

Manpower and education vital for Bougainville

...Kuhena prioritises HR

By Veronica Hatutasi

EDUCATION and human resource are two priority areas which the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB) has to urgently address as the island and her people slowly rise from the aftermath of a devastating war and prepare for referendum.

Prior to the conflict, ARB was one of the leading provinces in PNG in terms of its high education standard.

However the crisis has taken the island back 20 years, leaving a huge abyss as thousands of young people, many who grew up during the war, while others were just starting school when the crisis erupted, missed out on education.

The peace process which began in 1997 now in its 14th year, has realised that a political resolution is the only way to end the war which raged from 1988-1997.

In order to attain the political resolution which is either an independent Bougainville or an autonomous region of PNG, it needs the capacity of educated manpower resources to carry out the necessary tasks and functions.

One person who sees the importance of human resource development in the ARB and is going out of his way to address this at his level is the member for Kopi'I Constituency in the Siwai District of South Bougainville, Philip Kuhena.

Wantok Today had the privilege in meeting Mr Kuhena, a man with a strong determination to boost and beef up the human resource sector of the ARB.

"I am putting priority on manpower and human resources as I see that there is an acute shortage of this in the ARB. And if powers and functions are trans-

PHILIP KUHENA: A man determined to boost Bougainville's human resource. Photo: Veronica Hatutasi



ferred from the national government down to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), we won't have the capacity and manpower to handle the work.

"Furthermore, when referendum comes, we must be prepared.," Mr Kuhena stated.

His fervent support towards the Bougainville human resource development started last year with a K100,000 funding sponsorship from the South Bougainville MP's District Support Improvement Program (DSIP) funding to send 15 students to Gaulim Teachers in East New Britain.

The students, comprising of 12 females and 3 males, are all from the Kopi'I Constituency.

Mr Kuhena stated that the criteria used for the selection process included a screening process, merit and Grade 12 certification.

The sponsorship scheme support continues this year for 20 selected students from his constituency again to Gaulim and also to Sonoma Seventh Day Adventist College, University of PNG (3), the University of Goroka (5) and the Pacific Adventist University (3).

Mr Kuhena said that next year, he will be extending his support to sponsoring students from his constituency intending in nursing and doctors.

He has also called on corpo-

rate companies in the ARB and PNG to contribute towards sponsoring Bougainville students in a bid to increase and strengthen the region's manpower.

When Wantok Today caught up with Mr Kuhena, he had just returned from Gaulim teachers College where he had gone to formally finalise things and strengthen his network with the college.

"Human resource is vital and more so now that Bougainville is on the verge of going into referendum which will mean getting a new government.

"This makes it all the more important to invest in human resource," he stressed.

Editors Note:

Wantok Niuspepa has come up with a 4 page monthly English Insert, *Wantok Today*, to give readers a two in one option of reading in both languages, English and Tok Pisin, of pressing or current hot topics affecting communities at all levels. The insert will also focus on youth issues, their dreams and success stories, entertainment and IT. Mining, transport and financial markets will also be accommodated. On the lighter side, travel and adventure stories will be featured. Students from high to secondary schools up to the university levels, as well as other readers are invited to contribute articles and photos. The Editor will have the final say on the inclusion of articles in the insert. Send your articles to: The Acting Editor, P O Box 1882, Boroko, NCD, PNG, or Fax to: 3252579 or email to: vhatutasi@wantok.com.pg/editorial@wantok.com.pg. You can also call us on 3252500 or drop in to our office at the Able Computing Complex, Section 58, Lot 02, Waigani Drive, NCD, Port Moresby. Editor

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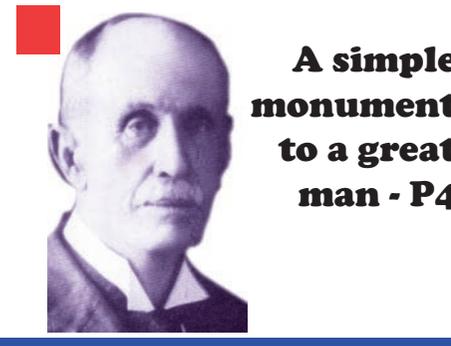


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YOUR SAY... with Issac Liri



The issue of students carrying mobile phones to schools is something new in the 21st century in Papua New Guinean schools. Mobile phones today come in simple and sophisticated forms and they come in handy in terms of communication as well as getting information. However, with the introduction and widespread use of mobile phones among students, there are a lot of bad consequences. Here is what some of the people have to say about mobile phones in schools. The participants are teachers and students.

Should students be allowed to carry mobile phones to school?



Frank Ekari
Occupation: Student (Gerehu Secondary School)
Origin: Gulf/Central

As a student I think it is okay for us to carry mobile phones to school but it must be used for the right purposes only at the right time.

There might be an emergency at any time and mobile phones can be used to send or receive messages as fast as possible to resolve the problem, and that is the reason why I think students must be allowed to carry mobile phones to school.

In my school the administration allows students to carry mobile phones to school however they always remind us to use it at the right time and not during lesson time.



Bernadine Kotoroku
Occupation: Student (Caritas Technical Secondary School)
Origin: Autonomous Region of Bougainville

In my school a rule is in place that disallows students to carry mobile phones into the school area.

That particular rule is also indicated in the school diary that is distributed to all students.

There is a monitoring system in the school, and every morning there is class check and the phones that are found during the check are confiscated by the school.

As for myself as a student I support the school rule because it won't create any disturbances for myself in class.

No phones in schools means that there is no texting during school time to meet with boyfriends after school and students are able to fully concentrate on studies.



Sam Lora
Occupation: Principal (Gordons Secondary School)
Origin: Gulf Province

Teachers of Gordons Secondary School in the past have made certain decisions that students should be allowed to carry mobile phones freely due to a number of reasons.

One is to communicate with their parents or guardians whenever they are in need of something, or when there is an emergency situation.

Another reason is to help students do research online for information to assist them with their school work. This case is when students own a sophisticated phone that is

able to connect to the internet.

Recently we've decided that mobile phones should be banned in school, and this is to come in place in the beginning of term two.

Both parents and teachers have agreed that the policy of banning mobile phones in schools is satisfactory.

As a teacher I think that students have all the right to own a phone at home, however when they come to school, the school administration has a phone so it won't be necessary for students to carry their mobile phones to school.

I am aware of students going to Facebook using their mobile phones during class time. This practice takes a lot of their time leaving them with less time to focus on their studies.

Facebook can be used in a good way if students can stick to that and take advantage of Facebook instead of allowing Facebook to abuse them.

Once the policy of banning mobile phones is implemented, phones will be removed from students if they are caught carrying it to school.



Mr Mariori Uwea
Occupation: Teacher (Port Moresby National High School)
Origin: Central

In issue of bringing mobile phones to school is more or less a yes or no situation.

In some cases it is convenient for students to bring in mobile phones to school in case of an emergency. It is convenient in both day and boarding schools for students to carry a phone however they must be able to abide by school rules and regulations where in many cases students are not allowed to use mobile phones during class time.

There are breaks like recess and lunch time and during those periods I think that it is suitable for students to use mobile phones.

Like I said there might be an emergency in which parents would want to inform their children and during those breaks students will be allowed to communicate with their parents.

In another case especially in day schools which I also experience with my students is that sometimes students forget to bring their assignments and with mobile phones they are able to make contact with their parents or whoever that is at home to bring their assignments.



Chaga Audio Production and it's vision on music

By Isaac Liri

In this first edition of the *Wantok Musik Scene*, we feature a new recording studio in Badihagwa, National Capital District.

Chaga Audio Production began business in November 2013, and after a few months in operation, the management and the people behind its operations have revealed their dream to expand and deliver.

Sereva Mea Arua, the owner and manager of the recording studio was hospitable when *Wantok Today* caught up with them last month.

Sereva who has a background in Correctional Services (CIS), said the purpose for setting up the studio was to get youths who are passionate about music, and help them to show their musical talent.

"When I was with the Correctional Services (CIS) some years back, we worked vigorously to initiate constructive habits to ensure that youths were occupied with affirmative activities in the community, it was our responsibility," Said Sereva.

Sereva's interest in establishing a musical studio was inspired by his late grandfather, Charlie Gavera, who was a self taught musi-



Reuben Vagi Chief Sound Engineer demonstrating a microphone check.

cian and a church deacon who was actively involved in various community work.

"After a hard day at work dealing with people in his community, he would retire home, and music was the tool he used to ease the pain and relax. He loved playing his keyboard, and as a child I really enjoyed listening to the melodies that came out of his keyboard," said Sereva.

He said both his grandfather and father were into music, and the idea of setting up a studio was on his mind for a time.

After years of working with the CIS, Sereva decided to return home to Badihagwa. He was given a piece of land by his late grandfather to settle and establish himself.

The thought of establishing a musical studio had always been at the back of his mind, and after years of planning, his ambition became a reality.

"Two years back when I saw Reuben Vagi (Chief Engineer) playing my grandfather's keyboard, I told him what I had in mind about a recording studio, and Reuben responded saying that whatever I did



(L-R) Sound Engineer Rae Maika with his little kid, studio owner Sereva Mea Arua and Reuben Vagi. Photo: Isaac Liri

he will fully support. And because he was very supportive we finally did it," Sereva explained.

Currently Chaga Audio Production is still working hard to promote its work. They will be launching albums of artists that record with them and promote their careers as well as their own studio.

The two self taught talented sound engineers, Reuben Vagi and Rae Maika, said that they are also establishing a permanent studio band to support them in their live performances.

Both Reuben and Ray have vast

experience in playing with bands around the Nation's Capital and Central Province.

Chaga Audio Production is capable of producing a variety of music genres depending on the wishes of their clients. For one full album they are charging K1500 and for one single the fee is K100.

Reuben said that a couple of well known artists from Central Province like Taita Maraga, Steve Lahui and Noel Asi have already recorded single's with them, and more and more artists are lining up at their door steps.

HIV/AIDS kills! Stick to one partner...

Building your own home

By Frieda Sila Kana

HOUSING is a big problem in the cities and urban towns today. Many people who do not get housing assistance from employers are living in squatter settlements, or are renting small rooms at very high prices. It is especially difficult in Port Moresby, the capital city, even for the local landowners, the Motu-Koitabuans.

In the rural areas, when someone wants to build a house, the neighbours and family will freely give their labour and even contribute food for the builders.

The materials for the building are practically free as they are from the person's own land and the families usually have allocated plots of land in the village where the clan or family can build their houses.

It is not so in the cities and towns where everything costs money including the land, and you also have to follow building board plans, surveyor etc. It is so expensive that despite the countless construction companies being registered; people can't afford to engage contractors to build their houses even when they have acquired land.

Thus many families in suburban settings nowadays resort to building their own houses. In recent times in NCD, the road along the Taurama Valley from Vadavada all the way to the scenic Taurama Beach, has seen a growth of residential dwelling houses emerging all along the road as well as on the hill sides. Most of these houses are built by the owners themselves. If you were there 5 years ago,



Some of the boys erecting the posts...

well you are going to get a big surprise if you come again to Taurama today. It has all changed. No more hold ups at Vadavada and no more overgrown thickets and grasses along the road.

Instead fences have been erected right along the road on both sides. Even the politicians and business people are buying plots of land or even acres to either do business or erect family homes.

The Kana family from Madang moved to Gaverahia, or Funky Town along the Taurama Valley Road in 2010 and lived with the landowners in their houses. One of the landowners from Kila Kila village, Mahuru Seaka generously donated a small piece of land to this family last year, just sufficient to erect a dwelling house.

It was agreed that the land would be paid to his cousin sister Baeau Gou, who was a widow of over 10 years and also the person accommodating the Kanas since 2011.

The house in the plan was an L65 3 bedroom house on high stilts but for more than a year there was not enough money to engage a builder nor buy materials.

The estimated cost would be around K130,000 for a complete house. There was just not enough money to erect such a house because all of the Kana children were in school with school fee needs for university, secondary school, primary and correspondence for distant education.

Fortunately, by God's Grace, the Kana family managed to find some money this year and so early in January made some down payments to the landowners to secure the piece of land and the deal was for the son to build the house.

The story comes better with an in-law from Gabagaba who is an expert in operating chain saw and being a landowner in the village, suggested that the family buys him a chain saw. The Kana's agreed

and the deal was made with the landowners and the family.

Tiri Kana bought a chainsaw for the local man from Gabagaba, Mr. Henao and he agreed to supply the timber from his forest. By the end of January 2014, the building operation began and the family saw the first timber arrive.

Baeau's son, Lahui Taunao is a self-trained local builder but he does not have a construction company. So the Kana's three sons aged 22, 20 and 17, and the landlady's 4 sons including the builder aged and other neighbours' sons gave hand in the construction.

Work on the building began in the second week of January 2014 and so far the frames have been erected. This was done during the school holidays when there were lot of boys, but when school started the boys returned to school so the

manpower for manual labour has decreased. But not to be discouraged, the remaining 4 boys continued and the frames of the house have gone up.

The young men were only given lunch while they worked during the holidays. As for those who do not go to school they kept working during the school days and got lunch and betelnut and smoke and cold drinks on some days.

On the weekends the women of the family and neighbours and the smaller children get to clean up the plot. Still the estimated cost is less than the K130,000 predicted by the builder.

So if you have a plot of land, try to gather local labour and materials to build at a cheaper rate. It is now estimated that by end of May this house should be completed for the family to move in.



Children happily helping to clean up...

Limited space in classrooms results in overcrowding

By Kolopu Waima

LIMITED space in classrooms, results in overcrowding and is an inconvenience to schools, teachers and students. Students intake is increasing due to the free education policy.

Sylvester Ikuma of Lae said that it is a legacy of the free education policy.

He said the same old classrooms that catered for 30 and 45 students two decades ago is now overcrowded with 60 to 70 students or more.

More classrooms and teachers are needed as the numbers are likely to increase each year. Mr Ikuma said that education is the core of devel-

opment and so the free education policy is a bonus.

However, he said, it must be executed with quality to meet global standard. Having such problem is a worry and if not addressed quickly and properly, it will lead to ineffective outcomes for the nation.

Meanwhile, an educationist has shared the same sentiments that the schools are facing problems, with, high enrolment and not enough space for the increasing number of students.

Moses Sariki, has reported in the National that the current ratio of student-teacher exceeded the maximum stipulated under the education policy. He said that at, Aiome

Anglican, Holy Spirit Memorial High, Transgogol and Good Shepherd Lutheran high schools, students in grade 9 and 10 stacked up to 40 to 50 students per class. There is also a lack of school material. Five to six students are sharing one text book.

He said in secondary schools, such as Raicost, Karkar, Tusbab, Malala and Braham, there are as many as 60 in some class. Overcrowding has become a major issue now and with it comes the lack of quality learning when teachers are under duress.

However, the Minister for Education Nick Kuman announced in a press conference at Port Moresby that the gov-

ernment will fix the shortage of school infrastructure over the next five years.

He said that the government will build a double classroom and two teacher's houses starting in 2015 for all the primary schools in the country.

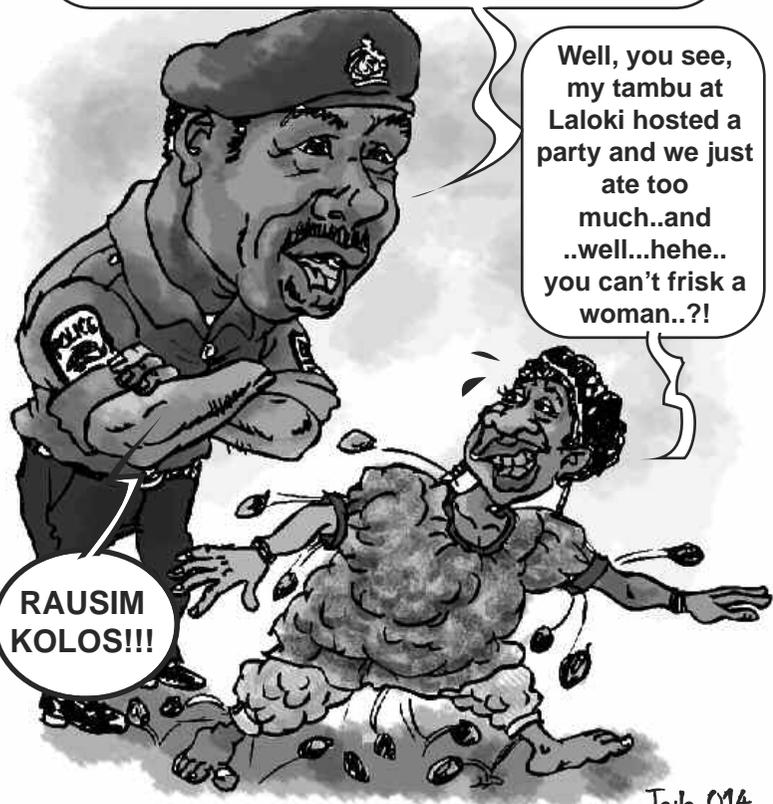
Mr Kuman said that means that, by 2017, a primary school would have five double classrooms with ten rooms and ten teacher's houses.

He also announced that more teachers will be recruited and trained in the teachers colleges. Mr Kuman also appealed to grade 12 students to apply for teachers colleges in the years to come.

Expect the Unexpected...

Oloman!..Didn't I see you at the roadblock so thin and frail.. Now you just put on quite a weight there?!...

Well, you see, my tambu at Laloki hosted a party and we just ate too much..and ..well...hehe.. you can't frisk a woman..?!



Jada 014



A simple monument to a great man

...a memorial to the last Lieutenant Governor of Papua

The plaque on the wall had this inscription:
Sir John Hubert Plunkett Murray, KCMG
Lieutenant-Governor and Judge, 1904-1940.
Learned, Wise and Just.
A Friend to All.

some residents wanted the memorial in the middle of the main intersection of Douglas and Musgrave Streets. In the end the money raised for obelisk was eventually spent on a rather modest memorial erected at the Hubert Murray Reserve at the bottom of Lawes Road in Konedobu.

When the first stage of this reserve was dedicated in May 4, 1960 many people were disappointed at 'the meanness of the monument.' In his book, *Port Moresby yesterday and today*, Cannon Ian Stuart describes it as follows, "It consisted then of a small triangular park with an unimpressive stone wall on which was set a small bronze plaque and what appears to be two drinking fountains. In front of the wall were two stone-and-concrete benches and a small

ugly fountain, rather like an old fashioned candle-stick, which has not worked for years."

At the dedication ceremony, Judge Ralph Gore referred to the memorial as a "simple monument to a simple man." He also commended the choice of a fountain because Murray was 'a fountain of learning, wisdom, justice and friendship.' Among those present at this ceremony was a Papuan, Kabua Gairo who had worked as a court interpreter for nearly 60 years, part of this time with Sir Hubert Murray.

Sir Hubert Murray died in Samarai on February 27, 1940 and his body was brought back to Port Moresby and buried at Hanuabada cemetery. The Motuans held a tribal death feast, mase ariana, which had never been performed for a white man, in his honor. For forty days and nights watch fires were seen on the hills around town. On the forty first day, there was a big gathering of people from the districts at Hanuabada for this death feast where they sat in silence and the only sound was the quiet tapping of a thousand native drums.

Hopefully with the completion of the new-look Sir Hubert Murray Stadium for the 2015 Games and the landscaping of the grounds, a more befitting monument will also be erected in the original corner, to remember a great man who did a lot for the people of Papua, and was a friend of the traditional landowners of the present day city of Port Moresby.

By Anna Solomon

When the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby was demolished last November to prepare for the 2015 Pacific Games, a neglected and forlorn looking monument in the corner of the grounds to the left of the grand stand, was also removed.

This monument was erected on what was once known as the Hubert Murray Reserve, as one of three memorials in Port Moresby in honor of Papua's famous last Lieutenant Governor, Sir Hubert Plunkett Murray. The other two are the well-known Hubert Murray Highway which runs from Koki to Brown River and Murray Barracks, the headquarters of the PNG Defence Force.

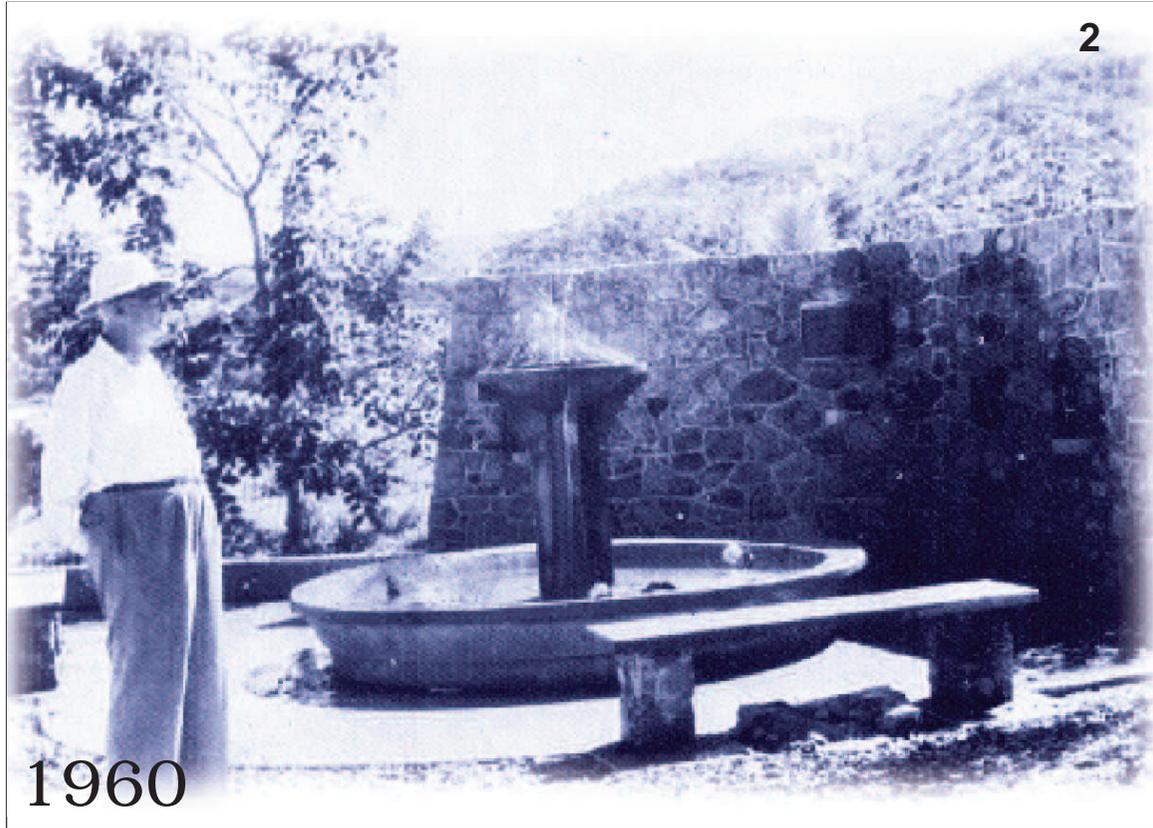
Sir Hubert Murray was a judge in Papua from 1904, Acting Administrator in 1907 and became the last Lieutenant-Governor of Papua on January 18, 1909 until his death in 1940.

When I saw the remnants of this vandalized memorial last November I was lost for words. It was overgrown with grass, there was graffiti on the stone wall and with the missing plaque, it did not look like a memorial at all. In fact, anybody passing through the abandoned stadium would not have given this corner a second glance unless they were aware of its significance and took the trouble to look for it.

This is a little known but interesting history of Port Moresby and the trouble the respectful citizens of the town took 54 years ago to erect a monument in honor of the last lieutenant governor of Papua.

When Sir Hubert Murray died in 1940, the town's newspaper, the *Courier*, started an appeal for a memorial in his honor. The contributions received had amounted to almost enough money to buy a monument when the Second World War broke out and the plans had to be put on hold.

The initial plan then was to erect a 25 foot granite obelisk on a five foot base in the center of Douglas Street. However, there was much disagreement about the site, as



1960



2013

1. Sir Hubert Murray – the last Lieutenant Governor of Papua.

2. May 1960 - The late Judge Ralph Gore beside the "candle-stick" fountain of the memorial to Sir Hubert Murray. *Ian Stuart Port Moresby Yesterday and Today.*

3. November 2013 - The vandalized remnants of the memorial fountain before construction work began on the redevelopment of the Sir Hubert Murray Sports Stadium. *Photo Don Niles.*