

# Can women make difference in 2017 election?

Can women candidates fare well in the June-July election? Will more women win seats in the electorates they contest and have more say in Parliament? These are important questions that people have before they cast their votes.

### Nomination

In the mean time the Electoral Commission had announced that a total of 165 women candidates have nominated for the 2017 national election.

The Commission said that this number had risen compared to figures in previous elections.

These women are amongst the 3332 candidates that have nominated to compete for various open and provincial seats.

In the 2012 election, 135 women contested out of a total of 3435 candidates and of these three (3) won seats that they contested. They are Julie Soso for the Eastern Highlands Regional seat, Loujaya Kouza for Lae Open and Delilah Gore (Sohe Open).

In the 2007, a total of 2759 candidates were registered which included 101 females and only one won. She was Dame Carol Kidu for the Moresby South Open.

As number of women candidates rise in each election, the question is, can they make a difference in this year's election with more women winning seats in the electorates they contest?

This can only be answered when people cast their vote.

For now it will be about candidates making known their policy platforms.

### Campaign

With campaigning Electoral Commissioner Patilias Gamato said under section 53 of the Organic Law on Elections, PNG Electoral Commission would arrange the printing of candidate posters within such time as the Electoral Commissioner determined after the declaration of the nominations.

This means within this week candidates should know what number they will have beside their names.

He said candidate posters would be printed in the country



Dr Sussan Andreas, one of the candidates who nominated to contest the Goroka Open seat which is currently held by Bire Kimisopa.

which would contain name of the electorate; name of the election; name of the candidate contesting the election set out in order as determined by the Order of Draw under section 59 (OLE); candidate identification number beside a candidate and in respect to a candidate endorsed by a registered political party; the name of the political party; name of the leader of the political party; photograph of the political party and in respect to a candidate not endorsed by the political party, the word "independent" and any other feature desirable by the Electoral Commissioner.

Under section 82 of the OLE, candidate posters may be displayed in adequate numbers and at such prominent places as possible for voters to consult. Candidate posters would be displayed outside the polling stations and within the voting compartments for voters to consult and identify their choice candidates to vote.

### Sign and issue of writs

In the mean time it should be known that 2017 election began when Governor General Bob Dadae signed and issued the 111 writs at the Government House, Konedobu on Thursday 20 April, 2017.

Theme for 2017 is "Your Choice Protect our Democracy." Commission Gamato said under section 105 of the Constitution, a general election to the

Parliament should be held within the period of three months.

That is before the fifth anniversary of the day fixed for the return of the writs for the previous general election.

He said the 111 seats in the National Parliament would be contested by sitting Members of Parliament and intending candidates.

There are 22 provincial electorates and 89 open electorates.

Nomination of candidates meant candidates would have begun campaigning.

### Number of Parliaments

With confusion to the number of Parliaments held Gamato said this would be the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament and not 10<sup>th</sup> as suggested by people.

He said the first Parliament was held after the 1977 General Election, after Independence.

### Electoral update

Campaign period takes eight (8) weeks which started Thursday 20 April and ends on 23 June.

Gamato said provinces had completed the updating of their Electoral Roll and preliminary rolls had been objected and verified.

The Commission said in the last 5 years from 2012, the accumulated growth rate was 15.5 per cent of the total number of eligible voters in 2012.

In 2012 Election, 4.8 million eligible voters were enlisted on the Electoral Roll.

"Our projection is that about 5.5 million people (voters) will be enrolled in the 2017 Electoral Roll and will be ready to vote," Gamato said.

### Ballot paper

"The total number of ballot papers available for use in the 2017 National Election is 10 million that is 5 million ballot papers for the provincial seats and 5 million for the open seats.

"We will issue ballot papers

according to the number of eligible voters on the enrolment figure."

Gamato said the extra ballot papers would be cancelled before they were dispatched to provinces.

"We also have generic ballot papers available for special cases but these papers will be issued only under the authority of the Electoral Commissioner," he said.

Ballot papers under section 65 of the OLE, a ballot paper would have three spaces or boxes for a voter to identify his/her preferences 1, 2, 3 either by the prescribed candidate identification number or by candidate name (or both).

"The 2017 national election ballot papers have been produced with those specifications as required by OLE," Gamato said.

"Two ballot papers will be issued during the voting period to each single eligible voter to vote.

"The blue ballot paper is for the provincial seat while the yellow ballot paper for the open seat."

### Political parties

There are 45 political parties registered to endorse their candidates.

### International observers

The international observers for 2017 National Election include the Commonwealth Secretariat, Transparency International, Department of Australia Foreign Affairs/Trade, European Union, heads of missions from countries such as Britain; US, New Zealand, China, France, Japan and the Australian National University, and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Fiji.

### Election dates

Dates for the 2017 National Election still remain as follow:

20 April 2017, issue of writs and nomination opens;

27 April 2017, close of nominations;

27 April – 23 June, Campaign

24 June – 8 July 2017, polling;

9 July – 22 July 2017, counting; and

24 July 2017, return of writs to Governor General.

## 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



# YOUR SAY...

James Kila

**JAMES G. KILA** seeks views from the general public on the streets of Madang.

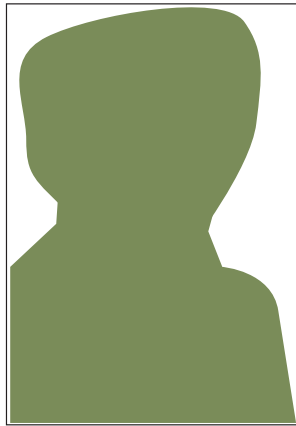
With National Elections fever hype on the streets, what do you expect of a leader and the new government comes July after the new government formation.



**POTSI SOBI**, Morobe. "I really want to see a new government that can create jobs and support local business actives to prosper. "Those jobs such as retail business of making kai bars and selling basic items should be prioritized and given only to indigenous Papua New Guineans to run and control.



**JOE TAU HANS**, Madang. "What I really want to see the new government form is to give more priority to down-stream processing of our raw material such as minerals, timber and fisheries" Hans said. He said it is better to have down-stream processing onshore to create more job opportunities for our people.



**HENETH SANGI**, East Sepik province. "Leaders who are elected to represent the people must be fair and transparent," she said. She further stated that leaders must be fair in service delivery to all the people regardless of tribal lines. "Leaders who get elected into the public office must think of everyone and not only his tribesmen, political cronies and also filling his own pockets and neglect the people they represent," she said.



**IRANDA**, Madang. "I come from a very remote area in the Nahu-Rawa LLG of Rai Coast district of Madang, and I expect the new Member for Rai Coast to seriously consider maintaining roads and bridge to my area, which are in very terrible state" he said. "Leaders during the old provincial government days when premiers rule the provinces did their best, however; leaders nowadays are not maintaining the infrastructures thus leaving them in deteriorating state.



**AWANDA**, New Ireland province, wants leaders to lend more support to the churches to reach out more to transforming the lives of people. In doing to the churches would help in spiritually converting youths so that they do not turn to lawlessness which is a big problem affecting the community and society today.



**ELIZABETH KOSIA**, Madang: "A leader elected must seriously look into addressing the infrastructure developments in remote areas of the country" she said. She said she sympathizes with people living in the hinterlands and very remote areas of PNG such as those in far-flung corners of Madang like Wanuma, Ramu and Teptep in Madang who are very disadvantaged in terms on infrastructure developments such as having bridges and roads to access services.

## Bringing the Body together the 10th time

By Frieda Sila Kana

**EARLY** last month, the "Body of Christ" a Christian alliance of churches ended a 40 day prayer fasting to see a better government coming out of the 2017 elections.

Last month on the 14th and 15th another body, the Christian Leaders' Alliance in HIV/AIDS held their first ever leadership summit at the Stanley Hotel where they met donor agencies, Civil Society and government to discuss and formulate strategies that will address the issue of HIV/AIDS, and all other issues related to it.

Then on the second last weekend of April, another of such great move of God took place in the city where the Inter-city Youth Wave (IYW) came together at the Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium to sing and dance together to praise God and to hear the Word of God from the elders in the Kingdom.

The IYW is a movement of young Christian Youths who want to see the move of God in their individual lives as well as to see change in the

nation. It started a few years back in humble beginnings where 7 youth leaders got together and decided to call for a combined church youth rally in which a few church youth groups came together, presented items, songs, drama and the Word. The move went on holding about two or three inter-city youth meetings a year until now the 10th time and the biggest crowd ever.

If you know the capacity of Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium, well that auditorium was filled to capacity and beyond. The rally which was hosted by the Scripture Union of PNG started on Friday 21st April and ended on Sunday 23rd the crowd growing every other day.

One highlight of the event was for the Scripture Union students from schools around the city, about 1000 of them congregated at the Vision City Out doors and performed a "Flash Mob" dance with the song, "Every Praise", glorifying God as the strong and mighty, awesome God.

During that time from 9am to 12pm the students preached and

then prayed for the nation and the national elections. The words of the prayers raised to God, were such of a cry from the heart for righteous kingdom nation to be birthed out of the next general elections.

An onlooker on Saturday remarked, "If these kind of movement will take place in all the centres of the country, I think the people and voters will be much better informed and be prepared to vote for the right people."

The leaders of the scripture Union PNG are older and no longer in school but are working but they have committed their lives to be volunteers in the move of the Scripture Union in the nation, mostly in the nation's capital.

The speakers for the three nights were Reverend Jacob Harry from Poreporena United Church, Pastor Derrick Benson from Rabaul and Mr. Numa, Chairman of the Scripture Union PNG. Another of such event will take place later in the year and will be hosted by Assemblies of God, Corner Stone Gateway Church at Gordons.



Youths holding hands and praying during the "Flash Mob" at Vision City.



Youths filled the Sir John Guise Indoor Stadium to capacity on three nights.

HIV/AIDS Kills, stick to one partner



# Resource-rich Western province focuses on improved service delivery

By Elizabeth Babake - NEFC

WESTERN Province is considered one of the resource-rich provinces in Papua New Guinea, according to the National Economic Fiscal Commission's (NEFC) Revenue Report, however its wide geographical area covered mostly with waterways and swampy grassland, makes service delivery difficult and expensive.

Western Province contributes to the economy of Papua New Guinea through the Ok Tedi Mine.

Despite the amount of revenues available in the Province to enable and fund basic service delivery, it hasn't been doing well as according to the UN HDI reports and NEFC report, Western Province is ranked very low in terms of performance in service delivery.

Since the implementation of the reforms of intergovernmental financing arrangements in 2008, Western Province has been receiving less amounts of function grants compared to provinces because the revenue assessed by Western Province is over 100 as per the formula in the grant calculation process under the Intergovernmental Financing Arrangements.

In 2015, revenues generated in the Province dropped below the fiscal causing the NEFC to adjust the status to a dependent province. This is what the system does to accommodate for any shortfall.

In the 2017 Fiscal Budget Report by the NEFC, Western Province status was classified as a less-resource province after seven years of being classified received a huge amount of functional grant. This increased funding now enables Western Province to ensure basic



NEFC CEO, Hohora Suve

service delivery is adequately funded.

Aside from the function grants as determined by the NEFC and allocated by Department of Treasury, there are also other streams of funding going into the province. The province is also expected to use some of its internal revenues to support these basic service delivery obligations.

On Monday 13th March, 2017 the advocacy team from NEFC comprising of Chairman/CEO Hohora Suve, Strategic Management Adviser Loyola D'Souza and Elizabeth Babake met with the acting Provincial Administrator, Gull Gorgom and his team.

The objective of the meeting is to highlight the underlying principles of reforms of intergovernmental financing arrangements in relation to the function grants and to advocate for good governance and assist the Province to re-prioritise to ensure basic service delivery is maintained given that the province now received a huge

amount of funding.

With the theme, what can you do differently, the Chairman/CEO of NEFC Hohora Suve highlighted in the presentation of the 3-year expenditure trend from 2011 to 2014, showing Western Province ranked 17th out of 20 Provinces.

This year, Western Province has received a large increase in the Function Grant, an amount of K35million from (K13 million:2016).

This funding is intended to fund basic service delivery in health, education, transport infrastructure maintenance, primary production and village courts operations.

NEFC Chairman/CEO Mr Hohora Suve, expressed concerns about the increased funding allocation to the Province in this year's budget and asked what can the Western Province do differently given the huge amount in function grant.

Mr Suve said, since the implementation of RIGFA in 2009, the streams of revenues is one of those issues that NEFC has attempted to understand about the different sources of revenues of the Western Province in order to make a near accurate estimate of the amount relevant for calculations of the grants to the provinces and LLGs.

Mr Suve said, one of the benefits of the intergovernmental financing system is that it is a sufficiently robust system which compensates a province with funding shortfalls in internal revenues whenever their fiscal capacity falls below the required fiscal capacity mark.

Western Province was receiving less amounts of funding in function grant until its revenue fell due to the drought which affected the

operations of the Ok Tedi mine.

Meanwhile the acting provincial administrator Mr Gorgom thanked the National Government for the increased funding.

He acknowledged that although Western Province is one of the resource-rich provinces in PNG, it has not been able to access these various funds earmarked for development and to help support basic service delivery.

He also attributed the low performance of the Province due to the 2015 drought which affected Ok Tedi mine's operation, and the political instability in the leadership of Provincial Administration. He added with this matter being addressed by the courts, he is now ready and focus to make a difference.

Over the years, the NEFC has attempted to understand about the different sources of revenue streams for Western Province in order to make a near accurate estimates of the relevant amount of revenues for calculations of grants to the Provinces and LLGs.

On this note, Mr Gorgom said he sees positive things happening for Western Province now that money is not an issue.

"We have got enough money. We need to connect the road to South Fly so that we can reach out to the 14 LLGs and committed for two bridges projects to be undertaken so that we can connect to the 14 LLGs for effective and efficient service delivery," he said.

He said Western Province is a big province and when it comes to service delivery, they take into account the cost of delivering basic service delivery using third level airline.

"We are working on some

strategies to convince the Government and those who are custodians of these funds for Western Province for funding to be released as part of the budgetary support," he said.

He said one of the crucial things in any negotiations is trust. This was lacking in the past and now under his leadership as the acting administrator he is determined to make a difference.

"We have money. We need to connect the road to South Fly so that we can reach out to the LLGs and the next thing is to organise for Provincial Headquarter staff to settle in," he explained.

They have approached the national Government and he is committing for his administration to fund two bridge projects that will connect to the 14 LLGs.

Considering the high cost of service delivery, his team has developed strategies to advocate and influence Government and those put in charge of revenues so that these funds can be released as part of the budgetary support to improve basic service delivery.

Every Province is responsible for ensuring that basic service delivery is carried out to benefit the majority of people in the rural communities. The NEFC Chairman/CEO made a presentation showing the downward expenditure trend of the Province.

The Provincial Administrator emphasized that with increased funding in the 2017 budget, the priority of the Province now is to maintain the current bridges, road work project.

This and other urgent matters will be deliberated on when the management team meets in Daru at a later date.

## Poem about the struggles that contribute to Child Prostitution

### Tittle; Why we sell

By Josiah Ururu Kana

SHE looked up at the drenched ceiling and wondered, "How did I end up like this, why is it so hard to survive?"

Water was dripping down on the floor of her shattered motor vehicle room, and as she slept on that old dusty wet seat mattress, she thought to herself,

"What have I done for me to be like this? Is it a crime for me to be born?" "Am I not like my other peers, who long for education, a family, and love?"

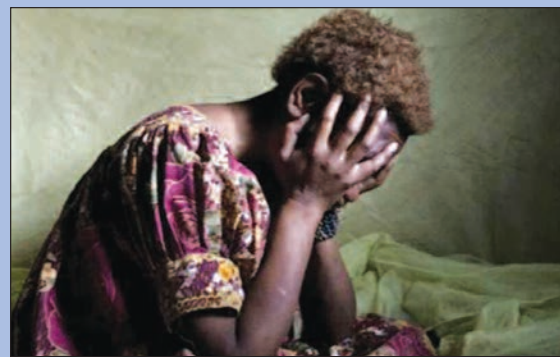
Today was tough but tomorrow

has its usual tales, whether she will be lurking in the street corners under the blistering El Nino heat,

Searching for an opportunity to steal to survive, or would she be selling retailed goods from the 'kong kongs' (Chinese retailers) to earn her daily meal,

But still, she's just a girl who needs love too. That love, the love that she senses when she sees other girls being hugged by their mothers.

Her heart usually quakes when she see such beauty, for her mother is consumed in the world



of money lust and bad perfumed politics.

And the father, well as she says "I guess he never gave a second thought when I was born because he never said goodbye,"

But here she is, with her sisters, resting away in the cold urban-

ized and tropical breeze of Port Moresby.

Their bond is not by blood but by the similar

pains and hurts they've carried, it was the rejection that binds them together,

And in that prison, she sees older girls enjoying their life, selling off their body's for a taste of fast cars, cash money and expensive hotels,

and it is at those moments she feels that ache in her tummy that one day she might end up like them,

And she says "no, no, I won't, but still, for the sake of immediate satisfaction and short term pleasure, I too long for such life as well,

For what pleasure may I enjoy, for a girl rejected by birth, and the nightmares of seeing my dead small brother.

With a mother that is 24 seven with other men in this city, I honestly don't know any other way to find happiness."



# The bests of Magic Mountain Hideaway

By Philemon Tame

**MAGIC Mountain Nature Lodge is built from bush materials and is set in a natural and lush environment that perfectly blends with the environment.**

Its architecture is based on typical Highlands' architectural design that also exposes the traditional identities of the people under the foot of Mt. Hagen and their closest neighborhood. Accommodation is self-contained cabin/bungalows with in-built toilet, shower facilities and 24 hours electricity.

The environment is quite and friendly, and would have the opportunity of walking few Kilometer to touch and feel the nature and its habitats. Also, will have a privilege to observe some of the exotic plants and birds from the balcony.

This is indeed a dreamlike experience and a perfect example of ecotourism, offering village-based tourist facilities with high emphasis on quality and standards.

Panorama of Nebilyer and Hagen valleys from Magic Mountain Nature lodge is enjoyable and

the tranquil.

The Magic Mountain Hideout as it is named is a hideout located only 20 minutes from Mt. Hagen on the Highlands Highway on the way to Enga Province.

The lodge consists of 10 self-contained bungalows.

It is definitely a must see if you are a nature enthusiast. The cool mountain air surrounded by ferns, flora, birdlife, and fresh mountain spring will immerse your senses in tranquility, a sure retreat from busyness. The lodge hideout offers adventure tours in-

cluding bird watching, adventure expedition, and cultural expeditions.

The adventure expedition includes trekking and climbing Mt. Hagen which the capital city of Western Highlands Province is named after. If you want to go trekking but want something less arduous there are alternative tracks you can choose. Regardless of where you go you are sure to be enchanted by the abundant birdlife, orchids, and the mere beauty of the surroundings.



Magic Mountain hideout is adorned with different species of orchids.



An outstanding panorama of Nebilyer and Hagen valleys from Magic Mountain Hideout.

## Long-term inmate warns youth of misery in jail



Ontop: Emmanuel with fellow inmates during the church service at Marimari Lutheran Church in Mauban village near Madang town. Photo: by JAMES G. KILA

Emmanuel Ong sharing his testimony.

By JAMES G. KILA

A YOUNG man from the Amele area in Madang currently serving a 30-year jail term has strongly urged the youth and newly married men from going to jail as it is not a good place to be.

Emmanuel Ong was sentenced by the National Court in 2013 following the killing of a man near Four Mile market in Madang. He was sentenced along with his brothers and their mother.

"Until you come to know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior while serving time in jail; then you realize God's will and your purpose in life,

"Otherwise, those who take a long time to change

will feel bitter, pain, miserable and defenseless while serving time in jail," Emmanuel said.

On Easter Sunday, April 16 Emmanuel, who is now a reformed prisoner was amongst a number of low risk prisoners both men and women who travelled out to Mauban village to attend a church service at the Marimari Lutheran Church near Gum bridge.

Emmanuel gave an emotional testimony of his own life as an educated elite, who completed tertiary institution, travelled overseas to Fiji and enjoyed a decent working life.

"However, one single incident and the terrible decision I made at that time has now led me to spending time in

jail," he said.

He strongly advised young men not to make bad decisions in their lives which would see them wasting their productive life in jail.

The Beon Prison Outreach was part of the Beon Prison Ministry outreach program being encouraged by the new Beon Jail Commander, Chief Inspector, Kosia Ban.

Emmanuel in his testimony strongly urged youths to refrain from taking home-brew and marijuana, citing that it was through home-brew that led him to commit the serious crime which eventually led him behind bars.

Emmanuel said jail is not a good place for those people who worry a lot. It is a miserable place where people

would feel so terrible. Many serve time in jail feel hopeless and have all sorts of thoughts disturbing their minds every day and night.

"I encourage you young men that jail is not a good place, so I urge you not to do any bad things against the law which would bring you to jail," he said.

"Those of you still young and newly married, I am sorry but your wife would go and marry another man while you're serving time in jail," he added.

He strongly urged the youth from Amele area to stop their bad ways of consuming home-brew and marijuana and start worthwhile and sustainable projects that would benefit them and their children in the future.