



Law and Justice Sector News

Volume: 1 Issue: 1

September - October 2003

Incorporating CS, Police, Justice and Attorney General, Magisterial Services, National Judicial Services and Ombudsman Commission



FOREWORD

By Secretary of National Planning and Monitoring and Rural Development
Valentine Kambori, MBE
Chairman of the National Committee on Law and Justice Sector Program

Welcome to the first issue of Law and Justice News. We hope to update stakeholders and others in the country what the Law and Justice Sector is doing. It is an avenue to inform, educate, and receive from people how they see our work and what we all can do towards maximizing our roles.

Law and Order is one of the first and foremost priority of the Somare-Maladina government. This was eloquently amplified when it took office in August 2002 and will continue to be. Addressing law and order issues is not an easy task, taking into account constraints, limitations, diversity of cultures and above all consistency in the implementation of some policies. The advent of the Law and Justice Sector program is a key initiative forward towards embracing the issue, but significantly unifying all our line agencies to be in a formidable and sustainable format to address this issue. I am glad that tangible outcomes has resulted from from the series of meetings, from the Justice Advisory Groups (JAG), the design and planning, the technical working group and the responses from the provinces. This is testimonial to the desire of people and the technical group and the Government to deal with the issue holistically. Consultation will be the main vehicle for the stakeholders as well as other interested parties. We are also thankful that AusAID through ACIL has been supporting this project and will continue for the next four years. I applaud the positive outcomes that have been produced over the past months and I am encouraged that this is a good impetus. We will have a long way to go yet. We all know it is not easy to solve law and order problems completely, but the commitment, the speedy processes and the positive outlook in the provinces is encouraging. That is the kind of start we need and instills a very firm pillar towards our objectives. I am confident that we can gain some mileage and it is only through the process of working together like this that we will be able to achieve that. I look forward to your continued support.



Law and Justice Sector personnel at the Kup Surrender event

SIR MICHAEL CALLS FOR COMMUNITY COALITION TO COMBAT CRIME.

PRIME Minister Sir Michael Somare has called for the establishment of a community coalition between government, community, business and civil society to help restore law and order.

"Law and order and governance problems are having serious impacts on our efforts to foster growth and recovery for the nation.

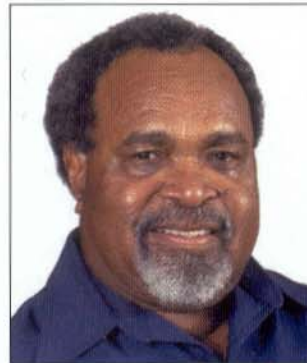
"I want to see a strong partnership between government and all other stakeholders to work together in overcoming this very difficult situation," Sir Michael said. In April this year Sir Michael announced the formation of a Law and Justice National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM). The NCM is made up of the law and justice sector agencies, the constitutional office holders and judicial leaders.

"There has been an unprecedented level of cooperation in helping to build the strategies and I look forward to strengthening the ties of all stakeholders and help build a sustainable coalition to deal with the serious problems we all face," Sir Michael said.

He said law and order was his government's highest priority and he would ensure that a strong bond was established across the region to apply the lessons learnt.

Sir Michael further applauded the National Capital District Commission's (NCDC) forums to make Port Moresby a safer city.

He said this demonstrated the



Sir Michael Somare: Committed to Law and Justice program

willingness of people to contribute in light of the widespread concern over the law and order issue in the city.

"The NCM has identified urban crime, especially in Port Moresby and security of the Highlands Highway as priorities that should receive priority funding in the 2004 Budget from my government and from donor funding," Sir Michael said.

He also added that the work of the NCM received positive feedback and had identified best practices, particularly in detecting and prosecuting fraud and corruption.

Sir Michael said the NCM proposals for Area Focused action in Bougainville and the Eastern Highlands have been well received and locally led action will commence

shortly to improve law and justice services in each of these locations. The challenge is to extend this cooperative approach to other provinces," Sir Michael said.

He also commended the work of communities, NGOs and other civic groups for their initiatives.

"Our people and societies have hundreds of years of experience in mediation, restorative justice and alternative dispute resolutions that we can and should be building on.

"My government is looking at addressing this issue in a way where all stakeholders including communities, dissect all the issues underpinning law and order to take responsibility for solutions.

"We will extend support for community based activities that support the peaceful resolution of disputes, peace and harmony in communities," Sir Michael said. He said there were no quick-fix solutions to law and order, but it was commendable to see communities and governments to see how they can best fix the problem in their own communities.

Sir Michael also thanked AusAID for its continuing assistance in strengthening the work of the sector.

"We need to ensure stability and safety in our communities. We need to show that our limited resources are making an impact. We want to return to a situation where our communities are safe and secure," Sir Michael said.