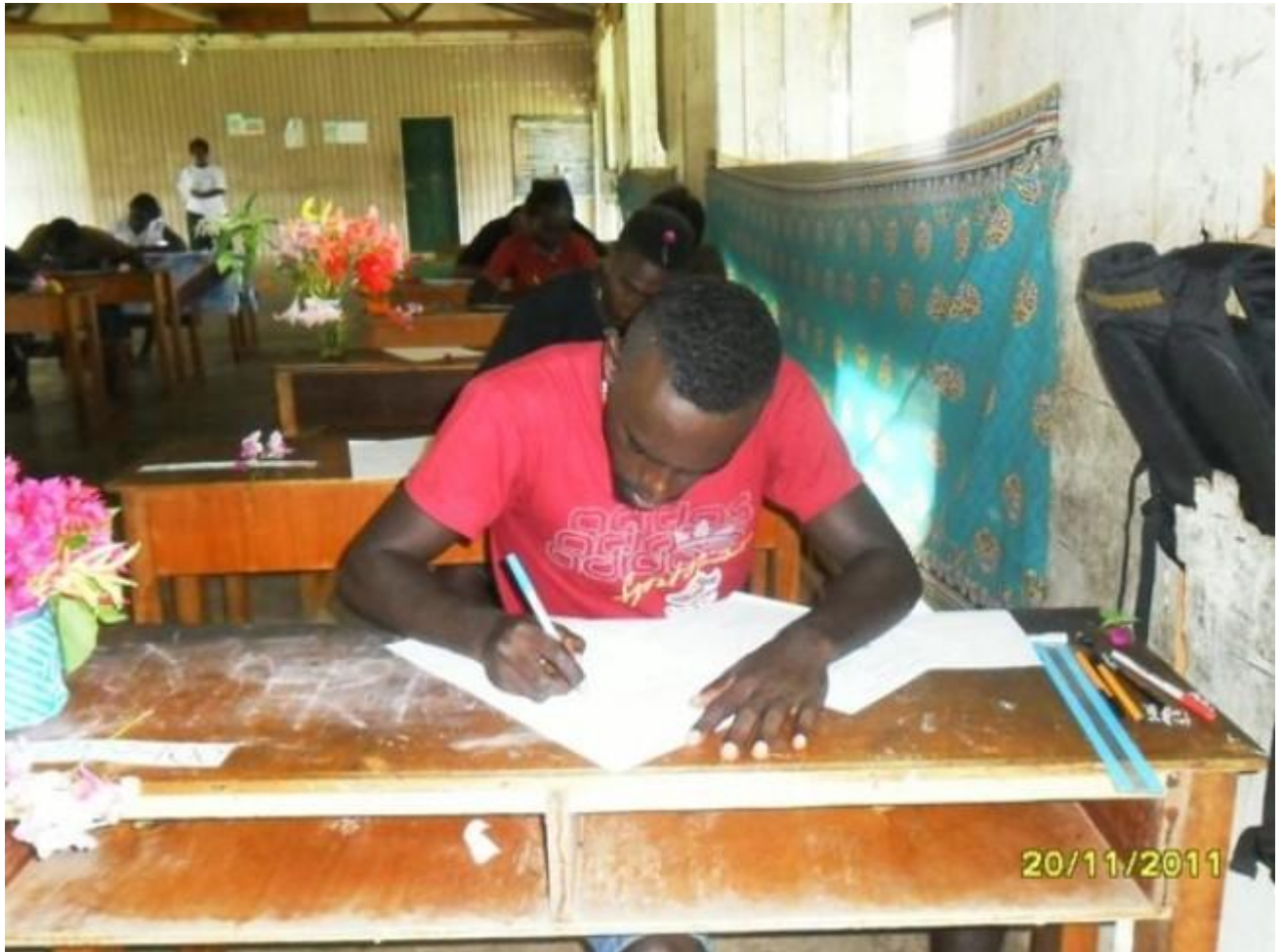
Grade Eight students throughout PNG are sitting for their final exams starting this morning.

Today they are sitting for English 1 and tomorrow English 2 Social Science and Math on Thursday.

Aloysius Laukai took this picture at Tupukas Primary School in Arawa where 29 students are sitting this morning at their school hall.







21.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka retailers prefer ENB

WHOLESALE in Buka are complaining that business is dropping in Buka town because retailers are still going direct to East New Britain to order goods instead of getting them locally.

And some shops are facing a shut down because of the drop in business. One of the owners of a wholesale in Buka (named), who advised for security reasons could not disclose his name, said that he was now making arrangements to have his wholesale into a retail shop because of the fact that retail shops in Buka were not purchasing goods direct from them.

"They will only come to us if they need something that they don't have on their counters," he said.

On the other hand, a Guesthouse Survey Analysis that was conducted in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to provide summary of the issues that affect the development of this industry.

Some guest houses had complained of drop in business while others highlighted the tough times they were going through.

The survey looked at different components of interests that were important to guest houses and hotels as well as the Bougainville Tourism Industry Association.

The seven critical areas looked at were communication, infrastructure, awareness, water sanitation, training, electricity, law and order.

“These are very important areas that affect the development of the industry in Bougainville,” the report of the survey detailed. It highlights constraints as well.

21.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Price hikes affect people

PRICES of goods in Bougainville are being charged at 100 per cent mark up, especially in town and 110 per cent in rural villages.

This is the calculation from ordinary members of the public who feel these are too high. They say the general population of Bougainville is feeling the pinch of the varying price hikes occurring almost every month.

Furthermore, the Autonomous Bougainville Government has now been called upon to seriously look into setting up a price controller so that prices of goods can be controlled. Buka Island and its surrounding urban and rural population are the hardest hit because prices of goods and services have risen and vary from shop to shop.

The general population of Arawa and Buin are not too affected because Bougainville businessmen and women have already ventured out of PNG, to neighbouring Solomon Islands and Fiji, bringing in their locally made products to sell at a cheaper price in the region.

The ABG has been challenged to bring in Independent Consumer Competition Commission (ICCC), the regulatory body in charge of price control, so that the people of Bougainville are given a better choice than they currently have.

Because of price hike, many small operating tucker shops or trade stores are facing a shutdown in Buka, Kokopau, Wakunai, Tinputz, Panguna, Siwai and Buin.

“Price of goods have skyrocketed and many small tradestores in town are now facing tough times,” Peter Niaka told the Post-Courier.

Mr Niaka works for a small local company in Buka after transferring from East New Britain. He says prices of goods in Buka are double those of shops in Kokopo and Rabaul.

“Where is the price controller? The ABG should seriously step in to help the ordinary citizens of especially Buka town,” he said.

21.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Haku Day High needs help

MORE than 107 students from one of Bougainville’s newly established high schools in far north Buka Island faces a bleak 2012 school year if authorities do not fund the building of new classrooms and facilities.

Haku Day High School had its first intake this year. It was a result of the Haku people’s sheer hard work.

The school, financially crippled and struggling to operate, had “borrowed” a four-in-one classroom from the nearby Tanamalo Primary School this year to educate the pioneer grade nine intakes.

Already, the closure of the 2011 academic year for the school is nearing and still there is no sign of a new building being put up to cater for these grade nines when they elevate to grade 10 next year. There is also a threat to the new intakes, the second lot to come in 2012 – who may not have classrooms to continue their education.

The school board, its teachers and students are now facing a bleak future if education authorities and most importantly, the Autonomous Bougainville Government does not

come to the aid of the school.

Its demise will greatly affect the parents of Haku, the biggest Constituency that make up the population of Bougainville.

On October 14, the school held a bazaar, which was only attended by the school students, parents and the teachers who raised less than K5000 as part of the school's fundraising drive to build a classroom for the school.

There was no ABG representative or National MP present to show support to the school. According to the pioneering four teachers, led by Sr Elizabeth Rokope, the school has not been run to standard because of financial difficulties and has operated on a snail's pace from school fees paid by parents.

School authorities have told the Post- Courier that there was already a threat of the school shutting down because of no classrooms and facilities for the new intakes next year.

They said they wanted to build bush material houses to accommodate the second intakes next year and the current grade nine's now using a primary school building.

This week is the budget week for the ABG when they sit in Parliament for the K15 million Supplementary Budget. Teachers are saying that all this school needs is about K2 million to build classrooms and teachers offices and ablution blocks to start off with.

"Our students are very eager to learn more. These problems are not teachers' but those in power and in authority to make decisions. The school, located at Tanamalo is now a step closer for the people of Haku who have faith that this institution will create a better future for their children and most importantly these children will be the future leaders of this nation, Bougainville," one of the teachers said.

21.11.2011

Source: The National

K80m bridges set for March opening

by KESSIE TADAP

WORTH more than K80 million, the Japanese aid-funded Bougainville coastal trunk road project of 15 bridges will be completed by March next year.

Work on the project started last year and, according to project consultants Chodai Consortium Ltd, they were on schedule.



The company said seven of the bridges had been completed and would be handed over to the Bougainville government by Dec 14.

The bridges are at south Bakanovi, Bove, Tuve, Barurui, Ratavi, Kasiava, Iraka, Koreva Kaskurus, Rotaovei, Warakapis, Irung and Rawa.

The bridges vary between 20m and 75m long.

All bridges were built using a span steel girder superstructure, while on most the steel pipe pile foundation was used as opposed to the spread foundation.

The construction of the bridges included proper drainage, stone support and sealing part of the roads where they joined the bridges on each end.

Japan International Cooperation Agency spokesman Yoshikazu Taniguchi said agreements would also be made for the maintenance and upgrade of the roads and bridges.

20.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arawa Trip



Travelling between Arawa and Buka can sometimes be risky as this picture shows.

The car that New Dawn FM team were travelling to Arawa in yesterday had its tyre come off near the Cow paddock normally known as the Swamps near Arawa.

Lucky the driver did not panick. New Dawn FM will be broadcasting locally from Arawa soon.

The management managed to secure few houses for the Arawa staff.

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

20.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

System upgrade

By Aloysius Laukai

Bougainville listeners would be able to listen to New Dawn Fm on 95.3MHZ starting next Sunday.

Parts for the damaged equipment arrived last weel but is awaiting a technician from TE PNG to install the system.

New Dawn FM also wishes to announce to its listeners and viewers that attempts by NBC to broadcast on our frequency was also stopped because we protested TO NICTA because 95.5 was very close to our 95.3.

We are already looking for a house to set up our office in Arawa then later next year in Buin.

18.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG lacks economic independence: PM

By TODAGIA KELOLA

PAPUA New Guinea's challenge now is to be economically independent, says Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

Speaking in Rabaul yesterday during the launching of the Mataure Rabaul Microfinance Limited (MRML), Mr O'Neill said the country has had political independence, among other things, but he questioned if that had changed the lives of the ordinary people, adding that only a few people had benefitted.

He said the 2012 National Election was far more important than previous elections as it should ensure that PNG had economic independence so that by 2014, the country would have enormous wealth.

".....but if we continue to elect irresponsible governments or if we continue to elect corrupt governments, we will miss that opportunity," he said.

Mr O'Neill said that PNG must learn from previous projects in the country which included world class mines such as the Panguna mine in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the current Ok Tedi and Lihir mines.

"The revenues that we have got from these mines have been mismanaged as such that we don't even have any money now," he said.

He said that was why the Government was trying to make sure the little resources that it got money from to make up the budget was distributed evenly around the country.

Mr O'Neill said PNG must learn from the mismanagement of revenues from resource projects over the years and the Government believed strongly that they must make sure that they put a law around the management of these funds.

The Prime Minister said the Government would be setting up a fund management law in the next session of Parliament.

He said it was important that PNG had to have a law to manage funds and reports could

be made every three months.

Mr O'Neill told those who gathered at the launch yesterday that he had nominated former PM and Kokopo MP Sir Rabbie Namaliu to head the fund.

18.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville students to conduct awareness

BOUGAINVILLE students of the Divine Word University will conduct social and political awareness for the people in Bougainville.

Bougainville House of Representatives speaker Andrew Miriki said funding from the Bougainville Youth Foundation was made available after the students presented a proposal on their intentions to conduct awareness.

"Local business houses, schools and individuals had also assisted with funds that would go towards the students' transport, meals and accommodation needed during the exercise," Miriki said.

He said issues they would focus on included law and order, autonomy arrangement, HIV/AIDS and briefings on courses studied at DWU.

Miriki said the awareness exercise began this week with students from South Bougainville carrying out awareness at Buin secondary, Tonu and Bana high schools.

"Likewise, the teams of North and Central Bougainville will conduct their awareness as per their schedules. Their target population is high school and secondary school students," Miriki said.

17.11.2011

Source: ESBC

ESBC press release 2011118

Autonomous Bougainville President Claims for „New Deal“:

Panguna must be opened!

On November 10th, 2011 all major local stakeholders in the abandoned Panguna Mine met in Buka for a meeting of the Panguna Management Consultative Committee. This has been further important step towards re-opening the giant Panguna mine.

Unfortunately not all Bougainvilleans do understand the island's situation in general yet: The debts of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and its government (ABG) are already exceeding 1 billion Kina now. This means round about a K5,000 debt per each Bougainvillean head – babies and grandmas included! Such a huge amount of money can only be paid back from giant income. Only professional mining operated by a big company can earn this – copra, cocoa or tourism alone cannot afford this. That's for sure.

Brief: Bougainville's financial situation is absolutely desperate and even gets worse every day! Bougainville's President John Momis knows this very well: "It is for this very reason that as leaders we all must forge ahead together and deal with tough issues and make tough decisions. Panguna mine must be opened!"

Bougainvilleans should be very happy that Rio Tinto and Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) are still interested in resuming mining on the island. Running one of the biggest copper mines in the world is absolutely not a job for people without any skills. In so far all Bougainvilleans – ABG, Landowners and Me'ekamui – should be extremely interested in sustainable co-operation with experienced mining companies like Rio Tinto and BCL who are able to provide modern and environmental caring mining on the ground.

But, if there should not be legal security for BCL on the ground, the ESBC will not accept any investment of 6 billion Kina into Panguna operations! In this case the ESBC would claim to sell-off BCL to Chinese or other interested investors. ESBC President Axel G. Sturm says: "Don't forget: This represents an investment of 30,000 Kina per Bougainvillean head. BCL is ready to shoulder this although they lost more than billion Kina due to the Bougainville Crisis that – as you know – was mainly caused by discord amongst locals."

Mr. Sturm: "I think that it's extremely generous of BCL to maintain its fidelity to Bougainville and its citizens and to provide support more than two decades of non-earning one single Kina." Mr. Sturm appeals to all Bougainvilleans to stand unanimously together: It's encouraging that all local stakeholders and Me'ekamui get together to finally resolve their problems of the past!"

Further important quotations:

Mr. Blaise Iruinu-Chairman, PMCC:

Emphasized " that the much talked about re-opening of Panguna must at the first instance address the developmental needs of the major stakeholders of Panguna mine lease areas"

Hon. Michael Oni MHR, Minister for Natural Resources (Mining):

"the Autonomous Region (has to) move forward to develop economically to be able to meet one of the requirements of BPA, i.e. the region must be able to sustain itself economically in its move towards Referendum in year 2015."

He emphasized "that PMCC is made up of major stakeholders that have one way or the other important role to play when it comes to the re-opening of Panguna mine, which is very crucial for the future economic recovery of Bougainville."

Discussions transpired and the general position on the re-opening was obvious and both ABG and the Executive Committee Members of PMCC fully supported and endorsed that Panguna mine must be re-opened.

Mr Michael Pariu, Deputy Chairman PMCC; Panguna Landowner Association (PLA):

He went on to emphasize what the President had earlier call for a "New Deal" for Panguna Landowners and the people of Bougainville saying that this is the message that Panguna landowners have been hearing from the majority of the people of Bougainville."

Mr. Lawrence Daveona; Secretary PLA / RMTL:

i) Give the blessing to the National Government to approve BCL's application for the Extension of SML lease for further 21 years. In giving this blessing we should lay down

some conditions that BCL and the National Government must abide by before this extension is gazette.

ii) That BCL must pay up-front say between K1 to K2 Billion as a conciliatory compensation payment. This amount is insignificant as the SML license will now be for 21 years and BCL will be able to recoup its monies within 3 to 5 years after commencement of operations.

Please read here the complete PMCC minutes !

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Public Accounts

Bougainville businesses accessing government monies have until tomorrow 4:06 pm to obtain payments for their services rendered.

This is because the National Department of Finance and Treasury closes its public accounts tomorrow for the Christmas period.

The closure of the government finance office effectively stops all payments due to creditors and businesses involved in government projects.

The government accounts re-open for business in March 2012.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

JSB

The date for the next Joint Supervisory Board (JSB) meeting between the PNG and Autonomous Bougainville governments has been set.

Members of the JSB will meet on December 5 in Kavieng, New Ireland Province.

But ABG administration sources say the venue for the meeting has not been agreed to, by Bougainville president Dr. John Momis.

According to information, Mr Momis questioned why the JSB would be in Kavieng when the province is not closely involved with the affairs of Bougainville.

Mr Momis has suggested that the meeting be held in Port Moresby or Bougainville for the convenience of all parties to the JSB.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG website

Autonomous Bougainville Government information can now be disseminated worldwide thanks to the assistance of members of the Bougainville Students Association of Divine Word University.

Parliament speaker Andrew Miriki said yesterday that the ABG will now have its own website.

Mr Miriki says the website will help promote and make information available on the ABG and its parliament.

He said the website which is currently being developed, already has its home page completed.

The homepage features headlines linking internet viewers to knowing more about ABG, receiving the latest government news, showcase photos of the region and information on the ABG 2012 working calendar.

Mr Miriki however did not say when the website is expected to be completed.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

K1 billion ABG debts

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government is struggling to repay administrative debts of up to one billion kina that it had incurred backdating to the operations of the Bougainville interim government in the late 1990s.

ABG Finance minister Albert Punghau said as a result, K5 million would have to be set aside from the K15 million Restoration and Development grant to pay off some of these debts.

He said ABG owed a lot of private businesses money for services rendered like guesthouse accommodation and transport fuel.

Mr Punghau said that is why he would have to access K5 million of the K15 million restoration and development grant.

He added that some amount of the 2010 Restoration and Development grant had also been spent on settling outstanding ABG debts.

These included payments for ABG election related costs of K2.1 million, school fee subsidy of K2.5 million, K1 million for parliamentary services and outstanding contract obligations of K4 million.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BSP ATM woes

By Aloysius Laukai

Customers of BSP's Bougainville branch are frustrated at the continuous overcrowding of BSP Bougainville's Automatic Telling Machines (ATM) booth in Buka town.

Concerned customers told New Dawn FM that they are also frustrated at the continuous technical problems that affect the operations of the teller machines.

This often resulted in customers having to wait for hours which caused a lot of inconvenience for customers who have had to travel long distances to Buka to do banking.

The customers are appealing to the management of BSP to increase the number of ATMs to ensure customers have easy access to their money.

They have also appealed that BSP look at establishing another branch at Arawa to cater for customers from the Central and South Bougainville.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

House Meets on Friday

By Aloysius Laukai

MEMBERS of the Bougainville House of Representatives will meet on Friday to consider a supplementary appropriation bill on the expenditure of the K15 million Restoration and Development grant received last week.

Bougainville Executive Council will meet on Thursday to review the supplementary budget before it is tabled in the ABG parliament by finance minister Albert Punghau.

Punghau confirmed that the money has been allocated according to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) budget process.

The process involves regional committees of the North, Central and South Bougainville determining the priorities for their region.

He said a preliminary breakup of the budget has been completed with K3 million each to Central and South Bougainville and K4 million to North Bougainville.

The remaining K5 million will be for administration overhead costs said Punghau.

He said in terms of projects, health, education, infrastructure and feeder roads were the main priorities identified by the regional committees.

Punghau however added that ABG would need to find a savings of K5 million within this year's grant, to settle outstanding debts.

He said the money would be settle outstanding ABG debts like the payment of entitlements for members of the Bougainville People's Congress and constituency support grants from some members.

17.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bougainville's first CHW school

By Aloysius Laukai

PREPARATIONS are underway to establish the first Community Health Workers (CHW) school for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The proposed Tanamalo CHW school will be located at Tanamalo in the Haku constituency of North Bougainville.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) said the school will be managed by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in partnership with Bougainville Health division and the National Department of Health.

As part of the preparation, a delegation of Bougainville health and community representatives led by Bougainville vice president Patrick Nisira spent two days in New Ireland Province to study the set-up of the Lemakot CHW school.

ABG member for Haku James Beani said their aim was to acquire ideas on facilities, infrastructure, organizational, financial and management structures and training.

He said Lemakot CHW school is a Catholic run health school and is financially supported by the National Department of Health.

Beani said the trip was productive as the delegation was able to identify issues that can be avoided when commencing on the proposed Tanamalo CHW school.

Beani and Nisira were accompanied by Division of Health CEO Dr. Anthony Pumpara, Buka General Hospital director of medical services Dr. Barnabas Matanu and representatives from the Haku constituency and Wesleyan Methodist church.

17.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville owes K1billion (= AU\$ 447,820,000.00)

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government is struggling to repay administrative debts of up to K1 billion it had incurred since the operations of the Bougainville interim government in the late 1990s.

Bougainville finance minister Albert Punghau said K5 million would have to be set aside from the K15 million restoration and development grant from the national government to pay off some of the debt.

"We have a real problem. These debts had been incurring progressively up to the present day," he said.

"We owe a lot to private businesses for services rendered, like guesthouse accommodation and transport fuel."

He said funds were also needed for the Bougainville house of representative and executive government operations which cost K12 million a year.

"That is why I need to go into the K15 million because there is no other money," he said.

"The money that the national government gives is the recurrent unconditional grant that is used to pay wages for the public service. I cannot get that and pay off our debts."

He said Bougainville's internal revenue of K9 million was not enough to offset the debts.

Debts included ABG election-related costs of K2.1 million, school fee subsidy of K2.5 million, K1 million for parliamentary services and outstanding contract obligations of K4 million.

ESBC says: Mining will resolve Bougainville's debt problems within a few years ! Copra, Cocoa, small scale mining or tourism alone cannot ! The ABG and all stakeholders concerned should reflect on this ! Every day without professional mining is a lost day for Bougainville and the Bougainvilleans because of increasing debts that will lead to more poverty and dependence !

17.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Copra prices rise

By ALEX MUNME

SANKAMAP Exports, one of the only two locally owned copra exporting companies in the region, has to be praised for the current increase in copra price in Buka.

The other company is Kieta commodity Exports based in Kieta.

This is because they export direct to international markets and their price is controlled by the world copra market. Sankamap Exports is currently buying copra at an average price of K1165 per ton.

Managing Director of Sankamap Exports Robert Critchley said although the world market controlled copra price, meaning it may change daily but his company was here to

maintain price stability, create an option for hardworking copra producers, set standards in copra quality so that Bougainville's copra was in high demand in the world market. Mr Critchley, whose mother is from Pororan and father from Melbourne, Australia, said his company's long term plan was to help his people. In fact he has dreamed of coming home one day to help his own people when he was 10 years old. For him, it's a dream come true. His motto is to put Bougainville back on the world map. As part of his company's plan, has trained three local people to start their own copra buying points in Haku, Hahalis and Tinput. His company came into operation a few months ago and so far has exported about 800 tonnes of copra direct to the Philippines. His company has incentives for production of quality copra.

17.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville plans health school

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

PREPARATIONS are underway to establish the first school for community health workers in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The proposed school will be located at Tanamalo in the Haku constituency of North Bougainville.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government said the school would be managed by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in partnership with Bougainville Health division and the National Department of Health.

A delegation of Bougainville health and community representatives led by Bougainville vice president Patrick Nisira spent two days in New Ireland to study the set-up of the Lemakot school.

ABG member for Haku James Beani said their aim was to acquire ideas on facilities, infrastructure, organisational, financial and management structures and training. He said the Lemakot CHW school was a Catholic-run health school and financially supported by the National Department of Health.

Beani said the delegation was able to identify problems that could be avoided at Tanamalo.

Beani and Nisira were accompanied by Division of Health CEO Dr Anthony Pumpara, Buka General Hospital director of medical services Dr Barnabas Matanu and representatives from the Haku constituency and Wesleyan Methodist church.

17.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Education elects board

By Melanie Toliken UPNG Journalism student.

THE Bougainville Executive Council has appointed new members of the Bougainville Education Board.

The newly appointed members were carefully selected from all stakeholders, representing different organisations and parts of the region.

The BEB is the highest decision making body in the Autonomous Bougainville Government as far as education policies, activities and services are concerned.

BEC has directed the new members of the Bougainville Education Board and the Division of Education to develop a Bougainville Education Act.

The new members of the BEB are: Bruno Babato-CEO/ chairman; Joseph Noro- State; Peter Toliken- State; Lucy Travertz -State; Jonathan Ageva- PNGTA; Martin Takali-

PNGTA; Simon Korairove- churches; Omepa Misirari- churches; Frank Matapau - Churches; Roslyine Gatana- LLG; Peter Dosti-Community; Nicolas Mangona-Community; and John Masiu-Community.

17.11.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill opens latest luxury hotel in POM

By BOSORINA ROBBY

DOWNTOWN Port Moresby came alive with a dazzling array of fireworks on Tuesday night to mark the official opening of the Grand Papua Hotel, a 20-storey luxury hotel owned by Steamships Trading Co.

The hotel is located between Douglas and Mary streets, where the iconic Papua Hotel of yesteryears once stood. The formal opening was led by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

The Grand Papua was built at the cost of about K200 million and will employ close to 200 staff.

O'Neill congratulated the shareholders, management and staff of Steamships, which he said remained a household name that had contributed a lot to the development of PNG. He thanked the company for its commitment to invest in all sectors of PNG, which had generated jobs for many people.

O'Neill said the government was committed to providing conducive business climate to the private sector.

He said reforms in tax, land registration and the Investment Promotion Authority's online registration, should be much easier for all.

"This is vital for us and we will also be issuing a stable and practical tax regime because we have to plan for the long-term investments that will come or have already come in.

"I want to assure the private sector that we want to work closely with you.

"Congratulations, and I am very happy to be here in a hotel that is a world-class in its own right," he said.

Guest were attired in a fashion similar to any Hollywood events, with the women decked out in elegant fashions and the men looking splendid in their black ties and suits.

The guests were prominent businessmen and women from the financial, construction, food and beverage sector of the business industry, as well as other service providers and stakeholders.

Special guests included Sir Adrian Swire and Sir Michael Bromley, the major shareholders of Steamship and company chairman William Rothery.

Senior management staff of various divisions of Steamships were also present.

The hotel will be under the stewardship of David Martens, who said he hoped to train his staff with the necessary skill to take over from him when his term expires.

Rothery said the Grand Papua reflected Steamships' continued commitment to invest in PNG.

He said the economy had been better and the future brighter than ever.

"The Grand Papua Hotel represents prosperous times and Steamships is proud of contributing to PNG's history," Rothery said.

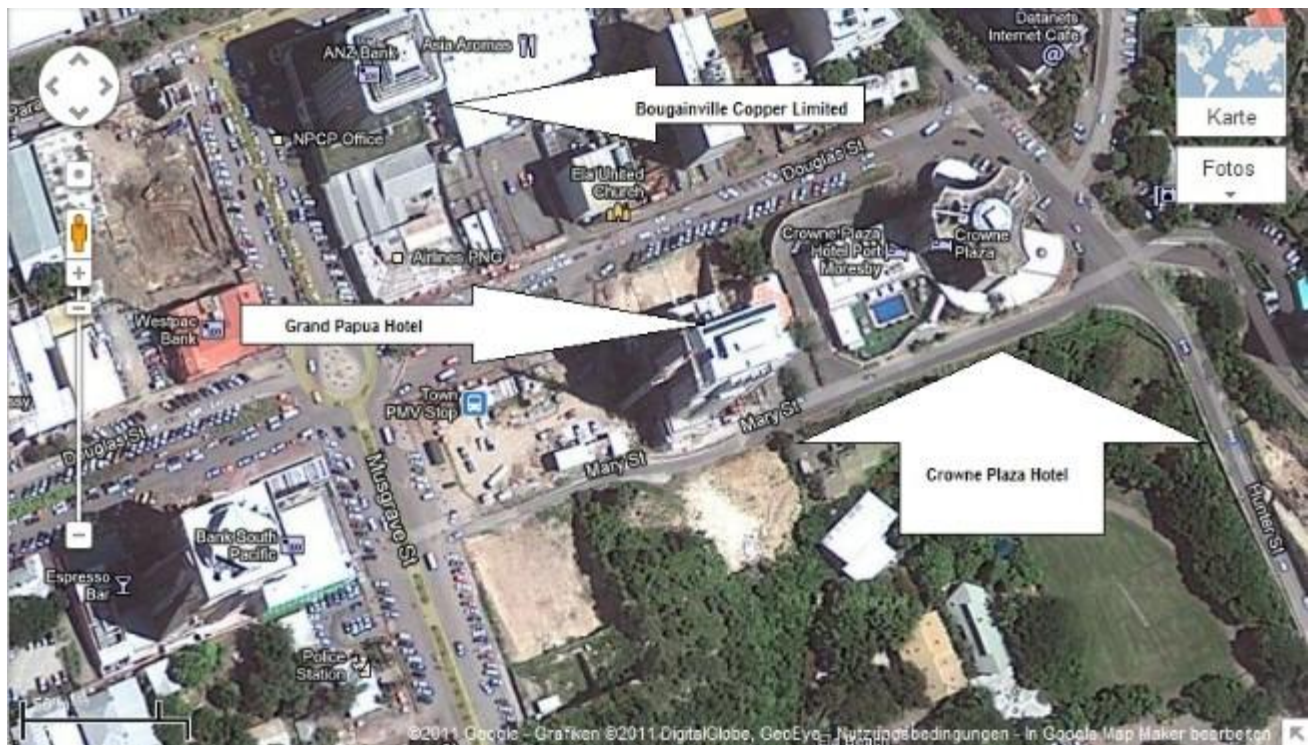
He said this was a new chapter for Steamships and looked forward to other new chapters ahead.

At 20 storeys high, the Grand Papua Hotel is the tallest skyscraper in downtown, of which four storeys are car-parks from the basement up.

It also has spa and massage parlour, hair salon, two 85-seater conference rooms, staff office and other amenities.

The rest of the floors house 161 deluxe and executive rooms, gym, business centre, bar and restaurant.

With marbled staircases and floors and customised wallpapers and mirrors, the hotel was rated as "6-star" by the guests.



The new Grand Papua Hotel situated in downtown Port Moresby's business district - just two steps from the Bougainville Copper Limited Head Quarter and next door to the Crowne Plaza Hotel where BCL's Annual General Meetings used to take place until now.

17.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Grand opening

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

A SPECTECULAR display of fireworks on Tuesday night in Port Moresby was the grand highlight to the grand opening of the Grand Papua Hotel.

More than 100 people attended the hotel's grand opening including Prime Minister Peter O'Neill who had just arrived that afternoon from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Grand Papua Hotel has staircases of marble leading up to each floor with a long, clear view of the street, the Monian Tower and the United Church building across the road. The conference and meeting rooms are spacious with a contemporary arrangement. The dining area that was on display was equally impressive, as well as the spacious outdoor pool area.

Master of ceremony Brent St Hill said the Grand Papua Hotel is a combination of many years of concepts designs and construction and a large number of people of many different walks of life.

"These people have come from within the Steamships Trading Company and associated companies that have worked to put this magnificent building up," he said.

Mr St Hill said from the groundbreaking which took place in May 2008, the residents of Port Moresby and the people of PNG have seen the Grand Papua Hotel grow from the ground level to the 16th floor to become Port Moresby's tallest building, boasting panoramic view, sea views that is, from all guest rooms.

The Grand Papua Hotel will be utilising a paperless system where guests will be checked in by friendly staff using tablet technology.

"The Grand Papua Hotel has several different options for meetings and small events. In order for this to happen, the Grand Papua Hotel is led by a team of international industry

professionals to ensure our guests are pampered,” he said. General Manager of the Grand Papua Hotel, David Martens said he was proud about the work his staff had done for the grand opening and spoke highly of them. He said the Hotel officially opens on December 1 for business.

Chairman of Steamships Trading Company, Bill (Wilson) Rothery acknowledged the attendance of Sir Adrian Swire, who represented a majority shareholder in Steamships; and Sir Michael Bromley.

He said Sir Adrian first visited PNG in 1957 and Sir Michael arrived in PNG in 1956. Sir Michael has now made his home in the Highlands of PNG.

Both the Swire’s and Mike Bromley have shown great perseverance and faith in PNG over the past 60 years.

17.11.2011

Source: The National

Writer to fund library building in Bougainville

PROGRESS is being made on a New Zealand-funded library being built in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The library was inspired by New Zealand writer Lloyd Jones, whose award winning book, Mister Pip, is set in Bougainville.

It aims to provide books and education for those denied during the civil war.

A Volunteer Service Abroad member, Barry Binding, has just spent six weeks establishing a building management plan for the library, which is to be built in the grounds of Arawa High School.

He said the trip helped cement the support of locals as they could to see what the library would look like once it was completed.

“When I was there last time, I made a 1/25th scale model of the library so people could see what it was going to look like.”

The materials needed to build the library are being sourced in Bougainville.

16.11.2011

Source: Islands Business

POLITICS: PNG/Solomons joint cabinet to meet in Bougainville

Beginning of a Pan Pacific Economic Union?

Alfred Sasako

Solomon Islands and its near neighbour, Papua New Guinea, plan to hold a **joint Cabinet meeting on Bougainville in December**, the first for any two nations in the region to do so.

No date has been set for the meeting. But in the meantime, preparatory work is already underway, including the upgrading of the Aropa Airstrip on Bougainville.

Prime Minister O’Neill told his Solomon Islands counterpart, Prime Minister Danny Philip during a recent visit to PNG that the idea of a cabinet meeting on Bougainville was to show support for what the authorities on the island are doing.

“My cabinet will join you,” was the prompt response from Prime Minister Philip

Apart from the meeting, PNG has begun pouring money into Bougainville, to ensure the past is not repeated.

Waigani has allocated K500 million for the economic development of Bougainville over the next five years.

The new K100 million a year funding arrangement, founded on PNG’s new-found mineral resources boom, starts this year.

In their discussions, both leaders acknowledged the importance of socio-economic

development on Bougainville and that joint support across the Solomon Sea is just as vital.

They believe the presence of government ministers from both Solomon Islands and PNG on Bougainville would bolster confidence of the people and leadership on the island. While things have quietened down, security concerns on Bougainville's sea border with Solomon Islands remains.

These concerns are real, given what had happened during the Bougainville crisis in the mid-80s.

There were border clashes between the Solomon Islands' field force and the PNG Defence Force pursuing Bougainvillean militants. Several civilians died in these raids. As well, there had been allegations of gun-smuggling into Bougainville from the Solomon Islands' side.

Both leaders are hopeful the joint meeting would pave the way for greater cooperation with authorities on Bougainville, particularly in addressing the security concerns.

The move by the two largest members of the MSG sub-grouping has other important implications as well.

For example, it could be seen as the cradle for the birth of the privately-talked about Pan Pacific Economic Union (PPEU), a concept very close to the heart of Solomon Islands' Prime Minister, Philip, even before his election to the top post in August 2010.

Philip told friends that unless and until Pacific Islands countries are "economically independent", living standards in the islands will never improve. "In fact, it will only get worse," he said.

He sees the Pan Pacific Economic Union (PPEU) as the only way out.

In a speech in Port Moresby during his recent visit, he departed from a prepared text and suggested that PNG's newly acquired powerhouse status should be exploited for Melanesian gain.

"I can say that without Papua New Guinea, there is no Melanesia. PNG is Melanesia," he said.

Philip's statement is based on the fact that PNG has become a donor of sorts since 1997, when under the leadership of the late Bill Skate, it signed a K40 million budget support assistance package to help Solomon Islands.

The support, heavily criticised by Australia at the time, was in recognition of the help Honiara provided to Bougainvilleans fleeing the island during the Bougainville crisis.

Part of the money was subsequently used to pay for Solomon Islands students studying in tertiary institutions in PNG up to the end of this year.

PNG used the balance to build the Solomon Islands first ever owned Chancery in Port Moresby.

During Philip's recent visit, PNG agreed to continue the budget support assistance by announcing a K20 million a year (about SBD60 million) over the next five years. The new aid arrangement, which starts next year, will cover education as well as funding economic growth centres (EGCs) across Solomon Islands.

Preliminary work has begun on these EGCs on Malaita. More will be established in other provinces from next year.

Both Prime Ministers also spoke of the growing economic ties between their two countries, urging officials to facilitate processes for encouraging investments.

PNG, for example, has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in different sectors in Solomon Islands, including the hotel industry as well as the palm oil industry.

The Heritage Park Hotel—the premiere hotel in Honiara—is an investment from PNG.

Prime Minister O'Neill appealed to his counterpart to encourage Solomon Islands companies to invest in PNG. He believes the economic boom being experienced in PNG should be shared with other Melanesian countries.

Philip later visited the US\$18 billion LNG Project refinery site outside Port Moresby.

There, he was told the refinery is due to open in February 2014.

At the peak of the construction phase, the project will employ some 10,500 skilled and semi-skilled workers, a commodity PNG does not have.

PNG is short of manpower resources and will certainly be looking to other Melanesian neighbours to help fill the shortage.

With a joint cabinet meeting being held there, could Bougainville, once the headache for Solomon Islands and PNG, provide the birthplace for a Pan Pacific Economic Union (PPEU)—a concept that will revolutionise the region's political and economic makeup? If the PPEU concept is developed further under the wings of the five-member Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), the sub-regional grouping of PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia, it could have serious implications for the Pacific Islands Forum. Increasingly, leaders feel the Pacific Islands Forum is gradually losing its grip on issues critical to the well-being of Pacific Islands nations. The birth of PPEU could very well be the death-bed for PIF. Only time will tell.

16.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG to consider grant bill

By Melanie Toliken UPNG Journalism student

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government will convene an urgent sitting this Friday to consider a supplementary appropriation bill on the expenditure of the K15 million Restoration and Development Grant received from the National Government. ABG House of Representatives Speaker Andrew Miriki has issued a notice for an urgent meeting to be held on November 18, 2011.

The notice was issued on advice from the ABG President John Momis for the government to consider a supplementary appropriation bill on the expenditure of the K15 million Restoration and Development Grant received from the National Government. The office of the President confirmed that the Bougainville Executive Council would meet on Thursday, Nov 17, to consider the bill before it is tabled by the Minister of Finance Albert Punghau on Nov 18.

Mr Miriki requested the President to table a policy submission to inform the BEC regarding the funding status of the ABG and for the council to approve an allocation of the K5.9 million from the Restoration and Development Grant to meet 2011 funding requirements. This is associated with policy directives and the recurrent costs of running the Bougainville Legislature.

16.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Divisions changed to Depts

By Melanie Toliken UPNG Journalism student

THE Bougainville Executive Council has made a policy decision to departmentalise all divisions in the Bougainville Administration.

There are about 16 divisions that had been elevated onto department status. This also means that the current title of "chief executive officer" will now be changed and the head of the specific ABG Departments will be called "secretary" at the executive level 3.

The decision was made by the Bougainville Cabinet in late October and this means that the ABG Administration will no longer have divisions but departments.

In 2010, the division of mining was the only division in the administration that was departmentalised.

The education division is the second in line. The division of education like all the other divisions, will now be called "Department of Education".

This is part of the drawdown of powers under the Bougainville Constitution and the

Bougainville Peace Agreement which is now being implemented by the ABG and the National Government.

16.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHIEF THANKS ABG

Mianopo village council of elders chief Elijah Ture has thanked the ABG for their continual support to the peace and reconciliation efforts in the Wisai and Konnou constituency.

He says that now a lot of the fighting which was going on has stopped and many of the people in the area are grateful.

Due to fighting in the area a lot of the basic services were denied and most of the people were suffering.

Mr Ture has called on other areas in South Bougainville who are still fighting to put down their guns and reconcile.

He says this is the only way Bougainville is to regain its status and develop.

Mr Ture says the ABG through its support and funding has helped the people of the Wisai and Konnou area.

He hopes for more similar work to be carried out in the future.

16.11.2011

Source: The National

ABG House to consider supplementary budget

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

MEMBERS of the Bougainville House of Representatives meets on Friday to consider a supplementary appropriation bill on the expenditure of the K15 million restoration and development grant received last week.

Bougainville executive council meets on Thursday to review the supplementary budget before it is tabled in the ABG parliament by finance minister Albert Punghau.

Punghau confirmed that the money had been allocated according to the Autonomous Bougainville Government budget process.

The process involves regional committees of the North, Central and South Bougainville determining the priorities for their region.

"We have done a preliminary break-up of K3 million each to Central and South Bougainville and K4 million to North Bougainville.

"The remaining K5 million will be for administration overhead costs," Punghau said.

He said in terms of projects, health, education, infrastructure and feeder roads were the main priorities identified by the regional committees.

Punghau said the ABG would need to find a savings of K5 million in the grant to settle outstanding debts.

"We will need to find this much money to settle outstanding ABG debts like the payment of entitlements for members of the Bougainville People's Congress and constituency support grants from some members," he said.

16.11.2011

Source: The National

Semoso warns of withdrawing K5m road funding

REGIONAL Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso has warned he will raise a five million kina return cheque to the national finance and treasury department if the Autonomous Bougainville Administration continues to delay starting work on maintenance of roads on Buka Island.

He has given the administration until Friday to start work.

"If the administration is too slow, I will raise a cheque for that money back to the national treasury and have the Central Supply and Tenders board release the contract," Semoso warned.

He said yesterday K5 million was released recently for the sealing of the next 4km of the Buka ring road, maintenance of Buka town roads, Lonahan to Hanahan and Gagan to Kohiso roads in North Bougainville.

"It has been three weeks since the money has been released and I am still waiting for the Bougainville administration to receive a tender," Semoso said.

"It is frustrating when the funding has been made available and the actual work is slow."

Semoso said since last week, his officers had been unsuccessful in finding out the cause of the Bougainville administration's delay.

16.11.2011

Source: The National

Radio Bougainville reaches out to rural listeners

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

GOVERNMENT information can now be relayed throughout Buka Island and the atolls in North Bougainville and parts of Central Bougainville after work on upgrading the National Broadcasting Corporation's Radio Bougainville was completed last Friday.

National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) engineering and technical services executive director Robin Vuvut said work on increasing the station's transmission from 300W to 1,000W was aimed at ensuring better coverage of the autonomous region.

He said two teams had been deployed to the region, with installation work being carried out in Buka and Arawa.

Vuvut said the project, which had taken a year to reach Bougainville, "is part of a nationwide rollout of NBC broadcasting services, under the leadership of new managing director Memafu Kafera".

"Bougainville is the third location to have its equipment upgraded after Kavieng and Rabaul.

"Eventually we will increase transmission to Buin and other districts in South Bougainville once a feasibility on existing communication towers in the area is completed and depending on the funds we have," Vuvut said.

He said as part of the upgrade, NBC was now negotiating with the National Information and Communication Technology Authority to buy three frequencies for its three broadcast services of Karai, Tribe FM and Radio Bougainville.

"Local service, which is now being heard on 100.1FM, will relocate to 95.5FM, Karai service will be on 90.7FM and Tribe will be heard on 92FM," Vuvut said.

Vuvut said Radio Bougainville would begin broadcast on 95.5FM this week however the change in frequency for Radio Bougainville has the management of community radio station New Dawn FM fearful that there could be interference with transmission of both stations.

"NBC's bandwidth is too close to New Dawn's 95.3FM and there may be interferences on both our stations. I urge NICTA to review its allotment of bandwidths to avoid this inconvenience," Aloysius Laukai, managing director of New Dawn FM, said.

16.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

NZ funded library on Bougainville progressing well

Progress is being made on a New Zealand funded library being built in the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville.

The library was inspired by New Zealand writer Lloyd Jones, whose award winning book, *Mister Pip*, is set in Bougainville.

It aims to provide books and education for those denied it during the civil war.

A Volunteer Service Abroad member, Barry Binding, has just spent six weeks establishing a building management plan for the library, which is to be built in the grounds of Arawa High School.

He says the trip helped cement the support of locals as they could see what the library will look like once it is completed.

"When I was there last time I made a 1/25th scale model of the library so people could see what it was going to look like. So this time there is lots of support and people are really keen to get it done and are pretty excited"

The materials needed to build the library are being sourced in Bougainville to help support the local economy.

Mr Binding says he'll return to the province in February by which time the timber should be ready.

15.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville copper to be reviewed

PREPARATIONS for the review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement are now underway. But an announcement is expected to be made on the review package once the Joint Supervisory Body meeting dates are set.

ABG President John Momis could not provide further details of the review of the BCA but advised the JSB, the main avenue of negotiations for the National Government and the ABG, should be held once the stakeholders involved set a date.

Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kama also advised the date has not been set and once preparations are set, the responsible authorities involved will be advised. The delay of the JSB meeting since March this year is also the setback to the drawdown of all the powers being talked about as this is the body that deals with all issues on Bougainville and they have not sat since March this year. But according to the ABG leaders, much has been achieved since the last JSB meeting and more is expected once all preparations are in place.

15.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Gulf man seeks help in Buka

"HOME is where the heart is," so the saying goes.

For Andrew Maiovo (pictured), who has spent almost 42 years in Bougainville, the Gulf province still holds a place in his heart and is where he would like to be laid to rest come his final hour.



This is Andrew Maiovo, 76, from Gulf Province – Wabo. The man is in dire need of help from his people of Gulf or anyone that wants to help.

At his age in Buka and living like a nomad, Maiovo now wants a ticket for him and his daughter, seven-years-old return to his Gulf Province.

He came to Bougainville in 1969 as an employee of Panguna Copper Mine, working as a carpenter. He was the supervisor at that time and as a young man, he found himself a love home – a wife from Wakunai who gave him three siblings.

The Bougainville crisis ended his dream of having a building construction company as he fell sick and intimidated while finding refuge at his wife's Wakunai area. His wife died during the crisis and he migrated further north in search of a better life, away from the social problems in Central Bougainville.

He found himself another life – a second family, another woman from Lonahan village who also died several years later.

Moiovo is now a nomad in Buka with no help from his children, no word from his family back in Gulf and now and now he wants to head back that way to prepare himself for anything.

Moiovo wants to spend the last years of his life in his home village and the last thing he wants is to die in Bougainville and face the consequences of being buried on someone else's soil.

He wants to return to Gulf and wants a ticket - that's all he wants, to return to his home town.

15.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNGSDP helps Ruruvu

By RICHARD KELEBI

COMMUNITIES living in Wakunai District Central Bougainville can look forward to improved health facilities in the coming months following the opening of a new staff house for the Ruruvu Sub Health Center recently.

The new staff accommodation is the first phase of an existing infrastructure upgrading program of the United Church Bougainville Region Health Services, which is supported by PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd (PNGSDP).

Camillus Midire, the Chief Program Officer of PNGSDP was in Ruruvu recently with a delegation from the company to launch the staff accommodation and also visit other projects in the area, such as the road upgrade and mini hydro project.

The new staff accommodation is phase one of the project that has been completed.

Other existing buildings at the sub health center would also be maintained in the coming months. Funding for this program is provided by PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd.

PNGSDP is also providing similar support to other major churches in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Joel Kessy, Chairman of the Ruruvu Health Center thanked PNGSDP for the support.

"We are pleased to received such support and thank PNGSDP for it."

Mr Midire said PNGSDP was pleased to support the work of Churches in the region and such project is the communities' own initiative as they set their own priorities and work through their respective churches.

"In Bougainville, we have a big program that supports the work of churches, where the churches and the communities identify projects,, set their own priorities and we support these priorities," he said.

15.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Ceasefire deal for south Bougainville

Waring factions in the troubled Konnou Constituency of South Bougainville will soon sign a ceasefire agreement with the Autonomous Bougainville Government to restore peace to their area.

The compromise deal is a result of consultation between the so called Me'ekamui Leader, Damien Koike and the ABG Konnou Taskforce Committee ..with the signing set for November the 29th.

Presenter: Augustine Kinna

Speaker: John Momis, Autonomous Bougainville President

Listen here !

15.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Judge suspension revoked, ending PNG constitutional crisis

The Papua New Guinea government has pulled back from the brink of a constitutional crisis by revoking its move to suspend the country's top judge.

Late yesterday the acting Prime Minister Belden Namah rescinded the controversial suspension of the Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia.

The Supreme Court responded to the original suspension by ordering the arrest of Mr Namah and the Attorney General Allan Marat on contempt charges.

The two men handed themselves into police yesterday and were formally arrested, charged, then released on bail.

Later their lawyers went to the Supreme Court in an effort to have the charges set aside.

But Sir Salamo, the judge they had sought to suspend, deferred the matter until this morning and ordered the two ministers to appear in court.

Then, at the end of an extraordinary day Mr Namah announced the Chief Justice's suspension had been revoked for the good of the country.

Presenter: Belden Namah, acting Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea

Listen here !

15.11.2011

Source: The National

Wakunai sub-health centre opens house

COMMUNITIES living in Wakunai district, Central Bougainville, can look forward to improved health facilities following the opening of a new staff house for the Ruruvu sub-health centre.

The new staff accommodation is the first phase of an existing infrastructure upgrading programme of the United church Bougainville Region Health Services, which is supported by PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd (PNGSDP).

PNGSDP chief programme officer Camillus Midire was in Ruruvu recently with a delegation from the company to launch the staff accommodation and visit other projects in the area, such as the road upgrade and mini hydro project.

The new staff accommodation is phase one of the project that has been completed.

Other existing buildings at the sub-health centre will be maintained in the coming months.

Funding for this programme is provided by PNGSDP.

PNGSDP is providing similar support to other major churches in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Ruruvu Health Centre chairman Joel Kessy thanked PNGSDP for the support.

"We are pleased to received such support and thank PNGSDP."

Midire said PNGSDP was pleased to support the work of churches in the region and the project was the communities' own initiative as they set their own priorities and work through their respective churches.

"In Bougainville, we have a big programme that supports the work of churches, where the churches and the communities identify projects, set their own priorities and we support these."

The Ruruvu sub-health centre is a United church-run health centre established in 1983.

The health centre serves a population of 5,420 people and treats an average of 50 to 100 patients per week for diseases such as malaria, cough and various skin diseases.

Both the construction of the staff house and the maintenance of the wards will boost the morale of staff in their efforts to providing improved health services to the local people.

15.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SECOND PHASE PROGRAM DESIGN

By Aloysius Laukai

Pictured are members of the team who attended New Dawn FM's last Programme design workshop for a Community Learning Programme BOUGAINVILLE MERI TEDE a programme looking at Women's Health Issues.



15.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville



Picture of the Member for South Bougainville and Bougainville Affairs Minister being welcomed at the Buka airport

Picture by Aloysius Laukai

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PUNGHOU REVEALS PLANS

Development in the region is currently stagnant as much of the projects have hit brick walls in terms of funding.

ABG minister for finance treasury and planning Albert Punghau in an interview told New Dawn FM that funding of impact projects will be priority in the K15million national funding this year.

He revealed that out of that K15million kina K5m was to be used for payments of outstanding bills ABG had in the region.

Mr Punghau says that K10m will be for major impact projects in the region and will be given to the three regions.

He also told New Dawn FM that under the Momis Government development in the region is a major priority.

He has assured the people of Bougainville that the money will be put to good use for the development of the region.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

STUDENTS CALL FOR CHANGE

Bougainville has to be able to cater for its employment opportunities which will come with the development which is taking place in the region.

Bougainville student's studying in universities around the country has been challenged to bring change into the region.

Gale Sare a third year Divine Word University student has challenged upcoming students to do their best for a better Bougainville.

She told New Dawn FM that many young Bougainvillians today are not being proud of their region and not taking charge.

She told reporters that Bougainville's future is in their hands and the prosperity or fall of the region will be upon them.

She made these remarks today in preparation for their outreach program which will begin on Wednesday at Hutjena Secondary.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Ceasefire deal with rebels in Bougainville eases way for referendum - President Momis

The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville says he's delighted a ceasefire agreement will be signed with former militant groups in Konnou in the south of the main island late next month.

John Momis says former rebel leader, Damian Koike, has agreed to end the destructive violence that has kept government services out of the region for years.

He says an end to the fighting is critical if the province is to hold a referendum on possible independence from PNG after 2015, as laid out in the peace agreement.

"The people now realise that unless we now resolve our small differences and stop the fighting, nobody wins. We have made a lot of effort to explain to them that one of the conditions is to meet international standards for the people of Bougainville to qualify to have a referendum, we have to have good governance, we have to respect our government." That is the president of Bougainville John Momis.

14.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville sets way forward

BOUGAINVILLE needs to embrace the win-win "new order" to develop into a prosperous model for the South Pacific, the Autonomous Bougainville Government said.

This is one of several suggestions for development contained in an ABG report obtained by the Post-Courier.

The report talks about ABG President John Momis' vision of good governance, weapons disposal, respect for rule of law and authority, economic empowerment, equitable participation in and benefit from resource development, rural resource mobilisation, ethical, responsible and fair investment, environmental protection and sustainability, foreign direct investment, building a strategic partnership with China to secure Chinese government aid, attracting Chinese investment and achieve direct trading access to China to cut off middlemen, achieve full autonomy by the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement to allow the people to compare the autonomy and full

independence before referendum.

According to the report, the “new order’s” characteristics talk about the will:

- * TO provide capital and expertise to develop the natural resources of Bougainville for mutual and fair benefit (win-win strategy);

- * to build up their own comprehensive, self-reliant and sustainable economic structure and capacity; and

- * Supported by the new economic system, the developing countries can build up good social and political system that stands for integrity, justice, fairness, unity and harmony, as well as common benefit, good welfare and wide participation for the people.

“This will enable the developing countries play responsible role in contributing to the peace and development of the whole world,” the report states.

“Why are we willing to make you rich and strong? Because that can make us richer and stronger together.”

One of President Momis’ visions is to see the Bougainville China Co-operation as a strategy to achieve the full autonomy.

“We shall work hard to build Bougainville into a harmonious society with the following features:

- * Peace and political stability and unity

- * Responsible government with fiscal self-reliance and full capacity to deliver good governance;

- * Implementation of good legal system to secure law and order;

- * Wealth creation and fair distribution;

- * Good education system/capacity and high literacy rate;

- * Good social welfare and charity system;

- * Comprehensive economic system and capacity and integration with global economy;

- * Economic growth; and

- * High employment rate and good income of the people for high living quality,” the report said.

14.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG ministers may surrender to police

Two senior government ministers in Papua New Guinea are expected to hand themselves into police after warrants were issued for their arrest.

Last Friday the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah and Attorney General Allan Marat on contempt charges.

That followed the government's suspension of the Chief Justice for what it said are serious allegations of misconduct.

A government source says the ministers will present themselves to the Police headquarters in Port Moresby this morning.

Over the weekend, before it became clear the MPs would be handing themselves in, Mr Namah spoke to the media in Port Moresby.

Presenter:Liam Fox

Speaker:Belden Namah, PNG's Deputy Prime Minister

[Listen here !](#)

14.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville elders to get budget priority

THE councils of elders in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will receive more in their annual support grants next year to maintain peace and good order in the communities, President John Momis says.

He said the increased budgetary support would also allow for the councils to provide assistance to the region's health and education programmes, agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

But Momis said the increased budget to the councils would only be possible if the Autonomous Bougainville government was allowed to determine the use of the K100 million allocated to it by the national government next year.

The K100 million expected to be factored into the 2012 national budget is part of the K500 million commitment by the national government for Bougainville over the next five years.

Momis said the region's 40 councils were allocated K55,000 in grants annually which were mainly tied to the administrative needs of the councils and allowances for peace officers and village court magistrates.

He said because of this, there was hardly any funds allocated for village-based projects which the councils were expected to deliver.

He said before the Bougainville crisis, village-based projects were non-existent due to the insufficient funding.

Momis said his government was committed to upgrading the council system and would ensure the councils were adequately funded.

14.11.2011

Source: The National

K6 million needed for Bougainville policing

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

SIX million kina is needed to implement a restructure plan for the Bougainville police service over two years.

Assistant Police Commissioner to Bougainville Thomas Eluh said the restructure project would focus on the expansion and strengthening of police operations, transport, communication and infrastructure.

The project would also involve the separation of the organisation into two main divisions – operations and corporate services.

Eluh said the restructure proposal, which had the support of the governments of Autonomous Bougainville and PNG, had been identified as a high impact project prioritised for implementation as soon as funding was made available.

"Most of this money will be required to rebuild police facilities destroyed or damaged during the Bougainville conflict," Eluh said.

On the challenges of policing in Bougainville, the regional commanders of North, Central and South Bougainville have called for training opportunities for the 500 BPS officers.

North Bougainville regional commander chief Insp Cletus Tsien said police officers needed more training on management, investigations, community policing and conducting awareness.

South regional commander CIP Paul Kamuai said more help was needed from local partners for a better community policing of the region.

"Policing the international border with the Solomon Islands is a challenge and we need a well-trained, well-equipped police service."

14.11.2011

Source: The National

Still no arrest

POLICE are yet to arrest acting Prime Minister Belden Namah and Attorney-General Dr Allan Marat for contempt of court.

Acting Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga said he was instructed by the Supreme Court to arrest the two on a contempt of court order issued by Justice Bernard Sakora last Friday in response to a decision of the National Executive Council to suspend the chief justice.

Namah left last Friday for Kimbe on a prior engagement and returned to Port Moresby later that day and was escorted by police to his house.

Kulunga said: "I confirm receiving the order and I will act on it."

Both Namah and Marat are reported to have stated they will produce themselves to police this week.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill appealed for calm from Hawaii where he is attending Apec conference.

"There is no reason for citizens and residents to fear the collapse of the rule of law or to speculate about the onset of a constitutional crisis in PNG."

O'Neill said: "Nothing like that will or shall happen under my watch."

"What the nation has been watching and experiencing since Aug 2 is a healthy democratic display of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary proactively exercising their respective constitutional and independent roles as the three arms of government," he said (see Page 55 for O'Neill's full statement).

"That being so, the gravest development we must all expose, oppose and depose is the intrusion by the three arms of government into the affairs of each other."

Former acting prime minister and Wabag MP Sam Abal yesterday accused the prime minister of lying to the nation when he declared last week that there would be no such move against the judiciary.

Southern Highlands Governor Anderson Agiru called on the prime minister to sack his deputy and all who participated in the decision last week.

The East Sepik provincial government had also applied to the Supreme Court to have the entire cabinet, including the prime minister, charged with contempt.

The application by the provincial government was lodged at the Waigani Supreme Court last Friday.

Former judge, Nemo Yalo, said: "This is the worst case of abuse of power at the highest level."

PNG Law Society president Kerenga Kua said: "Namah and Marat probably have a genuine explanation for their actions but like everyone else they can have their say in court. It may be totally justifiable but the due process will reveal that."

"The Constitutional Planning Committee, having foreseen such future abuses by powers that be, had specifically written a safety mechanism into the Constitution in section 182(3)."

"This section says that where the chief justice is suspended and he was dealing with any judicial proceedings, he may continue and complete those proceedings, unless the Judicial and Legal Services Commission forbids him from doing so," Kua said.

The National Executive Council decided last Thursday to suspend Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia on allegations of contempt of court, double-dipping and gross mismanagement of court finances.

Kulunga said the order would be executed "as soon as practical".

The order stated that "pending formal charges of contempt being laid by the registrar of

the Supreme Court against Belden Namah and Dr Allan Marat, that they both be arrested and detained by police forthwith and produced to this court on Monday, Dec 12, at 9.30am”.

“The said decisions of the National Executive Council are hereby stayed, and that the National Executive Council by its servants and agents whomsoever including Belden Namah and Dr Allan Marat, are restrained from implementing the said decisions.”

The bustling streets of Port Moresby were unusually quiet last Friday and Saturday night after rumours of a coup gripped the city as a result of the suspension of the chief justice and the subsequent Supreme Court order to arrest Namah and Marat.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Police need help

by Aloysius Laukai

SIX million kina is needed to implement a proposed restructure plan for Bougainville Police Service (BPS) over a period of two years.

In a statement, Assistant Police Commissioner to Bougainville Thomas Eluh said the restructure project would focus on the expansion and strengthening of police operations, transport, communication and infrastructure.

The project would also involve the separation of the organization into two main divisions of operations and corporate services.

Eluh said the restructure proposal which has gained the support of the Autonomous Bougainville and PNG governments, has been identified as a high impact project prioritized for implementation as soon as funding is made available.

“Most of this money will be required to rebuild police facilities that was destroyed or damaged during the Bougainville conflict,” said Eluh.

On the challenges of policing in Bougainville, regional commanders of North, Central and South Bougainville have collectively called for training opportunities for the 500 BPS officers.

North Bougainville regional commander chief inspector Cletus Tsien said police officers need more training on a broad field of subjects including management, investigations, community policing and conducting awareness.

“I encourage the men and women of BPS be effective in our core business such as quicker response to callouts, follow-up time in solving crimes and high standards of professionalism in areas of customer service and discipline,” urged Tsien.

South regional commander CIP Paul Kamuai added that more help is needed from all local partners for a better community policing of the region.

“Policing the international border with the Solomon Islands is a challenge and we need a well trained, well equipped and resourced, well paid, mature and professional police service,” said Kamuai.

Central regional commander CIP Huitona Tohua commended BPS officers for giving their best to serving the people of Bougainville despite the lack of logistical support.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Council of Elders given budget priority

By AL

Council of Elders (COE) in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will receive more in their annual support grants next year says President John Momis.

Mr Momis said, that is, if the ABG is allowed to determine the use of the K100 million national government budgetary support to Bougainville next year.

The K100 million which is expected to be factored into the 2012 National budget is part of the total K500 million commitment by the national government for Bougainville over the next five years.

Mr Momis said the region's 40 COEs are allocated K55,000 in grants annually which are mainly tied to the administrative needs of the councils with hardly any funds allocated for village based projects which the COEs are expected to deliver.

He said before the crisis, the community government system which was replaced by the COEs, undertook small village based projects but this was non-existent today due to insufficient funding from ABG.

Mr Momis assured that the COEs budget for 2012 would be increased to enable the councils to address and maintain peace and good order in the communities.

He adds that the COEs would also provide assistance to the region's health and education programs, agriculture, fisheries and tourism in support of the region's economic development.

President Momis said for autonomy to be realized and appreciated, the council of elders must be empowered to ensure basic government services from both the ABG and national government filters through to the village level.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

WOMEN HEALTH ISSUES ADDRESSED

By Aloysius Laukai

New Dawn FM in Association with Commonwealth of Learning based in Canada yesterday completed a one week Program design workshop the second phase of the Bougainville Meri Tede Programme started last year.

The workshop was attended by the ABG Minister for Community Development responsible for Women Youth and Churches, ROSE PIHEI and Representatives of the Division of Health, NGO's Hako Women Collective, Bougainville Women Federation and Bougainville Interchurch Women Forum and the Buka General Hospital and a Youth Representative.

The program designed would start on 23rd November at 8.30 pm and would be put on the COL website.

Pictured is Minister for Communication JOE NOPE opening the training at the Lumankoa Conference Room.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Greetings

All our faithful viewers, were back on thanks to a Sponsor in Australia.ALEX DAWIA who has made it possible for us to come live again. The management and staff of New Dawn FM would like to thank Alex Dawia for his contribution in coming live again.

14.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG deputy PM ponders complying with arrest order

Papua New Guinea's deputy prime minister Belden Namah says he will talk to lawyers before deciding on whether to hand himself over to police following a Supreme Court order for his arrest on contempt charges.

Mr Namah says he has received the orders from the Supreme Court for his and the Attorney-General Dr Allan Marat's arrest, but he says he is standing by the government's decision to suspend the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia.

On Thursday, Mr Namah announced the suspension and investigation of Sir Salamo into multiple matters, including alleged mismanagement of court funds and contempt of court.

The government's move came as PNG is awaiting a Supreme Court verdict next month on the constitutionality of the government formed in August under disputed circumstances as the then prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, was in medical care in Singapore.

13.11.2011

Source: Panguna Landowner

Please read here the agenda of the...

PANGUNA MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOMIS AND MINISTERS

Date: Thursday 10th November 2011

Venue: Conference Room-ABG Administration

Agenda Items:

1. National Executive Meeting in Arawa
 - "Duta Nee" –K6 Million
2. Mr. Paul Coleman's visit to Arawa
3. President Hon Dr. John Momis visit to Panguna
4. Panguna Peace Building Strategy Policy Submission
5. K2 Million BCA Review/Panguna Re-opening Allocation
 - Landowner's Establishment
 - Regional Awareness
 - ABG/PLOA - BCA Secretariat
 - PMCC Works Program (Budget)
6. Warner Shand Lawyers letter to BCL
7. BCL Request to National Government renew SML Lease License
8. Outstanding Lease Compensation
9. A.O.B.

11.11.2011

Source: The Australian

BREAKING NEWS !

PNG Supreme Court orders arrest of attorney general, deputy PM

THE Supreme Court Of Papua New Guinea has ordered the arrest of Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah and Attorney General Dr Allan Marat.

This follows an announcement by Mr Namah on Thursday that Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Sir Salamo Injia had been suspended pending an investigation into multiple charges, including mismanagement of court funds.

The court ordered that Mr Namah and Dr Marat be arrested and brought before the court on Monday morning.

"The Registrar of the Supreme Court shall file and serve charges on two alleged contemnors the Hon Belden Namah and the Hon Dr Allan Marat within seven days," the court order said.

The order also restrains the government from implementing its decision, made Thursday, to suspend Sir Salamo from office.

The three year veteran of the Chief Justice chair had been presiding over a case into the constitutional legitimacy of the O'Neill government, which took power on August 2 in a 70 to 24 vote on the floor of parliament.

...That decision, by a panel of five judges, is due on December 9.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is currently in Hawaii for the APEC leaders meeting.

Original Arrest Order here !

11.11.2011

Source: ESBC

New search engine online !

Neue Suchmaschine aktiv ! Hier klicken !

Nouveau moteur de recherche activé ! Cliquez ici !

11.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Bougainville launches new company

ONE of Bougainville's vehicles for economic growth had been established and is in operation.

The Bougainville Import & Export General Corporation Limited (BIEG) was set up by the Bougainville Executive Council last month in Buka.

According to a report obtained by this newspaper, this is a public company in the business of imports and exports. It will start operation in general merchandise, wholesale and general hardware wholesale, and then expand to general goods and products export, as well as invest in other businesses including guest houses, restaurants, entertainment, downstream processing and real estate development.

The report details that:

* Total initial investment will be K10 million

* THE share pattern would be 60 per cent Bougainvillean (6000 shares to be sold to

Bougainvillean public at K1000 per share), and 40 per cent Chinese investors;

* Profit distribution: Staff welfare fund, development fund and remaining dividend as per share pattern;

* The entity would be head-quartered in Buka and Kokopau with sub-headquarters in Arawa and Buin; and

* Build up distribution system to connect every community co-operative corporation
The BIEF facility will accommodate office, supermarket and wholesale, warehouse for general merchandise and general hardware sale, export warehouse, management personnel accommodation, workers accommodation, staff training/entertainment room, staff canteen, restaurant, guest house, transport fleet, first-aid facility.

The report also details the list of major Bougainvillean shareholders of BIEF, which includes:

* THE Autonomous Bougainville Government;

* Bougainville Trader Ltd;

* Bougainville Business Association, Inc., (BBA);

* THE Bougainville Women Federation;

* Bougainville Veterans Holdings Ltd (BVHL);

* Churches;

* Bougainville Youth Association (BYA);

* All Councils of Elders;

* Capital Development Assets Limited (CDA); and

* Community Cooperative Corporations.

The other shares will be sold to Bougainvillean individuals. Share sales quota will be assigned to North, Central and South Regions of Bougainville, and Bougainvilleans in other parts of PNG.

11.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

State has K1.3b in accounts

By ESTELLA CHEUNG

THE Papua New Guinea Government has a total balance of K1.3 billion in trust accounts and at the end of September 2011, total trust accounts reported to Bank of PNG (BPNG) were 223.

Of these trust accounts, 18 per cent are held with the BPNG and 82 per cent are held with commercial banks.

This was the response by BPNG governor, Loi Bakani to questions about how many trust accounts the State held with commercial banks and with BPNG.

"The Government has many Trust accounts both with commercial banks and central bank. These accounts were established and appropriated through the past annual and supplementary budgets as a result of surplus revenue to fund specific approved projects and activities," Mr Bakani said in his response.

Mr Bakani said in regard to the Government's decision to transfer some of these trust accounts to BPNG, was firstly to help the BPNG in managing the high liquidity levels that exist in the banking system.

"This is part of managing monetary policy. As the BPNG is the main banker to Government, the government also has the responsibility to work closely with the central bank in ensuring that fiscal and monetary policies continue to operate consistently to achieve price and macroeconomic stability," Mr Bakani said.

He said secondly, it would help the Government in reducing the interest costs they are paying they are paying on securities mainly Treasury bills.

"There is a significant mismatch now as trust accounts deposits are earning less than one per cent from banks, while it pays around 3-4 per cent on Treasury bills sold to the public," he said. In the Monetary Policy Statement, ending September 2011 by Mr Bakani

as BPNG Governor, said to help BPNG's efforts in achieving and maintaining price stability, the Government should undertake several measures which included the establishment of an offshore Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) to manage revenues from the PNG LNG and other mineral projects. Minister for Finance and Treasury, Don Polye said at the 38th anniversary of BPNG on November 1 that Cabinet had approved the establishment of the SWF, but it is still not known where the SWF will be held.

11.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Election roll to be updated

By TRAVERTS MABONE

PREPARATIONS for the 2012 National Elections are progressing with the key focus now on updating the electoral roll in time for the elections.

The Minister responsible for the PNG Electoral Commission Wake Goi said that despite the set deadline of October 31, 2011 for elector data collection from all the provinces for processing into the electoral roll database, only a very few provinces have completed voter enrolment.

He added that most provinces were about to complete their data collection with some provinces needing an extension of time.

Provinces that have completed voter enrolment and have all their data entered into the electoral roll database will have their preliminary rolls printed and sent back to their respective provincial electoral offices, district offices, LLG offices and ward councilors for public viewing before the final rolls are printed in early 2012 for the elections.

The three provinces that have completed their rolls are West New Britain, Central and Northern provinces. Mr Goi further elaborated that elector data entry and quality audit of the rolls for East New Britain, West New Britain, Manus and New Ireland provinces **are almost complete except for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville** but voter enrolment is expected to start there in the coming weeks.

New rolls have already been sent to the provincial election managers in the New Guinea Islands region to complete elector data collection in certain wards.

For the Momase region, voter enrolment has been completed in West Sepik and East Sepik provinces while Morobe and Madang are still carrying out elector data collection in a number of their electorates which they have yet to send into Port Moresby for processing.

Data entry has been completed in most electorates and wards for West Sepik and East Sepik while data entry is progressing for only some electorates and wards for the two provinces.

For the Southern region, enrolment has been completed in the National Capital District, Central and Northern provinces; Milne Bay is almost complete while Western province is still behind with its field work in collecting elector data.

Data entry has been completed for Northern Province while Central province has only the Goilala Open electorate to go before its data entry is complete. For NCD and Milne Bay, data entry and roll audits area in progress.

For the highlands region, PNGEC is sending extra funding to all the Highlands provinces for them to get their electoral roll update work done.

So far, only two provinces that made some good progress in enrolling eligible voters in the family order are Chimbu and Eastern Highlands while field work is in progress for Enga and Southern Highlands provinces.

Western Highlands meanwhile is the only Highlands province that no electoral roll update work has been done to date. However electoral roll update training began yesterday with field work to commence next week.

11.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Concern raised as PNG suspends Chief Justice

The government of Papua New Guinea has taken the extraordinary and unprecedented step of suspending the country's top judge.

It's leveled serious allegations of misconduct against the Chief Justice but others say the timing is suspicious.

Critics say the move is designed to derail a legal challenge to the government's legitimacy and sets a dangerous precedent.

Presenter:Liam Fox

Speaker:Sir Arnold Amet, former PNG Attorney-General

Listen here !

FOX: With the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill out of the country for the APEC gathering in Honolulu his deputy Belden Namah delivered the dramatic news.

NAMAH: The cabinet has suspended the chief justice of Papua New Guinea based on overwhelming and I repeat that again based on overwhelming allegations against him.

FOX: The allegations are that Chief Justice Salamo Injia abused allowances, mismanaged court finances and engaged in compromising conflicts of interest.

Mr Namah also says the government has a police report saying Sir Salamo is facing contempt charges relating to the execution of a deceased judge's estate.

That allegation dates back to early 2009 and there was little detail about the other claims. Nevertheless Mr Namah says the allegations are serious and a tribunal has been formed to investigate them.

NAMAH: No one in this country is above the law, including the prime minister, myself, nor the Chief Justice of this country. Everybody is subject to the law, just like the little people and this is the decision we've taken, the only place for Chief Justice to clear himself is at the tribunal.

FOX: The shock announcement comes at a sensitive time.

Next month the Supreme Court was due to hand down a decision on a challenge to the government's legitimacy.

It came to power in controversial circumstances back in August.

Peter O'Neill was elected Prime Minister after a mass defection of government MPs allowed the then opposition to declare the PM's office vacant.

The then Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had been overseas for several months recovering from heart surgery.

Sir Michael's supporters went to the Supreme Court arguing there was no vacancy and even if there was the proper process to replace him was not followed.

Legal arguments wrapped up earlier this month and the court said it would hand down its decision on the 9th of December.

But Sir Salamo's suspension means that won't happen.

SALAMO: The chief justice and the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court must be left untampered with to deliver their judgement and this is clearly contemptuous and it is interfering with the independence of the judiciary.

FOX: Sir Arnold Amet is a former Chief Justice himself and was the Attorney-General in the Somare Government.

He warned last week there were moves afoot to suspend Sir Salamo but the government said the claim was outrageous.

Sir Arnold says the suspension is a blatant and dangerous attempt to derail the Supreme Court challenge.

AMET: It's absolutely dangerous, it must not be allowed to go unchallenged, otherwise the executive government can do this willy nilly at the drop of the hat if there are matters before the court that it is not pleased with.

FOX: Long time political observer Paul Barker from the Institute of National Affairs says it appears the government does have the power to suspend the Chief Justice.

But he says many Papua New Guineans will be suspicious of the timing.

BARKER: I think the public perception will certainly be concerned that the executive government is interfering in activities of the judiciary.

FOX: In this litigious society it's likely Sir Salamo's suspension will be challenged in court either by himself or the former government.

But in PNG the wheels of justice turn slowly and it could be some time before the issue is resolved.

11.11.2011

Source: The National

Grand Chief condemns 'shameless act'

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday condemned the government's decision to suspend the chief justice

"It pains me greatly that this unprecedented action is being taken when the full bench of the Supreme Court is deciding on one of the most important constitutional issues to face this country," he said in a media statement.

"Because due processes have not been followed, I doubt if any fair minded citizen would believe the NEC accusation that Sir Salamo Injia has been guilty of any wrongdoing.

"Most members of the public would be well aware that I was closely involved with the drafting of the PNG Constitution, along with other leaders of the day, such as Bougainville President John Momis.

"This is a shameless action taken at the conclusion of hearings by the full bench of the Supreme Court on the legality of the Aug 2 parliamentary coup and the Sept 6 declaration of a vacancy for the East Sepik Regional seat. I held that seat for an uninterrupted period of 43 years."

Sir Michael said the public would be well aware of the string of decisions taken by the O'Neill-Namah government to give themselves a pretence of legitimacy.

"You will recall they first tried very hard to stop me from returning from Singapore so my East Sepik seat could be declared vacant on grounds I had missed three consecutive sittings of parliament.

"Then the national government threatened the use of force to get the East Sepik

provincial government to withdraw its special reference to the Supreme Court, acting in contempt of proceedings that were already under way.

"Now, in a third untoward action, the government is for the very first time in our history trying to impugn the integrity of our judiciary and the judicial system.

"I categorically condemn these actions."

11.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville remandee electrocuted

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

A MAN on remand in the custody of the Bougainville police service died after he was electrocuted while trying to connect electricity to the home of a former police commander on Buka Island.

Sakius Parerea, from Wakunai, died instantly while carrying out the assignment at former Buka police station commander Alex Gunnan's home.

Bougainville police chief Thomas Eluh said the work Parerea was doing had not been authorised.

Eluh said Gunnan, who has been blamed by relatives of the deceased, had paid K25,000 as bel kol money and was working towards paying the final K250,000 compensation demand by the end of this month.

"I assure the relatives of the deceased that the officer concerned has the responsibility to pay the grieving relatives a certain amount of money not less than K250,000 according to the demands of the relatives for the death of the remandee who was electrocuted," Eluh said.

He urged the relatives of the deceased not to demand money from the state as they were already receiving money from the officer concerned.

Eluh said demanding compensation "is not Bougainville's way of making peace and should not be practised in the region".

"It is a culture adapted from the tribal areas of the New Guinea Islands," he said.

"The habit of demanding bel kol compensation is a foreign concept and should not be practiced in Bougainville."

10.11.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Panguna Landowner statement ahead!

The Panguna Landowners are supposed to make an important statement on Friday, November 11th, 2011, sources said Thursday evening in Buka. This will be reported as soon as possible here!

10.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia

PNG judge suspended over police charges

by Liam Fox, Port Moresby

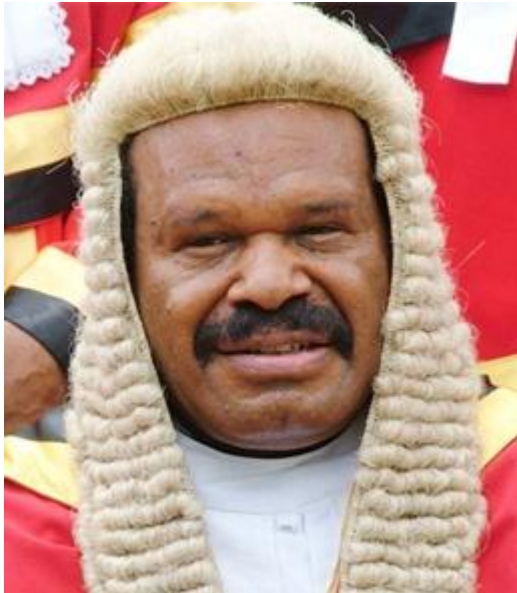
Papua New Guinea's government has taken the dramatic step of suspending the country's top judge after seeing police-filed charges against his name.

The acting Prime Minister, Belden Namah says "overwhelming" allegations have been made against Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, forcing the government to act.

He says a police report shows Sir Salamo is facing contempt charges connected to the execution of a late judge's estate.

Mr Namah also alleges the judge has abused allowances, mismanaged court finances and was engaged in compromising conflicts of interest.

The suspension comes at a sensitive time, with the full bench of the Supreme Court is now considering a challenge to the government's legitimacy, due to be hand down its decision next month.



Suspended: PNG Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia

10.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG govt suspends Chief Justice of Supreme Court

The Papua New Guinea government has suspended the chief justice of the Supreme Court, a month before he was to deliver a verdict on the legitimacy of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill's election.

The Herald Sun online reports the government suspended Sir Salamo Injia yesterday, citing a police report that he is facing charges of breaching a contempt order in a previous case, and mismanaging court finances.

In a statement, deputy prime minister, Belden Namah, said a tribunal of former judges would investigate the allegations against Sir Salamo.

Late week the government denied to that it was seeking to remove Supreme Court judges from the case.

The Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika is to be acting Chief Justice during Sir Salamo's suspension.

Sir Salamo has been chief justice since 2008.

Meanwhile, Paul Barker, of the Institute of National Affairs, says the Supreme Court will presumably move ahead with its December 9 verdict on whether Mr O'Neill's elevation to the top job on August 2 was constitutional.

10.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG strategises economy

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government should be financially secure in the next three years if a major and special economic zoning strategy they have established is adhered to and followed.

President John Momis' detailed report of the Special Economy zoning (SEZ) is set in a way that would strategically and regionally benefit Bougainville.

According to the report:

- * North Bougainville Region should concentrate on Cocoa (chocolate) and Tourism. (Preparation of cocoa to be processed in Bougainville for chocolate with a chocolate factory being set up.

This would be done in north Bougainville. This town would focus on cocoa as its main economic priority as a SEZ primary product to stimulate direct investment development. It is envisaged that this establishment's infrastructure will bring in multinational companies and industries for partnership arrangement.

- * **Central region will concentrate on mining industries**, infrastructure processing and;

- * Southern region will have the tuna cannery, animal husbandry and rice packaging etc. The ABG will also focus on "The Happiest Town" promotion with benefits to include:

- * Public investment (basic facilities) \$US1.4 billion (K3.49 billion). Roads, bridges, seaports, airports, hydropower, medical, stadiums, technical colleges and other amenities. The Chinese Government will loan to ABG at 2% interest for 60 years a K24 million repayment annually.

- * Private investment benefit K3.57billion (\$US 1.39 billion).

- * Industrial investment — USD \$US600 m (K1.397 billion)

- * Commercial real estate investment \$US323 m (K752 million).

- * Residential real estate — \$US167 million (K389 million).

- * Tourism — \$US50m (K116 million)

- * Trades — \$US100m (K232 million)

- * Service — \$US50m (K116 million).

10.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

40 atolls families to move to Buka

FORTY families from Bougainville's Carteret Islands, are ready to move to their new location on the far north of Buka Island.

And an appeal has been made to the Autonomous Bougainville Government from the Carterets Island council of elders to help control the international non-government organisations that are frequenting the islanders with no help coming their way from these groups.

Bougainville President John Momis said that the Bougainville administration was now

working on a proposal to immediately help the islanders because in his recent visit to the Carterets, he witnessed the island in a very bad state – that the main island would now be cut in half from the rising sea level.

Mr Momis said there was still K2 million parked in the government account for the resettlement program and advised that the Australian Government, through Parliamentary Secretary Richard Marles, had also pledged to help financially with the resettlement of these islanders.

“Mi lukim Carterets em bagarap. Yumi no nap stopim climate change...solwara rausim ol sea wall pinis and everything, so they have to move (I have seen that Carterets have all destroyed. We cannot stop Climate Change ... the sea has removed all seawalls and everything),” Mr Momis said in Tok Pisin and English.

Meanwhile, Bougainville Affairs Minister Steven Pirika Kama also pledged to take the plight of the Carterets Islanders to the next level – to seek financial help from the National Government for the resettlement. “Yes, I will take it up if ABG gives proposal – everything is proposal because money never comes from the sky – proposal will implement it,” said Mr Pirika.

10.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Arawa police investigate murders

POLICE in Arawa are investigating the murder of three people in Arawa early hours of yesterday.

Arawa police told the Post-Courier yesterday that the three were alleged to have attempted to rob a shop in Arawa but failed and their heads were chopped off by unknown persons. The police could not further provide details as they claimed the investigations were still being carried out.

10.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville joins tsunami alert exercise

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be part of a nationwide tsunami warning exercise using the PACWAVE 11 system today, Bougainville disaster and emergency coordinator Franklyn Lacey says.

The exercise will be conducted by the Pacific Warning Centre in Hawaii in collaboration with the Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory and the National Disaster Centre.

Lacey said the aim of the exercise was to test the effectiveness and efficiency of the early warning and communication systems of each respective emergency centre and, on a larger scale, each country in the Asia-Pacific region and South America.

He said it was to test the new products the centre in Hawaii would now be employing to monitor earthquakes and issue tsunami warnings.

“All district executive managers throughout the autonomous region have been notified and are on standby to receive and disseminate the warnings to all respective recipients within the districts,” he said.

Lacey said the different district contacts in the region had been warned to ensure that the recipients were advised in advance of the exercise to avoid any unnecessary panic among the local communities.

He said a feed-back and evaluation exercise would be conducted immediately after the alert exercise to get the views of the public.

10.11.2011

Source: The National

Locals puzzled by sinkhole

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

TORE-SURE villagers in North Bougainville are baffled by a 20-meter wide trench that is two meters deep and gradually expanding through the valley at the base of Mt Takania where the village is.

Bougainville disaster coordinator Franklyn Lacey said local chiefs, concerned about their people's safety, sought his help to determine the cause of the sinking soil.

He said the sinking soil phenomena began in 2009.

And it has affected a wide area including coffee and cocoa plantations, he said.

Lacey refused to speculate on the cause of the sinking soil but confirmed that there was no evidence of fumes emitting from the ground and there was no unusual smell in the area.

He said soil samples from the village will be sent to the Rabaul Volcano Observatory next week for analysis.

He said the chiefs were keenly awaiting the results from the laboratory tests as they planned to relocate the bulk of the Tore-Sure population from their current settlement along the coast of Tinputz back to the base of Mt Takania.

"These people originally lived at the base of Mt Takania but during the German administration, they were relocated to the coastal area for census reasons.

"These people of more than 600 now want to return to their land but fear settling in their village which they see is sinking," said Lacey.

He said laboratory results from the RVO would be expected back in December as the laboratory technician was in Australia.

09.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG receives K15m grant

By GORETHY KENNETH

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government received its 2011 establishment grant of K15m from the National Government yesterday.

Minister for Bougainville Affairs Steven Pirika Kama handed the cheque to ABG President John Momis in Buka yesterday.

The first K100 million "promised" to Bougainville under the K500 million package should be released in this year's National Budget.

Further, the ABG has asked for an increase in the Bougainville's recurrent budget, an annual allocation from the National Government for next year, according to Mr Momis in an interview in Buka yesterday.

Mr Kama reiterated the commitment and the partnership from the O'Neill-Namah Government to Bougainville.

Meanwhile, Mr Momis thanked the National Government for honouring its commitment and releasing the K15m, although 11 months later.

Mr Momis said that most of this grant would be used to repay monies diverted from other projects and continue to fund peace process and development activities in the region.

“Bougainville was reduced to basic humanity and these K15 million grant was a means for us for development, implement autonomy and working towards referendum,” he said.

Although the ABG needed more money to develop its region, Mr Momis assured the K100 million if released this year would be used for planned impact projects already in preparation by the ABG and its administration.

09.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Call to fund peace effort

By Melanie Toliken

THE people of Manetai in the Eivo/Torau Constituency are calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to fund a peace and reconciliation project in preparation for the re-opening of the limestone mine.

According to their member Melchior Dare, the Emai chiefs passed a resolution to hold high impact reconciliation for consultation and negotiations towards securing a joint venture partnership arrangement to re-open mine by early 2012.

“The necessarily process such as land mediation, dispute on the landownership title has been resolved by the Emai chiefs and now we are calling on the Autonomous Bougainville Government and its administration through the Division of Peace to immediately assist to fast track high impact peace and reconciliation among the surrounding communities of limestone area,” said Mr Dare.

He said that a request had been made to the Division of Commerce and Trade through the Investment Promotion Authority to advertise the Manetai Limestone Project in the IPA website and media to attract one to two foreign investors to bid for the project.

He added that by 2012 the people of Manetai and the ABG should secure a joint venture partnership to re-open the limestone mine.

“The project will greatly contribute to the region by boosting its economy as well as improving social livelihoods,” said Mr Dare.

09.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Seaweed project for atolls

THE Bougainville Executive Council has endorsed a pilot seaweed farming project for the Bougainville Atolls and other coastal communities in the region. Since the National Fisheries Authority banned the sea cucumber industry in 2009, those people who depended heavily on the business to sustain their daily needs, were financially affected.

The seaweed farming project was approved after the Autonomous Bougainville Government Minister for Primary Industry presented a policy submission based on the Feasibility Study Report on the seaweed farming in the Solomon Island. Seaweed is an important commercial food, especially in Asian and European countries and it is one of the highly priced commodities in the world markets in

Asia, America, Africa, and Europe.

Seaweed project is an effective alternative economic development activity in the Atolls and coastal communities.

09.11.2011

Source: The National

ABG gets K15m state grant

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

IMPACT projects for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be implemented under a K15 million restoration and development grant from the national government.

Bougainville Affairs Minister and South Bougainville MP Steven Kamma Pirika yesterday presented Bougainville President John Momis with a bank statement as proof of the funds being deposited into the ABG account.

Momis said the K15 million grant was from an agreement between the national government and ABG in the Bougainville peace agreement signed in 2001.

He said the funding would help with the rebuilding of roads, infrastructure and sorting out the Bougainville administrative divisions.

The president said the ABG would continue with its peace-building and weapons disposal initiatives and that it was talking with the PNG, Australia and New Zealand governments on building the technical and intellectual capacity of Bougainvilleans.

In thanking the PNG government, Pirika urged both governments to work together for the betterment of the people of Bougainville.

09.11.2011

Source: The National

Mining boom

THE mining and petroleum industry is the biggest employer in Papua New Guinea in the past six years.

The industry came close to doubling its workforce from 18,000 to 30,000 between 2003 and 2010. These figures were disclosed by Michael Uiari, the Oil Search general manager in PNG in charge of commercial,

legal and stakeholder management. He was speaking last Friday to journalists in Port Moresby about the industry's benefit to PNG's economy. The main projects in the pipeline are the PNG LNG project, Yandera, Ramu nickel, Wafi Golpu, Frieda River and Gulf LNG. There are a number of grass roots exploration projects in both mining and petroleum also employing a lot of workers in the fields. Projects commissioned into production during this period are Simberi and Hidden Valley mines. Uiari said a growing number were hired in the exploration phases, smallscale alluvial mines and contractors and joint ventures being set up.

He said the industry was an integrated industry made up of exploration, evaluation, development and production, using a wide range of services and

support industries, indirectly giving jobs to more people. They were mainly employed by aviation, drilling and drilling suppliers, seismic contractors, analytical laboratories and technical services of all types.

Others were involved in expediting and logistics, earthmoving and trucking sales and contractors, shipping of all types, port services, supply of motor vehicles and tyres, wholesaling and retailing of fuel, general merchandise, white goods, equipment, tools, food supplies and catering, maintenance and servicing contractors of all types, accounting, legal, engineering, surveying and other professional services, provision of accommodation including hotels, office and private rental residences, technical and vocational training and security.

"These groups benefit because our industry consumes goods and services from every aspect of our economy," Uiari said.

The PNG LNG project alone currently employs 6,600 local workers compared to a maximum of 3500 projected before construction.

At the peak of construction in the second half of next year, total employment is expected to jump to 15,000 people – local and foreign combined.

The economy is expected to grow by a "low double-digit" this year which is expected to translate to significant increases in employment in contrast to 2009 when the economy grew by only 4.5% due mainly to the global financial crisis.

Uiari said the financial and other benefits provided by the resource projects were diverse and substantial including employment, royalty via the state, taxes, dividends, tax credit schemes, education and training, business and agricultural development, health programmes and services, community facilities and other infrastructure.

He said an estimated K1.47 billion in taxes was paid to the government last year.

Uiari said royalties alone during the past five years had totalled K1.1 billion calculated at the rate of 2% each from the mining and the petroleum sectors.

09.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainvilleans farm seaweed

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BOUGAINVILLE atolls and coastal communities are venturing into seaweed farming as an alternative to marketing sea cucumber.

The marine project, which recently gained the support of the Bougainville executive council, is expected to generate income for more than 500 families affected by the closure of the sea cucumber industry.

Bougainville House of Representatives speaker Andrew Miriki said the seaweed farming project was approved after the Autonomous Bougainville Government minister for primary industry, Nicholas Daku presented a policy submission based on a feasibility study report on seaweed farming in the Solomon Islands.

"Since the sea cucumber industry was banned in 2009 by the National Fisheries Authority, those who depended on the business were financially affected," he said. Miriki said there were world markets in Asia, United States of America, Africa and Europe for seaweed.

"Seaweed is one of the highly priced commodity in the world markets due to its many uses such as fertiliser, livestock meal, gels, rubber and as colloid in cosmetics, car polishes and paints," Miriki said.

09.11.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville education board members appointed

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THIRTEEN new appointees have been endorsed by the Bougainville executive council to serve on the Bougainville education board.

The council said the appointment of the new members was necessary as the term of the former members had expired on August 26.

The new education board members include Bruno Babato, who is chairman, Joseph Noro, Peter Toliken and Lucy Travertz, who represent the national government.

Members representing the Papua New Guinea Teachers Association, churches, local level government and community are Jonathan Ageva, Martin Takali, Simon Koraikove, Omepe Misirari, Frank Matapau, Roslyne Gatana, Peter Dosti, Nicolas Mangona and John Masiu.

Congratulating the new members, the executive council urged them to take seriously their roles as the board was the highest decision-making body responsible for education policies, activities and services.

08.11.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Bougainville prepares for ceasefire signing in the South

Preparations are under way for the official signing of a ceasefire agreement in Konnou in the south of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville.

This follows negotiations between the autonomous Bougainville government and the rebel leader, Damian Koike, who has held sway in the region for years.

The newspaper, The National, reports the Bougainville Vice President Patrick Nisira, saying the agreement would end more than six years of conflict which has claimed more than 50 lives.

He says the conflict has caused insecurity for women and children, displacing many families.

Mr Nisira says the signing is planned for next month.

08.11.2011

Source: ESBC Research / Bloomberg Businessweek

UP 79 percent !

China 2015 Copper Demand to Reach 12.5 Million Tons, Minmetals !

Please scroll down to November 2nd !

08.11.2011

Source: The National

Lasting peace looms for South Bougainville

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

PREPARATIONS are under way for the official signing of a ceasefire agreement in Konnou, South Bougainville.

Bougainville Vice-President Patrick Nisira, who is Konnou task force committee chairman, said the signing is planned for next month.

He said the agreement would end more than six years of conflict in the Konnou area which had claimed more than 50 lives.

"The past eight years of conflict and killing in Konnou have caused insecurity to women and children and had displaced families from their homes," Nisira said.

"Today, we hear people talking about peace, reconciliation and not war.

"The hunger for peace in Konnou is much stronger than the desire for vengeance and violence," he said.

Since August, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and President John Momis had been working with a Konnou task force committee and the Konnou peace mission team in initiating dialogue and organising reconciliation ceremonies with warring factions in the area.

Nisira said the lead-up reconciliations were held throughout last month at Hongarai, in Siwai, and Mongai, Wisai and Mogorai, in Buin, where Mekamui hardliner Damien Koike shook hands with his former enemies of the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) faction.

"I thank the conflicting parties in Konnou for owning up to negotiate for peace in their area," Nisira said.

"It has been a long time coming to reconcile with each other.

"Although peace in Konnou means a lot for the families who had suffered, it further strengthens the process of unification of all Bougainvilleans," he said.

08.11.2011

Source: ESBC Research

DO NOT MIX UP Pukki and Puka !



Teemu Pukki

Soccer professional from Finland
playing for Schalke 04
in the first German league.



Sir Puka Temu , MD

Politician from Papua New Guinea
national MP and former Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Agriculture

08.11.2011

Source: The National

AusAID gives steriliser to Buka Hospital

by STEPHANIE ELIZAH

CONFIDENCE in Buka General Hospital's delivery of quality patient care and treatment has been restored with a new sterilising machine funded by AusAID being commissioned last Friday.

Hospital chief executive officer Dr Cyril Imako said the new Atherton steriliser would be handled with care by trained officers of the central sterilising unit.

"Buka Hospital deals with 200 surgical cases and up to 150 deliveries per month," he said.

"These kind of figures demand high performance from our staff.

"Operating functional machines like this steriliser is critical to delivering quality care for our patients," Imako said.

Director medical services Dr Barnabas Matanu said Buka Hospital was the ninth hospital to launch this "state of the art" machine after eight other provincial hospitals around the country, including Manus, Kavieng, Port Moresby and Nonga, in East New Britain.

"We are very excited. The steriliser will enhance delivery and patient care of patients from throughout the autonomous region.

"Our surgeons and nurses will now be able to do their job in a much safer environment.

"They will work in realistic time as the machine can sterilise items in less than five minutes, which is a critical factor," Matanu said.

Steven Greenleaf, installation engineer with Sterilising Equipment Supply and Services (SESS) Australia, said for the first time, the contract to supply and install sterilising equipment in PNG had a service contract attached.

"It is a major boost for health services as it not only allows the contractor to supply and install equipment but provide maintenance and upgrade service on a two-year basis," he said.

Greenleaf, who spent a week in Buka installing the new machine, provided two days of technical training on how to operate the machine, including record keeping of data generated by the machine and how to recover from the constant power outages Buka town is prone to.

08.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Ceasefire agreement locked in for factions

By Melanie Toliken UPNG journalism student

FACTIONS in South Bougainville will soon proceed to stage two of the peace mission – the guns and weapons disposal program.

This is because of a major breakthrough, the Autonomous Bougainville Peace Mission successfully negotiated with the Me'ekamui hardliner Damien Koike and his warring factions for a major ceasefire agreement signing on November 29, at Tabago Mission. ABG Veterans Affairs Minister David Sisito said from that, the Tsiroge Accord Task Force has achieved its mission and is now ready for another process in life –the guns disposal to get the region ready for a referendum.

ABG vice president Patrick Nisira in a statement on the Konnou issue also stated that the ABG should be given a pat on the back for a successful mission.

"Peace does not grow on trees like apples in the Garden of Eden. We must initiate and

work hard for peace to return in our communities,” Mr Nisira said.

“It is imperative we understand that Bougainville needs the people of Konnou also in our communal effort towards referendum and therefore necessary that the rest of Bougainvillians must participate wherever possible to help restore peace in Konnou.

“It is easy to make war but very hard to make peace, therefore, the Bougainville executive council stresses that all ex-combatants, the peace team, the churches in Bougainville, the recently created Buin custom way and all peace loving people of Bougainville must now work collectively to sustain the achievements gained in the last three months.

“Our ultimate success to referendum vests on a unified Bougainville that is mutually responsible in maintaining peace in the region.”

He said that the Konnou issue was a complicated one and those who are involved in the succeeding stages of the reconciliation process must take cautious measures while addressing the issue.

“For the last six to eight years of the conflict in Konnou, there have been killings which have caused insecurity to women and children and, have displaced a handful of families from their homes,” he said. “We heard killings after killings in South Bougainville/Konnou.

“Today, you hear people talking about peace, reconciliation, and not war.

“The hunger for peace in Konnou is much stronger than the desire for vengeance and violence.

“I must acknowledge President, John Momis’ personal involvement in the Konnou peace process.

“His tireless trips to be at these trouble spots to join with the reconciling parties is an unyielding quality of his concern for a united Bougainville,” he said.

08.07.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Erero scoops News Ltd award

POST-COURIER journalist Simon Erero scored a first for the Post-Courier newspaper, and the country, when he was named the winner of 2011 News Limited News Awards “Scoop of the Year” category.

He beat off the other two finalists from The Australian newspaper and the Sunday Herald Sun. Simon’s entry in the awards this year was his securing of an interview with the OPM on the Indonesian border last August, and the risk and personal sacrifice he had to undergo to get the interview.

Simon with his wife, Chrissenda, accompanied by Post-Courier managing director Kevin Smith and editor-in-chief, Blaise Nangoi, attended the awards in Sydney last Friday night where the announcement was made at a Black Tie Dinner attended by News Limited founder and major shareholder, Rupert Murdoch, members of his family, businessmen, politicians, and News Limited Chairman and chief executive officer, John Hartigan.

News Limited is a shareholder of the Post-Courier newspaper.

The awards are an annual event held by News Limited for all its newspapers in the region to recognise excellence in journalism among its reporters.

This is the second time the Post-Courier has entered the awards, the first in 2007 where its Buka bureau chief, Gorethy Kenneth also went through to the finals with her exclusive on an interview with Bougainville secessionist hardliner, Francis Ona.

Mr Smith said of Simon’s win: “As in 2007, I was very satisfied that one of our journalists made it to the finals. To get this far is a great achievement in itself, considering there were 565 entries. For Simon to actually go on to win one of the major awards was something very special. Competing among the best of the best of the big metropolitan Australian dailies is nearly an impossible task. “However Simon’s story, effort, professional determination and personal sacrifice could not help but impress the 53 judges, and he deservedly came out a winner. I know this has lifted the spirit and morale

of not just our journalists, but many employees in other departments at Post-Courier, and I hope it delivers the same to all the other PNG journalists and media staff. I do not see this as just a win for Post-Courier, but much rather a time of pride for Papua New Guinea. Congratulations Simon, and a special thankyou to your wife Chrissenda for supporting you in your career.”

Mr Nangoi said the win for Simon and the paper comes at a time when the newspaper is being bombarded by critics on many issues it has reported on.

“It is a great personal achievement for Simon as a journalist. We at the Post-Courier are proud of Simon but, as important too, is the fact that the award is also recognition of the high standards we strive to bring news to our readers nationally.

Mr Nangoi said: “I am delighted with the award. It means a lot, not only to our journalists, but all journalists in PNG. It is a vote of confidence in what they can achieve if they are backed to do their jobs properly.”

07.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Residents query shop

BOUGAINVILLEAN leaders and residents of Buka town are demanding the Autonomous Bougainville Government to explain why a particular company is now operating a retail shop and not a wholesale as agreed.

The company is one of the alleged “biggest company” as stated by the ABG.

It would be the major wholesaler for Bougainville to help small scale businesses, especially trade stores and retailers from spending excessively to order goods in Rabaul, Lae and Port Moresby.

Instead Bougainvilleans are already up in arms and want a response from the ABG why this company is operating in containers and not a big wholesale building.

“They look like they are operating like Lot 60 in Port Moresby, where is the wholesale idea or the joint venture agreement that the ABG has been preaching about?” the community in Buka and the leadership have questioned. “We’ve been watching these Chinese selling goods in these containers. And look at them, Chinese are building fences when our youths in Buka can be utilized. What a big joke.”

But the Chinese company now setting up a few yards away from the Buka Urban Council have advised the Post-Courier that they will have to operate in containers first before any big wholesale is built.

Some of these Chinese men spoken to do not understand or speak English. The person who could understand the language refused to talk to the paper when asked. He could only say that they were still building and that they would be operating a wholesale next year.

The ABG, under its BCCC arrangement, has been committed to promote:

- Joint ventures
- Large capital/high expertise Chinese investment projects
- Systematic joint venture endeavour
- Building up Bougainville economic development capacity
- Supporting ABG legislation, establishment of implementation capacity, and fiscal self-reliance
- Maximum Bougainvillean participation in and benefit from joint ventures share pattern
- Technical training for expertise improvement.

07.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

UN's call on youths

By JOYCE TOHUI

YOUTHS of Bougainville have been urged to organise and participate in the development of Bougainville.

United Nations Development Programme Technical Officer Anthony Agyenta made the call at the signing of the Hongorai ceasefire agreement in Siwai.

Mr Agyenta said that there were a lot of opportunities out there but only an organised group could tap into them.

He told them that as future leaders, they should be participating in all activities in their areas instead of causing problems in their communities.

Mr Agyenta said that UN was not in Bougainville to collect weapons as it should be the people of Bougainville who should collect their own weapons.

He said the work of UN of five years ago was different because UN was now there to develop the place and it's the people that must provide the environment for development to take place.

07.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Support for churches

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government John Momis said that his Government would fully support the work of churches in Bougainville.

He was speaking at the launching of the God's Kingdom network at the Bel Isi Park in Buka town recently.

Mr Momis said that ABG, in its budget plan, would financially fund churches to carry out their work throughout the region.

He said that he believed churches could do a lot to help the people of Bougainville as it looked after its congregation.

Mr Momis also acknowledged the launching of the contract, saying it was an agreement between God and the people to build God's Kingdom on Bougainville.

He assured the people that his Government would work closely with churches in the region to ensure true peace prevailed in Bougainville.

He said that he believed in church workers that they would implement the contract which would unify Bougainville.

07.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis initiated chief of Nuguria

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government John Momis was at the weekend made the paramount chief of Nuguria in a traditional ceremony.

A delegation from ABG attended the event, including ministers and chief executive officers from all the ABG Government divisions.

Chief Momis was also named as Nuguria by the chief of Nuguria.

The ceremony in Nuguria took place when Mr Momis became the first ABG President to visit the island since the ABG was established in 2005.

In accepting the initiation ceremony, Chief John Momis Nuguria called on the people of

Nuguria to stay united and work with their Government in its efforts to develop Bougainville.

Mr Momis said that the ABG planned to promote the farming of seaweed and other marine products in the Atolls Island.

He said work had already started to fast track the sea weed farming for Caterets and the Nuguria islanders.

Mr Momis also told the people of Nuguria that the ABG had plans to buy one fast boat to promote tourism on the island and a similar mode of transport for the atolls.

Meanwhile, more than 3000 bales of rice and tinned fish were distributed to the people of Nuguria and Carterets islands at the weekend.

These food supplies were a regular three monthly supplies which the ABG provides to the people of Atolls who have been severely affected by rising sea levels on their island.

The food supplies were delivered on the MV Bougainville Atoll's maiden trip to the two islands at the weekend.

Mr Momis and his delegation also used the opportunity to meet and talk to the people of Atolls.

07.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

China mines in Zambia 'unsafe': Human Rights Watch

Chinese-run copper mines in Zambia are dangerously unsafe and owners routinely flout the rights of workers, says a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The pressure group says miners are threatened with dismissal if they became involved in union activities.

It urged Zambia's new President, Michael Sata, to fulfil election promises and take decisive action against the owners.

The Chinese state company running the mines denied most of HRW's allegations.

Copper mining is one of Zambia's main industries, providing nearly three-quarters of the country's exports; many of the mining companies are foreign-owned.

The Human Rights Watch report entitled "You'll Be Fired If You Refuse": Labour Abuses in Zambia's Chinese State-owned Copper Mines, highlights "persistent abuses".

It said miners had to work 12-hour shifts often in fume-filled tunnels. Sometimes shifts were 18 hours long.

Zambian law limits shifts to eight hours.

The report said that despite improvements in recent years, safety and labour conditions at Chinese mines were worse than at other foreign-owned mines.

The state-owned China Non-Ferrous Metals Mining Corporation (CNM) runs four copper mines in Zambia.

In its response to the report, CNM said "language and cultural differences" could have resulted in "misunderstandings".

"China's significant investment in Zambia's copper mining industry can benefit both Chinese and Zambians," said Daniel Bekele, the Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

"But the miners in Chinese-run companies have been subject to abusive health, safety and labour conditions and longtime [Zambian] government indifference."

Many of the poor safety practices in Zambia's Chinese-run mines were strikingly similar to abuses at mines in China, he added.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing, Hong Lei said the report did not accurately reflect conditions.

"The conclusions reached by Human Rights Watch are inconsistent with the facts," Mr Hong told reporters.

He said Chinese companies had brought great benefits to Zambia and that systems were in place to protect the safety and rights of workers there.

The report is based on interviews with 170 copper miners, more than half of whom

worked for the Chinese companies.

Human Rights Watch found that pay at the Chinese-run mines was higher than Zambia's minimum wage, but much lower than that paid by other multinational copper mining firms.

The workers said they often had to buy their own safety equipment.

"Sometimes when you find yourself in a dangerous position, they tell you to go ahead with the work," one miner told Human Rights Watch. - BBC

04.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Konnou to end war

By GORETHY KENNETH

A BIG official signing of the ceasefire agreement in Bougainville's estranged Konnou area has been planned before Christmas this year.

And the hunger for peace in Konnou is now much stronger than the desire for vengeance and violence, according to Autonomous Bougainville Government vice president Patrick Nisira, who is also the Chairman of the Konnou Peace Task Force Committee.

Further, there was a big reconciliation meeting at Mogorai, Me'ekamui hardliner Damien Koike's village in Buin. After a month of constant meetings with chiefs and the warring factions in the Konnou area for a possible ceasefire arrangement, three truck loads of WILMO faction from Wisai arrived at Koike's village for the occasion.

"On this note, let me take this opportunity to thank the conflicting parties in Konnou for owning up to negotiate for peace in their area. It has been a long road coming to finally settle down to reconcile with each other. Although, peace in Konnou means a lot for the families who have suffered since the conflict began, it further strengthens," he said.

"...I can humbly say that the success in the progress of peace in Konnou today was instigated by the movement of the Peace Team into Konnou areas in late August, 2011, when the situation was still tense. This was the crucial breakthrough that has created venues to negotiate peace between the conflicting factions in Konnou. I must also commend the Bougainville Executive Council, chaired by President John Momis for making this important decision in the push for peace in Konnou.

"The Konnou issue is a complicated issue and those who are involved in the succeeding stages of the reconciliation process must take cautious measures while addressing the issue. For the last six to eight years of the conflict in Konnou, there have been killings which have caused insecurity to women and children and, has displaced a handful of families from their homes. We heard killings after killings in south Bougainville/Konnou. Today, you hear people talking about peace, reconciliations and not war.

"The recent reconciliations at Mogoroi in Buin, Hongarai at Siwai, Mongai and Wisai in Buin are all interconnected issues with the Konnou conflict. Although, these reconciliations were dealt with separately, the issues in these areas are very much part of the conflict in Konnou.

"The Konnou issue, which is now in its reconciliation process, has been a hurdle for quite some time for the ABG to deliver the basic Government services to the Konnou people.

"In Koike's short speech during the ceremony, he said 'fate has finally arrived for us to put away guns'."

04.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Media workshop on mining, petroleum

SELECTED journalists from media organisations in the country are attending a media workshop on the mining and petroleum industry.

The workshop will provide journalists with an introduction to the legislation that governs the PNG mining and petroleum sectors, an overview of all facets of the industry and PNG resource developments.

The workshop will cover specific industry issues, especially resource ownership. It will also be an opportunity to meet public relations specialists from across the industry and to obtain the latest project information and publications.

The workshop is principally aimed at the mainstream media, but it is expected that public relations personnel from relevant Government organisations will attend as well as PR personnel from across the industry.

The event runs for two days; from today to tomorrow.

04.11.2011

Source: The National

Momis made chief of Nuguria

By ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis was made the paramount chief of Nuguria in a traditional ceremony last weekend.

The ceremony was attended by members of the ABG delegation that included ministers and chief executive officers from all government divisions.

Momis was named as Nuguria by the chief of Nuguria.

The ceremony in Nuguria eventuated when Momis became the first leader to visit the island since the establishment of the autonomous region in 2005.

In accepting the initiation ceremony, Momis Nuguria called on the people of Nuguria to stay united and work with their government to develop Bougainville.

Momis said ABG had plans to promote the farming of seaweed and other marine products in the Atolls islands.

He said work had already started to fast-track sea weed farming for Carterets and the Nuguria islanders.

He told the people of Nuguria the ABG had plans to buy a fast boat to promote tourism on the island and ensure a fast mode of transport to the islands.

More than 3000 bales of rice and tinned fish were distributed to the people of Nuguria and Carterets islands at the weekend.

The food was the regular three-monthly supply that the ABG provides to the people of Atolls who have

been severely affected by rising sea levels.

03.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis urges unity for peace

THE ABG President John Momis is appealing to the people of Bougainville to unite for peace and remove the blockades of unity.

He made these remarks at a peace ceremony between the Wisai Liberation Movement and the Wisai Mekamui group in Buin, South Bougainville.

President Momis called on the Wisai factions to remove all weapons of destruction saying war was over on Bougainville and stop fighting to make way for peace.

He told the people that it was issues such as weapons that would limit the way to referendum and eventual independence.

Mr Momis said Bougainville had already signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement witnessed by the world and it is a shame that conflicts are still escalating. He appealed strongly to the people of Wisai to honour the peace agreement and allow for peace as the agreement signed is the sovereign will of the people of Bougainville. Mr Momis urged the people that it is this commitment that will lead our destiny to a better Bougainville in future.

03.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Eluh lauds efforts

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE Police Chief ACP Thomas Eluh has applauded all peace efforts in south Bougainville.

He said that he was happy for the initiative the former combatants and factions had taken to come together and make peace.

ACP Eluh was in Wisai recently to witness a reconciliation between two rival groups from the area the Wisai Liberation Movement (WILMO) and the Wisai Mekamui.

He said that he was moved by the step the factions took to bring back peace to their area.

Mr Eluh challenged the two disputing parties to uphold the peace initiative taken and not to repeat such actions.

He urged the people of Wisai that the solution of peace and harmony was in their hearts and nowhere else.

He told the people that it was themselves that would bring peace to their areas and not people from outside.

Meanwhile, the speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives, Andrew Miriki praised the people of Wisai for the initiative they took to reconcile two rival groups in the area.

03.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Atoi calls for food security

By JOYCE TOHUI

NORTH Bougainville MP Lautu Atoi is calling on all Bougainville leaders to put food security as a top priority.

He was addressing the gathering at the World Food Day celebrations at Eltupan village at Haku constituency.

Mr Atoi said as a man from the Atolls who has the experience of facing food shortage, he wanted the leaders of Bougainville to join hands and fund the work of food security in the region.

He assured the people of North Bougainville that as their member, he will do his best to help them in terms of food security. MR Atoi appealed to his people to work on their land to sustain their living and not to wait for free handouts from the government.

He said he believed Bougainville is blessed with food and the people must revive the attitude of barter system to exchange food with people who are in need.

03.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Onsa: Honour K3m

By JOYCE TOHUI

BUKA businessman Henry Onsa is calling on the PNG National Government to honour the commitment of K3 million made to rehabilitate the Buka town street roads by the former Finance and Treasury Minister, Peter O'Neill when he officially opened the Buka market in April this year.

Mr Onsa said that the K3 million pledge was made by the former Minister after visiting the deteriorating state of the Buka town roads which had been neglected for years.

The former Minister, now Prime Minister, was accompanied by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs then and the Regional Member for Bougainville.

Mr Onsa said that he has advised the National Member for North Bougainville, Lautu Atoi to follow up this commitment because the change of government could change this commitment.

Henry Onsa also called on Bougainville Members of Parliament, Regional Member, Fidelis Semoso and Ministers for Communications, Jimmy Miringtoro and Bougainville Affairs Minister, Steven Kama to follow up this commitment.

He said that the Buka town roads were in very bad condition and needed to be upgraded.

02.11.2011

Source: Bloomberg Businessweek

China 2015 Copper Demand to Reach 12.5 Million Tons, Minmetals

Nov. 2 (Bloomberg) -- China's refined copper consumption is expected to reach 12.5 million metric tons in 2015, said chief analyst at China Minmetals Corp. This represents a 79 percent jump from 7 million tons of real consumption this year, according to Bloomberg News calculations based on estimates by the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association.

Copper prices will stay elevated and volatile in 2012 as the metal continues to be the top pick by funds, according to presentation slides prepared by Minmetals' Zhang Ronghui for Antaika's copper conference in Jinan.

--Helen Sun. Editors: Richard Dobson, Jarrett Banks

02.11.2011

Source: Namorong Report

Chinese challenge Bougainvillean retailers

Posted by Martyn Namorong



Bougainville owned shops at Kokopou, Autonomous region of Bougainville

There currently are tensions between the local business community and the new arrival of Chinese businesses on Bougainville. A much talked about Import/Export Company and the proposed Happy City have drawn battle-lines in the bloody sands of this war-torn region.

Recently, youth at Kokopou on the main island of Bougainville have issued threats and stoned the warehouse of the Import/Export Company. However, some Bougainvilleans see the entry of these new Chinese competitors as a godsend as they provide much needed competition particularly in the retail sector. There is one thing that both sides agree upon; that the entry of any external investments should be tied in with local partners.

Bougainville's investment policy on the other hand, only refers to partnerships in the context of large scale Natural Resource extraction. Small scale resource extraction and trade activities are reserved for Bougainvilleans. Now for legal purposes, a Bougainvillean is defined under section 7 of the Bougainville Constitution as someone who by custom has rights in traditional Bougainvillean society.

Some critics of the Chinese retailers have accused them of qualifying as 'Bougainvillean' by marriage [section 7 (b) of the Constitution]. Whilst it is not illegal for outsiders to run retail outlets, the consensus amongst Bougainvilleans is that this should be reserved for locals. By marrying local women, the Chinese businessmen have 'localized' their businesses thus somewhat legitimizing their existence. This has drawn the ire of Bougainvillean owned businesses that now have to compete with the Chinese.

Not everyone on Bougainville sees the Chinese retailers as bad. Some welcome the entry of the Chinese as they feel they've been ripped-off for far too long by the locally owned businesses. They have seen the benefits of competition in terms of pricing of goods. For example, a pair of flip-flops that cost K15 in a local shop cost about K9 in the Chinese run shops.

In recognition of the tensions that exist, the Government of Bougainville has created a Chinese Business Consultative Committee to look into the matter. This committee has however been viewed with skepticism by some particularly because they view President John Momis as being pro-China.

02.11.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Manetai project on track

By PETERSON TSERAH

THE re-opening of the Manetai limestone project is now on the right track after the first-ever combined traditional chiefs' consensus forum was held.

Spearheaded by the member for Eivo Torau in the Autonomous Bougainville Government Melchior Dare, the forum was held on October 27 at camp five in the no-go-zone area, in which an ultimatum was made to the ABG to fund major high impact reconciliation by combined traditional chiefs to create a conducive environment to fast-track negotiations.

Village chiefs as well as women representatives from the villages of Avaipa, Amatato, Asikopan, Simeku and Eivo Torau constituency attended.

In attendance also were ABG members for Eivo Torau, Melchior Dare; South Nasioi member John Ken and the IPA officer in Buka.

The chiefs in the meeting reviewed the first mediation report which was totally biased and was a serious offence and the law now should take its course on those responsible. The Manetai limestone is rightfully owned by the Awora clan and not the Makiara clan as awarded by the first mediators and the land mediation panel.

The spokesman for Awora clan Simon Akapitus said on the ground, honesty had to prevail according to traditional land knowledge by chiefs.

"We the chiefs want to fix ourselves first before anything can happen to re-open the limestone project; we know now who the real landowners are and that is the first step, then we need to reconcile and then open the limestone," Mr Akapitus said.

ABG member Melchior Dare stressed the importance of the project and how it can benefit everyone in the area.

"The opening of the limestone project is crucial for our benefit and the ABG can make revenue out from it," Mr Dare said. Mr Dare stressed that the former Bougainville Development Cooperation (BDC) subsidiary project of Manetai limestone had aimed to complicate the land ownership title and benefit sharing. The appointment of former land representatives directors were only BDC agents and not legitimate landowners. Meanwhile, chiefs have fully pledged support for the re-opening of the Manetai limestone project.

02.11.2011

Source: The National

Peace groups to get grants

TEN civil society groups from Fiji, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New

Guinea and the Solomon Islands, will receive small grants between US\$2500 (K5,330) and US\$10,000 (K21,321) in 2011 to continue peace building efforts in the Pacific region. This was announced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre in Suva, Fiji.

The winners of the 2011 Round of Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) project's small grants include Bougainville (North Bougainville Women's Federation, Hako Women's Collective, Leitana Nehan Women's Collective); Fiji (FemLINK PACIFIC); Papua New Guinea (Voice of Change, Simbu Human Rights Advocate, Peace Foundation Melanesia); Solomon Islands (Sycamore Tree, Anglican Church of Melanesia) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), a Pacific-wide programme.

In its second year, the small grant initiative is one of the capacity building approaches of the CPAD project.

It seeks to support strategic and catalytic peace-building projects that address the key conflict drivers, strengthen the region's peace and security architecture and foster partnerships between government and civil society groups.

UNDP Pacific centre's conflict prevention and peace building expert, Tracy Vienings said that an objective of the CPAD project was to create a broader understanding of the linkages between peace and development, and how to address the underlying causes of conflict, not only mediating them as they occur.

The first round small grants in 2010 were given out to 10 civil society groups from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. CPAD is a regional programme of the UNDP Pacific Centre that aims to build and strengthen the capacities of governments, civil societies and regional organisations in the Pacific for conflict preventions and peace-building.

01.11.2011

Source: Post Courier

Millions of kina not acquitted

By GORETHY KENNETH

THERE is nothing to show for in North Bougainville despite millions of kina earmarked each year through the Open MPs District Services Improvement Project funds since 2007, an audit report details.

The 2009 Audit Report for Bougainville is about to be completed – the 2008 Audit Report is no different – monies for the north Bougainville people have not properly accounted for and the same is now happening for the 2009 funds, the audit report has revealed.

The auditors who recently visited Buka Island to carry out their duty to call up authorities responsible for these financial capacities said Central and South Bougainville DSIP funds had evidence of projects.

They said under the report, a major problem has been that third parties (named) were being involved to transact people's money and were not acquitted properly.

These companies are in Buka with four named to be heavily implicated in these use of public funds.

One company still has not acquitted about K1 million worth of water tank supplies which was meant for the people of north Bougainville, which has not been distributed to date.

The other companies have had public money transacted into private accounts, which are termed as illegal.

"There is nothing to show for in North Bougainville.

"There is no project to show for the millions of kina approved and allocated for the people of north Bougainville.

"The North Bougainville Treasury has not done its duty of properly acquitting these millions of kina.

"We sent a management letter to the ABG and the north Bougainville Treasury on issues

of public monies under the north Bougainville District funds.

"We did not receive any response since last year so we decided to come and investigate so our final audit report can be presented officially to show where monies belonging to the people of Bougainville are being used," said the auditors.

01.11.2011

Source: Post Courier

Momis tours atolls

BOUGAINVILLE President John Momis has been touring the Atolls since Friday and was expected to return to Buka yesterday.

Several ABG Ministers and the Chief Administrator Lawrence Dising and other leaders and business elite are also on the trip.

The ABG leadership led by Mr Momis are on board the newly presented MV Bougainville Atolls. They are visiting Fead and Carterets Islands.

On Sunday morning, Mr Momis and his entourage had a high mass with the people of Carterets Islanders and in Fead, Mr Momis promised that the ABG would prioritise the islanders in their economic strategies.

The Carterets Islanders are expected to question Mr Momis on the issue of resettlement which is long overdue and the help for their economic means including health and education priorities. An interview with the president should be held upon his arrival.

01.11.2011

Source: Post Courier - The Drum

Suicidal move

WHO is this national MP from Bougainville who is going around selling plantations to foreigners without consulting the community? People of Bougainville are saying even if they have to sleep under the coconut trees, they will because that tree is literally their bank! Not a bright move at all. Copra is the island's gold mine and plantations, formerly owned by multinational companies, need to be disposed of with all involved.

01.11.2011

Source: Post Courier - The Drum

OVERNIGHT SUCCESS

PEOPLE around the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are looking a bit suspiciously at how the wife of a politician from the area seemed to have amassed quite a bit in such a short time by hubby. She has a few interests around the traps in the bubbling region. Always good to know where.

01.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Lack of infrastructure slowing Bougainville's economic recovery

There's been no quick turnaround in the economy of post-conflict Bougainville.

Among the positive signs are the beginnings of recovery in the cocoa industry and village market places are again booming.

The list of problems is much longer - most disturbing is that only one in three children are going to school - and the lack of roads, bridges and other community infrastructure is a major concern.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Speaker: Dr Charles Yala, research associate, PNG National Research Institute

Listen here !

01.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Opportunities lost for Bougainville's 'Lost Generation'

The Lost Generation is a term used to describe Bougainville's young people who lost one or both parents during the crisis in the 1990s.

Growing up without social support, the mostly male adolescents... recognisable by their black T-shirts and red bandanas... are turning to drug and alcohol abuse to cope with their situation.



Presenter: Geraldine Coutts



Speaker: Sister Lorraine Garasu, Chabai Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre, Bougainville;

Augustine Kinna, Bougainville journalist

Listen here !

KINNA: The Bougainville's Lost Generation remembering I was there, the generation itself like you've said they like wearing black t-shirts and the red band on their heads.

And most of the children grew up during the crisis and I think they were traumatised having seen their mothers tortured, violence was within the family and having seen their fathers, brothers shot dead, it was really a traumatic time. So most of the children who grew up during that period of the crisis, when the crisis was over they have this feeling that they had to do something, they had to separate themselves from the rest of the community by wearing such t-shirts and also the red bands on their heads. And it was a common practice for many of the lost generation. Most of them were from the period of the crisis who grew up inbetween, inbetween the crisis and towards the end of the crisis.

COUTTS: Alright Augustine I'll just get you to hold on there and stay with us because I just want to introduce someone else now because some say that the situation seems hopeless for many Bougainvilleans, lost generation, and some young men have become social outcasts struggling to cope with their situation and turning to anti-social behaviour; drug and alcohol as we've just heard. But there's one woman who's trying to make a difference, Sister Lorraine Garasu runs Chabai Nazareth, the only rehabilitation centre in Bougainville, and it's a self-funded program helping these young men put their lives back on track. Sister Lorraine joins us now from Bougainville. Sister Lorraine good morning to you.

GARASU: Good morning Geraldine.

COUTTS: And as you may or may not have heard, we've already got Augustine Kinna here whom you must be familiar with, but can you just tell me to what extent these young outcasts, the lost generation, how many in number are they going around with these black t-shirts and red bandanas?

GARASU: Geraldine in my work I don't talk about lost generation, I know that's the term used for young people in Bougainville who are struggling to get out of their experience from the crisis. What I talk about is young people, and I believe that if you keep labelling people then psychologically it does not help. So I talk about young people and the young people that I work with they come from all over Bougainville, and I believe that these young people they have potential it's just that they have never been given the opportunity. And for me there's really no lost generation. I think what we need to understand here is that the young people are there, what they have lost is time, time and opportunity.

COUTTS: Are you able to get any of these young people back into school and get them off their alcohol and drug addictions?

GARASU: Ever since the ceasefire in 1998, there are several groups and people and the education department who have tried to help these young people get back into school. And the thing is that we need to understand the education system that is there today. Many young people go to school but they drop out at grade eight, and then they drop out of grade ten, and then they drop out at grade 12 because there's not much opportunity in Bougainville for these young people to make a go of their lives. Even though we have vocational schools, many of these young people are not able to access vocational schools because of the system of education that is there. And also many people in Bougainville still struggle to survive after the crisis because they've lost a lot, they've lost properties, they've lost money, and to bring that kind of land back that they had before the crisis when they had things to support themselves, money to support themselves, to send their children to school, that has not happened, even 10 years, even 12 years after the crisis, we are still struggling with getting people to bring back their lives to a certain level where they can sustain their lives.

COUTTS: Alright we've got Augustine Kinna Sister in the studio with us at the moment,

he's a PNG journalist working with the ABC at the moment. Augustine you fit comfortably yourself, your age group into that, so you've gone on to be a journalist, so what's the difference, why were you able to go on, become a journalist, stay in school as distinct from the adolescents that Sister is describing?

KINNA: The reason why I had the opportunity because during the crisis I wasn't in Bougainville. My father worked at the Ok Tedi mine so he took us out. So I wasn't really in Bougainville that time, so I had the opportunity to do my education outside of Bougainville, and it didn't affect my future. But like Sister Lorraine said it's very true, the young children who grew up in the crisis didn't have the chance, didn't have the opportunity to basic services such as education, that was very important, very vital. And when I went back to Bougainville, that was like 1995, the services weren't really good, there were still a bit of blockade and all this. But I went to school in 1995 I could remember I was doing my grade four year, and I went to school with a lot of big kids who grew during the crisis who didn't have the opportunity, and when the services started coming back they were ten years older than me and I was much younger than them. But in a way I saw that it's an opportunity for them. Some were already mothers when they came to school, they had one or two children, some were already fathers. But in a way we respected one another, they respected us, the smaller ones, and we the smaller ones respected them. And we collaborated together and they lent some, they got educated.

COUTTS: Sister Lorraine, back to you now because we've already heard from Professor Yala saying that it was one in three children don't go to schools and haven't got the opportunity. He said there is a slight rebound happening in some areas of the economy. What are you saying to the Bougainville administration now as to what you think should happen for these children who have lost the opportunity, as Augustine says it may have passed them by?

GARASU: I think what the Bougainville government needs to do is to ... and they are already doing it, I'm not saying that they are not, they are trying their very best. But when you lack resources to do something like even the government does not have the money to do many of these things that they can do, like what they need to do is to currently play for the situation. In their social planning they need to actually plan to address issues of rehabilitation, and rehabilitation is not just about rehabilitating you, but the entire infrastructure. And they've been able to do that, they've been able to do that with donor funding like some AusAid, and even from European Union they've been able to rehabilitate some infrastructure like schools and health centre. But the planning needs to be done at the level where you're actually looking at addressing what are the priority needs. At the moment psychologically the trauma experienced by many Bougainvilleans have not been healed. Trauma healing has not been done at an extensive level. I mean what we are doing is just not enough compared to the trauma that is ingrained in the minds and the hearts of the people.

COUTTS: Sister Lorraine Garasu we're just about out of time but I'd like to ask you if the youths that are running around in their black shirts and red bandanas are prepared to forego that, and take off the black shirts and red bandanas, is this going to be a destabilising influence in the future if these young youths don't have positions within the communities?

GARASU: Yeah definitely, I see it, I mean you can think this is ten years later after the ceasefire and it's happening now, we are seeing it clearly, it's happening. But it depends, there are pockets in Bougainville where it happens at the very small level, some at the medium level, and most places at the higher level. Currently I'm in south Bougainville and I came here on a weekend on a Saturday, and you could see relatively in some areas it was very quiet, you didn't see any drunkards on the road. But in some pockets we passed drunken people on the road, young people and that. So it depends very

much, it also depends on how leaders in the community are maintaining the leadership and the organising and the stabilising of the community. So all these things impact on how young people behave, or how people are behaving in general.

News 12.2011

30.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Bank packed

by Aloysius Laukai

The Buka Bank since wednesday has been packed with cash running out.



Pictured are customers outside the only bank BSP BUKA

30.12.2011

Source: The Nation

Japan helps Bougainville with K90mil for 15 bridges

By STEPAHNIE ELIZAH

THE people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are grateful to the Japanese government for supporting a K90 million impact project to build 15 bridges between North and Central Bougainville, Acting President Patrick Nisira says.

Nisira said this yesterday ahead of the official opening of the Iraka Bridge in Central Bougainville today.

"I can proudly say that is the single most and biggest impact project on Bougainville for the past 20 years," he said.

"To negotiate this partnership project with the government of Japan and contractor to construct the bridges was not easy as we are regarded as a high risk autonomous region.

"We sincerely thank the people of Japan for supporting our partnership proposal by engaging Kitano as the contractor for our bridge programme," Nisira said.

He thanked Kitano for the effort, hardship and commitment in facing a challenging task.

He apologised on behalf of the people of Bougainville for any problems with the employees of Kitano that led to the damage of company property.

"I say sorry, on behalf of our people, for the death of your men in the course of their duties on construction sites to help develop Bougainville," he said.

He assured that the people of Bougainville had great respect for the partnership in the bridge programme and looked forward to future cordial relations and friendship with the government of Japan and its people.

Nisira described the Japanese as hardworking, respectable and sincere.

29.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Ambitious Journey into Bougainville Turns Adventurous

by Lachlan Joyce

This report established in May 2011 gives a good overview that tourism and traveling on Bougainville is still a challenge.

Find out more !

29.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Liquor ban imposed in Bougainville



BOUGAINVILLE Police Service has warned it will not hesitate to apprehend any owner of liquor outlets selling liquor on January 1.

BPS, in a public notice, stated that selling of liquor on January 1 and 2 which are public holidays will not be allowed.

It said this is to deter drunkards from disturbing the peace and bringing disharmony among local communities in the autonomous region.

BPS advised that for their own safety, alcohol consumers should drink in their yards rather than in public places.

29.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Strong currents pull PMV

A public motor vehicle was dragged down the Iurun river at Tinputz district in North Bougainville after the vehicle with 13 people on board attempted to cross the river yesterday afternoon.

Reports from eyewitnesses said the Arawa based East Coast Express land cruiser was crossing the river when strong river current carried the vehicle with the passengers on board several meters downstream.

According to information received, all of the passengers managed to escape out the vehicle windows except for two infants on board, who were rescued by bystanders at the accident scene.

The eyewitnesses said the rescuers reprimanded the driver for ignoring telltale signs of strong current which is usual for the Iurun river after a night of heavy rain.

The driver is a veteran of the Arawa to Kokopau highway.

29.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG spends K100million state grant

ABG leaders must consider development plans on a region wide scope rather than in terms of their own constituencies or districts says Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) finance, treasury and planning minister Albert Punghau.

He said using constituencies and districts as a criteria for allocating scarce development resources only results in small community projects that make very little or no impact on the lives of the people.

Punghau said this when presenting an outline of ABG's plans to spend the first one hundred million kina of the national government's special financing package of K500 million to ABG from 2012 to 2016.

He said the ABG had decided to use the four pillars of the Bougainville priorities for development 2011 – 2015 as the basis to distribute the first K100 million as follows;

- K8.5 million for peace and security,
- K16.5 million for economic development,
- K32.5 million for transport infrastructure,
- K19.5 million for human development and
- K8 million for good governance.

Punghau said the allocation under the five main expenditure programs amounted to K85 million with the remainder of K15 million allocated to fund projects in the constituencies, districts and Council of Elders areas.

29.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEACE BRIDGES TO BOOST SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

Bougainville acting president Patrick Nisira has challenged smallholder cocoa and coconut farmers in Bougainville to support the ABG in its economic recovery by working hard to produce copra and cocoa and develop other small scale industries.

Nisira said this today in anticipation of the official opening of Iraka bridge in Central Bougainville tomorrow.

Iraka bridge is part of a K90 million government of Japan funded project to build fifteen bridges between North and Central Bougainville.

Nisira said these bridges would boost the Bougainville culture of doing business, market for selling their produce and developing Bougainvilleans to actively take part in peace building, reconciliation and harmony.

He urged that the local communities take the opportunity to start slowly and small and progress further in time to building their own business to generate income for their family.

Nisira also appealed to the communities living near these bridges to look after the bridges well as it is a vital link to all the people of Bougainville.

29.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

IRAKA BRIDGE OPENS

THE people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville thank the government of Japan and its people for supporting a K90 million impact project to build 15 bridges between North and Central Bougainville.

This was conveyed by Bougainville acting president Patrick Nisira today in anticipation of officially opening Iraka bridge at Central Bougainville tomorrow.

He said to negotiate this partnership project with the government of Japan and contractor to construct the bridges was not easy as Bougainville is regarded as a high risk Region.

He also thanked the contractor Kitano for the effort, hardship and commitment of facing a challenging task especially on security.

He assured that the people of Bougainville have great respect for the partnership in the bridge program and looked forward to future cordial relations and friendship with the government of Japan and its people who Nisira described as hardworking, respectable and sincere.

29.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Teachers get house

By WINTERFORD TOREAS



ACCOMMODATION will not be a problem for teachers posted to Ameno primary school in the Bana District of South Bougainville. This follows the recent presentation of a K50,000 cheque by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and South Bougainville MP Steven Pirika Kamma. The funding will go towards the construction of a new staff house. During the presentation many said the timely donation from Mr Kamma

was a 'blessing in disguise'. They added that the donation marks Mr Kamma as the first MP to fund any project in their school and area. While presenting the cheque, Mr Kamma challenged the parents and citizens of Ameno primary school to look after the project, adding that funding for other projects in the area will depend on the successful completion of this staff house project.

29.12.2011

Source: The National

Panguna locals back O'Neill

THE Panguna Landowners Association is supporting the government of Peter O'Neill.

Association deputy chairman Michael Pariu, who is the chairman of its business arm, Road Mining Tailings and Leases Ltd (RMTL), has decided to break his silence to voice official support for the O'Neill regime.

Pariu said the association was ready to stand behind the government because "it is a genuine and people's government which is prepared to be pro-active on many important issues affecting Papua New Guinea and Bougainville today, especially in combating corruption".

"The people of Panguna commend this government for tackling this problem head-on and which the former Somare-led government had for a long time failed to address in an effective and honest way," he said.

Pariu called on the government to support the association with funding for Panguna landowners to organise themselves in preparation for the re-opening of the Panguna mine.

On the Panguna mine and extension of licence, Pariu said the association urged the government not to renew the mining licence to Bougainville Copper Ltd.

"The ownership of any licence over the mine must now go back and remain with the landowners.

"The landowners are the rightful owners of the resources," he said

In relation to the 2012 general election, Pariu said Panguna landowners were already seriously thinking about selecting and nominating their own candidate who would contest the Central Bougainville seat on an association ticket.

The seat is held by Minister for Communication Jim Miringtoro.

"We want our own man, a landowner himself from Panguna with appropriate leadership qualities who understands our issues to represent Central Bougainville in the national parliament this time.

"We have had enough of being misrepresented and lied to in the past by leaders who pretend to understand our problems and issues. Enough is enough. We cannot take it anymore," Pariu said.

"We are sick and tired of being tricked with so many empty promises."

29.12.2011

Source: The National

'Autonomy progressing'

THE people of Bougainville must be genuine in supporting and making programmes on autonomy work, senior programme officer with the Division of Autonomy Implementation and Monitoring, Kotrifa Naropa says.

Naropa said this during a presentation to an awareness team of Bougainville students from the University of Papua New Guinea yesterday.

"The people of Bougainville can realise greater freedom and liberation through the successful draw down of powers and functions from the national government to the ABG," he said.

Naropa said this could be done by:

- I The establishment of sustainable peace to create the ideal environment where powers and functions drawn down from the national government could be used for development process;
- I Supporting weapons disposal to create an environment for good democratic governance;

- I Promote education to generate human resource for Bougainville's future; and
- I Promote a healthy work force.

He said the implementation of the six MoUs for the draw-down of powers and functions approved in the joint supervisory board meeting in February were progressing well based on the available resource capacity and capabilities the ABG had.

They were for education, teaching service commission, health, lands and physical planning, forestry and department of primary industry.

Naropa said there was good progress in the drawing down of powers and functions of the National Fisheries Authority to Bougainville Fisheries Authority, National Works to ABG Technical Services and National Public Service to

Bougainville Public Service.

29.12.2011

Source: The National

ABG passes K264mil budget

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Bougainville House of Representatives has passed a record budget of K264,651,600 for 2012.

It represents an increase of 45.7% over the 2011 Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) budget of K181,611,000.

Finance, Treasury and Planning Minister Albert Punghau said it represented a turning point in the progress of the ABG.

"The need for reconciliation, weapons disposal and improved law and order continues to be a major focus for the ABG," he said.

"Improving the economy and the livelihoods of the people of Bougainville in preparing for the referendum continues to be a key priority, this has been reflected in the framing of the 2012 ABG budget."

Of the 2012 appropriation, 68.1 percent of the budget will be funded from the national government grants of K180,355,700.

Contribution from donor partners amounts to K37 million and ABG internal revenue accounts for K46,906,900 or 17.7% of the total revenue.

"The government still relies almost exclusively on the national government and donor partners to finance its annual budget but our revenue base is gradually expanding and in real terms, the government is expected to raise more internally than in previous years," Punghau said.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COFFEE TESTED IN WISAI

By Tapo Tovilu

Coffee is currently being trilled in the mountain areas of Wisai in South Bougainville.

The plant, which is only grown in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, has been tested as part of a trail program run by the Coffee Growers Association in the Islands region.

Bougainville CGA representative Semion Pereka said that the trial program in Wisai is the first in South Bougainville and will be tested in other parts of the region.

He added that the climate and soil composite of the area in which it is been planted is similar to that of the parts of the Highlands region where coffee thrives.

Mr Pereka said that only a small area is been cleared in preparation for the trail plant with the coffee plants still yet in nursery.

He said that if the coffee is successful in Wisai, other parts will also be tested to see if the plant can be grown successfully.

The project started in November and the association is hopeful that the outcome of the trial will be promising.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

House passes K264 million budget

THE Bougainville House of Representatives passed a record Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) 2012 budget of K264, 651, 600 yesterday.

The 2012 outlay represents an increase of 45.7 percent or K83 million over this year's ABG budget of K1.8 million.

In highlighting the 2012 budget, ABG Finance, Treasury and Planning minister Albert Punghau said it represents a turning point in the progress of the ABG.

"The need for reconciliation, weapons disposal and improved law and order continues to be a major focus for the ABG.

"Improving the economy and the livelihoods of the people of Bougainville in preparing for the referendum continues to be a key priority, this has been reflected in the framing of the 2012 ABG budget," said Punghau.

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"The government still relies almost exclusively on the national government and donor partners to finance its annual budget but our revenue base is gradually expanding and in real terms, the government is expected to raise more internally than in previous years," said Punghau.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEA cautions

PUBLIC Employees Association (PEA) Bougainville executives have urged union members to be critical of any information received from sources claiming they are acting on behalf of PEA.

PEA Bougainville president Herbert Kimai said there is currently a lot of misinformation circulating about the date of payment of risk allowances for public servants in Bougainville.

He said many union members from as far as Buin in South Bougainville are stranded in Buka town because of poor information received from non PEA sources.

He said PEA would only pass any authorized information through the district manager's office for dissemination to union members in their respective districts.

Kimai added this is to ensure information channeled through the district managers is safe and disseminated through only one source.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

AUTONOMY PROGRESS

THE people of Bougainville must be genuine in supporting and making programs on autonomy work says Senior program officer with the Division of Autonomy Implementation and Monitoring, Kotrifa Naropa.

He said this during a presentation to an awareness team of Bougainville students from the University of PNG last week.

Naropa said this can be done by;

- the establishment of sustainable peace to create the ideal environment where powers and functions drawn down from the national government can be utilized for development process,
- supporting weapons disposal to create an environment for good democratic governance,
- promote education to generate human resource for Bougainville's future and
- promote a healthy work force.

He urged that the people of Bougainville can realize greater freedom and liberation through the successful draw down of powers and functions from the PNG government to the ABG.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

COCOA BORER THREATENS WISAI

By Tapo Tovilu

Fears are circulating cocoa framers in Wisai of the threat of the cocoa pod borer entering the area.

For the past few months, the pest has affected parts of the areas of Koromira and many fear that it will soon spread into Wisai.

A cocoa farmer in Wisai, Samuel Ove has called on authorities to address the issue before it hits Wisai.

He says many farmers are in fear of losing their plantations to the pest, as they are not aware of what to do to prevent the pest from attacking.

He said this was due to the lack of awareness carried out by the Coconut and Cocoa Research Institute in the Wisai area.

He has called on the authorities to visit farmers in the Wisai area to help them prepare for the cocoa pod borer if it enters Wisai.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG gold miner details what its operation is worth to the country

The operators of the Hidden Valley gold mine in Papua New Guinea's Morobe Province say the project has contributed 244 million US dollars to the PNG economy in the past financial year.

Morobe Mining Joint Ventures says 56 percent of this went on goods and services in Morobe Province.

It says tax and wages each took 6 percent, royalties two percent and community projects three percent.

The mine has over two thousand four hundred employees and contractors, most of whom are Papua New Guineans and the majority from Morobe.

ESBC: Panguna, operated by Bougainville Copper Limited could contribute even more to the people of Bougainville!

28.12.2012

Source: Post-Courier

Panguna LO's pro-O'Neill

By PORENI UMAU

Panguna Landowners Association (PLOA) deputy chairman who is also the chairman of its business arm, Road Mining Tailings and Leases Ltd (RMTL), Michael Pariu has broken the silence to voice out PLOA's official stance to support the Peter O'Neill and Belden Namah Government.

Mr Pariu said PLOA is ready to stand behind Mr O'Neill because it is a genuine, people's government which is prepared to be pro-active on many important issues affecting PNG and Bougainville today, especially in combating the corruption issue.

He said the Panguna people highly commend the O'Neill Government for tackling this problem head on which the former Somare led Government has for a long time failed to address in an effective and honest way.

Mr Pariu said because the O'Neill government is a pro grassroots' and workers government, they must support PLOA with some funding so they can organise themselves in preparations for the re-opening of the Panguna Mine for the benefit of the landowners and the people of Bougainville.

Mr Pariu said that the people of PNG and Bougainville can no longer trust the former Somare led Government.

He said that Grand Chief Michael Somare has not been really honest with the people in the last 45 years of his reign, and the people have had enough of his leadership style.

On the issue of the Panguna Mine and extension of licence, Mr Pariu said that PLOA strongly urged the O'Neill Government to take a new stand not to renew the Mining Licence to BCL.

He said that the ownership of any licence over the mine must now go back and remain with the landowners who are the rightful owners of the resources.

In relation to next year 2012 National Election, Mr Pariu revealed that Panguna Landowners are now already seriously thinking about selecting and nominating their own suitable candidate who will contest the Central Bougainville Seat on the PLOA ticket, which is currently being held by Minister for Communication, Jimmy Miringoro.

"We want our own man, a landowner himself from Panguna with appropriate leadership qualities who understands our issues to represent Central Bougainville in National Parliament this time. We have had enough of being misrepresented and lied to in the past by leaders who pretend to understand our problems and issues. Enough is enough, and we cannot simply take it anymore", said Mr Pariu.

"We are sick and tired of being tricked with so many broken promises by some of the current serving Members in Parliament today.

"We want new leaders who can also pro-actively support ABG in the implementation of the whole Autonomy arrangement with the Government of PNG and the international community," Mr Pariu said.

28.12.2012

Source: The National

Namaliu chairs Kina Security

SIR Rabbie Namaliu has been appointed as the new chairman of the leading PNG-based financial services company – the Kina Securities Group.

Sir Rabbie succeeded Hilary Wong who had stepped down after eight years in the position.

During Wong's time as chairman, Kina has grown to become one of the largest non-bank financial services companies in PNG.

Sir Rabbie is a distinguished statesman and committed Papua New Guinean with ministerial experience in foreign affairs and trade, treasury, primary industry, petroleum and energy and other areas of government responsibility.

He had been a non-executive director of Kina Securities Ltd, and foundation chairman of the publicly-listed investment company Kina Asset Management Ltd. Sir Rabbie has also been appointed as the CEO of the soon-to-be-established Sovereign Wealth Fund.

He was appointed chairman of Kramer Ausenco, a new joint venture of PNG engineering company Kramer (PNG) Ltd and Ausenco of Australia.

He is non-executive director of Marengo Mining Ltd, which is developing the Yandera gold and copper mine and also a member of the board of Bougainville Copper Limited and is on the advisory board of InterOil Corp.

Kina Securities was founded in 1985 and provided a diversity of financial and investment services including investment fund management, business and personal lending, superannuation fund administration, stock-broking and trustee services.

Sir Rabbie said a recent strategic alliance between Kina Funds Management and global investment bank Credit Suisse would expand existing and new business opportunities.

This initiative ensured that Kina Funds Management now has access to international advice and guidance as well as direct access into new investment in developed and developing markets via Credit Suisse's global footprint.

This allowed Kina to address complex investment requirements arising from growth in the finance, mining and exploration sectors in PNG and also other areas of the South Pacific.

"As PNG and the South Pacific continues to grow economically and has become increasingly attractive to international investors, this important link with one of the world's largest banking groups is a further important milestone for PNG and its ongoing opportunities and growth in the 21st century," Sir Rabbie said.

He said that Kina Securities had recently made a significant investment in upgrading of its investment management system and development of a comprehensive risk management structure.

In addition, Kina had also implemented the case360 workflow system into its fund administration division.

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Campaign continues for restoration of Sir Michael Somare as PNG prime minister

Despite Peter O'Neill's solid grip on government in Papua New Guinea, the rival Somare group still maintains it is the legitimate administration.

The country was plunged into political turmoil just over two weeks ago when the Supreme Court ruled the O'Neill government put in place in August was illegal and it restored Sir Michael Somare as prime minister.

In a flurry of controversial law changes the O'Neill group re-asserted control and won the backing of key institutions.

However the rival attorney general Sir Arnold Amet says eventually the O'Neill group must realise its law changes were subordinate to the Supreme Court ruling.

He says the Somare camp is seeking declaratory judgements on the purported legitimacy of the O'Neill government.

"So it is not over by a long shot in my opinion. And in our view, Sir Michael, in our contention, is still the legitimately restored Prime Minister by the Supreme Court - the impartial adjudicator of constitutional issues in this nation."

Sir Arnold Amet

28.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG corruption task force gets more money to continue its work

Papua New Guinea's O'Neill government has allocated an additional 1 point four million US dollars to the Task Force Sweep team which is investigating allegedly corrupt public spending. The team was set up soon after the O'Neill government took power in August. It was initially given funding of two point eight million US dollars. The task force has targetted members of the former Somare administration, senior government officials and prominent business people. The Post Courier reports that its chairman, Sam Koim says in the New Year they may look into the Taiwan diplomatic scandal.

27.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

INCREASED REVENUE

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG will raise more than 20 Million kina in 2012 according to the Minister for finance, Albert Punghau.

In his 2012 ABG Budget, MR.PUNGHAU said that the government is broadening its revenue raising base in 2012 and expects to raise more monies from the 8million mark it has been raising in the pasts.

He said since the introduction of excise duties for alcohol and tobacco in November the ABG has already netted more than SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND KINA.

27.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG BUDGET PASSED

ABG PASSES 2012 BUDGET

by Aloysius Laukai

The autonomous bougainville government this afternoon passed its 2012 budget the highest since the establishment of ABG in 2005 totalling TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR MILLION AND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED KINA.

In tabling the budget, Finance minister Albert Punghau said that the 2012 budget represents a new era in Bougainville's efforts to fully implement Autonomy by ensuring that our people are ready to participate on the referendum between 2015 and 2020.

He said that theme of the 2012 budget is 'enhancing autonomy through investment development. The budget was approved after the members debated for more than 3 hours this afternoon.

26.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Boxing day work

BOXING WORK

By Aloysius Laukai

Despite the boxing day holiday contractors at the TAMBOLEMA building in Buka continued to work to complete the building before tenants move into the building next week.

Pictured are Plumber Robin and Meto resizing the size of the timber

26.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG BUDGET

By Aloysius Laukai

The ABG house of representatives will meet tomorrow to approve the 2012 budget.

According to the Speaker Andrew Miriki the last sitting was deferred to tomorrow because they had to wait for the national government to table their budget first.

Mr. Miriki said he requested for the house to sit tomorrow so that the members can finally approve the 2012 ABG budget.

Meanwhile Buka has been quite during the christmas period.

Work will resume tomorrow before starting the new year break.

25.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Me'ekamui support O'Neill

By Aloysius Laukai

President of the Me'ekamui unity government in Panguna, Philip Miriori has expressed his support on the young and vibrant leadership of Peter O'Neill and Belden Namah government.

However in doing so, Miriori has also recognised and thanked the leadership of grand chief Michael Somare in the last 36 years.

He said grand chief Somare has contributed immensely towards the nation building of Papua New Guinea since self government and independence.

Mr. Miriori said Papua New Guinea and Bougainville owe alot to the grand chief for his outstanding leadership and his contribution will be remembered for many years to come.

He said the people of Bougainville particularly the people of Panguna would like to thank the chief for the role he played during the Bougainville crisis to finally bring peace to Bougainville.

Mr. Miriori made these comments when sending christmas greetings to the people of Bougainville and PNG

25.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Merry Christmas

By Aloysius Laukai

ABG President, chief John Nuguria Momis has called on the people of Bougainville to continue see the birth of christ has God's goodwill towards mankind and take this spirit and work towards lasting peace building and development on Bougainville.

Chief Momis made these remarks on his christmas and new year message to the people of Bougainville.

He was talking to New Dawn Fm from Philippines yesterday by phone.

Chief Momis said that the future of Bougainville was bright but people must unite and work together to develop the region.

He said that the region would accelerate its activities towards economic recovery in the new year. New Dawn FM understands that since the ABG introduced extra tax on beer and cigarettes last month it has started collecting extra monies from Bougainvillian wholesalers.

24.12.2011 - Christmas Eve - Heiligabend - Veille de Noel

Source: TOROT tv

Just in time for Christmas 2011 TORO tv published this video on YouTube. It shows how the People of Bougainville celebrated 100 years of the arrival of the first Marist Missionaries in 2001. In 1901, when the Marist Missionaries arrived on Bougainville it was still a German colony. One hundred years later, 2001 became the year of the Bougainville Peace Agreement after years of unrest on the island. So it became also the year of hope for a better future.

Carolus Ketsimur from Tinputz Village composed this Jubilee Song. Today he serves Bougainville as ABG Minister of Communications. He was also the Founder of [Radio New Dawn on Bougainville](#).

24.12.2011

Source: The Australian

Somare beaten, but defeat is not the Melanesian way

BY ROWAN CALLICK

CANBERRA'S VERSION OF THE GREAT GAME of politics is anaemic by comparison. Removing a serving prime minister through a palace coup after dark? Not bad. Shows promise.

But the boldness, the pace, even these days the stakes, of politics in resource-rich Papua New Guinea are breathtaking.

Underpinning them is the Melanesian Way of resolving issues through constantly pushing envelopes until resistance ultimately prevents progress, and through working tirelessly to build majority support, which then tends to create rapid consensus.

The last tumultuous 12 days in PNG began with the Supreme Court ordering the reinstatement of Michael Somare, "the chief," veteran of 43 years in parliament, as prime minister.

The court also did its best to heighten the drama of the occasion, by having the five judges read their decisions one by one. The last eventually gave the day to Somare, 3-2.

The three judges - including Chief Justice Salamo Injia, whom the government led by Peter O'Neill tried three times to suspend - found that the Speaker, Jeffrey Nape, was wrong when on August 2 he had declared the prime ministership vacant, paving the way for O'Neill to be elected prime minister 70-24.

Somare, aged 75, spent five months in Singapore, from early April, undergoing medical treatment, including heart surgery. But he did not resign. And the government had failed to obtain the constitutionally required medical evidence that he was unfit to continue to govern.

The problem for those challenging Somare - many of whom have been critical not so much of PNG's founding father personally, but of the "first family" syndrome surrounding him - was that the usual way of changing government, through a vote of no confidence, presented a big problem.

For in the year before a five-yearly national election - of which the next is due in mid-2012 - a successful vote of no confidence triggers an early dissolution and brings forward the poll.

But the government in which the parliament has lost confidence, remains the caretaker and is thus positioned to resource its own candidates and to prevent awkward investigations into its record.

This is what has been at stake, primarily, during these tumultuous times in Port Moresby....

The broad sense that "it's time" favours O'Neill, who is 30 years younger than Somare and whose frontbench is mostly younger. But O'Neill has constantly consulted the older generation of politicians in Morauta and Bart Philemon.

O'Neill has also seized the upper hand in communicating to the broader public, who have proven remarkably calm - due to disillusionment - through the crisis.

Even though O'Neill and many of his team have served in Somare cabinets, he has conveyed a sense of freshness and overdue realism.

"We have had unprecedented economic growth," he told parliament on Tuesday, "and we have squandered it."

A new report from PNG's National Research Institute points out that more than two thirds of new buildings in Port Moresby are chiefly in squatter settlements and that "many public servants and private sector staff can't afford a decent house or even a car loan."

O'Neill has emphasised parliament as the people's house, which is more attractive appeal to many voters than Somare's to the authority of the courts.

O'Neill's supporters have also made especially strong use of social networking media which are burgeoning in PNG thanks to the new ubiquity of mobile phones, driven by Irish firm Digicel.

Somare is not giving up before elections in six months. For further electrifying politics, watch that space.

23.12.2011

Source: The National

ABG member requests road aid

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government Member for Eivo-Torau constituency Melchior Dare has called on the ABG to allocate K20 million to build a new Southwest trunk road.

Dare raised this at the one-day sitting of the Bougainville House of Representatives on Tuesday. He said when constructed, the road would connect Bato static steel bridge via Kuneka, Katauri; Kaspeke to Karato, Torokina and to Northwest Bougainville.

"This is a strategic ABG investment initiative to open a corridor for potential economic growth for ABG beyond 2012," Dare said.

He urged that K5 million be appropriated annually for the next four years out of the K100 million the Papua New Guinea government's special support grant to Bougainville.

He said the impact project could be built in phases and jointly funded by economic investors of resources development for Southwest Bougainville.

"This infrastructure development will be a cornerstone for socio-economic liberation and advance investment priorities for the government," Dare said.

He said with the high impact Torokina Oil Palm project progressing into construction phase, investment in the major Southwest trunk road was inevitable.

"This will ensure that the bulk of the rural population participates in business activities which provide access to markets and access to socio-development services that will improve the quality of life for our people," he said.

His request was met with overwhelming support from members of the Bougainville House of Representative with a motion passed to have the matter referred to the Bougainville technical service

22.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KOLES RESIGNS FROM ABG

LONG time public servant and Autonomous Bougainville Administration deputy administrator operations Patrick Koles has resigned from the public service after clocking more than 30 years. Koles will take up his new role as a senior management executive of the World Bank funded Bougainville Cocoa development project.

Current Chief Executive Officer of ABG division of Autonomy, Implementation and Monitoring Paul Kebori will assume the position of acting deputy administration operations.

And current research officer of the ABG division of Autonomy, Implementation and Monitoring Steven Kolova has been promoted to acting CEO of his division with his new role to take effect in January.

22.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEA GUARANTEES RISK ALLOWANCES

BOUGAINVILLE executives of the Public Employees Association (PEA) have assured its union members that they will be paid their risk allowances by the first quarter of 2012.

This assurance by PEA president Herbert Kimai was made at a public gathering of union members at the Bougainville Administration premises today.

Kimai said ten million kina has been approved for payment of some of the applicants by the first quarter of next year with thirteen million kina to be appropriated from the 2012 Autonomous Bougainville Government budget to pay out the rest.

More than 2000 public servants who served the then North Solomons Provincial Government from 1990 to 1994 have lodged in their applications for payment of risk allowances.

The applications lodged amounted to a total of K23 million through which successful facilitations by PEA, the ABG HR division and the national Department of Personal Management has ensured the public servants are paid.

22.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Power

Residents in Arawa on easy pay are now receiving consistent supply of PNG Power.

The electricity supply service to nearly the whole of Arawa town was commissioned today.

PNG power says the official handover of power services from the Autonomous Bougainville Government to PNG power as the contracted power manager is being planned for January 25.

PNG power is also calling on residents and business houses in Arawa not yet on easy pay meter to register with its Arawa office in order to receive power to their buildings.

22.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GG on holidays in Bougainville

GOVERNOR General Sir Michael Ogio and Ladie Esmie arrived to a rousing welcome from a small crowd of supporters including members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government and administration at the Buka airport this afternoon.

In thanking everyone, Sir Michael said the trip was not about him but for his new wife who is for the first time visiting Bougainville.

He said they were on holiday and that this was his first leave since taking on the job of the Governor General.

He also imparted strong advice to the young men and women of Bougainville to maintain their dignity of being peace loving and proud people.

Sir Michael urged that the generation of young Bougainvilleans stay free from drugs, alcohol and being a nuisance to society.

He urged that the young men and women lead a good life which would create a better future for Bougainville.

Bougainville acting president Patrick Nisira said it was a big honor to have the governor general of Papua New Guinea and a son of Bougainville join the people of the autonomous region in celebrating Christmas.

Nisira told Sir Michael that the GG was joining Bougainville at a time when it has succeeded in stabilizing and maintaining peace in South Bougainville which is evident in the cease fire agreement that was signed early this month with warring factions in South Bougainville.

He added that as a result, for the first time after six years, the people of Bougainville would be enjoying a peaceful Christmas.

Nisira also commended Sir Michael for recognizing the O'Niel/ Namah government.

He told Sir Michael that the GG had made a good call to recognize the O'Niel/Namah government because in the little time that their government took office, they had worked closely with the Bougainville government to ensure the constitutional grants of K15 million and special support grant of K100 million was released.

Sir Michael and Lady Esmie will spend their holiday accommodated at Buka town with visits planned for Tinputz in which a customary welcome for Lady Esmie is expected from Sir Michael's family.

22.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SOUTH WEST ROAD PROPOSAL

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) member for Eivo-Torau constituency Melchior Dare has called on ABG to allocate a total of K20 million for the construction of a new South-West trunk road.

Dare raised this as a matter of public importance at the one-day sitting of the Bougainville House of Representatives yesterday.

He said the South-West road infrastructure when constructed will connect through Bato static steel bridge via Katauri-Kuneka-Kaspeke to Paru Paru, Karato, Torokina and to North West Bougainville.

He urged that five million kina is appropriated annually for the next four years out of the K100 million PNG government's special support grant to Bougainville.

He said the impact project could be built in phases and jointly counterpart funded by future economic investors of resources development for South-West Bougainville.

Dare added that this was a strategic direction on the ABG investment initiatives for potential economic boost and growth for ABG beyond 2012.

22.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacifique Beat

PM age limit in PNG condemned as "draconian"

Papua New Guinea's parliament has passed new legislation setting the retiring age for prime ministers at 72.

It was introduced by the government of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill this week, and effectively kills any chances of the founding father Sir Michael Somare reclaiming the top political post.

Presenter: Firmin Nanol

Speaker: Peter O'Neill, PNG Prime Minister; Sir Julius Chan, former PNG prime minister, Sir Arnold Amet, former PNG Attorney-General

[Listen here !](#)

22.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Brèves du Pacifique

Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée: Michael Somare, l'un des deux prétendants au poste de Premier ministre, ne lâche rien malgré la quasi victoire de son rival Peter O'Neill, qui a le soutien du gouverneur-général (le chef de l'Etat) et de la majorité du Parlement. Il a même réussi à faire voter le budget cette semaine. En outre, l'Eglise catholique a demandé à Michael Somare de se retirer de la vie politique. Globalement on peut dire que le Parlement a vaincu la Cour Suprême, qui avait réinstallé Michael Somare dans ses fonctions la semaine dernière. Michael Somare, qui lors d'une conférence de presse cette semaine, s'est déclaré Premier ministre d'un gouvernement minoritaire. «L'idée que la majorité gouverne est une simplification dangereuse», a-t-il souligné, estimant que le camp O'Neill «piétine la Constitution».

22.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Political fight in PNG may not be over

Papua New Guinea's Parliament has passed the national budget.

After a week of political turmoil and conflict the budget passing is a boost to Prime Minister Peter O'Neill in his fight for control against Sir Michael Somare.

Last week on the back of a Supreme Court decision that he had been removed from office illegally, Sir Michael, PNG's first ever Prime Minister, had himself sworn into office, picked a new cabinet, and appointed a new police commissioner. But the man who removed him from power earlier this year Peter O'Neill fought back, and by Tuesday he had the support of all PNG public and security agencies and most of the MP's. But many there do not believe the fight is over, including Sir Michael, although there are growing calls for him to retire.

Presenter: Campbell Cooney

Speakers: John Ribat, The Archbishop of Port Moresby; Sir Michael Somare, former PNG Prime Minister; Michael Malabag, President of the PNGTUC

22.12.2011

Source: The National

Power outages in Buka

BUKA town in North Bougainville, is going through load-shedding of its electricity supply as PNG Power continues maintenance on the three main generators.

The generators are in various stages of maintenance – one is waiting for parts from overseas, the other is about to be commissioned after being serviced.

The third will take time to service after an electrical fire as a result of a technical fault during its first month of operation.

Frustration from business and residential clients is mounting despite PNG Power Buka putting out notices telling people about the load-shedding.

Business houses are claiming losses of thousands of kina as a result of intermittent power supply since Nov 17.

PNG Power Buka has urged clients who own generators to use them until the power supply is fully restored.

22.12.2011

Source: The National

Leaders condemn attacks on tower

THE Digicel network to Central and South Bougainville has been restored after mobile services to more than 2,000 people was disrupted following the burning of Digicel's relay tower at Mabiri.

The tower was burnt allegedly by Mabiri disgruntled landowners claiming the company had not paid its land rental.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Communication Minister Joseph Nopei and national Minister for Communication Jimmy Miringtoro both condemned the landowners' actions.

Nopei urged landowners to look after the infrastructure on their land.

"The region is in

need of communication and information services

and when infrastructure like communication towers are on your land, please appreciate it and look after it," Nopei said.

Miringtoro said communication towers gave people the advantage of improved services like mobile networks and people must help by taking care of these.

"We are willing to help Bougainville bring important services to you, but please support us by looking after the facilities we build.

"To build a communication tower, costs more than K250,000 of people's money," Miringtoro said "In Bougainville to build such infrastructure the price doubles or triples.

"Please elders, inform your young men and women to protect the services we provide," he said.

22.12.2011

Source: The National

Governor-general and wife jet into Bougainville for holiday

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

GOVERNOR-General Sir Michael Ogio and Lady Esmie arrived to a rousing welcome from a small crowd of supporters, including members of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, at Buka Airport yesterday.

Sir Michael said the trip was not about him but his new wife, who was visiting Bougainville for the first time.

"We are here for our holiday. I have a month's leave and this is my first leave since taking on the job of the Governor-General," Sir Michael said.

"The generation of young Bougainvilleans today are the hope for Bougainville, you are the peace of Bougainville.

"You must stay free of all the social ills of this world so you can lead Bougainville into a good future.

"We are a proud people, we are a peace-loving people. We must maintain the dignity we have."

Bougainville acting president Patrick Nisira said it was an honour to have the PNG governor-general and a son of Bougainville join the people of the autonomous region in celebrating Christmas.

"You are joining us at a time when we have succeeded in stabilising and maintaining peace in South Bougainville, which is evident in the ceasefire agreement we signed early this month with warring factions in South Bougainville," Nisira said.

He said as a result, for the first time in six years, the people of Bougainville would be enjoying a peaceful Christmas.

Nisira commended Sir Michael for recognising the O'Neill-Namah government.

"You made a good call to recognise the O'Neill-Namah government because in the little time that their government took office, they had worked closely with the Bougainville government to ensure our constitutional grants of K15 million and special support grant of K100 million was released," Nisira said.

Sir Michael and Lady Esmie will spend their holiday in Buka town with visits planned for Tinputz, where a customary welcome for Lady Esmie is expected from Sir Michael's family.

22.12.2011

Source: The National

Buka court scales down for Xmas

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Buka district court has scaled down on its operations during the public service shutdown period from Dec 19 to Jan 9.

Senior provincial magistrate Peter Toliken said this was because the non-availability of magistrate Vincent Linge, who is on leave.

Toliken leaves for Kavieng this week for court circuit duties in New Ireland, leaving magistrate Bruce Tasikul in charge of district court operations.

Toliken said the court registry would be open but Tasikul would only sit on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the next three weeks.

Toliken advised urgent after hours applications for search warrants, bail and IPOs could be brought before Tasikul at his home in Rangsuva, Selau district, North Bougainville.

He said this was a temporary arrangement and would not affect interim protection orders.

22.12.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville queries Yakasa appointment

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government says the Papua New Guinea police hierarchy did not consult it when appointing assistant police commissioner Fred Yakasa to head the Bougainville Police Service.

Yakasa replaces Thomas Eluh who spent the past 18 months establishing impact community policing initiatives that had contributed to peace and reconciliation in Bougainville.

Bougainville acting President Patrick Nisira said the failure to consult the ABG was in breach of the Bougainville Peace Agreement that stipulates that both parties must consult in any matter of good governance, law and order and security.

He said it was crucial for the sake of continuity and stability of Bougainville that the ABG was included in any decisions to appoint senior personnel from the national government to serve in Bougainville.

"The national government should exercise caution. There should be no more appointments as it will lead to greater instability. What is at stake here is peace," Nisira said.

He said Eluh had worked well in the region and through his own efforts had won the respect of the people of Bougainville.

He said removing Eluh was not in the best interests of Bougainville.

22.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Record budget gets the nod

PARLIAMENT yesterday passed the O'Neill-Namah government's record K10.5 billion 2012 Budget on voices.

Handed down on December 6, 2011, it took this long for Parliament to debate and pass it due to the current political crisis.

Elated Finance and Treasury Minister Don Polye said this was his first billion kina budget to be handed down, also making it a historical high for the country and 13 percent higher than last year's Somare Abal Government.

New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan said during debate the amount was historical compared with his own historic "smallest budget" of around K400 million when he presented the country's first budget at Independence in 1975.

Members of the O'Neill-Namah government heaped praise on the budget saying it was responsive to the needs of the people and directed to ensuring that the benefits of the strong economic growth were shared more fairly among the people.

"The measure of any government is the wellbeing of its people and the wellbeing of our people is best measured by the opportunities that government provides to them.

"Opportunities to empower them live comfortably and enjoyably," Mr Polye said.

"Opportunities for work, to raise a family, to educate our children, to live without fear of poverty or disease or from any form of intimidation or threat and to know that our children will be born into a society of hope where they can have a real chance of a good and rewarding life".

Mr Polye said this was the challenge for the O'Neill-Namah Government, for PNG and its people.

Mr Polye said the next election is about quality, unselfish and genuine leadership.

The government saw itself as bringing real generational change to the leadership of PNG.

"It is about facilitating and enabling generational change in leadership, where the wiser and elderly Statesmen and women will fall back from frontline to play advisory roles while allowing the younger and vibrant leaders to take up the frontline leadership roles in PNG," Mr Polye said.

Education received the largest funding of K649 million which will pay for free tuition education including K300 million from the 2011 Supplementary Budget and K47 million for education infrastructure development.

"Free education is of little value if the quality of education is not the best. We must ensure that any qualification from our educational institutions are at least as good as any similar qualification from any other nation.

"We must properly resource our education system to expand the opportunities for technical and further education, to provide those real world skills and qualifications, trade skills, small business skills and as a result real world jobs for Papua New Guineans," he said.

Mr Polye said the allocation was 18.5 per cent of the total recurrent and development budgets which was a substantial 30 per cent above the 2011 budget education appropriation. He also reiterated the lifting of the income tax free threshold from K7000 to K10,000 for low income earners which was "designed to put more money into the pockets of those who need it most".

Earlier Mr Polye said among key considerations during formation and design of the budget was the extraordinary growth of 58 percent in revenue over the last three years.

He said the challenge was to "use what we have well and honestly as we do not have money to waste or be stolen through corruption."

Other key features in the budget include the projected total tax revenue at K8.5 billion in 2012 from personal income tax, company taxes and excise collections.

For non-tax revenue, a total of K520.1 million is expected while mining and petroleum dividends are expected at K188 million, Bank PNG K15 million and Fisheries K5 million.

Mr Polye also emphasised another key aspect was the creation of the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), honouring of commitments during the LBSA and UBSA negotiations for landowners, maintaining key infrastructure including the Highlands Highway, airports and seaports.

22.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

GG goes home

By Fabian Gatana

GOVERNOR- General Sir Michael Ogio touched down in Buka yesterday to begin his first official scheduled annual four week leave from office.

In the company of Lady Esmie, Sir Michael disembarked to the sounds of bamboo band playing in his honour and was welcomed by the Autonomous Bougainville Government vice president Patrick Nisira and members of ABG.

Sir Michael made it known that his coming to Bougainville was purely for holiday reasons as he is entitled to four weeks of leave from office. In his Christmas message to the people of Bougainville he encouraged young Bougainvilleans to maintain the dignity of all Bougainvilleans as peace-loving people and bring peace and harmony in the region.

"Young Bougainvilleans of today you are the hope of Bougainville - we are already old – your generation should work towards bringing peace and harmony into the community," said Sir Michael.

Mr Nisira also thanked the Sir Michael for recognising and swearing in the O'Neill-Namah Government into Parliament because this Government, he said, was the first to take serious interest in the affairs of Bougainville.

22.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Age limit set for PM . . .

Parliament yesterday put an end to the age limit for Prime Ministership in PNG.

If you are past the age of 72, you cannot be Prime Minister. You have to retire.

The O'Neill-Namah government yesterday amended the National Executive Council Act to prevent a Member of Parliament from becoming or remaining as Prime Minister when he or she turns 72 years of age.

Parliament voted 68 – 3 to pass the new amendment which needed only a majority vote of 55.

The three that voted against were; Governor for New Ireland Sir Julius Chan, Governor Western province Dr Bob Danaya and MP for Wewak Open Dr Moses Manwau while NCD Governor Powes Pakop, Minister for Works Francis Awesa, Governor for Chimbu Fr John Garia, Minister for Mining Byron Chan and Governor for Northern Province Suckling Tamanabae walked out of the chamber before the vote was taken.

The new law comes into operation on and from August 1, 2011. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill when tabling the new proposed amendments, informed Parliament that the amendment is made by adding after Section 6 to the PM and NEC Act, Section 6A as 'The Age Limit of Prime Minister'.

Mr O'Neill explained that this amendment does not restrict any person above the age of 72 from being elected as a member of Parliament but only restricts any person from the age of 72 and above from becoming a PM.

However, this did not go down well with Governor for New Ireland Province Sir Julius Chan, who asked: "Who among you that is 30 or 40, whose going to challenge me? Who are you to retire my people's choice? We are taking away the rights of the young, the youths and the old and it is the people who will make the choice. "I stand here with a challenge to you young people. I am as good as you are. It's not about Sir Michael Somare, it's not about me, it's about you. I think this law is a wrong law...I want to refer this to the Constitutional Committee otherwise I will have to determine my future," Sir Julius said.

"I object that law in totality. I ask the PM to withdraw the law and rethink it. I ask and I want to refer this to the Constitutional laws. This is a very serious matter. You are depriving my people's choice, you are depriving your people's choice. You may have the numbers but you have not proven yourself," he said. Governor for Milne Bay John Luke Critin and Minister for Housing Ken Fairweather both raised different points of orders supporting the bill.

22.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG shipping services slack

By TRAVERTZ MABONE

SHIPPING services delivering basic goods and services to islands in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have been described as unreliable.

This concern was raised by islanders that the shipping services had never fully addressed their needs by the people responsible which had caused them to suffer due to the poor and unreliable schedule of the shipping industry on Bougainville.

Mortlock islanders and people from the Tasman Atolls heavily depend on shipping and at times have waited for more than six to eight months for a ship, unlike Nissan, Fead and the Carterets.

These concerns were raised by islanders of the Mortlock and Tasman through a spokesperson Edmond Teppuri.

It was expressed that waiting up to such extended periods of time for service and basic goods delivery are a major setback to the livelihood of the islanders as the atolls offer not as much as one would expect.

They have stated that ships are scheduled to go to Nissan, Fead and Carterets on a regular basis while to the Mortlocks and Tasman there are always complaints of the lack of fuel for sailing to those atolls.

This has been happening during the time of Sankamap1 and 2, and also now whereby the Bougainville Atolls which have taken over the Sankamap1 and two routes.

"We now challenge the management of Bougainville Atolls to draw up firm schedule that can equally serve all the atolls and not to draw schedule that will only serve other atolls and despise the other two atolls," they said. The islanders also questioned "When will these shipping problems

for Mortlocks and Tasman end and if the government will ever rescue all our problems in 2012 and beyond?

"It's about time we come out of our shells and share our hard lives and experiences with everybody in the Region," they said.

The islanders also raised another point that education is another area that has been affected by poor transportation.

They also added that "Our children and our primary school teachers have missed out in the past years on teachers' in-services and their Christmas holidays.

That is why no teachers from mainland Bougainville or other provinces are not willing to go out and teach on our islands."

They also revealed that their grade 8 students this year were not given the chance to sit their grade 8 examination due to no arrangement for any ship go out to Mortlocks and Tasman.

They claimed that this was not the first time that their grade 8 students were not given the opportunity to sit for the grade 8 examination.

They were quite disappointed with the people responsible because they failed to perform their duties.

And now they face the dilemma of their students missing out on high school spaces simply because they never had their exams.

They have pleaded that if there was money available, the authorities make sure that the exam papers reach every primary school who have grade 8 students.

It is now unclear when it is scheduled to go to the forgotten atolls of Mortlock and Tasman while Christmas looms this weekend.

21.12.2011

Source: SBS World News

Commonwealth may be asked to intervene

21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG parliament passes budget

The Papua New Guinea parliament has passed the budget following weeks of delays due to the political impasse in which two rival groups have claimed to be the legitimate government.

The impasse now appears settled after Peter O'Neill this week consolidated his claim to the prime ministership, being recognised by the Governor-General, the Speaker of parliament, the police commissioner, the Defence Force and the public service.

His rival, Sir Michael Somare, still claims to be the legitimate leader but lacks public support and the numbers to challenge Peter O'Neill successfully in parliament.

Meanwhile, the O'Neill administration passed its budget, the nation's largest ever, which includes substantial spending increases for health and education.

Earlier, a senior member of the O'Neill cabinet, Bart Philemon, said they would complete other key legislation as well.

"We have already put [through] the first and second reading of the Sovereign Wealth Fund. The only other major legislation is the 22 women's seat one, [for] which parliament failed to get the required number of 73."

Bart Philemon.

The O'Neill administration has also passed an amendment to the Prime Minister's Act which restricts the age limit of a Prime Minister to 72.

Parliament has been adjourned until January 17th.

21.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Catholic Bishops want Somare to step down

Papua New Guinea's influential Catholic Church is the latest group to call on Sir Michael to resign.

The veteran politician, as you've just heard, continues to insist that he is the legal leader of the country, with the backing of a ruling from the Supreme Court.

But prime minister Peter O'Neill says he is backed by a majority of MPs in parliament, the military, the police, the Governor-General and the public service.

The Archbishop of Port Moresby, John Ribat, says the Catholic Bishops Conference have asked Sir Michael to stand down in his own interests and those of the country.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Archbishop John Ribat, president, Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG



Archbishop John Ribat

[Listen here !](#)

RIBAT: Our minds at this time would be to call on the prime minister, Sir Michael, to retire, to consider his health, he just came from a very big operation and right after the operation he did not have the time to recuperate, he just went straight into the situation we are in now. And in all respect for him as a leader and now as a person who've conditioned by his health, very sick now at this time, we are calling on him to resign and to do it very well because while all this is going on we uphold him as a leader of the nation, prime minister, because of course he's been reinstated by the highest law of the nation, the Supreme Court. And that is very good, it looks very good to all of us and because that's the constitution, he's reinstated through the judiciary. For him to be able to accept it and resign while all these tensions and turmoil developing and so on, I believe it will be a good thing for him because he will go out gracefully and in a way people will hold him with that respect and remember him as the father of the nation.

HILL: By saying this is the church taking sides politically, or do you see this as just a neutral suggestion for the good of the whole country?

RIBAT: We are not taking sides, we are seeing it as a neutral position for the whole country. We are seeing it as a position that is neutral and it is good for the whole country and taking into account that Sir Michael has done his best over the years until today. And now this time he's very handicapped by his health and also I think it is time for him to give space to new upcoming leaders. And really for him our calling is actually on a neutral ground, calling on him to consider this very gracefully, not to take it as an insult or whatever, but as a way to really see him go out respectfully and in a way that we hold him with high regard in that way.

HILL: Sir Michael still firmly insists that he is the legal prime minister. Do you think it's likely that he is going to listen to your advice that he should resign?

RIBAT: He is still, and of course by law, he is still the legal prime minister, no one can take that away from him. But the thing is considering on the other hand most of the parliament members, those who were with him have left to join the other side. And really there is great support for Peter O'Neill, then the support for the prime minister himself. So for myself, for my fathers, how can you bring this together to a peaceful end when the other party is insisting that we are the majority and also Sir Michael's is the minority group? How do you see this coming to a peaceful end? Now this will only make it more difficult. And so for Sir Michael to be able to see and knowing that he's the prime minister of the nation, the parliament is seeing it very differently and they're moving away from his party. And the sensible thing to do here for this to happen is for him to resign graciously in the way that I said that the nation will see him doing this for the good of the nation as the Catholic Church is asking him to do.

HILL: Many other people have asked him to resign, he hasn't paid attention to them. Do you think that he will pay attention to the church though?

RIBAT: Maybe this time I believe he will be able to consider it because we have spoken, the Catholic bishops and I have spoken openly about this. This is the first time we have mentioned it openly to the nation and to him, and that is why now he is calling me to go and discuss this further.

21.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG parliament passes budget, debates seats for women

While Sir Michael Somare was claiming he was the legitimate Prime Minister the government of rival prime minister, Peter O'Neill was getting on with governing.

The budget was passed by parliament today and debate was restarted on a change to Organic Law to allow the creation of 22 seats in Parliament reserved for women.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia's PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

21.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare insists he's still PM saying resignation calls are insulting

The constitutional crisis in Papua New Guinea is far from over.

Sir Michael Somare is still insisting that he is the rightful, Supreme Court-appointed prime minister of what he admits is a minority government.

In a mainly incoherent statement to the media in Port Moresby Sir Michael says call for him to resign are an insult to the voters that elected him.

He accused the government of rival prime minister Peter O'Neill of intimidating the Governor General, of having no respect for the constitution, and using their majority in parliament to justify their behaviour.

In this edited version of his address voices can be heard in the background prompting Sir Michael when he appears to lose track of his argument.

Speaker: Sir Michael Somare, former PNG Prime Minister

[Listen here !](#)

21.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News - TV

Church urges Somare to end leadership fight

The Catholic Archbishop of Papua New Guinea is calling on the former prime minister to resign from politics and ensure there is no repeat of last week's political tension.

Archbishop John Ribat says while the Catholic Church recognises that the Supreme Court ruled Sir Michael Somare be reinstated, it wants him to end the fight to get back into office.

"In all respect to him, we want him to resign," Archbishop Ribat said.

Sir Michael remains insistent that he is the country's rightful prime minister in charge of a minority government.

During a press conference this week, he accused Mr O'Neil of intimidating the governor-general, and disrespecting the constitution.

"The minority government does not want to see the country being led by members of parliament, that sheer numbers hijack the process in parliament house and trample over our constitution," Sir Michael said.

"The simple notion that the majority rule justifies behaviour is detrimental in its simplicity."

On Tuesday, Mr O'Neill claimed victory in ending the political stand-off with the former prime minister.

He said while the Supreme Court ruled Sir Michael should be reinstated as the country's leader, parliament sees it differently.

"Parliament is not answerable to the Supreme Court. That must be clearly understood."

21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GG visits Buka

By Aloysius Laukai

Despite the many issues affecting PNG, Governor General SIR MICHAEL OGIO is arriving in Buka to a small welcome ceremony at the BUKA AIRPORT.





Pictured are members of HAMARAHA POPSCO INTERCHURCH YOUTH members pose for this AL Picture.

They performed the welcome ceremony.

21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG COMENTS ON YAKASA APPOINTMENT

AUTONOMOUS Bougainville Government (ABG) says the PNG police hierarchy did not consult them in appointing Assistant Police Commissioner to Bougainville Fred Yakasa to head the Bougainville Police Service (BPS) in the region.

Yakasa's appointment replaces former ACP Thomas Eluh who spent the last year and half, establishing impact community policing initiatives that has contributed to peace and reconciliation in Bougainville.

Bougainville acting president Patrick Nisira said the failure to consult ABG was in breach of the Bougainville Peace Agreement that stipulates that both parties must consult in any matters of good governance, law and order and security.

He said it was crucial for the sake of continuity and stability of Bougainville, that ABG is included in any decisions to appoint senior personnel from the national government to serve in Bougainville.

Nisira said Eluh had worked well in the region and through his own efforts, had won the respect of the people of Bougainville.

He added that removing Eluh from his former post was not in the best interest of the autonomous region of Bougainville.

21.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

O'Neill declares PNG leadership crisis over

Papua New Guinea prime minister Peter O'Neill says he is in total control of the country, and the dispute with Sir Michael Somare is over.

Sir Michael is still insisting he is the legal prime minister, basing his claim of a ruling from the Supreme Court.

But Mr O'Neill says he has the backing of a majority in Parliament and the Governor-General, and the government and people have acknowledged that.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Peter O'Neill, prime minister, Papua New Guinea

O'NEILL: We are in total control of the affairs of the country. Public service mission has now fallen in line with the governments' wish and governments' directions. The Defence Force and the police are under our control. Normalcy has returned to the critical structure of the country and we are in control.

HILL: What about Sir Michael Somare and his supporters, I think he's got about 40 MPs on his side, he is still claiming that he is the prime minister and he says he's backed up by the authority of the Supreme Court in that?

O'NEILL: In fact he's got only 32 members of parliament who are with him at present, and that is compared to our 75. Now when you look at it as I've stated on many occasions, the courts in this country have got no powers to order the parliament to install a prime minister. Sir Michael continues to have minority numbers on the floor of parliament. Parliament has not mandated him to run the country. Only the Supreme Court or the courts of our country can only make references back to parliament to correct itself. Now we have taken note of the court orders, we have accepted the court orders in parliament, we have debated on it and we have disposed of it. We now have introduced legislation to correct the process, and the process is that any person owning the office of the Prime Minister who is away for an extended period of time, over three months, in fact automatically vacates that office. In line with that the parliament has taken note that there has been a vacancy and a new Prime Minister has been elected. So now this has been recognised by all sectors of the community, almost 90 per cent of our people support that. In fact the public servants are now fully behind, and the Governor General yesterday admitted to the fact that he was wrongly advised by people who had no right to advise him, and as a result he now admits that we have been duly sworn in and we are now in total control of the country.

HILL: So is there still basically a clash between these two principles of control of parliament and rule of law? Is the Supreme Court falling into line though? Will you have to go back to the Supreme Court to get them to somehow publicly acknowledge this?

O'NEILL: Parliament is not answerable to the Supreme Court, that must be clearly understood. If anybody feels aggrieved by any decision parliament has taken, of course they have every right to go to court for an interpretation. Again Somare and his camp have got every right to go and exercise their constitutional right and go to court if they feel aggrieved that they can seek an interpretation, which the court will interpret and report back to parliament, and parliament will continue to correct itself.

HILL: The people who supported Sir Michael Somare apparently in good faith adhering to this principle of rule of law, is anything bad going to happen to them as a result of them supporting Sir Michael Somare, or do you understand their reasons for doing what they did?

O'NEILL: Nobody is operating outside the rule of law. That influences our government, we are subject to the constitution of our country, acts of parliament that we introduce on the floor of parliament, and I want to state to everybody that the country despite the crisis has been able to operate in a very orderly manner, our citizens have gone about with their lives in an orderly manner, there has been no riots, there's been peaceful protests supporting our government in many cities throughout the country, but that is a constitutional right. So all in all I think Papua New Guineans have expressed great maturity in ensuring that our country's democracy prevails.

HILL: How is this eventually resolved, just basically through people acknowledging you as prime minister, because there were some talks I understand between the Attorney General for Sir Michael Somare, Sir Arnold Amet, and Dr Alan Marat, your Attorney General? Did anything come of those peace talks or did it not just go anywhere?

O'NEILL: That did not go anywhere because of the fact that they depended entirely on the court order the Supreme Court has ordered. When we look back you must realise that the proceedings of the Supreme Court were under extreme controversy where the Chief Justice despite the person who chaired the tribunal of the Supreme Court, despite very serious conflicts of interest refused to step down. Now under those circumstances even the decision of the Supreme Court was not a unanimous decision, it was just by majority of three to two. So given those circumstances, parliament rightly took note of those and acted by changing the appropriate acts of parliament to ensure that there is stability in the political structure of our country.

HILL: Sir Michael Somare is the father of PNG, took the country to independence, a very long and distinguished career, is this really the way that his political career should be brought to an end though on this note?

O'NEILL: Well this is not by choice, Sir Michael Somare has done this to himself. This country belongs to seven million people, we acknowledge his contribution to the country. We have great

respect for the contributions that he has made, but he clearly knows that he's not healthy, he has had extreme health issues, he's not capable of managing the affairs of the country, he should have done the right thing that his family and himself announced that he was retiring and he would retire from politics. Now he's been discharged from the hospital he just wants to walk back into the job using the court order as the basis on which to do so. He does not have the public support, he does not have parliament's support, and certainly he does not have the business community and international community's support. So it is quite obvious the writing is on the wall. He needs to retire gracefully with dignity and the respect that he deserves.

HILL: One of the very significant aspects of this whole crisis has been what many are calling a very mature and measured response by the ordinary people of PNG, there was calm, no one took their disagreements to the streets, the military stayed in the barracks, wouldn't be drawn into things, public servants stayed at their posts and did their jobs without picking sides. Were you surprised by this response or not?

O'NEILL: No we have been appealing to everybody in the country that we must respect the rule of law, we must allow parliament to do its job, we must allow the mandated leaders, which are their representatives on the floor of parliament to continue to manage these issues. Now Somare and his camp has not been attending parliament, they are trying to run a so-called minority government under court order outside of parliament, not responsible to anybody. Now these changes have happened because of massive corruption and massive mismanagement of public funds, and lack of attention to people's needs. As a result of that the people's desires have been to change. So we know that we have got the public support and we know that public support is for the good of the country.

HILL: Are you going to let Sir Michael Somare continue to pretend to be prime minister if as you say you're in control, or are you going to just simply ignore him, what?

O'NEILL: Well he knows he's lost any opportunity for him to become prime minister. He's no longer a member of parliament, he cannot conduct himself out there as if he's a prime minister, when we all know that prime ministers are only elected by parliament and only members of parliament can be prime ministers. So I'm sorry he's singing his last song, but let him see how he plays that out.

HILL: What lessons are there for PNG in this crisis? How can we prevent this kind of thing happening again in the future?

O'NEILL: We are now doing legislative reforms on the floor so that we don't know allow this kind of nonsense to reoccur in the future. We are changing the prime minister ?? act to make sure that if a prime minister falls ill automatic invoking of a prohibition which will allow two medical doctors to carry out an assessment, whether he's still mentally sound to carry out that function of the prime minister or not. And secondly, we are trying to do also limits to the age that if you're well over 72, which is the same as the judges in this country, that persons who are over 72 years of age should not continue to hold the office of the prime minister. This is a stressful job and a fit and a healthy person should hold the office and managing the affairs of seven million people in this country.

21.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

'Respect Supreme Court ruling'

MEMBERS of the ABG House of Representatives have called on PNG parliamentarians to uphold the country's constitution and respect the Supreme Court's decision which reinstated Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister.

In a joint statement released by Member for Hagogohe Robert Hamal, Member for Tsitalato Cosmas Sohia, and the newly elected Member for the Tonsu Constituency, Joel Banam, the leaders urged the O'Neill-Namah faction to put the Constitution above parliamentary process and personal interests.

They said the Constitution is the only guarantee to unity, peace and prosperity for over six million people of PNG and has effectively provided the basis of a united Papua New Guinea over the past thirty three years of our country's independence.

They said that it was not a question of a corrupt government regime, the popularity of a government regime or parliamentary procedures and processes, but the supremacy of the Constitution.

The moment the constitution loses its supremacy nothing can guarantee the safety and unity of our people.

The warned that "if the current impasse between the two groups of parliamentarians is not resolved in accordance with the Constitution, it is highly likely that Bougainvilleans call for sovereignty of our homeland will be reignited."

Speaking on behalf of the Buka leadership, Mr Joel Banam said, "We are deeply concerned about the events that are taking place in PNG right now. We do not feel secure. If the Constitution were to lose its supremacy, it is obvious to us that successful implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement is in jeopardy."

"We are reviewing our position on Bougainville's independence - we are prepared to unilaterally declare Bougainville independent for the third time, this time as one united people of Bougainville," Mr Banam said. "History has taught us that in the event that the supremacy of a country's constitution is made subservient to the whims of greed, fear and power, one might as well kiss goodbye to the principles of democracy.

Whether our PNG parliamentarians acknowledge it or not the fact remains: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We are witnessing this very fact to-day."

"The suspension of our respectable and dignified leader, His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio is a classical demonstration of greed, fear and (an unhealthy desire for) power at play," said Mr Banam.

"We want to make it succinctly clear to the Bougainville members of the PNG Parliament who were and are party to the suspension of Michael Ogio, especially the Member for North Bougainville, you have dug your own political grave." However on Monday, Parliament reinstated Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio who later that day installed Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister of PNG.

21.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Buka youth respond to HIV/AIDS

By ALEX MUNME

A KOMUNITI Tingim Aids (KTA) Youth Forum was held last week at the Hahela conference centre in Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Care International through its Komuniti Tingim Aids project, works with youths through a Peer Education Program in 15 communities of Buka and Tinputz Districts. The forum was held so that the youths could showcase what they have learnt and to disseminate vital health information to their peers and community members. The forum was also aimed at playing an active role in responding to youth vulnerability to HIV and STI.

With the theme "Fostering Positive Changes in Communities through Youth Involvement" the showcase of KTA's Peer Educators had the opportunity to present their ideas and recommendations to stakeholders.

Many top level ABG leaders were unable to attend but those present had the chance to find out the challenges the youth had to overcome in carrying out their roles in the program.

The forum was supported by donor, Sanap Wantaim AusAID.

21.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Budget to be passed

By PETER KORUGL

Parliament-elect Prime Minister Peter O'Neill last night gave his assurance that the 2012 National Budget will be passed by Parliament today.

"The people's budget will be passed tomorrow I can give you that assurance," Mr O'Neill told the Post-Courier.

The K10.5 billion budget brought down by the O'Neill Government on December 6 focuses on the social sector, with emphasis on education, law and order and infrastructure.

Mr O'Neill said: "For the first time, this budget is a balanced and fair budget, all provinces and districts are given their fair share of the money, and we are putting more money into the pockets of our people.

"The budget is aimed at lowering the cost of living for the people and improving their welfare. We are giving income tax relief to people by lifting the tax-free threshold from K7000 to K10,000. This means all who earn up to K10,000 will not pay any tax to the Government.

"Our free education policy will also put more money into the pockets of our people. With more money to spend, we anticipate that people will use that to improve their lives."

He said the Opposition should be in Parliament to debate this important document but this was not possible because they did not have anything positive to contribute.

Mr O'Neill said the Somare regime had been in office for nine long years that it had forgotten how to act like an Opposition.

However, at a press conference yesterday, Madang MP, Sir Arnold Amet said the Somare group could not go to Parliament because of the seating arrangement.

Sir Arnold said they can only go if Mr O'Neill was to give way for Sir Michael Somare to resume his seat as Prime Minister.

Sir Michael yesterday maintained that he was still Prime Minister and informed the media that his group would proceed court challenge against the swearing in of the O'Neill Government. While Sir Michael and his team were having their press conference at Ela Beach Hotel, across town, the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio was swearing in the last of the O'Neill cabinet ministers.

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Thompson Harokaqe concluded the swearing in of the cabinet. He was away at Durban, South Africa, attending the Climate Change conference and was not present for the swearing in. At Waigani, it was business as usual as the public servants went to work, following the pledges by their bosses to work with the O'Neill Government.

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21.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Someone else is in my seat: Chief

By STAFF REPORTERS

REINSTATED Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare's, group says he has no qualms about attending Parliament except that "somebody else" is occupying his seat illegally.

And the Somare side is insisting if the seat is vacated they will attend despite being in the minority numerically.

Southern Highlands Governor, Anderson Agiru: "Said the people's Constitution had spoken abundantly the December 12 in declaring Sir Michael the legitimate Prime Minister, but the O'Neill group continued to put up "road blocks" preventing his entry.

Mr Agiru said this was through the O'Neill group's continuous amending of subordinate legislation to remain in power.

"In our Constitution of democracy, the Constitution is supreme not the Parliament.

"Section 11 of the Constitution makes it explicitly clear and in Section 99 of our Constitution it creates the three arms of the Government, including Parliament.

"Therefore the Parliament is a creature of the Constitution of PNG," Mr Agir said.

He said every member of Parliament is a legislator and they need to read and understand the Constitution, the very instrument that created this country which was adopted on August 16, 1974.

is Mr Agiru said numbers on the floor did not supersede the Constitution of which the Supreme Court had already ruled reinstating Sir Michael.

Mr Agiru said Sir Michael's record re-elections into Parliament were not "at the barrel of a gun" but during fair elections.

He called on the O'Neill group not to hold Parliament "under captivity" but respect the rule of law, honour the Constitution and not to form road blocks or culdesach and let him rule for the next three months.

"I call on my brother member of parliament on the side to let common sense prevail and respect the Constitution and lead our people as intended by the Constitution, the very law we have taken by oath in office to protect.

We are all elected leaders. We all serve the same people therefore I invite my brothers to come and carve our future together with the greatest craftsman of our times Sir Michael Somare.

Mr Agiru was speaking during a news conference together with Sir Michael and his group in which Sir Michael said no one except the East Sepik people had the right to ask him to step down from Parliament.

Sir Michael said there was a Constitution to abide by and he was waiting for that opportunity to enter Parliament.

Enga Governor, Peter Ipatas, said the whole affair was also due to young politicians in Parliament not respecting the rule of law and the Constitution and what Sir Michael stood for.

21.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG's political crisis may not be over

Despite the apparent strength of Peter O'Neill's position not everyone believes the political crisis is over.

Presenter: Simon Santow

Speaker: Jon Fraenkel, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

21.12.2011

Source: The National

PM blasts Sir Michael's regime

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has lashed out at the Somare regime, saying it has treated the country as if it was a family business for the past nine years.

He told people yesterday in Port Moresby, that the country had remained "unchanged" since independence and goods and services had not reached people in rural areas.

He said politicians and other white collar criminals had stolen millions from the public purse and had bettered their own lives while the people suffered.

O'Neill said at "the end of the tunnel there is a light" referring to his government and its effort to fight corruption.

He said his government had four months left before the issuing of writs on April 27 and would ensure the people's interests were protected.

He thanked the people through their 75 MPs who elected him as the prime minister saying a family could not run the country.

He said parliament should not come under the influence of a few people and be used as a "rubber stamp".

O'Neill said since independence, governments had been formed and dissolved in parliament and not on streets or at hotels.

21.12.2011

Source: The National

Sir Michael's faction slams GG's decision

By ISAAC NICHOLAS

MEMBERS of parliament loyal to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare have refused to accept the decision by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio to recognise Peter O'Neill as prime minister. They maintained that they were the legitimate government restored by the Supreme Court. Sir Michael told a media conference that there was now a "legal and constitutional nightmare". He claimed that MPs who had chosen to remain with him had demonstrated their recognition of the Constitution as being supreme.

"My minority government does not want to see this country being led by members of parliament that use sheer numbers to hijack processes in parliament and trample all over our Constitution," he said.

"The simple notion that the majority rule justifies their behaviour is detrimental in its simplicity. The significance of desecrating our Constitution over the past couple of days is far reaching.

"I call on Papua New Guineans to recognise the leadership style that has crept into one of our arms of government – parliament.

"The O'Neill regime has shown PNG what it will do to remain in power.

"The string of violations to the Constitution and the use of their numbers on the floor of parliament are indicative of what their approach to governance will be in the future.

"The pattern of intimidation used at the highest level – Government House – leaves my government speechless.

"We are not trying to protect ourselves. We are responsible leaders. Mark my word, the majority of those MPs will not come back after the 2012 general election."

Madang MP Sir Arnold Amet said after the Supreme Court restored Sir Michael as prime minister, the speaker should have asked Peter O'Neill to vacate the seat and allow Sir Michael and his government to take up their seats in parliament.

"So long as Speaker Jeffery Nape continues to create a roadblock for the Somare government to take its rightful place on the floor of parliament, Sir Michael cannot go and sit in opposition or the middle bench," Sir Arnold said.

Meanwhile, Sir Michael said MPs who called for his resignation should show respect.

"The call for me by certain leaders to resign is an insult to the voters of East Sepik province who elected me in the 2007 general election," Sir Michael said.

"I have represented my people in parliament for more than 40 years and the loose talk by senior MPs at this critical time is disrespectful and cheap.

"They tried to remove me unlawfully in parliament but failed and now they are calling for me to resign," he said.

21.12.2011

Source: The National

Buka hospital needs service upgrade

LONG-time Buka town resident and owner of Toyana Trading, Greg Wong says the people of Bougainville need to work together in raising the quality of service at Buka General Hospital.

He said this last Friday when donating K18,000 worth of equipment to doctors Joseph Vilosi, Barnabas Matanu, nurses association executives and hospital chief executive officer Dr Cyril Imako.

Wong said when the quality of service provided by the hospital improved, there would be no reason for people who could afford outside medical care to seek help elsewhere.

Wong said areas that needed improvement included recruitment of more specialist doctors, availability of special life saving equipment for complex operations and spacious ward facilities with more beds for patients.

"We have some of the smartest people in the country and they have been drafted out to other countries when they should be working here, helping our people.

"But because we are not paying them enough, they have to look for better opportunities."

He said it was in the best interest of the Bougainville people to look after the hospital, which catered for referrals from North, Central and South Bougainville.

Wong said the responsibility not only lay with the Department of Health and Buka General Hospital but with the Autonomous Bougainville Government, business and local communities.

He hoped the donation of mostly child care medical equipment including infant feeding tubes and mobile pulse oximeters would help the hospital improve its quality of care to the people of Bougainville.

Wong and his wife Patricia donated the life-saving equipment on behalf of donors, Peter Tsiamalili and New Zealand Police.

21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's O'Neill tells Somare to "retire gracefully"

Peter O'Neill has been recognised as PNG's Prime Minister by the Governor-General, the speaker of parliament, the police commissioner, Defence Force and the public service.

Mr O'Neill declared victory in the standoff, which has seen two competing prime ministers, after the governor general declared him the legitimate head of government.

Mr O'Neill says normality has returned and he had control of the country, while Sir Michael Somare has no mandate to rule, lacks public support and the numbers to challenge him successfully in parliament.

He says Sir Michael needs to retire gracefully.

Mr O'Neill says he will be making legislative changes to ensure clear provisions are in place should a prime minister fall ill and also so that a person could not continue as leader after 72, the retirement age for judges in PNG.

But Sir Michael Somare says the intimidation used by the rival Peter O'Neill group leaves his group speechless.

He says the way they've persuaded the public service to ignore a Supreme Court ruling is breathtaking.

21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

Arms destruction committee

Whilst Bougainville is yet to find ways to contain all weapons, Siwai District has designed a model in which their exfighters will finally dispose their weapons.

A weapons disarmament team was formed recently in the district to address this issue and to prepare for a weapons destruction summit that will be held in the new year.

The model if successful can be used in other districts.

The committee is comprised of representatives of all sectors of the community including COE reps, Women, Youth, Police, chiefs District Administrator, UN rep and veterans.

Pictured are members of the committee taken in Siwai recently.



21.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

ABG ON

BY ALOYSIUS LAUKAI

The ABG parliament is sitting this afternoon and would be rising for the budget session.

This session was supposed to be the budget session however, they will wait for the national government budget before the ABG can table the 2012 ABG BUDGET.

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill declares PNG leadership crisis over

Papua New Guinea prime minister Peter O'Neill says he is in total control of the country, and the dispute with Sir Michael Somare is over.

Sir Michael is still insisting he is the legal prime minister, basing his claim of a ruling from the Supreme Court.

But Mr O'Neill says he has the backing of a majority in Parliament and the Governor-General, and the government and people have acknowledged that.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Peter O'Neill, prime minister, Papua New Guinea

[Listen here !](#)

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

May still be a role for Supreme Court in PNG impasse

Constitutional specialist, Dr Tony Regan from the Australian National University says the dispute in PNG is not really settled.

Dr Reagan says there could still be a role for the Supreme Court to play in the battle of strength between the two prime ministers, Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Tony Regan, constitutional specialist, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare refusing to give up his quest to be PM

Former PNG prime minister Sir Michael Somare is still declaring his right to the leadership of government.

He told reporters at his base in a beachside hotel in Port Moresby that he was the legitimate prime minister.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

20.12.2011

Source: SBS Australia

PNG's PM O'Neill speaks to SBS

20.12.2011

Source: SBS Australia

PNG stand-off continues

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News -TV

O'Neill reveals plan to end PM dispute

PNG's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says he intends to introduce legislative changes forcing PMs to retire at 72.

The political crisis appears to have eased with Mr O'Neill securing the support of the governor-general, most MPs, the public service, the police and the defence force.

However, his rival 75-year-old Sir Michael Somare said he's determined to be returned as prime minister.

Mr O'Neill has told Pacific Beat's Bruce Hill that won't be possible when the legislative changes are in place.

PNG's governor-general has met Peter O'Neill and his supporters, prompting speculation the leadership crisis is closer to being resolved.

In Parliament, Mr O'Neill announced that last week's suspension of Governor-General, Sir Michael Ogio had been lifted.

The speaker, Geoffrey Nape said Sir Michael Ogio had written a letter apologising for swearing in ministers loyal to the former prime minister, Sir Michael Somare last week.

Mr O'Neill and his supporters travelled to Government House on Monday afternoon to meet with the head of state.

A box of champagne was also taken inside.

Mr O'Neill said the meeting was a courtesy call to reconcile with the governor-general.

20.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Somare says O'Neill team desecrates PNG constitution

Sir Michael Somare, who leads one of the two factions purporting to be the government of Papua New Guinea, says the intimidation used by the rival Peter O'Neill group leaves his group speechless.

He says the way they've persuaded the public service to ignore a Supreme Court ruling is breathtaking.

In an open letter calling on the people to go about their normal business while the politicians resolve the mess, Sir Michael says the demand he resign from parliament is an insult.

He says his minority government does not want to see PNG being led by MPs that use sheer numbers to hijack processes in parliament and trample all over the constitution.

Sir Michael says the significance of the desecration of the constitution over the past couple of days is far reaching.

He says the string of constitutional violations committed by the O'Neill group, and their use of numbers on the floor of parliament show what their approach to governance will be in the future.

20.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Changes 'new to PNG': O'Neill

PARLIAMENT-elect Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has described the events which unfolded in the last few days as a change in the political culture and tradition in our democratic country.

Mr O'Neill, while thanking the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio for recognising his election on the floor of Parliament and his invitation to the Government House yesterday, also thanked the GG for his humility and courage to allow Parliament to remain supreme.

He said the GG acknowledged that there was a change to the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act and that the Parliament endorsed the court decision before my election as PM on December 9.

"This is a new political chapter and Papua new Guineans have shown maturity by allowing political issues to deal with itself. The public service machinery is stable and working but we need to work together," Mr O'Neill said.

"I also pay special respect to our senior leaders for standing united. That was a new political era, an era which together with young leaders...they have stood firm together to allow Parliament remain supreme in our country," he said.

Mr O'Neill also thanked police for keeping law and order throughout the country. He said Government would be at work immediately to pass important legislations and the Opposition must come into the Parliament to support these legislations which were important for PNG rather than fighting for survival that would not take them anywhere.

Mr O'Neill said Sir Michael Somare was a respected leader, one of the founding fathers of PNG and must retire with dignity and not allow other leaders to push him to remain for their own interest.

"Parliament has shown its supremacy that it is not subject to other arms of Government. Parliament is where governments are made and changed. And Sir Michael (GG) has acted in the best interest of the country after being through duress," he said.

20.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Laws in place to recovery fraud money

By PORENI UMAU

PAPUA New Guinea as a country has the necessary laws in place for the police and the Office of the Public Prosecutor to recover fraud money and proceeds of any financially motivated crime.

Public Prosecutor Pondros Kaluwin said this in response to a statement made by the United Nations resident co-ordinator David McLachlan-Karr last Wednesday in this paper.

Mr Kaluwin said that proceeds of crime could be recovered by his office under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2005 citing that this legislation was passed by Parliament and came into force well before PNG ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2007.

He said that his office has already undertaken proceeds of crime recovery action in restraining properties namely moneys in bank accounts and real properties.

He said that in one case, monies totalling approximately K1.268 million were recovered and put into the government's consolidated revenue fund.

He said that all these cases involved proceeds of corruption and fraud which were offences under the Criminal Code.

He said that while he agreed with Mr McLachlan –Karr that the ratification of UNCAC was the right step forward for PNG, he said that the approach to asset recovery under UNCAC was not new to PNG.

Mr Kaluwin said that The Proceeds of Crime Act was in force before PNG ratified UNCAC. He said that the relevant law was in place, but the challenge was to allocate sufficient resources to the Financial Intelligence Unit in the National Fraud and Anti Corruption Directorate and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

ESBC: Is this law the reason for Sir Michael Somare's desperate fight to become re-instated as Prime Minister? Hopefully this very law will be applied for the entire Somare family and friends as well.

20.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Somare: I am still PM

By GORETHY KENNETH

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday maintained that he is the prime minister as he was reinstated by the Supreme Court.

"I've been reinstated by the Courts, I am following the law and that's it and I've been sworn in as the Prime Minister by the Governor General. There is only one Cabinet and one Prime Minister and I am the one," Sir Michael said.

In an interview on Radio Australia's Pacific Beat, Sir Michael said the supreme court judgement last week reinstating him in office still stands.

"The supreme court has taken that decision and installed my government back in the office," he said.

"(The) Supreme Court has taken its decision... and we are just trying to get our politics sorted out here."

"I am still the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea because the Supreme Court has taken its decision to restore my government.

"We know for the fact that the Supreme Court has taken its decision, five man bench and we are just trying to get our politics here. We are trying to make an attempt to talk to O'Neill but we have had no response.

"My understanding is that once the Supreme Court has taken the decision, they'll have to wait...any judges who sit on the National Court will have to know that the question is in the Supreme Court. I personally think that the Supreme Court will be able to take the decision on.

"We have a constitutional government here, the executive government, the parliament and the Supreme Court all of them come under the Constitution. The Constitution is quite clear and O'Neill and his men are clear on the Constitution of this country. WE are merely taking the decision that far. We know the constitution is supreme. Parliament can take legislation but the Supreme Court has made their decision and everything they (O'Neill) have done is illegal.

"Numbers in parliament is irrelevant. We have a constitution that is supreme, the constitution has spoken and we are only waiting for that decision. We want the decision to be taken by the Supreme Court. We have laws here in PNG which quite clearly govern this country," Sir Michael said.

20.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

G-G recognises O'Neill as PM

By PORENI UMAU

IT is now official — Peter O'Neill is Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister.

His recognition and swearing in at Government House yesterday — after a change of heart by the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio — hopefully closing a dark chapter in the political life of our country. It also, barred court-re-instated minority Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare going back to court, unshackling the country from the confusion of the past week created by the stalemate of two claimants to the Prime Minister's seat — Mr O'Neill, who was elected by Parliament, and Sir Michael, who was reinstated by the Supreme Court.

Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio yesterday said that following further advice, he had concluded that his earlier decision to swear in the Somare regime a week ago was wrong.

Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday maintained that he is the legitimate Prime Minister "I've been reinstated by the Courts, I am following the law and that's it and I've been sworn in as the Prime Minister by the Governor-General. There is only one Cabinet and one Prime Minister and I am the one," Sir Michael said.

However, the Governor-General acknowledged that he had no reserved powers and can only act on advice from parliament through the Speaker on the appointment of the prime minister. He said that parliament was supreme and it was only parliament that can decide who is prime minister.

Sir Michael said he now accepted that he cannot take advice from the State Solicitor, the Legislative Counsel or any other officer of the State.

Sir Michael said that in any event, the advice he did receive was flawed and did not take into account parliament's decision to remove Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as East Sepik MP on December 9, 2011.

He said that he did not take into account parliament's amendments to the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council Act, which dismissed Sir Michael as PM.

He said that he now recognises parliament's election of Mr O'Neill as prime minister.

The GG said that Mr O'Neill was correctly sworn in by the Acting Governor General Jeffrey Nape and called on all MPs and the people throughout the country to understand the untenable situation he had been placed in.

"It is now time for the MPs to join together on the floor of parliament and let normal democratic processes take their course," he said.

He said that the most important thing that could happen now was for reconciliation to take place on the floor of parliament and for the business of the nation to resume.

Sir Michael also said that as per his suspension by parliament on December 14, 2011 and the subsequent lifting of the same yesterday, he accepted the process and proceedings undertaken to restore him as the GG of PNG.

20.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill bid valid: Yalo

By TODAGIA KELOLA

PARLIAMENTARY supremacy must reign because the Supreme Court's decision has now been overtaken by Parliament's action.

That's the view of former acting Judge, Nemo Yalo, when commenting on the current political impasse that is now going into its second week

Mr Yalo said on December 9, 2011 the Supreme Court by 3:2 majority judgment reinstated the Somare-Abal Government into office.

Subsequently Parliament amended the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act 2002 (the Act) to declare a vacancy in the office of the Prime Minister. Peter O'Neill was elected into office.

"Under the circumstance, who should be obeyed, is it the Supreme Court or the Parliament? I offer my views here without the benefit of reading a copy of the judgment or the amended legislation. My attempts to obtain these documents have been fruitless."

He said the amended PM and NEC 2002 Act allowed the Parliament's action - election of O'Neill as the PM valid and in force.

20.12.2011

Source: Islands Business

Peter O'Neill recognised as PNG prime minister

Papua New Guinea's political crisis appears to have ended, with the nation's civil service, armed forces and newly restored governor-general all lining up behind Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (AAP) ----- Papua New Guinea's political crisis appears to have ended, with the nation's civil service, armed forces and newly restored governor-general all lining up behind Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. But Sir Michael Somare, the man who was last week ordered to be restored to government by the Supreme Court, remains defiant, saying O'Neill's overwhelming numbers in parliament do not matter. Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio sent a letter to parliament on Monday apologising for signing in the ministry of Sir Michael Somare on Wednesday morning, citing bad legal advice that led him to the decision. "Any decision to swear in the Somare government in law is wrong and invalid," the letter said. "The advice I received was wrong. "I recognise the election of Peter O'Neill as prime minister." Shortly after the letter was read, Sir Michael Ogio was reinstated and Speaker Jeffery Nape gave up the role of acting governor-general he took on last week to swear in the O'Neill government as Somare told the country from government offices he was in charge. That is something the 75-year-old former prime minister is insisting could still be true. "Numbers in Parliament is irrelevant," he told Radio Australia on Monday. "When we have a constitution that's supreme, constitution has spoken and we are waiting for the decision. "We want a decision to be taken by the Supreme Court." O'Neill, who has promised his people free education and greater participation of women in parliament, was equally firm, telling reporters that PNG had made history. "Parliament is the place where we make governments and where we change governments," he said. "We must pay tribute to all Papua New Guineans. They have shown restraint and maturity beyond the years that we have been independent. "Now that the crisis is over, I urge all parties to work together so that we can prepare for the fair and free elections in 2012." The 3-2 Supreme Court decision on Monday of last week to reinstate Sir Michael became invalid the same day, when parliament voted on retroactive laws to end his career. Sir Michael was PNG's first prime minister and its longest serving leader after nine straight years in the top job between 2002 and March 2011. The sense that the crisis is over has existed since Sunday, when O'Neill announced police had seized government offices and locked out the 20 or so MPs who support Somare. By Monday morning the public service and the armed forces were behind O'Neill. In his first public comments about Sir Michael's attempts to get the military to intervene in the political standoff, Brigadier General Francis Agwi said on Monday that the conditions did not exist to justify military action. At 3am on Friday morning, Sir Michael and his cabinet had ordered the PNG defence force into action, but the request was denied by General Agwi, a Somare appointee. The defence force chief said the army had a contingency plan in place, but the situation in Moresby was not one of "lawlessness".

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

PNG : de la lumière au bout du tunnel

Indice révélateur, c'est avec une caisse de champagne que Peter O'Neill, l'un des deux Premiers ministres, et ses partisans se sont rendus à la Maison du Gouvernement pour rencontrer le chef de l'État, le Gouverneur général, Sir Michael Ogio.

Rappelons les faits. La semaine dernière, la Cour suprême a décidé de réinstaller Sir Michael Somare dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre. Elle a jugé inconstitutionnelle l'élection de Peter O'Neill, élu Premier ministre par la majorité des députés en août dernier, alors que Sir Michael, Premier ministre d'alors, se faisait opérer du cœur à Singapour.

Peter O'Neill n'accepte pas la décision de la Cour Suprême mais Sir Michael constitue son propre gouvernement et le Gouverneur général assermente les 19 ministres nommés par Sir Michael.

Peter O'Neill a alors décidé de suspendre le Gouverneur général, Sir Michael Ogio, de ses fonctions pour ensuite le remplacer par le Président du Parlement, Geoffrey Nape.

Hier après-midi, M. O'Neill a indiqué que Sir Michael Ogio a été rétabli dans ses fonctions et que le Gouverneur général s'est excusé dans une lettre d'avoir assermenté les 19 ministres de Sir Michael Somare.

Peter O'Neill et le Gouverneur général se sont donc réconciliés. Peter O'Neill détient la majorité au Parlement et bénéficie du soutien de la rue, de la police et de la fonction publique.

Si la crise semble en fin de course, Sir Michael Somare n'a pas dit son dernier mot, veut ressaisir la justice mais semble de plus en plus isolé et s'énervé quand on lui pose des questions : « Les chiffres au Parlement ne veulent rien dire, c'est la Constitution qui prime. Avec 40 sièges nous ne pourrions rien faire. Mais prenez vos distances, rapportez les faits de notre pays. Pour l'amour de Dieu soyez conscient de ce que vous faites. »

20.12.2011

Source: The National

GG approval makes O'Neill legitimate PM

By JEFFREY ELAPA

PETER O'Neill is the legitimate Prime Minister – after he was officially recognised by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio yesterday.

Sir Michael revoked a decision he made last week to recognise Sir Michael Somare as prime minister following the Supreme Court ruling restoring him to that position.

He said the decision was based on bad advice from the state solicitor and the first legislative counsel.

Parliament in turn lifted its decision to suspend Ogio as governor-general.

He had written to the speaker of parliament confirming that he recognised O'Neill as prime minister.

He added that the swearing-in of O'Neill's cabinet by the Speaker Jeffrey Nape last week was legitimate.

On Dec 12, parliament passed the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council amendment Bill, which disqualified Somare as MP.

It meant he could not become prime minister.

On Dec 13, a day after the Supreme Court declared Somare as the legitimate prime minister, the governor-general declared Somare as the legitimate prime minister and swore him in.

However, parliament using its numerical strength moved a motion of confidence in O'Neill confirming him as prime minister.

The unchallenged parliament's decision superseded the supreme court decision and recognised O'Neill as the PM.

Ogio said following advice, he had come to the conclusion that his decision to swear in the Somare faction was wrong.

He acknowledged that he had no reserve powers and that he could only act on advice of parliament through the speaker on the appointment of a prime minister.

"Parliament is supreme and it alone can act on advice from the parliament through the speaker on the appointment of a prime minister," he said.

"It is now time for members of parliament to join together on the floor of parliament and let normal democratic processes take their course."

He said the most important thing was for reconciliation to take place in parliament.

O'Neill said the nation had acted maturely and thanked everyone for keeping the peace through out the political wrangling since Dec 9.

20.12.2011

Source: The National

'K23 million for community colleges missing'

THE K23 million allocated for the community college concept by the government of Sir Michael Somare is missing, Treasurer and Finance Minister Don Polye said.

Polye was responding to questions by the member for Markham Koni Iguan who wanted to know if the K23 million allocated to the initiative was safe and if colleges had been established.

Polye said he did not know where the money had been held or where it had been diverted.

Meanwhile, he also maintained that K70 million RESI funds parked in a trust account for more than two years would be distributed equally among the disadvantaged districts.

Moresby South MP Dame Carol Kidu had asked why the government had decided to use the K70 million as political funds and paid only to 69 MPs.

20.12.2011

Source: The National

Sir Michael blamed for NA's downfall

SIR Michael Somare must take the blame for the fall from grace of the National Alliance party and the political crisis, Enga province branch president Paul Kurai says.

Kurai, who fought hard to win four seats in his province in the 2007 general election, said Sir Michael listened to the wrong advice from political friends.

He said it resulted in the downfall of the National Alliance-led government and the split of its members.

He said if Sir Michael had appointed the right people to run the government while he went to Singapore for medical treatment, such problems would not have happened.

He said if Sir Michael had given the deputy prime minister's post to Don Polye when he went to Singapore the party would still be intact and they would still be in government.

He said Sir Michael made the wrong decision in giving the deputy prime minister's post to Wabag MP Sam Abal with the intention of taking it back later and giving it to his son.

Kurai said that plan backfired on the "father of the nation".

Kurai said the party, as an institution, took some time to build but greed and political in-fighting were causing it problems.

He said he had trust and confidence in Polye as a parliamentary leader to lead the party into the national election next year.

He said the challenge was now with party executives throughout the country to work with Polye to win more seats and form the next government.

Kurai said he respected Sir Michael as a father of the nation and former party leader.

But he said Sir Michael was getting old and with his health problems and the political pressure, "he must resign from politics".

20.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG Governor General backs O'Neill government

Papua New Guinea's leadership crisis appears all but over after the Governor-General switched allegiances and recognized Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister.

Mr O'Neill now has the support of the head of state, the public service and most of the population.

His rival Sir Michael Somare maintains he's the legitimate leader but there seems to be little he can do except go back to court.

Presenter: Liam Fox

Speakers: Peter O'Neill, PNG politician; Sir Michael Somare, PNG politician

[Listen here !](#)

20.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's Somare vows to return to court

Papua New Guinea's political crisis appears to have ended, with the nation's civil service, armed forces and newly restored governor-general all lining up behind Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

The Governor-General, Sir Michael Ogio, sent a letter to parliament yesterday apologising for signing in the ministry of Sir Michael Somare on Wednesday morning, citing bad legal advice that led him to the decision.

The letter said that any decision to swear in the Somare government in law is wrong and invalid.

Peter O'Neill welcomed the Governor General's change of heart.

"I thank the Governor General for the humility that he has shown and the courage he has shown for the best interest of the country."

But Sir Michael Somare, the man who was last week ordered to be restored to government by the Supreme Court, remains defiant, saying Mr O'Neill's overwhelming numbers in parliament do not matter.

"I've been sworn as a prime minister, there is only one cabinet and one prime minister."

Sir Michael Somare says he will go back to the courts.

The courts in Papua New Guinea are now closed for the holidays and are due to reopen again in February.

20.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's GG suspension lifting weakens Somare bid

Peter O'Neill and his administration tightened their grip on control of government in Papua New Guinea after parliament lifted the suspension of the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio.

Mr O'Neill and his majority parliament grouping lifted the suspension after the Governor-General admitted reinstating Sir Michael Somare as prime minister last Wednesday was based on flawed advice.

Johnny Blades reports.

"The reinstatement of the Governor General comes a week since the Supreme Court ruling that the August election of Peter O'Neill was illegal sparked a standoff over which group was government. With the Governor-General now following the head of the Public Service and Police Chief in recognising Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare appears to have lost most of his significant support bases. Sir Michael is refusing to back down from his claim to be Prime Minister and insists that the constitution he helped write as PNG gained independence in 1975 must rule supreme. However while Sir Michael has been barely seen in public since the impasse began, Peter O'Neill has been confidently asserting control of public institutions. He described the Governor-general's confirmation of his Prime Ministership as the perfect Christmas present for the nation."

20.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

PNG's trial of twos ended in a very Melanesian way

BY KEITH JACKSON



WHEN, ON FRIDAY MORNING Michael Somare and his cabal attempted - in what seemed a foolish and desperate act - to engage the Army in his dispute with the O'Neill government, and failed, the game was as good as over.

Similarly it was over when the Police made it clear they remained loyal to their Commissioner and to Peter O'Neill.

Likewise it was over when the people did not rise in the streets and villages and settlements.

And when the public servants yawned and said 'let's go on holidays'.

And it was certainly well and truly over yesterday when the Governor-General backflipped and decided that, after all, he was an O'Neill man.

At no time during this dispute, which should have been resolved in and by parliament, did Sir Michael appear in the people's house. The Grand Chief squibbed it.

His leaving of politics does great shame to his soubriquet of "Father of the Nation". This was no way for an elder statesman to behave.

Even as late as yesterday, Sir Michael was clinging to the idea that, somehow, his cause was not lost. But it was truly lost, and never to be found.

This unusual constitutional and political crisis has now resolved itself (although, one may suppose, there will be repercussions to come) in a distinctly Melanesian way.

There was little full frontal confrontation (Peter O'Neill's unsuccessful attempt to reach the Governor-General being an exception, as he and fellow ministers jostled their way through police ranks). Instead there was a soft overlay of Melanesian mellowness (and even indifference) placed over the contest of wills, which, in such circumstances, would usually favour the status quo.

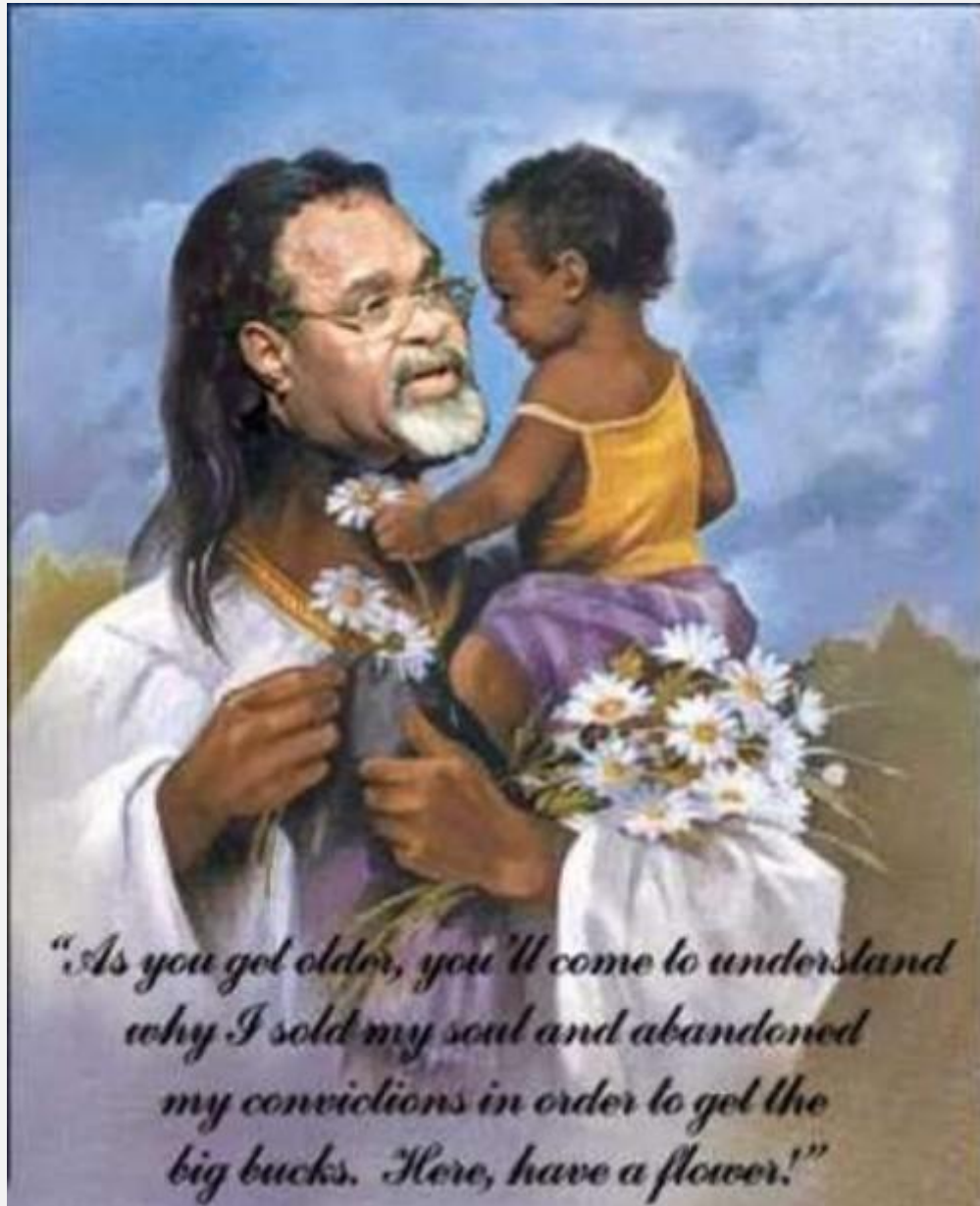
The Somare forces' increasingly agitated attempts to light the blue touch paper of public and institutional revolt against the O'Neill government proved hapless – abjectly so as, at best, only a couple of dozen police joined Sir Michael and, temporarily, a Governor-General who expressed confusion before making a bad call. So the crisis, the trial of twos, has ended peacefully, and we must all thank our personal gods for that.

If this was an example of the Melanesian way, and I think it may have been, I like it.

19.12.2011

Lucky hit on Google:

Self appointed "Grand Chief" Sir Michael Somare stars as Messiah!



19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

PNG: ni O'Neill ni Somare n'acceptent de baisser les armes



L'un des deux hommes qui revendiquent le poste de Premier ministre en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, Peter O'Neill, interviewé sur l'ABC, la chaîne de télé publique australienne, vendredi soir. (ABC)

L'épopée rocambolesque des deux Premiers ministres se poursuit en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée. Lundi matin Peter O'Neill siégeait au Parlement avec ses partisans. Le message est clair: «nous conduisons les affaires de la nation».

Au programme: le vote du budget et de la loi créant 22 sièges réservés pour les femmes au Parlement.

Autre symbole important: l'occupation de Morauta Haus, la résidence du Premier ministre.

Peter O'Neill, en conférence de presse vendredi:

«Mon gouvernement a déjà pris le contrôle de toutes les institutions d'Etat. Morauta Haus est désormais bouclée, seuls moi-même, le Premier ministre, le Ministre de la Fonction publique, qui a un bureau dans le bâtiment, et les employés auront accès à Morauta Haus. Aucune autre personne ne pourra rentrer dans la résidence du Premier ministre.»

Mais vendredi dernier, son occupation symbolique de Morauta Haus, résidence du Premier ministre, a fait long feu. Quelques minutes plus tard, son rival Michael Somare tenait une conférence de presse dans le même bâtiment.

Depuis lundi, Michael Somare a fait peu d'apparitions publiques au regard de l'occupation systématique du terrain politique par Peter O'Neill, qui a multiplié les conférences de presse, et siégé en permanence au Parlement.

Reste que même dans le camp O'Neill, tout le monde n'a pas fait son choix. Le service de presse du Premier ministre refuse de prendre parti et promet de diffuser les communiqués de Michael Somare, comme ceux de Peter O'Neill.

Vendredi dernier, le clan Somare a tenté de mobiliser l'armée dans les rues de Port-Moresby.

Une tentative qui a outré Peter O'Neill:

«L'appel à la mobilisation de l'armée était inutile. Il n'y a pas d'émeutes dans les rues. Ce n'est qu'une manoeuvre d'intimidation pour prendre le pouvoir armes au poing.»

Pour l'heure donc, aucun vainqueur dans ce duel de Premiers ministres, mais Peter O'Neill a déjà clairement gagné une bataille: celle de la communication.

C.L.

19.12.2011

Source: World News Australia

Almost game over for PNG's Somare

19.12.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Blogs

O'NEILL IS PRIME MINISTER !



Namah and O'Neill sworn in as Legitimate Government

Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio has recognised Peter O'Neill as the legitimate Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

In a surprising twist of events today, Sir Michael wrote a letter to O'Neill, which was read to Parliament today, saying how apologetic he was. He said both sides must reconcile as soon as possible for the good of the country.

Following that, the O'Neill Cabinet quickly lifted its suspension of Sir Michael as Governor-General.

O'Neill and his Cabinet are now at Government House meeting with Sir Michael.



Reconciliation amongst Sir Michael Ogio, Peter O'Neill and supporters

Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc says he recognises Peter O'Neill as the legitimate prime minister of Papua New Guinea and not Sir Michael Somare. Zurenuoc, who has met both O'Neill and Sir Michael, said while the Supreme Court has restored Sir Michael as prime minister, he did not have the numbers to rule.

"We accept the fact that the Supreme Court has restored Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister," he said.

"However, in our system of government, the majority rules. "Despite the court restoring Sir Michael, he is not in control of the government." Zurenuoc today had an urgent meeting with all his department secretaries regarding the current political impasse in PNG. "I told them to get on with the job of running government," he said.

19.12.2011

Source: Papua New Guinea Blogs

Reinstated: Ogio is Governor General again!

Ogio has been reinstated as GG by the O'Neill led Government. He is now swearing in the O'Neil-Namah Cabinet. It's all wine pouring and smiles at Government House.

Earlier, Yumi FM reports that Michael Ogio has written a letter to Parliament apologizing for swearing in the Somare faction. Parliament has responded by lifting his suspension

In other developments the Armed Robbery Response Unit (ARRU) set up by Fred Yakasa had surrendered arms and submitted to Toeam Kulunga on Friday. This was the police unit which responded and carried out orders from Fred Yakasa.

These policemen stood guard on all State properties in the city of Port Moresby including the Government House where there was a stand-off between politicians and the police. When ARRU surrendered to Kulunga, Fred Yakasa saw it coming that he will be arrested soon and charged with the offence of Mutiny and for issuing illegal orders.

Hence, he had no way to go to so went to the National Court and obtained Court Orders "restraining police from arresting him for leading a group of armed policemen to block the road to Government House.."

The case will be coming back to the National Court on Friday, 23rd December, 2011 for arguments on whether the interim orders obtained by Yakasa can be confirmed as substantive and further extended.

19.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Suspension of PNG Governor-General lifted, O'Neill recognised as PM

The suspension of Papua New Guinea's Governor General Sir Michael Ogio has been lifted as the group backing Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister consolidated its claim to be government.

The O'Neill grouping, which makes up the majority of the country's MPs, lifted the suspension today in parliament.

The Governor General was suspended last week after refusing to swear in Peter O'Neill again following the Supreme Court ruling that had reinstated Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister and sparked an unprecedented political standoff.

However during today's sitting of parliament, the Speaker, Jeffrey Nape, said Sir Michael Ogio wrote a letter stating his swearing in of Somare's ministers last week was wrong.

The O'Neill camp decamped to Government House this afternoon after parliament had met in what a spokesman called a "courtesy call".

The Governor-General has now followed the head of the Public Service and Police Chief in recognising Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, Sir Michael Somare's group has indicated he has no intention of backing down from his claim to the Prime Ministership.



A spokesperson for the Somare faction, Betha Somare (picture), says any forced or negotiated resignation by Sir Michael would mean condoning the violations of the constitution as ruled by the Supreme Court.

"He's the person who is the father of our constitution, he's the person who is the father of our nation. If he gives in to people who have made on illegal action after another since the second of August, where are we going to be with our constitution?"

Meanwhile, Betha Somare describes the resignation of Sam Abal as Sir Michael Somare's deputy as an honourable move to leave space open for the opposing side to work with the Somare administration.

Betha Somare

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare loses ground as support grows for O'Neill

Another day has passed with two men claiming to be the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. There's no end to the constitutional crisis sparked last Monday with the Supreme Court found the government of Peter O'Neill was not legitimate and ordered the re-instatement of Sir Michael Somare.

Today there was another strong indication of the way the power struggle is going.

The nation's top bureaucrat has told department heads to deal with O'Neill ministers only because as he explained majority rules in PNG and Mr O'Neill has control of Parliament.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Somare says constitution guarantees he'll win struggle

One of the claimants to the prime ministership in PNG, Sir Michael Somare says the constitution will decide his leadership struggle with Peter O'Neill.

The political impasse in PNG continues, with Sir Michael and Mr O'Neill still claiming the prime ministership

Last week the Supreme Court reinstated Sir Michael as prime minister, four months after Peter O'Neill was voted in by MPs to replace an absent Sir Michael.

But the governor general has since said he may have received improper advice on the reinstatement.

Observers say Mr O'Neill has the support of a large number of the public, as well as the parliament.

But Sir Michael says that's irrelevant.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Sir Michael Somare, PNG prime minister

[Listen here !](#)

HILL: Well joining us live now on Pacific Beat from Port Moresby is grand chief Sir Michael Somare. Sir Michael we heard earlier in the program the Chief Secretary to government says the public service is going to recognise Peter O'Neill as the Prime Minister, the police apparently now don't support you, the army wouldn't come out when you asked them, is this whole thing slipping away from you, are you losing this fight to retain the prime ministership?

SOMARE: I personally don't think so, they have just ensured another court to be able to interpret that they're the legal government. Now the Supreme Court has taken that decision and installed my government back in the office. Now they are doing everything under the sun and they even went to parliament to get the NEC act, so that the NEC act can be nullified by court. But we know for a fact that the court won't be able to do that, the Supreme Court has taken its decision, five-man Supreme Court and we are just trying to get our politics sorted out here. And our politics means that we have to talk to the party leaders, coalition leaders, and we're trying to make an attempt. We even made an attempt to talk to Peter O'Neill, but so far we haven't gotten any response. We just heard a while ago that they have tried to go back to the National Court, I think they went to the court this morning, and we will find out from the courts when they take a decision, we'll then find out. But my understanding is that once the Supreme Court everything is under contempt at the moment, once the Supreme Court has taken the decision they'll have to wait. Any judge who sits on the National Court will have to know that the question of in the Supreme Court, and I personally don't think that the Supreme Court will be able to take a decision on, because they have to sort out our problem first.

HILL: Well Sir Michael while we've actually been on air in the last couple of minutes, we've just heard that Peter O'Neill is taking his cabinet to Government House, we presume to be officially sworn in. So you're talking about court cases but it seems that the government seems to be moving further and further away from you and more towards Peter O'Neill?

SOMARE: Under our laws we have a constitutional government here, and executive arm of the government, the parliament, Supreme Court, all of them are under the constitution. What we have done is we've merely followed the constitution, and the constitution is quite clear and Mr O'Neill and the rest of them are quite clear on the constitution of this country, we are merely taking the matter that far. We know the constitution is supreme, parliament can make legislation but the Supreme Court when it interpreted my installation they made a decision that everything they have done was illegal. Second of August when O'Neill was sworn in the proper process of parliamentary standing orders ...

HILL: But Sir Michael your own Attorney General Sir Arnold Amet has acknowledged that you don't have the numbers in parliament to be prime minister, even though legally, now you're clinging obviously to the Supreme Court and saying the rule of law. Peter O'Neill is saying parliamentary supremacy. But even if you were recognised as the Prime Minister you would immediately be rolled in a vote of no confidence that Peter O'Neill would win, so the question is even if you won this legally, you'd only be prime minister for about half a day before parliament voted you out, so why are you doing this?

SOMARE: Well I think let's get it straight, if parliament goes and gets a no confidence vote you know that we've already passed 15 months, we've only got six months before a general election. Automatically parliament will dissolve itself. I think that's the fear in the mind, they don't know that, but this is what is going to happen. And we go it'll mean my government will still be in government when we go to parliament. They're trying to play around with it, to go to elections, still trying to play around with the budget, time for budget two weeks ago, we should have passed the budget. And this alone, our people are not stupid, I think our people know and there a lot of people sophisticated enough to

understand this. And I think our guys in parliament are just doing what they are doing, we are going to allow it, I am sitting back and allowing the court to take its decision.

HILL: But Sir Michael you don't have the numbers in parliament, parliament reflects...

SOMARE: I doesn't matter my friend, numbers in parliament is irrelevant when we have a constitution which is supreme, the constitution has spoken and we are waiting for that decision. We want the decision to be taken by the Supreme Court, which is already in our favour. But we have to wait and see because so many cases have been put up front. O'Neill and his people every second day they go to Government House, want to remove the Governor General, they have not succeeded, and this morning they went again to do the same. And now they're taking the next lot to do exactly the same. They tried to go to Buckingham Palace to get Her Majesty to intervene, but Her Majesty is well aware we have a constitutional monarchy, we have a parliament which is recognised. But our constitution speaks supreme.

HILL: But Sir Michael if you don't command the support of the elected members of parliament, how can you hope to remain prime minister, regardless of what the Supreme Court says?

SOMARE: My friend you've got it all. This is the problem you see, most of us are now aware of what's in our country. You are looking at it from the Australian context, majority in parliament. You can have a majority but you have the Supreme Court who took the decision and we are waiting for our opportunity to do that. They have gone again and tried to put the Speaker up again as the Governor General, they have been rejected. And as I said they keep trying and we're just waiting our time and we're talking to all the coalition leaders, everybody's keeping patient and we're waiting. We don't have the numbers, we've got only 14 members, 14 members will not be able to pass anything. But in our context, in Papua New Guinea context we realise I'm protecting the constitution of this country because I am also responsible for writing it, alright, and my job is to protect that constitution. And there is no legal pathway for them to access the prime minister's post.

HILL: Even if as you're suggesting ...

SOMARE: Sorry just a moment, let me finish, 12 months has gone any prime minister who is trying to contest an election will become null and void and the present prime minister who is in the office will take us to the election. The period for elections has already lapsed. Writs are going to be issued in two or three months time and that will end the squabble that we have had. So what we are doing is we are merely following the laws of this country which governs our parliament, our public servants, our police, our military, everybody.

HILL: But Sir Michael you're talking about the legalities in the Supreme Court in the terms of the regalities(?) of power, not even worrying about the legalities. But the reality is your rival Peter O'Neill and his cabinet are at Government House even as we speak, we assume being sworn in. The police aren't listening to you, the army isn't listening to you, now the public service isn't listening to you. It seems like it's pretty much, your chances of getting back in are getting more remote by the minute?

SOMARE: Look I've said to you we cannot interfere, I cannot interfere, and you as a journalist cannot interfere and meddle with our politics here. And all we want to say to you is that keep your business as a journalist and report the facts that exist within our country. So God sake know what you people are doing and stop meddling. So much of your reports have muddled the minds of everybody in Australia. We're know we're quite comfortable, streets are not in chaos, everybody is going to the market, normal course of everything is in civility. Our people are civilised, people understand, it's just the politicians who are fighting, and we will overcome the problem.

HILL: How do you think that this will eventually be resolved, do you think that you will be reinstated as prime minister and if so, how long will you be prime minister for?

SOMARE: Well I am saying to you my friend I am following the law and that's it.

HILL: Do you have any idea of what you want to achieve?

SOMARE: I've been reinstated by the court my friend, and I'm sworn in as the prime minister, there is only one cabinet and one prime minister. This is where some of you in Australian journalism seem to forget, we have laws here in our country which quite clearly governs our being in the country, and I think your questions are very good questions, but I am saying to you I will stay as the prime minister and we are looking for the way in which we can solve that problem. I don't think you should be carried away what Mr O'Neill and the others are doing. We are merely following the law, they're trying to go and amend the law so that the law goes on their side, which is too late anyway, thank you.

HILL: Ok thank you very much indeed, that was Sir Michael Somare, live on Pacific Beat from Port Moresby.

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG bureaucrats desert Somare in favour of O'Neill

Papua New Guinea's top bureaucrat says the public service recognises Peter O'Neill as the country's legitimate Prime Minister.

Chief Secretary Manusupe Zurenuoc says he met both Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare before making his decision on who to follow.

He says the majority rules in PNG and Mr O'Neill has the control of Cabinet and Parliament while Sir Michael does not.

Speaker: Manusupe Zurenuoc, PNG Chief Secretary

[Listen here !](#)

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Prime Minister O'Neill and his Cabinet at PNG Government House

Another day has passed with two men claiming to be the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Late in the day Peter O'Neill and his cabinet went to Government House, reportedly to be sworn in, after the Governor General, Sir Michael Ogo, reportedly told parliament he's been given the wrong legal advice when he swore in Sir Michael Somare last week.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - TV

PNG moves closer to political resolution

PNG's Sir Michael Somare speaks exclusively on his struggle for power.

Liam Fox, Campbell Cooney

PNG's governor-general has met Peter O'Neill and his supporters, prompting speculation the leadership crisis is closer to being resolved.

In Parliament, Mr O'Neill announced that last week's suspension of Governor-General, Sir Michael Ogio had been lifted.

The speaker, Geoffrey Nape said Sir Michael Ogio had written a letter apologising for swearing at ministers loyal to the former prime minister, Sir Michael Somare last week.

Mr O'Neill and his supporters travelled to Government House on Monday afternoon to meet with the head of state.



A box of champagne was also taken inside: Namah, O'Neill and Ogio reconcile.

Mr O'Neill said the meeting was a courtesy call to reconcile with the governor-general.

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - TV

PNG public servants told to follow O'Neill

19.12.2011

Source: ESBC

Can Papua New Guineans trust a family like this ?

by Axel G. Sturm

Watch here the public statement of "Baby Grand Chief" Arthur Somare made on June 28th, 2011. It concerns his father's , former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's, future. Shortly after such a statement the PNG parliament was obliged to act! It accomplished its duty and elected Peter O'Neill as new Prime Minister.

Sir Michael's later change of opinion is a malicious game with the destiny and the hopes of a whole country. It is probably also the evidence of mental disorder. Sir Michael's behaviour is not acceptable at all for a leader of a nation in development with all its problems. PNG needs and deserves better statemen than those volatile individuals from the Somare Clan! Peter O'Neill was sworn in as Prime Minister almost 6 weeks later - time enough for the Somare family to cancel former decisions. It even seems to be that the Somare family tries to weaken PNG's young democracy to build up authoritarian regime.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

SOMARE HASN'T GIVE UP ON HIS OLD GAME

PM O'Neill has invited PM Somare to come to Parliament and sort out the political situation. But the wily old fox, knows he does not have the numbers yet so does not respond to the young buck. Instead he waits and plays the game he has played so successfully for 40 years. He knows the venal nature of our politicians, he knows how to manipulate them, he knows they are self-serving and not true nation builders . They may act smart but they are putty in his hands . The Engan Governor, probably feeling he has been too much on the outer of the O'Neill camp, or maybe he has something he knows will be hidden on the other side, is the first to jump ship. Score one to the wily old fox . And so it starts? But, haven't we had enough of this nonsense? Don't the people really deserve better?

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chief hands over firearm



Community Auxiliary Police (CAP) NCO Leo Basi (right) handing over a rifle and ammunition, which were handed over by a chief in the Kunua Constituency last month, to acting police station commander Sergeant Emmart Tsimes at Buka Police Station. Sergeant Tsimes commended the chief for being responsible and also thanked Mr Basi for ensuring the firearm and ammunition were secured and brought to the Police Station for safe keeping. Sergeant Tsimes said that Bougainvilleans should be more responsible especially with this coming festive period to ensure that we all enjoy a peaceful and trouble-free Christmas and New Year not only from firearms but from unacceptable activities that would endanger and cause fear to all that want to enjoy this Christmas and New Year period.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Eluh calls for restraint

By ALEX MUNME

BOUGAINVILLE police chief, ACP Thomas Eluh has called on all Bougainvilleans to refrain from taking risks during this festive season but celebrate Christmas and New Year with common sense.

He urged Bougainvilleans to celebrate the festive season in its true meaning by attending church services and to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

He said the festive season must also be spent to reflect on the past and to learn from our mistakes so that we can improve in the next year.

He further said Bougainville is a special case and we have come through difficult times trying to restore peace.

The police chief said every Bougainvillean, man, woman and child must take every responsibility to take the Christmas message in order to enjoy and find peace in this festive season. He said people in this region should strive for a peaceful Christmas and New Year celebrations and also confirm that there will be a liquor ban during the peak holiday period. Police operations will monitor the liquor ban throughout the region in the south, central and north.

There will be traffic road blocks to control the sales of liquor during the period as liquor is the cause of most crimes and deaths.

Meanwhile, Mr Eluh has warned all Bougainville police to remain committed to their duty and not take sides in what he called the "Port Moresby Tug of War."

He cautioned police and also all law abiding citizens to observe and learn from the political crisis but refrain from participating. He said Bougainville Police must be intact and not to take sides in this time of Political instability at the national level. Anyone seen, heard or participate in the current situation will be severely dealt with.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNGDF is neutral

The PNG Defence Force remains neutral but it is monitoring the political squabble for power between Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill which has run into its second week.

High ranking Defence Force officers informed Post-Courier that the PNGDF did not support either Mr O'Neill or Sir Michael but the army was concerned about what is happening and is monitoring the situation closely.

Concerned officers of the army informed Post-Courier that the army callout instruction was issued by one of the two groups but the army remained firm that a callout was only warranted when the political situation deteriorated, leading to violence.

"The army belongs to the people of Papua New Guinea. Why should it be used by politicians to serve their own ends," a senior officer said, adding that the command in the PNGDF was monitoring the situation.

While Murray Baracks was pondering what it should do, the decision by the Somare cabinet to allocate K30 million to fund a call-out of PNG Defence Force soldiers, and fund police operations and the deployment of CIS officers was revoked yesterday.

Parliament-elected Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said all the decisions made in the last few days by the deposed minority regime of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare were illegal decisions and were revoked.

Mr O'Neill said from the K30m allocated by the Somare faction to fund the security operations, PNGDF callout was allocated K10m, police K10 million, CIS K5 million and payment for lawyers K5m.

"We have revoked the illegal decision by the deposed Somare government.

"Sir Michael Somare and his deposed government had no authority to hold illegal cabinet meetings and make illegal cabinet decisions.

"The decision instructing all heads of departments, State Enterprises, Provincial Administrators and all public servants to respond to their directions is illegal," Mr O'Neill said.

"We have revoked the illegal and desperate decision by the fallen regime to call out the PNGDF to help police address law and order problems in Port Moresby and to provide security and protection of key government institutions and residents of VIPs for a period of three months starting from December 15.

"This is an illegal decision by a deposed government that no longer has legal standing after December 12," Mr O'Neill said.

Mr O'Neill said similarly, his Government revoked the illegal direction of the deposed Somare-Government giving drafting instructions to the First Legislative Counsel to legitimise their illegal decisions.

He said the deposed Somare-Government had been trying to legitimise their existence by alluding to the Supreme Court ruling on matters and events specifically referred to as having occurred between August 2 and September 6, 2011. "Parliament has moved on beyond September 6 and has made retrospective legislative decisions that only Parliament can make to correct itself, legitimise its actions and certify its decisions," he said. As such, he said he was the legitimate PM.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Locks to Morauta Haus changed

By GORETH KENNETH

PARLIAMENT-elect Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his Ministers changed all the locks to the 4th and 5th Floor of Morauta Haus — the building and the floors that accommodate the National Executive Council.

Mr O'Neill confirmed his men did lock up the building but could not elaborate on the latter. He also advised they had done that, saying that they had taken control of all the Government buildings because his was the "legitimate" Government and Somare had the rogue one.

The Post-Courier spoke to the building management officials at the Morauta Haus who said that locks were changed over the weekend and the idea of changing the locks was to stop Somare and his Cabinet from operating there. The Post-Courier was also told that changes to the NEC Secretariat was done over the weekend but could not disclose details until the Gazzetal was done.

Last night Enga Governor Peter Ipatas decried the manner in which the NEC was being treated and said this was uncalled for.

He said that this had never happened in the history of PNG and NEC and appealed for the O'Neill-Namah regime to uphold the laws of this country, especially the Constitution that many MPs had run to for cover during their election disputes.

"This is the first time this has happened to NEC. We have to respect that office – the office that leaders of this country make decisions in. They can't be a law unto themselves. We are legislative, but we can't interpret the law," Mr Ipatas said.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill declares end of political crisis

By Eoin Blackwell, AAP Papua New Guinea Correspondent

PORT MORESBY: One of the men with a claim on Papua New Guinea's prime ministership, Peter O'Neill, has declared the week-long political crisis over.

At a press conference on Sunday at Morauta House, the home of government offices in Port Moresby, Mr O'Neill said rival Sir Michael Somare and his more than 20 supporters will be locked out of government buildings.

However, Mr O'Neill has invited the Somare camp, minus Sir Michael, back to parliament to debate legislation to enable more women to run for parliament at the next election as well as to debate the O'Neill government budget.

"(Sir Michael) has a constitutional right to express himself, so there is no expectation for him to yield, but we will maintain the business of running the country," he told reporters.

"The government is now in control.

"There is a clear direction now that this building will be in lockdown and only accessible to the prime minister, myself, and the public servants and ministers who have offices."

Sir Michael and his government were returned to power by a 3-2 ruling of the Supreme Court on Monday, just over four months after the majority of parliament voted to dump the nine-year-old government of Australia's closest neighbour.

On Friday, first O'Neill and then Sir Michael declared from the same government offices that they were in control of government.

Sir Michael immediately declared Fred Yakasa to be commissioner of police, creating a power play between O'Neill's police chief Tom Kulunga that saw armed guards loyal to Somare guarding Government House on Monday night and Tuesday.

There were tense scenes at the residence, in which Mr O'Neill and his supporters burst through the police barricade and demanded to see Sir Michael Ogio.

On Friday police commissioner Tom Kulunga declared he was in control of the police force.

He welcomed back into the fold (but also temporarily disarmed) 20 Armed Robbery Unit officers who had been taking orders from Mr Yakasa.

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Grand Chief maintains he is PM

By GORETHY KENNETH

GRAND Chief Sir Michael Somare has maintained that he is leading the legitimate Government which was reinstated by the Special Supreme Court Reference two weeks ago.

He maintains that the Constitution is supreme and all three arms of government, Parliament, the Judiciary and the executive Government must operate within the confines of the law.

Sir Michael, in detailing the reasons why his government was the legitimate has given a rundown, based on the Supreme Court Ruling on December 12, 2011 where a five-men bench led by Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, deputy CJ Gibbs Salika, Justices Nicholas Kirriwom, Bernard Sakora and Les Gavara-Nanu presented their judgments – 3-2 in favour of the East Sepik Provincial Government specifically Sir Michael.

A motion was moved on August 02, because of a matter surrounding the health of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill became the Prime Minister after they voted Sir Michael out based on his medical conditions in Singapore. The East Sepik Provincial Government took the matter to court basically on the validity of O'Neill's appointment as PM and whether there was a vacancy in office.

"Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia in concluding as the chairman of the bench on December stated that "pursuant to section 19 of the constitution, an opinion given by this court on the interpretation and application of a provision of constitutional law is binding. It is in the inherent power of this court to give orders in the nature of declaratory orders or injunctions to give effect to its opinion. This power has been exercised in many instances and other constitutional cases coming under its original jurisdiction I consider this case to be an appropriate case in which that power can be exercised.

"The court orders that:

1. Sir Michael Somare was not lawfully removed from Office as Prime Minister by Parliament on August 2 2011
2. Peter O'Neill was not lawfully appointed as Prime Minister by Parliament on August 2 2011
3. The National Court has exclusive jurisdiction as to whether the seat of a member has become vacant
4. The Speakers decision of September 6 2011 to declare that Sir Michael had lost his seat was in breach of Constitution ss 104(2)(d) s 135 and ss28 and 29 of the Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections.
5. Sir Michael is not a person of unsound mind within the meaning of s 103(3)(b) of the constitution and the Public Health Act
6. Sir Michael Somare is restored to office as Prime Minister forthwith. "Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that the O'Neill-Namah regime was illegal, we all as elected representatives should uphold the Constitution," Sir Michael said. "Sadly the O'Neill-Namah regime used Parliament to grandstand and confuse the people of PNG," Sir Michael said.

"My Government has waited patiently since 2 August for an interpretation to be made by the Supreme Court on the legitimacy of the O'Neill-Namah regime.

"My government cannot just stand by and allow for these continuous illegal actions to be condoned," Sir Michael said. We all have a duty and that is to uphold our Constitution. Parliament is not Supreme, the Constitution is Supreme."

19.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Abal ready to step down for the sake of people

MEMBER for Wabag Sam Abal has called for dialogue and is prepared to let go the Deputy Prime Minister's position he is holding in the Somare regime.

In an interview with the Post-Courier at his Konedobu residence yesterday, Mr Abal said his decision is for the sake of the people and the country as it would be careless for national leaders of this beautiful country, if they do not consider certain sacrifices on either side.

"The time has come for us leaders to humble ourselves and put God and Papua New Guinea first because there is a danger of unrest unless all political leaders immediately come to a dialogue and break-free this political impasse now facing the country.

"The country cannot have two Governor Generals, two Police Commissioners, two ministers and two departmental heads. This immediately creates factions so I thought time has come before anything escalates," Mr Abal said.

Mr Abal said, "I am prepared to let go the deputy position and for a Ministry, and allow for Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare to be free to consider ways and means to engage with the other side".

Asked if a grand coalition by the two regimes would be a possibility, an ideal idea to put an end to this political deadlock, Mr Abal said, "Yes, that's what I am saying. That's the only way forward and I have discussed this with my people of Wabag and they have accepted to help the nation. I have spoken to Sir Michael of my decision."

"I have also discussed with church leaders for them to assist in facilitating the dialogue prayerfully.

"I hope my fellow MPs can make a firm commitment of the same to ensure that the current staff off does not continue. With the future of PNG looking brighter than ever this is a dark mark in our nation's short history," he said.

Mr Abal said the current political situation in PNG has never happened before and requires us all to make certain considerations, including revolutionary ways to bring a peaceful solution - yes our elections may be shaky at times and our parliament sessions aggressive.

"However justice, unity and democracy have always prevailed in this God fearing land. On our side we feel that the Constitution is supreme.

"I am sure the other side will agree and come together for us all to defend the Constitution I make the plea to Mr O'Neill and other leaders to graciously come forward and engage with Sir Michael," Mr Abal said.

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG still has two self-described prime ministers

Confusion still reigns in Papua New Guinea as the country's political stalemate enters its second week.

Both Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare continue to claim they are the country's legitimate Prime Minister.

But Mr O'Neill appears to be gaining the upper hand and has declared the crisis over.

Presenter: Liam Fox

Speakers: Peter O'Neill, PNG politician

[Listen here !](#)

LIAM FOX: Neither side is backing down but Peter O'Neill is winning the public relations battle. He says his government is getting down to business.

PETER O'NEILL: The government has now taken full control of all the government institutions and government business.

LIAM FOX: But he hasn't quite taken full control. Last Friday Mr O'Neill and his MPs staged a symbolic occupation of Morauta House, the building that's home to the prime minister's department.

He said it was evidence that the leadership uncertainty was over.

But the occupation only lasted a few minutes and an hour later his rival Sir Michael Somare held his own press conference in the same building.

Mr O'Neill says that won't be happening again.

PETER O'NEILL: There's a clear direction now. This building will be in lockdown, only accessible to the prime minister, myself and the public service minister who has got an office in this office

and only the workers of this office. There will be no other public will be allowed to come into this office.

LIAM FOX: But even within his own office there's still confusion as to just who is the boss.

A message from the PM's media unit said they'd be sending out press releases from both sides because they're neutral until the situation is sorted out.

Mr O'Neill says his MPs will be back in parliament sitting in the government benches just as they were all last week. He wants to pass next year's budget and other laws such as the legislation to create 22 seats in parliament just for women.

Mr O'Neill also says his cabinet has revoked what he says are illegal decisions by his opponents.

Among them was the controversial and potentially inflammatory attempt by the Somare camp to order the PNG defence force onto the streets of Port Moresby.

PETER O'NEILL: That call-out was unnecessary. There is no social unrest in the country. It was designed to announce the political ambitions for grab of power by barrel of gun and intimidation.

LIAM FOX: Sir Michael has largely kept out of the public eye since last Monday when the Supreme Court ordered the frail 75-year-old be reinstated as prime minister.

But Peter O'Neill has been a constant presence in parliament, has held numerous press conferences and looks like a prime minister.

He says the crisis is over and this was his response to an Australian journalist who asked if he could go home now.

PETER O'NEILL: I can assure you that Somare has got minority numbers on the floor of parliament and he has got no chance of ruling the country. So you can go home and have an early Christmas.

LIAM FOX: While most of the people the ABC has spoken to over the last week want to see Mr O'Neill in the prime minister's office, few would agree the deadlock is over.

19.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

PNG rivals both claim power



Papua New Guinea's parliament was resuming on Monday, despite no clear resolution to the country's political crisis.

Peter O'Neill says his government has taken control of the police and state offices.

But Sir Michael Somare maintains he is still the Prime Minister.

Mr O'Neill says the crisis is over and the role of primeministership is his.

Earlier he said: "This clear direction now - this building will be in lockdown, only accessible to the Prime Minister (myself) and the Public Services Minister, who's got an office in this office, and only the workers of this office.

"No other members of the public will be allowed to come into this office."

Mr O'Neill seemed likely to rally 75 members of parliament for a sitting, but needs 83 for an absolute majority.

ABC Radio Australia has increased its shortwave broadcasts to Papua New Guinea to help inform people about developments in the PNG political crisis.

Between 0930 and 1700 Port Moresby time, an extra frequency, 17750 kHz, will be added to the broadcast services for PNG.

18.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's parliament resumes amid tension

Papua New Guinea's parliament resumes today, amid the crisis which still sees 2 men claiming to be Prime Minister.

Peter O'Neill has declared that his government, backed by 75 MPs, has seized control of official offices as well as the police hierarchy.

His rival, Sir Michael Somare, maintains he is the Prime Minister, and has issued court documents seeking for his candidate to be named the police commissioner.

Mr O'Neill's parliament today hopes to pass several key pieces of legislation, including next year's budget, and the law to create 22 women-only seats before next year's election.

However, that law can only be passed with 83 votes in the house, meaning Sir Michael's camp will have to be in parliament to support it.

18.12.2011

Source: The Australian

Judge steps in to protect PNG police chief after claims his actions 'border on treason'

by: Rowan Callick in Port Moresby



Police loyal to Michael Somare at Parliament House.

A PAPUA New Guinea judge has handed down an order protecting a police chief appointed by Sir Michael Somare, amid a continuing stalemate over who is leading the country.

The order comes after Peter O'Neill, who has refused to accept a ruling reinstating Sir Michael Somare prime minister in his place, declared on Friday that PNG police were "united and under my command".

Mr O'Neill has a groundswell of support among MPs and both he and his rival Sir Michael have appointed rival officials during the standoff over Papua New Guinea's leadership.

In the latest twist in the saga, Justice Cathy Davani yesterday handed down a restraining order ruling that Fred Yakasa, the police chief appointed by Sir Michael, and the officers who have supported him, should not face harassment.

Mr O'Neill's appointee as police chief, Tom Kulunga, declared on Friday that police were behind him.

...The armed robbery response unit, which last week backed Mr Yakasa, handed over their vehicles and firearms to Mr Kulunga, who remains in charge at the PNG police headquarters.

Mr Yakasa has since gone to ground, and Mr O'Neill has said that any disciplinary measures or criminal charges are matters for Mr Kulunga and his force.

But he described Mr Yakasa's conduct as "bordering on treason."

However, Mr Yakasa's lawyer David Dataona said yesterday that Mr Yakasa's "substantive relief" from intimidation from the present prevailing commanders of the police, would be "to have the court declare him the lawful commissioner".

The restraining order protecting Mr Yakasa underlines the yawning gap between the courts - which have said Sir Michael and his cabinet are the true government - and the parliament, of which 75 of the 109 MPs now back Mr O'Neill.

Arnold Amet, the former chief justice who is the Attorney-General in the Somare cabinet, told The Australian yesterday that he has held two meetings with Allan Marat, his counterpart with Mr O'Neill's cabinet, in an attempt to find common ground.

He urged examining international mediation possibly through the Commonwealth, which has an arbitration service, and could consider the sides' rival claims to be PNG's true government.

He also said that if the parliamentary majority that supports Mr O'Neill could revoke its rescinding of Sir Michael's membership of parliament - on the grounds of his absence during his five months of medical treatment in Singapore this year - then the Somare supporters might return to parliament.

Then, if a motion of no confidence in Sir Michael as prime minister succeeded, the parliament would be dissolved and the country would move as swiftly as possible to its next national election, due anyway in mid-2012.

Sir Arnold said that "resourcing is a major issue, and so is passing a budget" for 2012 which the parliament has not yet done, but which is set to take place on Tuesday.

But he admitted that the dilemma would remain, if an early election were called, as to "who maintains the government until the election is over" and a new government is chosen.

Both sides remain determined to control the levers of government during the run-up to an election, perceived to provide a key advantage at the poll. And the O'Neill government is eager to order investigations into the conduct of the Somare government.

Mr O'Neill has promised to introduce an independent commission against corruption in the next, final session of this parliament.

He said that "the police have taken control of the situation in Port Moresby, the chief secretary has taken control of the public service your government has now taken control of all government premises.

"We are now managing the issues that have disrupted us over the last three or four days."

So there was little room, Mr O'Neill told The Australian Online, for compromise solutions or grand coalitions, as PNG civil society groups have urged. "Governments can't be formed outside parliament," he said.

He said that the finance secretary he had appointed, Steven Gibson, was now back in charge at the departmental headquarters, despite the attempt by Sir Michael to re-appoint Gabriel Yer, the secretary whom Mr O'Neill said he had sacked over corruption charges.

Mr O'Neill claims widespread support around the country beyond Port Moresby, with peaceful demonstrations backing his government held in Goroka, Lae and Mount Hagen.

He said that Michael Ogio had been properly sacked as governor-general by parliament, for "swearing in a government led by someone, Michael Somare, who is not even entitled to be prime minister because he is no longer a parliamentarian".

He said that "Mr Ogio lied that he was involved in a process of mediation, then instead sneaked the Somare ministers into government house and swore them in.

"He is newly married, and I wish him an extended honeymoon."

Despite the tough tone, Mr O'Neill said he is also aware of the opening of conversations between the two sides' attorneys-general.

However, Mr O'Neill insisted: "We now have the full support of the disciplined forces, and of the general population, and a strong mandate on the floor of parliament."

But many members of the public remain worried by the events of the week.

A group of blue-uniformed women, the El Kadosh movement, climbed Independence Hill overlooking the parliament to pray - said leader Alurigo Ravusira - "for God to intervene to save our nation."

18.12.2011

Source: Canberra Times

PNG's fate goes back to court

ILYA GRIDNEFF

PORT MORESBY: Papua New Guinea's political future now rests in the court that sparked a week of crisis.

The rival camps of Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare still claim their man as prime minister presiding over a legitimate government.

Mr O'Neill has a groundswell of popular support and 74 MPs backing him and his government.

But Sir Michael, 75, known as the "father of the nation", is relying on last Monday's 3-2 Supreme Court ruling reinstating him as prime minister on the grounds that Mr O'Neill's August 2 ascendancy was unconstitutional.

This latest attempt to seize power involves Mr O'Neill using the "slip rule" option, which allows Supreme Court rulings to be revisited in "exceptional cases".

"It was filed on Thursday and we will be in court on Monday to discuss potentially a seven-man bench rather than the previous five-man bench," an adviser to Mr O'Neill said.

Mr O'Neill is also applying for a restraining order to prevent Sir Michael performing government duties. "It's still a stalemate, PNG has double of everything, but hopefully the courts can read the public mood."

Power has all but slipped from Sir Michael, who failed in a desperate early morning bid on Friday to recruit the Defence Force after his choice for police commissioner, Fred Yakasa, could not provide the muscle needed to break the deadlock with Mr O'Neill.

17.12.2011

Source: Al Jazeera - English

Statement PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill

17.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

The Verdict.

Download here the controversial verdict that caused the constitutinal crises as



1.3 MB !

17.12.2011

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

'Coup' ends PNG political crisis

by Ilya Gridneff



Peter O'Neill has taken control of Papua New Guinea in what rival Sir Michael Somare supporters described as a "coup".

Power has all but slipped from Sir Michael, who, it emerged yesterday, made a desperate late-night bid for help from the PNG defence force after his senior police figure, Fred Yakasa, could not provide the muscle needed to break the five-day deadlock with Mr O'Neill.

The struggle appears all but over with Mr O'Neill yesterday afternoon holding a triumphant news conference in Morauta House, the official building for the prime minister's office, after Sir Michael and his supporters were evicted.



Sir Michael supporter MP Philemon Embel, a minister in Somare's cabinet, shares a joke and laugh with Peter O'Neill's deputy prime minister Beldan Namah outside government offices today. Photo: Ilya Gridneff

Mr O'Neill and 74 other MPs - who claim to be PNG's government after they suspended Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio on Wednesday and elevated the Speaker to swear in Mr O'Neill - made the short drive from Parliament House to consolidate their legitimacy.

Mr O'Neill said he had control of the public service, the Parliament, the police, the defence force and now the official government office, which Sir Michael had been occupying since Monday. "There is only one government and I am the Prime Minister of PNG," he said.

Yesterday afternoon Mr O'Neill's Police Commissioner, Thomas Kalunga, said police loyal to Sir Michael had come back under his command.

"The last thing we want is violence," he said.

Mr Kalunga told reporters he had met Fred Yakasa, Sir Michael's appointed police commissioner, and said both wanted to stay out of politics.

On Thursday, Mr O'Neill had ordered Mr Kalunga to "take control of government assets", meaning the various key venues Sir Michael's supporters were using while maintaining that they were the legitimate government.

Sir Michael, who until a news conference last night had not been seen in public since Wednesday, still maintains he is the legitimate leader. His supporters were jeered and heckled by Mr O'Neill's government members but despite the talk of a coup and the heavy police presence, it quickly became a very Pacific affair as both sides eventually exchanged hugs, laughs and handshakes.

But an angry James Marape, Sir Michael's education minister, one of the first Sir Michael supporters to leave Morauta House, told the local and international media huddled outside the offices:

"Today there has been a hijack by the legislature.

"It is a coup, a political coup. On December 12 the Supreme Court said Sir Michael should be prime minister."

When asked if Sir Michael was still in PNG, Mr Marape said: "I don't know."

PNG's only female MP, Dame Carol Kidu, said she was "worried by this dangerous precedent".

More worrying was Sir Michael's desperate late-night attempt to bring in PNG's army upon learning he no longer had police support.

Mr Marape said the Somare camp did make a request but would not elaborate on the details.

PNG and Australian government sources told The Saturday Age that Sir Michael wanted the army to be placed on a call order that meant it could be deployed at his request.

But Sir Michael was rebuked by defence force chiefs, who have remained neutral the entire five days of political turmoil.

The impasse started on Monday, when the country's highest court ruled Sir Michael must be reinstated as prime minister despite Mr O'Neill taking the job in an internal coup in August.

The O'Neill faction maintains that Sir Michael forfeited his position in Parliament because of his long absence when recuperating from heart surgery in a Singapore hospital.

17.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - TV

Peter O'Neill's Statement

First in-depth interview of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill since the outbreak of the constitutional crises in December 2011.

17.12.2011

Source: THE CONVERSATION <http://theconversation.edu.au/explainer-political-crisis-in-papua-new-guinea-4796>

Explainer:

political crisis in Papua New Guinea



Michael Somare (right) and his deputy Sam Abal claim to be rightful leaders of PNG. AAP/Eoin Blackwell

Papua New Guinea has been gripped by political turmoil for almost a week now. Two men – Michael Somare and Peter O'Neil – are currently claiming to be the rightful prime minister of the nation. Both have set up their own cabinets, and both answer to a different governor-general and police commissioner.

It was [reported this morning](#) that O'Neil had managed to wrest power from Somare in the form of a coup, and that the crisis was essentially over. But reports from Port Moresby suggest the contrary – that Somare still claims legitimacy. It continues to be unclear how the stand-off can readily be resolved. So far violence has been avoided, but a continuing impasse could turn at any stage.

Constitutional lawyer and former Papua New Guinea resident Anthony Regan has been monitoring the political imbroglio as it has unfolded this week, corresponding with sources in Port Moresby. He explains below some key aspects of how such an unprecedented crisis came to pass for Australia's closest neighbour.

How is it possible that the country now has parallel government structures – two prime ministers, cabinets, two governors-general, and police commissioners?

To understand how this situation has occurred, some background is required. Papua New Guinea national politics revolves round key personalities and patronage, with political parties of limited significance, and party ideologies and policies even less. Control of government is critical to dispensation of patronage. As a result, from independence in 1975, PNG saw high levels of instability in government, with members of Parliament often swapping sides. Constitutional limits on “party-hopping” were instituted in 2002, Michael Somare and his National Alliance Party (NA) being the main beneficiaries. Somare, in particular, was able to hold office as prime minister from 2002 until August 2011. Late in 2010, the PNG Supreme Court ruled key aspects of the limits unconstitutional. Always adroit, Somare clung to power, despite several moves to oust him.

In late March, an ailing 75 year old Somare went to Singapore for major heart surgery, leaving another MP, Sam Abal, as acting prime minister. Complications saw him remain there until September. His condition seemed grave, on 28th June his son Arthur (also an MP) announced a Somare family decision that his father had retired. It was, however, a decision about which the PM later said he had not been consulted. In any event, there was a high degree of uncertainty about how to deal with the

situation. Moves were made to follow complex constitutionally mandated procedures to have Somare declared unable to be PM, on medical grounds, but the process was difficult.

On 2 August, leader of the opposition, Belden Namah, unexpectedly moved a motion in parliament to declare the PM's office vacant. Despite the absence of a constitutional basis for such a step, the speaker allowed the motion. Some 48 members of the government voted in support of the opposition, including about half of Somare's NA members. The then Minister for Finance and Treasury was elected PM. The move was attacked as unconstitutional by many observers, and challenged in a succession of court cases culminating in a Supreme Court decision handed down on 12 December.

The court's decision declared unconstitutional both Somare's removal as PM and Parliament's decision to declare his seat empty, and ordered Somare's restoration. On the same day, however, parliament passed an amendment to the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act law retrospectively validating the acts of the Parliament in removing Somare as PM. There were 72 votes in favour.

Somare sought action from the governor-general to swear in his cabinet. After hesitation, the governor-general honoured the Supreme Court orders, and the swearing in occurred on 13 December. In response, parliament (O'Neil's support there remaining solid) directed the governor-general to swear in O'Neil. When the governor-general failed to do so, the O'Neil Cabinet suspended him. Under the PNG constitution, suspension results in the speaker becoming acting governor-general. O'Neil was then sworn in again as PM by the acting governor-general.

Both Somare and O'Neil claim a constitutional basis for being PM, one under a Supreme Court order, the other under the December 12 Act of Parliament, a law which the Supreme Court has not yet considered. As each PM has appointed their own ministers, there are parallel cabinets. While Somare recognises the authority of the governor-general, O'Neil instead recognises the acting governor-general.

As for the two Police Commissioners, the O'Neil government had previously appointed Mr. Toami Kulunga to that office. When the constitutional crisis erupted on Monday 12 December, Mr. Fred Yakasa, a senior officer reported to be disgruntled with his being appointed police commander in Bougainville, emerged as head of a police unit apparently supporting Somare. On 13 December, Somare announced that Kulunga had been dismissed from office and replaced by Yakasa.

Who are the key players?

Peter O'Neil, 46, is leader of the People's National Congress Party. His surname is that of his Australian father, while his mother is from Southern Highlands in PNG. An accountant, with a background in real estate and management, he represents a seat in the Southern Highlands Province, being first elected in 2002.

Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, 75, entered the colonial legislature in 1968, with a background in teaching and radio journalism. Representing an East Sepik seat, he headed the first "indigenous" government pre-independence (1972-75) and was then prime minister from 1975-80, 1982-85, and 2002-11.

Sir Michael Ogio was MP for North Bougainville when appointed governor-general in January 2011 through a vote of the PNG parliament (the formal appointment being made by the Queen, as head of state, acting on and in accordance with the decision of the parliament).

Jeffery Nape was first elected speaker of the PNG Parliament in 2004. Far from being impartial, he had a record of highly partisan rulings that helped the Somare government retain power. In entertaining the motion to declare the PM's seat vacant in August 2002, Nape caught the acting PM, Sam Abal, by surprise.

What are their claims to legitimacy?

Somare not only claims legitimacy under the Supreme Court decision ruling his removal from office as unconstitutional, and directing his restoration as PM, but also claims to be supporting and restoring the constitutional order disrupted by the unconstitutional acts that saw O'Neil become PM.

By contrast, O'Neil relies on two main arguments. The first concerns the December 12 amendment to the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act, which was not considered by the Supreme Court in making its ruling of the same day. Under the PNG Constitution, legislation is valid unless ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. He argues that in the absence of such a ruling, the legislation should be followed, and he should hold office. His second argument involves a principle of 'parliamentary supremacy', to the effect that the PM should be the person supported by the majority of MPs.

In relation to O'Neil's arguments, however, two significant points arise. First, with over 70 MPs currently supporting him, O'Neil can argue that Somare would face grave practical difficulties in governing. However, Somare could answer that argument by saying that once in office, PNG experience would suggest that his level of support may well rise. Second, there would be a strong possibility that a Supreme Court challenge would see the amending law ruled unconstitutional, for example on the basis that it indirectly amends the constitutional requirements for appointment and removal of the PM, without any constitutional basis for doing so.

How does the PNG Constitution allow such a situation to occur?

The PNG Constitution is one of the longest and most detailed in the world, in its detail seeking to avoid problems that sometimes arise in Westminster and other parliamentary systems. The situation here has not arisen because of inherent faults in the constitution. Rather, the problem lies in the intensity of competition for office in the PNG political and constitutional systems, and because the decision on resolving the competing claims for constitutional legitimacy between Somare and O'Neil was made by the wrong authority, one not empowered or equipped to make such a decision.

In effect, the governor-general was called upon to resolve the conflict. But as a ceremonial office, with none of the "reserve powers" of, say, the Australian Governor-General, he was ill-prepared for such a role. In a situation where O'Neil's primary claim to constitutional legitimacy rests on the validity of the amending Act of 12th December, it should have been the Supreme Court that ruled on that issue. In doing so, the Court could also rule on his claims about the principle of parliamentary supremacy in relation to appointment of the PM. By making a decision to recognise Somare, without resolving the alternative claim to legitimacy, the impasse has intensified. Unfortunately, the intensity may become so great that not even a constitutional ruling of the kind suggested will be acceptable as a way of resolving it.

The stand-off has remained nonviolent, can this continue?

The impasse is causing serious tensions not only within and between government institutions, but also in PNG society. There have been previous grave crises in PNG that have caused similar difficulties. In general they have been resolved without significant violence. In particular, the security forces (police and army) have generally exercised restraint. Further, while there have sometimes been popular demonstrations, the limited violence arising from them has mostly involved opportunistic elements damaging and stealing from retail stores.

It is difficult to say whether or not the current tensions will escalate into violence. There have been shots fired by police outside the governor-general's residence on Monday 12th, though no one was hurt. While there are tensions within the police force, they have so far been contained. The Papua New Guinea Defence Force (the army) has been in lockdown so far, with senior officers indicating that in a situation of doubt about the location of ultimate civilian authority, the army must avoid becoming involved. In relation to community action, so far there have been just a few small demonstrations in favour of O'Neil.

On the other hand, the longer the situation remains unresolved, the more risk there may be of heightened tensions, and dangers of pressures building for action, either by security force elements or groups in society.

What should Australia's role be in this conflict?

Australia has limited scope to play any significant role beyond offering wise counsel to key actors on all sides to take moderate positions. Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd has good relations with both Somare and O'Neil. The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby is in good communication with both of them, as well as with many of their key advisers and supporters. Through such links, Australia can have considerable influence.

Beyond such action, it must be remembered that there are also resentments in PNG about Australia's role as colonial authority, and as an aid donor often critical of trends there. If Australia were to apply too much pressure, or act in ways seen as interference in domestic affairs, its ability to influence through wise counsel could be lost.

How do you see this ending?

It is difficult to see how the situation can readily be resolved, because both sides seem to be increasingly taking a "winner-takes-all" stance. Possibilities for compromise seem few. However, there are moderates and cool heads on both sides. There are ongoing contacts between some opposing individuals. The same is true of opposing groups in the police. There are also many influential figures and groups in "civil society" (churches, NGOs and others) that are voices for moderation. It is in large part because of such factors that PNG's political and constitutional systems have previously demonstrated great resilience.

If the impasse cannot be resolved quickly, there would be possibilities of beneficial outcomes from more intense diplomatic efforts, perhaps involving a group of countries from the region.

17.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's O'Neill claims to have taken control of situation

The Papua New Guinea government led by Peter O'Neill has occupied Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's office, forcing him out of the building.

PNG has been in the grip of a political deadlock since Monday with both Mr O'Neill and Sir Michael claiming to be prime minister.

This was triggered by a Supreme Court decision to reinstate Sir Michael as the prime minister.

The unprecedented situation has prompted extra police to be flown into the capital Port Moresby to help ensure law and order.

Sir Michael has refused to step down and issued a statement, calling Mr O'Neill's actions illegal in a country which now has two rival prime ministers and two governor-generals.

Sir Michael has not been seen in public since Wednesday and his grip on power may be slipping, with his ejection from Morauta House and 20 heavily armed police loyal to his leadership deserting him on Friday.

The capital is reported to be quiet, with residents and businesses carrying on as normal.

Mr O'Neill says he is pleased to announce that the police have taken control of the situation in Port Moresby.

Mr O'Neill, backed by 75 MPs, told reporters outside Morauta House that by occupying the building he ended any uncertainty over who was in control.

17.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

BREAKING NEWS !

Events of this week strengthened the democracy

BY KEITH JACKSON

BARRING A MAJOR MIRACLE the Somare era has reached its end and the O'Neill era has been legitimised.

Peter O'Neill says he and his cabinet have taken control of Papua New Guinea because the disciplined forces of Police and Army remained loyal to the parliament and understood their roles in society.

In a week of irredeemably bad news, this is the good news.

A functioning democracy needs this. Papua New Guinea has it. Demonstrably.

When Peter O'Neill, backed by 75 members of parliament, moved into Marauta Haus on Friday afternoon, it ended any uncertainty over who controls PNG.

The move came the Somare camp issued a futile order at 3am on Friday for the military to intervene. The military had more discipline and more sense.

James Marabe, education minister under Sir Michael, emerged from government offices and told reporters Somare's cabinet had issued the order. "We did make a request," he said.

"There is only one government in this country," Peter O'Neill said. "There is only one government mandated by the people through its parliament."

On the ABC last night, Peter O'Neill suggested he may take a hard line on the 20 police officers who had been taking orders from Somare's nominee for police commissioner, Fred Yakasa.

He also said Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio will be dismissed from office.

This has been a difficult week for PNG, but there are powerful elements that should give all of us comfort and every Papua New Guinean great satisfaction:

- Parliament remained supreme.
- The police and army performed their proper roles.
- The populace stayed calm.
- The press exercised its proper imperatives.
- The social media came into its own.
- The democracy is intact.
- The right guy won.

17.12.2012

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

Double trouble in PNG

by Ilya Gridneff

As two big men - Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill - vied for supremacy this week in Papua New Guinea, the earth literally shook. An earthquake measuring 7.1 rattled the windows of Parliament House just after an MP told the floor PNG was "cursed".

It was a contest that began in the courts, played out on the floor of the nation's parliament - with the unprecedented spectacle of a country ostensibly under the control of two prime ministers, two cabinets, two governors-general, two police chiefs, and two finance secretaries - and culminated yesterday in what was being claimed as a bloodless coup with O'Neill asserting victory last night.

The current crisis has been fuelled by a looming national election in a country galvanised by the prospect of a \$16 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project - and exacerbated by the chest-beating bravado of the region's Big Man politics (where big talk and political preening frequently trump policy debate). All up, an incendiary combination of ego, power and money.

But behind this week's constitutional schism lies a deeper clash between the twin forces of tradition and modernity - a clash personified in the opposing forces of the old man Somare, and O'Neill, the new blood who claims to be the voice of progress. The country was plunged into crisis on Monday when the Supreme Court ordered that Somare be reinstated as prime minister after the parliament had declared his position vacant in early August, while he was in Singapore recovering from heart surgery, and voted in O'Neill.

In extraordinary scenes, the ailing Somare, 76, was restored as prime minister on Wednesday by Governor-General Michael Ogio, who also swore in Somare's 19-member cabinet at Government House. O'Neill, with the backing of about 50 MPs, promptly responded by having the Governor-General sacked on the floor of parliament, then elevating Speaker Jeffrey Nape to the job of acting Governor-General. Nape then swore in O'Neill as Prime Minister, enabling O'Neill's backers to sack Somare's new ministers and replaced them with their own.

By yesterday afternoon, power appeared to have been wrested from Somare, after his senior police figure could not provide the muscle needed to break the five-day deadlock and the PNG Defence Force refused to intervene. Somare and his supporters were evicted from Morauta Haus, the official building for the prime minister's office.

"There is only one government and I am the prime minister of PNG," O'Neill said.



The resource-rich land of a 1000 tribes and 800 unique languages has run a boom and bust trajectory ever since gaining independence from Australia in September 16, 1975. It is said that then Australian prime minister Gough Whitlam shed a tear as the Australian flag was lowered and PNG's new vibrant flag of red, yellow and black and a bird of paradise soaring to great things was hoisted at Port Moresby's Government House. This week Government House became the setting for an epic struggle for the country's future.

Somare, the father of the nation, has long been PNG's most revered and dominant political figure. He has led the country four times as prime minister. In the nine years leading up to this year, he presided over a near decade of economic growth and relative political stability. It was the Somare Old Man brand that managed to keep the government together. The respect and admiration from other ministers meant he was able to unify the factions.

But the weary "Old Man" as he is affectionately known has increasingly been seen as a spent force. Earlier this year he was in a coma and had three heart operations. There was a constant stream of fake emails and text messages suggesting he had died. But even before the surgery, his speeches were incoherent and he often dozed off at state functions or in parliament.

And by then he had already eroded much of his public goodwill, partly through failing to keep a lid on corruption, and partly through his refusal to move aside gracefully to make way for a younger generation.

Jenny Howard-Jones, the Lowy Institute's Melanesia Program director, says Somare's lack of any secession plan helped fuel today's unprecedented political crisis. "The secession struggle within his own party and the numerous corruption allegations of those around him has made it difficult to convince the PNG people he is fit to rule," she says. "It is perceived he has dug in for himself, not the good of the country. His best option was to step aside gracefully for the nation and hand it over for the younger generation."

It was in July last year that things started to come unstuck for Somare in the same Supreme Court in which his quest for power culminated this week. The court overturned constitutional laws that prevented PNG's numerous coalition parties from splitting and making new governments. (It had been common in the past for MPs to regularly switch allegiance.)

Following the 2010 ruling, there were three failed attempts by the opposition to topple the Somare-led government via votes of no confidence. But Speaker Jeffrey Nape was instrumental in all the no-confidence motions failing. He allowed long parliamentary adjournments, denied the opposition the ability to move the motion or most brazenly did not call for a division to count how many voted in favour of the motion.

This sparked fiery scenes in that July parliament session, peaking with Somare crossing the floor and needing to be restrained by his son Arthur, the then public enterprises minister, while shouting in pidgin he was going to kill opposition MP Sam Basil.

But the die had been cast. Internal rumblings within Somare's National Alliance party, split along ethnic lines with Highland region MPs wanting one of their own in the top job, grew. Somare and his East Sepik supporters were being mocked as the "Sepik Mafia", taunts reinforced by the fact top-level posts in the police, defence force and public service were being filled by men from that province.

In April this year, when Somare was suspended from office for two weeks over failing to lodge financial statements, the power vacuum grew. Then he became sick and spent close to four months in hospital. On August 2, Peter O'Neill launched his successful leadership move.

In contrast to Somare, O'Neill, 46, and his supporters have managed to present themselves as a viable alternative, a new way, despite being pretty much the same faces as under Somare.

Since being elevated to the top job, O'Neill, of mixed Australian and Highlander stock, has begun a process of reform designed to make the government more accountable and inclusive, and to begin to tackle the endemic corruption that effectively entrenches disadvantage in a country where 85 per cent of the population are subsistence farmers and most live on less than \$2 a day. This includes the recent introduction of a bill reserving 22 seats for women in parliament, and scrutiny of irregular deals involving state-owned entities such as Air Niu Guinea, many of which effectively operate more as fiefdoms than business operations.

O'Neill argues he has a clear mandate for change - a 72-seat majority in the 109-seat parliament - and claims to represent PNG's disaffected grassroots groups angry at the failure of the country's ample resources wealth to filter through to them.

Certainly he appears to have widespread support. In local newspapers, on radio talkback and via the numerous internet forums, Facebook, Twitter and blog pages, PNG's people are demanding reforms.



And by the end of the week, it seemed that O'Neill might have the chance to deliver them. While the situation in PNG remains uncertain, by late yesterday - and with O'Neill seemingly in control of the public service, the parliament, the police and the defence force - Somare appeared to have lost his grip.

With national elections looming next year, it is a critical win for O'Neill.

Australian National University Professor Tony Regan, a constitutional lawyer who has spent 17

years in PNG, points out that whoever has control of government will have access to wealth, power and resources critical to entrenching themselves in the lead-up to the elections.

The stakes become even higher when you take into account the \$16 billion ExxonMobil-led LNG project that some claim will help to rejuvenate the country. Already PNG is awash with LNG-related cash that has fuelled a building boom of hotels, apartments and houses. Container ships laden with new cars from Japan flow in frequently.

But despite such prosperity on the ground, there has so far been little translation of this wealth through to the country's poor. PNG's urban elite profits while systemic corruption, incompetence and PNG's kleptocracy paralyses any chance of improving conditions for those known as the "grassroots".

Observers and citizens are increasingly cynical about the promises of a resources-led panacea for the country's ills. They have been here before. In the '80s, BHP's Ok Tedi copper mine ended in environmental disaster. In the '90s, Bougainville Copper Australia's massive goldmine ended in a secessionist civil war. Now it's the Texans and their talk of making PNG rich beyond its wildest dreams.

Some experts fear next year's elections are going to be the bloodiest ever considering such hype.

Paul Barker, director the Institute of National Affairs think tank, says LNG has raised usual disagreements to much more worrying levels of violence. "Although Treasury has consistently highlighted that revenue expectations from LNG are widely exaggerated, there is a perception that it will provide untold wealth," he says.

"This has helped fuel strong aspirations to have access or some control over expected benefits, including through local and national political office."

The ANU's Ron May says there is a potential for rioting as PNG people get fed up with the political game playing.

But it would be a mistake to interpret the week's ructions as a forerunner to some sort of local version of this year's Arab Spring or London riots. Despite widespread dissatisfaction with the country's endemic law and order problems, a broken health and education system and dilapidated infrastructure, PNG's latest flashpoint seems unlikely to trigger a mass movement for change.

Instead - and despite the growing anger among the country's young - the entrenched networks of obligations and loyalties have so far worked to keep the nation in a habitual holding pattern.

Whether O'Neill manages to bring meaningful change remains to be seen.

16.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Somare says he won't back down

Papua New Guinea's elder statesman Sir Michael Somare is refusing to step down amidst a political crisis over the leadership of the country.

His rival Peter O'Neill said on Friday afternoon his government's occupation of the prime minister's department should end uncertainty over the legitimacy of his government.

On Friday afternoon Mr O'Neill and 74 other MPs made the short drive from Parliament House to Murata House, which is home to the prime minister's department.

Mr O'Neill says this symbolic move should end any uncertainty that he is PNG's legitimate prime minister.

But Sir Michael is standing by his claim to be PNG's prime minister.

The O'Neill Government claims Sir Michael attempted overnight to call out the defence force onto Port Moresby's streets.

16.11.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Liam Fox reports from Port Moresby :

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG crisis coming to an end

A leading member of the O'Neill faction in Papua New Guinea says the constitutional crisis could be settled by Monday.

Dr Alan Marat, the attorney general in the government of Peter O'Neill says progress is being made after he held talks with Sir Arnold Amet , a senior member of the Somare faction.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Alan Marat, attorney general in the PNG government of Peter O'Neill

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG back to normal by Monday - Marat

A Pacific Beat interview was front page news in The National, one of two daily newspapers in Papua New Guinea.

It also caused a ripple across Twitter and Face Book as it's contents were seized upon by social media.

Yesterday's interview featured rival attorneys-general Sir Arnold Amet, in the Somare government and Dr Alan Marat, attorney-general in the government of Peter O'Neill

The two leading politicians agreed on Pacific Beat to bring their factions together for talks to try to end the constitutional deadlock.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Alan Marat, attorney-general in the government of Peter O'Neill

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Moves to end political crisis before weekend

There's been no meeting of minds in Papua New Guinea as the political impasse looks set to continue into next week....

The crisis began on Monday when the Supreme Court ruled that the government of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was not legitimate and Sir Michael Somare should be re-instated as prime minister.

That produced the stand off which is continuing today with neither side appearing to give ground.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chief's call on scrap metals

By PETERSON TSERHAHA

A CHIEF in Central Bougainville has called on scrap metal companies operating in Central Bougainville to be fair in their dealings and trade.

Amos Obe, representing the chiefs of Central Bougainville, has boldly questioned the scrap metal companies operating in Panguna, Arawa, and Loloho to explain how their benefits are shared. And are they following Government regulations? How much do they pay in tax to the Autonomous Bougainville Government? And who are the real owners of the companies?



Scrap metal shipping in Loloho

“What does the rest of Bougainville get out from scrap metal exports when everyone suffered the war caused by Panguna mine?” Mr Obe has questioned. “A lot of people have died and for goodness sake Panguna is still covered in blood, North and South Bougainville are now saying we central Bougainvilleans are greedy and unfair because central Bougainvilleans haven’t fought the Bougainville crisis ourselves,” he said.

Mr Obe also said they had to take into account that even Papua New Guineans have died in the crisis. “I understand there is already a benefit policy for scrap metal with the commerce division in Buka so why aren’t the scrap metal companies complying with it?” Mr Obe asked.

Mr Obe said Bougainvilleans had to be mindful about referendum and what was the plan for referendum, and when things were being done one sided?

“They can all say scrap metal is creating employment for youths and ex combatants, and that customs and quarantine have been paid, but what about the others?” Mr Obe said. “South Bougainvilleans, especially the ones from Siwai and Nagovis are all scattered in Buka looking for jobs while some of us are enjoying what everybody has suffered for,” he said.

“We are not saying we are against it to be more diplomatic, but explain how the money received will be shared among other ex-combatants.” Mr Obe said.

He also said one thing for sure was that some metals were not scrap but were very genuine metals and the type of price buyers were buying these metals for was not the appropriate price.

16.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG’s police chief says no rift in the force after he welcomes back rebels

Papua New Guinea’s police chief has welcomed back a group of officers, who had been blockading Government House at the behest of one of the country’s rival prime ministers, Sir Michael Somare.

Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga addressed about 20 officers, members of PNG’s heavily armed Robbery Response Unit, in a small ceremony at police headquarters in Port Moresby.



Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga (center) among his officers

The unit had blockaded Government House on Tuesday, trying to prevent Mr O'Neill from meeting Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio to be sworn in and guarding the house in anticipation of Sir Michael Somare's arrival.

Mr Kulunga says it is not a police issue - it's a matter between two political groups.

He says there is no problem in the police organisation.

Mr Kulunga says the officers hadn't breached the police code of ethics.

He says the officers' guns would be stored in a police lock-up and returned to them later, but he did not specify a time.

16.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Somare camp target House

Attempts to shut water, power supply to bring out O'Neill team

THE court re-instated Somare Government allegedly tried every trick in the book to lock out the populist O'Neill-Namah Government by ordering that all public utilities available to them be shut down.

This included attempting to cut water and electricity to Parliament but it now appears the public servants sworn on oath to serve the country have had enough over the last couple of days and could not be swayed by the order from Madang Regional MP and Somare appointed Attorney General Sir Arnold Amet.

The service providers simply refused to cut the power and shut the water supply to the peoples' house, Markham MP Koni Iguan said yesterday, because the people's house had no debts outstanding to both organisations.

Citing a letter from Sir Arnold Amet, dated December 12, Mr Iguan said the Somare regime tried to shut down the institution which runs the country by resorting to devious means which amounted to 'sabotage'.

In his letter to his fellow MP Patrick Pruaitch, and copied to Mr Tony Koiri, CEO of PNG Power Ltd, and Mr Billy Imar, MD of Eda Ranu Ltd, and the MD of IPBC, the Attorney General and Minister for Public Enterprise in the Somare led minority government, Sir Arnold said: "I seek your instructions for the shutdown of power and water services to Parliament House."

It seems the request fell on deaf ears as Acting Chief Executive Officer of PNG Power Limited, Lawrence Solomon gave an outright 'no' to the directive from Mr Pruaitch because the "current political turmoil does not amount to an emergency to warrant PPL to shutdown power services to Parliament House".

Parliament is where all MPs are supposed to congregate to represent all the people of PNG and the O'Neill Government was in charge on Monday, Mr Iguan said.

Parliament re-elected Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on Monday and his 70 MPs have been holding court there for the past week and Mr Iguan said that 'shutting down the power and water is denying the people of PNG their voice'.

Sir Michael, the court reinstated PM, has 37 members and a 21 member cabinet who was sworn in by now suspended GG Sir Michael Ogio on Wednesday, while the Parliament appointed PM O'Neill holds an absolute majority.

As a result, it has become difficult for Sir Michael to govern given the lack of numbers, a situation that has not gone down well with public servants, unions and ordinary people.

Mr Iguan said the directions given by Sir Arnold were illegal and further demonstrated the desperation of the Somare regime in trying to squeeze the life out of a 'popular people's government'.

Mr Iguan said Sir Michael was the man who agreed on the building of Parliament Haus in his Sepik mythology and to cut off the power and water was like cutting of the 'supply of sago and sepik wara' to the men in the house.

16.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Public sentiment with O'Neill

By HAIVETA KIVIA

THE majority of Papua New Guineans wants to see Peter O'Neill remain as Prime Minister and that his Government sees out this term of the National Parliament.

If the street surveys carried out by Post-Courier, phone calls to radio talkback shows and reports from our opposition paper are bench marks to go by, then the majority of people in the country wants to see the back of Somare regime. In Lae and Morobe province, 50 percent of the people interviewed want Peter O'Neil to remains as the Prime Minister, while 30 percent called for parliament to be dissolved and fresh elections called and 20 per cent chose Somare as their preferred PM. In Rabaul, 80 per cent of the people interviewed wanted O'Neill to remain, 10 percent called for parliament to be dissolved and 10 percent backed the Somare Government. Buko Esi, a resident at Hanta Compound in Lae, said if Sir Michael Somare had control over his young ministers and his son Arthur when he was in Government then we wouldn't in a situation like this.

Mr Esi said they had a forum in the compound yesterday and many residents there expressed that they were very happy to see the backside of the Somare-Abal regime when O'Neil- Namah was voted in by parliament.

"This was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court but we the people think the court did not have the best interest of PNG at heart when it made its decision," he said. He said what Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare stood for when he led the country to independence in 1975 had all gone to the dogs when he allowed young ministers in his Government of nine years to systematically abuse the trust and misused millions of kina.

16.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill loved by people ...

By John Pangkatana

PAPUA New Guinea's Parliament appointed Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is truly the "peoples" choice.

With his 75-man strong parliamentary members in tow, the Member for Ialibu Pangia is now riding a wave of popularity more that ever before.

Yesterday, in a humbling show accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, he braved the midday heat to receive a petition from prominent NGO leader Noel Anjo before a boisterous crowd of over 1000 people at Waigani yesterday.

'O'Neill, O'Neil, O'Neill...' the strong crowd shouted as they hung onto every word he said.

Mr O'Neill re-assured the people that 72 members stand undivided during this time because they feel they have been undermined for too long.

"They must be able to talk without fear or favour. Ol in no wari long ministry, ol i wari long ol laif blong ol man na meri blong Papua New Guinea (They are not worried about ministries, they are more worried about the people's livelihood)," he said.

He said it is a time for a thorough clean-up of all the corruption that has been allowed to breed in our society.

"Opis blong Praitim Minista i no blong wanpela man (The office of the Prime Minister does not belong to one person)," he said.

"Em taim blong Grand Chief long malolo (It's time for the Grand Chief to take a break)," he said. This brought on a huge cheer.

"Gavana Jeneral em tu giamanim mi na pipol blong Papua New Guinea (The Governor-General was not truthful to me and the people of Papua New Guinea)," he added.

"Em tu ating mas malolo tu, mi understand em nupela marit tu (He should also take a break as well, I understand he's also a newly-wed)." Mr O'Neill said.

This brought on a much bigger applause from a mixture of people from public servants to the general public.

Mr O'Neill said he was grateful to hear that there was no division within the police hierarchy and thanked the PNG Defence Force for playing a backstage role as well in this heightened scenario that has brought about a sense of instability.

He also clarified that Mr Tom Kulunga is the rightfully appointed Police Commissioner, dispelling any thoughts otherwise. "He has earned the position rightfully," he added.

"We cannot change the Government by the barrel of the gun...it's only through the corridors of parliament that we will prevail," he said.

16.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

PNG ranks ahead of UK, Aust, NZ

PNG ranked 35th for Internet download speeds ahead of UK, Australia and New Zealand. Telikom PNG encouraged by Net Index Internet Speed Rankings Ookla, a global leader in broadband testing and web-based network diagnostics, has ranked Papua New Guinea's Internet speeds at 35th for downloading, and 41st for uploading, placing it ahead of countries such as the UK, Australia and New Zealand. A total of 172 countries are tracked by Ookla.

According to Ookla's net index the results were obtained by analysing test data between 11th November, 2011 and 10th December, 2011 from 2, 232 unique IP addresses (Internet Protocol addresses) taken in the country.

The speed test by Ookla is based on upload and download speed of individual users in various countries with Net Index providing averages and details around consumer broadband upload and download speeds. The Net index is available on the following

websites <http://www.netindex.com/download/allcountries/> and <http://www.netindex.com/upload/allcountries/>.

Telikom PNG's Chief Executive Officer, Peter Loko, welcomed the rankings stating that "Telikom PNG, as the country's Internet Gateway Service Provider, is encouraged by Ookla's independent findings that confirm efforts to improve Internet service delivery into PNG were paying dividends".

"Telikom PNG will continue to expand its Internet infrastructure to connect more urban and rural communities to the Internet as we can make a real difference to the lives of our people".

"Telikom recently completed installation of its 3G Wireless Internet Services in Pomio district, East New Britain and Buin, within the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which will enable these rural communities to enjoy faster Internet at speeds offered by Telikom," Mr Loko remarked.

He added apart from the 3G wireless network expansion, Telikom is also rolling out its fibre optic network that will enable faster wired broadband services around the country.

Ookla's Net Index enlightens the Internet community by anonymously analysing and compiling massive data sets of information for purposes of benchmarking Internet quality.

From the download index ranking, United States was ranked 33rd with speeds of 12.3Mbps, PNG ranked 35th at 11.7Mbps, UK ranked 37th at 11.48Mbps, Australia ranked 48th with speed of 9.0Mbps while New Zealand ranked 50th with speeds of 8.81Mbps.

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

La crise persiste en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée

Au centre de cette crise, la décision de la Cour suprême de réinstaller Sir Michael Somare dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre. Elle a jugé inconstitutionnelle l'élection de Peter O'Neill, l'actuel Premier ministre, par la majorité des députés en août dernier, alors que Sir Michael, Premier ministre d'alors, se faisait opérer du cœur à Singapour. Peter O'Neill n'accepte pas la décision de la Cour Suprême et Sir Michael a constitué son propre gouvernement.

Le pays se retrouve avec 2 gouvernements, 2 forces de police et deux Gardes des Sceaux qui ont accepté de débattre du problème sur Radio Australie.

Pour Sir Arnold Amet, Garde des Sceaux du clan de Sir Michael Somare, un vote au Parlement pourrait aider à résoudre la crise. Une condition toutefois : « Mais en premier, Peter O'Neill doit reconnaître et respecter la décision de la Cour Suprême qui a réinstallé Sir Michael Somare au poste de Premier ministre et réinstallé son gouvernement. »

Le Garde des Sceaux de la faction de Peter O'Neill, Allan Marat semble être prêt au dialogue : « Je suis prêt à en parler au Premier ministre et même au Président du Parlement pour voir s'ils sont disposés à sortir des tranchées et à rencontrer Sir Michael Somare et Arnold Amet pour discuter des nombreuses possibilités qui nous permettraient de sortir de cette impasse malheureuse avec une solution acceptable. »

En attendant, personne n'est sorti de l'impasse. La police loyale à Sir Michael Somare bloque l'accès à la Maison du Gouvernement et les dirigeants religieux du pays ont lancé un appel à l'unité nationale et les députés de Peter O'Neill campent au Parlement depuis lundi.

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Social media the news leader in PNG during political standoff

During this week's political turmoil, many Papua New Guineans have relied on twitter and facebook to keep up with the rapidly unfolding situation.

Recent events show how PNG's growing blogosphere, mounting number of facebook users and tweeters are bringing the nation together in new ways. This week, social media users have turned out in force to report and debate the constitutional crisis, in a shift away from traditional media.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Emmanuel Narokobi, editor of PNG's Masalai blog.

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG youth pushing for political change

PNG voters have expressed their dissatisfaction with current politics with recent marches to the governors general residence also on twitter SMS and the wider media.

A recent article from the Sydney based Lowy Institute says the younger generation is fed up with old style politics in Port Moresby. The author Jenny Hayward-Jones says a protracted leadership battle is unlikely to win significant public support.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Jenny Hayward-Jones, Director of The Myer Foundation Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Business concerns in PNG

PNG's Trade Union Congress has threatened to stage protests across the nation, claiming the current political turmoil is preventing the workforce from delivering services.

But the Chamber of Commerce says the current political situation is not impacting workers. So how is business being affected?

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Michael Mayberry, President of the PNG Chamber of Commerce

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Michael Mayberry, President of the PNG Chamber of Commerce

[Listen here !](#)

16.12.2011

Source: The National

PNG Power lights up Arawa town

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

BUSINESSES and residents in Central Bougainville will enjoy a reliable and consistent power supply when PNG Power commissions its generators at Arawa this week.

They have been depending on their own generators to supply power since normalcy returned to the conflict-ravaged township which once had its electricity supplied by the Bougainville Copper Ltd and managed by the PNG Electricity Commission (Elcom), now PNG Power.

The Arawa PNG Power project is an Autonomous Bougainville Government project.

It contracted PNG Power as the primary operator and manager of electricity to Arawa and surrounding areas of

Central Bougainville.

The project included the installation of three diesel generators, re-construction of infrastructure for the project and re-establishment of the PNG power operating system.

Autonomous Bougainville administration project personnel Ephraim Eminoni said easy pay meters had been installed in a number of homes with more houses and businesses yet to be completed.

Commissioning of the project took place on Tuesday in Arawa with power supplied to the users in the main sections of Arawa town that already have easy pay meters installed, Eminoni said.

A formal launching of the project had been planned for next month.

16.12.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill seeks order against Sir Michael

PETER O'Neill has asked the court for restraining orders to stop Sir Michael Somare from performing the duties as prime minister.

The case will be heard in the National Court on Monday.

O'Neill's lawyers filed proceedings in the National Court on Wednesday seeking the restraining order. But due to some minor corrections to the documents, they were re-filed yesterday.

The National Court registry yesterday set Monday afternoon for the hearing.

It would be an inter-parte hearing, court officials said, meaning the lawyers from both sides would make submissions on Monday.

16.12.2011

Source: The National

We are intact, says Parkop

THE 72 MPs loyal to Peter O'Neill say they will not be moved after receiving offers of ministerial positions from the opposite camp.

National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop told parliament their group was intact and would not be tempted by the offers from the group led by Sir Michael Somare.

He said some of the MPs in the group had been assured ministries by the Somare camp but they would "not move an inch".

He said the 72 members had run away from the old regime and decided to form a government for the people they represented to fight corruption and serve the people.

He said they wanted to fight corruption and make a change in delivering services to the people.

He said they were in parliament to carry out the wishes of the people and not for any individual member or political group.

Meanwhile, he urged the Somare faction to come back to parliament because it was where the collective will and power was exercised.

"We have to solve the issues amicably for the benefit of the people and independent state of PNG," he said.

Meanwhile Anglimp South Waghi MP Jamie Maxton Grahame called on the disputing parties to resolve the issue in the Melanesian way.

He called on the Somare family to ask the Grand Chief to quit as leader because he needed a good rest after his three operations.

"I think he is not capable but a bunch of desperados were using him and those people should try and allow the Grand Chief to rest then using him for their benefit," he said.

16.12.2011

Source: The National

Marat: GG was misled

By JEFFREY ELAPA

RABAUL MP Dr Allan Marat claims that a public servant had colluded with the secretary to the attorney-general to issue instructions to Government House this week.

He said the action was illegal.

He said state solicitor Daniel Pakarea colluded with the secretary for the Department of Attorney-General Dr Lawrence Kalinoe to issue instructions to governor-general.

He said they were officers who came under the attorney-general and they, as public servants, did not have any powers to advise the governor-general.

He said matters affecting the court became the responsibility of the state and that the minister advised Government House.

However, he said the governor-general wrongly accepted the advice because he did not receive any advice from the court.

He said only the NEC, parliament and the attorney-general could advise the governor-general.

He said the governor-general had been misled because he had not read section 89 of the Constitution which talked about the functions of the head of state.

He has been confused and therefore wrongly accepted the advice and told lies to the people of

PNG and therefore he had been suspended.

Member for Mt Hagen William Duma, another lawyer, said that Governor General had allowed a coup to take place in PNG.

He said the GG also allowed rogue policemen to block Government House and therefore he was not fit to occupy the vice-regal seat.

16.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Drive for dialogue and mediation to try to solve PNG political crisis

Efforts are being made to establish a dialogue between the two groupings claiming to be the government of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Arnold Amet, the Attorney General in the Sir Michael Somare grouping and his counterpart in the Peter O'Neill camp, Dr Allan Marat, are proposing dialogue and there are signs this could happen.

Sir Arnold says it is possible that international mediators could be sought.

He says Sir Michael Somare yesterday wrote to the leaders of the rival group expressing a willingness to talk.

"I trust that today we can progress that with considerable dignity to avert any confrontation amongst our people and our security and law enforcement agencies, which are the very last things that we would want."

16.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG commissioner Kulunga appeals for calm whilst cautioning Somare group

One of two men claiming to be Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner has cautioned Sir Michael Somare for attempting to interfere with legitimate state institutions.

Tom Kulunga was appointed last month by Peter O'Neill, who is refusing to relinquish the Prime Ministership, despite a supreme court ruling re-instating Sir Michael Somare.



Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga

Mr Kulunga says the purported appointment of Fred Yakasa to the Commissioner's post by Sir Michael was unlawful and maliciously plotted to cause disaffection and disunity within the force. He says the National Executive Council has revoked the appointment.

Mr Kulunga says all policemen and policewomen engaged in the security operations in Port Moresby city and other parts of the country have been instructed to remain neutral and focused while performing their constitutional duties.

He also appealed to ordinary citizens across the country to remain calm and allow common sense and understanding to prevail.

Mr Kulunga says additional police manpower from Lae and Wabag are now in Port Moresby to assist in the maintenance of law and order.

He says police are on heightened alert in the city because of the developments of the last few days and they will continue to set up random road blocks in designated spots and carry out routine patrols within the city.

16.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BEER SALES TAX

WHOLESALEERS of beer and cigarettes in Bougainville have been urged to comply with the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) beer and cigarette sales tax law that was passed by Bougainville House of Representatives in September.

Bougainville vice president Patrick Nisira urged this when he received today a cheque of K246, 150 as beer sales tax from Jomik Trading Limited.

Jomik is the first company to deliver its tax collected from six containers of beer sold in November alone.

Nisira said the tax collected would boost the autonomous region's internal revenue of K9 million which is currently not sufficient to fund delivery of goods and services throughout Bougainville.

16.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KONNOU STUDENT TOPS BOUGAINVILLE EDUCATION

A grade eight student from the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville has done her people proud by becoming the highest ranked student of primary education in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Cynthia Mota of Tabago Primary School in Buin topped 140 out of 150 in her grade eight exam results, rising above more than 3000 grade eight students throughout Bougainville.

Mota's achievement has attracted the attention of the Bougainville Education officials who were surprised that despite coming from a conflict torn area, she was able to persevere with her education.

Konnou constituency of which Tabago primary school is in, has been the focus of peace rehabilitation activities in recent months, following continuous fighting amongst local factions that had resulted in over 60 civilians reported dead.

Basic services including education was constantly disrupted during the conflict which had Bougainville leaders doubtful of the student's education progress in the area.

Mota's success has now proven the leaders wrong and has further strengthened the process of peace and reconciliation that is currently in progress among the warring factions.

15.12.2011

Source: ESBC

A "French Kiss" for Sir Michael?



Sentenced today: Former French President Jacques Chirac



Warning from Paris: PNG's Sir Michael Somare

The following can be understood as a strong warning from France to Sir Michael Somare and his faithful followers:

15.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Chirac guilty of graft

A judge has declared French former president Jacques Chirac guilty of misusing public funds, in a political graft trial that made history by producing the first conviction of a head of state since Nazi collaborator Marshal Philippe Petain in 1945.

In the absence of the 79-year-old, who ruled from 1995 until 2007, the judge declared Chirac guilty and handed down a suspended two-year jail sentence.

Chirac was tried on charges of diverting public money into phantom jobs for political cronies while he was mayor of Paris between 1977 and 1995, a time when he built a new centre-right Gaullist party that launched his successful presidential bid.

In theory, Chirac, excused from much of the proceedings on the grounds of failing memory, could have been sent to jail for 10 years, the maximum sentence for the charges against him.

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Rival attorneys-general on Pacific Beat agree on possibility of talks

The two rival attorneys-general in Papua New Guinea have agreed to meet in person to try to resolve the country's constitutional crisis.

Sir Arnold Amet, the attorney general in the Sir Michael Somare government discussed the idea with Dr Alan Marat, the attorney general in Peter O'Neill's government on Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker:

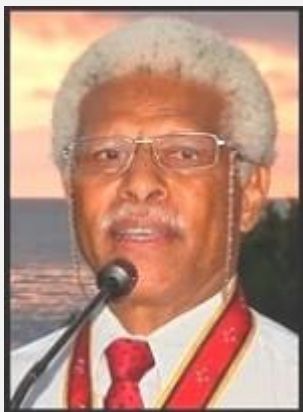
Dr Alan Marat

attorney general in Peter O'Neill's government



Sir Arnold Amet

attorney general in the Sir Michael Somare government



[Listen here !](#)

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Former PM suggests a way out of PNG crisis



Sir Julius Chan

A former PNG prime minister says both the men claiming the job should let parliament make the final decision.

New Ireland governor and MP Sir Julius Chan says one solution to the impasse would be for Sir Michael Somare to be reinstated as an MP, and for him to come to Parliament, resign, and let the House decide if he or Peter O'Neill should be prime minister.

He says if the crisis isn't resolved, it's possible there could be violence.

Sir Julius insists he is not so much backing Peter O'Neill as he is trying to support the supremacy of Parliament.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Sir Julius Chan, former PNG prime minister

[Listen here !](#)

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Little sign of compromise in PNG impasse

The Papua New Guinea political impasse is again the dominating issue of the day.

The crisis has rumbled along since the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that the government of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was not legitimate and Sir Michael should be re-instated as prime minister.

He's since been sworn in but Mr O'Neill refuses to stand aside

Today hundreds of people demonstrate peacefully outside the PNG Parliament in support of embattled Prime Minister O'Neill while inside his government argued its legitimacy to an empty chamber.

In another area of Waigani Sir Michael's men are claiming they are in control.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

15.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

O'Neill orders police to take control of PNG government offices

Peter O'Neill has ordered up to 150 police to take control of government offices, declaring with the backing of his cabinet that he is in control of the Papua New Guinean government.

At a press conference in parliament today Mr O'Neill revoked a late night order by Sir Michael Somare to reinstate his police commissioner Fred Yakasa.

He says seeking government from the barrel of a gun is unacceptable.

Mr O'Neill says additional police have been flown in from outside Port Moresby.

He says he expects police to carry out their duty should Sir Michael refuse to leave, but stressed there was nothing stopping his minority government from coming to parliament.

Mr O'Neill says they refuse to come to parliament, because they don't think can run a minority government, which is not acceptable in a democracy.

He says the officers would also seize the finance department, prime minister's department and government house.

Mr O'Neill says he was not ordering the arrest of Sir Michael or his ministers.

AAP reports that there is a contingent of police loyal to Sir Michael in Port Moresby, however the majority of police have thus far been at pains to remain neutral.

The nation's military has also remained neutral and largely silent.

Sir Michael had been expected to give a press conference on Thursday morning but it was put off until later in the afternoon without explanation.

15.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

O'Neill deploys police to seize government assets

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE ABC IS REPORTING that there are signs the political deadlock in Papua New Guinea may have entered a dangerous new phase, with extra police being flown into the capital to seize government assets.

Peter O'Neill says extra police have been flown into Port Moresby from around the country to seize government assets and that they have taken control of the government printing office and will also target the finance department, the prime minister's department and government house.

A group of police loyal to Sir Michael has been guarding government house since Monday night.

The existence of two police commissioners must be sorely testing the loyalty of many members of the police force.

It could be expected that if either Mr O'Neill or Sir Michael Somare tries to deploy police in an aggressive posture that conflict may ensue.

15.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

O'Neill group in PNG impasse to appeal Supreme Court ruling

The O'Neill grouping in Papua New Guinea's political impasse says it will today file an appeal against Monday's Supreme Court ruling that Peter O'Neill's election as Prime Minister in August was illegal.

Sir Michael Somare's cabinet was sworn in by Governor-General, Sir Michael Ogio, yesterday while Peter O'Neill used his majority parliamentary support to suspend the Queen's

representative and then had his cabinet sworn-in by his own acting Governor-General, the Speaker Jeffrey Nape.

A member of the O'Neill group, Sir Puka Temu, says Monday's Court ruling has been rendered invalid by new laws made by parliament about the provisions for declaring the Prime Minister's seat vacant.

"The parliament has moved ahead of those circumstances under which the Supreme Court made the ruling. And so everybody in the legal fraternity agrees that the ruling, under those previous circumstances, now cannot be legally enforced."

Sir Puka Temu

15.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News - TV

Pacific Beat presenter Bruce Hill explains the unexpected turn of events in PNG :

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

NGOs try to smoothen PNG's political upheaval

Non-government groups in Papua New Guinea are urging rival political groups to put aside their differences and form a government of national unity.

PNG currently has two rival Prime Ministers, two cabinets, two Governors-General and two police commissioners.

Both Peter O'Neill and Sir Michael Somare insist they are the country's legitimate leader.

The political crisis flared when Mr O'Neill was installed as prime minister while Sir Michael was recovering overseas from a serious illness.

Lawrence Stephens from Transparency International PNG says his main concern is keeping violence at bay.

"Our problems here are that we have uncertainty in the police force," he said.

"We have two police commanders, apparently, we have two prime ministers, apparently. We have public servants who have disciplined force people confused, and we have rebel rousers who would like to use the situation to cause trouble which might work to their advantage".

Looming elections

PNG's Institute of National Affairs director, Paul Barker says the need for governmental unity is pressing in the lead-up to next year's election.

"The priority should be to prepare for the elections and give the voters an opportunity to make their own selection," Mr Barker said.

"Maybe some sort of caretaker, unity government until the elections. I mean, the elections are just around the corner".

He says the stalemate is confusing and potentially dangerous, and has called on churches and NGOs to help negotiations between both political players go smoothly

The former head of PNG's defence force, General Jerry Singirok says the country's current commander has made the right decision by staying out of the current political crisis.

"They will wait for the current impasse to be sorted out politically before they do whatever they have been called to".

Deuce

Mr O'Neill was sworn in as prime minister on Wednesday by the man he has designated as the interim governor-general.

He earlier announced he was suspending governor-general Sir Michael Ogio because he had failed to live up to his responsibilities.

Speaker Geoffrey Nape then claimed he was the acting governor-general and swore in Mr O'Neill as the country's prime minister, along with several MPs as ministers.

On the same morning, Michael Ogio - who has been the governor-general since the start of the year - also swore in 19 members of the former PM's, Sir Michael Somare cabinet.

No vacancy

The prime minister's seat was declared vacant in August while Sir Michael was out of the country receiving medical treatment.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court ruled that his removal from office in August was unlawful and ordered he be reinstated.

But Mr O'Neill maintains he is the country's legitimate leader.

On Tuesday afternoon, he and 60 other MPs broke through a police barricade at government house and demanded to see Sir Michael Ogio.

"We're unarmed and we're the legitimate government," they shouted.

Through his secretary, the governor-general urged the parties to sort out the issue among themselves.

Political upbringing

Sir Michael, 75, has been in politics for almost 50 years, appointed as the country's first prime minister when it became independent in 1975.

He was sidelined by illness earlier this year, travelling to Singapore for heart surgery.

His family announced his resignation in June without consulting Sir Michael, who they said was in intensive care and too ill to discuss his future.

But Sir Michael maintained he was still the country's leader and there had "never been any vacancy in the position of prime minister".

15.12.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill challenges Somare to lead in parliament

IALIBU-Pangia MP Peter O'Neill says Sir Michael Somare and his group should use parliament – and not other institutions – to determine who governs the country.

O'Neill said no other institution could decide who should rule the country but parliament which was the only supreme authority to decide who became prime minister.

He said everyone must work together so that the crisis did not continue and erode the fabrics of the parliamentary system.

He said there were only four months left before the election and Somare should try to be the prime minister through the parliamentary process.

He said he would accept and respect whatever decision was made in parliament and called on Sir Michael to follow the parliamentary process to become prime minister.

15.12.2011

Source: The National

UNDP officers meet Bougainville groups

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

CIVIL society groups in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville yesterday met with officers from the United Nations Development Programme Energy and Environment and Climate Change programmes.

The meeting offered local stakeholders an opportunity to highlight the work they were doing in the region on environment and conservation.

It provided them the chance to raise issues related to their work and their concerns on climate change.

Some of the key challenges highlighted by the participants included:

- I Collaboration and partnership between civil society groups and Autonomous Bougainville Government;

- I Financial support granted directly to target communities;

- I Establishment of a coordination body like the Bougainville environment conservation and climate change office, whose role would be to establish an efficient network between all civil society groups, ABG and donors; and,

- I Documentation and data collection of what natural resources Bougainville has.

UNDP officer Robert Yen said their visit to Bougainville was in response to local stakeholders wanting to have their programmes supported.

Yen said the UNDP was willing to help

in facilitating partnership development and coordination between the civil society groups and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

UNDP representatives had earlier this week met with ABG officials and had

identified areas in which all parties could

work together in supporting environmental conservation programmes and climate change issues.

Based on their findings, Yen said they would return next year and focus on working with local stakeholders and the ABG to develop a way forward for all parties.

15.12.2011

Source: The National

Sir Michael accuses faction of high-level corruption

By JACOB POK

EAST Sepik MP Sir Michael Somare says defiance of the Supreme Court order was corruption at the highest level.

He called on the faction led by Peter O'Neill and Belden Namah to respect the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court order of Dec 12 to ensure the rule of law remained supreme in Papua New Guinea.

Sir Michael said the continuing lack of respect for the Supreme Court order was an aberration of the constitutional history and did not augur well for the future of the country.

"I have never seen such outrageous conduct by duly elected members of parliament," he said.

"My government was constitutionally formed and elected by the people and was constitutionally restored by the courts, which ruled that it was illegally removed."

He said the decision and orders had been upheld by the court and his government was constitutionally compliant.

"The rule of law must be respected by all members of the three separate arms of government if we are to remain a true democracy," he said.

"We survived 36 years within the framework of our Constitution and our parliament is not there to be manipulated by lawless MPs for their own preservation."

He said one arm of the government was not superior to the next and leaders must act within the confines of the Constitution.

"The action to amend laws for self-preservation worries me as it was not in the best interest of the nation," he said.

"It is corruption at the highest level."

He condemned the actions taken by the O'Neill-Namah regime in light of the Dec 12 court decision as highly contemptuous and regrettable.

Madang MP Sir Arnold Amet said legal advice would be sought to prosecute members of the

O'Neill-Namah regime and charge them with contempt for defying the Dec 12 Supreme Court ruling.

He said the Constitution was supreme, and not parliament.

"The Constitution and the law are supreme and must be adhered to," Sir Arnold said.

Nipa-Kutubu MP Philemon Embel said they had advised the speaker of parliament to make room for them to take their "government" seats in parliament.

"Their majority number is irrelevant if they are not abiding by the Constitution and laws of the land," Embel said.

15.12.2011

Source: The National

Parliament is cursed, say MPs

By JEFFREY ELAPA

THE National Parliament has been condemned as the "House of Evil" by two members of parliament.

Imbonggu MP Francis Awesa said the house was a Haus Tambaran (house of evil).

He said those who occupied it were under the control of evil.

Finchhafen MP Theo Zurenuoc agreed it was a house of evil.

He said the house was possessed by evil. He told parliament that one Sunday, he came to Parliament House and prayed that he be shown any sign of evil.

He urged the government to build a new Parliament House that would be free of evil.

Kundiawa-Gembogl Tobias Kulang supported the move to relocate parliament so that it was in the heart of the country.

He said its current location in Port Moresby isolated it from the majority of Papua New Guinea citizens.

He said it would be great to relocate parliament to Yonki or Kainantu in the Eastern Highlands because it was the centre of the country.

He said parliament was for the people and should be more accessible to the people and not isolated.

15.12.2011

Source: The National

Sir Puka: Grand Chief should exit with grace

SIR Puka Temu has called on Sir Michael Somare to resign and leave politics with grace and dignity.

Sir Puka said he was asking Sir Michael to resign because he did not have the support of parliament to continue as prime minister.

"I have the greatest respect, admiration and humility for the Grand Chief as one of the founding fathers of the nation but the political situation is not in his favour anymore," he said.

He said although the Supreme Court had made its ruling, the O'Neill-Namah government had moved on from when the ruling was made.

"Parliament has exercised its legislative authority to amend the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act upon which it elected Peter O'Neill as prime minister," he said.

He said parliament has resolved to rescind its decision on the granting of leave of absence to allow the speaker to declare that Sir Michael was no longer a member of parliament.

"It is therefore absolutely illegal for the governor-general to have sworn in the so-called caretaker cabinet under Sir Michael Somare," he said.

Sir Puka said for Sir Michael to continue as prime minister, he must have control of parliament, table a new budget and have it passed so that government activities and programme could be funded next year.

But he said the way the numbers were stacked in parliament, it would not be possible for a minority government to function.

He said a minority government would only bring more chaos in the period up to the election.

"In view of the present political situation, the respectable thing for Sir Michael to do is to tender

his resignation and allow parliament to chart a way forward," he said.
Sir Puka commended speaker Jeffery Nape on his handling of the crisis.
He said the way the political situation was unfolding each day in PNG was "in uncharted territory" in terms of the Constitution.
"In a situation like this where there is a political stalemate the best thing to do is to leave it to Parliament to decide the outcome.
"In my view parliament is the only authority that can appoint a prime minister," he said.

15.12.2011

Source: The National

O'Neill says gaming board a cash cow for few

PETER O'Neill has described the National Gaming Board as corrupt and a "milking cow" for few individuals and family members.

O'Neill said the Somare government had a record of completely disregarding parliamentary processes and laws – the reason for the diversion of funds.

"They think the executive government is more powerful than the government," O'Neill said.

He said this when responding to questions from Gazelle MP Malakai Tabar on the K15 million promised for the grassroots games in Kokopo next year.

"We are trying to clear the K15 million but cannot do so because of restraining orders by the courts imposed after the former chief executive officer challenged his removal," he said.

"The former CEO thinks that he is managing private funds for the Somare government and business associates of the government."

O'Neill said the Somare family was now in control of the computer system of gaming.

"The Gaming Board is one of the most corrupt siphoning off hundreds of millions of kina to friends and family members to buy property in Cairns and holidays in Singapore," he said.

"This kind of madness must stop.

"I don't know where the judiciary is going.

"This country belongs to the 6.7 million people of PNG and not one family or individual."

O'Neill said the Somare regime must go because they were creating another Mugabe and dynasty in the Pacific.

He said the Supreme Court must interpret laws and not elect governments.

"The Government House is under siege.

"If you have rogue policemen who cannot get orders from the Police Commissioner than that is a problem," he said.

"This country is governed through parliament and not through Ela Beach Hotel."

15.12.2011

Source: The National

AROB leader wants policies to remain

A GOVERNMENT minister in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville says government must continue the policies implemented by the O'Neill regime.

Autonomous Bougainville Government minister for local level government, traditional authority and communication Joseph Nopei said he supported what the O'Neill government had started. Nopei said the policies should not be changed.

"They (Somare regime) have a very short time remaining before the national election so they should just carry on with all that has been established like the implementation of the 2012 national budget," said Nopei.

He said the O'Neill government had in a short time delivered a lot and had set the foundation for good governance and transparency.

"Also because they are pro-active, they have really worked hard and were not complacent," he said.

"The good thing about the turn of events is that the O'Neill government still have the numbers to pass any decision in parliament."

15.12.2011

Source: The National

Sir Paulias calls for calm

By JASON GIMA WURI

FORMER governor-general Sir Paulias Matane has called for peace and calm throughout the nation and urged political leaders to uphold Christian principles in solving the current political impasse.

Sir Paulias, who visited The National office to air his concern, said political leaders needed to respect the Constitution and exercise good leadership for the sake of the people.

"The only thing that can sustain peace for everyone through this turn of political events is to exercise Christian principles and values," he said.

"You have the power to maintain peace by exercising forgiveness in this most difficult of times for the nation. We are going into the Christmas and New Year period where we all want to be with family and friends to enjoy the festive season in its true spirit."

Sir Paulias said the leaders should respect the constitution for the sake of their people in the rural areas.

"As leaders our people need us right now," he said.

"I am a village boy and I have found out that almost 87 percent of the seven million of our people live in the rural areas.

"And there is absolutely no development and services in most rural areas of the country because the leaders are living their lives in the cities."

Apart from the leaders, Sir Paulias encouraged citizens who were either professionals or retired to go back home to their villages and help their people in whatever fields they were in.

"If I can be the head of state and go back home after my term has expired to help my people in the village then I can't see anyone else finding it hard," he said.

Sir Paulias said he had been receiving so many calls from people wanting him to inform them about the current political events.

He said they did not know that he was back home in Viviran village, Toma, in East New Britain.

He arrived in Port Moresby from his village on Tuesday to keep a close watch on the current political situation.

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News - TV

Political stalemate has PNG seeing double

PNG clings to the hopes for peace in the wake of political turmoil.

15.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

La Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée voit double

Toujours 2 Premiers ministres, 2 gouvernements et 2 forces de police, un cocktail explosif.

L'impasse persiste et les tensions s'accroissent. Peter O'Neill et Sir Michael Somare se disent toujours Premier ministre et personne ne veut lâcher d'un pouce. Mercredi dernier, le Gouverneur Général, Michael Ogio, a suivi la décision de la Cour suprême et a réinstallé Michael Somare dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre. Elle a jugé inconstitutionnelle l'élection de Peter O'Neill,

l'actuel Premier ministre, en août dernier, alors que Michael Somare, Premier ministre d'alors, se faisait opérer du cœur à Singapour. Le Parlement avait sauté sur l'occasion pour déclarer la vacance du pouvoir et élire Peter O'Neill. Pour la Cour Suprême, il n'y avait pas vacance du pouvoir. Le Gouverneur Général a maintenant assermenté 19 ministres dont le nouveau Garde des Sceaux, Sir Arnold Amet, qui estime honteux que des députés de Peter O'Neil continuent d'occuper les sièges du gouvernement au Parlement. Les tensions dans les rues sont palpables, notamment autour de la résidence du Gouverneur général où des partisans de Peter O'Neill se sont rassemblés.

15.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's Somare calls on public servants to remain neutral

Papua New Guinea's re-instated leader Sir Michael Somare is calling on public servants "to remain neutral" and comply with a court order that revoked his ousting, as the political deadlock continues.

In the statement Sir Michael also repeated his earlier statement that the nation's police commissioner Tom Kulunga had been replaced by Somare appointee Fred Yakasa.

Megan Whelan reports.

"The statement came just hours after more than half of PNG's 109-member parliament voted to suspend the governor-general and replace him with a stand-in to swear in Peter O'Neill as prime minister. The MPs also voted to appeal to the Supreme Court to review its 3-2 decision to reinstate Sir Michael. In his statement, Sir Michael also sacked treasury department head Stephen Gibson and said cabinet had reinstated Somare appointee Gabriel Yer. The announcement came hours before Papua New Guinea's religious ministers are due to give a news conference in which they are expected to ask Mr O'Neill and Sir Michael to reach an agreement on the nation's leadership. The streets of the nation's sometimes volatile capital, Port Moresby, have so far remained free of political violence. The ministers' news conference is expected at 10 this morning local time."

15.12.2011

Source:: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Transparency International says PM O'Neill acted within the law

In Papua New Guinea, one of the groups trying to ensure peace as the political standoff continues, is the anti-corruption NGO, Transparency International PNG.

The group's chairman Lawrence Stephens says it has legal advice that Peter O'Neill acted lawfully when he passed retrospective legislation this week declaring Sir Michael Somare's seat vacant.

Presenter: Tracee Hutchison

Lawrence Stephens, Transparency International PNG

[Listen here !](#)

15.12.2011

Source:: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Law expert see no easy solution in PNG

Since the crisis began in PNG, constitutional specialist, Dr Tony Regan from the Australian

National University has been closely watching events in Port Moresby where he spent years at the University of PNG and the National Research Institute.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts
Dr Tony Regan, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

REGAN: It's very difficult when both sides really feel that there's a huge amount at stake with the elections coming, and in PNG perhaps more than many countries, control of government has a huge impact when you're preparing for elections. And I think on the side of the Somare group there's some uncertainty because he's being critical to that group, getting power and maintaining power they'll be very uncertain what'll happen if his ... is not so good, whether they'll be able to hold together their group as they prepare for the elections next year. So they need to get back into power whilst he's in good health then of course both sides think they've got the constitution on their side.

COUTTS: Well exactly we've been hearing solid arguments from both saying that they do have the constitution on their side, can they both be right?

REGAN: In a sense they both are because on the Somare side they've got a Supreme Court decision that says that he should be reinstated, on the O'Neill side they've got legislation with a majority of parliament on Monday which retrospectively fixed up the defects in the appointment of Mr O'Neill as Prime Minister. So each does feel that they've got right on their side. I think the only way that conflict can be resolved is by Supreme Court making a ruling on the legislation that was passed by the parliament on Monday. If that's valid legislation then Mr O'Neill is validly in office, if that's invalid, if it's unconstitutional legislation, then Mr Somare is validly in office. That would be the quickest way to authoritatively resolve the issues. But it may be very difficult for the parties to do that, they're committed, they've already said they're in office.

COUTTS: Well exactly, how independent is the judiciary if one side can say well we don't abide by your rulings, as they've done?

REGAN: Well it's not that one side is not abiding by the ruling, it's that the legislation was passed with it fixed up, which has changed the circumstances which were ruled on by the court. So you'd have to take those changed circumstances of the new legislation back to the court, and then you would get an authoritative ruling. So I think O'Neill's not rejected the court, he's just trying to fix up the problems of the passing law, and until a court under the PNG system and the Australian system, the law passed by the parliament is valid law unless a court rules that it breaches the constitution in some way.

COUTTS: What about the fact as has been claimed that the ability to rule, the ability to give and get advice is probably not open to Sir Michael Somare given his health issues?

REGAN: Well that's a separate issue, the health issue is a separate one. The big problem I think for Somare is that at the moment he doesn't have the numbers in parliament. So even it were to be he's the Prime Minister he doesn't have the numbers, he wouldn't be able to govern, he could find himself in an impossible situation. Say the O'Neill side said alright, you are the Prime Minister, but you don't have the numbers we'll block you, Somare would be in an impossible situation. There would have to be an early election. Papua New Guinea's not really ready for an early election. I think as a result of all of these kinds of considerations the kinds of solutions that Paul Barker and others have made in the earlier part of your presentation, are really the best way to go. There needs to be some sort of compromise, some sort of coming together of the groups.

COUTTS: And how likely is that given the history and the traditions of the leaders, and in fact the leaders have caused the problems themselves and the people are fed up with it and have been making that point for some time?

REGAN: It's very difficult to see how there can be a compromise at this stage. But PNG's shown

remarkable ability in the past to find ways, unexpected ways out of very difficult situations. You remember the Sandline situation in 1997, when it appeared that the army was split, different groups were trying to force the Chan government to resign and it looked like the PNG state was going to fall apart. People on both sides had good sense and it was able to be resolved. There's a great deal of effort going on in PNG at the moment to encourage leaders on both sides to put the interests of the country ahead of the interests of any individual or particular group. There's emails and text messages being sent by church groups and NGOs to leaders on all sides. I'm sure that the international community having lots of discussions with individual leaders, and the hope's got to be that that kind of pressure prevails.

COUTTS: Well what you're saying I think Dr this morning is that Peter O'Neill is probably the rightful owner of the job as PM?

REGAN: I would think that just at the moment that there's an argument for both sides, and that the simplest way out is to go back to the Supreme Court and resolve that. I wouldn't like to speculate who's got the strongest case...

COUTTS: But they've already been to court once and the court said Sir Michael Somare is rightfully the PM, so they go back to court again and get a different judgement?

REGAN: Yes if that's what happens. If the legal facts have changed, and that is what's happened, parliament's passed another law to change the situation on that ruling. There's no possibility really of parliament keeping on passing laws, that's one law that says ...what was wrong in August. If the court were to rule on that and say that that's valid, that clarifies it. If it's invalid it clarified it the other way. This isn't a particularly unusual thing. So it's not a matter of the O'Neill side rejected what the court said, it's a matter of saying well we've now fixed this up and you can then ask the court is that valid?

COUTTS: And is Peter O'Neill likely to take it back to court?

REGAN: I don't know, I have no idea what they're planning to do, that would be my suggestion of one way of getting out of the situation we're in. The danger now is that people won't be willing to do that, that everybody's digging themselves in too deep.

COUTTS: Well how much longer can this go on, because the situation's volatile, there are troops and police on the streets in numbers now, how much longer can this go on? It's a bit of a Noah's Ark, we've got two Governors Generals, two PMs, two police commissioners?

REGAN: I don't know, one would hope that it doesn't go on longer at all. It's not just PNG, any country which finds itself in a situation like this very, very difficult to manage. It does put a great deal of strain on the whole system.

COUTTS: Well it points to the fact that there are probably holes in the constitution anyway, what needs to be stitched up so this cannot happen again?

REGAN: There's no constitutional system in the world that doesn't have some holes in it. You can pass amendment after amendment, the PNG constitution is one of the longest, one of the most detailed in the world. It's got all sorts of things in it which are far better than say the Australian constitution. For example the reserve powers of the Governor General that were there in 1975, not really properly understood before that, that enabled the Governor General to dismiss Mr Whitlam. Well the PNG constitution doesn't give any reserve powers to the Governor General, it tries to avoid that sort of problem, and yet it ended up in this situation with the Governor General having to make the kind of choice he would have had to make if he had reserve powers. Really the issue should have gone to the court, not to the Governor General. So it's the way or manage a constitution that causes problems rather than the constitution itself.

15.12.2011

Source:: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Constitutional crisis continues in PNG

As Papua New Guinea's political deadlock enters its third day there's no indication that a breakthrough is imminent.

Both Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill have only hardened their claims to the country's Prime Ministership. Non-government groups are warning the situation is becoming dangerous and say the politicians need to put aside their differences.

Presenter: Papua New Guinea correspondent Liam Fox reports

Listen here !

Liam Fox reporting from PNG

PNG now has two prime ministers, two cabinets, two police commissioners and two governors-general.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill

Deposed Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare

PNG politician Sam Abal

Paul Barker, PNG Institute of National Affairs

14.12.2011

Source: Islands Business

Business: Relax visa rules, Aust urged

Businesses are 'suffering big time'

by Rowan Callick

Business groups have begun lobbying the Australian government to relax its restrictive visa rules which, they say, are robbing Queensland of spill-over revenues from the mining boom in neighbouring Papua New Guinea.

They have urged the Australian government to set up a special processing zone for workers transiting through Cairns as they head to the PNG boom.

Cairns businesses have also complained to the government that newly wealthy PNG corporations have shifted conferences from Australia, including recently holding a A\$100,000 meeting in Singapore because of the difficulty in gaining visas for their directors and other staff.

Thousands of third-country workers from all over the world are being hired by Australian and other resource companies to help explore for and operate mines and oil and gas fields in PNG.

Australia has almost dried up as a source of such skills, due to the demands of its own mining boom.

But the Australia PNG Business Council and the Business Council of PNG say that because companies find it so difficult to obtain transit visas for their workers recruited for instance in South America or South Africa, they are forced to route them to PNG via Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila or other ports where they do not encounter such barriers.

The president of the APNGBC, Peter Taylor, who is executive chairman of Bougainville Copper Ltd, said Canada hosts such processing zones at its airports for people wishing to go through to the United States.

He said: "The main thrust is that people would be processed in Cairns, with the involvement of PNG migration and customs staff, so that workers could effectively enter PNG on a domestic flight, and head straight to their ultimate destination."

The councils' submission said such a move would "reduce the pressure on inadequate airport terminal and primary line facilities at Jacksons Airport in Port Moresby."

Taylor, who presented the proposal to Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, Finance Minister Penny Wong and others attending recent joint ministerial forum talks with PNG ministers in Canberra, said such a zone could also include shipping, "so that equipment does not get held up on the wharves in PNG", which have limited capacity.

He said the Cairns zone could provide a pilot for a process centre that could be considered for broader application in Australia, for transiting people and cargoes.

Frank Yourn, the Brisbane-based director of the council, said that bringing workers in to PNG via other countries “comes at a cost to business—which is mostly Australian business—and deprives the Cairns economy of revenue, especially frustrating as it’s doing it tough.”

It also, he said, shifts passengers from Australian carriers, especially Qantas, to other airlines. An Australian Immigration spokeswoman said “the department is not aware of any difficulties in transiting through Cairns. We have had discussions with one particular company” about problems encountered on arrival in Port Moresby, and the department has forwarded those to the PNG government.

The councils also told the government that “there is probably no other country in which Australian visa policy and processing receives so much critical comment within the business and social community, because of the very close connections between the two countries.

“The visa processes not only cause costs to business, but also cause angst within the community.” The “intrusive nature” of the application process, the business groups said, “includes requiring intensive evidence of financial capacity or support, including for businesspeople with a record over many years of regular visits to Australia.”

Martin Keating, managing director of Cairns Business and Leisure Travel, said: “We have a lot of PNG clients, for whom it is often very difficult to come to Australia.

“Businesses are suffering big-time in Cairns right now, and we should be able to encourage people to come here. You can get electronic visas from Britain or the US easily enough, but it’s nothing like so easy for people from PNG, our closest neighbours. As a result, Australia loses out yet again.”

He said recently his company was asked to organise a venue for a board meeting and conference for a large listed PNG company, to which spouses were also invited.

An island resort off Cairns was booked. But delays in arranging visas required Keating to find an alternative—so he organised a hotel in Singapore instead, where there was no visa issue.

This single move, he said, cost Cairns \$A100,000.

Simon Merton, an Australian long-term resident of PNG, who works as a manager with a construction company and is married to a Papua New Guinean with whom he has six children, has recently created a facebook page dedicated to such visa problems—which has attracted massive public attention and support.

He said: “It’s an absolute disgrace” how visa applicants are treated.

“I met a couple in the Australian High Commission car park a few weeks ago in the morning. The wife was in tears. They had applied for visas for themselves and their child to fly down to

Brisbane for a couple of weeks and visit the husband’s sick grandmother who is in hospital there, “It cost them 300 kina each for their visa applications, which were rejected. The reason?

Apparently, the wife’s sister had previously overstayed her visa by a few days due to a mix-up in airline bookings.

“So she is automatically considered an overstay risk and her application rejected. They are now blacklisting people based on who their relatives are.”

He said Samoans, Tongans and Cook Islanders can freely travel between their homes and their “former colonial master,” New Zealand. Yet ours has put up an impassable barrier. Why?”

The Australian immigration department spokeswoman said: “We are committed to improving our service delivery to PNG.”

Two new visa processing centres have been opened in Port Moresby and one in Lae, she said, “to give clients more convenient access.”

Staff working there, she said, consider applications according to “specific pre-conditions. We are not racist. They are our rules. We take a risk-based approach to granting visas. Each application is considered on an individual basis.”

She would not state whether Papua New Guineans are perceived as more or less of a risk, for overstaying in Australia, than people from other countries.

14.12.2011

Sir Michael Somare

Game over soon ?

by Axel G. Sturm

The political turmoil in PNG might come to a sudden end soon. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill made the highly needed constitutional and legal steps to avoid minority candidate Sir Michael Somare and his gang of rogues to take over the power in PNG. Somare, the stubborn old man who created major instability within the last weeks, damaged PNG's lasting image in the world. Prime Minister O'Neill would be well advised to improve his government's fight against corruption now. He should intensively investigate all financial transactions of the former Somare regime. This is the only way to bring back confidence into the political governance of PNG. The people of Papua New Guinea have the right to know who made all these millions of Kina vanish in the past. All those who were responsible have to be brought to justice without hesitation - even if it is Sir Michael Somare himself. The "Grand Chief" stated two days ago, that he feels like a man of 40. Therefore there should be no reason not to put him into jail if he should be convicted for embezzlement of public funds. A fair and public lawsuit could help PNG to overcome this period of mistrust and uncertainty. It could also help to stabilize its young democracy. Unfortunately Somare's greedy and selfish character did not allow him to enter in PNG's history as a great leader. Hopefully he will finally accept that nobody wants him to rule PNG anymore. This could help to avoid violent clashes.

14.12.2011 10:05 UTC +01:00

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Governor-General "removed" by O'Neill grouping in political standoff

The position of Governor-General is the latest to lapse into confusion in the ongoing political standoff in Papua New Guinea with two men claiming to be Prime Minister.

One of the two, Sir Michael Somare, was reinstated by the Governor-General this morning, after five days of tense political deadlock.

But later in the day at parliament, Peter O'Neill, who replaced Sir Michael while he was overseas for heart treatment, was sitting in the government benches, refusing to step down as Prime Minister despite Monday's Supreme Court ruling that he had taken power in August illegally.

Mr O'Neill's grouping then removed the Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio, installing speaker Jeffrey Nape as the acting Governor-General.

Mr Nape subsequently swore-in Mr O'Neill as Prime Minister.

Earlier, a spokesman for Sir Michael Ogio says he sought legal advice and decided to uphold the Supreme Court ruling and therefore moved to swear in Sir Michael Somare's Cabinet.

But Mr O'Neill rejects the court ruling, saying he was elected by parliament and is therefore the legitimate prime minister.

Parliament, with only O'Neill backers in attendance, passed a motion to ban Sir Michael Somare and his cabinet from declaring themselves as the nation's government.

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

No breakthrough in PNG constitutional power play

The swearing in of Sir Michael Somare and his 19 member cabinet by the Governor General, Michael Ogio has only worsened the PNG constitutional crisis.

There are reports now Papua New Guinea has two Governors General to go with the two prime ministers, two cabinets, two governments and two police commissioners.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

NGOs trying to broker a peace deal in PNG crisis

Constitutional specialist, Dr Tony Regan from the Australian National University is again closely watching events unfold in Port Moresby where he spent years at the University of PNG and the National Research Institute.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Tony Regan, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

NZ expert criticises Somare over constitutional crisis

A New Zealand constitutional law expert believes Sir Michael Somare should have accepted his removal from the prime ministership on medical grounds.

Professor Bill Hodge from Auckland University, says the constitutional crisis in PNG is unprecedented.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Professor Bill Hodge, Auckland University

[Listen here !](#)

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG army won't take sides says former commander

A former commander of Papua New Guinea's Defence Force says the current commander is doing the right thing by refusing to take sides in the country's constitutional crisis.

Defence Force chief Brigadier General Francis Agwi says the PNGDF has no political position and takes no political sides.

One of his predecessors, General Jerry Singirok, says the disciplined forces will protect law and order, but won't be drawn into the political clash.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: General Jerry Singirok, former commander, PNG Defence Force

[Listen here !](#)

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

No role for Australian military in PNG - Smith

Australia's Defence Minister Stephen Smith says there's no consideration or a role of the Australian military in the Papua New Guinea crisis.

Mr Smith told Virginia Trioli PNG should be able to resolve the situation peacefully within the country's legal system.

Presenter: Virginia Triolo

Speaker: Stephen Smith, Australian Defence Minister

[Listen here !](#)

14.11.2011

Source: Local Witness

Confirmed: Ogio suspended as PNG Governor General

The Governor general of Papua New Guinea is now suspended by the National Executive Council and Parliament of Papua New Guinea that appointed him under Section 93 of PNG Constitution.

The Speaker of Parliament Hon. Jeffrey Nape MP according to the Constitution will now act as the Governor General of PNG.

14.11.2011 08:48 UTC+0100

Source: Radio Australia News

Somare ministry keen to take control

Watch here Liam Fox's report:

Early on Wednesday Governor-General Michael Ogio obeyed a Supreme Court order and reinstated Sir Michael Somare as the country's legitimate leader.

PNG's newly sworn in Attorney General, Sir Arnold Amet, said Sir Michael's government is now assuming executive control.

He said it's a disgrace that Peter O'Neill and his supporters continue occupy the government benches in Parliament House.

"Parliament should not any longer be in session and O'Neill should not any longer be holding themselves out as government," he said.

"The legitimate government restored by the Supreme Court has now been sworn in and we are in total executive control".

Ministers sworn in

Papua New Guinea's Governor-General has sworn in 19 ministers to form a cabinet for former prime minister Sir Michael Somare.

His supporters believe Sir Michael does not have to be sworn in because the Supreme Court revoked his removal from the top office in August.

But Peter O'Neill and his supporters continue to occupy the government benches in Parliament House and have passed a motion requiring the Governor-General to come to parliament to swear in Mr O'Neill as prime minister.

14.12.2011 06:32 UTC +01:00

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG police commissioner not taking sides in crisis, calls for officers to be neutral

One of Papua New Guinea's two police commissioners has appealed to his officers not to pick sides, amid the ongoing political crisis.

Police commissioner Tom Kulunga has also called on the public and leaders to keep level heads.

The commissioner has called on his officers to remain neutral, uphold the rule of law and remain focused on protecting and serving the people of PNG.

He says senior officers as well as the force's rank and file are intact and committed to protecting and serving the people of PNG.

Mr Kulunga says the police will ensure that there is peace, law and order.

On Monday, Sir Michael Somare announced Fred Yakasa would be acting police commissioner after the Supreme Court ruled 3-2 to return the veteran political leader to the office of Prime Minister.

It also sparked a political crisis, with the majority of the nation's 109 MPs refusing to drop their support for incumbent prime minister Peter O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill and his supporters had ousted Sir Michael on August the 2nd following a parliamentary vote of 70 to 24, but the court ruled that vote illegal.

There had been reports that the court decision had split police into factions but the Somare grouping Attorney General, Sir Arnold Amet, says they expect to complete the appointment of Mr Yakasa today.

14.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Just in time ?

Quake strikes off PNG coast

A 7.3 magnitude major earthquake has struck off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The US geological survey said the quake's epicentre was 87 kilometres southwest of Lae Province at a depth of 115 kilometres.

So far, there've been no reports of any damage or casualties, and no tsunami warning has been issued.

14.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

In PNG Somare Cabinet sworn in but no back down by rival camp

One of the two men claiming to be Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, was reinstated by the governor-general this morning, after five days of tense political deadlock.

But at parliament, Peter O'Neill, who toppled Sir Michael while he was overseas for heart treatment, was sitting in the government benches, refusing to step down despite Monday's Supreme Court ruling that he had taken power illegally.

Heavily armed police are protecting Government House, the Supreme Court and Parliament, but elsewhere in the city life is going on as usual.

The governor-general's press officer says Sir Michael Ogio had sought advice from the government lawyer and decided to uphold the Supreme Court ruling.

But Mr O'Neill rejects the ruling, saying he was elected by parliament and is therefore the legitimate prime minister.

There are reports he is trying to have Sir Michael Ogio removed as governor general.

Parliament, with only O'Neill backers in attendance, today passed a motion demanding the governor-general come to parliament to swear in Mr O'Neill as prime minister.

Mr O'Neill's leader of government business, Moses Maladina, also introduced a bill requiring police commissioner Tom Kulunga to assist the governor-general in getting to parliament.

The Somare government has said it's replacing Mr Kulunga with Fred Yakasa.

The O'Neill MPs also passed a motion to ban Sir Michael Somare and his cabinet from declaring themselves as the nation's government.

But PNG's newly sworn in Justice Minister and Attorney General, Sir Arnold Amet, says Sir Michael Somare's government is now assuming executive control.

He says today's reported attempt by the rival Peter O'Neill group to remove the governor general through a parliamentary vote should not be happening.

"What needs to be understood is that Parliament should no longer be in session and O'Neill's faction should not any longer be holding themselves out as government. The legitimate government, restored by the Supreme Court has now been sworn in and we are now in total executive control. The house, business, is at the advice of the executive which we intend to do this afternoon."

14.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

O'Neill is still PM: Nape

By GORETHY KENNETH

SPEAKER Jeffery Nape yesterday re-affirmed in Parliament that he still officially recognises Peter O'Neill as the legitimate Prime Minister.

He also told Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea that the O'Neill –Namah Government is legitimate and should continue to govern up to the next elections.

Parliament met as early as 7am yesterday with 72 MPs from the O'Neill–Namah regime alleged to have camped at the House overnight.

Speaker Nape, before attending to the Order of the Day, made an official speech citing Parliament's December 9 decision to re-affirm Peter O'Neill as the legitimate prime minister after a vote of confidence 64-0, and which was later signed by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio last Friday night.

He also cited the Prime Minister and NEC Act section 143, amended on Monday this week to ensure Sir Michael Somare was no longer eligible as prime minister. The changes include formally recognising a vacancy existed on August 2, 2011, is valid and effective and shall be treated by virtue of sections 3 and 4 of this Act as having been validly elected from the time the new prime minister Peter O'Neill was elected. The amendments relate to the appointment of an acting prime minister, giving Prime Minister three months to return to the country or face automatic suspension from the office.

"These actions effectively remove Sir Michael Somare as a Member of Parliament, so by that removal there leaves a vacancy in office," Speaker Nape said.

14.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Step aside: Sir Julius tells Sir Michael

By GORETHY KENNETH

NEW Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan yesterday called on his "honourable friend", the Supreme Court reinstated Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare to step aside.

He said it was time to allow for young vibrant leaders to take on the task of running the country. Before debating the 2011 National Budget, Sir Julius also asked the O'Neill-Namah regime that met since 7am yesterday to allow for Sir Michael to be reinstated as the East Sepik Governor but not as prime minister.

He also appealed and called on the ultimate decision maker — the Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio to sign the instruments further affirming Mr O'Neill as the prime minister.

He spoke of the 1997 crisis where Sir Michael Somare then stood up and amended the motion for Sir Julius to resign. "I am now asking him to resign. The country is ready to move especially with these young vibrant leaders. I ask my honourable friend, please simply step aside," Sir Julius said in Parliament.

"The time has come for us to give and take. The time has come for him (Sir Michael) to recognise the Acts of Parliament.

"The Judiciary must respect the Legislature so the executive must also respect the legislature.

"I call on all leaders to respect the laws we make here.

"This is the ultimate forum that makes laws...we don't rule this country. We can err, we can make mistakes. The legislature can make amendments at any one time so the ultimate voice now is the Governor General. So I ask him (GG) to sign O'Neill as the Prime Minister, make it quick, make it swift."

14.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Singing to raise funds for hospital

By ALEX MUNME

THREE New Zealanders on Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) in Bougainville are currently spearheading a fundraising drive to raise money for the opening of the Buka General Hospital's new family support centre which is scheduled for opening in New Year, 2012

They are Donna Llewellyn legal adviser attached to the Division of Lands and Physical Planning in the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Joan Rowan who is with the division of education and Miss Beryl Riley. The three are combined with Youth from the Tasman Island and Electoral Commission returning officer, Reitama Taravaru.

The fundraising singing group so far performed twice at the Buka market and raised a total of K433.00. The group sang and dramatised in the New Zealand language and culture with the youth from Tasman as they in many ways are related.

Group leader, Donna said the idea is also to help encourage the youth and women to build confidence that they are worthwhile and can contribute actively and effectively and strengthen peace in the community through a good course. The group is not getting assistance from anyone but doing it to help and next week will be singing and performing at various ABGs Christmas parties before the official opening of the centre in January next year.

14.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

In Papua New Guinea the Somare camp reports its Cabinet line up sworn in

The Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, says his cabinet has today been sworn in at Government House by Governor General Sir Michael Ogio.

In a statement Sir Michael says that despite the events of the last couple of days he's confident that commonsense will prevail.

He says in compliance with the Supreme Court order a gazettal is in place recognising him as the legitimate Prime Minister.

Sir Michael says it is important that PNG has another 36 years, and more, of stability by recognising and respecting the different arms of government; the judiciary, the legislature and the executive.

He says the country will be facing elections soon and the people of PNG can then play their role in electing MPs to once again represent their interests in Parliament.

Sir Michael says for now his government will ensure that good decisions taken in the absence of a legitimate government are carried forward and other changes that need to take place are implemented before we move in to the election period.

14.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Moves to dump PNG Governor General ahead of PM choice

Peter O'Neill is believed to have scheduled a vote to dump Papua New Guinea's governor-general before he declares whether Mr O'Neill or Sir Michael Somare is the nation's prime minister.

The governor-general, Sir Michael Ogio, was meeting with Sir Michael Somare today, after which the head of state was expected to issue a declaration on who is prime minister.

The governor-general's declaration was due to break a three-day political impasse sparked by a Supreme Court ruling that Mr O'Neill's August election was unconstitutional and Sir Michael Somare should be reinstated as prime minister.

At the same time as the meeting, Mr O'Neill has convened parliament and AAP understands he and about 60 MPs have scheduled a vote to dump the governor-general.

A spokeswoman for Sir Michael says the O'Neill camp is desperate.

A heavily-armed contingent of guards were blocking the street leading up to Government House on Wednesday morning.

14.12.2011

Source: PNG Constitution

See section 93 of Constitution below:

93. Dismissal and removal from office

(1)

The Governor-General may be dismissed from office by the Head of State, acting with, and in accordance with, the advice of the National Executive Council given in accordance with either –,

- (a) a decision of the National Executive Council; or,**
- (b) a decision made by an absolute majority of the Parliament.**

ESBC: If Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio, should decide against the will of the majority of the PNG Parliament he risks to be dismissed from office immediately !

14.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG's governor general meeting with Sir Michael Somare as crisis enters 3rd day

Sir Michael Somare has begun a meeting with Papua New Guinea's governor-general, after which the head of state is expected to issue a declaration on who is prime minister.

As the political crisis in PNG enters its third day, the other man with a claim on the top job, Peter O'Neill, has convened parliament to sit for this morning.

Meanwhile, the nation's defence force has dismissed rumours of a military coup resulting from the political impasse.

The Post Courier newspaper quotes the head of the Defence Force, Brigadier General Francis Agwi saying the Defence Force neither seeks, nor would accept, any part to play in the politics of PNG.

Mr O'Neill was elected prime minister after he and 73 other MPs voted to dump Sir Michael's government in August, but the Supreme Court declared the move unconstitutional this week and ordered Sir Michael returned to office.

Mr O'Neill, who has refused to recognise the court's decision, met with governor-general, Sir Michael Ogio, on Tuesday, after he and about 60 MPs loyal to him stormed past a police barricade to the gates of Government House.

After the short meeting, Mr O'Neill told reporters the governor-general said he would meet with Sir Michael on Wednesday before deciding who is prime minister.

14.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia - 24H dans le Pacifique

La Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée et ses deux Premiers ministres

Deux Premiers ministres, deux gouvernements, et deux grands patrons de la police. C'est le chaos depuis lundi en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée.

La Cour Suprême a en effet réinstallé Michael Somare dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre. Elle a jugé inconstitutionnelle l'élection de Peter O'Neill, l'actuel Premier ministre, en août dernier, alors que Michael Somare, Premier ministre d'alors, se faisait opérer du Coeur à Singapour. Le Parlement avait sauté sur l'occasion pour déclarer la vacance du pouvoir et élire Peter O'Neill. Pour la Cour Suprême, il n'y avait pas vacance du pouvoir.

A Port-Moresby, la confusion est donc à son comble, avec une large majorité du Parlement qui soutient Peter O'Neill, et de l'autre côté, la Cour Suprême qui soutient le clan Somare.

Et pour Tony Reagan, spécialiste de la Constitution papoue, c'est Clairement Peter O'Neill qui a la plus grande légitimité:

«Le Premier ministre Michael Somare a été démis en août alors qu'il était à l'hôpital à Singapour par un vote du Parlement, vote invalidé lundi par la Cour Suprême. Mais en parallèle, toujours lundi, le Parlement a voté en urgence un amendement aux lois concernant le Premier ministre et le gouvernement. Amendement retrospectif qui stipule que la décision prise en août d'évincer Michael Somare est parfaitement légale. Il faut savoir que la Constitution papoue autorise le Parlement à voter des lois retrospectives, en d'autres termes, à voter une loi qui rend légale quelque chose qui ne l'était pas il y a quelques mois. Or en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, c'est le Parlement qui a le dernier mot, du moment qu'il respecte la Constitution. Donc à moins qu'un tribunal n'invalide la loi retrospective votée lundi, c'est bien Peter O'Neill qui a la plus grande légitimité légale.»

Tony Reagan, chercheur à l'Université Nationale Australienne, au micro de Bruce Hill sur Radio Australie.

Mardi soir, les Papous ont assisté à une scène inédite: Peter O'Neill, accompagné de 6 députés, a dû briser un cordon policier pour s'approcher de la résidence du gouverneur-général, créant ainsi une forte bousculade. Peter O'Neill a crié: «Nous ne sommes pas armés, et nous sommes le gouvernement légitime».

D'après le quotidien papou "Post Courier", Peter O'Neill et ses hommes ont fait le pied de grue

devant la residence du gouverneur-général jusqu'à 23h, sans succès. Peter O'Neill entendait prêter à nouveau serment au gouverneur-général en tant que Premier ministre. Mais le gouverneur-général ne l'a pas reçu. En tant que chef de l'Etat et représentant de la Reine Elisabeth II dans ce pays du Commonwealth, Michael Ogio refuse de prendre parti. Il a également refusé de suivre la décision de la Cour Suprême en nommant officiellement Michael Somare Premier ministre. L'Australie, par la voix de son Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Kevin Rudd, reste attentiste et ne reconnaît pour l'instant aucun des deux gouvernements. Elle attend la décision du gouverneur-général.
C.L.

14.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG political standoff continues

There appears to be no sign of a breakthrough in Papua New Guinea's political deadlock. The Supreme Court has ordered Sir Michael Somare be reinstated as Prime Minister. But Peter O'Neill, the man who replaced him, maintains he's the legitimate leader.

Presenter: ABC Papua New Guinea correspondent Liam Fox.
PNG's current Prime Minister Peter O'Neill

[Listen here !](#)

14.12.2011

Source: ABV Radio Australia News - TV

Tension in PNG as O'Neill remains defiant

Liam Fox reports from Port Moresby

13.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

PNG's political crisis enters its third critical day

LIVE BLOG

WITH TWO POLICE COMMISSIONERS and the threat of members of the RPNGC taking sides in this dispute, Papua New Guinea's constitutional and political crisis yesterday entered a new and dangerous phase. It now appears the Governor-General may be ready to intervene at some point today after initially showing a reluctance to do so.

PNG Attitude's live blog resumes to track events as they unfold in the O'Neill v Somara saga. We welcome information and observations from readers. Post them in the Comments section below or email them directly to me here.

4:45AM Fairfax's Ilya Gridneff and Jo Chandler have some interesting quotes from observers of the crisis. Sir Barry Holloway, a former Speaker of PNG's Parliament, told The Age the court had been constitutionally correct in invalidating the election of Mr O'Neill. But "while it points the country in the right direction, it does not give a way forward". He said it had to be accepted that

Mr O'Neill had popular support within and possibly outside Parliament "although people in the villages really don't care because there is no government - just poverty and deprivation of services".

"Both sides of Parliament are beginning to posture in a very dangerous way," Sir Barry said. "The PNG-style resolution for this - and the constitution suggests it - is for Sir Michael Somare to resign, and then for him or his camp to put him up again for re-election. "Peter O'Neill and his camp then should put up a candidate for re-election, and there should be a vote within the Parliament." Sir Barry was last night trying to facilitate mediation between the camps.

Paul Barker, director of the think tank the Office of National Affairs, said "ordinary citizens seem to be trying to get on with business as usual in Port Moresby today, though there's quite a bit of nervousness".

Henry Okole, a political expert with Australian National University, said PNG was enduring "confusing and dangerous times" as the judiciary and Parliament were embroiled in a crisis of legitimacy.

12:05AM Sir Michael Somare is headquartered at Ela Beach Hotel in Port Moresby, according to The Australian's Rowan Callick. Here he has set up a cabinet made up mostly of ministers from his previous government. Earlier yesterday, Sir Michael's daughter Betha told news agency Agence-France Presse that her father had made it to Government House and been sworn in, although this was incorrect. Betha also said: "What's happening at the gates of Government House is that the government, or the rogues that were ousted, have blocked off the Government House gates," she said. "So the people that are supposed to be sworn in cannot be sworn in."

12:00 AM The most serious development of the day was certainly the division in the police force between Mr O'Neill's commissioner, Mr Kulunga, and Sir Michael's new appointment, Mr Yakasa. These officers are playing a key role in choosing which group can gain access to key institutions of state and, most importantly, to the Governor-General. The ABC reports the armed police outside the Governor-General's residence are loyal to Sir Michael.

9:00PM Peter Kranz passes on an update from Port Moresby where things are generally quiet although there are police cordons around the Haus Tambaran, Government House and the Supreme Court and mobile squads driving along main roads. Some demonstrations have been reported at the University of PNG but no serious confrontations. "Most people are sick and tired of it all," says Peter, "and are just going to bed."

7:45PM The ABC is reporting that "tensions are high on the streets of Port Moresby as Papua New Guinea's governor-general refuses to take sides in the country's political deadlock." Here's a summary of recent developments:

- This afternoon Peter O'Neill and 60 other MPs broke through a police barricade at government house and demanded to see Sir Michael Ogio, shouting "We're unarmed and we're the legitimate government".

- Sir Michael's secretary told them the head of state was confused by the court's order and said no-one would be sworn in as prime minister. Through his secretary, the governor-general urged the parties to sort out the issue among themselves.

- Mr O'Neill claims he is still the legitimate prime minister and says he is not backing down. He was granted a short audience with the governor-general before he and his group left government house.

- Despite Monday's supreme court ruling, parliament resumed this morning with Mr O'Neill and his supporters occupying the government side of the chamber. Speaker Jeffrey Nape made a brief statement reiterating that retrospective laws passed yesterday meant Sir Michael Somare was not the prime minister and no longer an MP. He said Sir Michael was now an ordinary person and Mr O'Neill was PNG's legitimate leader.

- Sir Michael (76) says he is now fit enough to resume his old job. "My doctors in Singapore, they've vowed that my health is as good as any. I'm old enough to be a 40-year-old again."

- There were reports this afternoon that Sir Michael was on his way to government house to be sworn in as prime minister but he did not appear.

- Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd says Australia is closely monitoring the situation. "Our immediate concern is simply to wait for the deliberations of the governor-general," he said.

13.12.2011

Source: ESBC

The ESBC are absolutely not amused to see that former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare tries to snatch the power - against the will of the PNG Parliament's majority. It is also not tolerable that he is supported by some police officers and - quite obviously - even by the PNG Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia. The last explains the mild verdict earlier this year when Somare had been condemned to stay for two weeks out from office for misconduct. In the past Sir Michael repeatedly was under suspicion to be corrupt. Today he behaves like a child who was taken away its beloved toy. The ESBC suppose that there will be a lot of work to do to clean up all the mess left behind by this self-appointed "Grand Chief", his son and their faithful followers - one day. Somare takes highly the risk to conclude his life in jail instead of travelling in "his" Falcon jet. This would be a bad end of 43 years of political leadership.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Governor-General to have talks with both camps in political stand-off

Papua New Guinea's Governor-General is reported to have arranged talks with the two main parties in the country's unprecedented political stand-off.

The Peter O'Neill government is continuing to defy a Supreme Court ruling that has restored Sir Michael Somare to the prime ministership.

The Court ruled on Monday that the parliamentary election of Mr O'Neill on August the 2nd, after the Speaker had declared the prime ministership vacant, was unconstitutional.

The Governor-General was due to speak separately to Mr O'Neill and Sir Michael tonight.

Both the Somare and O'Neill groups have so far been refused entry into government house to have a swearing-in ceremony.

Peter O'Neill and around sixty MPs who support him managed to barge through armed police at the gates of Government house in their bid to be sworn in again but were not allowed to get into the building.

A spokesperson for Sir Michael, Betha Somare, says she doesn't understand the reason for the blockade at government house:

"We're waiting for these guys, for reason to prevail, something... commonsense so that our ministers can go up to Government House and get sworn in because the Governor-General will have to act on what the court has ordered."

Betha Somare says the police force is divided in their loyalties between Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill.

Meanwhile, despite the confusion surrounding the government, the Somare camp has appointed a new police commissioner.

NBC reports that the new acting commissioner, Fred Yakasa, replaces Tom Kulunga, who was appointed only weeks ago by the O'Neill government.

The attorney general in Sir Michael's government, Sir Arnold Amet, announced the appointment, saying Mr Kulunga had gone past the retirement age.

He also says Mr Kulunga had failed to ensure that the Governor General was fully protected in relation to the issues before the court.

Find out here how people on Bougainville comment the political turmoil in Port Moresby :

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PEOPLE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

PEOPLE in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have received with much anxiety the news of the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare as the legal prime minister of PNG.

Following the events of the national parliament in the last few days leading to Monday's news of the decision by the Supreme Court, many residents expressed fear, frustration and confusion at the turn of events.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) minister for Local Level Government, Traditional Authority and Communication Joseph Nopei said he supports and believe in the O'Neil/ Namah government.

He said this is because the O'Neil/Namah government had in a short time delivered a lot and had set the foundation for good governance and transparency.

"Also because they are pro-active, they have really worked hard and were not complacent. The good thing about the turn of events is that the O'Neil/ Namah government still have the numbers to pass any decision in parliament," said Nopei.

"I encourage them to hold on," he added.

Speaking of the Somare/Abal government, Nopei urged that they do not make many changes to what the O'Neil/Namah government had initiated.

"They have a very short time remaining before the national elections so they should just carry on with all that has already been established like the implementation of the 2012 national budget," said Nopei.

Telecommunication engineer Carrolus said he hoped the Somare/Abal government continue to make impact decisions like the O'Neil/Namah government had.

He added that he is frustrated with the 'tug-of-war' happening in parliament because it indicated the lack of concern the leaders had for its people.

"All these fighting among themselves goes to show that our leaders are not in parliament to serve us but serve themselves," said Carrolus.

Sales and Marketing officer Veronica Kukute said she preferred the O'Neil/Namah government describing them as the 'action' government.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

DAY DANCING BRINGS FAMILY VIOLENCE

A youth from Pororan Island in North Bougainville is calling on the traditional chiefs in the region to control dance events held during the day or 'Pitanlan' which enables communities to raise funds.

Vincentcia Nima said the incidences of family violence, rape, drug and alcohol abuse has increased dramatically in rural communities since the introduction of Pitlan last year.

Pitanlan or dancing during the day was an alternate solution reached by the local chiefs in North Bougainville to address the same issues that plagued their people when social dances were held at nights on the weekend.

Nima said she had been very concerned about the increased incidences of family violence in her community but was not confident to tell her leaders until Care International PNG introduced her to the use of photography to communicate her concerns.

The non government organization through its Komunity Tingim Aids (KTA) program involved Nima as part of its target group of peer educators involved in conducting awareness on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

The awareness also identified related social issues like drugs and alcohol and encouraged the peer educators to build advocacy against these issues through the use of photos.

After undergoing four months of training on basic photography along with 20 plus youths from Tinputz and Buka in North Bougainville, Nima finally had the chance to voice her concern.

"When we were asked to identify an issue that has a negative impact on our community, I knew this was my chance to tell my chiefs about the impact of Pitanlan on our people by taking a picture of the after effect of Pitanlan," said Nima.

The picture Nima took which was displayed at a Photo-voice exhibition held in Buka on Monday was of an aluminum cooking pot that had dents to it from having being used by a drunkard as a weapon to hit his wife after returning from Pitanlan.

"Please, our chiefs have to either stop all Pitanlan or be strict on monitoring what is happening at these dances. Right now, when you go to these dances, you see young men smoking marijuana or are consuming homebrew and it is not safe for the women and children," said Nima.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

PNG POWER LIGHTS UP ARAWA

BUSINESS and household users at Arawa, Central Bougainville will soon be enjoying uninterrupted supply of electricity when PNG Power commissions runs its generators on Thursday in Arawa.

The re-establishment of supplied power to more than a thousand residents in the former mining township would be a big relief financially for the residents who have spent thousands of kina in fuel for the personal generators they relied on for power.

Residents in Arawa had been supplying their own power since normalcy returned to the conflict torn township which once had its electricity supplied by Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and managed by the then Elcom now PNG Power.

The Arawa PNG Power project is an Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) impact project that involved contracting PNG Power as the primary operator and manager of electricity to Arawa and surrounding areas of Central Bougainville.

The project included the installation of three diesel generators, re-construction of infrastructure for the project and re-establishment of the PNG power operating system.

Autonomous Bougainville administration project personnel Ephraim Eminoni added that easy pay meters have been installed in a number of houses with more houses and businesses yet to complete.

"Commissioning of the project is set for Dec 15 in Arawa with power supplied to the users in the main sections of Arawa town that already have easy pay meters installed," said Eminoni.

He added that the formal launch of the project is planned for mid January.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

YOUTHS SAY IT WITH PICTURES

YOUNG people in eight communities who had been working in partnership with Care International PNG will be showcasing in pictures, social issues important to them tonight at Kuri Resort, Buka.

The pictures from more than 20 youths of Buka and Tinputz in North Bougainville depict issues of drugs, brewing of alcohol and pornography which pose a risk to their sexual health.

The Photovoice exhibition is a result of four months of practical training in photography as a medium of communication to identify issues and build support and dialogue in addressing these issues.

Care International Bougainville program Communication officer Maureen Santana says the project is part of Care International's Komuniti Tingim Aids (KTA) program which are a number of communities in Buka and Tinputz are involved in.

She said KTA works with school leavers and unemployed youths to conduct awareness on issues of drugs, alcohol, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Preparations are also underway to host a similar exhibition at Bougainville House of Representatives next week which will coincide with the last sitting of the Bougainville parliament for this year.

13.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Governor General refuses to see either PNG prime minister

Papua New Guinea's political upheaval has developed into a full blown constitutional crisis.

There are two prime ministers, two cabinets and two police commissioners.

The parliament controlled by embattled prime minister, Peter O'Neill is ignoring a Full Bench ruling of the Surpeme Court which yesterday ordered the re-instatement of Sir Michael Somare as prime minister.

The latest word from Port Moresby that in incredible scenes Mr O'Neill and members of his cabinet have barged through a cordon of armed police at Government House and are waiting at the locked gate demanding to see Governor General Michael Ogio.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Firmin Nanol, Radio Australia PNG reporter

[Listen here !](#)

13.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

O'Neill is the front runner in PNG crisis - legal academic

Dr Tony Regan from the Australian National University has written many articles examining the Papua New Guinea Constitution.

He's spent time in the law faculty at the University of PNG and at the National Research Institute and remains a keen observer of the country.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Dr Tony Regan, Australian National University

[Listen here !](#)

13.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG public looking for quick solution to crisis

The last week should have set aside months of political instability in PNG but it is continuing with the dispute between parliament and the courts.

Paul Barker, the Director of the Institute of National Affairs has been keeping a watch on what the uncertainty is doing to the economy and the country.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Paul Barker, director, PNG Institute of National Affairs

[Listen here !](#)

13.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Australia hopes legal processes in PNG are observed

Australia's Defence Minister Stephen Smith says Australia is watching with interest the events in its northern neighbour.

He says he hopes the legal processes in PNG are observed.

Speaker: Stephen Smith, Australian Defence Minister

[Listen here !](#)

13.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

MPs protest at gates as Somare to be sworn in as PM

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE LAW OF UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES looms over Papua New Guinea this afternoon as Sir Michael Somare is set to return as prime minister in dramatic circumstances. With the swearing in due at any time, at least 40 members of the former O'Neill government, including Peter O'Neill himself, stage a sit-in outside Government House, and the first anti-Somare unrest outside Port Moresby has broken out in Goroka. PNG appears to stand on the brink of serious civil unrest.

I am updating this live blog as information comes to hand. Wherever you are in PNG, or beyond if you receive pertinent news, send in your reports and remarks through the Comments section below....

4:10PM Reader Terry Shelley has reported the first unrest outside Port Moresby with a large protest in Goroka voicing strong disapproval at Michael Somare's return. All Asian businesses have been locked down in fear of looting.

4:00PM The Australian (courtesy of AAP/AFP) is reporting that Sir Michael Somare is set to be sworn as PM after armed police ordered MPs to leave Government House this afternoon. Mr O'Neill and dozens of his MPs stormed the area outside Government House shortly before 2pm and were ordered to leave by police brandishing guns. The group of about 40 MPs remain seated outside the gate, guarded by 25-30 police, while bystanders look on. Journalist Belinda Kora said

the situation in the capital Port Moresby is tense. "A lot of people are confused, they don't know what's happened, who's the prime minister," Ms Kora said.

3:30PM Two members of the former O'Neill government have faced the Supreme Court on contempt charges, but Peter O'Neill has avoided expected charges. The court today extended the bail of deputy prime minister Belden Namah and attorney general Allan Marat until next year, but failed to lay any charges against Mr O'Neill, whose government was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court yesterday.

Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia had indicated that contempt charges would be laid against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer following a last-ditch application on Friday to remove Sir Salamo before he had handed down his judgment on Mr O'Neill's August 2 election. Mr Namah and Mr Marat were arrested in November over a separate attempt to have the chief justice suspended. Today, Sir Salamo ordered the court adjourned until February 13, extending bail.

3:22PM AAP - Mr O'Neill and dozens of his MPs stormed the area outside Government House shortly before 2pm and were ordered to leave by police brandishing guns. Treasurer Don Polye, who was among the MPs, called on the group to stage a peaceful sit-in outside the gate. "We are not criminals here. There is no need for guns," he said. The group of MPs remained seated outside the gate, guarded by 25-30 police, while groups of locals watched on. Mr O'Neill claimed 72 members of parliament were at the gate, but AAP counted about 40. It was not known whether Sir Michael had arrived at Government House.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio NewZealand International

Reports O'Neill government will continue to defy PNG Supreme Court ruling

Reports from Papua New Guinea say the Peter O'Neill government is ignoring a Supreme Court ruling that has restored Sir Michael Somare to the prime ministership.

The Court ruled yesterday that the parliamentary election of Mr O'Neill on August the 2nd, after the Speaker had declared the prime ministership vacant, was unconstitutional.

Sir Michael was toppled while receiving medical treatment in Singapore

Mr O'Neill refused to step down and had parliament again elect him prime minister late on Monday, but heavily armed police prevented him from reaching government house to be sworn in.

Our correspondent, Jonathan Tannos, says the O'Neill grouping is asserting the primacy of parliament and will continue to defy the Supreme Court.

"The O'Neill Government is insisting on continuing in Parliament claiming that because of amendments to the Prime Ministers' and National Executive Council Act yesterday [Monday] plus last Friday's vote of confidence in him he remained Prime Minister, and he had the numbers and they were carrying on Parliament as normal."

Meanwhile Sir Arnold Amet, who has been reconfirmed as Justice Minister and Attorney General in Sir Michael Somare's government, says his grouping is absolutely delighted with the Supreme Court ruling.

He says the Court determined that the Speaker had no right to declare the prime ministership vacant - that only the National Court had such authority.

"The effect of all that in totality is to render all of those decisions and subsequent decisions, including last Friday's attempt to legitimise a new, declared vacancy and then a purported decision yesterday evening, after learning of the Supreme Court ruling, to appoint Peter O'Neill again as Prime Minister, as absolutely contemptuous."

Papua New Guinea's Attorney-General and Justice Minister Sir Arnold Amet.

A spokesperson for PNG police says there have been no major incidents since the ruling was announced.

A strong police presence has been maintained in Port Moresby since late last week as the country's politicians grapple with the constitutional crisis but Superintendent Dominic Kakas says it's generally calm.

"It's business as usual. Most people have expressed that it is really up to the Supreme Court and then parliament to decide on the outcome of this case."

Superintendent Dominic Kakas of the PNG police

13.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Australia concerned about situation in PNG

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has ordered the reinstatement of the former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, declaring the election of Peter O'Neil unconstitutional.

Sir Michael, 75, was removed from office while overseas recovering from a series of heart operations.

Last night, gunshots were heard near Government House which is the residence of the Governor-General, although tensions now appear to have eased.

The Australian government says it's deeply concerned about the situation.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd says Australia is watching developments closely and he's urging calm on both sides.

Presenter: Naomi Woodley

Speaker: Kevin Rudd, Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister

[Listen here !](#)

RUDD: We are deeply concerned about the situation. Obviously there are heightened political intentions within Port Moresby with two, as it were, alternative prime ministers. This is unknown terrain in Papua New Guinea.

But we of course have been urging calm on the part of all parties. The Papua New Guinean Defence Force has been directed to remain within barracks. We do have some concerns however about the appointment of a second police commissioner in Port Moresby so we are watching developments very closely on the ground.

Kevin Rudd

WOODLEY: At what point though do we have to admit Papua New Guinea is on the way to being a failed state, if it's not there already?

RUDD: Well the overall economic development of Papua New Guinea has been strong. The resource projects which are being developed are destined to deliver significant revenue to the government of Papua New Guinea.

What we have had is a very, very protracted political dispute between a number of politicians in Port Moresby. We therefore have a responsibility to support a peaceful resolution to this dispute - violence would help nobody - and that's what we intend to do while at the same time fully respecting Papua New Guinea's sovereignty.

We therefore will be watching these developments very closely and using quiet diplomacy with all parties.

WOODLEY: But when does the Australian Government consider stronger intervention and what are our responsibilities here?

RUDD: Well it's I think unhelpful to speculate on those sorts of possibilities. Our immediate concern is simply to await the deliberations of the governor-general. We'll take this step by step. We are in indirect contact with all the various parties. We are urging calm on the part of all

parties. And as we have had reported this morning from our high commissioner, the situation on the streets is calm.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

PNG speaker ignores Somare court order

by Liam Fox

The speaker of Papua New Guinea's parliament is ignoring a Supreme Court order to reinstate Sir Michael Somare as the country's prime minister.

Parliament resumed with Peter O'Neill and his supporters occupying the government side of the chamber.

The speaker, Jeffrey Nape, made a brief statement reiterating that retrospective laws passed on Monday mean Sir Michael is not the prime minister and no longer an MP.

He says Sir Michael is now an ordinary person and Peter O'Neill is PNG's legitimate leader.

The speaker's statement stands in stark contrast to the Supreme Court's ruling that Sir Michael's removal from office in August was unlawful.

ABC's Liam Fox reports from Port Moresby :

13.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Tanis receives award

James Tanis (picture), the former President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, was recently awarded the inaugural Australian High Commissioner's Education Award, funded by AusAID. He will start his study next year, undertaking a Master's Degree in International Affairs at the Australian National University.

The Australian High Commissioner's Education Award is intended to provide a select number of Papua New Guinean leaders, or emerging leaders, an opportunity to further their education in Australia. Awardees will return to PNG after completing their university studies better equipped to contribute to PNG's development. In 2012, a further two awards will be granted for study in 2013. Australian High Commissioner, Ian Kemish, said he was proud to have nominated Tanis for the award.

"James knows that education is the key to development. He will take what he learns in Australia and use it to build a more stable and prosperous Bougainville and PNG. He is a talented peace builder," Mr Kemish said. Tanis — as he is affectionately known — first entered the domain of peace building in the early 1990s. When the mine at Panguna closed in 1989, he joined the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) as a fighter. But Tanis quickly become disillusioned with the way the BRA was operating and resigned from 'active service'. He returned to his village, married and started a family.

The following year, he started working with local village chiefs, who respected him as an educated young man. Tanis has a university diploma in accounting which he gained on a scholarship from Bougainville Copper Limited. The chiefs sought his advice and support on peace keeping in the village and neighbouring villages.

After a period at home, and after much discussion with the chiefs, Tanis decided to re-join the

BRA; this time not as a fighter but as a peace builder. It was an opportune time. The Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) had just been established, with the late Francis Ona as president and the late Joseph Kabui as vice president. Tanis became its Minister for Peace.

13.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Parliament moves to firm up O'Neill as PM

By JONATHAN TANNOS

PETER O'Neill yesterday evening quickly put himself "back into office" in a 69-0 vote on the floor of Parliament just before the Supreme Court nullified his August 2, 2011 election as Prime Minister.

And this was pivoted through a prior surprise and unchallenged amendment to the Prime Minister and National Executive Council Act Section 143 just after 11am.

The changes include formally recognising a vacancy existed on August 2, 2011 when Mr O'Neill was elected into office "by virtue of Sections 3 and 4 of this Act as having been lawfully and validly declared effective from the time it was declared".

"The election by Parliament of a new Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on August 2, 2011 is valid and effective and shall be treated by virtue of Sections 3 and 4 of this Act as having been validly elected from the time the new Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was elected."

Again the Speaker, Jeffery Nape, was directing traffic to allow Health Minister, Jamie Maxtone-Graham, to nominate Mr O'Neill as Prime Minister seconded by National Planning Minister, Sam Basil.

The amendments also relate to appointment of an Acting Prime Minister, giving the Prime Minister three months to return to the country or face automatic suspension from the office. In that instance, the Speaker will inform Parliament of the vacancy and a new Prime Minister is appointed.

The changes also include medical practitioners to provide a joint report and certification of the Prime Minister's health without conducting any physical examination based on their professional opinions and on reports of those who had treated the prime minister.

Effects of the amendments are also deemed to have taken effect from January 1, 2011.

The vote seemed to have just been a formality in anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling. Absent during the vote were Deputy Prime Minister, Belden Namah, Attorney-General, Dr Alan Marat, and New Ireland Governor, Sir Julius Chan. Both were appearing before the Supreme Court over contempt charges while Sir Julius was not in the chamber.

The re-election came after a prolonged debate on the 2012 budget where most MPs were allowed to have their say, mainly in the affirmative, on the structure and increased allocations for major projects in the K10.5 billion expenditure bill.

Those that voted were the only ones in the chamber at that time and with the exception of members of the Somare government who were awaiting the Supreme Court reference ruling.

13.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Governor General under siege

By STAFF REPORTERS

Heavily armed policemen – believed to be members of the newly formed armed robbery squad - laid siege to the historical Government House, located in Konedobu, Port Moresby, last night.

This was the anti-climax to the drama that unfolded separately yesterday in Parliament and the Waigani Court House, where the Supreme Court nullified the August 2 election of Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister, only for Mr O'Neill to use his Government's numerical strength to get re-elected as PM on the floor of Parliament.

The police blockage of Government House was led by former deputy police Commissioner Fred Yakasa.

While there was no clear motive for Mr Yakasa and his band of renegades, it appeared the police were there to stop either men – Mr O'Neill or court reinstated Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare

– from going to Government House to get sworn in.

A standoff ensued from 7pm when Mr O'Neill and a group of Ministers arrived at Konedobu where they found their way blocked by the Yakasa group.

The policemen, armed with AR15 rifles stopped Mr O'Neill and his party, including Ministers Bart Philemon, Don Polye, William Duma, Charles Abel, Theo Zurecnuoc, Lucas Dekena, Job Pomat, Sali Subam, Waka Goi and their motorcade.

The standoff continued for more than two hours. During that time, the Governor- General Sir Michael Ogio tried to broker a deal between the two parties but it did not work. At 10.30pm, Mr O'Neill called all his ministers together and told them that they were walking through.

With him and Mr Philemon at the lead, the ministers walked through the police blockade and where he was challenged by Mr Yakasa.

In the process, Mr Yakasa laid his hands on Mr O'Neill, sparking off an angry exchange between the policemen escorting Mr O'Neill and those with Yakasa.

As soon as Mr O'Neill and Mr Philemon broke through, everyone ran for the State House.

About 10 minutes from the first gate, all hell broke loose, and police fired several rounds from their AR 15 rifles.

The shooting forced the ministers and their staff to take the hill to the State House at a run and by the time they reached the top, all of them were clearly sweating and out of breath.

Once at the State House, the ministers settled down on the chairs to get their breath back and waited for the Governor-General.

After an hour, word reached the team that the GG wanted to see the instruments of the re-election of Mr O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill's Chief of Staff, Ben Micah, went to see the GG but he was prevented by fully armed policemen.

The stand off continued until Mr O'Neill and some of his ministers went over to gain entry with Mr Micah.

Mr O'Neill was stopped by the armed policemen at the door and the standoff continued until the GG sent word that the swearing in will take place today.

By 11.30pm, Mr O'Neill and his team left to take up the fight another day.

It is expected that Mr O'Neill and his team will go back but what transpired last night will go down in history as this is the first time, the State House was seized by armed members of the police force.

Meanwhile, the Australian deputy high commissioner, who was at the scene of the standoff, was harassed by police who threatened him.

The Australian managed to get in his DC marked car and was driven to safety by his PNG driver.

13.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Sir Michael to lead government

REINSTATED Prime Minister, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare. say he stands ready to lead his restored Government over the next few months until the writs are issued for the 2012 National elections.

And he has announced his caretaker Cabinet which include old hands and his former deputy, Sam Abal, back to the position.

"The judiciary has once again upheld our Constitution and maintained the independence between the three arms of Government, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary," Sir Michael said.

He said this when responding to the Supreme Court decision nullifying the August 2, 2011 declaration of his position vacant and election of Ialibu-Pangia MP Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister.

He said his Cabinet members excluding those that defected had been restored and the full Cabinet line up would be announced in the next few days. He said ministers that had defected had now been decommissioned.

Sir Michael has been working behind the scenes to restore his Government since his August 2, 2011 and his disqualification from Parliament as Member for East Sepik regional on September 6, 2011 by Speaker of Parliament, Jeffery Nape. Sir Michael called on the public to remain calm and not take the law into their own hands. "My Government followed process and waited for the appropriate authority, the judiciary to make its judgment," he said.

13.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Contempt charges ordered for O'Neill

By GORETHY KENNETH

OUSTED Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has been cited for contempt for his application to seek the removal of the Chief Justice from presiding as Chairman of the Five-men Bench hearing the Special Reference, challenging the August formation of Government.

Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia yesterday ordered the Court Registrar to prepare the contempt charges against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame, including the three deponents Nick Lapa of Wambi village, Pangia, Nathan Agipe of Napena village, Southern Highlands Province and Stanely Bovaro of Beha village, Lufa District.

Sir Salamo dismissed the application and advised it would be investigated before the contempt charges against those concerned were handed down.

"In relation to the application that we received last Friday, according to practice, decided by the Judge the application brought by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, the application is made and having considered the submission, the application is without merit and ought to be dismissed," Sir Salamo said in court yesterday. "In relation to the affidavit there is complexity.

"I did categorically deny the allegation is false.

"I should say this.. that perhaps the witness has mistaken us and the meeting with Somare is absolutely not true."

Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika also said that it was regrettable that this application was brought in to disqualify the chief Justice from the bench.

"It is regrettable that such an application was made at the 11th hour. It must be supported with credible evidence.

"Allegations were not true. We cannot speak for the CJ.

"It is regrettable that such allegations transpired, which will also affect the bench one way or another," he said.

Justice Nicholas Kirriwom, on the other hand said: "I endorse the position that the Chief Justice took.

We as a court will make our decision tomorrow (today)."

13.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News - TV

PNG court restores Somare as PM

Sir Michael Somare will head to Government House on Tuesday to be sworn in by the governor-general.

VIDEO from Australia Network News

Liam Fox reports from Port Moresby

Tension appears to have eased in Papua New Guinea's capital after the Supreme Court ordered the reinstatement of former prime minister Sir Michael Somare.

Sir Michael will be sworn in by the governor-general on Tuesday.

On Monday night, gunshots were heard near Government House, the residence of the governor-general.

Dozens of heavily-armed police blockaded the area after the Supreme Court ordered Sir Michael be restored as prime minister because his removal from office in August was unlawful.

The prime minister's seat was declared vacant while Sir Michael was out of the country receiving medical treatment.

But his supporters went to court, arguing there was never a vacancy and he is the country's legitimate leader.

The police prevented Peter O'Neill, the man who replaced him, from reaching the governor-general in an attempt to confirm he was the legitimate leader.

The ABC was told to leave the area and not to film. One resident later reported hearing gunshots around Government House.

The capital had been bracing for demonstrations and possible riots in reaction to the decision.

Along with extra police, some businesses prepared to close, while others stepped up their security as concerns mounted.

Mr O'Neill's government made a last-ditch attempt to delay the court decision by applying to have the chief justice disqualified from the case.

Quiet diplomacy

Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd, says he is deeply concerned about the political developments in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Rudd says Australia is watching developments closely, and pursuing quiet diplomacy with all sides of the dispute.

"We are deeply concerned about the situation. Obviously there are heightened political tensions within Port Morsby with two, as it were, alternative prime ministers," he said.

"This is unknown terrain in Papua New Guinea."

Elevated

Mr O'Neill, once a finance minister in Sir Michael's government, was elevated to the top job by a majority vote of MPs who ruled the prime ministership vacant.

Sir Michael, 75, has been in politics for almost 50 years and became his country's first prime minister when it became independent in 1975.

He was sidelined by illness earlier this year, travelling to Singapore for heart surgery.

His family announced his resignation in June without consulting Sir Michael, who they said was in intensive care and too ill to discuss his future.

But Sir Michael has maintained he was still the country's leader and there had "never been any vacancy in the position of prime minister".

He says he is fit and ready to return to his job.

"My doctors in Singapore they've vowed that my health is as good as any. I'm old enough to be a 40-year-old again," Sir Michael said.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Parliament sits amid turmoil following court ruling

In Papua New Guinea the government of Peter O'Neill has convened parliament less than 90 minutes before Sir Michael Somare is due to visit the Governor-General's office to be sworn in as the country's new prime minister.

The tense political standoff comes after the Supreme Court ruled in a 3-2 decision yesterday to overturn Mr O'Neill's August the 2nd elevation to the top job.

AAP reports that the Speaker, Jeffery Nape, who switched sides in August to support Mr O'Neill, is expected to make a statement to parliament shortly.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Sir Michael said the 76-year-old was heading to Government House to be sworn in on Tuesday morning.

Government House became the scene of a standoff late yesterday after parliament elected to reinstate Mr O'Neill in the minutes after the Supreme Court decision to unseat him was passed.

There were reports of brawls and a burst of automatic gunfire was heard on a nearby street, but there were no reports of injuries.

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Prediction PNG's restored Somare government will be stalled by Budget failure

The Peter O'Neill faction in the Papua New Guinea parliament says passing a budget will be the critical test for the restored Sir Michael Somare government.

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that Mr O'Neill's parliamentary election on August the 2nd was unconstitutional and it restored Sir Michael to the prime ministership.

A member of Mr O'Neill's former cabinet, Bart Philemon, says they remain confident of their numbers compared with Sir Michael, who he says, has the backing of less than 20 of the 109 MPs.

He says he expects one of the first actions of the Somare government will be to try and pass a budget and they won't have the numbers.

"He needs the numbers therefore to pursue the passing, the passage and passing of that Budget. And we could lock the Budget, forcing the country into a Supply Bill for 3 months and then after the end of 3 months then we could, if we still had the numbers, we could dictate as to whether he has the numbers to govern for the next few months before the election or not."

13.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia 24H dans le Pacifique

Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée: Kevin Rudd appelle au calme

Lundi la Cour Suprême a annulé l'élection de Peter O'Neill et réinstallé son prédécesseur, Michael Somare, au poste de Premier ministre. Il prêtera serment aujourd'hui mardi au Gouverneur général, représentant de la Reine Elisabeth II dans ce pays du Commonwealth. C'est la fin d'un imbroglio politico-judiciaire de plus de quatre mois, d'une guerre des tranchées opposant le clan de Peter O'Neill à la Cour Suprême, elle-même visiblement plus en faveur du clan Somare, puisqu'elle a finalement tranché: l'élection de Peter O'Neill début août était inconstitutionnelle. Peter O'Neill a en effet été élu, alors que Michael Somare était à l'hôpital à Singapour pour une opération du cœur. Le Parlement avait alors déclaré la vacance du pouvoir, or pour la Cour Suprême, il n'y avait pas vacance du pouvoir. Lundi soir, la police a empêché Peter O'Neill d'accéder à la résidence du Gouverneur général et un riverain a entendu des coups de feu. Les autorités ont demandé à nos correspondants de l'ABC de quitter la zone et de ne pas filmer. Des troubles sont toujours à craindre à Port-Moresby. Les effectifs de police ont été renforcés, certains commerçants ont baissé le rideau par peur des pillages/émeutes. En Australie, l'ancien colon de la Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, le Ministre des Affaires étrangères Kevin Rudd se dit «profondément préoccupé» par la situation et appelle au calme. Mais l'Australie n'interviendra pas autrement que par la diplomatie douce.

13.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

Sir Michael Somare back as PNG's PM

Tension eased in Papua New Guinea's capital overnight after a court ordered the reinstatement of the country's former Prime Minister.

PNG's Supreme Court has ruled Sir Michael Somara can return to office and that he be re-instated, because his removal from office in August was unlawful. He lost his job while overseas recovering from three heart operations. But the 75-year-old says he's fit enough to resume his role today.

Presenter: Geraldine Coutts

Papua New Guinea Correspondent Liam Fox

Listen here !

13.12.2011

Source: The National

PNG's progress hindered by corruption, says O'Neill

PAPUA New Guinea is not becoming an economic powerhouse because of corruption, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says.

He said the country was rich in natural resources, "but it is not economically independent".

O'Neill told the people at Kiripia in the Tambul-Nebilyer electorate of Western Highlands, who had gathered to witness the official opening of a double classroom building funded by AusAID at the St Peter and Paul Primary School in Kiripia, that even if there were too many resources and minerals being found in this country, "leaders are not using them properly, that is why the nation is not becoming economically independent".

He said the kina had picked up but nothing was changing because of poor management by the previous government.

He said the nation was not getting to the bottom of weeding out corruption, which was a poison to the nation's development.

O'Neill said it was shame because leaders were robbing the nation and the people.

He said his new government would do a lot of work to weed out corruption and try to make the country become an economically independent nation.

O'Neill said he had some good, young and vibrant leaders in his government and their aim was to make Papua New Guinea economically independent.

"If we say that we are rich then why are people's pockets not packed with money? This is because we have not become economically independent yet," O'Neill said.

O'Neill said with the 2012 national election coming up people had the power to elect good leaders.

He said if people did not vote in good leaders they would suffer.

He said a good leader would always make a difference in their lives.

He said the decision people made in voting next year would determine their future.

13.12.2011

Source: The National

Parliament 'sabotage' leads to stand-off at Government House

PARLIAMENT's coup to re-elect Peter O'Neill minutes after his government was ousted by the Supreme Court nearly ended in bloodshed as police officers prevented him from being sworn in at Government House last night.

Speaker Jeffery Nape was regularly informed of the court proceedings when leader of government business Moses Maladina brought forward government agenda for debate on the budget.

As soon as the court ruling of 3-2 was communicated to the speaker, he briefly left the chair and was believed to confer with O'Neill, Chris Haiveta, and chief of staff Ben Micah before executing the next move.

Nape then entered the chamber interrupting Lae MP Bart Philemon who was making his budget statement.

The speaker informed parliament that the Supreme Court had ruled that there was no vacancy. But Nape said a vacancy did occur by the decision of parliament last Friday to rescind leave of absence granted to Sir Michael which was duly signed into effect by the governor-general and gazetted to remove him as the East Sepik MP.

Nape also said parliament, again, yesterday morning made amendments to the Prime Minister and NEC Amendment Bill, effectively removing Sir Michael as prime minister. This was carried by

a 71-0

vote and certified.

Given these facts, Nape said there was a vacancy in the office of the prime minister and called for nominations.

Member for Anglimp-South Waghi Jamie Maxtone-Graham nominated O'Neill, seconded by Hagen MP William Duma.

13.12.2011

Source: The National

House re-elects O'Neill PM

DESPITE the Supreme Court declaring the change in government on Aug 2 unconstitutional, parliament yesterday went ahead to re-elect Peter O'Neill as prime minister.

Soon after Speaker Jeffery Nape was informed of the court decision at around 6.05pm, he declared a vacancy in the prime minister's office based on the Prime Minister and National Executive Council (Amendment) Bill 2011

(see separate story).

"I have been informed of the Supreme Court ruling that the former prime minister and sacked member for East Sepik Regional is being reinstated," he said.

He said a vacancy existed after Sir Michael Somare was disqualified and that the passing of the amendments to the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council Act 2011 created a vacancy. He therefore declared a vacancy in the prime minister's office and asked for nominations.

Health Minister Jamie Maxton-Graham nominated Peter O'Neill which was seconded by Minister for National Planning Sam Basil and the nomination closed by Minister for Petroleum and Energy William Duma.

Parliament voted in O'Neill 69-0.

However about six seats on the government benches were vacant including those of Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah, Attorney-General Dr Allan Marat, who were in court, and Sir Julius Chan who seems to have avoided taking the vote.

Meanwhile earlier in the morning, three bus-loads of government members came to parliament.

When parliament resumed at around 11am, the government with its numerical strength of 71 votes tabled the Prime Minister and NEC Amendment Bill 2011. It passed it before adjourning parliament to 2pm, the

same time of the Supreme Court ruling.

Parliament resumed at 2pm and debated on the 2012 national budget until 6pm when the news of the court decision reached them. Parliament voted in O'Neill as the prime Minister.

13.12.2011

Source: The National

PM's post vacant, say two judges

THREE out of the five judges of the Supreme Court have ruled that there was no vacancy in the Prime Minister's office when Peter O'Neill was elected to that post in August.

The five judges handed down their individual decisions on the constitutional validity of the formation of the O'Neill government.

Two judges ruled that the prime minister's post was vacant.

Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika and Justice Bernard Sakora were of the view that the motion on Aug 2 to declare the prime minister's post vacant in order to appoint O'Neill as prime minister was legitimate.

"I do not see anything wrong with the motion," Salika said.

Salika said Sir Michael had been critically ill for five months and unable to perform the duties of the prime minister and vacancy of the post had existed, only to be formally declared.

Salika said such activity in parliament was non-justiciable – meaning the judiciary could not interfere with it.

"The court should stay clear from parliament's arena," Salika said.

He also said there was nothing in the Constitution requiring an explanation for the motion to declare the prime minister's post vacant and that the process was legitimate in a democracy. Salika also pointed out that the events of Aug 2 took place because the National Executive Council during the Somare government was frustrating and irresponsible by its inaction to present the report on Sir Michael's health status in parliament.

He said the NEC had failed to comply with certain provisions of the Prime Minister and NEC Act. It had sat on the parliament's right to receive two medical statements regarding Sir Michael's health resulting in the Aug 2 event which came about as a result of anxiety and uncertainty in the future of the country's leadership.

In relation to the alleged three consecutive absences in parliament by Sir Michael, Salika said he found that there were only two consecutive absences. Sakora also said the "NEC defaulted very badly" by keeping the nation in suspense for a prolonged period in relation to Sir Michael's health. Sakora also pointed out that the authority of the National Alliance Inc that took sides with the referrer needed clarification for its involvement given that its members sat at both sides of the parliament benches. Sakora also said given the events of Aug 2 nothing had changed much. He said it was "state necessity" that needed consideration and priority.

Given the fact that the O'Neill government was voted 70-24 in, Sakora queried how politically stable a 24 member government would be.

"How can 24 people run the country?" Sakora said.

However, the court ruled 3:2 in favor of Sir Michael's government as being the legitimate one to rule.

13.12.2011

Source: The National

Grand Chief announces interim cabinet

SIR Michael Somare last night announced a restored cabinet which excluded the ministers who defected on Aug 2.

The new cabinet is:

Sam Abal: Deputy Prime Minister and Immigration;
Patrick Pruaich: Treasury and Finance, and State-Owned Enterprises;
Sir Arnold Amet: Justice and Attorney General, and Public Service;
Sasa Zibe: Health, and Inter Government Relations;
Timothy Bonga: Forestry, and Internal Security;
James Marape: Education, and National Planning and District Development;
Benjamin Poponowa: Transport and Civil Aviation;
Philip Kikala: Agriculture and Livestock;
Paru Ahi: Higher Education, Research Science and Technology, and Foreign Affairs and Trade;
Fidelis Semoso: Bougainville Affairs;
Patrick Tammur: Communication and Information;
Francis Potape: Petroleum and Energy;
Ben Semri: Fisheries, and Commerce and Industry;
Tony Aimu: Correctional Services, and Lands and Physical Planning;
Andrew Kumbakor: Housing and Urban Development;
Philemon Embel: Sports and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister;
Bob Dadae: Defence;
Sani Rambai: Labour and Industrial Relations;
Dame Carol Kidu: Community Development;
John Pundari: Mining;
Anderson Agiru: Works, and Conservation and Environment.

ESBC: We are missing "Baby Grand Chief" Arthur Somare, Sir Michael's ambitious son. Why didn't he become minister again?

Sir Michael said he had appointed the governor of resource-rich Southern Highlands province as a new minister in his cabinet and was pleased to welcome him in his new role.

He said he stood ready to lead his restored government over the next few months until the writs

were issued for the 2012 election.

"The judiciary has again upheld our Constitution and maintained the independence between the three arms of government – the legislature, executive and judiciary".

Sir Michael said the full cabinet would be announced in the next few days.

"The ministers who had defected have been decommissioned," he added.

He called on the members of the public to remain calm and not take the law into their own hands.

"My government followed processes and waited for the appropriate authority – the judiciary to make its judgment."

13.12.2011

Source: The National

House amends act to disqualify G'Chief

PARLIAMENT yesterday amended the Prime Minister & NEC Act to ensure Sir Michael Somare was no longer eligible as prime minister.

The changes to the law meant that in the event a prime minister absented himself from office for a period of three months or longer, there will automatically be a vacancy in the office.

Three months was the period Sir Michael spent overseas seeking medical treatment in Singapore.

The relevant change read: "After the appointment of a minister to be acting prime minister is made... when the prime minister is absent from the country in the event that the prime minister does not return to the country and resume office within three months of the appointment of an acting prime minister, the appointment shall cease and the office of the prime minister shall be deemed vacant."

It added that the speaker of parliament shall inform parliament of the vacancy, and a new prime minister appointed.

The amendments also included the provision that medical practitioners may provide a joint report and certification of a prime minister's medical condition to the head of state without conducting a physical examination.

The amendments included a validation of the election of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. It declared that the declaration of a vacancy in the office of the prime minister was not unlawful and that the decision of parliament on Aug 2 was valid and that the election of the prime minister was also valid.

This section will lapse at the return of the writs during the 2012 general election.

The amendments were later used to validate the election of O'Neill following the Supreme Court decision.

13.12.2011

Source: The National

Somare is back

CONFUSION reigned last night when it appeared the country had two prime ministers – Sir Michael Somare and Peter O'Neill.

Sir Michael was reinstated as prime minister by a 3-2 Supreme Court decision yesterday which declared the election of Peter O'Neill on Aug 2 as null and void.

The court also voided his Sir Michael's ouster as member for East Sepik.

A few minutes after the court decision, parliament voted 79-0 to retain O'Neill as prime minister.

But he was denied access to Government House to be officially sworn in by Governor-General Sir Michael Ogio.

Speaker Jeffery Nape said O'Neill's election stemmed from two recent parliament decisions. The first decision last Friday rescinded the leave of absence granted to Sir Michael in May. This had the effect that he had now missed three consecutive sittings of parliament and would, therefore, stand dismissed as the member for East Sepik.

The second referred to yesterday's amendment to the Prime Minister & NEC Act which, among others, contended that should a prime minister absent himself from the country for three months, which Sir Michael did while on medical leave, a vacancy would arise in the

office of the prime minister.

Declaring that these actions created a new vacancy regardless of the court decision, parliament on a nomination from Anglimp-South Waghi MP Jamie Maxtone-Graham elected O'Neill unopposed by 69 votes to nil.

While the court decision stated that all subsequent decisions by the O'Neill government stands voided, it is uncertain whether parliament was included as this would have an important bearing on its actions last Friday and yesterday, which led to the re-election of O'Neill yesterday.

This confusion unfolded later in a tense drama outside Government House last night when a police contingent, headed by senior police officers Fred Yakasa and Joseph Tondop, held off the O'Neill convoy from entering the Government House for the swearing-in ceremony.

Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga was dispatched to the Government House soon after that but, in the end at 8.30pm, the governor-general's official secretary informed police at the gate that Sir Michael Ogio had retired for the day and will not perform any official duty until today.

A policeman said a court order was delivered earlier in the afternoon to Government House not to entertain any swearing-in ceremony which led to the police move to prevent any ceremony taking place last night.

Police manning the blockade said there was confusion as there were no proper instructions from government lawyers as to what the real situation was last night or who really was in charge.

The stand-off was still maintained at 9.30 last night.

The remnants of the Somare regime last night met and announced a caretaker cabinet.

13.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

Port Moresby tense but calm after night of turmoil

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE SITUATION IN PORT MORESBY remains tense and confused but calm, with Sir Michael Somare expecting to be sworn in as prime minister in a few hours.

We will augment this live blog as more information comes to hand. Reports from readers are welcome in the Comments section below....

6.15am The ABC's AM program says Papua New Guineans awake this morning unclear about who will be their prime minister. Port Moresby correspondent Liam Fox reports that police loyal to Sir Michael Somare would not let Peter O'Neill see the Governor-General last night. The situation at Government House has calmed down, however, and it is currently guarded by only a small detachment of police.

Fox says that it is understood an ailing Sir Michael will go to Government House later this morning seeking to be sworn as prime minister in whereupon he will try to form a minority government, hoping that enough MPs will defect from the O'Neill camp to enable him to continue in office.

13.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Confusion and Confrontation!

The situation in Port Moresby becomes the more and more unclear! Local sources say that the greedy Somare family will not throw the towel as they do not intend to leave their multi-million Kina gold mine called PNG without resistance! The ESBC will keep you updated!

13.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Confusion reigns in PNG after Supreme Court ruling on PM

Uncertainty surrounds Papua new Guinea's government after a Supreme Court ruling that the election of Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister was unconstitutional.

The court found that August's parliamentary declaration of a vacancy in the office of Prime Minister, followed by a parliamentary vote that saw Mr O'Neill elected, was illegal.

The ruling paves the way for the reinstatement of former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, but Peter O'Neill's government also passed amendments in parliament to legalise his election and have him sworn in again.

Our correspondent Jonathan Tannos says PNG now effectively has two Prime Ministers.

"One being sworn in now and one being reinstated by the Supreme Court. It's a power play I think between the... parliament has perhaps virtually shown itself to have inherent powers, regardless of what the judiciary rules. It's quite confusing, yes."

13.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2011/12/stop-press-png-court-restores-somare-as-pm.html

O'Neill & Somare vie for control: gunshots at Govt House

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE SITUATION IN PORT MORESBY remains confused.

We will augment this live blog as more information comes to hand....

11.00pm The Dreamzmedia blog confirms shots have been fired near Government House and goes on to convey a report from Graham Robinson, who is believed to live nearby.... "At exactly 9:17pm tonight Hon Peter O'Neill and contingent walked straight up to Fred Yakasa and his fully armed men and kindly asked them to step aside.

"Fred Yakasa was adamant in not allowing them; however a little push from the back with people asking Fred Yakasa and his men to step aside: "Oi step aside PM ya". I was standing with a Post Courier cameraman and a female reporter where I recognised the armed robbery police vehicles (Fred Yakasa's unit).

"I then cautioned the two media personnel to step back. The push from the back of the pack had a momentous effect on the PM, eventually persuading Fred Yakasa to step aside and the Hon Peter O'Neill walked straight up to Government House.

"Immediately followed disgruntled policemen I suppose, those supporting Fred Yakasa started shouting, "We are here to defend the constitution and you don't respect it then yumi lusim na go....gun shots followed suit and everyone of us not in police uniform scrambled for cover....

"Whilst gun shots were fired, Hon Peter O'Neill was well on his way up to government house... The entire ordeal ended about 9:35 pm when the first of the armed robbery vehicles drove out followed by others..."

10.24pm AAP reports 'Somare urges calm amid confusion in PNG'. "Sir Michael Somare has urged calm amid confusion following the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court decision that has returned him to power. There is currently a stand-off between supporters of Somare and supporters of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill at government house. Armed guards have surrounded the building and have refused to let anyone in or out.

"It is understood Governor General Sir Michael Ogilio has refused to sign any documents appointing either government on Monday night. At a press conference on Monday night, Sir Michael Somare called on the public to remain calm. "The judiciary has once again upheld our constitution," he said. "My government followed process and waited for the appropriate authority, the judiciary, to make its judgment."

"At the conference, 76-year-old Sir Michael announced his cabinet line-up which included some new faces. He has reinstated former treasurer Patrick Pruaitch, attorney general Sir Arnold Amet and deputy prime minister Sam Abal."

9.30pm The ABC's Liam Fox says unrest has been reported in Port Moresby and that a resident living near Government House says multiple gunshots were heard a short time ago. Heavily

armed police have blocked off Government House and told the media to leave. Another witness said current prime minister Peter O'Neill attempted to get through the blockade but was stopped.

7.14pm The Malum Nalu website reports that Peter O'Neill has been re-elected as Prime Minister. "Immediately after the court ruling, ousted Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was rushed to Parliament and re-elected as Prime Minister 69-0. He was then rushed to Government House to be sworn in as Prime Minister."

6.37pm The Supreme Court ruled 3-2 that O'Neill was wrongly elected as Prime Minister on August 2 as there never was a vacancy in the office at that time. Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, and judges Nicholas Kiriwom and Les Gavara Nanu ruled in favour of Sir Michael while Deputy Chief Justice Gibbs Salika and judge Bernard Sakora went for O'Neill. The court further ordered that Sir Michael be restored forthwith back into office and that Parliament sit to right its wrong. In a separate judgement related to an attempt to remove the chief justice, the court ruled that contempt charges be brought against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame.

12.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude http://asopa.typepad.com/asopa_people/2011/12/stop-press-png-court-restores-somare-as-pm.html

O'Neill back as PM as parliament defies court BY KEITH JACKSON

IT'S BEEN A BUSY EVENING in the Land of the Unexpected.

First, the PNG Supreme Court ousted Peter O'Neill from the prime ministership in a narrow 3-2 ruling.

Immediately thereafter, the Malum Nalu website reports, Mr O'Neill rushed to parliament where his coalition was assembled, to be re-elected prime minister 69-0 - the opposition spurning proceedings.

Mr O'Neill then went to Government House to be sworn in as prime minister.

Earlier the PNG Supreme Court had reinstated Sir Michael Somare as Papua prime minister, ordering that he be sworn back into office immediately.

The court found that there was no vacancy in the office of prime minister on 2 August when Mr O'Neill elected, and it rendered the decision illegal.

"Sir Michael Somare is to be restored to the office of prime minister forthwith," the court said.

In a separate judgement related to an earlier attempt to remove the chief justice, the court ruled that contempt charges will be brought against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame.

While the O'Neill government has shown a capacity to move swiftly to re-assert authority, today's proceedings have left a large number of residual constitutional, legal and political problems that will leave a bitter residue and test the government's capacity to the fullest.

BREAKING NEWS

12.12.2011

Source: Malum Nalu <http://malumnalu.blogspot.com/2011/12/breaking-news-peter-oneill-re-elected.html>

Breaking news: Peter O'Neill re-elected as Prime Minister

Immediately after the court ruling, ousted Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was rushed to Parliament and re-elected as Prime Minister 69-0.

He was then rushed to Government House to be sworn in as Prime Minister

12.12.2011

Source: PNG Attitude

What next? Supreme Court restores Somare as PM

BY KEITH JACKSON

THE PNG Supreme Court has reinstated Sir Michael Somare as Papua New Guinea's prime minister.

Sir Michael was removed from office in August while he was out of the country receiving medical treatment.

In a narrow 3-2 decision, the court ordered that Sir Michael be sworn back into office immediately. The court found that there was no vacancy in the office of prime minister on 2 August following a parliamentary vote of 70 to 24 that saw Mr O'Neill elected, rendering the decision illegal.

"Sir Michael Somare is to be restored to the office of prime minister forthwith," the court said.

At the outset, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia said contempt charges will be brought against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame.

Mr Ame filed a last minute attempt to dismiss Sir Salamo on Friday, citing three affidavits by men who claim to have seen the Chief Justice during a late night rendezvous with former minister Arthur Somare.

The court's decision represents a serious setback to the O'Neill administration - now judicially discredited - even though it commands a comfortable majority in parliament.

Sir Michael's resumption of office may last no longer than the next time parliament sits, presumably tomorrow morning, when a vote of no confidence is likely to be moved - which he would almost certainly lose.

12.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Gunshots heard as court orders reinstatement of Somare as PNG PM

A resident living near Government House, the Governor-General's residence, says multiple gunshots were heard a short time ago.

Earlier tonight, dozens of heavily armed police blocked off the area and told the media to leave.

Another witness said the current prime minister Peter O'Neill attempted to get through the blockade but was stopped.

The tense scene followed orders by the Supreme Court to reinstate Sir Michael as prime minister because his removal from office in August was unlawful.

His supporters say he'll head to Government House tonight to be sworn in as the prime minister.

12.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News - TV

12.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia News

Security beefed up over PNG court ruling

PNG police attending a protest in November this year. Security presence has increased since the Supreme Court's ruling government on Monday. [AAP]

Heavily armed PNG policemen fend off trouble at the Governor General's house.

PNG Correspondent, Liam Fox reports from Port Moresby:

[Listen here !](#)

Heavily armed police have blocked off Papua New Guinea's government house in the country's capital ahead of the reinstatement of Sir Michael Somare as Prime Minister.

The Supreme court ruled on Monday evening that Sir Michael Somare was unlawfully removed from the Prime Minister's office back in August.

It also ruled that Peter O'Neil was not lawfully appointed as his successor and ordered Sir Michael be restored as Prime Minister immediately.

Straight after the court's ruling, dozens of heavily armed police blocked access to government house, the Governor General's residence.

The ABC was told to leave the area and warned not to film.

A spokeswoman for Sir Michael's National Alliance party says he's expected to go to government house to be sworn in as Prime Minister.

Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia indicated contempt charges will be brought against O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame.

Mr Ame had filed a last-minute attempt to dismiss Injia on Friday, citing three affidavits by men who claim to have seen the Chief Justice during a late night rendezvous with Somare's son.

Earlier Monday, the government had rushed through laws to legalise its dumping of Somare and his government.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Leadership restored to PNG's Sir Michael Somare

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has reinstated Sir Michael Somare as the country's Prime Minister.

Sir Michael was removed from office in August while he was out of the country receiving medical treatment.

His supporters went to court to demand that his successor Peter O'Neill be removed.

The court then ordered on Monday that Sir Michael be sworn back into office immediately.

Radio Australia's PNG correspondent Liam Fox says this ruling raises further questions.

"Sir Michael is now a very frail man, he is the shadow of the man he was before he went overseas for his heart operation," he said.

"Not only that, his party, the National Alliance Party, is effectively split, half of them defected to the opposition when they voted Sir M out of office. Does he even have the numbers to maintain a government?"

"These and other questions remain unanswered."

Events unfold

Earlier on Monday, the Supreme Court dismissed a Government application to have the Chief Justice disqualified from hearing the challenge to the government's legitimacy.

On that day, the Government also passed retrospective laws legalising the removal of Sir Michael back in August.

12.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

The Verdict.

Download here the verdict as



1.3 MB !

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Supreme Court rules O'Neill government illegal, orders Somare reinstatement

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has ruled that the election of Peter O'Neill as Prime Minister in August was unconstitutional, and that Sir Michael Somare be restored as Prime Minister immediately.

The court found that the parliamentary declaration of a vacancy in the office of Prime Minister on August 2, followed by a parliamentary vote of 70 to 24 that saw Mr O'Neill elected, was illegal.

Earlier today, Peter O'Neill's government passed a series of amendments in parliament to legalise his elevation to the top job.

A new law has made the dumping of Sir Michael legal.

It specifies that a Prime Minister can be dismissed if absent from the nation for more than three months.

Before he was dumped, Sir Michael had been absent for five months while he was in Singapore recovering from heart surgery.

It's not clear what impact the court decision will have on the amendments.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia indicated contempt charges will be brought against Mr O'Neill and his lawyer Philip Ame.

Mr Ame filed a last minute attempt to dismiss Sir Salamo on Friday.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

Supreme Court blocks PNG government application

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has dismissed the Government's application to have the Chief Justice disqualified from hearing a challenge to the government's legitimacy.

Supporters of former prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, had launched a legal application against the current government after he was replaced in August by Peter O'Neill.

But on Friday, Mr O'Neill's lawyers applied to have the judge hearing the case dismissed, accusing him of being seen in public with Sir Michael's son.

Radio Australia's PNG correspondent, Liam Fox says application has been denied.

Earlier on Monday, the government passed retrospective laws legalising the removal of Sir Michael back in August.

Neighbouring support

Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Affairs, Richard Marles says PNG should be treated with respect despite the country's continuing political turmoil.

Mr Marles says PNG is a vibrant democracy which will enable the controversy to be settled.

"I don't think there is any concern about the future of democracy in PNG," he said.

"They are obviously going through a difficult issue at the moment with their government arrangement and constitution."

Mr Marles added that Australia should respect PNG's justice system and let these "issues" play out in accordance with the island nation's law, which is "the attitude to that the Australian government has towards what is occurring today."

12.12.2011

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

PNG MPs legalise election ahead of verdict

The Papua New Guinean government has passed a series of amendments in parliament to legalise the prime minister's elevation to the top job.

Monday's move comes before the Supreme Court hands down its decision on whether Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was constitutionally elected when MPs voted to dump Sir Michael Somare and replace him with Mr O'Neill on August 2.

That decision was due to be handed down at a hearing which began at 1500 AEDT, after being put back from 1000 AEDT.

Advertisement: Story continues below The laws were passed at 1230 AEDT.

The Prime Minister and National Executive and National Executive Council (Amendment) Act 2011 makes the dumping of Sir Michael legal.

It also specifies that the prime minister can be dismissed if absent from the nation for more than three months.

Sir Michael, before he was dumped on August 2, was absent for five months while he was in Singapore recovering from heart surgery.

The Act passed two readings of PNG's parliament by a vote of 71 to zero, as opposition ministers refused to show up ahead of the court decision.

It is unclear at this stage what the passing of the amendments will mean for the court's decision.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG Government passes legislation to make dumping of Sir Michael Somare legal

The Papua New Guinea government has passed a series of amendments in parliament to legalise the prime minister's elevation to the top job.

It has come ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on whether Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, was constitutionally elected when MPs voted to dump Sir Michael Somare and replace him with Mr O'Neill on August the 2nd.

That decision was delayed from this morning after also being put off on Friday.

AAP reports that the new law will make the dumping of Sir Michael legal.

It also specifies that the prime minister can be dismissed if absent from the nation for more than three months.

Sir Michael, before he was dumped, had been absent for five months while he was in Singapore recovering from heart surgery.

The Act passed two readings in parliament by a vote of 71 to zero, as opposition ministers refused to show up ahead of the court decision.

It is not clear what impact the court decision will have on the amendments.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia 24H dans le Pacifique

Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée: duel au sommet de l'Etat sur fond de sentiment anti-Chinois

En Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée, le Premier ministre Peter O'Neill a gagné un week-end de sursis. Vendredi, la Cour Suprême a dû ajourner sa décision, prévue ce lundi. Michael Somare, le Premier ministre évincé par Peter O'Neill en août dernier, a en effet déposé un recours en inconstitutionnalité de l'élection.

Peter O'Neill a en effet été élu de manière inédite, alors que Michael Somare était à l'hôpital à Singapour. Le Parlement avait alors déclaré la vacance du pouvoir et élu le nouveau Premier ministre. C'est cette décision qui est l'objet de toutes les controverses. Peter O'Neill joue la montre.

Il a déposé un recours pour désaisir le Président de la Cour Suprême, Salamo Injia. Peter O'Neill l'accuse d'avoir secrètement rencontré le fils de Michael Somare, Arthur, en novembre. Accusation niée par les deux intéressés.

Peter O'Neill est largement soutenu par les habitants des Hauts-Plateaux, tandis que Michael Somare a le soutien de la large population du bassin du grand fleuve Sepik.

Ce duel des clans O'Neill et Somare agite la population. La semaine dernière, des SMS ont été largement diffusés sur les portables des Papous, appelant à «expulser de force» les Chinois du pays si Michael Somare revient au pouvoir.

Sur d'autres textos, les Papous ont pu lire: «Le régime Somare fonctionnait sur les fonds des mafias asiatiques. Les Papous seront les esclaves de la famille Somare et des Asiatiques. Déclarez la guerre à l'afflux des Asiatiques.»

Selon un rapport de James Chin, chercheur à l'Université australienne de Monash, des milliers de Chinois sont arrivés en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée au cours de la dernière décennie, avec des permis de travail obtenus illégalement.

En octobre il y a eu de nouveaux pillages de magasins chinois à Lae, la deuxième ville du pays.

Et selon Martyn Namorong, blogueur et observateur des réseaux sociaux à Port Moresby, le sentiment anti-Chinois est à son comble:

«Ici les gens considèrent Michael Somare comme celui qui a ouvert les portes du pays aux Chinois, particulièrement à cause de la mine de Ramu. Les Papous ne sont pas stupides, ils sont au courant de la géopolitique de la région, et des accords politiques entre leurs dirigeants et d'autres pays.»

C'est en effet un groupe chinois, MCC, qui exploite la mine de nickel de Ramu. Le précédent gouvernement de Michael Somare est accusé d'avoir soutenu MCC contre les propriétaires traditionnels, entre autres pour son projet de stockage des déchets miniers dans le fond de la baie adjacente, jugé très dangereux par les défenseurs de l'environnement.

Le cas de la mine de Ramu a considérablement nourri le sentiment anti-Chinois. Et l'on parle bien de sentiment, et non de réalité statistique. Martyn Namorong:

«Non, je n'ai pas de statistiques, donc je ne peux rien dire là-dessus, mais pour une majorité de la population le problème n'est pas tant qu'il y ait beaucoup de Chinois, que ce qu'ils font en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée. Particulièrement parce que les Chinois tiennent désormais une grande majorité des commerces, commerces que les Papous veulent voir demeurer exclusivement papous. Je vois des conversations quasiment tous les jours sur ce sujet dans les réseaux sociaux. Donc le sentiment anti-Chinois ne grandit pas, il est déjà omniprésent. Une étincelle suffirait pour déclencher la violence.»

Martyn Namorong, blogueur papou et observateur des réseaux sociaux, répondait aux questions de Brian Abbott sur Radio Australia.

Au moins six Chinois ont été tués dans des agressions racistes au cours de la dernière décennie en Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée.

12.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

K67 million excessively used

National Planning Minister Sam Basil revealed in Parliament on Friday that much of the funds budgeted under the Public Investment Program (PIP) between 2007 – 2011, did not serve its intended purposes.

Mr Basil told Parliament that from 2009 to 2011, a total K67 million released under the rural market program, only 47 districts received the money, leaving out 40 districts during the life of the program.

He said the main purpose is to fund clean, well-serviced market facilities to benefit small entrepreneurs and the rural people.

“Of those districts that benefitted, most received K1 million. There is evidence of excessive over-funding in some districts,” Mr Basil said.

The Minister revealed that Nipa Kutubu District received K7 million, Kompam Ambum (K1.8 m), two including Central Bougainville received K1.6m while Wapenamanda, Komo Margarima and Injivitari received K1.5m each.

Mr Basil said in 2011 alone, Nipa-Kutubu received K7m from district market funds, more than three times that received by any other district in the life of the program but sadly the people of Nipa-Kutubu have yet to see the full benefit of this money.

“There is little evidence of any construction of a district market in districts that received funding. A total of K886,000 was paid to Kagua-Erave District including K600,000 in March, 2010. There is as yet nothing to show for it,” he said.

Mr Basil told Parliament that in other districts the value for money is questionable — for example the district of Kompam Ambum was funded with K900,000 in 2009 and again with the same amount in 2011, work has just commenced.

The Minister also said in 2010, K40 million was expended in the rural roads programme but surprisingly, K8 million was expended on unbudgeted projects – not related to rural roads.

Mr Basil said these projects include an agriculture project in the Komo Margarima district and rural electrification project in the Aitape-Lumi District.

He said the remaining K42 million was allocated correctly to fund rural roads. Southern Highlands received about K24.9 million or about 62.3 per cent of the total rural roads funding were money was released to build and rehabilitate feeder roads, roads and bridges in the province.

From the K79 million budgeted under the rural electrification program in 2010 - 2011, some 26 percent from this allocated to PNG Power Limited had no indication of where this money was to be used.

Mr Basil said to date, only 12 districts received funding under this program and of these, two districts – Angoram and Pomio – received K10 million each while the 10 other districts mostly received below K2 million each.

He said the evidence of implementation in these 12 districts and by PNG Power is now being collated by the Department.

“Under the rural communication programme 2011, only K8.4m was released and from this, K5.4m was released to North Bougainville District Treasury and K2 million to PNG Telikom Ltd to implement a wireless communication project in North Bougainville,” the Minister said. Mr Basil said it is with interest that, K1 million under this program was released to fund Ambukuna Cocoa Project – completely un-related to the rural communication. He said funding for this agriculture project should have been considered under National Agriculture Development Programme.

12.12.2011

Source: The National

Temu defends Mining Act

LANDOWNER mismanagement, fraud and corruption are to blame for the debate over resource

ownership in PNG, the PNG mining and petroleum seminar was told recently in Port Moresby. PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum president Dr Ila Temu told participants at the Gateway Hotel that the issue had gone so far as to influence Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Mining Minister Byron Chan to look at amending the Mining Act.

"In our view, as the chamber, as an industry, we feel this is wrong and ill-conceived," he said.

"It is inconsistent with the constitutional provision that calls for resource development for the benefit of all citizens.

"We believe it will give rise to an unworkable resource framework with no security of tenure and it will drive investment out.

"We think it is too big a risk to take."

Temu said the argument was that landowners received only a minimal benefit from the development of their resources.

"In my view, under current law, landowners' rights are fully recognised through appropriate compensation, royalties, equities, preferential treatment in employment and business development opportunities.

"This has been raised more because of the mismanagement, fraud and corruption of landowners' benefit management ... it is not an ownership question.

"Changing the laws will not address this problem.

"In our view, it will make it worse."

Temu spoke passionately about an industry he believed was capable of providing the financial impetus to enable the country to grow.

The mining industry was currently responsible for approximately 80% of PNG's export income and about one-third of government revenue as well as other taxes, royalties, duties, dividends, tax credits, employment and community development infrastructure. – Industry News

"I am of the view that PNG must use its natural resources to fund its development," Temu said.

"There is strong global competition for the exploration investment dollar."

Temu said the challenge for the mining industry in PNG was still the same – it needed to generate benefits and provide tangible improvements to the citizens of PNG in terms of better health, education, community development and general infrastructure.

"It can be done. It's not impossible," he concluded.

"What is needed is a fundamental shift in the way government and landowner leaders manage, utilise and distribute resource benefits.

"We need effective and transparent management of resources revenue so that the country and the people are better off from the use of their natural resources." - Industry News

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG police prepare for reaction to key Supreme Court ruling

Papua New Guinea police have again increased their presence in Port Moresby ahead of today's expected Supreme Court ruling on the legitimacy of the government.

The five-man bench is considering whether Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was constitutionally elected by an August parliamentary vote to replace Sir Michael Somare, whose seat was declared vacant due to prolonged absence.

JB reports

"The ruling had been scheduled for Friday but was deferred until today after the prime minister's lawyer filed a late attempt to force the Chief Justice to step aside. It remains unclear whether a successful challenge against Mr O'Neill's election would mean the re-installation of the Somare administration. With so much riding on the decision, extra police have been deployed to key locations in the capital. Police say they expect some sort of public reaction over the decision, particularly amid simmering anti-Asian sentiment. Widely circulated text messages are calling for people to forcefully evict Chinese from the country if Sir Michael, who has strong links to China, returns to power."

12.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Semoso warns

BOUGAINVILLE Regional MP Fidelis Semoso has warned that Papua New Guinean leaders should be careful when handling the current issues at hand or they may face the barrel of a gun in the future.

Mr Semoso was speaking at a press conference in Port Moresby, warning that precedence had been set and leaders must now be careful of what may happen in any next Government.

"Basically, this is my fear, and the fact that we are now legitimising the overthrow of the Government ...we are already setting a precedent and the next time around at the floor of Parliament, anyone will declare a vacancy and overthrow the Government and if they don't succeed they will resort to the barrel of a gun," Mr Semoso said. This is unbecoming and we must be very mindful. That's my only fear...that leaders or the people will resort to a gun if and when they do not succeed."

Mr Semoso stressed that he was only thinking ahead and was mindful of the fact that this was getting out of hand.

He said that changing Governments through illegal and unconstitutional means was setting a dangerous precedence which the leadership and people of this country may live to regret later. He said that any elected leader or a grouping of leaders could exercise their rights to assume leadership and change Government as long as that was done legally and within the constitution of this country, saying that the constitution actually provided for opportunities where leadership could exercise their rights to change leadership.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Ruling on legitimacy of PNG govt expected today

The Papua New Guinea Supreme Court will decide on Monday whether Prime Minister Peter O'Neill legally took over from Sir Michael Somare in August.

This comes after a last ditch attempt by Mr O'Neill to have the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, recuse himself from the case.

That action caused a deferral in the Court's decision on Friday.

Additional police were flown in from across PNG to provide extra security for the expected constitutional decision, which could see a return of Sir Michael to the prime ministership.

There were no reports of violence after the surprise adjournment.

Mr O'Neill's lawyer, Philip Ame, presented an application to have Sir Salamo disqualified from delivering the verdict.

Mr Ame presented affidavits from three Port Moresby men, claiming Sir Salamo had met with Sir Michael's son, former cabinet minister Arthur Somare.

The five-man bench announced its decision on whether the Chief Justice will recuse himself, as well as the verdict on Mr O'Neill's election, will be delivered on Monday morning.

Friday's court session marks the third attempt by the O'Neill government to disqualify the chief justice since the constitutional hearings began in late August.

Supporters of Sir Michael launched the constitutional challenge immediately after Mr O'Neill's August the 2nd election, when MPs voted 70 to 24 to dump Sir Michael and replace him with Mr O'Neill.

Sir Michael's supporters argue there was no vacancy in the prime ministership despite a four-month absence by the 76-year-old political veteran, who had been recovering from heart surgery in Singapore.

As the drama unfolded in the courts on Friday, the Speaker of PNG's parliament, Jeffery Nape, led a vote to ensure Sir Michael remains dumped from his East Sepik seat.

Sir Michael lost his seat in September for missing three sessions of parliament while he was in Singapore, but that has also been challenged in the courts by Sir Michael's supporters, who say he only missed two sessions without leave and was granted permission to miss a May session.

That challenge has been rolled into the main constitutional case.

However, parliament voted on Friday to rescind the May leave order on the grounds Sir Michael did not fully disclose the nature of his illness.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MAN LOSES ARM IN CRASH, JOURNOS INJURED

A man from Lonahan in North Bougainville is recovering from having had his right arm amputated at the Buka General Hospital after his arm was crushed in a fatal car accident at Teariki in Tinputz district last Tuesday.

Donald Kisu, 30, was returning to Buka from Tinputz in a PMV when the vehicle he was on crashed into a hired vehicle that was on its way to Arawa from Buka with journalists on board.

Eye witnesses at the accident scene said the vehicle the journalists were on had taken the lane of the oncoming vehicle at a sharp turn which is notorious for many vehicle accidents at Teariki.

Apart from Kisu, the other two casualties were a broadcast journalist who sustained two broken fingers and a newspaper reporter who had a bruised back from the impact of the crash on the side of the vehicle she was in.

The journalists from Radio Bougainville, New Dawn FM, The National and a camera man from Kundu 2 along with two board of directors of National Broadcasting Corporation were on their way to Arawa for the launch of Kundu 2 and Wantok Radio Light when the accident occurred.

The accident prompted calls by Bougainville Police Service (BPS) and community leaders at Tinputz for drivers to observe all traffic rules when driving along the Buka to Arawa trunk road.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

POWER OUTAGE HITS BUKA

BUKA town in North Bougainville is going through load shedding of its electricity supply as electricians from PNG Power continue to address issues with the three main generators that supply power to the town.

The generators are in their various stages of maintenance with one awaiting parts to be flown in from overseas and the other is in the process of commissioning after being serviced.

The third generator will take a while in maintaining after it was burnt due to a technical fault experienced within its first month of operation.

But frustration from corporate and household clients is mounting despite PNG Power Buka putting out notices informing clients of the load shedding schedule.

Business houses are claiming thousands of kina loss of business due to the load shedding which they claim is inconsistent and has been ongoing since Nov 17.

PNG Power Buka branch has urged users with their own generators to continue to supply their own power until the town power supply is fully restored.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CHRISTAIN RADIO REACHES RURAL LISTENERS

THE word of Christ is being received throughout Central Bougainville through the broadcast of Wantok Radio Light after it successfully installed a 300 watt transmitter at Arawa last week.

The station, which features prayers, family focused programs and gospel music was applauded for its contribution to peace building in Bougainville by Minister for Communication Jimmy Miringoro.

In launching both Wantok Radio Light and government television Kundu 2 last week, Miringoro

said communication was vital to the ongoing peace process in Bougainville. He said the inception of Wantok Radio Light programs into the communities would enhance the spiritual growth of rural listeners in Bougainville. He added that the O'Neil/Namah government as part of its commitment to ensuring information and communication services reach the bulk of the population in the rural areas had committed K4 million to assisting Wantok Radio Light roll-out its network to districts in PNG. He urged the people of Bougainville and especially the landowners in Arawa to take care of infrastructures like communication towers which bring communication services to Bougainville. He said in bringing such services, there are a lot of barriers needed overcoming. These include financial and natural barriers like people. He explained that people, can be barriers to development too when issues of land ownership is being raised and infrastructure is destroyed. Managing Directors of NBC and Wantok Radio Light Memafu Kafera and Andrew Ogil both pledged to work in partnership in extending their respective media services to South Bougainville.

12.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

LEADERS CONDEMN ATTACK ON TOWER

DIGICEL network to Central and South Bougainville has been restored after mobile services to more than 2000 people was disrupted following the burning of Digicel's relay tower at Mabiri. The tower was burnt allegedly by Mabiri landowners disgruntled at claims of Digicel not paying its land rental bills.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) communication minister Joseph Nopei and Minister for Communication Jimmy Miringtoro both condemned the landowner's action.

Nopei urged that landowners look after infrastructure services that is on their land.

"The region is in need for communication and information services and when infrastructures like communication towers is on your land, please appreciate it and look after it," said Nopei.

Miringtoro added that communication towers give people the advantage of improved communication services like mobile network and people must help by taking care of these.

"We are willing to help Bougainville, to bring important services to you, but please, support us by looking after the facilities we build.

"To build a communication tower, it costs over K250,000 of people's money, in Bougainville, to build such infrastructure, the price doubles or triples, for one reason or another.

"Please elders, inform your young man and women to protect the services we provide," urged Miringtoro.

11.12.2012

Source: BusinessSpectator

Somare willing to serve again

Sir Michael Somare is willing to serve as prime minister of Papua New Guinea again, but he says he's unsure if he'll run for his East Sepik electorate at the 2012 election.

Sir Michael's comments on Sunday came as the government of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill obtained the signature of Governor-General Sir Michael Oglia on a document dismissing the political veteran from the seat he has held for 43 years.

"I am willing - I am willing to serve as prime minister again," the 76-year-old Sir Michael told AAP.

"Although I do not know if I will run for East Sepik again. There is a lot to consider."

Sir Michael said he would not comment on the Supreme Court decision, due on Monday, that could return him to office if the five-man bench rules that Mr O'Neill was not constitutionally elected.

The government on Sunday obtained the signature of the governor-general rescinding leave granted to Sir Michael to miss parliament in May while he was in Singapore undergoing heart surgery.

The document also says that, as a consequence, Sir Michael is no longer a sitting MP.

"I cannot believe they have done this to me, after 43 years - 44 next year," Sir Michael said.

At the press conference Sir Michael said little other than to urge the nation to remain calm in the lead-up to Monday's court decision.

The three heart operations that kept him absent from PNG for five months have left the usually stocky but fit-looking man thinner and frail.

However, he was extremely alert at the press conference, laughing at jokes directed at the O'Neill side and checking messages on his mobile phone.

His son, suspended MP Arthur Somare, said he would file a legal challenge against speaker Jeffery Nape for ruling his father was dismissed from parliament.

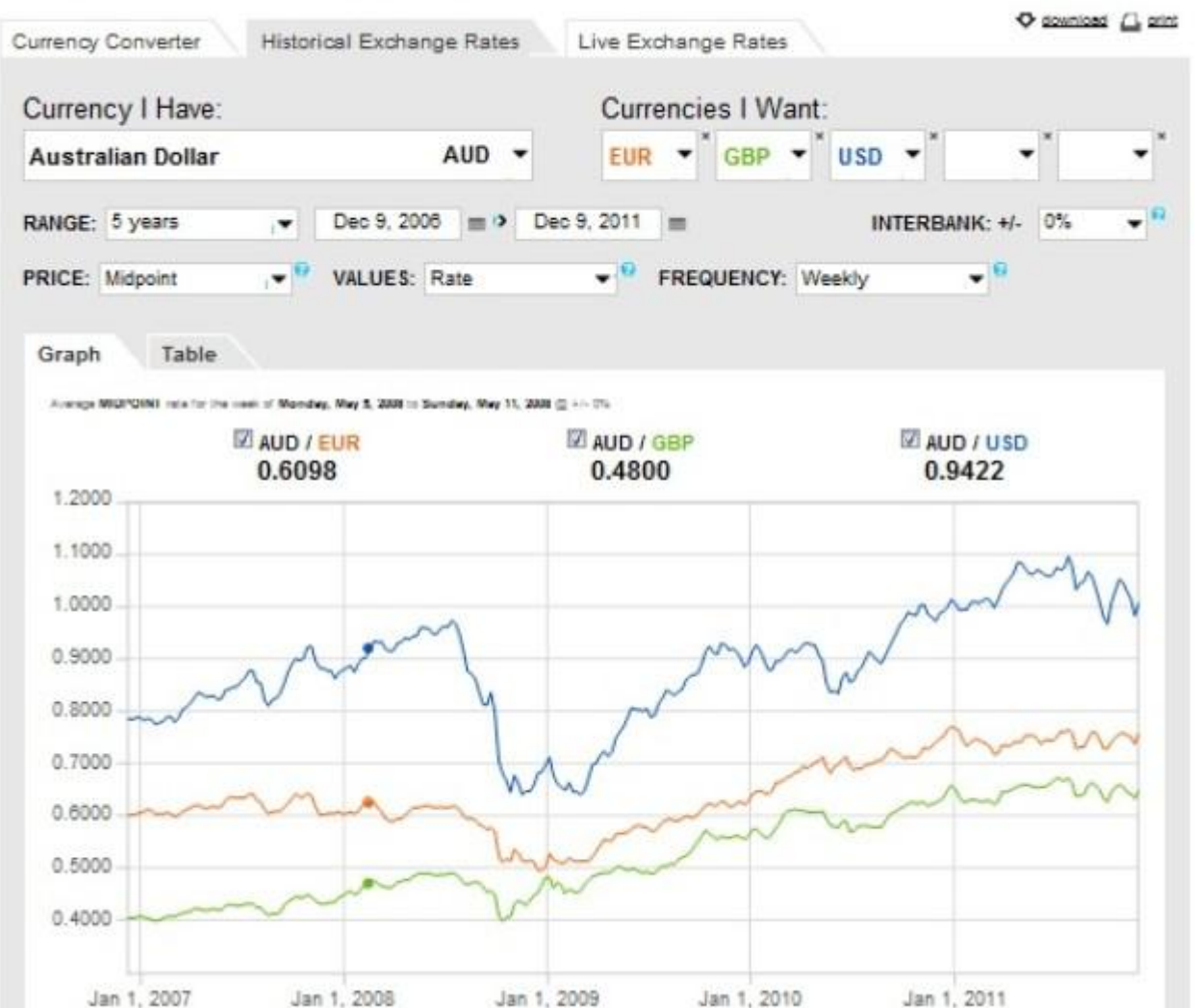
Sir Michael was PNG's first prime minister when it gained independence from Australia in 1975. He went on to serve as foreign minister and opposition leader, before becoming prime minister again at the 2002 elections and again in 2007, making him PNG's longest-serving leader.

09.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Australian Dollar (AUD) to flirt 5 years high to Euro (EUR)

Historical Exchange Rates



09.12.2011

Source: Radio Australia News

PNG court delays decision on prime minister

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court has deferred a decision on who the country's legitimate prime minister is.

Supporters of the former prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, have launched a legal challenge after he was replaced in August while overseas for medical treatment.

But lawyers for the current Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, made a last-minute application to have the judge disqualified, claiming he'd been seen in public with Mr Somare's son.

The court is expected to rule on both matters on Monday.

09.12.2011

Source: Islands Business / NBC News

New twist delays ruling on PNG's leadership court challenge

Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court will hear an application by Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, seeking to remove the Chief Justice from presiding as Chairman of the five men bench hearing the Special Reference, challenging the August formation of Government.

PORT MORESBY, PNG (NBC NEWS) ---- Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court will hear an application by Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, seeking to remove the Chief Justice from presiding as Chairman of the five men bench hearing the Special Reference, challenging the August formation of Government. The application to disqualify the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, was filed yesterday (Thursday) by O'Neill's lawyer and was set to be heard tomorrow morning. This new twist in the case may delay the much anticipated ruling of the matter before the court. The high court was to make a ruling on the Reference today. The much anticipated ruling of the High Court on the Special Reference will be stalled following this new application. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has alleged an apprehension of bias on Chairman of the bench Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia, claiming he was seen meeting with former State Enterprises Minister Arthur Somare at a Port Moresby hotel last month. O'Neill claimed this new evidence now taints a fear of bias on the bench. Today's court sitting was to answer the 37 Constitutional questions raised in the Special Reference, from the vacancy in the office of the Prime Minister to suspension of a Member of Parliament. The ruling will determine whether the current Government came into power according to law, when it ousted Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare. The August formation of the O'Neil-Namah Government has been described as a coup by Sir Michael's lawyers during hearing in October. Queens Council Marshall Cook representing Sir Michael said there was never a vacancy, and that Parliament's election of O'Neil was against the law. QC Cook also submitted that section 142 of the Constitution, which prescribes ways in which a Prime Minister may be removed from office to create a vacancy was also not properly followed by Parliament. He said in any case, the Head of State, which is the Governor General, has the ultimate power to remove a Prime Minister and not Parliament. He told the court, that because of this, Sir Michael and his Government should be reinstated. But lawyers representing Prime Minister Peter O'Neil, his deputy Belden Namah, Attorney General Doctor Allan Marat and Speaker Jeffery Nape argue Parliament's August action was lawful. They've submitted among others that because Sir Michael Somare was absent for a long time without proper information concerning his health reaching Parliament and the people, the action taken by Parliament was legal. They say the long absence of five months from Parliament, only gives Parliament the opportunity and occasion to employ section 142 of the Constitution to declare a vacancy in the Office of the Prime Minister, and subsequently elected O'Neil as Prime Minister. Lawyer Manuel Varitimos acting for PM O'Neill and his Deputy Belden Namah, had submitted that an earlier Supreme Court ruling on evidence by Justice David Cannings must also be revisited, while maintaining that evidence from that hearing has shown that Grand Chief was of an unsound mind for much of the period from March up to August. These opposing parties also argue that the courts do have the authority to scrutinize the actions of Parliament, saying it is non-justiciable. Meanwhile police in the capital

city say, they will be looking out that the anticipated ruling of the court does not spark protests. Police say all available resources including recruits and extra officers flown in from Lae will be used.

09.12.2011

Source: The Age

PNG on brink of ruin as government hangs in the balance

by Allan Patience

Opinion

Australia must intervene to stop its neighbour becoming a basket case.

Today the Papua New Guinea High Court will hand down a judgment determining the constitutional validity of the PNG government led by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. If a negative decision is handed down - as many experts expect - the government of PNG could become unworkable. This would be especially unfortunate because the O'Neill government has shown signs of addressing serious governance failures that have plagued the country for more than 30 years.

These failures have led some observers to think that PNG may be becoming a failed state.

Advertisement: Story continues below The omens are all there: escalating crime rates (including murder, drunken violence, illicit drugs, prostitution, burglary, carjacking); horrific violence directed at women (rapes, bashings, torture, killings); some of the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the world; plunging literacy rates; collapsed health and education systems; endemic tribal warfare in the Highlands; land grabs by foreigners; unsustainable exploitation of natural resources; decaying infrastructure; massive administrative incompetence; and the breakdown of public institutions such as the police and the civil service.

Each year the United Nations Human Development Index highlights that PNG is one of the most miserably governed states in the Third World. Equally worrying is Transparency International's annual reporting that levels of corruption among PNG's politicians, public officials and managers are among the world's worst.

That means PNG should be placed in a special category of "ruined states". Ruined states are the victims of corrupt ruling elites that cannibalise their states' resources for themselves, their families and their tribal cronies. Glaring examples of ruined states include Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe and Kim Jong-il's North Korea. Leaders of such countries deserve to be labelled the "new cannibals".

The new cannibalism in PNG is systematically undermining the country's economy, its society and politics. At least half the population is below the poverty line. Women and children are the worst victims of the governance disasters that are the everyday reality.

The Responsibility to Protect report endorsed by the UN in 2005, argues that where states are unwilling to protect their citizens, or if they are incapable of doing so, the international community should step in. This may involve aid for development projects, loans and investments, debt forgiveness, sanctions, sending corrupt leaders to the International Criminal Court, or direct military intervention.

The new cannibalism that is threatening PNG today could become grounds for invoking intervention. If so, does Australia have a responsibility for preparing an intervention strategy? As the former colonial power, and the biggest aid donor to PNG (nearly \$20 billion over the three decades or so since independence), Australia has a moral obligation to help halt PNG's slide.

There are also strategic issues for Australia to take on board. PNG is already a base for illegal immigrants wanting to come to Australia. International criminal gangs (drug smugglers, people smugglers, sex traffickers, money launderers) are almost certainly operating there. It could easily become a base for terrorists bent on attacking Australia. And if government collapses in PNG (which may happen after today), Australia can expect a flood of refugees.

Planning a practical intervention strategy for PNG will be no easy task. Australia cannot hope to achieve a successful strategy on its own. A multilateral approach is essential. Other major aid donor countries to PNG should be involved. Japan is an obvious potential partner, as is the

European Union. There would need to be consultations with, and involvement of, Pacific Islands Forum states. It could be helpful to also have ASEAN involvement in an intervention-planning consortium. But Australia and Japan should jointly take the lead.

Many PNG citizens would welcome an international intervention in their country's public administration. They are heartily sick of the incompetent, mendacious, self-serving political class that practises the new cannibalism so clumsily and with such dire consequences for almost all Papua New Guineans.

Professor Allan Patience teaches at Sophia University, Tokyo. He is a visiting scholar at the Asia Institute, Melbourne University.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

SHOPS RUNNING LOW

TTOVI

Consumers in Buka this week are feeling the pinch of the shortage of highly consumed foods. Many of the shops in Buka town have run out of foods such as chicken, sugar salt and alcohol. The shortage which is not a new thing to Buka has come about because of the ship schedules into Bougainville.

Retail Manager for Jomik Limited Austin Aupara says that the ship which was expected on Monday has been delayed due to bad weather in Rabaul.

He says though it may not come on time the ships always make it in time for Christmas.

He has ensured their customers that their stocks will be up again as soon as consort ships dock into the Buka wharf.

09.12.2011

Source: ABC 24H dans le Pacifique

Brèves de Pacifique

Papouasie Nouvelle-Guinée: 4 mois après son élection, le Premier ministre Peter O'Neill n'est toujours pas confirmé dans son fauteuil- La légitimité de son élection est contestée devant la Cour Suprême par ses opposants, dont la garde rapprochée de l'ancien Premier ministre évincé, Michael Somare.

Peter O'Neill a été élu de manière inédite, alors que Michael Somare était à l'hôpital à Singapour. Le Parlement avait alors déclaré la vacance du pouvoir et convoqué de nouvelles élections. C'est cette décision qui est l'objet de toutes les controverses. Alors pour repousser la décision de la Cour Suprême, Peter O'Neill essaie de gagner du temps. Mercredi il a déposé un recours pour déclarer l'incompétence du Président de la Cour Suprême, Salamo Injia. La Cour Suprême réunie au grand complet rendra sa décision ce vendredi. Le gouvernement de Peter O'Neill a déjà essayé de d'écarter Salamo Injia en novembre. Il l'a suspendu, l'accusant de détournement de fonds publics. Mais le gouvernement a dû le réintégrer dans ses fonctions bien vite car la Cour Suprême a riposté en mettant en examen deux ministres.

09.12.2011

Source: Australia Network News

PNG court to decide who has right to govern

There are fears in Papua New Guinea that a court decision on the government's legitimacy could spark civil unrest.

The Supreme Court expected to decide who was the country's legitimate Prime Minister is on Friday morning.

Supporters of the previous PM Sir Michael Somare had argued he was removed from office illegally back in August and replaced by Peter O'Neill.

Police feared there could be protests and even riots and said they'd be out in force around the courthouse.

Randel West from private security company The Corps had advised clients to take extra precautions.

"We've had several different sources talking about the possibility of riots," Mr West said.

"There's obviously a fair bit of passion on both sides of the argument".

A number of businesses and schools were expected to stay closed on Friday.

Watch here Liam Fox's report:

09.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

ABG has funds for services

By ADRIANA SCHMIDT

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government yearly budget funds cater for Government institutions, the delivery of services and the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

However, the ABG does not have money bags where members of the Bougainville House of Representatives can distribute to individuals and groups within the region like the National Parliament does each year.

Vice president of the ABG Patrick Nisira said this at the Taiof Island in Buka last week during the celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Albert, the island's patron saint.

The people of Taiof Island had raised more than K30,000 to complete their only church building which they started building in 2005.

He said individuals and Bougainville groups, who wished to seek financial help had to apply to Members of the National Parliament, who were allocated more than K10 million annually in their District Services Improvement Programs (DSIP) to support impact development projects in their respective districts and electorates.

Mr Nisira gave a personal donation of K500 cash and 20 sheets of hardy flanks, while Regional Member for Bougainville Fidelis Semoso, who also attended the Feast Day gave K5000 from his Buka Management Company.

Mr Semoso further promised an additional K8000 from his electoral funds, 40 pieces of hardy planks and K1000 cash from his pay packet which he willingly gave to support the people's efforts.

"I have placed a lot of my small electoral funds to help the various church denominations in the region because I believe it is the church that can make the difference in changing the attitudes of the people of Bougainville," Mr Semoso told more than 1000 people, who had come to celebrate the island community to complete their six-year-old church building.

Member for North Bougainville Lautu Atoi also pledged to support the Taiof Island community with a donation of K5000, and also announced the delivery of television equipment for the Taiof Primary School before the end of this year.

Mr Nisira said that whilst Members of the Bougainville House of Representatives, including the President Chief John Momis and himself, wanted very much to personally support the church with their respective infrastructure programs, the ABG just did not have the required funds to do so.

"The only leaders in Bougainville and PNG who have the money that is meant for impact projects and to create economic and social development in the villages, and the people and all the 40 Council of Elders should work closely with these National members of Parliament if they wanted to benefit from their allocated funds," Mr Nisira said.

He also said that Members of the Bougainville House of Representatives should also cooperate with Members of the National Parliament, particularly in implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Meanwhile in other developments, police officers and women in the Autonomous Region of

Bougainville will now be able to conduct investigation professionally and competently. This would be possible after graduating from an intensive nine weeks course on investigation. AusAID funded the course while Australian and New Zealand police officers conducted the training.

When addressing the graduates, Senior Provincial Magistrate Peter Toliken told them that Bougainville had a very young police service and they must aim for the very top.

09.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Forum reviews courts

By MELANIE TOLIKEN

THE people of Bougainville want their future system of village or community courts to be part of the formal courts of Bougainville where village chiefs and women will play a leading role. This was revealed at the end of the Village Court Forum in Arawa last week.

The forum, attended by about 190 village court officials and district village court officers was held to discuss the findings of a comprehensive review of the village courts in the region by a committee set up by the Bougainville Administration.

In November 2010, the Bougainville Law and Justice Working Group decided to review the operations of the Village Courts. A steering committee was formed comprising of the Senior Provincial Magistrate Peter Toliken (Chairman), the Provincial Village Courts officer Daniel Timpa, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Local Level Governments Herbert Kimai, the Assistant Commissioner of Police Thomas Eluh and a legal Officer of the office of the principal officer Kenton Simpson. AusAID provided advisory and financial support.

The review commenced in August this year and ran for 12 weeks.

The review team travelled the breadth and length of Bougainville and visited 91 out of 96 Village Courts in the region to gauge the views of village court officials, district village court officers and councils of elders.

The review found, among other things, that the people wanted their village courts to be part of the formal Bougainville courts; that priority should be given to chiefs when appointing village magistrates; that there be more women magistrates to reflect their special status in Bougainville society; that the courts be adequately staffed and resourced and for officials and officers to be appropriately remunerated by the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The people also want the village courts to be administered by the Division of Law and Justice and not by the Division of Local Level Government as currently is the case.

It was also found that all 96 village courts in the region have not been legally established nor have the 960 officials been legally appointed.

Some of the main preliminary recommendations of the forum were that:

- All the existing village courts must be legally established as a matter of urgency;
- A Bougainville Village Court Act must be enacted as a matter of urgency in accordance with the contents and recommendations of the review;
- The administration and management of the proposed Bougainville village court no longer be the responsibility of the local level government department;
- The administration and management of the proposed Bougainville Village Court be ultimately the responsibility of the 'head of other Bougainville courts' but until the Bougainville Courts are established and the 'Head of other Bougainville courts' is appointed the administrative oversight of the proposed Bougainville Village Court should be vested in the secretary, law and justice department;
- That chiefs and more women be appointed as village magistrates;

The final report of the review is expected to be completed and handed over to the Autonomous Bougainville Government in June 2012.

09.12.2011

Source: The National

Court quashes Yakasa's appeal

By SAMUEL RAITANO

THE National Court has dismissed an application by senior police officer Fred Yakasa to stop his removal as acting deputy police commissioner.

Yakasa had sought a stay order and a judicial review on the National Executive Council's decision to remove him from the more senior position of acting deputy police commissioner operations.

Yakasa was recently transferred to Bougainville as the assistant police commissioner.

He claimed that the National Executive Council had removed him from the more senior post without offering any good reason.

Yakasa's application was dismissed by Justice George Manuhu at the Waigani National Court yesterday.

The court said Yakasa had failed to produce the relevant laws and acts that warranted his revocation to be an issue.

It was also found that allegations he had made against the NEC were "speculative".

The court said he had been in an "acting" position which meant that either his removal or confirmation were the next steps to be taken as seen appropriate by the authorities.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

Security tight ahead of PNG court decision

There is a heavy police presence on the streets of Port Moresby ahead of a Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the government.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was elected by a parliamentary vote of 70 to 24 in August, dumping long-time leader Sir Michael Somare.

Sir Michael's supporters immediately brought the matter before the courts, arguing there was no vacancy in the prime ministership despite a four-month absence by the 76-year-old political veteran, who had been recovering from heart surgery in Singapore.

Police roadblocks have been set up along Port Moresby's main highway, Champion Highway, at Jackson's airport and around the nation's courts and parliament.

The police commissioner Tom Kulunga says the heavy police presence is there in case there is a violent reaction to the decision by the five man bench.

Mr O'Neill yesterday applied to have Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia dismissed from overseeing the case, the government's third attempt to do so.

If Mr O'Neill is found to have been in breach of the constitution, it could break his fragile coalition and lead to the formation of a new government.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

CLOSE ESCAPE

Tapo Tovilu

A team of journalists traveling to Arawa for the launch of Kundu Two are lucky to be alive after their vehicle collided at Tearoki on Tuesday.

In the vehicle was Board Chairman for the National Broadcasting Cooperation, a camera man from Kundu Two and journalists from Radio Bougainville, The National and New Dawn FM.

The Toyota Land cruiser on its way to Arawa veered into the opposite lane and was hit on the side by an oncoming vehicle at a sharp turn.

A passenger from the other vehicle was badly injured losing his right arm in the collision.

A journalist from the team was hospitalized after two of her fingers were broken on impact.

There were no deaths with passengers from both vehicles ending up with minor cuts and bruises.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

KUNDU TWO LAUNCHED

Tapo Tovilu

The Kundu two service provided by the National Broadcasting Cooperation of Papua New Guinea has been launched in Arawa.

The launching which was held at the central park in Arawa also included the launch of the Christian Radio Light broadcast service.

The launching was attended by representatives of Kundu two and Radio Light including a government delegation consisting of Minister for Media and Communication David Mirintoro and Minister for Local Level and Traditional Affairs Joseph Nopei.

The two services which are available in Buka and now in Arawa are being broadcasted by the NBC service.

Minister Mirintoro while officiating the launch told the people of Arawa that the services that were being provided were for their benefit and was to be looked after.

He says that Bougainville is growing and more services and infrastructure was to be given to the people.

The minister also revealed that NBC and Radio Light will be expending their broadcasts to cover the whole of Bougainville by 2015.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

MINISTER CALLS TO COMMUNITIE

Tapo Tovilu

Minister for local level government and traditional authority Joseph Nopei has called on communities in Arawa to look after infrastructure in their communities.

He says the region is in need for communication and its infrastructure which is given to the communities should be looked after.

Minister Nopei says that the launching was another step in Bougainville's development and that the people should appreciate this.

He thanked the Minister for Communication and infrastructure for the initiative and commended him for the work he was doing.

He says the region currently has not enough funds to fully develop and thanked the minister for funding the launch.

Minister Nopei called on the local community of Arawa to look after the services that were provided to them.

He said these comments at the launching of Kundu 2 and Radio Light in Arawa yesterday.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

GRADUATES CELEBRATE

TTOVI

Graduates from Hutjena Secondary School on Friday graduated more 200 grade 10 and 12 students.

The event for Hutjena was a historical even as it marked the 20th grade 10 graduates to pass out from Hutjena Secondary.

Family and friends of graduates and fellow students turned out to witness the occasion as the grade 10 and 12 students graduated.

The grade 10 dux for 2011 was Nigel Omirong while Solomon Puniha taking out the Hutjena Secondary School Grade 12 dux.

This is the first lot of grade 12 students to graduate under the new Outcome Based Education system.

09.12.2011

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

BUKA GENERAL HOSPITAL RE-OPENS DISPENSARY

TTOVI

Buka General Hospital after a week of being short on drugs has reopened its dispensary to the public.

It was closed last weekend due to the shortage of drugs which Buka General Hospital says was caused by shortage in Port Moresby and Rabaul.

Director of Medical Services Dr Banabas Matanu says that the outpatient is also in full swing now and will be taking in its normal capacity.

Last week, under his directions the outpatient staffs were directed to take in a certain number of patients.

Dr Matanu says that the supply is back to normal and operations in the hospital are in full swing.

09.12.2011

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

Angry text messages target Chinese in PNG

by Doug Hendrie, Port Moresby

ANTI-CHINESE sentiment is flaring in Papua New Guinea during a week of political turmoil, with widely circulated text messages calling for the public to "forcefully evict" Chinese from the country if former leader Sir Michael Somare returns to power.

"The Somare regime existed through Asian mafia's fundings ... PNGians will be slaves of Somare family and Asians. Declare war against Asian influx," the messages read in part. They are spreading virally ahead of today's Supreme Court decision on whether the current government, led by Peter O'Neill, took power legitimately after 75-year-old Sir Michael stood aside while undergoing medical treatment in June.

Some observers are tipping the return of the former government, dominated by the wily leader from the Sepik River region, which could trigger a backlash from Highlanders who support the new Highlander-led regime under Mr O'Neill.

Advertisement: Story continues below The anti-Chinese messages are the latest in a series of flash protests triggered by widespread uptake of mobile phones in PNG, ranging from ethnic clashes to street marches against corruption.

Police have brought in extra officers from across the nation and set up roadblocks near Parliament and the courts.

"We will be out in full force. We expect something will happen in anything to do with politics," said a police spokesman.

A series of anti-Chinese riots have taken place across PNG since 1999, driven by resentment of new migrants. At least six Chinese migrants have been killed in the last decade.

Chinese-owned stores were looted across the country in May 2009, sparked by an anti-Chinese march led by activist Noel Anjo.

Mr Anjo denied involvement in the text messages and said he now condemned anti-Chinese violence.

"Our people have seen Asians flooding into the country over the last 10 years without proper documentation," he said. "But looting Asian shops is the work of opportunists and won't solve the problem."

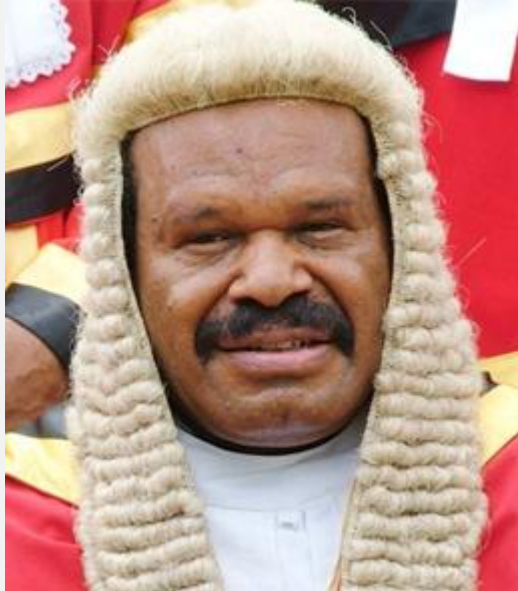
Thousands of poor mainland Chinese have obtained work permits illegally over the past decade, according to a 2008 report by Monash University's Professor James Chin.

Outspoken Port Moresby blogger Martyn Namorong says PNG has become a tinderbox, with the proceeds of the current resource boom failing to reach people on the ground. "The kids just need to strike the match," Mr Namorong said.

08.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia TV News

Acts PNG Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia independently or is he the spearhead of the former probable corrupt Somare regime?



PNG Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia

Watch here Liam Fox's report:

08.12.2011

Source: The National

Siwais to hold arms summit

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

FOLLOWING the recent signing of a ceasefire agreement between five warring factions in Konnou constituency, community representatives at Siwai, South Bougainville, have planned for an arms summit to be held in Siwai district.

The proposed Siwai district arms summit is being planned for January.

The Siwai District Peace and Security Committee (SDPSC) last Friday agreed to prioritise preparation for the arms summit, which will be a first for the autonomous region.

The arms summit will allow youths, women, churches, veterans, chiefs and other stakeholders to discuss weapons disposal in the district and Bougainville.

Committee deputy team leader Michael Komoiki said a survey by the Veterans Association had shown that there was a 'serious' arms build-up in the region.

"It is clear in the number of unauthorised entry of foreign vessels into our waters via Loloho port. Arms are now in the hands of ex-combatants, business houses, criminals and registered arms under the government," Komoiki said.

Chief of Kaparo village Ignatius Morou said the number of guns in South Bougainville had doubled compared to when the Bougainville crisis was on and he urged that the arms summit be

supported.

"These guns are not ours. We do not have a factory here yet we have so many guns coming into the region."

08.12.2011

Source: The National

Decision due on Yakasa's removal

THE National Court is expected today to rule on an application by Assistant Police Commissioner (Bougainville) Fred Yakasa to stop his removal as deputy police commissioner operations.

The removal was ordered by the National Executive Council.

Yakasa, through his lawyer, had argued in court that the NEC did not tell him why he was removed, demoted and sent to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

But the court cautioned Yakasa that what he was pursuing could put his job at risk given that it was normal police practice to obey official orders from superiors.

Yakasa argued that he was being demoted without cause, which contravened section 49 of the Police Act.

He said under the act, "a person in the deputy commissioner's post could be removed if he was sick, on leave or become incompetent".

Yakasa argued that his removal did not fall into any one of these categories.

In the hearings on Monday and yesterday, state lawyers did not appear.

A ruling on the stay application and review is expected today.

07.12.2011

Source: PNG Industry News

Another round of Bougainville negotiations

THE Autonomous Bougainville Government has reportedly set up a team to renegotiate the encompassing Bougainville Copper Agreement – a key requirement for possibly re-opening the once mighty Panguna copper-gold mine this decade.

According to The National, Bougainville President John Momis said the decision to renegotiate the BCA as opposed to renew it was because the agreement was "drawn up by parties which were no longer present at the negotiation table".

Momis reportedly thanked Prime Minister Peter O'Neill for his decision not to exercise his government's power over mining-related issues on Bougainville Island, and for not approving the renewal of the Panguna special mining lease to Rio Tinto subsidiary Bougainville Copper.

Panguna was the world's fourth largest copper mine before it was closed in 1989.

There were around 600 landowners or landowner representatives of the 1980 compensation agreement for the mine – providing plenty of scope for differences of opinion.

If there is sufficient community approval for the mine to be reopened, this task will still be considered a large project even though access roads and port infrastructure remain.

07.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG government accused of interference

A former Papua New Guinea police commissioner is taking legal action against the revocation of his position and says politicians are interfering too much in police appointments.

The former acting deputy commissioner of police operations, Fred Yakasa, suddenly had his position revoked last week, and has been offered a transfer to Bougainville.

Mr Yakasa says it was a government decision and he was given no reason for it.

“There’s unnecessary interference in the organisation by politicians. I’m not taking the case to court because I am being dropped as acting deputy. I am basically trying to help lawmakers or otherwise to put some sort of precedent in place where politicians should not be actually kicking us around there must be reasons for revocations.”

Fred Yakasa says when there are changes in government, it is often followed by changes in senior police appointments, which is not good for the stability of the organisation.



Fred Yakasa

07.12.2011

Source: The National

2012 National Budget breakdown

Departments – how they fared against the 2011 budget.

- * National Parliament – K114,542,200 (K108,058,700)
- * Office of the Governor-General – K4,728,600 (K4,825,100)
- * Department of Prime Minister and NEC – K70,051,400 (K63,195,800)
- * National Statistical Office – K5,807,900 (K4,933,900)
- * Office of Bougainville Affairs – K2,448,200 (K2,369,800)
- * Department of Finance – K24,165,500 (K22,424,400)
- * Treasury and Finance Miscellaneous – K1,271,548,200 (K1,688,550,600)
- * Registrar for Political Parties – K6,772,600 (K5,978,300)
- * PNG Customs Services – K32,556,800 (K18,827,400)
- * Information Technology Division – K19,094,300 (K18,636,100)
- * Fire Services – K19,893,800 (K18,609,600)
- |
- * PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services – K8,665,500 (K10 million)
- * Internal Revenue Commission – K44.275 million (K38,311,400)
- * Foreign Affairs and Trade – K59.981 million (K57,737,600)
- * Office of the Public Prosecutor – K6,151,300 (K5,486,700)
- * PNG Institute of Public Administration – K6,579,800 million (K6,068,400)
- * Personnel Management – K16,267,500 (K15,033,700)

- * Public Services Commission –K4,766,300 (K4,263,400)
- * Office of the Public Solicitor – K9,883,200 (K9,181,100)
- * Judiciary – K73,831,300 (K69,652,200)
- * Magisterial Services – K34,840,000 (K31,109,600)
- * Justice and Attorney-General – K40,271,300 (K33,008,100)
- * Correctional Services – K97,339,800 (K89,019,600)
- * Provincial Treasuries – K36,495,200 (K35,952,600)
- * Police – K248.433 million (K226,705,900)
- * National Planning and Monitoring – K16,161,600 (K14,393,300)
- * Electoral Commission – K26,200,000 (K24,794,000)
- * National Intelligence Organisation – K3,925,000 (K3,777,200)
- * Provincial and Local Government Affairs – K14,633,800 (K12,401,200)
- * Defence – K161,826,500 (K144,811,000)
- * Education – K482,237,300 (K325,868,900)
- * Office of Higher Education – K41,182,700
- * K39,075,200)
- * PNG National Commission for Unesco – K2,013,400 (K1,907,700)
- * Health – K272,147,600 (K261,684,000)
- * Hospital Management Services – K360,811,100 (K333,503,400)
- * Community Development – K14,555,200 (K10,317,400)
- * National Volunteer Services – K1,307,300 (K1,233,300)
- * Environment and Conservation – K10,06,600 (K9,503,500)
- * Agriculture and Livestock – K14,587,300 (K13,999,000)
- * Lands and Physical Planning – K36,206,700 (K29,353,600)
- * Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management – K7,959,500 (K7,405,700)
- * Petroleum and Energy – K24,551,500 (K12,755,900)
- * Public Enterprises – K3,643,600 (K3,489,600)
- * Information and Communication – K3,949,200 (K3,686,800)
- * Transport – K21,855,800 (K20,909,700)
- * Commerce and Industry – K12,674,100 (K10,049,900)
- * Labour and Industrial Relations – K11,933,700 (K11,272.500)
- * National Tripartite Consultative Council – K897,100 (K985,200)
- * Works and Implementation – K165.7 million (K160.978 million)
- * Office of Rural Development – K6,535,200 (K5,867,800)
- * Central Supply and Tenders Board – K2,994,200 (K3,068,300)
- * Office of Tourism, Arts and Culture – K1.94 million (K1,830.200).

Provinces

Allocation for provincial governments

- * Fly River – K44,869,200 (K42,636,800)
- * Gulf – K37,240,500 (K32,098,200)
- * Central – K63,907,900 (K58,009,900)
- * National Capital District – K3,913,400 (K3,654,000)
- * Milne Bay – K66,229,000 (K57,291,400)
- * Oro – K39,693,200 (K34,850,300)
- * Southern Highlands – K92,480,500 (K85,986,800)
- * Enga – K58,749,700 (K54,602,300)
- * Western Highlands – K94,594,600 (K73,733,200)

- * Simbu – K75,597,300 (K57,994,100)
- * Eastern Highlands – K88,047,300 (K74,230,600)
- * Morobe – K99,829,200 (K90,530,600)
- * Madang – K83,143,300 (K71,693,100)
- * East Sepik – K92,874,100 (K76,906,200)
- * Sandaun – K68,281,600 (K51,764, 300)
- * Manus – K36,243,900 (K27,078,700)
- * New Ireland – K40,373,400 (K35,320,500)
- * East New Britain – K79,496,700 (K62,210,700)
- * West New Britain – K60,413,400 (K52,490,900)
- * Autonomous Bougainville Government – K78,395,700 (K66,219,000)

Statutory bodies and agencies

Listed here are the statutory bodies and their budget allocation for 2012 compared to 2011.

- * Auditor-General's Office – K17,818,600 (K16,171,700)
- * Ombudsman Commission – K17,518,100 (K14.74 million)
- * National Research Institute – K4,860,500 (K4.38 million)
- * National Training Council – K2.68 million (K2.57 million)
- * National Economic and Fiscal Commission – K2,996,300 (K2.1 million)
- * Border Development Authority – K4.368 million (K4.2 million)
- * Legal Training Institute – K2,365,500 (K2.27 million)
- * PNG Climate Change Authority – K7,691,800
- * University of PNG – K40.711 million (K23.7 million)
- * University of Technology – K41,801,700 (K39,428.400)
- * University of Goroka – K16.6m (K13.7 million)
- * University of Environment and Natural Resources – K14,245,800
- * PNG Sports Foundation – K9.815 million (K10. 57m)
- * National Narcotics Bureau – K4.28 million (K2,460,300)
- * PNG Maritime College – K3.180 million (K3.6 million)
- * National AIDS Council Secretariat – K7.9 million (K6,899,700)
- * Institute of Medical Research – K7.25 million (K5.6 million)
- * National Youth Commission – K4,228,600 (K2.05 million)
- * Constitutional Law Reform Commission – K2,869,400 (K2.76 million)
- * PNG Accidents Investigations Commission – K3,268,300 (K3,142,600)
- * National Broadcasting Commission – K27,600,100 (K21,327,600)
- * National Maritime Safety Authority – K1,703,500 (K1.67 million)
- * Investment Promotion Authority – K2.77 million (K2.68 million)
- * Small Business Development Corporation – K2.675 million (K2.573 million)
- * National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology – K3,180,000 (K2,891,700).
- * Industrial Centres Development Corporation – K2.239 million (K2.153 million)
- * Kokonas Industry Kopresen – K1,040 million (K1 million)
- * National Museum and Art Gallery – K9,319,800 (K8,011,400)
- * National Housing Corporation – K244.6 million (K235.2 million)
- * National Cultural Commission – K4.4 million (K4.24 million)
- * Office of Coastal Fisheries Development Agency – K2.48 million (K2.38 million)
- * Cocoa Coconut Institute Ltd – K6.3 million (K5.7 million)
- * Fresh Produce Development Company – K5.6 million (K4.8 million)

- * PNG Coffee Industry Corporation – K2.9 million (K2.1 million)
- * National Forest Authority – K28,900,200 (K27.8 million)
- * Tourism Promotion Authority – K10,710,300 (K10.3 million)
- * National Agriculture Research Institute – K9.1 million (K8.74 million)
- * National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority – K4.2 million (K4 million)
- * Civil Aviation Safety Authority – K10,483,200 (K10.1 million)
- * National Road Authority – K2,313,300
- * Independent Consumer and Competition Commission – K9,303,800 (K2,012,700)

07.12.2011

Source: The National

Yakasa challenges posting to Bougainville

By SAMUEL RAITANO

ASSISTANT police commissioner (Bougainville) Fred Yakasa wants to challenge the National Executive Council's decision to revoke his appointment as acting deputy police commissioner operations and transfer him to Bougainville.

Yakasa's lawyer yesterday argued that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and his cabinet, including Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga, gave no reason for Yakasa's transfer and demotion from the rank of chief superintendent to the post in Bougainville, which he dubbed as being of an "unattached officer".

Yakasa's lawyer yesterday sought to have the Waigani National Court grant him leave for a judicial review of the decision by cabinet and to stay the transfer to Bougainville.

However, the court told Yakasa to show in court the process surrounding the revocation of such appointments under the Police Act.

Justice George Manuhu told Yakasa's lawyer that the process of removal of the deputy commissioner with the reasons for a revocation would be clearly set out in the Police Act.

Manuhu said it should shed light on whether the relevant provisions applied to someone in an "acting" role as deputy commissioner.

"It appears to me that you are unable to ascertain the procedure, it would undermine your basis in having an arguable case ... we need to see what the law says.

"I am certain there is a procedure for the removal of a deputy commissioner," Manuhu said.

07.12.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville plans for disaster

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

KEY partners in the Bougainville disaster and emergency network successfully completed two days of training towards drafting of a contingency plan for the disaster-prone Bougainville atolls and Buka Island.

The planning workshop was co-facilitated by UNHCR country representative Walpurga Englbrecht and Department of Mining, Policy and Geohazard Management (DMPGM) officer Mathew Moihoi.

Englbrecht said the workshop, themed "Planning is everything" aimed to create greater understanding of what contingency planning meant and to build the participants' confidence to contribute to the drafting of Bougainville's contingency plan.

It is hoped the workshop will strengthen co-operation and improve humanitarian action in preparing for and responding to emergencies and disasters particularly related to the atolls and Buka islanders.

Welcoming the participants, Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) minister for communication Joseph Nopei said with the various potential disaster activities in Bougainville, contingency planning ensured a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach as was

usually the case.

"I am happy to say now that the knowledge and skills gained from this exercise are of very crucial value to the region in terms of reducing the impact of disaster activities and importantly mitigating these scenarios," Nopei said.

ABG deputy administrator policy and research Raymond Masono said experience had shown that co-ordination was essential to ensure effective response, address gaps and avoid confusion and overlap.

"It is vital that information management and communication systems are well reflected in the evolution of this important document."

07.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

TB patients on rise in Bougainville

By Joseph Morokana

Seven people have died in the last 12 months in the Peit Constituency of Buka as a result of tuberculosis (TB).

The victims were from the Solos area of Buka which has a population of about 12,000 people. These deaths were reported by health officers from Gagan Health Centre.

Five of the deaths were adults under the ages of 30 while the other was a 40 year-old woman from Gagan village.

"There is an unprecedented increase in the last 12 months and the population is facing high risk in contracting TB," said Sr Stella Toahei, health officer at Gagan Health Centre.

Sr Toahei has also said that health authorities in Bougainville had shown a lack of concern for the TB efforts in the autonomous region.

"We have faced difficulties in lack of sputum follow-ups, low case detection, patients defaulting and lack of mobility funds for awareness," Sr Toahei said.

She said that 60 patients were now on the TB DOT program and they have an additional 23 new cases in 2011.

"The most affected age group are the young mothers from 18 to 24, while children from 1 to 5 years of age, then 24 years to 35 years and the least is 45 years and above."

She said that Peit constituency has a population of 12000 with the village affected most was Gagan with 23 cases, Kohiso 18 cases, Hapan 12 cases, Bekut 8 cases, Bei and Koheno 7, and Sapani, Barikua, Noupun with 6 cases.

She said that the recent rise in tuberculosis in the Solos area had given a rise to the TB Prevalence rate to 0.003.

She said this was the highest comparing with other constituencies in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The officer in charge of TB at the Buka Hospital has also admitted an increase in the TB patient refers from Solos into Buka Hospital in the last 12 months.

"We get around 30 every month in the TB ward," said Sr Melba Dising, a TB Nurse at the Buka Hospital.

She had admitted that Peit Constituency had the highest TB referral on Buka

Attempts to get related report on the rise in TB from the Regional TB co-ordinator Mr Alois Pukunei was unsuccessful.

However, an officer at the Regional Health Office in Sohano said that it was important for the authorities to step in and combat the upsurge before it was too late.

07.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Chiefs want court role

by MELANIE TOLIKEN

Bougainvilleans want their future system of village or community courts to be part of the formal courts of Bougainville where chiefs and women will play a leading role.

This was revealed during the recently concluded Village Court Forum in Arawa last week.

The forum, attended by about 190 village court officials and district village court officers was held to discuss the findings of a comprehensive review of the village courts in the region by a committee set up by the Bougainville Administration.

In November 2010, the Bougainville law and justice working group decided to review the operations of the village courts.

A steering committee was formed comprising of the senior provincial magistrate Peter Toliken (chairman), the provincial village courts officer Daniel Timpa, the acting chief executive officer of local level governments Herbert Kimai, the assistant commissioner of police Thomas Eluh and a legal officer of the office of the principal officer Kenton Simpson. AusAID provided advisory and financial support. The review commenced in August 2011 and ran for total of 12 weeks.

The review team travelled throughout Bougainville and visited 91 out of 96 village courts in the region to gauge the views of village court officials, district village court officers and Councils of Elders.

The review found, among other things, that the people wanted their village courts to be part of the formal Bougainville courts, that priority should be given to chiefs when appointing village magistrates, that there be more women magistrates to reflect their special status in Bougainville society.

It also found that the people wanted the courts to be adequately staffed and resourced and for officials and officers to be appropriately remunerated by the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The people also want the village courts to be administered by the Division of law and justice and not by the division of local level government as currently is the case.

It was also found that all 96 village courts in the region have not been legally established nor have the 960 officials been legally appointed.

07.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Police brush up on skills

by Melanie Toliken

Police officers and women in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will now be able to conduct investigations professionally and competently.

A first of its kind, police officers graduated from an intensive nine weeks course on investigation. AusAid funded the course while Australian and New Zealand police officers conducted the training.

When addressing the graduates senior provincial magistrate Peter Toliken told them that Bougainville had a very young police service and they must aim for excellence in executing their daily duties as police officers.

"Do not be content with mediocrity, strive for the best because Bougainville needs you," he said. He said the courts and the police service would work together because they serve only one purpose and that is to administer justice.

Mr Toliken thanked the government of Australia and New Zealand for their continuous support in providing services to the people of Bougainville.

The dux of the graduating class was Sheena Cook.

06.12.2011

Source: The National

Bougainville copper deal to be reviewed

By STEPHANIE ELIZAH

THE Bougainville government has set up a team to re-negotiate the Bougainville Copper Agreement which covers all operations of the mining activities at the Panguna mine.

Bougainville President John Momis said after meetings with the Panguna management consultative committee, both parties had agreed to re-negotiate the BCA with the Bougainville Copper Ltd, the national government and any other interested developer.

The decision to re-negotiate the BCA was reached on the consensus that mining would be

allowed at Panguna and the BCA must not be reviewed but re-negotiated because the agreement was drawn up by parties which were no longer present at the negotiation table.

He said the Autonomous Bougainville Government had undertaken considerable work in consultation with landowners and the national government in preparation for the BCA re-negotiation.

Momis commended Prime Minister Peter O'Neill on his decision not to approve the renewal of the Panguna Special Mining Lease (SML) held by the Bougainville Copper Ltd for the past 42 years.

"My understanding of this undertaking is that the national government will not exercise powers in relation to any mining related issues, including powers and functions that relate to the BCA and obviously the re-negotiation of this agreement," Momis said.

06.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Foreign firms must obey rules -Momis

By JOYCE TOHUI

BOUGAINVILLE president John Momis said that Bougainville will allow foreigners to do business on their terms — there will be no stand alone businesses.

Mr Momis said that is why his government had emphasised strongly on joint venture business and discourages stand alone businesses by foreigners.

"Since the crisis Bougainville businesses were buying goods from wholesalers in Papua New Guinea and these companies have made a lot of money but they have never shared any equity to benefit the people," said Mr Momis.

He said that is why the Autonomous Bougainville government encouraged the people of Bougainville to go into joint venture businesses and benefit from these activities.

"I strongly urged the people of Bougainville not to harshly chase foreign businesses operating in Bougainville but follow procedures already established to address these activities," added Chief Momis. He appealed to the people of Bougainville to accept investors to invest on Bougainville so that Bougainville can be self reliant economically.

Mr Momis also warned foreign businesses entering Bougainville to adhere to Bougainville's investment policy. The National Government recently poured in money to help the ABG.

06.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Stick to oil palm: Suako

By Fabian Gatana

MEMBER for Torokina Steven Suako has called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to actively monitor the Torokina Oil Palm Project to ensure that the project is not being used as a stepping stone for other interests in Torokina's untapped resources.

Mr Suako made the call amidst threats by his people to remove Hakau Investment, the company contracted to do a feasibility study on the project, from Torokina.

"Let us be clear from the beginning. I have evidence to prove that it is not only the Oil Palm Project and land acquisition, there are other interests coming into Torokina not for oil palm development but for oil and gas exploration."

"I will ensure that legal clarifications are obtained on current activities associated with the Torokina Oil Palm Project Feasibility study," he said.

He said that in September, he questioned the Bougainville House of Representatives on the four methods of land acquisition being recommended for the Torokina Oil Palm Project which included the Special Agriculture and Business Purpose Lease Act, the Lease – Lease Back Act, the Incorporated Lands Groups Act and the Voluntary Land Registration Act.

The member said that there was also a need for ongoing awareness to be conducted by the Bougainville administration and Hakau Investment to educate the people of Torokina on the scope of the study and the purpose of signing documents.

"I also call on the Lands Department to play an active role to educate the landowners regarding the types of documents being signed or given to them to sign by Hakau Investment and other

interested parties,” he said.

Mr Suako said ABG needed to work quickly on its land resource ownership policy and law.

06.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Security to be tight as December 9 decision looms

PAPUA New Guinea’s biggest internal security operation has already begun with the use of highly trained troops strategically positioned around Port Moresby to prevent unexpected trouble this week.

This is in anticipation of the decision on the Supreme Court reference on the legitimacy or otherwise of the O’Neill-Namah government which will be handed down this Friday.

The National Security Council last week finalised details of both the plans and legal requirements to engage all disciplined forces in the security operation which will also cover strategic locations around the country as well.

This was confirmed to the Post-Courier by senior officials over possible political conflicts and contingency plans by the State to contain them.

One possibility put to them was possible interference by rogue elements of the disciplined forces with the support of unruly public groupings that were supporters of the current government.

A senior official said while the people’s rights of expression were guaranteed by the Constitution but that did not give them the right to infringe on the rights of others and the normal administration of law and order or the business of Parliament and the Courts. So far the most critical responsibility for Parliament will be today’s handing down of the 2012 Budget followed by Friday’s handing down of the Supreme Court reference ruling. Two days later on Monday December 12, is the returnable date for the contempt of the Supreme Court charges against Deputy Prime Minister, Belden Namah, and Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Dr Alan Marat.

06.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Historic K10 billion budget

FINANCE and Treasury Minister, Don Polye, will this afternoon create history by handing down unopposed PNG’s twice postponed but record K10 billion 2012 Budget.

This is because the historical bill will pass without scrutiny as expected by Parliamentary convention due to there being no officially recognised Opposition.

Parliament tradition and Standing Orders have it that the Opposition is given the right of reply seven days after presentation to critic.

The current situation is that no such determination exists.

Members of the former Government have simply refused to sit in the Opposition benches pending the decision of the Supreme Court on the reference filed by the East Sepik provincial executive on the legitimacy or otherwise of the O’Neill-Namah government.

But they have expressed support for the 2012 expenditure bill as “the people’s budget” adding there was no reason why they should oppose it in view of the pending year end and the need for a legal money supply.

They made allowances though saying they would debate certain allocations based on merits but would not oppose its actual or final passage.

Mr Polye last week confirmed he was ready to hand down the expenditure bill which he said centred mainly on being balanced in terms of development, infrastructure, administration and recurrent spending on goods and services.

Indications from the government yesterday were that they would honor their commitment to the people of PNG with passage of the budget despite uncertainty or unpredictability relating to the pending legal action.

Parliament is expected to pass related budget legislation including the crucial sovereign wealth fund (SWF) and bills relevant to the liquefied natural gas (LNG) taxation arrangements and its administration and implementation mechanisms.

The same is expected of the free education policy which is a major government driven bill plus

increases in especially the health budget as pledged by the government. Equally critical is the needed Organic Law relating to the Equity and Participation Bill passed during the last session of Parliament regarding the 22 provincial women's seats.

All other expenditure estimates and development strategies expected to be contained in the budget are a continuation and in compliance with the current medium term development plan (MTDP). This has been the basis of the design of the past nine budgets. A media budget lock-up is scheduled for 10 am prior to handing down.

05.12.2011

Source: ESBC Research

Last Minute: JSB meeting postponed!

The Joint Supervisory Board meeting (JSB) scheduled for today in Buka has been postponed at last minute and will be rescheduled in 2012. There are two good reasons for this: First, the delayed PNG 2012 budget will be presented to the PNG parliament in Port Moresby only tomorrow. Second: On Friday 9th, the PNG High Court will publish its decision whether the election of the O'Neill government was constitutional or not. It is difficult to understand for outsiders that a government elected by 75 percent of members of parliament might not be constitutional. Should this be the case, the Somare administration, responsible for many of the financial scandals in the past could possibly come back into power.

The JSB meeting might now be rescheduled to take place in January together with the NEC (National Executive Council) in Arawa or otherwise later in February in Buka.

05.12.2011

Source: Asia Sentinel

Beyond the Valley of Tears

by Catherine Wilson

Customary landowners mobilize for mining discussions on Bougainville Island

Nestled in a remote valley in the forested mountains of Panguna in Central Bougainville, an autonomous island region in Papua New Guinea (PNG), is what was the world's largest open cut copper mine. However, a local tribe called the Nasioi in the 1980s became the world's first such people to shut down an international mining operation in a dispute over environmental destruction, exclusion from consultations and exploitative benefit distribution.

More than 20 years later, customary landowners and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) are preparing to decide if the controversial Panguna mine will reopen. The Panguna copper mine opened in 1969 during Australian administration of the island as a UN Trust Territory. Local landowners were excluded from the mining agreement between the Australian government and Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia (CRA), endured forced community evictions and watched as mine tailings contaminated agricultural land and the nearby Jaba and Kararong rivers, killing fish and poisoning water supplies. The operating company, Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL), is predominantly owned by Rio Tinto (53.6%) and the PNG Government (19.1%). According to an Aid Watch report in 1997, "Of the \$1700 million profit the mine generated between 1972 and 1989, the PNG Government received 61.4%, private investors received 32.8% with the traditional landowners obtaining only 1.6%."

In 1989 the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) blew up the mine's power pylons following BCL's refusal to pay local landowners 10 billion kina compensation. A ten year civil war followed between the PNG Defence Forces, BRA and other armed groups on the island resulting in the ruination of towns and villages and estimated death toll of 20,000.

Access to the Panguna mine today is via a checkpoint manned by the Mekamui, who comprise former revolutionary fighters, and a winding road to the top of the Crown Prince Range where the stark edge of the mine pit, 6km long, is visible through the dense forest. The road down the other side enters a broad landscape of gutted mine buildings, silent rusting trucks and mine machinery. Lynette Ona, Panguna landowner and niece of Francis Ona, former leader of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, calls it the 'valley of tears' in reference to Richard West's unflattering history of mining company, Rio Tinto, entitled 'River of Tears.'

While the decade long conflict remains vivid in people's memories, indigenous landowners are quietly protecting their communities and attempting to regenerate land. Vegetation is encroaching into the mine pit, a reminder that its excavation necessitated the removal of an entire hunting forest which provided surrounding villages with cuscus and wild pig.

Early in the morning, the dawn breaks clear over the valley where, twenty years ago, villagers contracted and, in some cases, died of asthma due to the profuse dust and endured excessive noise during the mine's round the clock operation. Today the tranquillity is disturbed by the sound of birds, families busy preparing food, cultivating vegetable gardens and carpenters adapting ruined buildings into family dwellings.

The people of Panguna, who already know the human cost of competition over access to land and natural resources, predicted to intensify as the world's population rapidly increases, are contemplating how much their lives will change again if mining is allowed back on their land. For islanders, priorities include both economic development and preservation of environment and culture.

Since the 2001 Peace Agreement ended hostilities, the island's reliance on international aid with limited financial assistance from the PNG Government has seen a slow recovery of infrastructure and public services. Long term political and social stability is now dependent on the ABG guiding equitable development on Bougainville where the population has doubled in the past decade, 97% of people reside in rural areas while most services are centred in the northern town of Buka, and approximately 43% of the population is under 15 years.

Weapons disposal and reconciliation between parties to the civil war is ongoing, but David McLachlan-Karr, UN Resident Co-ordinator in PNG, has stated that: "People will not give up their guns unless they are certain of a stable and prosperous future."

The ABG, which held preliminary discussions this year with BCL Chairman, Peter Taylor, believes substantial revenues from the Panguna mine will build an economic base ahead of a referendum on political independence from PNG by 2020. There is also intense international interest in the mine, especially from rapidly growing countries in the Asia Pacific, such as China, seeking new sources of raw materials. BCL estimates Panguna contains reserves of 3.5 million tonnes of copper and 12.7 million ounces of gold.

On the expiry of BCL's forty two year licence for the Panguna Special Mine Lease on 24 November, the company submitted an application for a 21 year extension to the PNG Government.

Chris Damana, Interim Chairman of the Panguna Landowners Association (PLA), an umbrella organisation representing landowners from six mine lease associations, said that factors in their consideration of BCL's application will include the company's plans to execute an environmental cleanup, ensure no further damage to customary land, respect the location of current communities, the rights of customary landowners as resource owners and agree to an equitable share of the mine's revenues.

The critical role of the ABG in co-ordinating the landowners input and setting the agenda for discussions will depend on its ability, as a new government set up in 2005, to build the capacity of its mining department to a sufficiently qualified level and implement mining laws and powers in advance of critical decisions. At present, it is developing new land policies based on traditional concepts of land ownership, while new mining laws are being drafted in association with the

World Bank. Mining powers and functions will be transferred from PNG to the Bougainville government after new mining laws are established.

Once an independent environmental study of Panguna has been completed, the ABG and PLA will participate in a review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement with BCL and the PNG Government.

According to a PLA briefing document: "A decision needs to be made soon about the future of the mine so environmental damage, site stabilisation and other outstanding issues can be dealt with properly. In addition, for planning purposes, the ABG and landowners need some certainty about whether or not Panguna mine revenues will be available."

Outstanding issues include compensation for destruction during the mine's former operations.

"We must look at those issues, like K10 billion [compensation] still stands, and the damage and the killings of the islanders," said Lynette Ona, "Nobody has paid that compensation. If the landowners say the company can come and dig the mine, then the rebels will say, well, did you already pay my brothers who died for the crisis and there will be another crisis again."

A core issue for many landowners is the potential loss and degradation of land, which is a major source of livelihoods.

"My concern is that there won't be enough land," said Joanne Dateransi, from Guava Village, located near the rim of the mine pit, "Because Bougainville is only a small island. There is a big scar here and we don't want the same thing to happen again in the future."

According to Panguna District Chief, Greg Doraa, traditional thinking promotes the importance of conserving mineral resources below the ground for future generations and he believes that economic development through agriculture and tourism must be explored first.

"We can export taros and sweet potatoes, bananas, water, lots of things," added Dateransi, reflecting the diversity of local opinion about whether large scale copper mining is the right choice for the island, "We can use those things to boost our economy in Bougainville."

Bougainville was the largest cocoa producer in Papua New Guinea prior to the civil war, and production has recovered impressively with an output of 15,000 tonnes in 2007.

If the Panguna mine reopens, there will be many challenges for the ABG and landowners, including mitigation against Dutch disease, ensuring transparent use of government revenues and their benefit to all islanders, maintaining the healthy competitive state of other local industries and addressing the impact of mining on currently unsustainable levels of deforestation and resource extraction in the region. Over the ten year period, 1990-2010, PNG lost 8.9% of its forest cover due to large-scale logging, mining and the land pressures of a rapidly increasing population. This is a serious challenge for an island state already experiencing impacts of climate change and alarming rates of natural resource depletion.

As the sun set quickly over Panguna and the generator kicked in to bring light to our dining table on the second floor of a ruined mine building, now a home dwelling, Philip Takaung, President of the Panguna-based Mekamui Government, which retains control of the mine, spoke of another possible future. Takaung envisions this beautiful valley as a tourist destination to promote the local history, natural beauty and indigenous communities and cultures of the area to regional and international visitors.

There is no shortage of people on Bougainville with the inspiration to imagine not one, but many possible paths to a prosperous and peaceful future.

05.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Drug issue must be addressed

By JOYCE TOHUI

PROVINCIAL Police Commander, Cletus Tsien has called on the people of Bougainville to work with police to tackle the issues of the illicit drug marijuana and homebrew on the island. He said police alone cannot solve problems affecting Bougainville today but the people can. Commander Tsien said the consumption of marijuana and other beverages in Bougainville remain the same because mere arrests will not stop continuous consumption by offenders. He said key issues must be addressed at the community level in ways of counseling and awareness about the disadvantages to the community, especially the users. Mr Tsien said that police are trying their best in carrying out awareness on the effects of the drugs but it is up to the people to decide on what is good for them. He stressed that it is the responsibility of each individual to respect his or her decisions in order to build a good society. Meanwhile, police have issued a warning to the public not to overload travelling vehicles and have put up roadblocks to enforce traffic rules and have also warned offenders could be charged if they break the rules. The operation is a pre-Christmas readiness operation to help avoid accidents that occurred during the excitement of the festive period and an appeal has been made to the public especially drivers to abide with the traffic rules for their own safety and the lives of their passengers.

05.12.2011

Source: The National

Ceasefire in Bougainville

by STEPHANIE ELIZAH

FIVE warring factions in the Konnou constituency of South Bougainville have agreed to lay down their firearms and live in peace.

To strengthen this pact, a ceasefire agreement was signed last Tuesday at Mogoroi, Buin, by the commanders of the Mekamui Defence Force (MDF), Wisai Liberation Movement (Wilmo), Mongai, Moikui and Nomororai Freedom factions.

MDF commander Damien Koike said he would honour the agreement and ensured that peace was maintained with the other factions.

"Everything in Konnou will now be all right," Koike said.

Koike, who commands close to 1,000 guerrillas, alleged to be behind the killing of more than 60 civilians, including women and children since 2004.

In response, four factions of veteran fighters combined and took up arms against the MDF.

Koike, who refused to elaborate, said the local conflict was "not about law and order issues but political".

Wilmo commander Jacob Potoura said his faction was tired of fighting and needed peace and stability to return to their constituency.

"We are happy to have looked into the eyes of our former enemies and forgive each other today," he said.

"It is very important to us."

The ceremony was witnessed by Autonomous Bougainville Government ministers, priests and pastors of the Catholic, United and Seventh-Day Adventist churches, village chiefs, women and children from Buin and Siwai villages.

Autonomous Region of Bougainville President John Momis said he was pleased with the decision the factions had taken to reconcile and further agree to lay down their weapons for the overall good of the people of Konnou and Bougainville.

The ceasefire agreement contained a number of conditions including:

- I Each faction to patrol only within their border until such time as total normalcy returns;

- I All parties to respect each other's resource boundaries and not bear arms when entering the other faction's boundary for funeral or medical reasons;

- I All parties continue to meet to further discuss law and order issues;
- I Compensation for those who died during the local conflict will be addressed in future meetings; and
- I All parties are to conduct themselves in a way that does not instil fear in the people.

03.12.2012

Source: Radio New Dawn on Bougainville

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- Compensation for those who died during the local conflict will be addressed in future meetings and
- All parties are to conduct themselves in a way that does not instil fear in the people of their constituency.



MDF commander Damien Koike assured that he would honour his agreement and ensure that peace is maintained with the other factions.

Koike, who commands close to a thousand bush soldiers, was the commander alleged to be behind the killing of more than 60 civilians including women and children since 2004.

In response, four factions of veteran fighters combined and took up arms against MDF but Koike, who refused to elaborate said the local conflict was "not about law and order issues but political".

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peace and stability to return to their conflict torn constituency.

The ceremony was witnessed by Autonomous Bougainville Government ministers, priests and pastors of the Catholic, United and Seventh Day Adventist churches, village chiefs and women and children from around Buin and nearby Siwai villages.

Autonomous Region of Bougainville president John Momis said he was pleased with the decision all factions had taken to reconcile and further agree to lay down their weapons for the overall good of the people of Konnou and Bougainville.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) representative in Bougainville Anthony Agyenta said there is still a lot to be done and encouraged each faction to take ownership of the peace pact signed last week.

02.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

John Momis prepares to return to Panguna

Bougainville President John Momis is preparing to return to Panguna since his abduction 21 years ago.

President Momis was abducted by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army led by the late Francis Ona he was released some months later.

Mr Momis has had a long political career, before becoming President he resigned as Ambassador to China to run for the presidency and he has also been a catholic priest.

Presenter:Geraldine Coutts

Speaker:John Momis, Bougainville President

[Listen here !](#)

02.12.2011

Source: Radio New Zealand International

PNG corruption task force has 33 prominent people on watchlist

A Papua New Guinea corruption task force has put 33 prominent citizens - including politicians - on a watch list, telling the national airline to monitor their travel.

The Task Force Sweep chairman, Sam Koim, told AAP he sent a letter to Air Niugini chief executive Wasantha Kumarasiri last week requesting that the movements of 33 bureaucrats and politicians to be monitored.

PNG's National newspaper reports former planning minister Paul Tiensten is on the list, as well as prominent business figure, Eremas Wartoto, and national planning secretary, Ruby Zarriga.

Mr Koim won't confirm which names were on the list.

In September, Mr Tiensten fled to Australia after he was approached by the task force for questioning into more than four million US dollars released to Mr Wartoto to set up an airline.

Task Force Sweep, which was set up by the PNG Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, as one of his first acts of office, says the airline doesn't exist.

Last month on his return to PNG, Mr Tiensten was charged with misappropriation of funds, conspiracy to defraud the state and abuse of office.

02.12.2011

Source: Australia Network News

Bougainville president makes emotional return

The Bougainville president John Momis is preparing for an historic return to Panguna 21 years after being abducted there.

President Momis was held captive by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, led by the late Francis Ona.

He was released almost six months later.

Mr Momis has returned to Panguna only a few times, but this will be his first visit as president of the autonomous region.

He told Radio Australia how his capture ironically helped shape today's Bougainville.

"In the end it was a cordial relationship," he said.

"Frances Ona actually apologised to me for being held captive and asked me to go and represent the people of Bougainville and work for autonomy with the eventual aim of achieving political independence".

01.12.2011

Source: ABC Radio Australia - Pacific Beat

PNG last in global corruption perception list

Several Pacific countries have scored poorly in a new survey ranking the level of corruption in country's across the globe.

The annual Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International ranks countries on a scale on zero to 10 - with 0 representing total corruption.

Papua New Guinea was the worst performer amongst Pacific countries, scoring 2-point-2.

But the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kirabati were not far behind, all scoring under 4.

New Zealand was considered the least corrupt country in the world, with a score of 9-point-5.

Presenter: Bruce Hill

Speaker: Lawrence Stephens, Transparency International PNG

[Listen here !](#)

01.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Referendum on govt agenda

THE National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are already in communication over the referendum issue for Bougainville.

A committee that was set up by both governments has commenced its work and are now constantly monitoring referendum activities in other parts of the world.

National co-ordination office of Bougainville Affairs director Ellison ToWallom, in his speech to the leaders of Bougainville meeting in Port Moresby last week, advised that work has commenced to put the issue into perspective.

"Referendum was not on the agenda for discussions between the National Government and the ABG until February 2010. During the JSB at the Gateway Hotel, on February 12, 2010, the ABG put on the table that referendum should be discussed then, rather than later," Mr ToWallom said.

"In retrospect, this was seen by the National Government as a wise move from many different perspectives. The immediate one being that comparative regional and global perspectives on referendum needed to be understood to help the preparations for it."

"At the official level, at least committee is now in operation to do just that. The committee comprises the following officials.

National Government members are:

- * Chief Secretary to Government (chairman)
- * Director of NCOBA
- * Secretary, Department of Justice & Attorney General
- * PNG Electoral Commissioner

ABG members:

- * Chief Administrator
- * Acting Electoral Commissioner, and
- * Principal Legal Officer

"The work of the committee has commenced and both the director's office of NCOBA and the Chief Secretary's office are constantly monitoring referendum activities in other parts of the world. For example, the conduct of the recent referendum in South Sudan and shortly the New Caledonia and Scotland referendum as well," he said.

01.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Momis visits Carterets

By JOYCE TOHUI

THE people of Carterets are now relieved that they have finally seen their president. This is according to chairman of the Hapiu Coe on Carterets Island, Bernard Tunim.

Mr Tunim was speaking on Han Island when welcoming the Autonomous Bougainville Government president John Momis and his delegation to the islands recently.

"For years his people have wanted to see one of their leaders visit them on their island and the delegation's trip to the Carterets Islands is good for the people. Now the leaders can see for themselves the level of risk they are faced with everyday because of the rising sea levels," said Mr Tunim.

Mr Tunim said that his people wanted to move to the mainland, however, nothing had been done to make the move feasible and even the land at Karola had not been secured.

"My people want to contribute to the economic recovery of Bougainville but would like the Government to fast track some projects that they can be able to participate in," he said.

01.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

Kulunga reigns

NEWLY appointed Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga has reminded his rank and file to remain loyal and committed to the discharge of their constitutional duties and responsibilities come December 9.

He said this yesterday when addressing senior officers of the RPNGC at the police headquarters in Konedobu following his confirmation as the 16th Commissioner of Police.

In his conclusive remarks after thanking the O'Neill — Namah Government on his confirmation he said: "It will be remiss of me not to make mention of recent events on the political front. The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision on the Supreme Court reference filed by the East Sepik Provincial Government on December 9.

"Whatever the outcome, I call upon each of you commanders, senior officers and rank and file to remain loyal and committed to the discharge of your constitutional duties and responsibilities.

"Be responsible and professional and continue to protect and serve your communities wherever you are."

The National Executive Council had on November 25 confirmed Mr Kulunga as Commissioner of Police. Chief Superintendent Fred Yakasa's appointment as Acting Deputy Commissioner Operations was revoked and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Highlands Simon Kauba was appointed acting Deputy Commissioner Operations.

Mr Kulunga said: "Following the vacancy created by Mr Kauba's appointment I had to quickly make a number of immediate changes within the command structure.

"ACP Bougainville Thomas Eluh has been transferred to ACP Highlands, while Chief Superintendent Fred Yakasa is transferred to ACP Bougainville.

"Superintendent Joseph Tondop is transferred to Lae as Metropolitan Commander.

"PPC Morobe Chief Superintendent Peter Guinness is transferred to Met Sup NCD, whilst Chief Superintendent Nema Mondiai takes over as PPC Morobe. Mr Allan Kundi replaces ACP Giossi Labi as ACP Momase.

"As disciplined, dedicated and loyal career police officers I expect those affected to carry out these transfer directives without fail," Mr Kulunga said.

He added that he believes in a transparent and honest, strong but fair leadership.

"I am a team player and whilst I will provide a transparent, honest, firm and fair leadership, I will do so in close consultation, cooperation and dialogue with all you senior officers.

"This is our ship let us overhaul it and sail it together into a brighter and better future, not only for the Royal PNG Constabulary, but for the country as well.

"You will also know that I have a zero tolerance level for dishonest, corrupt, unethical, non-performing and undisciplined police officers. So under my watch, if you want to remain in this organisation you have to not only shape up but become a team player as well.

"I come in embracing former Commissioner Anthony Wagambie's declaration of 2011 as the Year of Discipline. In fact I will extend that into 2012 as well.

"Discipline is what this organisation is all about and I will keep on emphasising this until we all get this right," Mr Kulunga said.

01.12.2011

Source: Post-Courier

MRA urged to do work

THE country's regulatory arm of the mining sector, the Mineral Resources Authority has been urged to perform its task in fast tracking mining related agreements or MOAs due to overwhelming growth in the industry.

Mining Minister Byron Chan cautioned that if this was left unattended or pursued on an ad hoc basis it could have severe consequences especially on landowners, developers and other stakeholders.

Mr Chan was particularly referring to the Simberi and Lihir MOAs that have dragged on for far too long, over five years together with other mining establishments in the country. He said there must be regular consultative meetings with stakeholders and wanted to see relevant agencies take the lead role in addressing the MOAs.

"I want the Inter Agency State Team and MRA to be committed and lead these meetings well.

The expressed views by landowners and other stakeholders coming to me as Minister for Mining is actually a wake-up call that MRA and other State agencies to take stock of their actions and improve on their commitment and performance in MOA reviews.

"This is because the industry is growing and there is so much work to do. So we have to keep up with the growth in the industry or else all is at stake for us," Mr Chan said.

He has also endorsed and directed for the reviews and consultative forums to be held in many mining areas of the country such as Porgera, Ramu, Wafi, Frieda River and others. "This is because through these forums we can understand our fears and uncertainties and identify opportunities we have so that they are captured in the MOAs.

"I cannot think of another easy way out except to allow the process for review and consultation to proceed and happen without bias and no matter how long it takes before we all agree to sign the agreements," the minister said.

Meanwhile, he congratulated Simberi and Lihir landowners for standing firm and showing maturity and patience in the lead up to final stages of the respective agreements they signed.