



PNG Standard Officers meet for National Ratings

By Frieda Sila Kana

THE PNG Education Department is for the first time holding a Joint National Ratings conference in Port Moresby, in which mostly senior standard officers from all provinces got together to review and endorse the assessment of teachers for the year 2015.

The conference which started with an opening dinner on Sunday evening at Don Bosco Technical Institute Hall had Senior Standard Officers for the Primary and Secondary Schools as well as the TVET or Technical, Vocational Education from all the provinces attending.

In the previous years the National Rating of Teachers was done in three separate ratings at regional levels however in 2016 the department had to do a Joint National Rating due to financial constraints, according to the Deputy Secretary for TVET and UNESCO, Godfrey Yerua. Bringing everyone to the National Capital District is a cost saving measure in terms of transport and accommodation. The ratings which are being done this week however are for the assessment year in 2015 which they were not able to do last year due to the reason stated above.

The 2016 rating will be done later in November this year, depending on availability of financial resources.

The launch of the meeting was officiated by the Minister for Education, Nick Kuman who was very vocal on the quality of assessment of the teachers as well as the availability of Standard officers in the district. He made particular mention of a house and vehicle which were made available to an officer to be stationed at his District administration but no officers have been on site since.

Mr. Kuman emphasized the need for the Standard Officers to be the "eyes and ears" of the Secretary for the Education and to be

that, they are expected to be on the ground at all times, monitoring the movement and location of teachers as well as students attendance and numbers of enrolment at the beginning of the school and retention numbers in the middle and end of the school year.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Uke Kombra prior to the Minister as well as the Deputy Secretary Dr. Eliakim Apelis.

Dr. Kombra said that the PNG Education System depends on the Leadership that is provided as it is shown by the Minister for Education since his appointment in April 2014.

"The government of Peter O'Neill has supported the education but now we are at a cross-road faced with demands like never before, from all sectors for a quality education. So we are constantly looking at revising and reforming systems to meet the demands. Our goal is to give a quality education from elementary to university level but one that is relevant and appropriate," said Dr. Kombra.

He reiterated what the minister always says about policies having to make real differences like talk with action. Thus teacher qualification counts. Dr. Kombra further mentioned that one of the steps taken now to act on the improvement of quality of education is to increase the training years for the primary school teachers from two years to 3 years in colleges to have a degree.

To conclude, Dr. Kombra proudly stated that the rating system that the education department is implementing is one that was used since 1970s and it stood the test time and is still the best. The Joint National Rating conference is being held at the Hideaway Hotel in Port Moresby starting on Sunday 24th and ending tomorrow.



Judy Waesa, Provincial TVET Inspector, Enga Province.



Dr. Eliakim Apelis, Acting Secretary.



Dr. Uke Kombra, Acting Secretary for Education.



Some of the Standard Officers in attendance during the launch of the conference.

YOUR SAY...

What type of priorities do you as an individual want to be included in the government of the post 2017 election?

Name: Joe Kenasi
Age: 30
Province: Northern Province
Occupation/school: Fulltime church worker and Trainee Pastor
Opinion: Most times our



government give many of its priorities to other physical things to rehabilitate people but they should give more emphasis on church based programs because it is the only guaranteed institution that rehabilitates a person from the inside out to be good and godly citizen. And also, preparation for eternity is better than preparations in the physical life...

Name: Chris Kolomango
Age: 20
Province: Southern Highlands
Occupation/school: student of Gordon's secondary school
Opinion: The government must create more employment and job opportunities as crime rate is increasing due to criminals and potential criminals having nothing to do.



Arthur Gini
Age: 20
Province: Hela
Occupation/school: Graduated with Diploma in Business Management - Port Moresby Business Collage
Opinion: We need more higher learning institutions and universities to cater for the increasing population of potential university student candidates who after 12th grade graduation, find it very difficult in gaining space in universities due to lack of facilities and resources.



Name: Johnny Kopi
Age: 18
Province: Gulf, Central and Milne Bay
School/occupation: Student of Don Bosco Technical Institute
Opinion: Our government must increase emphasis on private and government owned technical institutes. The country is developing and it needs certain technical jobs which often require expatriates with specific skills, but if the government can increase attention in technical institutes, then they wouldn't have to waste money on looking after special skilled expatriates.



Appreciating Creativity - Jazz Music

By Josiah Ururu Kana

JAZZ is a music genre that originated from African-American communities during the slave periods 1800s-1900s, New Orleans in the United States.

It emerged in the form of an independent traditional and popular music style accompanying many off-beat chord progresions. Jazz music spans a period of over 100 years, accompanying a very wide range of music, and making it difficult to define.

Originating in 1866, the Atlantic Slave Trade brought in nearly 400,000 Africans to North America. The slaves came largely from West Africa and greater Congo River Basin, and brought strong musical traditions with them.

The African tradition primarily makes use of single line melody, call and response pattern, and the rythms have a counter metric structure and reflect the African speech patterns. Another strong influence came from the harmonic style of hymns of the church which black slaves had learnt and incorporated as Blues and Jazz.

Since then, Jazz music grew wider and larger, incorporating complex chord combinations, distinctive voice patterns and improvisation.

Jazz is a very soulful music because it was originally practiced and formulated during the working hours and religeuos times of the Black-American slave trade.

Durring those times, the blacks would sing and clap, snap fingers or beat chests while working in cotton fields as a means to entertain themselves or express their thoughts, feelings, and struggles. Because of its distinct history as a soulfull genre, Jazz music grew wider and larger, and is now being studied and played in over 50 different countries and in almost all continents.

Here in Papua New Guinea, the Jazz Appreciation month was held at the American Corner located in the National Library in Port Moresby, this week. Students from the School of Humanities and Social Science of the University of Papua New Guinea, in partnership with the American Corner, hosted the morning jazz session where the music genre was introduced in lecture and skills to technicle and secondary school music students and other interested citizens.

The American Corner recognised Jazz because of its historical and traditional connection, and in partnership with UPNG music students, accompanied by other prominent musicians, they dedicated the whole morning to jazz music, explaining its importance, characteristics and history.

Solomon Apisis, a 3rd year student majoring in guitar, explained and described the aspects of Jazz music and his other fellow band member Derik, majoring in drums explained and demonstrated further where his friend had left.

Jazz player poster.



UPNG Arts Students performing Jazz using Contemporary indigenous Musical Instruments during the Jazz awareness seminar at American Corner this week. Photo: Josiah Ururu Kana

After the presentation, the group inspired Papua New Guineans with the complex, rhythmic and fascinating music of Jazz,

playing each style as they go.

The group later stressed that PNG can also incorporate traditional music into jazz making an-

other new style in jazz but it would only happen if our young musicians are musically literate, especially in theory.

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

Aiambak to Lake Murray road opened

A NEW 45 kilometre highway linking Aiambak Port with Lake Murray in the Middle Fly district of Western Province was officially opened this month by the Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Peter Graham, and the Middle Fly MP, Roy Biyama.

This highway rehabilitation project cost a total of K59.9 million and is one of many infrastructure projects funded by the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) portion of the Western Province Peoples Dividend Trust Fund (WPPDTF), and delivered by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF).

The construction contract was awarded to Starwest Constructions Limited with technical engineering support from Kramer Ausenco.

Starwest began works in November 2013 and completed this lower portion of the Barramundi Highway two (2) years later in November 2015.

Mr Graham said the project was a significant investment and a first class stretch of the highway so it is very important to look after it.

"If we don't maintain the road, keep the drainage right, in no time the road will start to suffer and we'll lose much of the value of the road. So again, we look at community support to look after the road.

"The road itself is a means to an end, it's not an end in itself. What is important is that the community can now take advantage of what the road offers.

"It's a life line, it gets you to improved access to health, education, mar-

kets, it's a wonderful opportunity but that opportunity now rests in your hands," Mr Graham told Aiambak and Lake Murray people at the opening.

Meanwhile, Middle Fly MP Roy Biyama, who was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony, has pledged his support to working closely with OTDF CEO Ian Middleton and the Foundation in delivering more projects for the Middle Fly people.

"Mr Middleton, I never knew you, but looking at such things you are doing, creating job opportunities for my people, I would like to support you all the way with whatever OTDF does," Mr Biyama said.

Mr Biyama was proud to be able to open the highway on behalf of his people and also pledged to give them a canter truck to support their rubber and food security needs.

Mr Middleton acknowledged and welcomed Mr Biyama's support toward OTDF.

He said he was proud to see such developments unfolding in Western Province, and assured Mista Biyama of OTDF's continued support for such impact projects that would transform the lives of people in that part of the country.

He said in Tok Pisin: "Membra mi ekseptim tok-tok bilong yu, mi ekseptim amamas bilong yu, olsem yu sanap long hia na yu tok yu amamas long dispela developmen. Mi amamas long dispela developmen.

a sapos trutru yu laik wok wantaim mipla, mipla stap. Kam na yumi wokim moa development lo pipol blo Middle Fly."

The partnership expressed between the various parties now lays the

foundations to further supporting the communities of the Middle Fly; the people themselves must take advantage of this highway.

The Lake Murray Local Level Government President, Sep Galeva, along with many community leaders, both men and women expressed their gratitude and asked OTDF to further assist them with rubber, eaglewood, rice and vegetable crops for sale to markets that are now more accessible to them.

"This road will open up a lot of markets for our people. It's not just rubber; it may open other things like eaglewood.

At the moment we are talking about rubber because it's very important for the Lake Murray community and that is why we have to thank CMCA leaders for at least putting up this money to make it possible to build up this road," Mr Galeva said.

He said rubber was the only cash crop for the people in Western Province and that rubber was very important for his Middle Fly people.

"I would like to encourage OTDF by giving you full support in whatever you want to do to bring cash flow into our people's pocket. I'm with you all the way.

"Whatever it takes to build infrastructure for our people, I'm with you. Whether I leave politics and be an ordinary man, I am with you, because I understand the government doesn't come in quickly. If there is a development partner here who can support the community, we need to partner with them to deliver what our people need," Mr Galeva said.



Peter Graham and Roy Biyama flanked by Lake Murray dancers.



OTDF Chief Operating Officer Lalatue Avosa and Middle Fly MP Roy Biyama escorted by Lake Murray dancers.



Roy Biyama and Peter Graham.



The Lake Murray end of the 45km stretch of road.

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

Decision on Manus detention centre hailed

THE decision this week by the Supreme Court of PNG to stop the operations of the Manus asylum seekers detention centre as it is deemed illegal and unconstitutional has been hailed by the Catholic Professional Society (CPS) of PNG.

In a media statement, President of the CPS, Paul Harricknen says "the Supreme Court Decision for the Asylum Seekers is a Victory and Vindication for Justice and Supremacy of our Constitution

"Here is a great victory and vindication for Justice and the supremacy of our Constitution. The successive PNG governments have since 2002 been either naively or deliberately been undermining our Constitution and the laws of PNG acceding to Australian Government's cheque book diplomacy.

"The Supreme Court's unanimous decision yesterday (26/4/16) is a victory for the asylum seekers and the Constitution of PNG," Mr Harricknen says.

He says that the Catholic Church has always maintained that the Manus deal since 2002 under John Howard and his "Pacific Solution" policy to the present times with



Manus asylum seekers detention centre. Photo: Internet

the successive Australian PMs (Howard, Rudd, Abbot, Turnbull)

has been inhumane and unconstitutional. The current Australian

Government under Malcolm Turnbull is still defiant against the asy-

lum seekers under their border protection policy.

"What has been concerning and relieving now is that the O'Neill Government had defiantly gone against all calls by respectable PNG citizens and groups to amend Section 42 of the Constitution to allow for Australian interests. No sovereign nation in the world would allow its Constitution to be amended to accommodate the parochial interest of a foreign country. It is great news for PNG now that the Supreme Court has moved to declare the amendment unconstitutional and invalid together with the two countries' MOA.

"The Government must swallow its pride and learn its lessons from this decision. The Government should proceed forthwith to close down the centre and ensure that those persons accused of rape and murder are brought to justice as well.

"We applaud the Supreme Court decision, and everyone involved in this victory, especially Mr. Belden Nama and his lawyer, Mr. Loani Henao, and their legal team. Congratulations!", says Mr Harricknen.

Bilum Books delivers Standard Based Education Books

By Frieda Sila Kana

"BILUM Books", an Australian based publishing company with a vision and mission to help raise the standard of educational materials meant for the Papua New Guineans school levels of Primary and Secondary under the new Standard-Based Education program have now launched their range of text books for students and teachers.

The official launch took place in a remote school in Kiunga, Western Province, Cross-Country School of Excellence on the 21st and 22nd April, 2016. According to the publishers, Sarah White and Irene Sawczak, Bilum Books planned to launch their books in a rural community to emphasise the importance of bringing training to the teachers in rural areas where it is lacking so much.

The launching at the Cross-Country School of Excellence in Kiunga, was held during a two day training which was convened for teachers on how to use the books in line with the new Standard-



Bilum Books - our books! Children in Kiunga with the new books that support the new Standards-Based English Curriculum.

Two of the three Publishers of Bilum Books, L-R Irene Sawczak and Sarah White.



Based Curriculum for Elementary Teachers. The publishers told Wantok Newspaper that teachers from about 15 to 20 schools near and far in the Kiunga area either walked or jumped on PMV trucks to make it to the training venue.

"The teachers and students' welcome was outstanding," said Sarah White.

"Teachers really want training for the Standard Based Education from the Education Department so this training was a chance they cannot miss," she said further.

The Bilum Books are partnering with the local printing and publishing house, Christian Books Melanesia to supply the books to the schools. They have distributed a range of 25 text books to a number of bookshops including the CBM book-

shops throughout the nation, as well as the well known Theodist Stationary bookshop and others in Port Moresby city.

"The range of books for students learning and teachers guide cover grades from preparatory to grade 8. The books are designed to contextualize the vocabulary, grammar and instructions to local Papua New Guinean understanding and illustrations are also contextualized and done by Papua New Guineans," says Miss White.

The Principal Director of the Cross-Country School of Excellence, Elias Wraga said he sees a greater need for education in Western Province and has opened doors for such partnership to improve the education standards.

"I have no doubt that these books and workshops would provide the need of the hour for all our schools in Western Province in terms of resource and training," said Mr. Wraga. "It is fitting for these new books to be launched in a new school, with a new generation, to set a new standard," he added.