



## VISION

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

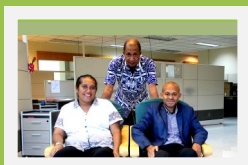
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Editorial** 2

**Claim paid after 13 years** 2

**Two senior officers leave OC** 3

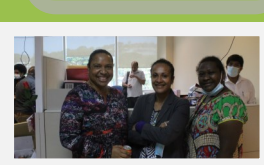
**School building project completed** 4



# WASDOK

## Nius

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2021



THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION



*The Ombudsman Commission Haus on Champion Parade, downtown Port Moresby, taking shape as the new home of the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.*

# Ombudsman Commission HQ moves to new location

**T**he Ombudsman Commission head office in Port Moresby moved from the Petromin Building in Taurama to the Era Rumana Building in downtown Port Moresby as of the 21st July 2021.

The Era Rumana Building will be renamed the Ombudsman Commission Haus in line with the move.

The Commission will occupy the entire 6-storey building and will mark the first time the Ombudsman Commission will have an entire building to

itself in its 46 years of existence.

All contact details of the commission are still the same.

***“Here in the Commission the move means the Commission now repositions itself with a fresh outlook to achieve the same vision, which is a responsible, transparent and accountable leadership and governmental bodies who are responsive to the aspirations of the people.”***

## Editorial

The Ombudsman Commission headquarters is on the move again and this time the watchdog has relocated to the Era Rumana Building (now known as the Ombudsman Haus), Champion Parade, in downtown Port Moresby where it hopes to remain for a long-term. Moving is an inevitable part of life, whether it be moving houses or offices. Here in the Commission the move means the Commission now repositions itself with a fresh outlook to achieve the same vision, which is to see a *responsible, transparent and accountable leadership and governmental bodies who are responsive to the aspirations of the people.*

A new location can bring new insights into our operations first as an organization and secondly as an individual.

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In many ways the move must be seen as a good and positive outcome for the commission for 2021 and moving forward.

The location creates a perfect base for stability, accessibility and also security for the commission staff and the Members of the Commission.

There is still a lot to be done in the last two quarters of 2021 and the new physical location has set a stable and secured base for the Ombudsman Commission to achieve its goals for the year.

The move was not all smooth sailing.

We may have our own opinions of how things could have been done better.

However, we can only focus on the positives we have learnt.

The move has taught us that:

1. Unity will get the work done.
2. No passing the buck. Take responsibility for our own self, our jobs and our organization.
3. Helping each other does wonders because where somebody is weak, the other person may be strong.

Our challenge now is to readjust our mindsets, get used to our surroundings and get down to do serious work for the commission.

## Claim finally paid after 13 years

**T**he Department of Works settled an outstanding claim for a local workshop owner after 13 years.

In 2006, the Department of Works conducted a Road Extension Project on “Wabag – Warumanda Road” in Wabag, Enga province.

During the road extension project, the development encroached into the complainant’s property, a workshop.

The complainant then wrote to Enga Provincial Government requesting a Valuer.

On 6 May 2009, a Certified Valuation Team from the Office of Valuer General Port Moresby valued the complain-

ant’s permanent structure to determine the fair market value of the workshop for compensation purpose.

A valuation report was produced by the Valuer-General at a sum of K75,062 thus the permanent structure was demolished for the road extension to take place.

On 27 September 2009, a Cheque No. 351842 worth K4000 paid to complainant as a part payment as per the valuation report.

The complainant has since been following up with no favourable response.

The complainant took the matter to the Public-Solicitor in Wabag and the Enga Rural

Police Commander for a redress and a written advise was issue by both to have the outstanding claim settled by the Enga Provincial Works Office.

That did not easily eventuate until the complainant brought the matter to the Commission.

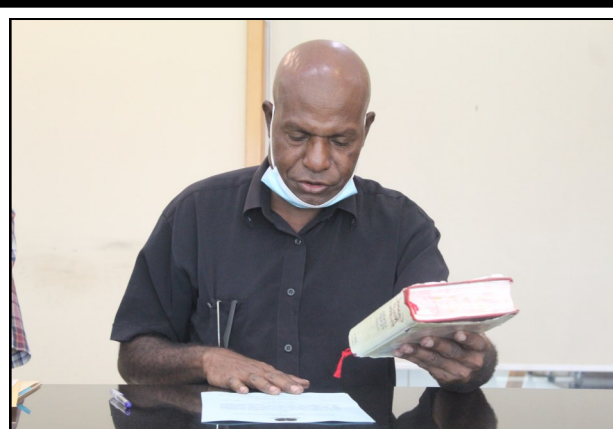




**End of an era ...** The Ombudsman Commission bid farewell to two long-serving officers in May as Human Resource Manager Dick Morehari (left) and Team Leader (Team 2) Andrew Sea both decided to call it a day after serving 21 years and 27 years respectively. Mr Morehari joined the Commission in 1999 while Mr Sea has been with the commission since 1994. Both have left with a total of 48 years of experience. The Commission would like to thank the two former officers for their services to the commission and wishes both the very best in their future endeavours as they explore life outside the Commission.



**Latter meets the former ...** Former Chief Ombudsman Chief Ila Geno, takes time to pose for a picture with Chief Ombudsman Richard Pagen during the launching of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Corporate Plan.



**New Director Legal ...** the Ombudsman Commission welcomed the new director of the Legal Services Unit Anthony Kupmain in June. Mr Kupmain joins the commission from the Public Prosecutors Office having served the other Constitutional Office for 22 years. He was the Prosecutor-in-charge of Alotau before he joined the Commission. His experienced is a bonus for the Commission as the Commission deals with the Public Prosecutor's Office and a regular basis for leadership matters. Mr Kupmain is from Angoram, East Sepik Province.



**Promoting Good Governance  
and Quality Leadership**

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## **Father's dues given after 3 years**

**T**he family of a deceased man received a total of K399,441.50 from Nambawan Superannuation Fund for their late father's contribution after the Ombudsman Commission helped them to obtain the salary history card from the National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA) - the deceased last employer.

It was found that NAQIA unreasonably withheld the late employees documents resulting in the delay of the payment to his family since 2018.

NAQIA's delay for two years had caused family disputes and unnecessary stresses for the family

The Commission after assessing had issued 21 days' Notice to the Acting Managing Director of NAQIA pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Organic Law on the Ombudsman Commission to produce the needed documents.

NAQIA provided a response to the Notice of Investigation by attaching the relevant document copies that showed the process NAQIA had undertook to clear out their late employee's files and further assured the Ombudsman Commission to fast track the Salary History Card with the family.

## **School project completed after OC initiated probe**

**T**he intervention by the Ombudsman Commission has ensured the completion of a school project in East New Britain province.

The issue of an incomplete building project at a secondary school in the Pomio district was first raised by the school principal who spoke with a crew from a local television station who visited the area.

After it was televised, it attracted further media attention and then propagated through social media where the Ombudsman Commission registered the case as an own initiative case. The incomplete building project was regarding a male dormitory project initiated and funded by the East New Britain Provincial Government under the 2019 Provincial Services Improvement Program (PSIP) Grants. The classroom costs around K750,000. On 21 October 2020, a team from the Ombudsman Commission NGL office and

the Pomio District Administration conducted inspection on the project and served a letter requesting information from the school.

Copies of the letter were also served to the ENB Provincial Finance Manager, Acting Advisor Technical Services, Manager Gazelle Restoration Authority, and to the Pomio District Administrator on 23 Oct 2020.

Information acquired from the provincial administration revealed that Waira Construction Ltd was awarded the contract and expected to complete it within 120 days.

However, the contractor abandoned the project while it was 95% complete.

Upon the Commission's preliminary enquiries, the project recommenced in November 2020 and completed in April 2021.

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