

GAVAMANI SIVARAI

A government newspaper on development information for PNG Vol. 03 Issue No. 1 January 2006

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Govt Accords State Burial To Sir William



Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare paying his tribute to late Sir William at Sioni Kami Memorial Church, Port Moresby. (Pics by PM's Media Unit)

PM Pays Tribute

The Government has given the highest and most dignified funeral and burial for the sitting Member of National Capital District and a former Prime Minister, Sir William Skate.

Sir William was given a full military and State funeral and laid to rest at the new burial site for leaders at Independence Hill near the National Parliament on January 12, 2006.

Amid the tears of sorrow and tributes, the Prime Minister, Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare joined the people of National Capital District to farewell Sir William at the funeral service at the Sioni Kami Memorial Church in Port Moresby before the burial.

In his tribute, Sir Michael said PNG had lost a good man who spoke his mind and was not afraid to challenge the norm.

He revealed that the late Sir William's contributions to the nation's building were outstanding and he was a part of Papuan New Guinea's political history.

He said Sir William was the first Papuan Prime Minister and the first former Prime Minister to die while serving as a Member of Parliament in the country's political history.

"Sir William started politics as an outspoken young man who became a colourful and controversial political figure during the three terms in which he held office.

"Sir William struggled to beat the odds to become what he is known today.

"As a politician, he was known for his support toward the ordinary people throughout the country and especially



The late Sir William Jack Skate

those in NCD and Bougainville.

"He was a man who challenged the status quo in all the various roles he played in government and always kept lawmakers on their toes.

"He questioned the legality of the recent vote of no confidence when he was Speaker of Parliament and had, as acting Governor General, sent all of us scrambling when he decided he preferred to be Speaker rather than acting Governor General," Sir Michael said.

The Prime Minister said Sir William was a true man of Melanesia when it came to the spirit of forgiving.

Sir William died at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, Australia at 8.55 am on 3rd January 2006.

The casket arrived in Port Moresby on Saturday 7th January amid a large crowd of mourners at the Jackson's Airport.

Thousands of mourners viewed Sir William's body at the Sir John Guise Stadium on 11th January, while many more people including close relatives paid their respects at Kaugere and Pari.

Sir William was buried with full military honors on Thursday, 12th January, 2006. ■

■ More on pages 6, 7 and 12

GOVERNMENT TALK BACK SHOW ON NBC RADIO - KARAI SERVICE

Talk to your leaders in Government and Public Service on radio every Monday evening between 8.00 and 10.00pm on NBC Karai Service Government Talkback Show, an information service of the Department of State Enterprises and Information in collaboration with the National Broadcasting Corporation to publicise government policies and key activities. Listeners may ring into the studio on the following telephone numbers 3250084 or 325 9382 to ask questions or make comments.

Toktok wantaim lida bilong yu long gavman na pablik sevis long redio long olgeta Mande nait namel long 8.00 na 10.00 kilok long NBC Karai Sevis Gavman Tok Bek Program. wanpela infomesen sevis bilong Dipatmen blong Steit Entapraisais na Infomesen insait long wok bung wan-laim National Broadcasting Corporation, long toksave long olpolicy na ol bikpela wok bilong gavman. Yu ken ring long NBC studio long dispela telefon namba 3250084 o 3259382 long askim na save o givim sampela tingting.

Oitemu gunalala tauna Gavamani bona Pablik Sevis lalonai be redio dekenai Monday adorahi hora gauna 8.00 bona 10.00 ana huanai NBC Karai Radio Talk Back Show lalonai hereva henia, inai durua hereva halasia be Department of State Enterprises bona Information bona National Broadcasting Corporation edia gaukara gavamani ana policy bona gaukara badadia ana kahanai. Boiboi mai telefon numera 3250084 eiava 3259382 emu lalao o durua hereva henia tofona.

New Digital Studio Opened



United Church Moderator Samson Lowa welcomes Sir Michael at the launch of the new NBC digital studio. Looking on is Minister for Lands and Physical Planning, Hon. Dr Puka Temu (second from left) and Deputy NBC Managing Director, Mr Posa Lari at the Broadcasting House, Five Mile National Capital District.

P Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare officially opened the new National Broadcasting Corporation studio on Thursday 22nd December 2005 at the NBC Broadcast House in Port Moresby.

As the Minister for State Enterprises and Information, Sir Michael also received a cheque from the Lands Department for the Voluntary Customary Land Registration campaign on NBC Radio in 2006.

Minister for Lands and Physical Planning Hon. Dr Puka Temu presented the cheque of K85 000.00 to Sir Michael.

Chairman of NBC, Mr Loani Henao said it was his duty to ensure that NBC follows what is intended; and that is to bring information service to people in both rural and urban areas.

He said: "NBC is a major institution which is an important arm of the government of Papua New Guinea and support through government funding as well as manpower is required."

Mr Henao added that NBC has been a provider of broadcasting

services to the people.

However, the Board has resolved not to rely on financial assistance alone but also to generate its own income as a corporate body.

And now that the studio has become digital, many listeners are tuning in to the station.

Mr Henao praised the current Board of NBC for the achievement in the new digital studio.

Upon presenting the cheque, Dr Temu said: "We believe in the services that NBC provides and Lands Department has taken the initiative to pay NBC for its service in the land registration campaign in 2006."

Sir Michael said the facility was an excellent improvement and hoped that there would be room for one or two more of this kind of digital studios.

He also emphasised that NBC had a long record of disseminating government information.

Sir Michael said: "Over 70% of the population is illiterate and radio plays an important role in broadcasting to those in remote areas."

"If Pidgin and Motu languages were used more often to disseminate information, this would be very effective." ■

Joint Border Committee Meets

The 24th Joint Border Committee (JBC) Meeting between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia met in Port Moresby recently to discuss bilateral issues of concern to both countries.

Minister for Inter Government Relations, Hon. Sir Peter Barter, while officially opening the JBC meeting said the forum will enable both countries to share skills, knowledge and experience in developing programs of cooperation.

It is also an avenue to jointly address mutual concerns related to the common border for the betterment of the border communities and other citizens.

Sir Peter added that positive achievements arising from the annual Joint Border Committee Meeting and Border Liaison meeting, were testament to the close and friendly relations that both countries have nurtured and enjoy.

He said this is guided by the principles of mutual respect, trust, friendship and understanding.

An outstanding issue discussed at the last JBC meeting in Jakarta last year, was the official opening of Wutung/Skoouw Border Posts and the Vanimo/Jayapura road.

Sir Peter informed the Meeting that facilities at Wutung Border Post and the sealing of Vanimo/Wutung

road would be completed before March 2006.

He further proposed the official opening to coincide with the intended visit by the President of Indonesia to PNG sometime next year.

"The presence of our two Heads of Governments to mark this historical milestone in our border and wider relations, will signify the importance both countries attached to the road link, its future development and potential mutual benefits that these facilities would bring to our counties and peoples," said Sir Peter.

The Meeting was also told that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cross-Border Vehicle Movement Arrangements has been signed by parties concerned, of which specific details are being finalized before the official opening of the border road and the border posts.

The launch of the Cross-Border Vehicle Movement Arrangements, is aimed at guiding the operations, including insurance of motor vehicles traveling between Vanimo and Jayapura.

Sir Peter added that both countries also signed an MoU on Exchange of Customs related information, which is geared towards enhancing cooperative endeavours in the field of customs and policing the operations of the border road.

There are 10 subsidiary arrange-

ments in the form of MOUs established between PNG and Indonesia within the Joint Border Committee framework.

On border trade, Sir Peter said PNG supported the other government's initiatives to enhance cross-border trade, and proposed that PNG import bulk fuel and rice from Indonesia for Western and West Sepik provinces.

Sir Peter also proposed a joint task force comprising senior officials from key agencies from both governments to be established to follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the Joint Border Committee (JBC).

The Wutung/Skoouw Border Posts and the Vanimo/Jayapura road have been the highlight of the establishment of the PNG/Indonesia Joint Border Committee at the Ministerial level, in 1985.

The main functions of the JBC is to formulate guidelines and procedures for the effective administration of the Basic Agreement and to advise on matters relating to border areas.

The common border between PNG and Indonesia is administered under the Basic Agreement between both countries on Border Arrangements which was revised recently.

The revised arrangements embrace important provisions, con-



Sir Peter exchanges a gift with Indonesia's Home Affairs Minister, Mr Ma'ruf.



Sir Peter poses with (l - r) Indonesia's Director General, Treaty & Information Directorate, Mr Mangosi Sihombring, Minister for Community Development, Hon. Dame Carol Kidu, Indonesia's Home Affairs Minister, Mr Ma'ruf, Indonesia's Ambassador to PNG, Mr Johannes Djopari and Indonesia's Director General for Public Administration Directorate, Mr S. Situmorang.

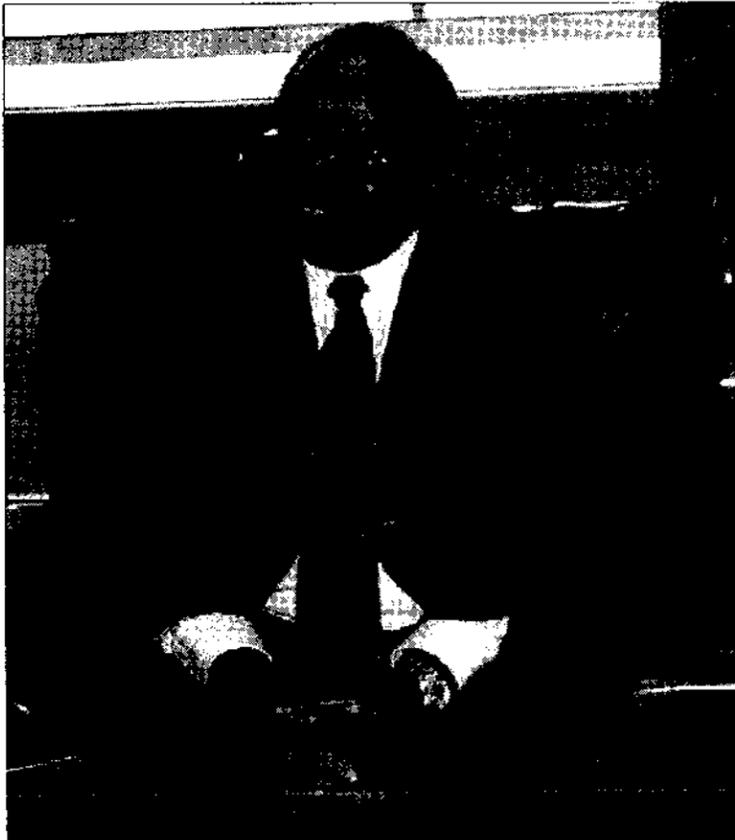
cerning, survey, demarcation and mapping of boundary line delineating the border, establishment of liaison arrangements, traditional and non-traditional border crossing,

environment and conservation, compensation and other provisions.

The Indonesian delegation was led by the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Haji Mohammad Ma'ruf. ■

Parliament To Ratify Treaty

Message From The Publisher Of Gavamani Sivarai



Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister, Rt. Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu.

Papua New Guinea is committed to ratifying the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which was signed in November 2004.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu revealed this at the Transparency International (PNG Chapter) Forum held at the University of Papua New Guinea this month to commemorate the UN International Anti-Corruption Day.

Sir Rabbie assured the Forum that the Treaty would be ratified by the National Parliament before its principles and goals can be implemented fully.

Sir Rabbie however, highlighted four key requirements which he believed would reduce all levels of corruption and the abuse of office,

both in the public and private sectors.

These include:- the National Constitution that cannot be changed at will; democratic national elections electing a representative Parliament; an independent and competent judiciary; and a free and probing media.

But he said he further believed that the undivided commitment by the community, would fight against corruption.

"That cannot happen when all too often the 'community' has expectations of its elected representatives that are irresponsible, unachievable, and that can encourage corruption and abuse," said Sir Rabbie.

He highlighted that community's demands often exceeded the capacity of government to meet.

Sir Rabbie favours more

Government funding given to Transparency International to undertake awareness and education campaigns on corruption and its evils throughout the community.

"One way to reduce that pressure and temptation is to educate the community on its role in fighting corruption and making its expectations realistic and affordable, and in rejecting the handout mentality.

I would like to see more 'responsible citizenship' programs incorporated as compulsory subjects in our schools, which include fighting corruption and rejecting undue and unnecessary demands on leaders and governments," Sir Rabbie said.

He also appealed to TI PNG Chapter to lead the way in strengthening the role of the private sector in helping fight corruption, and to ensure there is a corruption free private sector as well.

Sir Rabbie also called for the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Commission to coordinate and spearhead the investigation and prosecution of corruption.

"I believe one focused, well resourced entity is needed to maximize the fight to reduce corruption, and to involve the community in the fight to the greatest possible degree."

APEC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Pacific Islands Forum and the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP)-European Union (EU) have focused their attention on assisting developing countries to address the challenge of corruption and good governance.

Sir Rabbie says Papua New Guinea's membership to these organizations has enabled the people to not only benefit from, but to assist in formulating actual policies and programs as well as to develop an international legal framework to fight corruption.

He emphasized that democracy and freedom are precious assets, and never take them for granted. ■

PNG-Aust Bilateral Talks

Bilateral talks and other outstanding issues were the highlight of discussions at the 17th PNG-Australia Ministerial Forum, which was held at the Gold Coast, Australia late last year.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu said among the important issues discussed were, the PNG economy, the PNG Gas Pipeline project, labour mobility; trade-in agriculture products, the Enhanced Cooperation Program (ECP), joint review of the bilateral aid program, trade and commerce, defence cooperation, HIV/AIDS, and outcomes of the recent 36th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting.

He added that Minister for Treasury and Finance, Hon. Bart Philemon also briefed the Australian Ministers on the state of the national economy and the 2006 budget which was handed down in mid-

November.

The Forum was assured that both countries would also explore ways to enable Papua New Guinea's agricultural producers to export their crops to Australia, but the process would also require quarantine and other requirements of Australia.

Sir Rabbie led the delegation which comprised the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Hon. Sir Moi Avei, Treasurer Hon. Bart Philemon, National Planning and Monitoring Minister, Hon. Arthur Somare, Justice Minister, Hon. Mark Maipakai, Internal Security Minister, Hon. Bire Kimisopa, Public Service Minister, Hon. Sinai Brown, Defence Minister, Hon. Mathew Gubag, Inter Government Relations Minister, Hon. Sir Peter Barter and Community Development, Hon. Dame Carol Kidu.

The last Forum was held in Lae, Morobe Province in 2004. ■

A warm welcome to all the readers in 2006.

We hope that you have enjoyed Gavamani Sivarai in 2005 and that you will continue to do so this year.

This Newspaper supports the dissemination of developmental information and objectives of the Somare/Moi Government's Five Pillar Policies of Export Driven Economy Recovery, Poverty Alleviation, Good Governance, Human Resource Development and Rural Development

In this regard, meaningful decisions can be reached in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and so forth to grow the economy.

Under the MTDS guidelines, the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Sir Moi Avei while addressing Departmental Heads and Head of Statutory Authorities meeting in Port Moresby last December has encouraged good governance in 2006 to grow the economy.

Department of State Enterprises and Information accepts the challenge, using public information programs through this Newspaper and the weekly Government Radio Talk - Back program on NBC, to empower citizens to make rightful decisions in line with the Government's Medium Term Development Strategy.

As from the next issue, this newspaper will open a column for readers to comment on how best citizens can contribute on developmental issues by way of views, comments and criticisms.

This Paper will definitely discourage political mud-slinging but will encourage critiques and positive commentary of Government initiatives.

This month marks the beginning of a New Year and bring with it a new opportunity to dedicate the improvement in our performance to deliver the best information service to the people.

The new year definitely brings new challenges; and these challenges can best be tackled with the improvement of the quality of our newspaper

We believe, Gavamani Sivarai can become a yardstick to guide the citizens with developmental government information and empowering them to make rightful decisions in a systematic manner.

And over the next 12 months, we will be able to show that we can better serve our people in awareness and development information dissemination through our various programs, most of which are on-going activities.

I am pleased that during this period, the Department will also



Acting Secretary, Mr Henao Iduhu

be embarking on the initial implementation of the Integrated Government Information System (IGIS), which the National Executive Council has approved in August 2005.

Hence, this New year also brings opportunities for us to foster partnership to implement the IGIS Network Design, Executive Reporting System for Government, Data Center Design and Record Management Center Set-up.

We are thankful for the assistance in the feasibility phase of the Project given by key agencies including Prime Minister and National Executive Council, National Planning and Monitoring, Finance and Treasury, Telikom, Pangtel, Independent Consumer Competition Commission, Consultancy steering Committee and the Central Supply Tenders Board.

Our partnerships with these important agencies of Governments will certainly enhance and improve information and communication services in the next 12 months.

Under a new partnership with Post PNG, all the Provinces in PNG will be well-informed of Government programs with the increased production and distribution of 'Gavamani Sivarai' to all Governors and Provincial Administrators.

In 2006, my Department will embark on a South-South Cooperation under the NAM News Network, an initiative of the Malaysian Government to promote member economies in the region.

I look forward to the continued support and cooperation of all agencies within the ambit of the Ministry of State Enterprises and Information in the implementation of information and communication programs this year.

I also acknowledge the great support of the Prime Minister, Right Honorable, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, who is also the Minister for State Enterprises and Information for the support and leadership to the Department.

We will continue working together with Sir Michael as our Minister in 2006. ■

Education Is A Shared Responsibility

Minister for Education, Hon. Michael Laimo, has challenged everyone to play their part to ensure that children receive relevant and quality education.

He said Provincial education authorities must continue to support their schools by providing effective maintenance, development and teachers salaries and entitlements in their schools.

"It is important at this time of the year for provincial administrations to finalise appointments and make available sufficient funds on time to enable teachers to travel in their new postings and resume duties on January 23," Mr Laimo said.

Classes for most schools in Papua New Guinea will resume on January 30, 2006.

He said the parents and guardians must support their teachers and students in every way possible to make sure they start school on a good note.

He said this means working closely with teachers and school administrations to sort out enrolments and pay their children's school fees.

The Minister also acknowledged and thanked development partners, churches, aid agencies and non-government organizations in their efforts to educate the nation.

The Minister challenged the community members to support their



Minister for Education, Hon. Michael Laimo.

school boards and teachers by making sure that their schools are protected from criminal activity and are maintained in good condition.

Mr Laimo also challenged the community members to support their school boards and teachers by making sure that their schools are protected from criminal activity and maintained.

"Schools belong to the community, and communities must make sure that school property, students and teachers are protected from criminal activities that will affect student learning.

These children are the future leaders of our communities and our

country as a whole," the Minister said.

He said this in light of media reports on January 6 on the closure of a primary school in Finschaffen as a result of criminal activities and the delaying of investigations into the rape of 12 high schools girls in Eastern Highlands last November due to police logistical problems and lack of community support.

"I appeal to the public in the two communities referred to in the reports to work closely with the police to speed up investigations in order that those responsible can be brought to face the full force of the law," Mr Laimo said. ■

Pagelio Confirmed To Head Education

Cabinet has confirmed the appointment of Dr Joseph Pagelio as Secretary of the Department of Education.

Minister for Education, Michael Laimo, Dr Pagelio was acting Secretary after former Secretary, Peter Baki's term expired on April 3, 2005.

His appointment is for four years and has been gazetted on January 5, 2006.

In congratulating Dr Pagelio on his appointment, the Minister thanked him for his contribution and leadership during his term as Acting Secretary.

Mr Laimo also paid special tribute to the outgoing Secretary, Peter Baki, for his leadership as Secretary for Education from 1997 to 2005 and his contribution to the development of education in Papua New Guinea since beginning service as a teacher in 1971.

He thanked Mr Baki for his



Newly appointed Secretary for Education, Dr. Joseph Pagelio.

role in leading implementation of the education reform and the national education plan 1995-2004, as well as the development of the current Education Plan for 2005-2014.

The Department has been privileged to have had a leader of Mr Baki's calibre. ■

TOK PISIN

Gavman mekim Steit Beriel bilong Sir William

GAVMAN i givim namba wan na bikpela funeral o matmat na beriel bilong siting Memba bilong Nesenel Kapitel Distrik na wanpela bipo Praim Minista, Sir William Skate.

Ol i bin givim Sir William wanpela ful militari o ami na Stet Funerel na ol i bin planim em long nupela ples matmat bilong ol lida long Indipendens Hil klostu long Nesenel Palamen long Januari 12, 2006.

Wantaim aiwara i pundaun na ol tok luksave, Praim Minista, Gren Sief, Sir Michael Somare i bin bung wantaim ol pipel bilong Nesenel Kapitel Distrik long tok gutbai long Sir William long Sioni Kami Memoriel Sios funerel sevis long Pot Mosbi pastaim long ol i planim em.

Insait long tok luksave bilong em, Sir Michael i tok PNG i lusim wanpela gutpela man husat i bin save autim tingting bilong em na salensim pasin olgeta arapela i save bihainim.

Em i tok wok bilong Leit Sir William long strongim nesen i bin nambawan tru na em i bin kamap

olsem hap bilong histori bilong Papua Niugini politikis.

Em i tok em i bin namba wan Papua Praim Minista na nambawan bipo praim minista long dai taim em i wok yet olsem Memba bilong Palamen insait long histori bilong politikis insait long kantri. Em i bin tok Sir William i bin statim politikis olsem wanpela yangpela man husat i bin kamap wanpela biknem politikis man insait long tripela tem em i bin holim opis.

- Sir William i bin pait strong long daunim olgeta hevi long kamap olsem biknam tude.
- Olsem wanpela politisen. em i bin gat nem long sapot em i save givim long ol liklik manmeri insait long kantri na moa yet long ol lain pipel insait long NCD na Bogenvil.
- Em i bin wanpela man husat i salensim gutpela sindaun insait long olgeta wok em i holim insait long gavman na em i save salensim ol lain i mekim ol lo olgeta taim.
- Em i bin kwestenim o tromoi bikpela askim sapos ol vot bilong nogat bilip i bin bihainim lo o nogat taim em

i bin Spika bilong Palamen na olsem ekting Gavana Jenerel, em i bagarapim sindaun bilong mipela olgeta taim em i tokaut olsem em i laik stap spika na i no Ekting Gavana Jenerel," Sir Michael i tok.

Praim Minista i tok Sir William i bin wanpela trupela man bilong Melanesia taim i kam long pasin bilong givim bek bel isi long nara-pela.

Sir William i bin dai long Wesley Haus Sik long Brisben, Australia long 8.55 moning long namba 3 de bilong mun Januari 2006.

Kofin bokis bilong em i bin kamap long Pot Mosbi long Sarere naniba 7 de bilong mun Januari we planti tausien manmeri i bin kamap long kisim em long Jacksons ples balus.

Planti tausien manmeri i bin lukim bodi bilong Sir William long Sir John Guise Stadium long Januari 11, na planti moa manmeri wantaim ol lain famili i bin givim luksave long em long Kaugere na Pari.

Ol i bin planim Sir William wantaim ful militari o ami onas long Fonde, namba 12 de bilong mun Januari, 2006. ■



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GAVAMANI SIVARAI is published by the Department of State Enterprises and Information, Ministry of State Enterprises and Information, PO Box 1122, Waigani, NCD, Papua New Guinea

It is aimed at disseminating developmental information throughout Papua New Guinea.

■ Letters to the Editor will commence in the next issue. You can write to the editor on any development issue, with proper names and addresses.

Field Day For Highlands Farmers

Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) recently participated at the inaugural field day for National Agriculture Research Institutes Highlands Programme at Aiyura, Eastern Highlands Province with outstanding display of fresh produce and farmer interaction late last year.

The display attracted farmers, school children and the general public to learn from FPDA staff about potato seed production and post harvest and marketing programmes.

The one-day event attracted more than 3000 farmers from throughout the Highlands region.

The Aiyura-based Coffee Industry Corporation's Research and Growers Services Division, Department of Agriculture and

Livestock, Provincial Division of Primary Industry, Highlands Aquaculture Development Centre (Fisheries), NARI and FPDA made the day promising for Highlands farmers.

Others who participated include research and development collaborators and partners, Didiman stores, Non Governmental Organisations, farmer groups and innovative farmers. ■



Mr Pai Pirao of NARI's Aiyura station shows a tray full of cabbage seedlings raised at the nursery.



Ms Joana Galuwa of NARI's Tambul station, Western Highlands demonstrates the basics of post harvest handling of vegetables to farmers in the Kaugel Valley.

Rice Mill For Aroma

Rice milling in Aroma Coast of Central Province has been promoted after a young villager from Pelagai recently acquired a rice milling machine.

Mr Ravu Tom, who has been growing rice for three years, said he was very happy to possess the rice mill.

Just before Christmas last year, Dr Kwapena and wife Kerrie sponsored the new rice mill that can mill 180-200kg of rice per hour.

The milling was initiated and introduced to the villager by environmentalist, Dr. Navu Kwapena and his wife Kerrie who are from Maopa village.

The family purchased the rice mill from Brian Bell Store for K10 000.00 and believe that this machine will enable the people of Aroma to be self-reliant.

The rice milling in the area also encourages food security which is one of the UN agendas to alleviate poverty in the new millennium.

"Mr Tom is a potential rice farmer and with assistance from relatives in Port Moresby, he has milled rice three times," said Dr Kwapena.

"The main idea is to establish more development in such areas like agriculture to push the Government to encourage such initiatives," said Dr Kwapena.

Mr Tom said there are many rice growers like himself who started milling rice since the introduction of rice mills by the government few years ago at Kupiano District.

However, these machines broke down and have yet to be repaired.

Now with the new rice mill, Mr Ravu is prepared to assist other rice growers to mill their rice provided they supply their own fuel to run the mill.

Dr Kwapena said the idea was a local initiative but hopes that the Government through the Department of Agriculture and Livestock will recognize this initiative, and provide more rice milling assistance to people. ■

Fresh Produce Depot For Farmers

The Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) plans to set up a new fresh fruit and vegetable depot at Kainantu, Eastern Highlands Province, for farmers in the Highlands region.

Speaking at a recent field day at Aiyura, FPDA Acting General Manager, Mr Robert Lutulele said the FPDA Board of Directors have given the green light to assist fresh produce farmers by establishing the facility, which would help get their produce to markets.

Mr Lutulele said farmers have the problem of selling their produce to decent markets in Lae, Port Moresby and Madang.

He said FPDA is looking at ways to help farmers sell their produce and one of its initiatives is to set up this centrally consolidated depot for the Eastern Highlands and the region.

According to Mr Lutulele, a piece of land at Kainantu has been allocated and negotiations are currently underway with the Lands Department and the District Administration to get the project off the ground.

He said Kainantu is a strategic location and the gateway to the Highlands, with some 3 to 4 hours drive to Nadzab airport and



NARI staff show-off some of the vegetables produced at the Aiyura Valley in Eastern Highlands Province.

Namasu wharf in Lac.

Mr Lutulele challenged farmers to take advantage of line agencies and organizations in the agriculture sector to produce more for supply to the depot.

He said there is a big market potential in fresh produce in the country and farmers need to organise themselves and make total commitment to produce quality food of different types.

"To get fresh produce to market is a difficult job.

It needs total commitment from farmers and research organizations

to come up with right technologies like improved varieties and improved methods of controlling pest and diseases so as to produce good produce and quality food in order to compete in this competitive world.

We need to produce quality food. It is a big challenge with FPDA, NARI, DPI and others to assist farmers produce quality fresh produce and reduce imports from overseas. It's a challenge to all of us to work together, and there is a need for total commitment from farmers," Mr Lutulele said. ■



Dr Kwapena and wife, Kerrie (with child) and Mr Ravu (centre), with supporters showing off the new rice milling machine.

In Remembrance Of The L

William (Bill) Skate was born on 26th September 1953, and was raised by his foster parents, John Jack and Vavine Jack.

He completed his primary education in Pari and De La Salle High School, in the National Capital District and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Accountancy from the University of Technology in 1977.

In 1978, he joined Hancock & Offrew (Australia) Chartered Accountant, Audit & Accounting firm as an accountant, then as an accounts manager with Harrison & Crossfield (PNG) Ltd in 1979. In 1983, he was employed General Manager of the PSA Savings and Loans Society. He resigned in 1987 when he became General Manager of the National Capital District Commission. He served for two years then moved onto becoming Managing Director of Dala Holding in 1989.

Sir William was first elected to the 5th National Parliament when he won the seat of National Capital District in the 1992 general elections. Following his victory, Sir William was elected Speaker of Parliament on 17th July 1992 then resigned from the post on August 16 1994. He was also nominated as an alternate prime minister, which was defeated.

In March 1993, he formed and became leader of the People's National Congress. He served as Deputy Opposition Leader from August 16th 1994 until July 15th 1995, when he was appointed Governor of the National Capital District.

He served as Governor until the general elections in July 1997 when he got re-elected for the same seat.

■ continue on next page

■ Arrival From Australia

Right: The casket being brought to the terminal upon arrival from Brisbane. Lady Rarua Skate being escorted from the plane behind the casket.

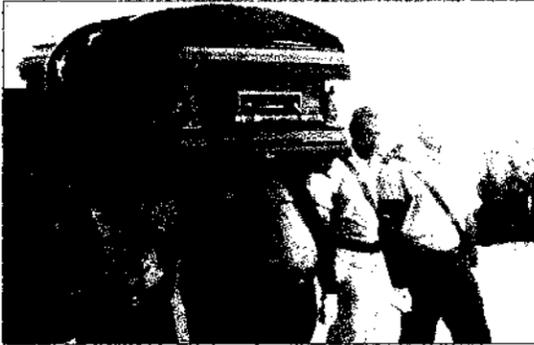
Below: Thousands of people crowding up to welcome the body of the late Sir William Skate at the Jacksons International Airport.



■ Parliament House Viewing

Right: Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare and Defence Force Commander, Commodore Peter Ilau arriving at the Parliament House for the VIP viewing of Late Sir William's body.

Below: Casket being brought to the Parliament House for viewing by VIP's.



■ Viewing Of Body At The Sir John Guise Stadium

Right: The Casket being escorted by Police to the Sir John Guise Stadium for Public Viewing.

Below: NCD residents viewing the body of their leader with grief.



Bishop Peter ... of the Anglican ... Reverend ... in ... Church for ... service



Mother of late Sir William, Mrs. Ume, wife, Lady Rarua, Sir William's foster father John Jack and William Skate Jr. at the funeral service.

ate Sir William Jack Skate

■ from previous page

He was elected Prime Minister in the 6th National Parliament, and resigned from his post on 8th July 1999. Sir William also briefly took charge of the ministries of Defence, (1997- April 1998) and communications.

In April 1998, Sir decided to again form another political party and called it Papua New Guinea First Party. He became its leader and subsequently, dismantled it and reverted it to PNC ion 1998.

Following the formation of the Morauta Government in July 1999, Sir William was leader of the Opposition and at the same time relinquished the leadership of PNC to Simon Kaumi on 9th December 1999.

In April 2000, Sir William again took over the leadership of the party following Mr. Kaumi's resignation, and decided to form a new political party - Eda Nambawan Pati on 5th June 2001. He gave up the idea and settled for People's National Congress when he finally registered it on August 16th 2001. On November 26th 2001, Mr Skate handed over the Opposition leadership to Sir Michael Somare, before going to the polls in July 2002.

Sir William retained his NCD seat in the 2002 National elections and was elected Speaker of Parliament on August 5th 2002. He resigned from post in 2004, and became a back-bencher in the Somare/Avei government until his death.

He was awarded Knight Commander of the Order of Saint George (KCMG) in the Queen's New Year Honours and Awards List in 2005 for his services to the country.

Sir William Jack Ipai Skate died of heart disease on Tuesday, January 3rd 2006 at the Wesley Hospital, in Brisbane, Australia. He is survived by Lady Rarua and their five children. ■



1



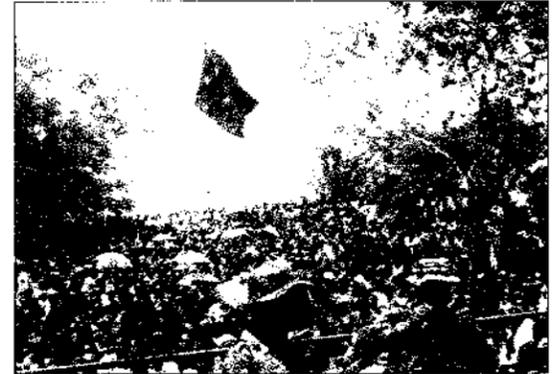
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3

Historical Burial At Independence Hill

- 1 The casket being carried out from the Sioni Kami Memorial Church.
- 2 Bougainville delegation led by President Joseph Kabui at the funeral service. They performed a traditional chant as part of their custom normally meant for chieftains.
- 3 The casket ready to be lowered for burial.
- 4 Late Sir William's family, relatives and friends mourning over the body.
- 5 Immediate family members of the late Sir William farewelling their father, husband and grand father for the last time.



Part of the crowd at the Independence Hill witnessing the burial.



Final blessing of his soul before burial.



Archbishop of Port Moresby Sir Brian Barnes performing the last rites at the burial.



4



5

Koitabuans Should Involve In NCD Development

Governor General Grand Chief Sir Paulias expressed concern that Motu Koitabuans, the indigenous owners of the land on which NCD is built, are not really benefiting from its development process.

Sir Paulias said this after Chief Executive of PNG Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) Mr Peter Vincent briefed him about tourism development and promotion initiatives in the country recently.

He said if villagers can seek joint venture tourism enterprises with investors in the country or abroad, there is room for the tourism industry to grow.

"Hanuabada, Tatana, Roku, and Pari to name a few, are examples of villages that will benefit if their leaders put their differences behind and work towards serving the Motu

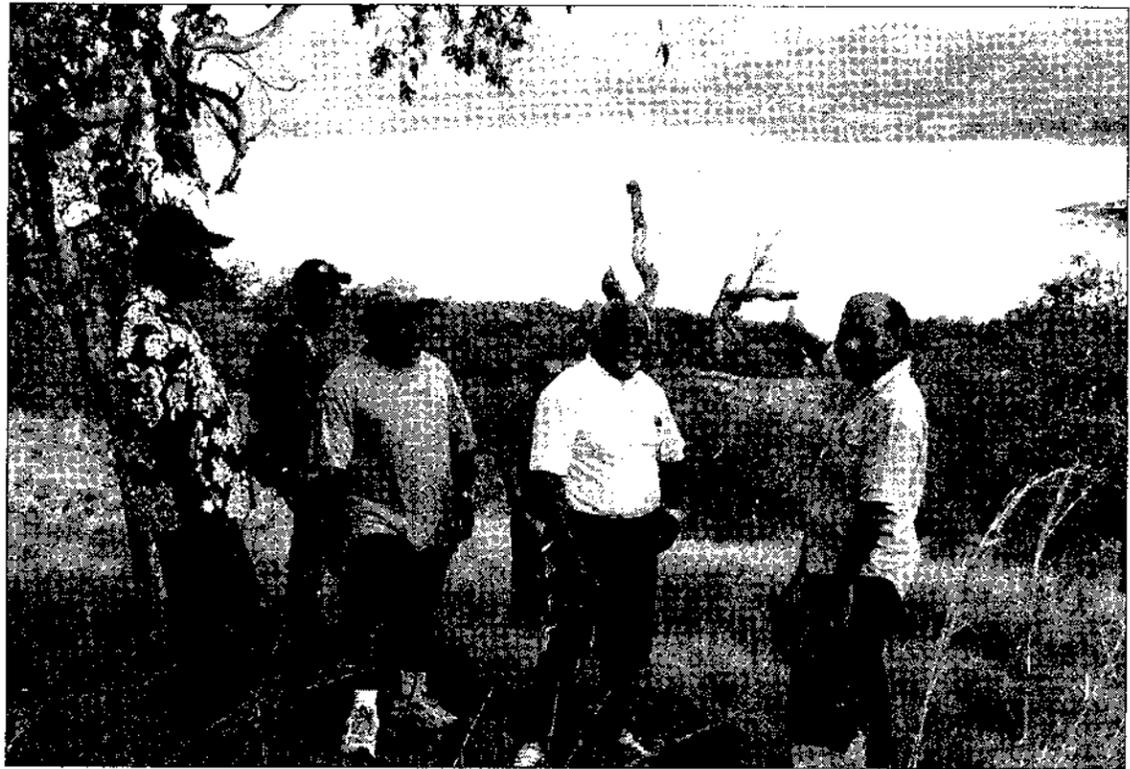
Koitabuans," he said.

The Head of State loves walking over hill tops surrounding the villages for leisure, promoting local tourism, and meeting people. He says there are beautiful landscapes and scenery to be viewed by tourists if proper infrastructure is in place.

He gave suggestions like building guest houses on hill tops, beautifying picnic sites on the small islands, and providing ferrying services and walking tracks for sight seeing.

Napanapa hills, Fisherman Islands, Gemo and Manumanu Islands are believed to be potential tourism attractions in the National Capital District and leaders of Motu Koitabu have to work hard to bring in money to village communities from tourists.

Sir Paulias encouraged them to seek technical assistance from TPA and urged them to be involved in NCD's development process. ■



Sir Paulias atop a hill over-looking Roku village in the National Capital with the TPA chief, Mr Peter Vincent.

NHC Not Selling Units: Buhupe



Housing Minister, Hon. Atimeng Buhupe.

The National Housing Corporation says it cannot sell existing units and flats to sitting tenants.

Housing Minister, Hon. Atimeng Buhupe explained during the recent Government Radio Talk-Back Program that there is no law in PNG regarding strata titling of flats.

However, Minister Buhupe said tenants may collectively consider purchasing a whole block of flats under a business title.

He said an administrative framework needs to be properly put in place by the NHC to allow the purchase of flats and units presently rented out by the Corporation.

The Minister appeared on

national radio with the Acting NHC Managing Director, Mr Walter Kapy to explain the roles of the Corporation and highlight major issues concerning housing.

Both men announced that rental increases was imminent to offset high costs of administration and maintenance costs.

They said tenants would be given an amnesty period to reconcile their rental arrears and conform to new rentals as approved by the Public Accounts Committee.

Earlier the Committee had prevented the NHC from effecting rental increases due to the non-maintenance of many dilapidated properties, especially flats and units. ■

TOK PISIN

Hailans Fama's Fil De

FRES Produs Developmen Ejensi (FPDA) i bin stap insait long namba wan fil de bilong Nesenel Agrikalsa Risets Institut (NARI) Hailans Progreem long Aiyura, Isten Hailans Provins wantaim ol nambawan displei bilong ol fres kaikai na paitim tok namel long ol fama long pinis bilong las yia.

Displei i bin pulim ol fama, ol skul sumatin na jenerel pablik long kisim skul long ol FPDA wokmanmeri long groim ol potato sit na ol pos haves na maketing progrem.

Dispela wan-de samting i bin pulim moa long 3000 fama i kam long olgeta hap bilong Hailans rijen.

Kopi Indastri Koporesen Risets na Growas Sevisen Divisen, Dipatmen bilong Agrikalsa na Laipstok, Provinsel Divisen bilong Praimeri Indastri, Hailans Akwakalsa Developmen Senta (Fiseris), NARI na FPDA i bin givim planti gutpela stia long ol Hailans fama.

Ol arapela lain husat i bin stap tu em ol risets na developmen opis na patna, ol Didiman stua, ol Non Gavman Ogenaisesen, ol fama grup na ol nupela fama. ■

MOTU

Laimo ia ura be nega tamona ita gaukara hebou

Gavamani be iseda Praim Minista gunana Leit Sir William Skate ena mase gaukarana idia naria namonamo bona idia atoa atai herea.

Sir William be militeri ena namo bona State Funeral idia henia bona idia lao hekurea ena mahuta gabuna matamata Independens ororona palamen ruma badana dekenai hua Janueri 12 lagani 2006 lalonai.

Madi ena tai lalonai, Praim Minista bona sifi badana, Sir Michael Somare be utuma danu ia gini National Capital District lalonai bona Sir William idia

bamahuta henia Sioni Kami Memorial dubu dekenai Pot Mosbi lalonai.

Ia ena hebogahisi hereva lalonai, Sir Michael Somare ia gwau PNG be be tau namona ta ia halusia, hereva goada bona dahaka dika ia mai ia dekenai ia be ia gini goada sibona.

Ia hereva Late Sir William be ena heni heni bada herea iseda tano ia hagoadaia totona bona be Papua Niugini ena politikol ena histri lalonai ia vareai.

Ia gwau lau be Papua Niugini edia Praim Minista ginigunana bona Praim minister gunana ena mase do ia noho palamen memba lalonai be histri ia karaia iseda

tano lalonai, Sir William ena politikol gaukara ia matama neganai ia be hereva goada tauna ta bona ena termu toi ia noho ena politikol gaukara lalonai be ia ena kala hairana momokani ia haheitalaia.

"Sir William be ia gini bona dahaka namo dika ia mai be ia gini goada sibona bona unai ese ena gaukara bona kara toana ia hahedinarai ia be daika ia mai hari.

"Ena politikol gaukara lalonai, taunimanima momo idia ura henia badina ia ena heduru karana NCD bona Bogenvii lalonai.

"Ia be hanaihanai salens bada-dia lalonai ia vareai bona ena rolo

gaukara gavamani lalonai be lo idia naria taudia danu edia aiedia kwakikwaki dekenai ia haginidia.

"Lo taudia ia nanadaidia guna vote of no confidens ena heau dalana lalonai, ia be palamen edia spika neganai, bona ekting Gavana General neganai, bona unai henanadai lalonai ai iboudiai be ai hoa badina ia gwau, unai henanadai lau henimui be dia ekting Gavana General lau gini to Palamen ena spika dekenai lau gini noho, Sir Michael ia gwau.

Praim Minista ia gwau Sir William be tau momokani bona ia be momokani Melanesia tauna korikori be ia be hebogahisi tauna.

Sir William be Wesley Hosipele Brisbane Autralia dekenai ia mase 8.55 dabai Janueri 3, 2006 lalonai.

Ia ena mase mauana be Pot Mosbi dekenai ia lou mai Satade 7 Janueri lalonai utuma be ia idia naria Jackson ena peleini gabuna dekenai.

Utuma momo danu idia lao ia ena tauanina idia itaia Sir John Guise Stadium dekenai Janueri 11 dekenai, bona varavara bona utuma haida be ia ena tauanina idia itaia Kaugere bona Pari hanua dekenai.

Sir William Militeri ena hona idia henia Thursde Janueri 12, 2006 lalonai. ■

Develop HIV/AIDS Sermons: GG Urges Churches

Church workers have been urged to develop sermons that will address stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea.

Governor General, Grand Chief, Sir Paulias Matane says key messages from the pulpit are necessary to save people from dying from the deadly disease.

Sir Paulias was speaking at the Leaders Sensitisation Workshop on HIV AIDS at Koki United Church on 29th November 2005-World AIDS Day.

He was invited by the NCD Provincial AIDS Committee and UNAIDS Office to open the Workshop on the theme: "STOP AIDS, KEEP THE PROMISE."

The Workshop was aimed at guiding and supporting Faith Based Organisations in the country to designate and initiate HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs based on the correct information on how disease is spread and its impact on people.

Sir Paulias urged the Workshop participants to initiate pastoral HIV/AIDS

Counseling Programs for church members.

He also suggested them to formulate strategies and plans to target men, women, and

"The gender ratio of reported cases is almost 1:1 and reported numbers do not indicate the real extent of HIV infection in the population.

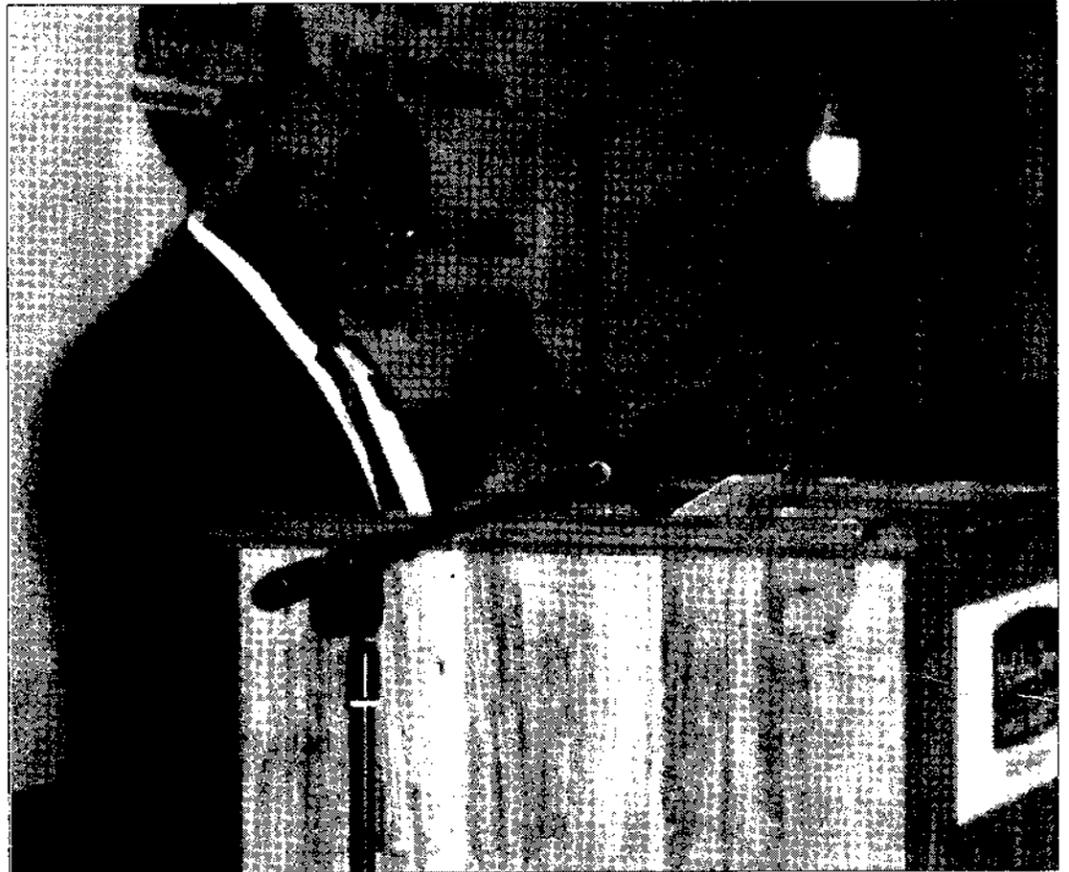
This is because testing is very limited to the capital and other urban centres including towns in the Highlands region," he said.

According to informed opinion, there are between 11, 800 to 15, 000 people already infected with the virus in PNG.

The antenatal clinic at the Port Moresby General Hospital has confirmed that 1% of clinic attendants, tested positive to HIV.

This has also been discovered in Goroka, Lae and Mount Hagen. These show that HIV is spreading into the wider population.

Studies have also shown that social conditions, access to, control of resources and mother- to- child transmission all lead to women acquiring HIV. ■



Governor General launching the Education Department's HIV/AIDS Policy at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby.

Causes Of Mental Illness

The Health Department says there are several causes for mental illnesses in Papua New Guinea.

And it has been determined that the cause of mental illness is much more complex than it was thought.

The Department says the sickness involves the forces within each individual and between individuals and their environment.

- Genetic Factors- Psychiatric illness can be genetically determined and these genes can produce their effects by controlling the chemical status of the body.

- Physical Constitution- This shows some correlation with major mental illness.

- Personality- Personality has some but not complete correlation with particular disorders.

- Physical Illness- Such as infection of brain, accidents, head injury, intoxication, malnutrition, lack of oxygen to brain, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, malaria, stroke, and many other forms of physical illness can contribute to mental illness.

- Psycho-Social- This basically implies all kinds of stresses such as loss of loved ones, financial catastrophe, loss of status and prestige may all act as non-specific stresses for making manifest the pre-disposition to psychiatric disorders.

- Drug and Alcohol- Legal, illegal drugs and alcohol are some of the causative factors.

An officer from the Mental

Health Section of the Port Moresby general Hospital says some people experience their mental illness only once and fully recover while for others, it recurs throughout their lives. Most can be effectively managed and treated.

The official said all citizens need to remember that a mental illness is no different to a physical illness.

He said mental illness can be classified as psychotic and non-psychotic illness.

He says during psychotic illness, people see the world differently from normal people, develop false beliefs, guilt, and experience hallucination.

"These people need effective medication and support to lead them to achieve productive and rewarding lives.

On the other hand, non-psychotic illness is one in which some people

experience feelings of depression, sadness, tension or fear.

These can become so disturbing in coping with daily activities.

Mental illnesses are just like any other -diabetes, asthma, heart and kidney disease.

When identified and treated appropriately, they fully recover. Causes of mental illness are unclear but some can run in their families and many factors contribute to the onset of these illnesses," he said.

"Everyone is vulnerable to mental health concerns and people with mental illnesses are seldom dangerous. Most recover quickly and do not need long term hospital care.

What is very important is that the attitude of families, friends and the community towards people with mental illnesses play a critical part in determining their quality of life," he said. ■

Cabinet Approves National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan

The Cabinet has endorsed the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2006-2010).

The Five Year Plan comes along with guidelines on how to monitor its implementation.

The Cabinet has directed the National Aids Council (NAC) as the Implementation Agency to take the

lead and work with development partners and stakeholders to immediately come up with the costs associated with the implementation of the NSP in the respective sectors.

The Plan takes on board several recommendations from the initial Medium Term Plan (1998-2002) review, which calls for a broad focus for a national response framework for HIV/AIDS. ■

MOTU Gavman mekim Stet Beriel bilong Sir William

GAVMAN i givim namba wan na bikpela funeral o matmat na beriel bilong siting Memba bilong Nesenel Kapitel Distrik na wanpela bipo Prait Minista, Sir William Skate.

Oi i bin givim Sir William wanpela ful militari o ami na Stet Funerel na ol i bin planim em long nupela ples matmat bilong ol lida long Independens Hil klostu long Nesenel Palamen long Januari 12, 2006.

Wantaim aiwara i pundaun na ol tok luksave, Prait Minista, Gren Sief, Sir Michael Somare i bin bung wantaim ol pipel bilong Nesenel Kapitel Distrik long tok gutbai long Sir William long Sioni Kami Memorial Sios funerel sevis long Pot Mosbi pastaim long ol i planim em.

Insait long tok luksave bilong em, Sir Michael i tok PNG i lusim wanpela gupela man husat i bin save autim tingting bilong em na salensim pasin olgeta arapela i save bihainim.

Em i tok wok bilong Leit Sir William long strongim nesen i bin nambawan tru na em i bin kamap olsem hap bilong histori bilong Papua Niugini politiks.

Em i tok em i bin namba wan Papua Prait Minista na nambawan bipo prait minista long dai taim em i wok yet olsem Memba bilong Palamen insait long histori bilong politiks insait long kantri. Em i bin tok Sir William i bin statim politiks olsem wanpela yangpela man husat i bin kamap wanpela biknem politiks man insait long tripela tem em i bin holim opis.

"Sir William i bin pit strong long daunim olgeta hevi long kamap olsem

bikman tude.

"Olsem wanpela politisen, em i bin gat nem long sapot em i save givim long ol liklik manmeri insait long kantri na moa yet long ol lain pipel insait long NCD na Bogenvil.

"Em i bin wanpela man husat i salensim gupela sindaun insait long olgeta wok em i holim insait long gavman na em i save salensim ol lain i mekim ol lo olgeta taim.

"Em i bin kwestenim o tromoi bikpela askim sapos ol vot bilong nogat bilip i bin bihainim lo o nogat taim em i bin Spika bilong Palamen na olsem ekting Gavana Jenerel, em i bagarapim sindaun bilong mipela olgeta taim em i tokaut olsem em i laik stap spika na i no Ekting Gavana Jenerel," Sir Michael i tok.

Prait Minista i tok Sir William i bin wanpela trupela man bilong Melanesia taim i kam long pasin bilong givim bek bel isi long narapela.

Sir William i bin dai long Wesley Haus Sik long Brisben, Australia long 8.55 moning long namba 3 de bilong mun Januari 2006.

Kofin bokis bilong em i bin kamap long Pot Mosbi long Sarere namba 7 de bilong mun Januari we planti tausen manmeri i bin kamap long kisim em long Jacksons ples balus.

Planti tausen manmeri i bin lukim bodi bilong Sir William long Sir John Guise Stadium long Januari 11, na planti moa manmeri wantaim ol lain famili i bin givim luksave long em long Kaugere na Pari.

Oi i bin planim Sir William wantaim ful militari o ami onas long Fonde, namba 12 de bilong mun Januari, 2006. ■

Sir Paulias Decries Moral Decline



Sir Paulias chatting with Police Commissioner Mr Sam Inguba during the pre-Christmas celebrations.

Governor General, Grand Chief, Sir Paulias Matane says the core of morality and the practice of moral principles has been lacking in PNG over the past 30 years.

And he has warned that corruption, crime, violence and sexual immorality will continue to devastate the fabric of a nation with Christian principles etched into its constitution.

Speaking at the first ever pre-Christmas reception at the Government House in Port Moresby on 30th November 2005, Sir Paulias said Papua New Guineans have a chance to convert themselves in 2006.

"The preamble of our national constitution provides that: 'PNG is a Christian country'.

"This means that things we do in the country must be those under the Christian principles.

"When we look at a lot of things that are happening today in our country like corruption, stealing murder, violence and sexual activities, and many other negative things that are

not part of Christian living, people begin to wonder whether we are truly practicing Christian living.

"I challenge everyone to make use of this Christmas festivity to change our hearts so that when we go to 2006, we will do better than this year.

"When we do that, the preamble of the constitution will become a success in our education, health, economic issues and stability in government," he said.

On the government and bureaucracy level, Sir Paulias said PNG has had a vigorous democracy since its independence and the current government had done its best under its Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS).

However, he said mismanagement within all system continue to be endemic in a resource rich country that has the potential to progress.

"We need to understand that people in management roles recognise the ability of those whom they are managing and do not impose up on them responsibilities or tasks that are beyond their limits," Sir Paulias said. ■

Personal Viability Is A Tool: G-G

Governor General Sir Paulias Matane says every citizen of this country must be viable to cope with the many challenges that are ahead of us stating that Personal Viability is a real tool for self-reliance. He said personal viability is the solution to many of the problems that we are facing today in developing our human resource.

He noted that Personal Viability provides thousands of opportunities and answers to human resource development in PNG that there is a greater need for developing human resource in all sectors of the community.

Speaking during the Graduation Day of participants of the Personal Viability Program, which got underway in Port Moresby for two weeks last November.

Sir Paulias said the only solution to many of the developmental problems in any of the developmental areas that we have is personal viability as it enhances human character and human development.

"Now that we have just sailed past our 30th anniversary, I am happy to tell PNG that we have a solution to our problems whether it be: Social, Political, financial, law and order or family and that is personal viability."

Sir Paulias noted there is no doubt that our people are our solutions and our best resources, if only we could harvest and develop our human



Governor General presenting a certificate to one of the participants. Watch by the founder of the Personal Viability Program, Father Sam.

resource into human assets for our country. He said PNG would never benefit from the abundant resources it has unless its human resource is first developed.

He said personal viability, in this capitalistic world is a driving force for PNG that will develop Papua New Guinean investors domestically to provide jobs for our children

and will do away with foreign investors who always have conditions to promote their agendas.

The Governor General, who is the Patron of the Grasruts Pawa Mekim Kamap Association, said PV is the only way that will make PNG prosper in life to become self-reliant and financially independent.

"This is the answer that we have

been searching for. This is the solution that we have been waiting for."

The personal viability-training program is a life-changing program, which is called "Grasruts Yunivesiti" by grassroots. The program is a joint venture of the Rural Development Bank, Entrepreneurial Development Training Centre (EDTC), and Grasruts Femili Moni

Gaden, the PV Scheme of self-reliance.

Sir Paulias urged the graduands to put into practice what they have acquired during the training and challenged other national and provincial leaders to attend the training program to see themselves what the grassroots of this nation have witnessed. ■

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Minister Concerned Over Maritime Safety



Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, Hon. Don Polye making a point at a news conference.

Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, Hon. Don Polye says institutional weakness is the main factor that inhibits or hampers the delivery of Maritime Services in the country.

He says institutional weakness is one of the most deficient in the maritime safety system where the technical aspects of the system has deteriorated over many years.

Minister Polye said this relates mainly to institutional constraints including the inadequate funding and lack of human resource development, lack of planning, limited commercial expertise and customer focus.

The Minister disclosed this during the inauguration of the National Maritime Safety Authority at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby on 5th December 2005.

He said as the Minister for National Maritime Safety, he has observed

weaknesses in this area and wants to see significant improvements.

"I want to see significant improvements as there is lack of organizational and/or institutional capability building and enhancement to improve goods and services delivery at the grassroots level", he aid.

He stated that there is a lack of professional training in the areas of leadership and management.

The Minister says: "I am concerned at the lack of professional training in the areas of leadership and management throughout the entire echelon of the Department."

He said sufficient funding by governments is necessary to give significant head start to improving the maritime services.

The National Maritime safety Authority Act was passed by Parliament in 2003 and at the beginning of 2000 when Hon. Bart Philemon was the then Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation. ■

Govt Welcomes Multi-Million Kina Power Deal

Transport and Civil Aviation Minister, Hon. Don Polye has welcomed the K2 billion power plan signed between Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program (PNGSDP) and Papua New Guinea Sustainable Energy Limited (PNGSEL) to supply cheaper power in the country.

The Minister said the signed contract agreement marked the beginning of an important development era which the nation would experience a series of strategic developments in the near future.

He said he is happy that the Highlands region will now be a light - house from the power supplied by the Hides Gas in Southern Highlands with other parts of the Momase region.

"I am particularly pleased that the Highlands region will be lit up from the power that will be supplied by the Tari Hides Gas with the power

supply to Wewak, Madang and Lae and the rest of the country", Mr Polye said.

He said apart from the major projects initiated by the current Somare - Avei government like the PNG gas project, the Ramu Nickle project, the Hides gas electrical project is one of those which is sure to boost the country's economy and investor confidence in the medium term.

In welcoming the power deal, Mr Polyer thanked the Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Hon. Sir Moi Avei who witnessed the signing of the agreement on behalf of the government.

He also thanked the Chief Executive Officer of PNG Sustainable Development Program, Mr Robert Igara, Director General of PNGSDP Sir Ebia Olewale, Chairman of PNGSEL, Mr Rod Sims and other parties involved in the huge investment deal.

The Agreement was signed on the 24th of November 2005 in Port Moresby at the Crown Plaza Hotel Bowl Board Room. ■

Aussie Aid Lands On Govt Plan

Australia's aid arrangement with Papua New Guinea in 2006 will be in line with the Government's Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS).

Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister, Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu said this in December 2005 when returning from the Australia - Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum on Goal Cost, Australia.

Delighted by the outcome of the previous meeting that covered a wide range of bilateral issues, the minister said there was unity after much discussions between officials from both governments for the need to enhance ties between the two countries.

The new deal for the aid program will be effective between 2006 and 2010; an arrangement Sir Rabbie has praised; saying it will further strengthen the bond between PNG and Australia.

"In the past some of Australia's programs not continuing or being of long term benefit," Sir Rabbie said.

The new framework will be beneficial for Papua New Guineans as well as Australian taxpayers, who would get maximum value for their funding support.

Future aid funding will be prioritised to the areas of improved gov-

ernance, sustainable economic growth, improved stability and service delivery and combating HIV/AIDS.

funding clear of areas that had already attached aid donors.

"The Australian Government's move to tie its annual aid to the



Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigrations, Rt. Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu talking to reporters up on his return from the Brisbane Ministerial Forum at the VIP Lounge at Jackson's International airport in December 2005.

"Under the strategy, we will need to undertake to provide counter-part funding to make sure aid does not replace our own funding for basic services but implement it",

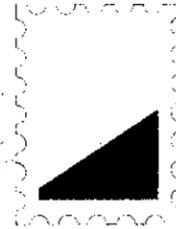
Sir Rabbie said this is to signal an ambitious move as previous governments always steered government

MTDS is a vote of confidence in the current Somare - Avei Government," he said..

Sir Rabbie stated that in the current financial year, Australia contributes over K1.2 billion to fund its aid program in Papua New Guinea. ■

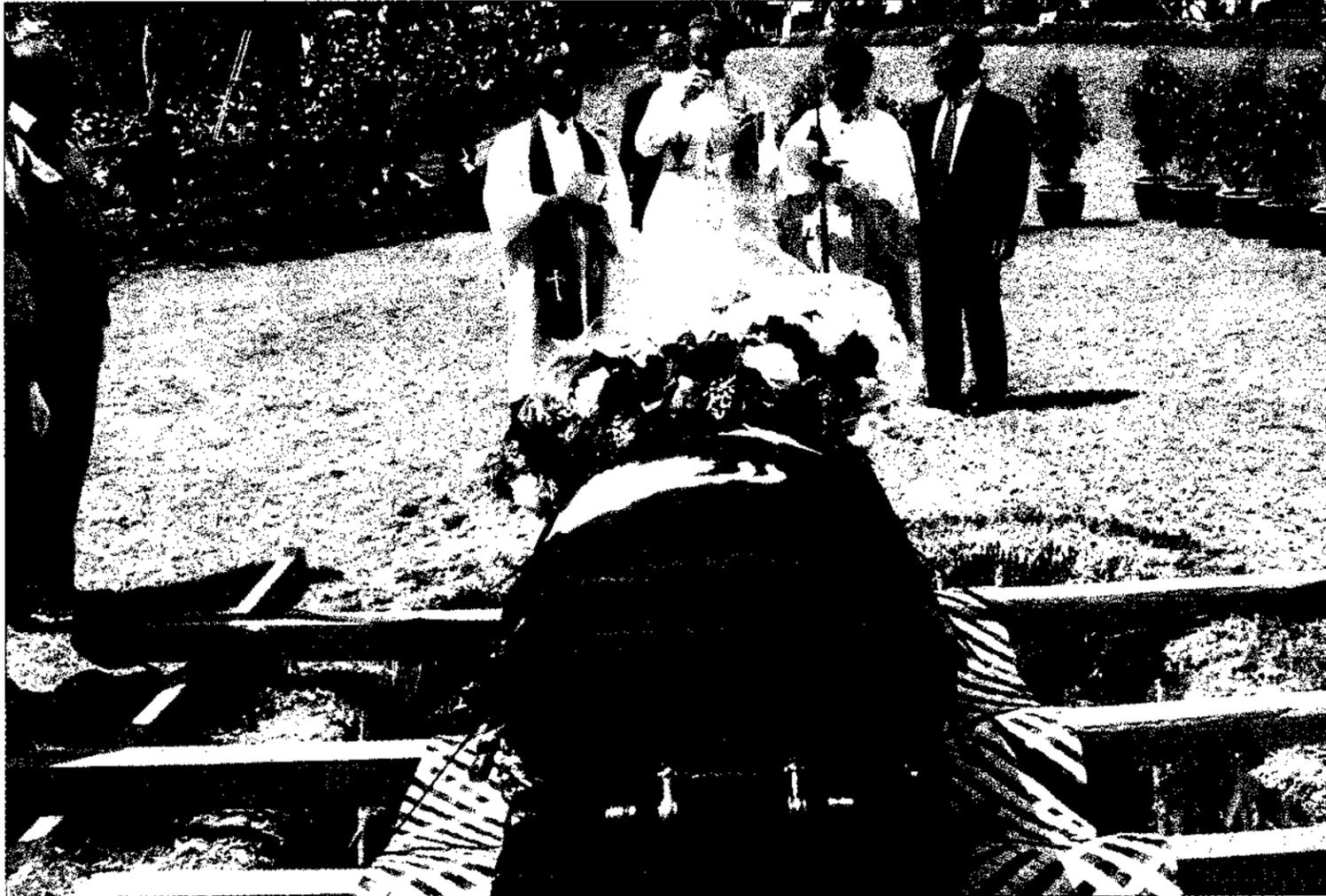
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People Of NCD Pay Tribute To Sir William



Catholic Archbishop, Sir Brian Barnes recites the last rite before the burial of Sir William at the Independence Hill on Thursday 12th January 2006.

Residents of the National Capital District paid their last respects to their Member of Parliament, the late Sir William Skate who died in Wesley Hospital Brisbane, Australia at 8:55am on the Tuesday of January 3rd this year.

The late Sir William Skate was accorded a full State Funeral by the Government because of his status as a former Prime Minister, Speaker on two occasions and a long time Acting Governor General.

At various locations of which the Parliament House. VIPs including Prime Minister Grand chief Sir Michael Somare and members of Parliament paid their last respects.

Sir William's body was then taken to The Sir John Guise Indoor Complex where NCD residents were given time to view the body of their member. They turn up in large

numbers.

Thursday 29th January 2006 was declared a public holiday for the people of NCD in order for residents to show they were in mourning with the family and friends of the late Sir William Skate.

On the same day at the Sioni Kami Memorial Church, residents who flocked in from all corners of the city to pay their tributes.

During the funeral service, Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare led moving tributes by prominent leaders.

And the President of the Bougainville Autonomous Government, Hon. Joseph Kabui also pay his tribute.

A full military burial was accorded to Sir William while police provided security throughout the city.

Shops and businesses in the city were close were close during the funeral and burial of Sir William as a sign of respect.

The casket carrying the body of

Sir William Skate travelled in a hearse on the streets of Port Moresby after the service at Sioni Kami Memorial Church.

Sir William was layed to rest at the Independence Hill and hundreds of people witnessed the burial.

Independence Hill has now been designated as the burial site for all prominent leaders.

The site has been approve by the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Jeffrey Nape and work is progressing on the design and construction of the burial site.

Sir William Skate will be buried in a marked tomb once the construction is completed.

Sir William's family have agreed to lay his body at the Independence Hill and the designated tomb.

It is expected that the Independence Hill near Parliament House will become the burial site for all Prime Ministers of Papua New Guinea in the future. ■



Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare and Governor General, Sir Paulias Matane consoling Lady Rarua Skate at Pari village mourning.

The Death And Funeral

■ Friday 30th December 2005 - was flown to Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, Australia.

■ Died on Tuesday 3rd January 2006 at Wesley Hospital, Brisbane, Australia.

■ Casket arrived in Port Moresby on Saturday 7th January 2006.

■ The Casket was brought to Pari Village on Monday 9th January 2006.

■ The casket was brought for funeral service at Kaugere Church on Tuesday 10th January 2006.

■ VIP and public viewing followed on Wednesday 11th January 2006 at the Parliament House and Sir John Guise Stadium.

■ Thursday 12th January 2006 - Funeral Service at Sioni Kami Memorial Church and military burial at Independence Hill near Parliament House.

GAVAMANI SIVARAI is a monthly publication dedicated to development information and contributions are welcomed. Government departments, statutory bodies, provincial governments, semi-government and non-government organisations are encouraged to provide articles and pictures to be considered for publication. All enquiries should be addressed to: Editor, GAVAMANI SIVARAI, Information Services, Department of State Enterprises and Information, P.O. Box 1122, Waigani, NCD, Papua New Guinea on Phone 3250148

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