



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

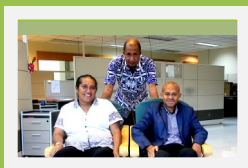
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WASDOK

Nius

NOV - DEC
2021



THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION



Ellen Tigia Bis (centre) posing with Ombudsman Commission officers from left; Benjamin Yakeri, Immangel Nawa, Brenda Oreke, Khee Esonu, Timothy Wrumongo and Cecelia Eli-Kore (far right) and NHC Manager Morobe Province Peter Gilmai (white shirt).

OC helps widow retain title

A Lae widow had the best Christmas gift in December when she was awarded the title for her property in Lae, Morobe Province, something she lost to fraudulent activities by certain National Housing officers.

Mrs Ellen Tigia Bis said she had nothing but praise for the Ombudsman Commission

after the commission's intervention set into motion the recovery of her title.

The woman began her battle for her title in 1999.

Two years ago she went to the media to appeal to the Housing Minister Justin Tkatchenko to revoke the title after it was being fraudulently transferred to another Housing officer.

However, she did not get the assistance needed until she approached the Ombudsman Commission.

She was surprised when Mr Tkatchenko and NHC Managing director Henry Mokono invited her to pick up her title in person in Port Moresby in the presence of the media.

The Ombudsman Commission

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Editorial

The Ombudsman Commission is obliged by law not to reveal the identities of its Complainants and witnesses but this is an exceptional case as the National Housing Corporation and the Minister for Housing & Urbanization decided to make her story public and put a face and a name to show that there is good governance where there is good leadership.

The Ombudsman Commission is for the people of Papua New Guinea.

So many people know the Ombudsman Commission only as a watchdog to hold leaders accountable and measure our performance according to how many leaders we refer to the Public Prosecutor.

Maybe that is the only time we receive media fanfare. Little coverage has been given to our more traditional role of ensuring that government bodies are responsive to the needs and aspiration of our people.

Administering the Leadership Code is only 25 percent of what we do and although it does not always get the public recognition for the other work that we under Section 2018 of the Constitution, the Commission continues to fight to ensure that services are delivered to the people

by the responsible agencies and unfair practices are eliminated so everyone benefits regardless of who they are and where they are from.

Every day people approach the Commission to lay their complaint against government bodies and also lack of services and countless cases have been resolved; some big others small but all towards ensuring an effective public service that does deliver.

The case of the widow from Lae, Ellen Tigia Bis is an example of what we do under Section 218.

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Corporation and the Minister for Housing & Urbanization decided to make her story public and put a face and a name to show that there is good governance where there is good leadership.

To show Papua New Guinea that despite the negative media campaign, in its fight to instil discipline and foster confidence and good governance in the public service, the Ombudsman Commission and the National Housing Corporation have reached a good outcome. That each and everyone of us have duties and obligations under the National Goals and Directive Principles, the Basic Rights and the Basic Social Obligations to the People of this country and to each other.

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OC helps widow retain title

officers, staff and management of NHC and the Minister were present to witness the occasion.

Mrs Tigia Bis said that it was bitter sweet moment as she wished her husband who had started the process with her was there to witness the occasion.

Court throws out search warrant against the Ombudsman Commission

The search warrant which was obtained on the 23 December 2020 to search the premises of the Ombudsman Commission was quashed by the National Court.

The Court ruled that the Decision by Magistrate Seth Tanei given on the 23 December 2020 to issue a search warrant authorising the members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to enter and search the Ombudsman Commission's office is quashed.

2. All members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary are permanently—restrained from entering and searching the Ombudsman Commission's office.

3. All members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary are permanently restrained from obstructing or interfering with the work and operations of the Ombudsman Commission its servants and agents including officers and employees



Ombudsman Commission staff at the headquarters gather at the ground floor foyer of the Ombudsman Commission Haus to mark the 20-day Human Rights Activism led by the Human Rights Division. The day featured a breakfast and a video show showing human rights work in other parts of the world.

OC observes 20 days Human Rights activism

The Ombudsman Commission marked the 20 day human rights activism from November 25 to December 10.

The human rights event which is sanctioned by the United Nation Human Rights Commission is marked in most member countries of the world and is used to raise awareness on human rights and the plight of some members of the marginalised members of our societies.

The global theme for 2021 was “Orange the World: End Violence against Women

Now” but locally the theme was “Unite Against Gender Based Violence and COVID19” (One Voice, One Purpose, One Action).

The Human Rights Division at the Ombudsman Commission led the activities which included wearing Red Ribbons on World AIDS Day and wearing White Ribbons during the International Human Rights Day.

The event ended with a breakfast and a video show and also a day for giving donations to the Meri Safe Houses in the city.

The video show showed human rights docu-

mentaries from all around the world including the issues in PNG such as police brutality and violence against women.

After the video show was the cutting of the cake to commemorate the end of the activism and breakfast hampers were presented to all staff at the head quarters. The breakfast was also used as a means to raise funds for Meri Seif houses.

The donations were later presented to CIMC who are the administrators of the safe houses. (See Separate Story Page 3 with Pictorial)

Commission settles 9 teachers issues after case conferencing

The Ombudsman Commission during a case conferencing settled the issues of eight teachers in East new Britain with the East New Britain provincial administration and the East New Britain division of Education.

The eight teachers were part of a total of 33 teachers that had laid their complaints with the Ombudsman Commission with issues ranging from unnecessary delays in

salaries, unpaid salaries, unnecessary delay in reinstatement to payroll and also unconfirmed employment status.

The nine successful cases were resolved with all of them having their outstanding salaries paid while two had their employment status confirmed and reinstated into the payroll.

Altogether the East New Britain division of Education paid out a total of K217,866.38

to resolve the nine cases.

The other 24 cases are still being progressed with the East New Britain provincial administration with different undertakings.

The teachers cases also revealed certain practices within the education that needs to be addressed so similar issues won't happen again in the future.

Pictorial Human Rights 20 days of Activism



Commission staff raises funds for Meri Seif Houses

Staff from the Ombudsman Commission used the 20 days Human Rights activism to raise funds for the Meri Seif houses in accordance with the theme of 2021 which is Gender-Based violence.

The Commission raised K300 which was used to purchase some food rations for the Meri Seif houses.

The food rations were presented to the administrators of the Meri Seif Houses CIMC during a presentation ceremony at the Ombudsman Commission Haus.



CIMC Deputy National Coordinator Isi Oru (fourth from left) and staff of CIMC and CAID officers with the donations of food stuff.



Bidding farewell ... Former media manager Elizabeth Turi (left) bids farewell after 5 years with the Commission. Also joining her was Samuel Moang Team Leader Team 9 (middle) who began his tenure in 2006 and left with a fruitful 15 years under his belt while Patrick Niebo (far right) finally signed his deed of release after his exit from the Commission two years ago. He was with the Commission for 27 years.



New officers join the Commission ... Some of the new officers who joined the Commission in the last quarter of 2021. From left Occupation health and safety officer (Human Resources Unit) Tony George, Investigator for CAID (Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Unit) Immangel Nawa, driver for Regions and External Relations Tony Asavi and Admin Officer for NGI Office James Makap.



OC at work ... (left) investigator Immangel Nawa assisting Mrs Tigia Bis with her documents after she received her title from the Minister for Housing and Urban Development Justin Tkatchenko; and (RIGHT) Representatives from the World Health Organisation doing a presentation on Covid19 vaccination to Members of the senior management team attending the Performance Management Review meeting at the Dixie's Bungalows in December.



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Case of misappropriation by Special Purposes Authority referred to Fraud Squad

The government through the Inter-Government Relations Minister Pila Ninigi has moved to refer a case of fraud and misappropriation by a Special purposes Authority to the Police National Fraud Squad and Anti-Corruption Directorate.

He also completed the appointment process of a new chairman and board of the SPA Management Board of an LLG in the resource-rich Southern Highlands province.

The appointment of the chairman and also a new board were delayed ever since the

time for the previous board was lapsed on July 2, 2021.

This was done after an intervention by the Ombudsman Commission after a complaint was laid.

The complaint received by the Ombudsman Commission had alleged official corruption, mismanagement and misapplication of public funds by the Special Purposes Authority.

The Commission during preliminary investigations found that there was evidence of an alleged misappropriation of the K80

million plus Special Support Grant (SSG) by the Board and Management of the Special Purpose Authority and also an alleged delay to notify the former chairman that his term expired as of 2 July, 2021 by Mr Ninigi.

In accordance with OLOC Section 16(3)(b) & (c), the issues of misappropriation and delay has been respectively referred to Police Fraud and Anti-Corruption Directorate and the Minister for Inter-Government Relations for their perusal and appropriate action (s).



**Promoting Good Governance
and Quality Leadership**

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