



Teacher Time in Attendance Management introduced

By Frieda Sila Kana

THE Tuition Fee Free Education (TFF) policy of the O'Neill-Dion government which is now into its fourth year, recently launched a 'Teacher Time in Attendance Management system (TTAMS) to complement the policy throughout the Education Department and the schools in the country.

The system was launched by the Minister for Public Service, Dr. Puka Temu on Thursday 2nd June, on behalf of the Prime Minister, at the National Parliament's State Function Room in the presence of Government Ministers, Provincial Governors, Senior Education officers and senior teachers from NCD secondary and primary schools. School children were represented by a number of children from the Badili Vocational Technical School, Gerehu Secondary School, Kila Kila Secondary School and Waigani Primary School.

The system which is already being operated in the Education Department, the Teaching Service Commission and the Ministry of Education has already been tested in three schools in the National Capital District, and it has presented realistic results which showed that a lot of savings will be achieved in man hours and eliminating ghost names on the teacher pay roll.

The roll out of the system entails installation of hand punching machines in 200 schools initially by the designers of the technology, time in access



Teacher Time in Attendance Management System launched. Witnessing the launching are: L-R, Education Minister, Nick Kuman, Public Service Minister, Dr. Puka Temu and Acting Education Secretary, Dr. Uke Kombra with school children from Waigani Primary School in NCD, at the National Parliament State Function Room. Photo: Frieda Sila Kana

management system. The system is now being implemented by Government of PNG for the Department of Education, National Library, and National Archives, PNG Education Institute, Angau Memorial Hospital and National Capital District Education Services.

The TTAMS machines will be rolled out to 200 schools including secondary and primary schools in five provinces including the National Capital District, Central Province, Eastern Highlands, West New Britain and Morobe Provinces.

The TTAMS will be installing the punching machines in the 200 schools in the selected pilot provinces to monitor the attendance of teachers to the classrooms so that those who deserve to be awarded for their com-

mitment and hard work will be rewarded and those that are not committed will also be dealt with accordingly.

The General Manager for the Time & Access systems, Harry Simpson said, with the installation of this system and training of the site managers, this system will be saving millions of kina for the government.

It will also be disseminating accurate records for teachers to be paid their due in such benefits as leave fares, and other benefits for those deserving it.

It will be a complement for the Tuition Fee Free Policy which is providing materials and facilities for the children's learning but up to now has been facing issues of teacher absenteeism and ghost names on payroll.

In this system the teachers are required to register initially and then will be required to punch in their time in the morning, lunch and then end of the school hours, by putting their whole palm on the punching machine. Further to the rollout, the schools in the rural areas where there are no electricity supply, will be given solar power systems to enable the system to work on any working day.

According to the General Manager for the Time & Access systems, the government will be making a saving around K6.1 million per year in salaries by eliminating 172 ghosts on the Education payroll. As the project progresses, the Department of education further expects to benefit by an increase in atten-

dance by a minimum of 25% via monitoring and disciplinary actions, achieve further salary savings of a minimum of 20% via 'No Work, No Pay' policy, and reduce unauthorised absenteeism to less than 10% vial Leave Form Submission.

The records of the clocking in on this system will be transferred digitally to the Alesco Payroll system at the Waigani Education Payroll office where the calculations of pay and other benefits are done.

Thus any teacher who does not register during the rollout of the time & access system, he or she will be automatically off the payroll and will need to register before he or she gets back onto the payroll.

Inside:



Church musicians: It's more than a commitment, it's a lifestyle - P2

TFF payments now paid quarterly - P3



History and Progress of PNG Country Party - P4



YOUR SAY...

What is your opinion about the software production of music in PNG?

by Joshus Ururu Kana



Name: **Etna Otick**
 Age: **23**
 Gender: **Male**
 Province: **Madang**
 Work/School: **Working**
Opinion: I support software music but I do not like certain types of software music that are too computerised and cannot be played in live audience. Simple is the best.



Name: **Johnny kopi**
 AGE: **18**
 Gender: **Male**
 Province: **Gulf & Milne Bay-Central**
Opinion: I agree with software music but I would not encourage it because it hinders musical talents from being exposed. It makes professional musicians seem useless because everything is in the computer and it disturbs the course of learning in practical theory of music.



Name: **Arthur Gini**
 Age: **20**
 Gender: **Male**
 Province: **Hela**
 School/work: **Port Moresby Business College**
Opinion: I disagree with the production software music because our musicians and singers have potential to be the best at their respective areas but this type of music hinders them to move forward and makes them lazy to be creative.



Name: **Laga Aiahu**
 Age: **16**
 School: **Pom Nets**
 Province: **Central**
Opinion: I strongly support and recommend software music because in the past people spend more to record music in studios and today we have certain software music files which are more user friendly and are very cheap in making music and they have more than everything a producer needs to produce whatever style of music desired.



Church musicians: It's more than a commitment, it's a lifestyle

By Josiah Ururu Kana

MUSIC is the language of the soul, because It is the medium which one uses to glorify God and also to help others to do so.

Since ancient times, music has become one of the most vital sources of medium concerning the presence, power and the glory of God. In the church today, musicians play important roles in conducting and leading the congregation into worshiping, praising and having individual intimate communion with God.

Although all church denominations ways of worshipping God differs from the others in many ways, the basics of their morning and evening devotions are the same. Basically there is always some musical instruments and there is always a player of those instruments to guide and lead the congregation as they sing songs in their services.

The musician in any church is to play the instruments and/or vocally lead others into the devotional activities of the service. In the biblical sense, it is the privilege of having the opportunity to lead the people into the inner throne room of God.

So what kind of person a church musician should be? What does it mean to be a church musician?

There are many opinions and answers for these two questions from different outlooks of different musicians in their different and respective churches. But I will be answering these questions in the most biblical sense in order to understand the gravity of the definition of musicians in church. What



Church Musicians lead congregation to the inner throne of God in worship. Potos: Josiah Ururu Kana



does it really mean to be a representative of God in music? Many church musicians these days are compromising the principles and values of a true musician of the kingdom whether knowingly or unknowingly, and in doing so, they become no different from

the musician who is of the world. They become a "religious based musician" rather than "kingdom based musicians". Thus, there is a strict line that separates the two categories and it is the line of attitude.

It takes the right kind of attitude to create the perfect representative for God in music. So what does it mean to have the right kind of attitude? When we talk about attitude we are simply talking about the mindset and the internal motives of the believer which ultimately influences his relationship with God and men. There are musicians these days who can play music very skilfully and can sing beautifully but because they lack proper attitude, they often lead the service without the Spirit of God, meaning everything they do they literally do it in vain because of the attitude of their hearts. It is because to God, the attitude of the heart matters, and when you don't have the right kind of attitude, no matter how much sacrifices in music you make, it will never get Gods attention and that's just the hard truth which all musicians must accept.

Lucifer was sent down from heaven because of his attitude of pride. Pride in music is all about getting glory for how well you can play and sing. But with Kingdom based musicians, its all about redirecting the glory towards God. A kingdom musician's attitude should say "I am doing this for God and also to connect others to God and God to them". They must have an attitude of humility knowing that they play the music with the

assistance of the Holy Spirit to usher in the people to God in worship.

I posed a fundamental question to a young man who plays the drums at his local church. "What does it mean to serve God with your talents?" He simply answered, "Everything. It means the world to me because I find inner joy in playing the drums and seeing the audience worshipping God."

What the drummer was saying was that a true church musician finds joy and satisfaction in enabling others to worship God. Why? The worst fear of a church musician is to play and sing music only to have the congregation staring back at you without any connection.

A church bass guitarist was asked, "What does it take to be a true kingdom based musician?"

He said, "to be a kingdom musician requires commitment and devotion to God and much sacrifice." It means that in order to represent God in music, you have to be committed to your individual and group practice to be very skilful, sacrificing your time and energy to have personal devotions and daily communion with God.

A kingdom oriented musician knows that having personal times with Jehovah builds the level of anointing in one's life. A musician who constantly seeks God daily with prayer, fasting and reading of the Word is simply enhancing the capacity of Gods power in his talent.

And this principle is inevitably applied in those musicians whom God would call them as his representatives in music.



Dr. Uke Kombra, Acting Secretary for Education.
Photo: Frieda Sila Kana.

TFF payments now paid quarterly

TUITION Fee Free (TFF) will now be made quarterly and not in a lump sum as in previous years, according the Acting Secretary for Education, Dr. Uke Kombra.

Dr. Kombra made the announcement through a media release last week to inform all schools and school authorities such as the Boards of Management and Governing Councils to ensure that they do their budgets properly according to quarterly budget so that it will last them for a quarter.

He said that the National Government has appropriated K602 million in 2016

with K150.5 million to be paid each quarter. The TFF payments are disbursed according to three components: Administration – 40%; Infrastructure – 30%; Teaching and Learning – 30%.

The Acting Secretary said that all three components will be paid to all schools until such time that the arrangements for the Infrastructure component is finalized and then the Infrastructure Component will be paid into TFF Trust Accounts held at the District Treasury for the schools to access.

“The allocation for Quarter 1 has been paid out to all the

schools in January and March this year. For the second quarter, the first payment of K75.6 million has already been made and schools should be expecting their money anytime now this week,” the Acting Secretary said.

Dr. Kombra added that the first payment for the second quarter includes all sectors of education and a one-off payment for Permitted Schools and part-payment for Flexible, Open and Distance Education. A total of K62,870,207.08 Quarter 2, payment 1 is presented per sector: Elementary Schools,

K7,378,787.75; Primary/Community Schools, K25,687,570.40; Provincial High Schools, K5,941,165.08; Secondary Schools, K15,828,049.93; National High Schools, K444,276.72; Vocational, K4,144,639.70; Permitted Schools, K1,677,000.00; FODE, K1,768,717.50.

“I call on all schools to spend the money on improving the quality of teaching and learning while at the same time the school authorities must ensure to account for all the money received and spent,” said Dr. Kombra.

East New Britain- A tourist destination

By Nicky Bernard

BEING one of the major tourist destinations in PNG, Rabaul in East New Britain sees a tourist ship loaded with tourists from the world over each month.

I was fortunate to be in Rabaul recently when one of such vessels berthed into the lovely port of Rabaul popularly known as the Simpson Harbour.

From conversing with one of the tourists, I found out that all tourists intending to visit the Pacific Islands from any destination in the world make their way to Sydney, Australia first and from there, hop onto one, specifically destined for the particular island country/countries on their tour list.

So in the Pacific region, Rabaul is the first port of call by tourist ships whence from, they make their way to other regional destinations.

Last month, a big tourist vessel carrying 5,000 plus tourists visited Rabaul. Many of these are elderly people who want to see the World War 11 sights in the province.

Not only World War 11 sights, but volcanoes and the destruction caused to Rabaul Town by the 1994 volcanic eruption, and other places which hold some sort of memories for tourists.

Rabaul and Kokopo have seen some good changes as the years go by and the World War 11 remnants remain big tourists attractions.

Both Rabaul and Kokopo have one of the major tourists attraction which are the World war 11 tunnels.

These huge tunnels were dug and build by the Japanese soldiers over 70 years ago and they remain intact to this day.



TOURIST SHIP: East New Britain is one of the main tourist destinations in PNG and every month, a tourist loaded vessel calls into the province such as this one.



A DEFINITE BUY: This is what I want and I will take it, this tourist seems to be saying as she admires this Sepik bilum.



AROUND RABAUL TOWN: Tourists take a slow stroll from the market to other parts of the town.

They are a major attraction which is a must for all tourists into East New Britain. As an added incentive, landowners make it their business to decorate and cement the tunnel floor so tourists can gain access and easy movement to explore inside the tunnel.

Around the vicinity of the wharf where the tourist vessel berths, locals come in with their wares to sell to the tourists including handcrafts such as necklaces, bilums or string bags, clothes such as Meri blouses and laplaps.

People in East New Britain know



VOLCANO: Volcanoes are life threatening but at the same time too, sights of wonder as this active volcano at Matupit in Rabaul which is one of the much sought about places to visit while in East New Britain.

the schedules of the tourist ships and they gear up to it by ensuring that they have their wares ready to market and sell to the tourists.

It is important that leaders and provincial and national parliament members work together to ensure that all World war 11 relics are

clean, intact and presentable for tourists to see.

Rabaul and Kokopo townships are always clean, neat and tidy which is good for the image of the places, province and country, thus luring more tourists to the island province.

History and Progress of PNG Country Party

THERE are many political parties in PNG. Unlike other countries, PNG has many political parties, some of which are very old while others are new, and much younger. History of old political parties are most often forgotten or sometimes merely ignored, except that of the most famous Pangu Pati.

One such oldest political party that still exists today is the PNG Country Party. Its formation dates back to the mid-60s when early political thoughts developed before independence. Let us look at the brief history of the PNG Country Party.

The existence of PNG Country Party is the result of earlier political developments prior to the Independence of Papua New Guinea.

There were attempts in 1964-1968 in the formation of political parties. A meeting was held in Port Moresby and a Territory Country Party, organized along the Australian Country Party, was formed in 1967.

However, this party never entered into any election nor its leadership progressed. The connection between the Australian Country Party and political parties in PNG was through the Compass Party (later United Party).

Despite talks and media release, the Compass Party was formed in Minj, (then WHP) in 1967 by certain expatriate and indigenous Members of the House of Assembly led by Sinake Giregire, who were aligned with the farmers and planters association, the Highlands Farmers & Settlers Association Incorporated (HFSA).

Members of HFSA in Parliament were Ian Downs, Highlands Special (President of HFSA), John Watts (WH Regional), Mike Casey (Kainantu), Sinake Giregire (Goroka) (first indigenous member of HFSA).

The prominent national being Giregire and Members from Simbu and EHP.

After its formation, Tei Abal (Wabag) was appointed its leader with Giregire as Deputy.

The United Party went into 1968 Elections and returned as a force against the pro independence, Pangu Party. As the Party was conservative, most of its members were appointed ministers and vice ministers.



Matiabe Yuwi, Ross Johnson (Deputy EO), Wally Lussick, Mat Toliman, John Middleton, Alan Kerr (Executive Officer), Sinake Giregire, Donatus Mola, Tei Abal, Geoff Littler (Deputy Chairman), Paulus Arek (Chairman), and Tom Leahy.

The Party went again to the polls in 1972 and returned with self government in 1973. Tei Abal and Sinake Giregire and Paul Langro were appointed to the Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC).

The third Party was the Peoples Progress Party under Julius Chan (Namatanai). At this time, the Australian Country Party sent an officer to PNG to work on the establishment of a party. This was going on in Goroka and there were talks of a Country Party. The Country Party was formally recognized on the floor of Parliament in March 1974 under the leadership of Sir Sinake Giregire (MP for Goroka and later Daulo) and Michael Pondros (Manus).

Its policy was focused on the Eight Point Plan of the PNG Government with its emphasis on development of agriculture, sustainable use of resource, rural development and economic growth with urban centers as service centers.

The role of Country Party featured prominently in the Constituent Assembly when it took the lead in the Nationalist Pressure Group (Momis, Kaputin and Giregire) who wanted to present the CPC Report as it is to become the Constitution and on one hand, So-

mare and Pangu who wanted amendments such as dropping the Provincial Government system.

At its announcement in 1974, it had 14 members in Parliament. At the adoption of Constitution and election of the first Governor General, its leader Sinake Giregire contested with Sir John Guise to be defeated by 3 votes in 1975.

When Guise resigned to contest the National Elections, the Country Party nominated Tore Lokoloko (Kerema) who was elected the 2nd Governor General.

The Party contested the 1977 Elections with candidates in almost all electorates. Giregire had intended to contest the position of Prime Minister.

However, Pangu Party returned with majority and combined with PPP to form the Government. Country Party, together with United Party and National Party were seen as Highlands dominated Parties.

Country Party contested in 1982 Elections but lost including its leader, Sinake Giregire.

In the 1987 Elections, no candidates were returned. During the 1987-92 term of Parliament, Peter Kuman (Kundiawa) joined the Party and led the Party to the 1992 Elections but with no members returned.

The result was same for 1997 Elections, leadership the of Dekot Koki, plantation owner and former Chairman of Coffee Industry Corporation Board.

In 1997, Silas Atopare was elected Governor General of PNG. He was a Country Party Member for the Goroka Open from 1977 to 1982.

This brought some interest towards the re-organization of the Party. In 1998, some University of PNG students wanted to resurrect the ailing and historical party.

They realized that despite being recognized on the floor of Parliament and by the Electoral Commission, it did not have an administrative and operational capacity and was involved only in Parliament.

A formalized institution with its Constitution and Objectives was formally incorporated with Registrar of Associations to become PNG Country Party and its Executives were:-

President - Sir Sinake Giregire
Vice President - Samuel Si-i
Secretary - Wilson Orlegge Thompson
Treasurer - Nigel Lai
Public Officer - Thomas Solepa

In 2001, the enactment of the

Organic Law on Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates provided the opportunity as it did to other political parties to give formal and operational capacity. It was formally registered with the Commission for Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates. In 2002, it went again into the National Elections under the Leadership of Sir Sinake Giregire.

He came third in his former seat of Daulo and the new MP in Parliament was Dickson Maki, (Kompam Ambum, Enga). In 2005, Jamie Maxtone-Graham was elected in By-Election for Angalimp South Waghi, WHP and joined the Party.

The party went to the 2007 National Elections under leadership of Jamie Maxtone-Graham, MBE and returned with three Members of Parliament, Jamie Maxtone-Graham, MBE and Jim Nomane, (Chuave, Simbu) and Niuro Toko Sapia (Rai Coast, Madang, who died in office). The PNG Country Party was a minor Coalition partner in the National Alliance Party led Government.

In 2012 National Elections, the Party returned with three but one still listed as Independent being, Richard Mendani, MP (Kerema) and Jeffrey Kuave, MP (Lufa).

The Country Party voted with O'Neill as signatory to Alotau Accord. However, the Party was not rewarded with Ministry, Vice or Parliamentary Committee.

Hence, Kuave was appointed Shadow Minister for Community Development, Sports and Pacific Games.

Being a member of a political party will allow you to have a say in the running of the Party, its policies and objectives and in electing its Executives and in endorsing candidates in Elections.

It will give you a voice in the choice of candidates at elections and in at the Government level in raising policy issues.

The PNG Country Party is neither a Highlands nor any regional party but based on its ideology.

It is one of the long established Parties and has been consistent with its policy on development of agriculture, sustainable use of resource, rural development and economic growth with urban centers as service centers.