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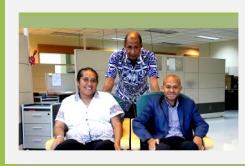
To see a responsible, transparent & accountable leadership and governmental bodies who are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of PNG

MISSION

To promote and protect the integrity of our leaders and to help improve the work of government bodies and investigate any complaints against them to ensure there is good governance, accountability, transparency and quality leadership in the public sector

VALUES

- Unity
- Impartiality
- Integrity
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Independence
- Professionalism



WASDOK

Nius

MAR - APR
2021

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION



River Kana in the Jimi district being cleared for vehicles to use.

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Highlands roads and bridges inspection drive a success

The Highlands Regional office has completed their report on the roads and bridges inspection initiative – a major proactive project that the Commission undertook in November 2020.

The project was for the Commission's Highlands Regional Office to inspect all the roads and bridges in the entire 34 district in the Highlands Region, including the

overall government services in the districts.

The initiative was birthed out of the need to ensure that there were tangible developments on the ground since a lot of funding were allocated for the roads and bridges infrastructures which have deteriorated over the past few years to the stage where they (roads and bridges) were totally inaccessible. Inspections were done in the

Baiyer Lumusa District, WHP, the Anglimp South Waghi District and the recent one being the Jimi District in the Jiwaka Province.

Inspection in Jimi was carried out from the 22nd to the 27th of November, 2020.

The district's remoteness and unforgiving mountainous terrain posed a great challenge.

However, most roads and

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“When agencies like the Ombudsman Commission make it their business to be on the ground, it prompts immediate action from the top echelons of the government”

Editorial

More inspection exercises need to be carried out by the Ombudsman Commission on government services in our districts.

The success of the recent Highlands roads and bridges inspection project proves that when agencies like the Ombudsman Commission make it their business to be on the ground it prompts action from the top echelons of governance.

In a space of 3 months after the inspection and reports were given to the necessary authorities, approximately 60km of road was constructed, upgraded and maintained and one bridge was repaired in the Jimi district.

Just imagine if we do that every year in every district we can see some tangible development happening

every year.

It is no secret in PNG that government services rarely reach some of our most remote districts but to really go on the ground to see the plight of our people brings another dimension to our efforts.

Providing accurate reports and statistics about the situation on the ground is paramount to good decision making.

If there are any government services that need to be improved it is roads and bridges as they are important infrastructure without which other services cannot easily reach our remotest areas.

Our role is to work with the government agencies to improve service delivery

efforts and inspection is an effective way forward.

However, the exercise can be costly so the Ombudsman Commission cannot do it alone. It needs the support of other monitoring agencies like Department of Implementation and Rural Development and the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs.

Perhaps a task force can be set up to do regular visits to the districts to inspect projects and assess the impact of services or lack of it.

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Inspection drive a yields success

bridges in the district were inspected, including other vital government services such as the health, education and law and order services.

A direct result of the inspection saw many of the deteriorated roads and bridges in Jimi repaired.

These are major positives outcome for the commission. The other positive outcomes

were:

- Upgrade of Warala to Jim-Waghi road
- Construction of Nonak Nol Bridge in Middle Jimi
- Repairing of Wara-mants to Kol road
- Repairing of Mala to Senga Road

Dues paid after OC intervenes

An intervention by the Ombudsman Commission saw a total of K72,000 in disadvantaged allowances paid to nine teachers of the Mirsei (Blessed Peter Torot) Primary School in the Ambunti/Dreikikir District, East Sepik Province. The allowances were paid to the teachers by the East Sepik provincial administration after the matter was brought to the attention of the Commission.



Signature smiles ... officers who signed the contracts pose for a photograph. From left standing; Matthew Kik (SLO), Tony Giro, Thaddeus Tiriman (Communications Officer), Robert Homi (Legal Officer); Sitted from left: Aroai Alu (Executive Officer), Tabitha Suwae (Counsel), and Theresa Like (Legal Officer) .



Thank you for your service ... The Ombudsman commission of Papua New Guinea thanked the following people for their services to the commission **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Antoinette Auo (15 years), Trevor Wilson (4 years), Micah Henumanu (11 years) and David Roika (9 years).





**Promoting Good Governance
and Quality Leadership**

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ABG heads of departments under-go induction

The Commission ran a one-day induction programme for secretaries and acting Secretaries of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in Buka, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) on the 10th of March 2021.

The program led by the Annual Statement Assessment Unit (ASAU) was initiated when the unit noticed irregularities in the compiling of annual statements by the various departmental heads.

The team consisted of ASAU Team Leader Jerry Korae, Director Leadership Allan Barilae and Counsel Tabitha Suwae.

Not all departmental heads attended the induction as some were in isolation and sent representatives on their behalf.

The general reception of the induction was good and participants called on the Commission to run more of such trainings in future.

Man paid K250,000 after successful mediation

A complainant received a total of K250,000 in payment for bridge maintenance services provided to the Chuave District Development Authority (DDA) in Simbu Province after a successful mediation process.

The Ombudsman Commission undertook the mediation approach pursuant to Section 218 of the Constitution to resolve the issue.

The complainant entered into a verbal (open) contract agreement with Chuave DDA, for the completion of the maintenance work done on the ten (10) bridges.

The complainant then submitted claims for payment, but the DDA refused to make the payment, claiming that the complainant (service provider) inflated the cost so they delayed the payments.

The complainant then sought the assistance of the Ombudsman Commission.

The mediation found that although the agreement between the DDA and the service provider was not formally done, the fact remained that the service had already been rendered thus a payment should be done to the service provider.

The district admitted to contractual liabilities and agreed to settle payments but at the reduced value of the claim. The complainant agreed to settle for K250,000.

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