

Page 2 – Elementary school teacher get final pay after OC Complaint

Page 3 – OCPNG Media Officer exits after 10 years

Page 4 – A letter of gratitude to OCPNG

VISION

A responsible, transparent & accountable leadership and governmental bodies who are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of Papua New Guinea.

MISSION

Working in partnership with all leaders and governmental bodies to implement Section 218 of the Constitution:

- Ensure all governmental bodies are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the People;
- Help in the improvement of the work of governmental bodies to eliminate unfairness and discriminatory practices; and
- Help in the elimination of unfair and defective legislations and practices affecting or administered by the governmental bodies;
- Supervise the enforcement of Division III.2 the (Leadership Code).

VALUES

- ♦ Unity
- ♦ Impartiality
- ♦ Integrity
- ♦ Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Independence
- Professionalism



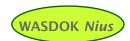
Outgoing Media Officer Joycelyn Wasas with the Media Unit and Secretary Joseph Molita during her farewell in January 2021. See Story Page 3.

Chief calls for unity in oversight of public funds

hief Ombudsman Richard Pagen called on the Department of Finance to ensure that the Non-Tax Revenue Administration Bill (NTRA Bill) provides oversight over all government agencies that use public funds.

Mr Pagen said this during the Consultative Workshop on the NTRA Bill conducted by the Department of Finance in March 2021. The Ombudsman Commission had written to the Secretary for Finance expressing its views on the Non-Tax Revenue Administration Bill in light of the ruling by the five men

Supreme Court on 27 May 2020 which nullified the *Public Money Management Regularization Act*, 2017 (PMMR Act) after the Ombudsman Commission challenged the constitutionality of the PMMR Act through a Section 19 Reference.



Elementary school teacher get final pay after OC complaint

n Elementary School teacher in the National Capital District was paid his final entitlement of K8391.24 after the Ombudsman Commission intervened in his case.

The teacher lodged his complaint with the Ombudsman Commission after waiting for nearly a year for his final entitlements which were unreasonably delayed by the Department of Education and the Teaching Services Commission.

The Teacher retired in 2019 on medical grounds as recommended by his doctors.

His letter to the NCD Education Services was supported by relevant documents including the medical reports as required before his final entitlements could be paid. Although the teacher was assisted by the Teaching Services Commission, his final entitlements were unreasonably delayed until the Commission intervened.

...From page 1

Chief Ombudsman calls for a more inclusive fiscal policy



Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen

The Commission called for greater participation through meaningful consultation under Section 255 of the Constitution that, consultation in the development of laws must be meaningful by allowing for a genuine interchange and consideration of views.

The Commission's main concern on the NTRA Bill is that the Non-Tax Revenue Administration Committee is created contrary to Section 209 of the Constitution.

Only Parliament can decide how public funds are appropriated, to have a statutory committee determining the use of public funds is against the spirit of the Constitution.

Mr Pagen, thanked the Government for its efforts in ensuring there is better oversight into the use of public funds by government agencies through the NTRA Bill and assures its participation in the consultation



reater accountability for public funds is a must in Papua New Guinea.

The ongoing misuse and misapplication of funds in many levels of governance is a concern.

A more concerted effort by all government agencies is needed to maintain accountability and transparency over the use of public funds.

Any moves by the current government to increase oversight of public funds especially in areas where public monies are used in government investments should be supported.

At the same time new laws that seemingly target some agencies unfairly but give a 'free pass' to others should not be entertained.

All laws should be in harmony with the other existing laws and most importantly the Constitution.

When drafting such over-arching laws to oversee public funds, questions that come to mind should include:

- Whether statutory bodies that make their own revenue should be treated the same as those who are basically spenders.
- Whether emergency agencies like NAQIA and Customs should maintain and control certain portions of funds to use as and when required.
- Whether SOEs should be accountable for the allocated government funding.

Another question that needs to be asked is whether we need a new law or whether we should amend existing laws to cater for current needs. One of the existing laws is the Public Finances Management Act.

Another consideration would be to amend the existing laws governing each government agency to bring greater accountability over the use of public funds.

These are issues that needs to be carefully considered by the Department of Finance during consultations in drafting such laws.

All-in-all the introduction of the Non-tax Revenue Administration Bill is welcomed and the questions raised by agencies concerned must be taken into consideration for drafting the bills to ensure fairness and justice for all government agencies and the people of Papua New Guinea.



New officer joins policy and planning team

he Commission welcomed Ninipe Gurumo to its Policy and Planning Unit in January 2021.

Ninipe joined the Commission after having previously worked for the Constitutional Law Reform Commission.

Ninipe is a graduate of the University of Papua New Guinea, with a Bachelor in Business and Management majoring in Strategic Management.

Ninipe worked with CLRC for five years after graduating from university.

Ninipe, from Morobe Province, also has a Diploma in Economic and Public Policy from National Research Institute and brings to the Commission a wealth of experience in the field of policy and strategic management.



Ninipe holds the Bible to declare the Oath of Secrecy.

Departing Media Officer thanks OC

he Ombudsman Commission released Joycelyn Wasas, who served as the Commission's Publication Officer in its Media Unit for 10 years

Joycelyn joined the Commission with a Diploma in Communications Arts from the Divine Word University.

During the course of her employment she completed her degree in Communication Arts at the same university.

In her parting remarks Joycelyn said it has been 10 memorable years working with the Commission.

"I would be forever grateful to the Ombudsman Commission for the experience and for contributing in one way or the other to the person that I am today – thank you."

She said she hopes that her contribution as a Media Officer has had impact on the work of the organization and the people of Papua New Guinea.





Four officers were given their Deeds of Release from the Commission in February and March; clockwise from the top; Daphney Awono, Arlette Bola, Rodney Aroso and Ricky Nelson. The Commission wishes them all the best in their future endeavors.





A letter of gratitude to OCPNG

female student who is currently doing Grade 11 at a secondary school wrote a heartfelt handwritten letter to the Chief Ombudsman to express her gratitude for the assistance she received from the Commission to retain her placing in that secondary school after she was unfairly denied her space by the education authorities for three years.

The student was in Grade 9 at the same school when she withdraw due to serious illness.

The school agreed that she would continue the following year to finish her Grade 9 when she recovered.

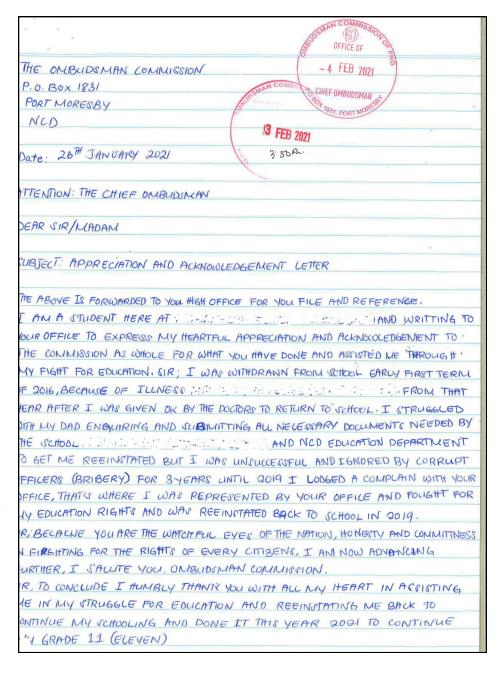
However, that was not the case when she tried to re-enroll. She was told she no longer had a space at the school. In her letter, she told of the ordeal she and her parent had to go through to try to get her back to school having to contend with "corrupt officers" within the Education Department.

This forced her out of school for three years until 2019 when she decided to seek the Commission's help.

The Commission took up the matter on her behalf and successfully got her placing at the school.

The student has since successfully completed her Grade 10 and is now doing Grade 11.

In the letter she thanked the Ombudsman Commission for being the "watchful eyes of the nation, and for fighting for the rights of every citizens."



HEAD OFFICE

Ombudsman Commission of PNG
Petromin Haus, Hubert Murray Highway
PO Box 1831
Port Moresby 121, NCD

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Phone: 675-308 2600 Fax: 675-320 3260 Telephone: 675-308 2600

Email: info@ombudsman.gov.pc

REGIONAL OFFICES:

Highlands Regional Office
1st Floor, Agilta Kona Haus,
Sec 12, Lot 26

PO Box 745, HAGEN 281 Western Highlands Province PAPUA NEW GUINEA Phone: 675-542 1986

Fax: 675-542 2497

3rd Floor, N.S Building, 2nd Street PO Box 2259, LAE 411 Morobe Province PAPUA NEW GUINEA Phone: 675-472 1695 Fax: 675-472 2755

Momase Regional Office

Islands Regional Office
Tropicana Matanitu Building,
Kamuk Street, Sec 33, Lot 33
PO Box 359, KOKOPO 613
East New Britain Province

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Phone: 675-982 8792
Fax: 675-982 8953

AROB Regional Office

KUBU HILL
PO Box 170

Autonomous Region of Bougainville

Phone: 675-7922 2226 or 675-7627 3465

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