

Global forced displacement tops 50 million for first time since World War II - UNHCR Report

MORE than ever before, the world is facing an influx of displaced people today due to conflicts, wars, politics, ethnic violence, religious persecutions and as well, natural disasters.

This is a global concern for governments, churches and the populace in general to find ways and means to at least find workable solutions to the issue.

A report released recently by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) shows that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post-World War II era, exceeded 50 million people.

UNHCR's annual Global Trends report, which is based on data compiled by governments, non-governmental partner organizations, and from the organization's own records, shows 51.2 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013, fully six million more than the 45.2 million reported in 2012.

This massive increase was driven mainly by the war in Syria, which at the end of last year had forced 2.5 million people into becoming refugees and made 6.5 million internally displaced. Major new displacement was also seen in Africa – notably in Central African Republic, and towards the end of 2013 in South Sudan too.

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Children protest, protecting their rights, land and resources. Photo: Greenpeace

The SABL SAGA

...Government to revoke Forest License issued under SABL

BY Stanley Nondol

MOST foreign companies operating logging business in the country will have their Forest Clearance Authority (FCA) licenses issued by the National Forest Authority (NFA) revoked, as the SABL Ministerial Committee team working to implement the SABL COI recommendations identified that more than 100 companies were illegally issued SABL leases by the Lands Department.

Minister for Forest and Climate Change, and Chairman of the SABL Ministerial Committee, Douglas Tomuriesa told WANTOK TODAY that his committee

has identified 128 leases obtained illegally by foreign companies under SABL. These companies are now operating logging businesses under the pretext of Agro business. He said these companies will have their FCA license revoked as a result of subsequent revocation of their SABL leases.

He said the Forestry Authority gives FCA licenses only upon the certification by the Lands Department to companies to operate business under the SABL subject to the Lands Act which allows for SABL.

As the Lands Department is responsible, it must go back and revoke the SABL issued illegally

and involve the resources owners to participate in the business, as most SABLs are owned by foreigners and resources owners miss out most on the benefits.

"The government is now working to involve the resource owners as much as possible to take charge and fully participate in the land for maximum benefits", Mr. Tomuriesa said.

Mr. Tomuriesa when asked to give the update on his team said the Committee is doing excellent job and so far, it has conducted three meetings and is expected to revoke more illegal companies.

He says he will advise the National Executive Council (NEC) on the Committee's report on the im-

plementation of the SABL COI recommendations after this session of Parliament.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill recently announced the cancellation of all SABLs obtained illegally and all SABLs not assessed by COI to be reviewed by the Ministerial Committee. The team is now doing its job to fully implement the COI recommendations and the NEC decision.

The O'Neill government has cancelled all SABLs obtained illegally, and will abolish provisions of the Land Act which allows for SABLs to be granted.

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YOUTH SAY... Empowering youths in the 21st Century

with
Issac Liri



We stand together to empower our young lives, we are the leaders of tomorrow. We share our experiences, thoughts and ideas with other. In doing so we help ourselves become better people...
This month Wantok Today caught up with Joanne, Dennis and Lionel



Joanne Wayang
Dream Job: Public Relations & Marketing Officer
Current Employment: Media Officer with PNG Institute of Medical Research
My challenges as a youth today:

The two that stand out the most is money management and social activities. It is a big challenge in learning to manage and budget my money especially as I am living on my own. I have to budget for food, power, rent etc... Learning to budget my money is of importance as many youths today want things that are not essential but it is a must to have in this day & age according to them. I try not to entertain

certain social activities unless I budget for it. Pressure from friends and colleagues to be on the Social Media 24/7 should not be a priority as the more time you spend on it, the more addictive it becomes. Instead, use it as an educational tool for more productive reasons. For example, instead of uploading yourselves picture on Facebook to see how many comments or likes you'll get, post a topic that can generate discussion amongst you and your friends.

What we must do to become better citizens:

I think the first step is to use one's initiative. Do not wait for another person to tell you to do something E.g. if you see an empty can lying on the footpath, you pick it up and put it in the bin. Some things are just common sense really, you see something that doesn't look right and you fix it whether it is in your homes, office or out in the public areas. Be humble and do these little things and never expect any recognition for it.



Dennis Uramani
Age: 24
Home Province: East Sepik Province
Dream Job: Political Scientist and Career Diplomat
Current Employment: Final Year PNG Studies and International Relations Student (DWU)
My challenges as a youth today:

1. What future will hold for me as a young intellectual?

This is a situational challenging question that I personally often think about. As an undergraduate final year Bachelor Degree student getting ready for the Corporate World out there, I pledge to be an asset to the Independent Sovereign State of PNG and not to be a state liability. With what I gained as an educated youth today, I am prepared

to serve my country tomorrow as I believe serving my country men and women is of paramount importance.

2. Youth social life versus cultural diversity in DWU- PNG

The fact is that PNG is culturally diverse and as individual students, we come from different cultural backgrounds. It is a real challenge and it takes time for us to appreciate our cultural diversity in order to underpin National Unity. There is a principle that says; "Friends to All & Enemies to None". This is the way forward for nation building through effective collaboration, integration and collective ideas.

Therefore, as a true Sepik and a proud Papua New Guinean, I will always love my unique and beautiful country despite our cultural diversity as we are now faced by the stunning forces of globalization in the 21st Century.

What youths must do to become better citizens:

1. **Earn Respect**
Earning people's respect from where you live is an important component to pursue one's leadership dream.

2. **Education**
Being educated is of paramount importance because

education is a tool in life that will substantiate, enhance and drive one's leadership dream. Knowledge is powerful in today's world as it is of great influence.

3. **Moral Ethics**
Moral ethics is of personal attributes that youths should have. The way we conduct

ourselves in the eyes of others must be morally right. Youths should have their personal core values. In a simple understanding, core values are all about doing things that are ethical (right) and not unethical (wrong doing).



Lionel Mungae
Age: 27
Home Province: West New Britain and Morobe
Dream Job: PR Officer with a Government entity
Current Employment: Reporter Sunday Chronicle
My challenges as a youth today:

The biggest challenge I find today as a youth is how to avoid and ignore peers who are always negative but influential. Some peers are always negative but they have money

and other luxury things in life, which at times leads you to follow them with their negative actions. I find this very challenging and I believe more youths are in the same boat. The only encouragement is to leave them as they will lead you into problems.

What youths must do to become better citizens:

I think it is necessary for all youths to become good leaders in the future to move this country forward. I think all youths must first of all, learn to respect one another. It is good to be a God fearing individual and living a Christian way of life. A proper educational curriculum including Christian ethics being taught at the primary level is important so students become good citizens when they grow up.



US singer inspires young Papua New Guineans

By Isaac Liri

THE tropical heat was too much for her as she stepped out of the plane at the Jacksons International Airport.

It was her first time to visit Papua New Guinea, and accompanied by her husband, both were stunned by the traditional welcome at the terminal.

American singer Beckah Shae and husband Jack Shocklee smiled as the youths from the Clean Generation Campaign program presented them with colourful PNG made bilums.

The Voice Inc, an organization that works together with youths in Papua New Guinea, deserve a huge word of thanks for their initiative in inviting an international gospel artist, not only to perform in the country, but to share a testimony of leading a better life despite all odds.

With a challenging goal to help young people find the path to prosperity, The Voice Inc's Clean Generation Campaign says it all, and

Beckah's tour in the country is a part of this complex drive to strive for a safe and secured society.

Beckah's second day in the country was inspirational as well as exciting. She shared experiences with students at the Port Moresby International School, visited the Hanuabada village and got a taste of what it's like in an urban PNG village setting. She was also given a tour at the National Parliament with a brief history lesson of a nation that came out of stone age less than a century ago.

The electronic/pop gospel musician was shaken when she found out that she had fans in this third world Melanesian island nation. She had the honour of personally talking with some of them, and signed autographs.

The main event was the concert that took place at the Sione Kami Memorial Church in Port Moresby. This is where she performed her award-winning hits to hundreds of young Papua New Guineans. Her soulful voice was an element that got the

audience captured in a blissful trance.

While performing on stage, Beckah encouraged the young audience to make a stand and commit themselves in making better choices in life. She performed hits from her eighth album titled Champion, and shared a message saying that it is good to be a champion for God, for others, and the world.

"When I was younger, I was so low. I was depressed, I had anxiety, I had eating disorders, and I was hurting myself. I got to a point where I was so broken, I wanted to give up my life, and I felt that I was no good to nobody.

"I called out to God and asked him for forgiveness. I said "God, I miss my best friend.

"Instead of punishing me, God wrapped his arms around me and he lavished me with love. Look at me now, nothing can stop me.

"If there's anything that makes you think you're not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough...it's a lie! God wants you to know you have

no reason to walk in defeat," said Beckah.

During the concert a lucky group of young people joined Beckah on stage to dance with her during her final songs. Just by standing in the middle of the crowd, I felt the peace deep within, and I could tell that those young Christians jumping up at stage will never forget this experience as long as they live.

For those who do not know much about Beckah Shae, she is an award-winning Christian artist who has shared her story of how she grew up surrounded by violence and homelessness.

Over her ten year career, the singer has racked up top 10 Billboard Christian CHR radio singles, received a Dove award nomination and established her own record label.

Apart from Port Moresby, Beckah visited Lae as well. Beckah and Jack left the country with hearts full experiences that will surely linger in their memories as they continue to inspire youths around the world with positive and music and messages.

Beckah Shae in fashion.



YWAM – The ship that brings hope to the hopeless

By Frieda Sila Kana

“I WANT TO LIVE” is the theme of this ship called “MV Pacific Link” that carries volunteers who come from 12 different nationalities including Papua New Guinea, to bring vital primary health care services to the most remote rural areas of Western and Gulf Provinces, and National Capital District and Oro Province in recent months.

K15.4 million is needed for this interdenominational Christian organisation to purchase a new vessel, MV Ammari from Gold Coast, Brisbane Australia. It will be 60 metres long catamarine.

K11.4 million still needed to be raised, after the kind contribution from PNG National Planning and Monitoring Department of K4 million last year. According to the Community Development Program Manager, Dr. Sarah Dunn, cross sectoral contributions have been coming as well as some assistance from the provincial governments of the areas being served.

MV Pacific Link will complete its service by December this year. Since its inception in February, 2010 the YWAM MSA medical ship has done 63,742 total training and medical output in PNG.

Dr. Dunn, said the ship had been in Baimuru and they had just returned to Port Moresby this last week, when the *Wantok Niuspepa* caught up with her at the Gerehu Urban Hospital.

During the week they did some eye surgery at the Port Moresby Eye Clinic and they were to visit Gerehu Hospital, St. Therese Clinic at Hohola and the Kila Kila Urban Clinic in Port Moresby South.

Dr. Sarah said that during their health service rounds they have found that Papua New Guinean’s have very beautiful teeth but many that come have holes in them as well as heavy betelnut stains, causing



Makasi (the “Overcoming the Impossible” woman who paddled for 2 weeks with her family to receive cataract surgery last year and see her children for the first time).

YWAM photo

bad breath and mouth cancer.

“People should be careful about what food they eat and avoid eating too much junk food from the stores and sweet beverages. These foods and beverages contribute to the holes.

“Dr. Lynette Wallace, the lead dentist advised that people should brush their teeth regularly and stop betelnut chewing and also watch what they eat,” Dr. Sarah said.

Such a good cause surely needs attention from the authorities and good hearted citizens. The current vessel MV Pacific Link has been around for the last 5 years but it was an old fishing boat and the wear and tear has caught up with it. Also the demand for more vital services into the inland water ways of the Western and Gulf Provinces as well as request from the other Southern Regional Provinces requires a much larger vessel.

Thus the YWAM have started to work on acquiring a newer and bigger vessel. The outreach to the remote rural areas of Gulf and Western Provinces were sug-

gested by the former National Health Secretary, Dr. Clement Malau because healthcare services were lacking there.

It began its operations in February 2010 with a 16-port public relations tour along the east coast of Australia. During this campaign, 7.6 million people heard the ‘I WANT TO LIVE’ message, through a Ship tour, school presentation, civic reception, or media campaign.

“In 2011, YWAM MSA expanded its operations and conducted a total of eight two-week outreaches across the Gulf Province, Western Province, and National Capital District of PNG.

“In addition to conducting outreaches in the Gulf Province, Western Province, and National Capital District in 2013, YWAM MSA started sending land-based teams to Milne Bay and Oro Provinces.

YWAM MSA has the ability to overcome isolation and lack of infrastructure through the use of a ship, allowing access to many PNG communities which lack basic service delivery. The clinics include: dentistry, primary health care, immunisations, antenatal checks,

malaria and haemoglobin testing and treatment, optometry, and ophthalmology. Training programs for rural healthcare workers and various health promotion initiatives for school children and the general community are incorporated into the clinics. In addition, training sessions on building water filters and fixing generators and outboard motors are run by the ship’s engineers and crew.

It has a strong focus on training and empowering local healthcare workers and villagers to be able to serve themselves. YWAM MSA offers training, health awareness, community goodwill, and logistical support, access to health care, preventative resources, and regular reporting and assessments.

Furthermore, YWAM MSA engages with Papua New Guinean medical and dental students, offering them a place on board the Ship to complete their rural placement and/or gain further training and hands-on experience while exposing them to the need for medical and dental personnel in rural and remote areas.” (Excerpt from YWAM Medical Ships Annual Report 2013).

YWAM is a Christian Interdenominational Organisation working in many parts of the world. Therefore, according to Dr. Sarah Dunn, the Motto, “I want to live” is based on the scripture in the Gospel John 10:10, “Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy but I have come that you may have life in all its fullness.”

This ‘fullness of life’ is what YWAM MSA desires to bring to the marginalised rural population of the rest of Southern Region of PNG, from now and in future. However, in order to achieve that, they need to have a better and bigger vessel as in the acquiring of the Catamarine, MV Ammari.

Out of the K15.4 million needed for the purchase, K4 million was given by the Minister for National Planning and Monitoring but they are still raising funds for another K11.4 million. A general assistance will go a long way.

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“We are seeing here the immense costs of not ending wars, of failing to resolve or prevent conflict,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. “Peace is today dangerously in deficit. Humanitarians can help as a palliative, but political solutions are vitally needed. Without this, the alarming levels of conflict and the mass suffering that is reflected in these figures will continue.”

The worldwide total of 51.2 million forcibly displaced represents a huge number of people in need of help, with implications both for foreign aid budgets in the world’s donor nations and the absorption and hosting capacities of countries on the front lines of refugee crises.

“The international community has to overcome its differences and find solutions to the conflicts of today in South Sudan, Syria, Central African Republic and elsewhere. Non-traditional donors need to step up alongside traditional donors. As many people are forcibly displaced today as the entire populations of medium-to-large countries such as Colombia or Spain, South Africa or South Korea,” said Guterres.

Refugees

Displacement data in the Global Trends report covers three groups – refugees, asylum-seekers, and the internally displaced. Among these, refugee numbers amounted to 16.7 million people worldwide, 11.7 million of whom are under UNHCR’s care and the remainder registered with our sister organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine. These totals alone are the highest UNHCR has seen since 2001. In addition, more than half of the refugees under UNHCR’s care (6.3 million) had at end 2013 been in exile for more than five years.

Overall, the biggest refugee populations under UNHCR care and by source country are Afghans, Syrians and Somalis – together accounting for more than half of the global refugee total. Pakistan, Iran and Lebanon, meanwhile, hosted more refugees than other countries.

By region, Asia and the Pacific had the largest refugee population overall at 3.5 million people. Sub-Saharan Africa had 2.9 million people, while the Middle East and North Africa had 2.6 million.

Asylum Seekers

In addition to refugees, 2013 saw 1.1 million people submitting applications for asylum, the majority of these in developed countries (Germany in 2013 became the largest single recipient of new asylum claims). A record 25,300 asylum applications were from children who were separated from or unaccompanied by parents. Syrians lodged 64,300 claims, more than any other nationality, followed by asylum seekers from Democratic Republic of the Congo (60,400) and Myanmar (57,400).

Internal Displacement

Internal displacement – meaning people forced to flee their homes but still in their own country – amounted to a record 33.3 million people, accounting to the largest increase of any group in the Global Trends report. For UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, helping these people represents a special challenge as many are in conflict zones, where getting to aid to them is difficult and where they lack the international protection norms afforded to refugees.

Solutions for the individual

Part of UNHCR’s work is finding long-term solutions for people who become forcibly displaced. Where possible this is through voluntary return, but other possibilities include local integration or resettlement in third countries. The year 2013 saw the fourth lowest level of refugee returns in almost a quarter century – 414,600 people. Some 98,400 refugees were resettled in 21 countries. Full worldwide data on local integration and returns of internally displaced people was not available for inclusion in the report, although 1.4 million internally displaced people returned home in countries where UNHCR is operational with IDPs.

Statelessness

The worldwide population of stateless people is not included in the figure of 51.2 million forcibly displaced people (since being stateless doesn’t necessarily correlate to being displaced). Statelessness remains hard to quantify with precision, both because of the inherent difficulties governments and UNHCR have in recording people who lack citizenship and related documentation, and because some countries do not gather data on populations they do not consider as their citizens. For 2013, UNHCR’s offices worldwide reported a figure of almost 3.5 million stateless people, however this is about third of the number of people estimated to be stateless globally.

Cool pools of Yuk Creek

Photos and story by
Anna Solomon

There are many beautiful picnic spots tucked away in some remote parts of our country. From the beautiful sandy beaches to the cool highlands, PNG is known for its diverse and pristine environment once one gets away from the dirty crowded cities.

I found one such spot in the rainy Star Mountains of Tabubil. The Yuk Creek is a favorite picnic spot for the employees of the mining township and the local children of the area. However one has to acclimatize to the area before venturing into the freezing cold waters of this creek. Situated to the left of the road to the mine site, one takes a downhill drive past old village gardens before arriving at the spot.

The picnic spot is very clean, well kept and a security guard takes care of the place. There are undercover picnic tables with barbecue facilities with enough space between the huts to allow for privacy. Water is diverted from the creek into the pools which blends in beautifully with the environment.

The trees in the natural surrounding around the spot are home to many varieties of orchids and can

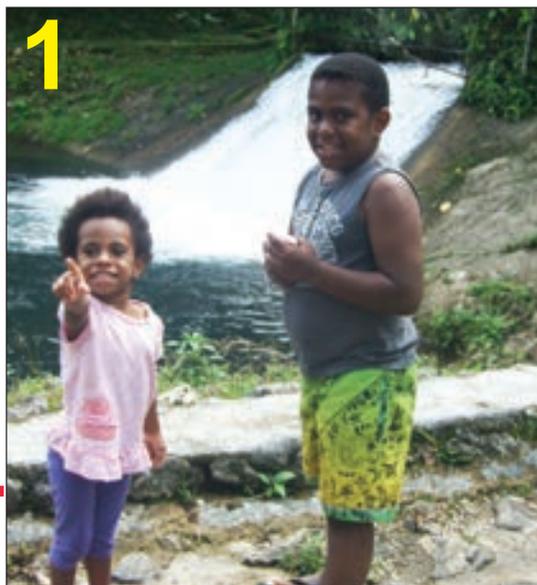
be a very pleasant distraction for the orchid lovers. The area around the picnic spot is full of beautiful white and pink Niugini Impatience which is native to the area.

While visitors to this picnic spot may enjoy their outing, there is a notice board at the entrance to remind users to keep the area clean. With the clean cool air and the natural beauty of the place who would want to litter this beautiful picnic spot. And contrary to its name, Yuk Creek is a beautiful secluded spot that visitors to Tabubil would appreciate.

1. Stevie Nicks and Dexter junior by the beautiful natural pool at Yuk Creek picnic spot.

2. The writer by the pool enjoying the beauty, coolness and tranquility of the place.

3. Local children enjoy the quiet surroundings by the pool.



Von Trapp passes on...



THE SOUND OF MUSIC FAME: The Von Trapp children of which Maria is one, in the movie, "The Sound of Music," with the late actress Julie Andrews the star in the musical which is loved by people the world over, though it first came out more than 60 years ago. *Photo: From the Internet*



LAST VON TRAPP PASSES ON: Maria von Trapp died at the age of 99 in Waitsfield, Vermont, United States early this year. The last of the famous Von Trapp singers whose name is synonymous in the much loved and famous musical, "The Sound of Music" was a missionary in PNG in the 1960's. On February 18, 2014, Maria Franziska von Trapp passed away after spending her life as a performer alongside her six siblings, and later as a lay-missionary with her step-mother in Papua New Guinea. Maria von Trapp was the third child and second oldest daughter of Austrian Naval Captain Georg von Trapp and his first wife Agathe Whitehead von Trapp. She was the last surviving member of the original seven children in the Trapp Family Singers. Read more of her story in the October edition of *Wantok Today*. *Photo: From the Internet*

The SABL saga

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The prime minister said the government has taken these steps to reclaim customary land illegally lost to foreigners with the help of corrupt public servants and leaders.

Mr. O'Neill said the cancelling of SABL and repealing of the Land Act are part of a number of decisive steps which the government approved to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into SABLs.

The government has taken these steps after the landowners and concerned stakeholders have called for urgent government action to end the plight of SABLs in PNG as various reports on SABLs revealed 5.2 million hectares of customary land across PNG were taken by foreigners under the pretext of Agro-Forestry projects through SABLs.

Records showed that a total of 78 SABLs were investigated at a cost of K15 million by the Commission of Inquiry and was able to document the findings of 42 out of 78 presented for investigations with recommendations. Only 4 out of 42 leases were found to follow due process while the rest (38) were found to be fraudulent.

It has taken more than three years from conducting investigations to having the recommendations implemented.

Concern raised by affected landowners around the country indicate that foreign logging companies are still logging using heavy police presence to suppress resistance from landowning com-

munities despite these leases being under investigations, and a moratorium placed on them.

The COI into SABLs was established by the then Acting Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Abal, in July 2011 with the appointment of three Commissioners.

Originally the COI was given three months to investigate a total of 75 SABLs granted by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning since 2003.

After spending K15 million, the COI has failed to present a coherent final report to the government.

The final reports of the two Commissioners covered only 42 out of 77 SABLs the three Commissioners were required to investigate.

The 77 SABLs referred to the COI for investigations involved some 5.2 million hectares of land. With the proliferation in the issuance of SABLs since the 1990s, total customarily owned land in PNG decreased from 97 % to 86%.

The SABL was not meant to be a permanent alienation of customary land. Initially SABLs were issued for less than 40 years but without any proper justifications the duration of SABLs was increased to 99 years in many instances.

Mr. Tomuriesa said the final implementation on SABL COI report submitted to NEC after the respective sectors submit their reports to the Committee. This will show to the nation how many illegal SABLs leases were revoked by the respective sectors.