

Foreign SME not safe

BY STANLEY NONDOL

FOREIGN small to medium (SME) businesses in the country face a grim future as the government moves to pass critical legislative reforms on the SME sector in the May Parliament session which is most likely to give an opportunity to Papua New Guineans to take over reserve businesses starting next year.

A source from the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry says that the department is finalizing the SME Policy and SME Master Plan 2015 -2030 and will be ready by next week for the Minister for Commerce and Trade, Richard Maru, to take it to the National Executive Council (NEC) for its deliberation before parliament session resumes next month. The government has the new SME

Corporation, and when parliament passes the SME Policy and Master Plan, it will put on track the government's vision to create more than 450,000 SMEs by 2050, and buy back foreign SMEs with help from the government through National Development Bank as creditors. Since the Prime Minister of the day is legislated to head the SME Council, comprising of high profile ministers and bureaucrats, it is certain to be sure that the country is anticipating to produce half a million millionaires, should the 450,000 SME portfolio and annual turn-over projected figures come to millions.

Minister Maru who is heading the SME sector in the country recently highlighted the government's vision, said Papua New Guinea will buy foreign SME with the help from the government through NDB and other banks in the country.

"In the next 50 years from 2015 to 2065 we (government) looking at growing 450,000 to 500,000 SMEs. He said PNG has failed its people over the last 40 years in failing to create millionaires.

"I have no regret to admit that 90 percent of SMEs in the country is controlled by foreigners, while Papua New Guineans are left to fend for themselves on the street selling buai."

Prime Minister, Peter O'Neil recently said it is not the intention of the government to take business from any one including foreigners, but says the government is trying to target them in areas where Papua New Guineans are not able to do.

Minister Maru says foreign investors are encouraged to invest in large scale multi million kina projects such as the LNG project, and other business where PNG can not. But says the reserve business currently is dominated by foreigners, and will have to be taken over.

According to the SME Corporation Act, the half a million SMEs would, if they (SMEs) have an annual turn over of a minimum of K10 million, create millionaires for the country.

The SME Policy and Master Plan will be passed by parliament in this May sitting, Papua New Guinea would be able to take over businesses now being overtaken by foreigners, such as fast food marts, fuel stations, retail shops, tyre services and others.

Under the *stret pasin stoa* scheme, Papua New Guineans through the SME sector will be able to also buy back all shops owned and operated by foreigners.

The Minister stressed that under the Government's plan, all shops and small businesses owned by foreigners must be bought, managed and operated by PNG citizens over the next three years, 2016-2019.

"The Scheme which will be our largest business incubation scheme will be implemented over the next 3 years by the National Development Bank (NDB) Investments Limited in partnership with the SME Corporation", says Minister Maru.

The National Development Bank will become as creditor or financier to the SMEs to enable the government target reaching half a million SMEs.

"The SME Sector can create over 60 percent of formal sector jobs instead of 20 percent today and contribute to 50 percent of GDP instead of 10 percent



AT THE TOP OF PNG: Runners with the Baton at the top of PNG, Mt Wilhelm, in Simbu. Photo: MadNESS photography.

"They asked for mercy, but there was none"



Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan

The families of Australians, Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan, have released a statement about the executions.

Today we lost Myuran and Andrew. Our sons, our brothers. In the 10 years since they were arrested they did all the could to make amends, helping many others. They asked for mercy, but there was none.

They were immensely grateful for all the support they received. We too, will be forever grateful.

Australia is yet to be formally notified of the executions but foreign minister, Julie Bishop, says we can assume it has happened. Bishop says the bodies of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran will be brought to Australia for burial.

I was in contact with the families overnight. They are in a devastating position and I understand that they will put out a statement later this morning. Our concern centres on the fact that the apparent rehabilitation of Mr Chan and Mr Sukumaran was not taken into account.

I expect to be able to discuss further aspects of our relationship with Indonesia when our ambassador, Paul Grigson, returns to Australia at the end of this week.

Asked if the withdrawal of Australia's ambassador to Indonesia for consultations will be the only consequence of the executions, prime minister Tony Abbott says ministerial contacts will also remain suspended.

Well it is very unusual, indeed unprecedented, for an ambassador to be withdrawn so I don't want to minimise the gravity of what we've done. Ministerial contacts have been suspended for some time once it became apparent that the executions were likely, ministerial contacts were suspended and they will remain suspended for a period. Apart from that, I don't want to personalise this because it's important that the relationship between the Australian Government and the Indonesian Government continue. - Story taken from the Internet

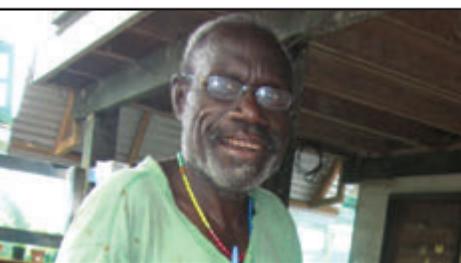
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YOUTH SAY - P2



The spiceman of Bougainville - P3



YOUTH SAY...



Empowering youth in the 21st Century...



Name: Anthony Oala

Age: 21

Home Province: NCD

Dream Job: HR Consultant

Employment: Work Permits Processing officer (DLIR/FED)

What do you have to say to your mum on this coming Mother's Day?

Happy Mother's Day Mum. Thanks for all the many blessings and efforts you have poured on me. You're a gift from God and I am very blessed to have you as my mum.

How do you describe your Mum as?

A super mum. Caring, supportive, brave, strong and just the type of mum anyone could ever dream of having. She is the best and no women will ever replace her love, very rare and one in TRILLION..



Name: Grace Eram

Age: 24

Home Province: WHP

Dream Job: Book Author

Employment: Loans Officer with PNG FINANCE

What do you have to say to

your mum on this coming Mother's Day?

I love her very much, even though we go through rough times, you're still the best mother. I'm a complete replica of you...just wanna wish her a big Mother's Day and all my love.

How would you describe your mum as?

My mum is a caring person, loving and best of all I love her coz she forgives easily my mistakes and loves me just the same.



Name: Jerry Pundia

Age: 23

Home Province: Western Highlands

Dream Job: Dreaming of working with the National Development Bank (NDB) AS Loan Officer.

Employment: Loan Officer at Heduru Moni Ltd.

What do you have to say to your mum on this coming Mother's Day?

I will say thanks to mum for everything she has done towards my life and I will also ask her to continuously support me in my life till death.

How would you describe your mum as?

"My mum is my everything and mostly is my wallet."



Name: Marie Kila

Age: 24

Home Province: Central & Manus

Dream Job: Accounts Manager

Employment: National Finance Limited (Account Receivable)

What do you have to say to your mum on this coming Mother's Day?

THANK you mum for your love your guidance in everyday of my life in regards of life challenges your always there for me and I LOVE YOU and will always give the same love to you you're my inspiration and HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO YOU ON THIS SPECIAL DAY OF YOURS

How would you describe your mum as?

SHE'S MY HEART MY HEAVEN AND EARTH.



Music is in his bloodline

By Esther Bralyn Wani

Papua New Guinea is blessed with so many things and music is one of the things which we are blessed with.

Music is part of our culture and tradition, we sing in ceremonies, we sing when mourning and we sing in joy. Music is a gift that one has acquired as a talent. It develops over time or comes naturally.

Here we will read about one of the upcoming artist who has a passion in music and its instruments. He has a voice that will make you pause for a moment to listen and it will just blow your mind miles away. So let us read what he has to say...

Christopher Dai or the artist name Chrissy Dee is a 22 year old lad also known as Foxx Mahn is from a mix parentage of Central and Gulf. His dad, Dika Dai is from Tubusereia in Central Province and mum, Pauline Posa is from Iokea in the Gulf province.

He said the reason why he started singing was to inspire and to express himself. He said music has also enable him to meet a lot of today's talented musicians such as DadiiGii, Riki Kali, Taz who is well known for the song titled "Fire Fly" and the band Stagaja, whom he featured in one of their songs titled "Melaid" along with legendary artist, Demas Saul. He said he performed with Stagaja in front of a live audience which was also his first

time experience.

So now let us see when he started singing and where did the singing come from. I bet it came from a bloodline of singers.

Chris started singing at the age of 16. He sang lead and backup vocals, and also familiarized himself with playing instruments such as bass guitar and guitar apart from music. He said he also has a passion for dancing and he had choreographed a couple of dances a while back.

Chris said music has been in his family for 3 generations, from his paternal grandmother who was a renowned prophet songs (peroveta) leader, and Chris's dad and his siblings are also talented both in instruments and vocally.

However, among his dad's siblings, his dad built a professional career in music and provided the necessary equipments and music soft wares which enabled him to do up tracks and demos at home to build in confidence in music and excel following their footsteps.

Finally, this is the best part. He said he has completed a single track titled "Meri Nilpis" under the CHM label with the song currently being played on CHM's radio station 99.5 Rait FM. He said the video clip is aired on Rait music.

He added the song Meri Nilpis was composed with inspiration from a young couple, the boy from Central speaks of how he still has



Chrissy Dee an upcoming artist who has a passion for music, and its instruments.

feelings and still cares for this New Ireland girl who has left him to return back home.

"The biggest challenge is to balance and budget time in between work and my upcoming carrier as a musician.

I have to create time away from work to do rehearsals .It may look

easy to be a musician but when it comes to the actual singing (the vocal part) there is a lot of stress as you will have to strain your voice to go with the high notes, but in doing so; I have learnt how to control my vocal, said Chris.

Currently Chris is busy working; socializing with friends and spend-

ing time with family and, he takes timeout at home to come up with new music compositions to meet up with today's style of music.

He is also planning on collaborating with a few local artists and doing live performances. He happily concludes that this is just the beginning of more to come.

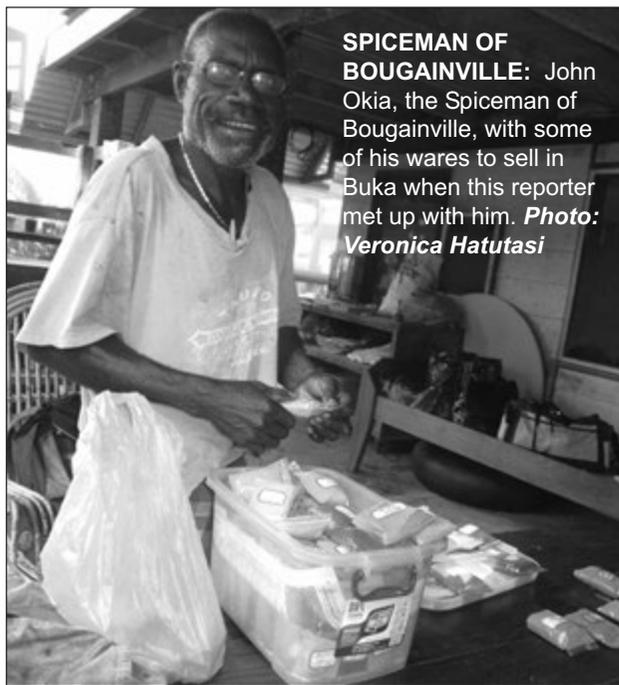
The Spiceman of Bougainville

By Niko Numana

PROMOTING downstream processing locally as well as achieving rural level economic development is the focus of a man who has come to be known as “the Spiceman of Bougainville.”

John Okia, an Environment Chemist scientist of more than 12 years with the Porgera Mine in the Enga province, PNG, now turned Agriculture Scientist is that spiceman of Bougainville who hails from Aropa in the Central Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB).

The urge to do something to help his people and the ARoB as a whole to regain economic recovery and development, prompted John to quit his well-paid job as an environment chemist for 12 years with the Porgera mine in 2003 and headed back home to his Aropa village in the vicinity of the



SPICEMAN OF BOUGAINVILLE: John Okia, the Spiceman of Bougainville, with some of his wares to sell in Buka when this reporter met up with him. *Photo: Veronica Hatutasi*

recently re-opened Aropa airport in the central ARoB region.

He actually commenced the project on what is now known as the “Bougainville Herbs & Spices” in 2006 where for two years, from 2006-2007, he did background research work. Then in 2008, he worked towards home production.

“I see Bougainville as an ideal climate for growing spices since it has sufficient rainfall and water for these alternative spice crops from cocoa, which the ARoB is one of the country’s top producer, if not top, prior to the Bougainville crisis.

“In Bougainville, coca is and has always been the major cash crop and revenue making income for the bulk of the rural population, however, in recent years, the problem of the Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) has been a worry and the spice industry could be an alternative cash crop and a source of in-

come,” says John.

He suggested the idea of the “integration technique” of crops where by a hectare of land could be used for planting spice crops in between cocoa trees.

John has a strong will power and he wanted to see his baby grow and bear fruit and furthering his education in the field of agriculture was the sure way to go, but he lacked funding.

However, his good fortune came along when New Zealand came to his aid.

For three years from 2010 until 2013, he was sponsored by the New Zealand Government to do post graduate studies in Agriculture Science at the Massey University which supplemented his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of PNG in 1979.

He is back in the ARoB and in Aropa to be exact, with much vigor and determination to boost his small spice business.

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Hope for the Neglected Children

– A young mother with a big heart

By Frieda Sila Kana

FREDA Pake is the wife of Collin Pake, Co-director of the Life PNG Care. She is a graduate of UPNG with Bachelor in Business Management but she is not working for any company or other business. She is taking care of her two children plus 22 others and more, who are neglected by their own parents.

It is indeed a challenge for a young career woman who has just completed her university degree and yet not employed somewhere. On top of that, she has to take care of children who are much older than her own two babies.

“It is sometimes hard because as a young married couple, we do not have experience in training and bringing up teenage children and we don’t know how to handle them,” Freda says.

“Sometimes we feel stressed, but we pray to God every day to give us the grace and wisdom to do it. Because kids are born to make mistakes and they will annoy us adults, but we have to love them like a mother does. But these children don’t give us much burden for instance, like getting sick. If they do get sick then it might give us some burden,” she says.

Freda teaches the girls to do chores as mothers to be in future. They learn to keep the kitchen clean, prepare food, hygiene, doing dishes and laundry.

The girls have no mother to guide them and instruct them on how it will be when they become mothers one day, so Auntie Freda teaches them their roles to be in future. She believes that having the knowledge and skills of being a good home maker will help them to have a better life.

“In the house everybody is treated equally, even my two little ones, Reuben and Josiah. They eat the same food that the other



Freda Pake and son Josiah.

children eat. They do not get special treatment,” says Freda.

“If you ask them what my name is, they will tell you ‘auntie Freda’. That’s because everyone else in the house calls me auntie Freda and my husband as ‘teacher,’” says Freda.

The girls cook food but she has to supervise them. There are five teenage girls who are now in the house and they learned to operate the 3 in 1 washing machine so they just have to put the clothes on the line when it is done.

“We are just like any other family. The only difference is the number of children we have,” Freda says.

She continued to say that the children learn the general house rules when they sit down to have their family devotions.

“They make mistakes but my re-

sponse is important. There are rules for keeping harmony among all of them. And the older children teach others who come in to join the family,” she said.

This year there were more boys coming into the home because of the story of “John Wanpis” a boy who was briefly accommodate by the family but then succumbed to tuberculosis in 2014.

Children come from all over the city and from all provincial origin but Collin and Freda do their interviews and investigations before they let them in to live with them.

The amazing thing about these children who are now under the care of ‘Life PNG Care’ is that they are all going to school and learning to communicate in English. The guardian encourages them to speak English all the time so it will help them to excel in their educa-

tion and have a better and promising future.

Recently, the youth of Agape Interdenominational Ministry with their coordinators visited the centre to have fellowship with them.

It is amazing to see how polite and outgoing they were, from the youngest to the oldest.

“Thank you for coming to visit us. Visits from people like yourselves makes us feel special and we really appreciate it,” says Jennifer the second oldest in the group.

Well, the good news for these children and their guardians and other loving and caring people is that the Lukautim Pikinini Act is finally done. In this Act when fully functioning among many good things to come out of it, is the power to hold parents of such children responsible for the children,

but more practical is that, such places like the Life PNG Care home centre will get the official recognition from the government.

This means that they will be recipients of government funding for whatever they need.

There are a number of individuals and corporate entities already giving a hand to assist the home centre.

But if anyone else desires to give to this worthy cause the details are as follows: Bank South Pacific, Account Name: Life PNG Care Inc. Account Number 7002308257 – Swift code No: BOSPPGPM BSBN:088294. The Director and Founder, Colin Pake can be contacted on mobile numbers (675) 73476302/76017473 or email: cpyakio@gmail.com ; website address is www.lifepngcare.org



A visit from youths from Agape Interdenominational Ministry to Life PNG Care- young Josiah sitting on one of the boys’ shoulder.

Oil Search Pacific Games Relay Highlights

...Promoting the 2015 Pacific Games

By Veronica Hatutasi & The Pacific Games Media

THE Oil Search Pacific Games Relay Baton's tour of Papua New Guinea has been a much anticipated event by men, women and children from all walks of life and ages in the provinces it has visited so far.

The Baton Relay is part of the promotional and awareness stint to the public of this nation on the 15th Pacific Games to be held on our very soil, an event which will be a mammoth test on what this country can offer & achieve in terms of hosting such a huge regional event.

Moreover, the event will be a chance for PNG to shine and show its best in sports, culture, unity in diversity, and to prove to its Pacific neighbours that despite the negativity portrayed in the international media, we are really a simple, open and friendly people with a great sense of hospitality.

From the commencement of the 100 days baton's relay journey towards the end of last month in Vanimo, Sandaun Province, until the start of the Pacific Games in Port Moresby on July 4th, the game should have visited all the regions and covered more than 30,000 kilometres and millions of people will have the opportunity to experience the relay.

From Week 1, the relay Baton has covered the two Sepik Provinces- East & West, Madang, selected Highlands provinces, Western Province and now it is the New Guinea Islands regional tour.

This is Week 5 of the journey which takes the baton to the New Guinea Islands region, with the first leg in the beautiful islands of the



MADANG: A traditional Madang welcome to the Relay Baton.

All Photos: MadNESS photography.

“Chauka” and beat & rhythm of the Kundu drums, Manus Province.

From there, it will continue onto New Ireland, thence to other selected islands provinces before returning to Port Moresby.

Everywhere the Oil Search Pacific Games baton relay team goes, it is given a rousing and traditional colourful welcome by hundreds of people including school children, villagers, workers from both the public and private sectors etc.

The baton relay is also proving that the spirit of unity in diversity is alive as well the rich culture from the land of a thousand tribes and languages, as captured by the media via the local television stations and newspapers.

Therefore, on its arrival in Manus on Monday at Momote Airport on the island of Los Negros this week, it was welcomed by the Deputy Governor, John Pomat, and the islands' traditional dancing girls stamping to the beat of the large Manusian garamuts.

The Manus team then embarked on a lengthy running Relay of which hundreds took part around the island of Los Negros and over the Loniu Bridge and then onto Manus Island and into the town of Lorengau.

The Relay ran passed untouched beaches and an

ocean so clear that, on landing, the team could see down the fringing reef to the depths below.

Then it headed into Lorengau town passing numerous schools where the kids lined the fences to cheer the Relay on.

The town market stopped to watch just as the rain came pelting down and the team had to rush for cover and shorten the final legs.

In island fashion the rain was brief and cleared before the Baton was taken by traditional M'buke, a one hull outrigger canoe, around the Bay and out to Pityluh Island. The canoe left the beach with the Baton, the sing sing group and the large garamuts so that they could dance their way across the Bay.

On Tuesday, the Relay visited some of the schools that missed out on Monday due to the early afternoon rain before heading to New Ireland.

Week 4 saw the relay team in Western Province and after a detour to Kiunga due to heavy cloud, the team took a pair of helicopters, in convoy, back up the hill to Tabubil, home of Platinum Pacific Games sponsor OTML.

The Relay's first stop was to Finalbin Primary School where 400 students sang the national anthem as they raised the flag and then passed the baton around to every child.

From there the Baton travelled around Tabubil on a town Relay organised with military precision and ending up with the usual chaotic enthusiasm that follows the

Baton wherever it goes.

In what is now a regular occurrence, people lined the streets with banners of support for Team Papua New Guinea.

Week 3 and the Oil Search Pacific Games Relay toured the Highlands Provinces, starting in Goroka, Eastern Highlands where the Relay team did the rounds in Goroka town and then, drove to Yonki for a day with Games sponsor PNG Power. The baton crossed the dam and the causeway and got to go underground 230metres to the Yonki generation room.

From there the Baton travelled to Kundiawa, crossing the Daulo Pass where the team picked up circlets of flowers from the roadside kids. In Kundiawa former Kumul players Nere Luauna and new Governor Kool started the Relay. The Relay went around town and then headed out to Kegsuglo and Mt Wilhelm.

Teams of young runners carried the Baton from Kundiawa to the base of Mt Wilhelm, climbing over a thousand metres. Some even ran the entire way.

The next two days saw the Baton make the climb to the top of Papua New Guinea – the Mt Wilhelm summit at 4,500 metres, being the second highest peak in the southern hemisphere.

Week 1&2 saw the Relay Baton in the Momase Provinces and received well in full Momase regalia by the public, villagers and school children from the Sepiks and Madang Provinces.



The Spiceman with one of his regular client, Philomena, owner of CJS Kaiba, a popular eatery at Kokopau, Buka Passage in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Photo: Veronica Hatutasi

Spice man from Bougainville

From page 3...

He plants the spice crops and also, purchases from local farmers, and imports cinnamon from Sri Lanka, and nutmeg and lemon from New Zealand.

John is a popular sight in the restaurants and guest houses in the ARoB as he currently does house to house sales of professionally packaged spice powder packets each between 50-60grams for K8-K10.

He has commenced commercial exporting overseas of the Bougainville made spices to our Pacific neighboring island countries such as Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

To attain the professionalism and perfectness of his finish products, he uses a small grinding machine which he purchased from Brian Bell, and hopes to get two more.

“I see the need for a spice industry in the ARoB which the Autonomous Bougainville Government should look at as an income earning means for the rural farmers, and support.

“My focus on embarking on the (spice) project is to establish local downstream processing, and to promote economic development at the rural level,” John says with a strong determination.

He says that he wants to see an increase in volume of the spices, as well as the quality and depending on demand, he will assess his export to overseas destinations.

He wants to create sustainability in volume as “once you start exporting, you must maintain sustainability” which he says, “is the biggest problem in PNG.”



TABUBIL: Tabubil Town Relay.