



## VISION

To be a vibrant, premier institution in pursuit of promoting good governance and quality leadership in PNG

## MISSION

To promote and protect the integrity of our leaders and to help improve the work of government bodies and investigate any complaints against them to ensure there is good governance, accountability, transparency and quality leadership in the public sector

## VALUES

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

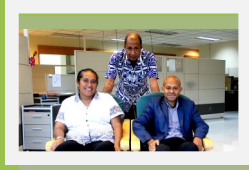
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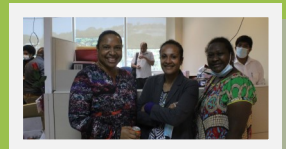
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# WASDOK

*Nius*

JAN - FEB  
2022



THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION



**Chamber visit ...** New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan (seated) taking a picture with Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen (standing left) and (from left) OCPNG Senior Legal Officer Matthew Kik, Regional Manager NGI Roslyn Pochelep, New Ireland Provincial Administrator Lamiller Pawut and Director Regions and External Relations Alice Gabina. See story on Page 3.

# Manus commits K1.2 mil to refurbish police houses

**T**he Governor of Manus, Charlie Benjamin, committed K1.2 million from his development grant to fix housing for the police in Manus province after the Ombudsman Commission met with him to address the de-

teriorating state of the police housing in the province.

The Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen led a team to Manus province to determine the extent of deterioration of the police facilities at the Wamundu Police Barracks after a complaint was laid.

Mr Pagen personally visited the Barracks and found out that most of the houses had been condemned but because of the shortage of housing in the province officers continued living in them some to the extent of families

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# Editorial

**'Dealing with deviants every day is not a easy job and then having to contend with other issues such as lack of housing, overcrowding and deteriorating facilities adds more unnecessary stress on some members of the two disciplined forces while trying to do their job.'**

Law and order is a priority in Papua New Guinea however some of our workers within the law and order sector are barely getting by and do not always get the support they need to do their work.

Perhaps the two most important institutions in the law and order sector are the Police and the Correctional Services.

These two agencies deal directly with perpetrators of the law by way of arrest and conviction and rehabilitation and correction respectively.

Dealing with deviants every day is not a easy job and then having to contend with other issues such as lack of housing, overcrowding and deteriorating facilities adds more unnecessary stress on some members of the two disciplined forces and may lead to an underper-

forming sector.

Earlier this year, the Chief Ombudsman and a team from the Commission visited three provinces to address complaints of overcrowding, deteriorating accommodation and other facilities such as police holding cells and prisons.

The approach was to garner the support of the elected leaders within the provinces to take ownership of the issues of the Police and Correctional services stationed in their provinces or districts and assist them to address some of these issues.

The fact that these institutions are national institutions, sometimes make provincial leaders ignore them and don't include them in their provincial development plans.

However, the provincial administrations and provincial leaders

such as the Members of Parliament must realise that these two institutions are important to the stability of their provinces and they should be included in any development plan they propose.

MPs are custodians of the DSIP and PSIP funds and must coordinate with the national institutions to counter-fund projects and initiatives within the provinces for the Police and Correctional Services.

The Commission would like to commend the three provinces of Manus, New Ireland and West New Britain for making commitments to support these two important organizations after our visit and we hope it continues into the future.

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## Manus gets logistical support from PNGDF for police initiative

sharing the same house.

The houses contained fallen verandahs, broken floors, collapsed bathroom and leaking roofs.

Mr Pagen said that the Ombudsman Commission is concerned with the lack of maintenance and even police housing in the province as law and order was an important issue and the policeman and women deserved to be housed properly so they can do their job.

The Chief Ombudsman then met with the Manus Provincial Administrator Oka Nungu, Manus Governor Benjamin Charlie and Provincial Police Commander David Yapu to garner their commitment to addressing the issue.

He also added that the PPC now has a brand new house and also by February two new single-quarter barracks for Males and females and a brand new house for the provincial station commander will be handed over to the

police for use.

The Ombudsman Commission has met with the Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to provide logistical support in shipping materials for the rehabilitation from Lae, Morobe province where the Manus provincial administration are buying their building materials from.



ABOVE: The run-down police cell at the Kimbe Police Station and (LEFT) the flooded police houses at the Kimbe police barracks.

## WNB keen on counter-funding projects

The West New Britain Administration met with the Ombudsman Commission in January and gave an undertaking to help fund certain projects for the Correction Services and Police Institutions in the province to address issues such as overcrowding, potential human rights abuses and staff housing.

The Ombudsman Commission was in the province to assess the complaints made against CS and police.

The team could not visit the Lakiemata Correction institute but was able to visit two police lock ups at Kimbe Police station

and Buluma Police stations which needed a lot of maintenance and upgrade.

The approach the commission took to resolve the issue was to meet with the leaders of the province especially the Members of the Parliament to amicably resolve the issues and provide funding for the refurbishment of the national facilities from the respective PSIP and DSIP funds for law and order.

The CS complaint was specifically regarding overcrowding and deteriorating facilities at Lakiemata Jail while the police complaint was about human rights abuse in holding cells where it was unhygienic,

crowded and there was no separation between men, women and juveniles.

West New Britain Governor Sasindran Muthuvel said the provincial government has always been giving assistance to the national institutions like police and CS and highlighted some of the projects that the provincial government had undertaken.

These projects included the refurbishment of the CID unit and the Provincial Police Commander's office, the building of a duplex for two families at the Buluma Police Station and 30 houses to move police personnel from the current police barracks.

## NIP commits K1 million to maintain police infrastructure

The Chief Ombudsman visited the New Ireland province to garner the financial support of the three members of parliament in the province to address certain concerns regarding police staff overcrowding and also overcrowding in the police lock ups and the Kavieng Correction Services institute.

The visit culminated in the Member for Kavieng Ian Ling Stuckey to commit K1 million

towards refurbishing the police lock up and for the operations of the police during the 2022 General Elections.

The complaints about overcrowding and certain human rights issues within the Correction Services and Police facilities within the province were received during a Public Education Programme done in the province in 2021 by the NGI regional office in Koko.

The jail now houses more than 400 inmates which is double its capacity and also inadequate staff housing which has seen more than 10 married couples living in a single male barracks

The police lock up also does not have separate rooms for females and juveniles

## BRIEFS OF SUCCESS STORIES

### Cooperative receives UDL

The Ombudsman Commission has conducted an investigation into a complaint against the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) alleging unreasonable delay in the renewal and granting of Urban Development Lease (UDL) Title to a co-operative society. The cooperative is the original lease owner of a land in Port Moresby in the National Capital District. After the Commission's full investigation into the matter, the DLPP finally rectified, granted and transferred the UDL Title to the co-operative society.

### Company paid

On 12 September 2019, the complaint was registered and the Ombudsman Commission commenced its investigation. Following the Commission's intervention, the company, a building and maintenance service provider was paid K157,397.68 on 5 August 2021. The complainant was pleased with the Ombudsman Commission for the assis-

tance because he had been following up for a very long time.

### Contractor paid K97,000

The Ombudsman Commission conducted an investigation into a complaint against the Department of Defence (DoD); alleging non-payment of outstanding institutional housing construction services rendered by a Construction company. After the Commission's full investigation into the matter within only five (5) months, the DoD finally processed and paid the outstanding K97, 000 to the Contractor.

### B'ville hire company gets paid

A complainant in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville complained against the Parliamentary Services of the Autonomous Bougainville Government for an outstanding claim for the hire of his motor vehicle. He stated that in 2018, the Office of the Speaker of Parliament, hired his motor

vehicle from 7 June to 16 June. The total amounted to K7,920.00 which remained unpaid and outstanding. He lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman Commission on 25 February 2021 and the Investigation commenced on 31 March 2021. Following the Commission's intervention, the complainant was paid K7,920.

### Persistent teacher gets dues

After laying a complaint with the Commission for non-payment of salary, a teacher continued following up until he was paid his entitlements. On 29 September 2021, the Ombudsman Commission obtained information from the OIC Education Salaries that she dealt with the complainant's case and confirmed that he was paid a total of K48,315.89.

## OC calls on government to honour uni commitments

**T**he Ombudsman Commission called on the government to honour all outstanding commitments to all universities in 2022 and ease the burden of higher school fees.

Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen said this after a meeting with the council members of one of the universities and the Department of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (DHERST) Acting Secretary Dr Francis Hualupmomi to sort out the issue of rising school fees which was brought to the attention of the Commission by a concerned parent.

The Ombudsman Commission are mandated under Section 218 of the Constitution to ensure that Government Bodies are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people; to ensure services are delivered and unfair practices are eliminated.

The Chief Ombudsman said from the discussion it was apparent that the delay in appropriation of allocated funds to the universities was a major contributor to the increase in fees this year.

He also gave his opinion on the Government's free education policy as not being fair to tertiary students.

Mr Pagen said he is of the view that tertiary students should be the priority in any school fee subsidy system as they are the ones who pay higher fees and have the best chance to join the work force soon.

DHERST confirmed that millions of kina have not yet been appropriated from the allocated funds for the universities and thus the department cannot allocate the required funds on time to the universities.

Acting Secretary Hualupmomi said that every year they begin by paying off the shortfalls of the previous years and from whatever funds they are left with, they allocate to the universities and other tertiary institutions. These funds appropriated in various forms including accreditation and governance and their ongoing scholarship programs such as TESAS and student loan programme called Help.

He said the Commission understands that universities have valid reasons for any increase in their fees and that includes the rising cost of goods and services and the need to hire quality staff for their accredited programs however, if part of the reason was because of the government's delay in funding then the Commission has to step in to ensure the government component is given in full.



**New officers** ... New officers who joined the Commission in the first quarter of 2022. Clockwise from Left: Database Support Officer Natasha David, Admin Officer Southern Region Ginnie Melpa, Investigator Team 7 Sharon Kawo, Regional Manager AROB Simon Jaintong, Investigator ADHRU Allan Avea, Senior Investigator Simeon Emboge, Admin Assistant Nigel Lakatani and Investigator Team 8 Kisen Gerald.



28 officers of the Commission pose for a group photo after signing their contracts in February at the Crown Hotel. Those who signed included three graduates on shirt term basis.

# OC welcomes new Facilities and Assets Manager

The Ombudsman Commission has welcomed Patricia Kiromat in January to take up the role as Facilities and Assets Manager.

Patricia, from Manus province brings with her 11 years of experience in the field of construction, contract management and project management.

Prior to joining the Commission Patricia was the Manager for projects and properties with the Legal training Institute for five years.

Before that she also worked with the Western Highlands Provincial Administration as the Team leader for the project management unit for six years.

She has a degree with from the University of Technology having graduated with Bachelor Degree in Architecture attained in 2010.

She describes joining the commission as a blessing.

"I aim to work well, contribute as much as I



Newly- appointed Assets and Facilities Manager Patricia Kiromat joined the Commission in January 2022.

can in my job area and achieve the aims and goals of the Commission.

tion and to be part of it is indeed is an achievement in my life.

The Commission is a prestigious organiza-



**Induction program a success** ... 28 new officers that the Commission recruited between 2020 and 2022 went through an induction program from the 7-9 February 2022. The induction included speakers from each division of the Commission who took the new recruits through their respective roles and important HR processes and procedures. The Chief Ombudsman also took a few sessions to speak to the new staff about the basics of assessment and investigation. The last induction was done in 2019. Pictured are the inductees with their certificates of completion, Ombudsman Kevin Kepore and the senior management team of the Commission.



**OC at work ...** (ABOVE) Chief Ombudsman inspecting flooded roads in Kimbe with WNB Governor Sasindran Mu-thuvel and members of the provincial administration. (TOP RIGHT) Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen speaking with police personnel at the Barracks in Lorengau when inspecting their run down accommodation (RIGHT) Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen meets with Commander of Defence Force Maj-Gen Mark Guina to garner his support to assist Manus provincial administration to ferry their building material to Lorengau from Lae, Morobe province to refurbish police houses in the province.



## CO tells election awareness participants to vote wisely

**T**he Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen was the guest speaker during an election awareness program run by Transparency International in Lae, Morobe province.

Also present at the event were the Morobe Provincial Administration, Lae City Authority and the Morobe Police.

Mr Pagen told participants that country needed quality leaders with integrity who will take the country forward in the next five years.

He said people cannot be careless now and later complain for the next five years.

Mr Pagen told the participants that the quality of leaders that we have is portrayed by the type of laws, decisions and policies they make during their term in parliament.

He said some of the leaders that we have voted in seem to be more interested in passing laws that give them more benefits and power but delay and frustrate any



**Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen speaking at the workshop**

law that would contribute to the betterment of the people.

The Chief Ombudsman said that thankfully the Constitution has given the Ombudsman Commission the mandate to keep the MPs in check.

He gave examples of certain laws that parliament had been too quick to pass without ensuring that these laws don't contradict other already existing laws.

Two of these laws are the Public Monies Management Regulation Act which the government wanted to use to bring all public monies in various trust accounts.

The Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional after the Ombudsman Commission filed a Constitutional Reference.

Other bills that were annulled by Supreme Court reference was the Vagrancy Act.

He said the leaders we vote in should be working on bills that will give greater power to the people.

Mr Pagen said issues such as resource ownership and partnership on development of its resources should be in the forefront of any lawmaking body.

He urged people to vote for quality leaders who believe in transparency and servitude this coming election because the consequences of their vote will be felt for the next five years.

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.

## Late councillor's entitlements paid after 3 years

**T**he entitlements of a former councillor in Lae, who is now deceased, was finally paid after the Ombudsman Commission intervened in his case.

The Commission intervened when the late councillor's son laid a complaint with the Ombudsman Commission after many unsuccessful attempts to claim his late father's entitlements.

The complainant's father was a former councillor who was appointed by the Lae Urban LLG for one term.

He also represented the Workers Union for

four consecutive terms until his death on 30 October 2016.

Councillors serving in Lae Urban LLG are currently entitled to a one-off payment of K10,000 per term.

The complainant informed the Ombudsman Commission that the final payment owing to his deceased father was outstanding since his death in 2016.

Following unsuccessful attempts to have the Lae Urban LLG pay the entitlements he approached the Ombudsman Commission on 25 September 2019.

Following the Ombudsman Commission's intervention, the complainant was paid K5,000.00 on 29 June 2021.

The Lae Urban LLG advised that the deceased was not entitled to K10,000 as claimed because the amendments to increase the payment from K5,000 to K10,000 was approved in 2018 after his father's death.



**Promoting Good Governance  
and Quality Leadership**

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