



Monthly English edition - Issue 04 July, 2014

An eventful week of politics in PNG

Over the last three weeks political events have unraveled challenging the top post of the country – the position of the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.

The events started with attempts by the police to arrest Mr. O'Neill over allegations of a letter directing the release of outstanding payments to Paul Paraka Lawyers. This saw the disbanding of Task Force Sweep, sacking of senior police investigators, sacking of the Attorney General, and the appointment of a new police commissioner. There has been calls from the Opposition and individual members of parliament, and the public at large for Mr. O'Neill to step aside. The following is a summary of events to date.

NEC disbands Task Force Sweep

Wednesday Jun 18: Prime Minister Peter O'Neill announced the disbanding of Task Force Sweep claiming it had become politically compromised.

The move followed attempts by the police to arrest Mr. O'Neill during the week in relation to his

alleged role in approving payments to law firm Paul Paraka Lawyers. The warrant stemmed from Task Force Sweep's extensive investigations into this case.

However, chairman of the task force, Sam Koim said the agencies which made up the unit will keep investigating the case.

"We have charged the people in relation to the recent payments but going down the years, we will find more and more people, and we will bring them to justice," Mister Koim said.

"It's a massive investigation and it's just the start of it that people are jumping up and down." He added.

O'Neill calls for investigation of Sam Koim and Sam Basil

THE government will ask acting Police Commissioner Geoffrey Vaki to investigate the conduct of Sam Koim and Deputy Opposition leader Sam Basil regarding the operations of the Investigation Task Force Sweep.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said there was compelling evidence and reliable witness to

prove that Investigation Task Force Sweep Chairman Sam Koim and the government anti-corruption agency had been "politically compromised."

Mr. O'Neill claimed that there was evidence to show that Sam Koim had been meeting key political figures, including Sam Basil privately in hotels and residences since 2011.

The prime minister also accused Koim of openly discussing "matters under investigation with associates and people heavily linked to certain political figures in the country."

O'Neill said the investigation he announced will be headed by acting Police Commissioner Geoffrey Vaki and would determine the following;

- Whether Koim's Conduct politically compromised the work of the Task Force Sweep
- Whether Koim's conduct deliberately compromised the investigations into the payment made to Paul Paraka Lawyers.
- Allegations of certain members of the Task Force including Koim acquiring properties and assets worth millions of kina in

PNG and overseas among others.

Kua dismissed as Attorney General

Thursday 21st June: Prime Minister Peter O'Neill sacked Kerenga Kua as Minister for Justice and Attorney General.

Mr. O'Neill said Kua was sacked because he spoke put publicly against the government's latest move to amend the section 145 of the constitution.

Source says Kua had instructed the Department of Attorney General not to defend O'Neill in the Paraka saga.

Radio New Zealand reports Kua as saying his sacking was designed to mislead and distract the public from the controversy that plagued O'Neill since Monday, June 16.

Before Kua's sacking, former Police Commissioner Tom Kulonga had issued a warrant of arrest for O'Neill over his alleged role in payments to Paul Paraka Lawyers. The police action was and outcome of the investigations by Task Force Sweep.

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Facts and Figure...

While reliable national data is scarce, the limited available information that exists consistently indicate that violence against children is high. The following are figures from small scale studies.

- 75% of children experience physical violence.
- 80% of children experience verbal abuse.
- 85% of men who are fathers say they beat their children.
- 55% of children report experience sexual abuse.
- 39% of youth 13 - 24 year grow up witness violence between family members.
- 60% of children who come to House Ruth with their mothers are also been abused.
- 74% of survivors of violence coming FSC in Tari are children below 18 years.
- 49% of survivors of violence coming to FSC in Lae are children below 18 years.

Source: Multi-Media and Community Based Campaign Plan for EVAC

Other stories inside...



The rising vocalist - P2

Youths get a second chance in Oro - P3

Looking out for milestones along the highway - P3



Second chance



The 12 graduates of Agape Interdenominational Ministry Oro Bible School received Certificates in Divinity Studies and Certificate in Business Administration and Basic Bookkeeping. They graduated in style with graduation gowns from the Missionary Training College. Story on page 3. Poto: Frieda Kana

YOUTH SAY...
with
Issac Liri



Empowering youths in the 21st Century
Let's hear what Matthew, Fidelis and Vanessa have to say about the challenges they face today, and their thoughts to become good youths and better leaders in the future.....



Name: Matthew Vari
Age: 25
Home Province: Central Province
Dream Job: Public Relations communications specialist and writer
Employment: Reporter at a bi-weekly newspaper.
My challenges as a youth today:

Just living on a daily basis is a challenge, from not receiving adequate salary, to the struggles to make a good living out of the profession. The ideal job is hard to come by. Then again,

it takes hard work and determination to put yourself in that position.

What youths must do to become better citizens:

I believe that as youths, we have the ability to change the country, and to become a good leader is to put up with the bad in life as if it were good. Take it head on and don't look back because a good leader is a strong leader who takes on the role not by want, but by right.

Just like some of the great leaders of our time, a good leader is the one that is right by others, the one that stands up for others when everyone else is afraid.

Hard work makes a leader from the moment we start in school, in the village, and everything else. Trying to be the best in what we do everyday, distinguishes that, and we all are leaders.

It is up to us to decide if we want to take it or not.



Name: Fidelis Sukina
Age: 25
Home Province: Autonomous Region of Bougainville
Dream Job: Professor at any University
Current Employment: Admin Officer DWU POM Campus

My challenges as a youth today:
Lack of motivation to

help others in need. The peer pressure from friends and colleagues on most occasions lead me astray.

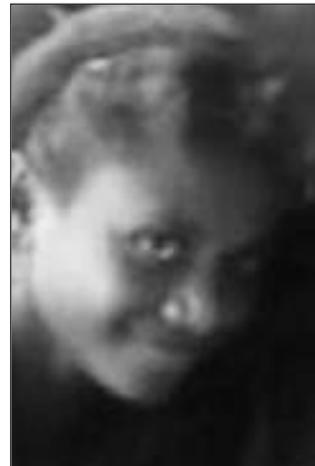
The pressure to help wantoks and entertain friends and family leaves me broke at times and I find it hard to save money.

What youths must do to become better citizens:

Respecting elders and seniors who give advice is vital because one can learn a lot from these people.

Becoming a good role model to other younger youths can help them lead better lives.

And forming partnerships with other groups that help improve capacity and advocate for changes in the behavior of youths is vital because it leads to better outcomes in the community and the nation as a whole.



Name: Vanessa Gami
Age: 16
Home Province: East New Britain
Dream Job: Pilot
Current Employment: Student

My challenges as a youth today:
As I am still young and still in school, I face many obsta-

cles at home and at school. The main challenges currently is the gossip around me that psychologically affects me, and the fights that I get into that adds on to the little problems I encounter.

What youths must do to become better citizens:

Youths must be involved in church activities, get together and pray together and stay away from bad influences.

Youths must not create problems among each other, youths must learn to love and respect each other to become better people now and in the future.

Say NO to Drugs and Homebrew!



The rising vocalist

By Isaac Liri

THERE are many talented singers out there who cannot to read music however they use their ears to guide them when singing.

Twenty two year old Samantha Clarke from a mix parentage of Trobriand Islands and Australia falls into this category.

"Growing up as a child, I did not have any formal education in terms of music, and everything I do in music, is from what I hear with my ears," said Samantha.

She said the passion for music developed after she watched the famous, film Titanic. She heard Celine Dion's voice and that really motivated her.

"After watching this particular movie, I told myself that I wanted to sing like that," she said.

After that, she picked up the guitar and taught herself to play and sing. Up to this day Samantha still prefers the guitar as her favorite musical instrument.

Even though she cannot read music, she has the voice that can really capture ones emotions, and that is what she did when the Australian High Commission flew her up to Port Moresby from Cairns to perform at the Lamana Gold Club. She was awesome, and just by looking at the faces of the people who were there that night, they were all mesmerized.

"She is so talented, no wonder she is winning a lot of fans in



Samantha Clarke performing with team at the Lamana Gold Club.

Papua New Guinea and down in Australia," said one fan.

Before the performance at the Lamana, Samantha was among a group of musicians who hosted a one day workshop at Vabukori village NCD.

During the workshop, Samantha shared her experiences and talents with the youths. She sang with them, and they sang with her. The United Church building at the village was filled with the wonderful vocals.

Accompanying Miss Clarke was Papua New Guinea's number one DJ and producer, Allen Kede, commonly known as AK47, well known PNG artist, Moses Tau, another local rising vocalist, Mereani Masani, Papua rapper, Terence

Mahuru (Native), and Australian musicians Jade MacRae and Harley Webstar. All these musicians led the workshop that included singing, dancing and song writing.

"This workshop was such a great experience for me, it was my first time to attend such a workshop and share my talent with locals in a village setting, and I am very happy to share, and at the same time learnt as much as I could."

Samantha grew up in the Trobriand Islands and says, Vabukori was not so different to where she comes from.

She is also the first Papua New Guinean to compete in the highly rated reality television show in Australia, "The Voice".



She taught herself how to play a guitar when she was 9 years old and now she still prefers the guitar as her favorite musical instrument.

When she appeared on that show, many Papua New Guineans both in the country and abroad supported and encouraged her to give her best.

"I had a lot of good support before taking the stage, and I really appreciated the support that came from everyone, however, I felt that I let everyone down when I got negative comments from the judges," she said.

She said she was very nervous because she realised that she was

going to be watched by a much bigger audience than the local DigiStar competition which she took part in previously in 2012.

Samantha now resides in Australia and is doing what she's good at, singing. She sings in many clubs in and around Cairns, and her fan base in Australia and Papua New Guinea is growing.

"She is unique among most singers, I've never come across such talent," said Allen Kede.

Youths get a second chance in Oro

By Frieda Sila Kana

Missionary Training College and Academy is located in Edogan Road in Popondetta. It is an integrated tertiary, vocational and primary educational institution of the Asia Pacific Harvest International Ministry.

The motto of this institution is "Reaching the Unreached through education". The headquarters is located in Lae but the services were moved to Popondetta in

2007 and two years ago it was relocated to Iseveni.

In 2009 when the school moved to Edogan Road, the current principal Henry Newton arrived and with his background in business commerce, lectured in Business Studies. He was appointed principal in 2012 and currently holds that 2014 position.

The target group for this college are those who have dropped out of the formal school system after grade 8, 10 and 12.

According to Mr. Newton that the school

dropouts are created by the current OBE education system which he describes as "an agent" of the devil created to degrade and demoralize young people.

"This system is from the pits of hell because it classifies students in a very degrading manner. All human beings are special and have abilities and should not be treated like that," Mr. Newton said.

"Students' mindsets are challenged and changed in this institution. The first lessons are on personal development and raising self-esteem. They are promised a

brand new start. Therefore from 8 to 9 am they dedicate the day to God with praise and worship," Mr. Newton said.

"This school is neutral and does not discriminate. Students come from all sorts of background and churches including the Mormons, but the main thing is to teach them about the love of God and the fullness of life that is rightfully theirs," he said.

The course goes through two semesters within 5 months with one month for practical work. After every semester there is a graduation.

The college started with certificate courses from 2000 to 2011 and in 2012 it introduced a foundation diploma course. It is a private institution and as the name suggests, it is a training to equip young people for the mission field with proper market place skills in administration and business. Finances and funding for this institution is raised from the tuition fees from the students.

The school fee is K1,250 registration and school fee for one semester to obtain a certificate. The same amount also goes for the ACE students and K2,000 for diploma, after completing 12 months of certificate training.

The school faces challenges to keep the students in school because of school fees issues. Most students come from families who are subsistence farmers or live in settlements and other under privileged situations.

The principal said since the low wage earners and non-formal sector working parents are often unable to meet the school fees, the school struggles to meet its commitments. He also appealed to those concerned to pay up their outstanding fees before the next semester starts in July.

After the first semester the students would decide to look for employment or continue to the next semester. The college enrolls an average of 50 students but the number fluctuates.

"The spirit of God takes control of everything and we move as one," Mr. Newton says.

Within the first two months, basic life principles are ingrained in the student's minds.

"I have seen students transform and see the Word of God manifest in them," he said.

The academic programs are professional training skills in business and computer studies. There are ACE program for students who finished from grade 8 and want to upgrade and continue to grade 9 and on to grade 12.

It is compulsory for ACE students in grade 10 and higher grades to learn basic computing and accounting skills. After grade 10, most students are interested in these two subjects. All subjects in the ACE program are just like the ones used in the education system in the country, except the paces are used from Australia.

The results of this institution is amazing. Between 2007 and 2013, the institution has seen 2000 students graduate and have successfully found jobs either in Popondetta or elsewhere in PNG.

This year the Missionary Training Centre made another innovative move to add to the diversity of training offered. It introduced computer and administration skills into a newly established Bible School. The 12 students studying divinity took on these courses to better equip them in running both church and community activities after graduation.

As a Christian Training Institution, this centre fulfills one of the government's Vision 2050 platforms to increase participation of the Christian churches role to effectively deliver basic health and education services.

The outcome of this training centre is an example of church institutions contributing to fulfil the vision, except that in this case, the Christian community does it alone with no support or recognition from the government.

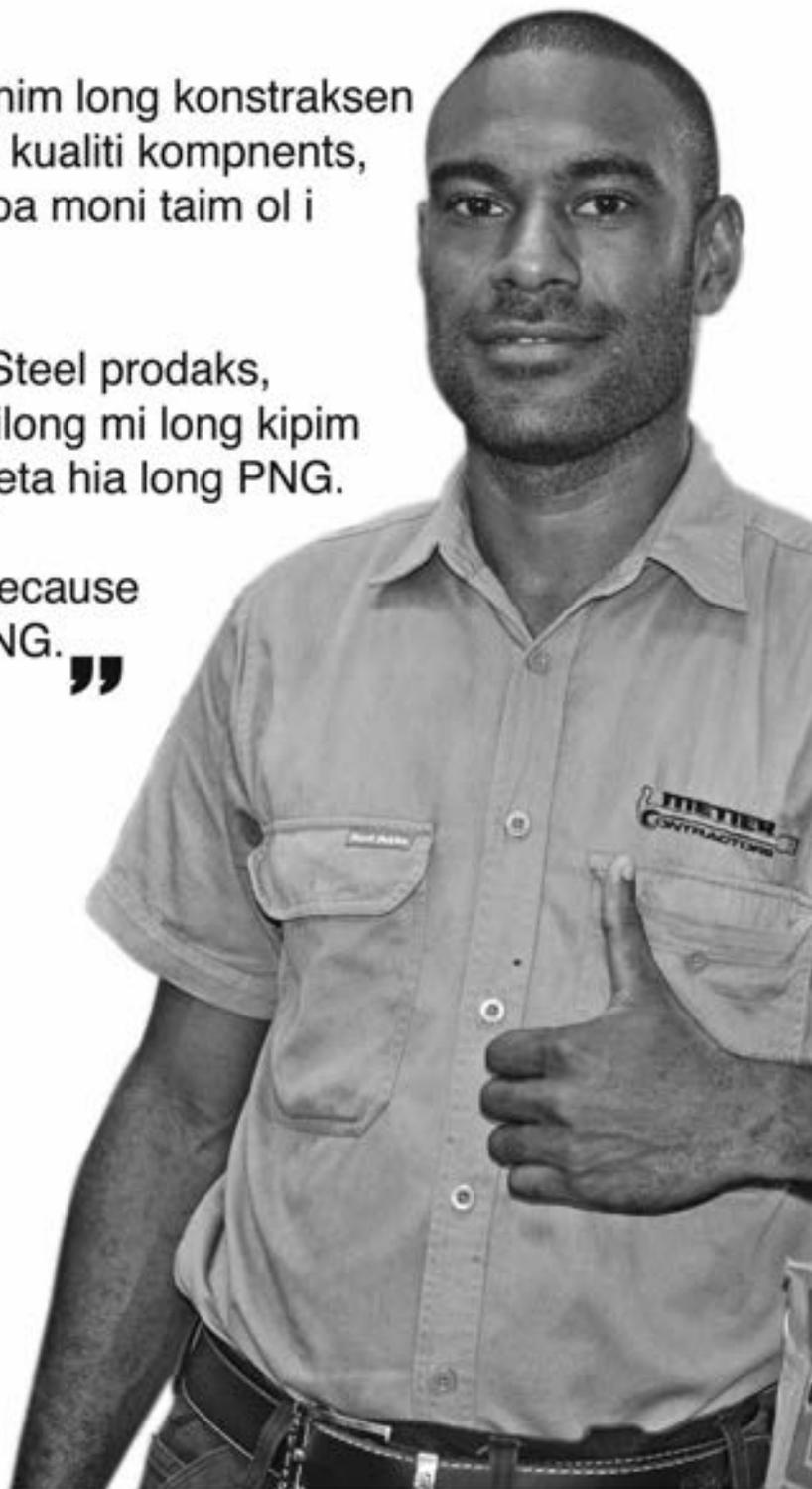
In the next issue Wantok Today will publish the stories of some of the successful people who have passed through this training centre and are now contributing to the nation's development.

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Looking out for milestones along the highway

By Anna Solomon

TRAVELLING long distances by road in Papua New Guinea can be a frustrating experience if there are no signs on the roadside to indicate what village or government or mission station you have just passed or will pass along the way. It is also annoying when you do not know how far you are from your destination if there is no local guide to answer your queries.

That's why it was a pleasant sur-

prise to see milestones along the road from Tabubil to Kiunga indicating the number of kilometers one has travelled. I was told that these milestone start at the mine site and end at the river port of Kiunga. These concrete milestones have endured the weather and the test of time since the construction of this main highway and will remain for many more years to come.

As well as the milestones, there are other road signs warning drivers of steep hills, sharp corners and bridges along the way. Where the

area is prone to rising flood waters, there are clear warning signs for approaching vehicles on the possible flooding with measurements indicating how high the flood waters rise and the distance the floods cover. This is a valuable piece of information for drivers and pedestrians along this stretch of the Tabubil/Kiunga highway.

Safety is a serious consideration in the operations of Ok Tedi Mining Limited and all personnel, contractors and stakeholders as well as the local villagers are made aware

of this message in all activities including safety on the public highway.

Apart from indicating the distance, I found that these milestones

can also be a good diversion when travelling with children. A restless child can be easily distracted to watch out for the next milestone on the road.



One of the many milestones along the highway.

Dexter Junior and Stevie-Nicks standing next to a flood warning sign along the Kiunga/Tabubil highway.

An eventful week of politics in PNG

From page 1 of Wantok Today...

Before Kua's sacking, former Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga had issued a warrant of arrest for O'Neill over his alleged role in payments to Paul Paraka Lawyers. The police action was and outcome of the investigations by Task Force Sweep.

In response, O'Neill moved to disband the unit and fired Minister for Justice and Attorney General, appointed a new police commissioner and fired several senior police officers.



senior police office Jim Andrews to the position of Assistant Commissioner.

Mr. Kauba said the move by prime minister is not surprising because he was heading the investigations into the payment of K71.8 million to Paraka Lawyers.

Another Police officer Thomas Elluh was also suspended by newly appointed police commissioner Jeofrey Vaki in relation to the investigations.

Calls for PM to step down

Opposition leader Belden Namah, Kandep MP, Don Polye, sacked Attorney General Kerenga Kua and East Sepik Governor, Sir Michael Somare have called on Prime Minister O'Neill to step down to allow the probe into allegations of his involvement in the approval of payment to Paul Paraka Lawyers.

A stay order has been put on the arrest warrant for Mr. O'Neill.

Sir Michael said Mr. O'Neill should lead by example and adhere to the law.

Don Polye also called on the prime minister to voluntarily appear before police for an interview and also resign as the prime minister. He said no one is above the law including, the PM.

Mister Polye on Friday June 20 voluntarily appeared before Police Fraud and had an interview with the police on the Paul Paraka saga.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader Belden Namah called on the prime minister to step aside and he urged all PNG citizens to join in the call for Mr. O'Neill to vacate the office of the prime minister without further delay. He said O'Neill has taken more questionable actions in a bid to evade justice and PNG is losing face in the international community.

PM says he will not step down

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says he will not step down as from office. He said calls by Polye, Namah, Somare and Kua are self serving.

He said, "Kerenga Kua, Don Polye, Sir Michael Somare and Belden Namah have no mandate to make such a call. I was mandated to be the head of this government. If they want the mandate they have to earn it from the people or parliament."

Stay order on PM's arrest

Last week Prime Minister Peter O'Neill won a week long stay on the police arrest warrant from the Na-

tional court with two lawyers competing to represent the police.

ON Tuesday Morning June 17 in the National Court in Port Moresby two lawyers appeared to represent the police- the in-house lawyer Nicholas Miviri and a new counsel Paul Mawa.

Mawa was appointed by the new Police Commissioner Geoffrey Vaki and new Attorney General Ano Pala who was appointed on Monday June 16.

Justice Ere Kariko ruled that Mawa was the rightful lawyer for the police.

New COI for Paraka saga

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill announced another Commission of Inquiry to be headed by Australian Judge Justice Warwick Andrews to look into all the legal fees paid to Paraka Lawyers.

This comes after Sam Koim's letter to former Police Commissioner Sir Tom Kulunga on the signature of a letter alleged to have been from the prime minister to pay Paraka Lawyers.

In the letter to Kulunga, Koim said forensic examination report from a Sydney based Forensic Firm confirmed that the signature on the letter of January 24, 2012 bearing the name and signature of the prime minister is genuine.

However Mr. O'Neill has denied all allegations against him, describing them as a politically motivated stunt, adding that the police warrant is suspicious and based on false allegations.

Kauba, Elluh sidelined

On the same day the Prime Minister also announced that deputy police commissioner Simon Kauba was sidelined and replaced by another

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