



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**SRC tables  
2013 budget  
... p3**



**Pictorial ...  
p4-5**



**Kainantu Uni  
Centre opens  
... p4 - 7**



**Research  
agreement ...  
p8**

# Night enterprising

## ... tap into half-a-million kina revenue base



**People behind the plan to initiate the night economic activity with Prof Mellam and BSP officials**

The University of Papua New Guinea plans to tap into its cash economy estimated to over half-a-million kina by embarking on night economic activities.

Vice Chancellor Professor Albert Mellam revealed this at the inauguration of the UPNG Entrepreneurship Centre recently.

Prof Mellam said an estimate of over

K500,000 in cash economy is available among students and staff but this is invested elsewhere in nearby shopping centres.

"Our aim is to tap into this significant revenue base by creating night economic activities with the students in full control of the enterprise through the Student Representative Council," he said.

The Bank South Pacific (BSP) has given an undertaking to help in the growth of the enterprise by initiating a number of activities including the provision of a retail banking service at UPNG.

According to Prof Mellam, "One of the things that we have not harnessed in PNG is the night economy. There is a huge economy in that

sector but we leave it to the informal sector.

"There is a huge sum of money circulating among students and staff that is invested elsewhere and therefore we need to create opportunities by starting a night economy to tap into that revenue base. Opening up the canteen 24-hours would start the night economy".

**To page 2**

## THE VISION

***Premier University dedicated to excellence and providing quality education, research and service to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific***

# Crocs cloning at the Nature Park

New research programme has resulted in cloning and breeding of crocodiles at the Nature Park.

It is understood this is possibly the first in Papua New Guinea

The Nature Park in its website stated that a collaborative programme with the park and the Australian institute for animals had resulted in crocodile breeding, a first of its kind in the country.

Research director Professor Mathews Lapai said the breeding was a moving sign for local scientists in the area of animal science.

"It will open a new chapter and hope for our scientist to research and discover more new things" Prof Lapai said.

The website also stated that with the recognition of the park by international research institutions and expression of interest by local universities and research institutes will increase the research program at the Nature Park.

"These improvements in research and our international standing will improve the research program to contribute more internationally and regionally," it was stated on the website.

Prof Lapai said that currently there are 20 scientists, five international and 15 locals carrying researches at the park.

He said that in March next year a dozen overseas scientists will arrive for next research program.

"We have a long term plan to (establish a) base here and research on wildlife and plants in the Pacific and Nature Park will be our research base" Prof Lapai said.

The management of Nature Park has promised to make funds available for the research programs to improve its image overseas and attract international researcher.

# BSP will establish a service centre to support idea

From page 1

It is something revolutionary for UPNG that has never been tried before. The cash economy of UPNG estimated to be over half-a-million is a lot of money the students and staff are investing elsewhere.

"We want to secure that revenue base and divert it to fund other student activities. I will support you because there is personal development value in it apart from the commercial value.

"We will work together and grow this centre – it is not only business oriented but has social dimensions particularly in assisting charity groups and taking part in community outreach programs that will win respect for students and the institution they represent," he said.

The UPNG Entrepreneurship Centre is the first of its kind for the University that will kick-start night economic life.

"One of the things that I realised almost immediately when I was appointed Vice Chancellor is that very little happens as part of the students extra-curricular activities on campus – much of the time is spent on academic activities.

"A huge potential exist amongst you of which, a large part of it diverted to less important things that build you as an individual and as budding professionals – scientists, social scientists and business entrepreneurs.

"Since taking office, Acting Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Pulapa Subbarao and I considered doing something with students. We realised that at UPNG we could create that platform for our students. There is no need for you to undertake risks to go outside of campus when you could have the facilities on

campus that provide for your needs. You already have a canteen owned by the SRC and we need to add value to it and expand into other areas," he added.

Head of BSP Rural Banking Kili Tambua and his counterpart Dennis Konu, Head of Small and Medium Enterprises representing the Bank South Pacific attended the inauguration of the UPNG Entrepreneurship Centre .

Mr Tambua said entrepreneurship had been a missing concept in academic curriculums. Graduates after getting their degrees just join organisations and workforce and get orders from someone superior because curriculums were designed in such a way that even qualified people become followers.

He commended Prof Mellam and the University for starting the concept that will prepare the students to confidently face the world of challenges. BSP will partner with UPNG to progress this initiative and already the bank management has reacted positively and given an undertaking to provide a retail banking service at UPNG.

Mr Tambua said the service centre at UPNG will be using the new technology developed and currently used by BSP to enable clients to do transactions in real-time, updating transactions immediately.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*To deliver excellent education and research results for nation building and global advancement towards an innovative and empowered society*



# SRC present 2013 budget

The UPNG Student Representative Council (SRC) tabled its' 2013 money plan of K500, 000 to the University Administration this week.

This follows the passing of the historical budget of K500.00 in its second Council meeting in the first week of March 2013.

The University Administration advised that some of the cost centers should be reviewed including that of salaries for canteen workers because mostly students will be working as shop assistants on rotation.

Vice Chancellor Professor Albert Mellam said budgets are important for all organisations and the SRC had done an excellent job in putting together the money plan.

He recommended that a review be done clearly aligning cost centres taking into account real and projected revenue sources.

The SRC commended the University Administration's decision to support student in taking ownership of SRC

Canteen to do business to generate income.

"We thank the Administration for making this possible and bringing this SRC to a next level. We strongly uphold the principle of transparency and accountability as the ingredients to good governance and look forward to do good things," said SRC president Peter Numu while presenting the budget.

According to the budget statement, revenue from projected income sources will be used to carry out activities planned by the SRC.

It listed the three income sources projection. These include K120, 000 from SRC fee; K350, 000 from the SRC canteen operations, and K30, 000 anticipated from various fundraising activities. Operation of the canteen is expected to raise bulk of the revenue totalling K350, 000 to finance the expenditure plan for the 2013 financial year.

It is anticipated that this figure will be boosted with the



**Mr Numu (in tie) flanked by executive at the presentation of the money plan**

establishment of the second and third canteens at Tumbuna Village (Southern Campus) and the other one at the Taurama Campus.

Additionally, president Numu indicated in his budget statement that the figure will be increased to more than that amount if the canteen operates during night hours as part of the night activity planned under the Entrepreneurship Centre.

This canteen is the

main financial power to carry out all the SRC programs, plans and projects.

Fundraising activities that would generate projected income of K30 000.00 include fees collected from activities in the independence celebrations, graduation fundraising drive, and other activities considered necessary by the SRC. Expenditure plan includes SRC Administration - K18, 997.00; SRC Work Plans (Programs and

Activities) – K117, 500; SRC Members Allowances – K73, 000; Canteen Seed Capital - K30, 000; Canteen Workers' Allowances – K55, 980.00; Special Purpose Committee – K3, 720.00; SRC One Year Projects – K180,000.00; and Miscellaneous – K20, 000.00

Mr Numu made a commitment to review the budget with his executives and present it to the UPNG Administration for endorsement.

## UniForce guards mend potholes

Heavy rains in the recent past have caused havoc in Port Moresby.

Potholes are springing up everywhere as a result and it is no exception at the University of Papua New Guinea. Members of the UniForce Security took time off to fill the holes leading into their base this week.





PICTORIAL - ACTIVITIES AROUND CAMPUS





**PICTORIAL - ACTIVITIES AROUND CAMPUS**



# Elton tells of his UPNG experience

As the plane, taxied its way into the terminal, one can tell this is the 'land of the unexpected' as openly proclaimed.

The environment looks mysterious when looking out from the confines of Air Niugini's Boeing 737. 'Raskol', police brutality, pick pocket, hold ups, white collar crimes, domestic violence, tribal fights and the list goes on. This is what the media portrays about PNG. These things come into mind when looking out the window. The media does not promote real life situation about PNG - friendly people with simple life style and the people's attitude of determination. Disembarking from the plane the heat gives a most welcoming hugs a visitor can get when setting foot on PNG soil. Driving past the flag poles, out the exit and slowing down at the Erima round-about and the stereotypes come back into play.

"Is it a mistake choosing to come to PNG? But I am here now and there is no turning back." I am an alien - on campus, everybody is a potential criminal, the perfect craftsmanship of the media in my head.

The media clouds my judgements causing me to alienate myself from everyone. Friends are hard to make and I just stay in; the farthest distance I can go from campus is to the shopping centre at Rainbow and back.



**Elton, a Journalism student from Vanuatu**

Other parts of Port Moresby are a no-go zone. The fear of being robbed crippled my every movement.

Orientation day comes and my whole perspective of the land of the unexpected changes.

I meet PNG students for the first time. They take me around the campus and the next day to Boroko and the city.

I tried the famous 'buai' for the first-time, mingled with the people at the markets and the street sellers at 4 Mile. Back in my room I finally breathe.

I can now put aside the ideas of being robbed or killed aside and focus on my purpose here - so study and return home with my degree from the Premier University of the Pacific. The media often portrays some of the disturbing images

about PNG abroad.

Not enough is done to portray the positive images of citizens at all levels down to the betel nut sellers, the friendly street vendors at bus stops, or the hard working mothers at the markets.

The focus of the media is on selling a story instead on trying to build a positive image. The mention of the name "PNG" overseas and the only thing in peoples mind is the stereotype the media has created.

This does not affect only normal travellers to the country but also people attempting to invest. When the media sensationalise an internal issue into a global subject, it scares away investors.

After breaking the friendship barrier, I am introduced to one intriguing way to living,

simplicity. PNG is blessed with people who have simple and easy going life style.

Interactions with other students open a new realm to my life. The people do not fuss over what to wear, what to eat, how they sleep, or the circumstances they encounter. It is business as usual every day - take whatever comes.

Papua New Guineans, like many other Pacific Islanders are God fearing people, so most families spend weekends in church while some others in their homed.

The media has turned this race of people to some of the most aggressive in the Pacific and the world. Just because someone guns another person does not mean everybody is a killer.

Everyone believes Papua New Guineans are aggressive and do not care about anyone. At UPNG, learning does not occur only in the confines of the lecture and tutorial rooms but also outside. There I learn so much more.

Another outstanding characteristic of citizens is determination, something which also adds to the life of simplicity.

Being around Papua New Guineans is being around optimists. Once a course of action is set nothing can cause them to falter.

They are determined in everything they do. Determine and positive about every situation. There is always a

solution to every situation -once it is identified nothing can cause them to falter from the course of action. These acts of determination are the things the media should report on. An old man selling peanuts to pay for his 'bread and butter', mothers selling their crafts to buy food and school fees, and the young men selling betel nut and dodging the police just so that they can have some cash to buy beer at the end of the week. It sound ridiculous, yet, they are determined and innovative to make money.

These characteristics place PNG in the forefront of other countries in the Pacific. The drive the leaders have to push the nation forward in the face of the challenges, its towering neighbour Australia, the threat foreign investors pose on the nationals and many others.

These things do not cause them to falter. What if every Pacific islanders posses this character, the determination to stand up and take action whenever a situation arises?

Yet they all stand back and believe every word the media is spreading about PNG.

No one sees the force which keeps this country moving forward.

Coming to UPNG is a blessing and learnt a lot in my four years here".



# Universities cannot accept more students

THE country's six universities cannot meet the increasing demand from students seeking university education, a University of PNG academic says. Executive director of the UPNG Open College, Professor Samuel Haihue revealed this at the opening of a new university centre in Kainantu, Eastern Highlands last week. He said that UPNG had to establish centres around the country to cater for the increasing demands. Kainantu University Centre is the 27th university centre with 26 centres spread across the country and a campus in the Solomon Islands. The new centre will

offer the same programmes offered at the main campus for students that cannot be accepted to study at the main campuses of Waigani and Taurama. Prof Haihue said they would ease the burden for the 17,000 Grade 12 students passing out every year. Usually, only 5,000 students would be given places at the main campus. "We are sitting on a social time bomb. UPNG has 13,714 students and 5,000 on campus. We have more students in the South Pacific," he said. "With the opening of Kainantu university centre, the number will increase." UPNG pro-vice chancellor Prof Kenneth Sumbuk commended



The UPNG team with Professors Haihuei and Sumbuk in Kainantu

the initiative of Kainantu District to give the people easier access to university education.

"UPNG and Kainantu will work together to ensure the centre flourishes and be successful. Kainantu

students must graduate with degrees and diploma from Kainantu, that is what I mean by success," he said.

## Tkachenko pays tuition for his students

NCD Governor Powes Parkop and Minister for Sports and Pacific Games, Justin Tkachenko made a surprise visit to the University of Papua New Guinea to deliver tuition fees for student from the Moresby South Electorate.

The money totalling K75, 768.00 is to cover tuition for 38 students from studying at the Waigani and Taurama Campuses.

Mr Tkachenko while presenting the money emphasized to the students of their purpose of being at the university.

He expect students to perform well in their studies and score good grades if they want to retain the scholarships.



Prof Mellam receiving a dummy cheque from Mr Tkachenko

# UPNG in mangrove research collaboration

The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resource (IUCN) have signed an agreement to implement a the mangrove rehabilitation program over a five-year period.

The Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably -Managed Healthy Forest (MARSH) program would be carried out jointly with IUCN's Oceanic Region office based in Fiji.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two institutions recently.

UPNG Vice Chancellor Professor Albert Mellam signed the MOA with Deputy Director General of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Dr Poul Engberg-Pederson from the Headquarters based in Switzerland.

Prof Mellam welcomed the initiative and announced his commitment the project.

He said the project has the potential to enhance human resources capacity to effectively deliver UPNG's mission and vision that fully embrace the PNG Vision 2050 in priority areas such as education and health.

Such partnership will provide confidence to our external partners that UPNG has expertise and experiences in managing such programmes and specialist areas to support the PNG, Solomon Island and Vanuatu governments.

Prof Mellam said UPNG is very particular about quality research and knowledge derived from it and prioritises the limited resources it has to core business of teaching and



**Prof Mellam (centre) and Dr Engberg-Pederson sign the MOA as Dr John Duguman look on**

research. And we welcome initiatives by external agencies to forge collaborative research packages.

Together, we can generate or information that can allow us to grow the agenda of saving the nature and natural resources for future generation.

He commended the School of Natural and Physical Sciences for being in the fore-front of the enterprise of building between the organisations.

Prof Mellam acknowledged that this is the first research partnership this year that the School facilitated for the signing of the MOA.

"This is the way to profile the discipline and the School (SNPS) and UPNG will benefit from such projects ... and we should action the MOA and

produce results immediately," he challenged.

According to Prof Mellam, knowledge derived from this type of research will also contribute to the body of knowledge that relates to the partnership theme.

Dr Engberg-Pederson said the program is essential in that it is about securing and protecting natural resources of PNG. It is also essential for the world.

He said the project will ensure that there is capacity within the community and institutions to preserve mangroves with its rich biodiversity.

In the last 30 years, Climate Change continues to challenge the leadership in all countries and PNG into seeking for solutions to manage the

impacts of atmospheric pollution as a result of enhanced greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide on planet earth. Ecosystems like the oceans, terrestrial, atmosphere and communities continue to be adversely affected in the long term.

Under the global agreements such as the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) and its treaty-The Kyoto Protocol asks developed states to assist small island states and vulnerable nations in managing this type of hazards and risk in the face of climate change and variability and especially in achieving sustainable development measures as a no "regrets" option.

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