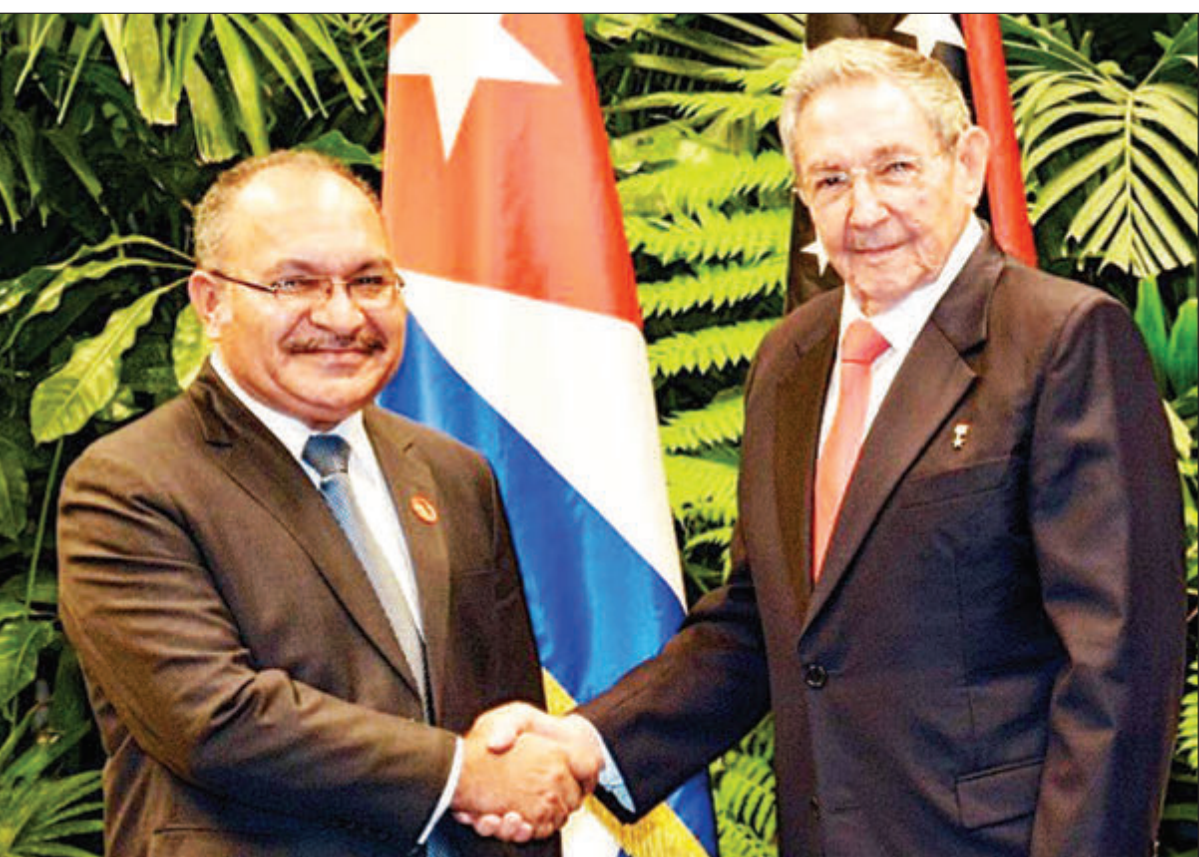


PM: Cuban doctors are coming



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and President Raul Castro of Cuba in Havana last weekend.

PRIME Minister Peter O'Neill has completed an official visit to Cuba, from which the provision of healthcare services by Cuban doctors to rural areas of Papua New Guinea is now being finalised.

Mr O'Neill returned to PNG as news was released of the passing of the late former President, H.E. Fidel Castro.

During the visit that took place during the Prime Minister's return from the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru, Mr O'Neill held substantive talks with Cuba's President, H.E. Raul Castro, on a range of healthcare cooperation options.

While in Havana, he further engaged with Cuban pharmaceutical companies producing medication that is highly suited to the conditions and illnesses found in PNG.

Mr O'Neill said the PNG delegation's meetings with the Cuban Government have revealed a number of common approaches to social development between the two countries.

"Cuba has implemented a range of social development policies to improve the quality of life of its citizens through effective health programs and systems," Mr O'Neill said.

"The result of these policies over many years has seen an improvement in quality of life, a reduction in infant mortality and an increased life expectancy.

"PNG is in a position to learn from this experience and expertise, and to apply this to our core national policies of healthcare and education.

"President, Raul Castro and I

discussed the opportunity to bring Cuban doctors to PNG to serve in our remote areas.

"President Castro is supportive of the proposal and it is now up to our officials to finalise details.

"Right now in some of our rural areas, people are not receiving adequate healthcare for the simple fact that we cannot get enough Papua New Guinean doctors to move to these locations.

"Many doctors would prefer to be based in urban areas, so with the support of several of our senior doctors, we are working with Cuba to fill the gaps in rural areas.

"As an island nation in a tropical environment, Cuba faces many similar medical challenges to Papua New Guinea, so I expect these doctors will be

very effective in delivering healthcare to our people.

"While in Cuba, we further discussed medical education, and Cuba is willing to extend cooperation including medical professors to come to PNG and for our students to travel to Cuba for training.

"Our national medical training must be intensified, and more doctors and healthcare workers must be available to more people throughout our country.

"A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with the Cuban Government that will facilitate recruitment and training priorities," Mr O'Neill said.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rimbink Pato, Government Officials including the Secretary for Health, Pascoe Kase and a team of senior PNG doctors.

Stop the filthy habit tips...

How to avoid spitting buai around public areas and at your home



Carry a plastic bag when strolling out for a buai break...



Skin the buai and drop skin in plastic bag...



Chew buai...



and spit into plastic...



Tie the plastic tightly..

Throw away plastic at the rubbish tip near you...



Rubbish Drum

YOUTH SAY...

Consider these seven issues in the country and give your opinion on the most important one that you think needs immediate attention:

- 1)Poverty , 2)Hunger, 3) medical and health, 4) quality education, 5) Gender equality, 6) clean water and sanitation, 7) law, order and justice.



Name: Mathew Miria
Age: 26
Province: Central (Kairuku)
Opinion: Poverty

-I prefer poverty because most of our citizens are currently facing starvation and hunger due to inflation and less job opportunities. Also school subsidies cannot satisfy the increasing needs for education thus, more and more school age teenagers roaming our streets without jobs adding more numbers into our poverty rate.



Name: Shaun Lovi
Age: 22
Province: Northern
Opinion: Law, Order and Justice

I think this issue needs immediate attention because currently there are many crimes being committed everywhere in our country. And even though our government keeps recruiting more manpower in the police force and improving our security facilities, nothing has been done to stop or at least slowdown and decrease the increasing crime rate and law and order issues.



Name: Angelyn Veratau
Age: 16
Province: Central Province
Opinion: Gender Equality

Gender equality is a big issue in our country. I believe it is morally right for man and woman to share equal responsibilities in making the decisions in our country. Even though our law talks about everyone having equal rights, I see that it is only the man taking advantage of the law and possessing more rights than a woman.



Name: Boge Rufus
Age:16
Province: Central Province
Opinion: Medical and Health

Medical and Health are the most important issues that should be dealt with. Most of the remote areas in PNG don't have quality medical facilities to deal with the immediate medical issue at hand. I think our government should consider this problem and provide better medical facilities with passionate and experienced health workers.

Bilum Books providing Phonics training in Milne Bay

IRENE Sawczak and Sara White, two of the publishers of Bilum Books were so impressed and humbled by the enthusiasm and eagerness of the Elementary Teachers of Kiriwina Island during the two weeks workshop at the Losuia Elementary School.

The two day training was part of the one month's training which ran in Milne Bay Province, after the Milne Bay Education Division purchased bulk copies of Bilum Books for the teaching of phonics and common words for 100 selected Elementary Schools.

The teachers of these schools were required to undertake a 2-day workshop with Bilum Books facilitators before they were given these books. These were practical teaching workshops that demonstrated how to teach phonics and common words at each grade level: Elementary Prep, Elementary One and Elementary Two, using the books that the Provincial Education Division purchased for these selected schools.

All teachers were required to be active participants - presenting



phonics lessons using Bilum Books to ensure they were able to use the books with confidence in their classroom.

The following 2-day Elementary Phonics workshops were conducted in Milne Bay. The workshops were organised by Mr Joseph Tau, SPA Basic Education, MBP Division of Education, in consultation with Mr Ray O'Farrell, one of the publishers and lead trainer from Bilum Books.

Teachers in Milne Bay Province expressed their appreciation at the initiative shown by the MBP Division of Education who supplied new SBC resource books at a series

of in-service training workshops held in the province during the month of November.

The publishers were amazed and humbled by the willingness of the teachers on Kiriwina Island who have to walk very long distances on foot just to be able to attend these workshops at Losuia.

"People got such a need for teaching phonics," said Sarah White.

Some of the comments from the teachers were, "This 2-day workshop has moulded and shaped me so that I can teach phonics and common words confidently in my classroom," and "The workshop on

phonics and common words was very useful and the explanations were well taught for the level of PNG Elementary schools," and another said, "The 2-day workshop gave clear and easy to understand explanations to reach phonics and common words. I am happy that I can now teach phonics lessons well in my school. Lovely Workshop!

Mr SPA Basic Education, said that 100 lucky schools were selected as part of the initial roll-out program. The plan is to extend the program to remaining schools in the Province during 2017 when funding is available.

Teachers attending the above workshops enthusiastically undertook all activities. Their active participation showed their eagerness to learn all they can about how to teach phonics and common words at the Elementary levels.

Teachers expressed their appreciation at the Provincial Government's initiative to purchase Bilum books and provide 2-day teacher training. They can now use these books effectively when they begin

to implement the new Standards-Based Elementary English Syllabus in 2017.

Mr Tau, further commented that If Elementary teachers implement the new Standards-Based English Syllabus successfully, they will lay a firm foundation on which primary and secondary teachers can build. This will ensure the improvement of literacy standards in Milne Bay Province.

Bilum Books is an Australian Publishing Company but with focus on producing and publishing reading and teaching materials on Papua New Guinean Standard Based Syllabus and they have been running training and in-service courses on the SBE in a number of provinces since the launching at Tabubil earlier this year.

According to the publishers/trainers, workshops and in-services training are implemented where schools or education division of provinces and districts have purchased the relevant phonics books and reading materials.

Training human resource paramount: Kasu

By Paul Zuvani

DE La Salle Secondary School in Bomana, outside Port Moresby opened its aquaculture training facility last week.

It is the first secondary school in the National Capital District to open such a facility.

The centre was built at the cost of K62,000 with K61,000 coming from the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) while the balance was met by the school.

With the theme, "Partnership to promote entrepreneurial culture, know about business (KAB) and offer training for sustainable education," the school was now able to work with various partners including NFA, SME and the Education Department to run the project.

In opening the centre, the NFA Managing Director, John Kasu, said NFA was embarking on various programmes to support the fisheries industry, and one of that was on business development management.

"We are running the Fish Farming program with the schools and this is the program we are running here at De La Salle," Kasu said.

"This program is very important, and you are the future leaders, and you are the people who will



De La Salle Secondary principal James Ume (far right) and NFA managing director John Kasu holding the fish-lets in the plastics before they are put into the fish ponds. Photo: PAUL ZUVANI

spread the knowledge in the communities you live in, and implement the policy.

"We are up-skilling the human resource sector, the important sector of the country," he said.

He said NFA was working with the Education Department under the technical vocational education training (TVET) scheme to run the program.

"We have a fisheries college in Kavieng, New Ireland province where we train people the knowledge and skills on fishing and what

they do after they catch fish.

"Many of us think that there a lot of fish out there in the sea and in the water. No, that is not correct. The stocks are running out fast.

"We not only teach people how to catch fish but also in assisting nature to replenish the number of fish stock.

"We are taking aquaculture in the fresh water as well as marine," Mr Kasu said.

He said one example was the news of NFA putting a ban on fish-

ing sea cucumber.

He thanked the school for allowing them to be partners in the program.

Nathan Tiro, Manager, Small-Medium Enterprises Corporation, said not everyone was trained to be business people, but his organisation wanted to help them to have some form of skills so that they were prepared to go into business activity.

He said many people were ill-equipped, remained ignorant or were not taught the basics of

doing business because they were not taught the basics of doing business.

The students should be prepared to meet challenges and be leaders, and have the ability of self-employment.

He the SME program was designed for 120 hours and its aim was to promote the culture of entrepreneurship among students.

That is to give the young people opportunities and challenges in leadership and self-employment, and a way in shaping them for economic and social development.

Meanwhile, Mrs Violet Gerega, Director, TVET Curriculum Non-Trades said the Education Department was looking at introducing some of the TVET programmes in the secondary and higher learning institutes.

"Today marks an important milestone for schools and the school should be grateful for such a programme," she said.

De La Salle Secondary Principal, James Ume, thanked all partners for their assistance and support.

He said it was the first time after many years the school was able to get assistance from the government.

He assured the parties that the school would look after the facility.

TFF policy not prepared well: Teacher

By PAUL ZUVANI

TWO teachers with a number of their pupils had dizziness and collapsed due to overcrowdedness.

Misses Janet Dimiri and Albertina Tokave of Ted Diro Primary School in the National Capital District collapsed in the classes that were not real classrooms and were overcrowded with not ventilation.

This is the story of one school. But there are many schools in the country that have not properly completed their 2016 academic year or are planning not to open for the 2017 academic year if the Education Department does not release the tuition fee free (TFF) subsidies in full and on time.

Such are issues students, teachers, parents and schools are faced with in the TFF policy.

Many times the funds are not released on time or have not been released in full as allocated in the Education budget.

Teachers Janet Dimiri, Albertina Tokave and Netty Kundap teach Grade three (3) in one room with

no tables to work on and their students either sit or stand the whole class times, and use their laps and bench as desks to put books and write on.

They said it was a painful experience and the teachers and students desperately need help.

With the Education Department instructing schools not to charge project fees, the schools are struggling with funds to build classrooms to accommodate the big number of student population created by the TFF policy.

Sr Angela Taylor, OLSH, the principal of Marianville Secondary School told this paper that the school would close if it did not receive its TFF from the Education Department.

She said the school was to receive K1,250,000 but only received K380,000. To date, the K870,000 is still outstanding.

The school accommodates more than 750 students from Grades 9 to 12.

Meanwhile, teachers Dimiri, Tokave and Kundap are now trying

hard to attend classes and it is not known how long they will continue.

Ted Diro Primary School, a level 8 school in the nation's capital is facing a shortage of proper classrooms to study properly in.

At present the four classes are accommodated in a small, packed school library with no desks and lacks ventilation.

Because the TFF policy, the number of student intake increased and there are about 60 to 70 students in a class, and multiply that with 4 classes one is looking at 280 students in a room.

Similar concerns were raised by other schools in the country.

The Catholic run technical vocational education training (TVET) institutions in the country have also raised their concerns about their TFF funds not released on time and in full.

Earlier in the year, they planned to close for the 2016 academic year but have decided to wait hoping the government would release funds after the November Parlia-

ment Sitting.

The managers of these TVET schools have also planned to meet this month to discuss issues affecting their schools, and to also talk about the TFF funds.

Wantok Niuspepa was not able to get the outcome of their decision on their plan of closing early for the 2016 academic year.

However, in the Parliament Sitting early this month, the Minister for Education, Nick Kuman said the Department had released in full the K 600,000 million earmarked for the TFF funds for schools throughout the country.

He said schools should not complain that they did not receive funds because monies have already been deposited into their individual school accounts.

But Sr Angela said if that was so, she has not seen any of those monies in the school's account.

She does not know who is telling the truth.

But for the teachers at Ted Diro, they do not know when new classrooms would be built for their

school.

"We are concerned for our health and that of the students," Ms Dimiri who collapsed twice in class and took sick leave before continuing said.

She said a combination of factors including spacing, air, overcrowd and lack of desks make environment not helpful for proper learning.

"Students are not getting the kind of education they deserve. This is not quality education," she said.

Ms Tokave who was also one of the victims in such rushed policy said she found it difficult to move and check students' work.

And some students could hardly hear properly if she was talking because of crowdedness, uneasiness and noise, or see and read because of distance to read writing on the white board.

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2016 ELECTION: The US presidential circus has highlighted the fact that no one knows what the two main parties stand for anymore

From The Tablet Newspaper
by Charles C. Camosy

FOR many years, a simple choice between two alternatives dominated the US political agenda. But the 2016 presidential campaign marked a turning point, especially in the loyalties of pro-lifers. Their new support and new thinking means no party can take them for granted any more.

Americans have been steadily sinking into depression in recent decades, but the 2016 presidential election campaign seems to have put this trend into overdrive. I have found it difficult to watch the evening news in recent months without a segment featuring an earnest counsellor offering me tips on how I might “preserve my mental health”. And given the candidates between whom most of us believed we had to choose, this was understandable.

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump had the highest disapproval ratings of any candidates in history. Each has been plausibly accused of corruption; each cynically chose to speak or act in whatever way would put them in the best position to get elected. Clinton’s team, as classic Washington/New York City insiders, had to manipulate the system in order to defeat a wildly popular Bernie Sanders. Trump’s team, as classic celebrity outsiders, got the equivalent of billions of dollars in free media to drive a racist, anti-immigrant message that appealed to a relatively small percentage of the electorate in order to defeat an overcrowded field and win the Republican nomination.

TFF policy not prepared well:

From page 3(19)

Ms Kundap added that sicknesses such as tuberculosis (TB) could easily spread through such environment and it is difficult to monitor students to know who was sick and who was not.

“There are also too many students to go through their work individually and know if they are learning,” Kundap said.

Asked what the school is doing to address the issue Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Gerari said they could not do much because the Education Department stopped contractors from working on buildings they needed.

“Government should have built the capacity first before introduc-

ing the TFF policy so that the government itself, schools, teachers and students, parents and all stakeholders should not face unnecessary problems,” Mrs Gerari said adding they are victims of a policy that was not planned properly.

As long as there are no new classrooms Missis Dimiri, Tokave and Kundap and their Grade three students will continue to live in misery.

This is just a school in the city, it is not known what situation other schools, particularly in Kaintiba in Gulf, Karamui in Simbu and Telefomin in Sandaun province are facing.

Let’s Give Him Time, Says Cardinal Parolin on Trump

We wait to see what choices Donald Trump will make during his mandate. Let’s give him time to begin,” said the Pope’s Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, as he responded to the press asking about the declared plans of the newly elected President of the United States of America to build a wall that would seal the border with Mexico.

In an aside on the presentation of Father Antonio Spadaro’s book “My Word Is in Your Eyes,” at the

Jesuits’ General Curia, the Cardinal was reminded of the words expressed by Pope Francis on his return flight from Mexico in February 2016, when he said that building walls instead of building bridges is not Christian.

“We are all in agreement on the principles (of the Holy Father),” said Cardinal Parolin, “however we wait. Now it’s about seeing which will be the choices he will make during his mandate. Let’s give him, at least,

some days ... let’s give him the time to begin.”

The Secretary of State then confirmed what was already expressed yesterday by the Lateran about Trump’s unexpected victory. “We hope that with this election, on which positive considerations but also fears were expressed, we will be able to help peace. There is need of this today. There is need that the American leadership be committed increasingly to seeking ways

of dialogue and negotiation and resolve the many conflicts that are lacerating the world.”

According to the Cardinal, points of dialogue can be found with the Vatican, beginning with that of peace, “which should be one of the fundamental topics.” Then, “internal subjects such as religious freedom, Catholics’ commitment and attention to the most vulnerable bands of society.”

What’s at the Heart of Human Rights? Holy See Reminds the UN

At this time of the year, there is a global focus on human rights, thus this article from the Vatican at last month’s UN Human Rights session.

Posted by ZENIT Staff on 3 November, 2016

Here is the Oct. 31 statement by Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on the Promotion and protection of human rights.

Madam Chair,

I would like to extend my delegation’s appreciation for the continued dialogue over these last couple of weeks with the Special Rapporteurs and Special Mandate holders on the promotion and protection of human rights. It is my delegation’s hope that through such meaningful dialogue we can gain deeper understanding and come up with holistic responses to the global human rights challenges we face today.

At the heart of human rights is the recognition that all people are born with inherent equal dignity and worth and have a fundamental right to life, which should be upheld and protected at all stages, from conception to natural death.

Even though the reports prepared for the Third Committee’s current session recognize this fundamental right, it continues, alas, to be ignored or minimized. The right to life of the un-

born, of migrants in search of safety, of victims of armed conflicts, of the poor, of the elderly and the right to life of those facing the death penalty continues to be ignored, dismissed and debated rather than prioritized.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living[1], and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, which recognizes that the right to life concerns not only direct acts or omissions by States to deprive individuals of life but also requires that States address the “systemic deprivations of the right to life tied to poverty, grossly inadequate housing and homelessness,” thereby recommending “a discussion on the relevance and importance of the right to life for those living in grossly inadequate housing conditions and for those who are homeless.”

The growing global consensus on the need to eliminate the use of the death penalty is also a welcome step towards protecting life. As Pope Francis stated in his video message to the Sixth World Congress against the death penalty, which took place last June in Oslo, Norway, “nowadays the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person. It is an offence to the inviolability of life and to the dignity of the human person; it likewise contradicts God’s plan for individuals and society

and his merciful justice. Nor is it consonant with any just purpose of punishment. It does not render justice to victims, but instead fosters vengeance.”

An integral understanding of human rights and human dignity also requires recognition of the social, cultural, political and spiritual rights of all people. A constitutive element of these rights is the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This freedom goes beyond simple toleration and is not limited merely to the private sphere. It includes, as the above mentioned Article 18 affirms, freedom to change one’s religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one’s religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Madam Chair,

As the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief[2] highlights, freedom of religion and belief is being trampled upon and ridiculed in many parts of the world, even as we speak. People continue to be persecuted, imprisoned and at times killed purely for their religious beliefs. In some corners of the world, the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities has risen to such an extent that it constitutes a serious violation of international human rights law. In other parts of the globe, reli-

gious minorities are discriminated against for their clothing or are forced to choose between their beliefs and their employment.

Religious communities themselves are not immune to the temptation to violate the freedom of religion and belief of others. Intolerant interpretations of certain religious beliefs have led to much religious persecution. Religion becomes a source of discrimination when it is used and abused to define national identity and unity. In certain cases, a misinterpreted religion becomes an accomplice of State-induced discrimination and stigmatization in education, health-care provision and family law, and inspires bureaucratic harassment and burdensome administrative stipulations to limit the freedom of other religious groups.

Given all these forms and manifestations of violations of freedom of religion or belief, my delegation fully agrees with the conclusion of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur, that, inter alia, “the full scope of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is often underestimated, with the result being an inadequate awareness of the broad range of violations that take place in this area.”[3] Renewed and sustained attention and action to protect and promote the freedom of religion or belief is therefore of fundamental importance if we are to make meaningful gains in human rights protection and promotion.

Thank you Madam Chair.



Miss Kunda struggling to teach in a crowded library used as a classroom building.