

President of Law Society Allan Mana welcomes Dr Vergil Narokobi as a Judge of the Supreme & National Courts

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



Mr Allan Mana - PRESIDENT

Welcome to our Issue 5 of Law Tok publication.

Before I commend our Law Tok Issue 5 to you with few remarks, it is appropriate that I first congratulate former president Dr Vergil Narokobi for his elevation as a Judge to the Supreme & National Court of Papua New Guinea.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Justice John Kaumi, Justice Sinclair Gora, Justice John Numpo and Justice Paulus Dowa for their appointment to the bench as well.

May the Good Lord grant you wisdom and knowledge in your career as judges of this great nation.

It would be more appropriate for me to also thank my colleagues - the Council members of the Society for their unlimited commitment and dedication as we, together, deal with the affairs of the Society in good stead. You can be assured, Law Society is in safe hands.

Having said that, I'd like to commend to you the Issue 5 of Law Tok. There are many interesting articles to read. The publication covers some of the happenings in the legal profession, such as the opening of the legal year in various centres such as Goroka, Mt Hagen, Kimbe etc.

There's news on 'hands-on' training for judges on the IECMS and its Aims & Goals and not to mention the National Court Appeals book launching by CJ and the speeches delivered by Justice Narokobi at the ceremonial sitting.

There are also pictures of the legal year openings and several other interesting and informative

articles that will keep you abreast with what is happening around the country in the legal profession.

I'd also like to further acknowledge the secretariat of the Society for ensuring that the Society not only meet its objectives but making sure the profession is kept in good standing in the eyes of the public and its members.

I commend the work of the Secretariat. They are hardworking and always work behind the scenes.

With these few remarks, I'd like to remind us to take heed of measures put in place such as wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, observing hygiene practices and keeping up with the latest information from our authorities, including Practice Directions from the Registrar (National & Supreme Court).

I close off and commend the Law Tok Issue No 5 to you all by saying our commitment to the values of the rule of law, justice and respect for each other must prevail at all times.

God Bless & Happy Reading..



LTI trainees (15th class, 2020) at the Law Society office for interview. They graduated on 22 Jan 2021

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Allan Mana welcomes appointment of Dr Vergil Narokobi as a Judge



President of the PNG Law Society Allan Mana (right) & former president Dr Vergil Narokobi (right): **FILE PHOTO**

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The President of PNG Law Society Allan Mana welcomes the appointment of former president Dr Vergil Narokobi as a Judge of the Supreme & National Courts of Papua New Guinea.

He also congratulated the PNG Judicial Commission for appointing, alongside Justice Narokobi, Justice John Kaumi, Justice Sinclair Gora, Justice John Numapo and Justice Paulus Dowa as judges of the Supreme & National Courts of PNG.

In his welcome address in May, Mana said the growth of judges in the PNG Judiciary was to help enhance the workload that were piling up in the Courts.

“I welcome and command the 5 members of the Supreme & National Courts that on this occasion, it is fitting to acknowledge their commitments which would assist the Court to fast-track and disperse the backlog of unresolved cases.

“We acknowledge each and everyone of you for taking up the appointment as judges of the Supreme & National Courts. We recognize the important

contributions you did so far in your various jurisdictions before your appointment to this Court.

“We are glad for the commitment and dedication you gave for the judiciary from day one up to this very moment. We hope you would stand firm and do what you do best for the good and interest of our people.

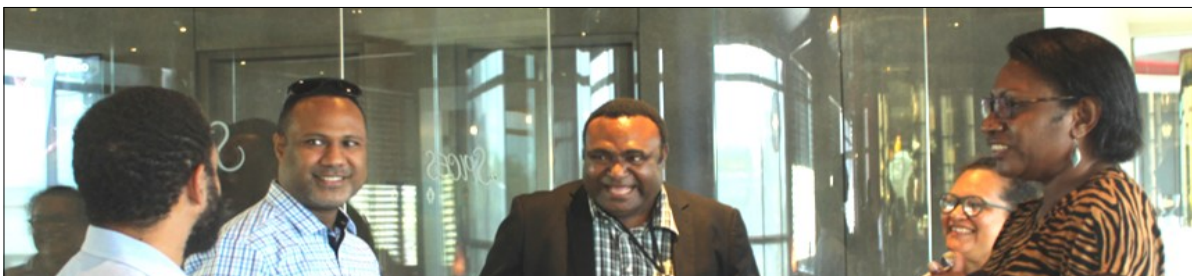
“The Judiciary who have taken the oath of alliance to the constitution to upholding the rules and principles of the rule of law must continue in good stead,” he said.

Mana also acknowledged their immediate families especially their spouses and children adding because of them, they are who they are today.

“On this occasion, we, the members of the legal profession, join the judiciary in extending our gratitude and appreciation for accepting the appointment and become part of the judicial system,” he said.

“We recognize the important contributions you did so far in your various jurisdictions”

- Allan Mana



From left: Law Society President Allan Mana, council member Emmanuel Asigau, former president Dr Vergil Narokobi, council members Christine Copland & Gertrude Tamade sharing a light moment at Narokobi's mini farewell luncheon in Port Moresby.

News: **Supreme & National Courts officially welcomes 5 judges in a ceremonial sitting**

These are 5 new substantive judges of the Supreme & National Courts. They were appointed by the PNG Judicial & Legal Services Commission in 2019 & 2020 respectively and were officially welcomed to the bench by the judiciary in a ceremonial sitting on May 28, 2021.

All pictures supplied.



Justice Vergil Narokobi



Justice Sinclair Gora



Justice Paulus Dowa



Justice John Numapo



Justice John Kaumi

Speech by Justice Vergil Narokobi at a ceremonial sitting, May 28, 2021, Port Moresby

This is a speech delivered by the former President of PNG Law Society Dr Vergil Narokobi at the Ceremonial Sitting.

Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika, Deputy Chief Justice Kandakasi, President of the Papua New Guinea Law Society Mr Allan Mana, colleague judges of the National and Supreme Court, Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, lawyers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I also acknowledge our family and friends who would like to be here but due to space restrictions are not able to attend. Many of them are viewing the ceremony online by livestream.

At this juncture I pay my respects to our colleague judges whom we have lost recently.

Let me begin by thanking the Judicial and Legal Services Commission for its confidence in my ability to appoint me for a 10-year term as a judge of the National and Supreme Court of Justice of Papua New Guinea.

It is my commitment to the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, the judiciary, and indeed to the people of this great country, in whom all power belongs, that I intend to perform my roles and responsibilities diligently and without fear or favour, malice or ill will, to the very best of my ability.

In the dark of night, the moon emanates light, showing the path to many who wonder through the night. At the beginning of each month the night greets us with a full moon and we marvel at its presence. The moon's light, however is but a radiation of the powerful and steady light of the sun.

In the same way the good that is in us, is a reflection of the light many people have shown to us.

To my parents Bernard and Regina who have given me the gift of life and inculcated in me the values which has shaped me to be the person I am today, I am grateful. Representing them are my siblings. At this juncture I also pay homage to the memory of my late brother Daniel who passed away from Covid related complications during late March this year.

I come from a village called Wautogik, part of the coastal Arapesh people of East Sepik in Dagua. My village is perched on the mountain ranges, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and is reached by the highway that connects Wewak to Aitape.

...continue p7...



Judge Vergil Narokobi then President of the PNG Law Society.

.. speech continued from p6...

There is nothing remarkable about my village, except to say that for some reason, it has produced a steady stream of university graduates who have taken on senior roles in the public sector. I acknowledge them for the simple reason that we value the importance of education.

When I made the decision to leave my Uncle Camillus Narokobi's law firm, Narokobi Lawyers in 2008 after working with him for four (4) years and benefitting from his many years of experience, to join the Ombudsman Commission, little did I know where it will take me. Then Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek, and Ombudsman John Nero and Phoebe Sangetari probably took a gamble with me to appoint me as Counsel to the Commission.

They persisted and with the support of great colleagues like Ms Tabitha Suwae, Mr Joseph Molita and Mr Richard Pagen, now Chief Ombudsman, I assumed the role. My elevation to the judiciary is in no small part due to my work in the Commission and I acknowledge my colleagues and superiors for their contributions to my career and this includes the recent past Chief Ombudsman Michael Dick.

I took time off from work in 2012 to undertake a PhD under a New Zealand government scholarship for Pacific Island students. I lived in Wellington New Zealand for almost four (4) years with my family. The cold winters of the land of the long white clouds was overcome by the warmth and friendliness of the Kiwis.

I wish to acknowledge my two supervisors Emeritus Professor Tony Angelo and Professor Joel Colon-Rios. They provided the light for me to manoeuvre through the maze of academic life to explore in my thesis the various ways in which the National Goals and Directive Principles and Basic Social Obligations of the Constitution can be implemented by the three arms of government.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Papua New Guinea Law Society. The lawyers gave me the opportunity to serve as their President and it has given me insights that will be of great benefit in my current role. Mr Mellor was a great mentor.

My colleague Judges and I have joined the judiciary at an exciting time, a time of transformation and great challenges. Papua New Guinea like many other developing countries is working hard to close the digital divide between the North and the South.

I am sure I speak on behalf of my colleague judges that we will work towards understanding these technological changes and thereby participating fully in this transformation. The principles of justice



and fairness are timeless. But the means and efficiency by which they are achieved can be aided by appropriate technology, and we therefore embrace this rewarding challenge of ensuring that technology aids the ends of justice.

As I commence my judicial career, there are many legal philosophies or schools of thought that one can subscribe to – whether one should be a positivist and apply the law as it is regardless of its consequences or is there a greater purpose behind the application of the law, such as those who follow the natural law school of thought believe.

The realists say there is no definition of law – it is what the judges say it is. I have not found my voice yet, but I have an eye open to developing a Melanesian Jurisprudence, but in the meantime, I will be aided by s 158 of the Constitution which enjoins me to give paramount consideration to the dispensation of justice in the interpretation and application of law.

In my humble opinion, there are two things that have brought this country of a thousand tongues together despite the many tremendous challenges it faces – Christianity and the Rule of Law.

I say the former simply for the reason as a matter of fact the work many of our missionaries played to build our country. I suspect that many of our founding fathers when they voted in August 1975 to adopt the Constitution, they did not fully understand what the rule of law entails. However, they probably felt an affinity to it, because it somewhat resembles the nature of our egalitarian society.

It is no small challenge therefore to keep their faith alive in the ideals of the Rule of Law as one of the basic foundations of our nation and foster confidence in our people of its ongoing relevance and necessity.

.. continue p8..

.. continued from p7..

Many of my colleagues from University of Papua New Guinea have gone on to distinguish themselves – they include George Koi, Allan Mana, Karo Maha, and Jeffrey Dademo to name a few.

The journey that I have walked to reach auspicious occasion today, has been a long one since I left the University of Papua New Guinea at the end of 1997, but I have never for one moment walked alone. My wife Grace and our children Maria, Bernard, Fatima and Xavier have walked with me.

We have walked on smooth paths, and rough ones. Many a times we climbed uphill. Sometimes we didn't know where we were going. But we walked nevertheless and we had each other's back.

The reason why we persisted is because we have God as our guide, provider, protector and our strength. To God we give glory, praise and thanks.

I join the Chief Justice to also congratulate my brother judges and wish them well.

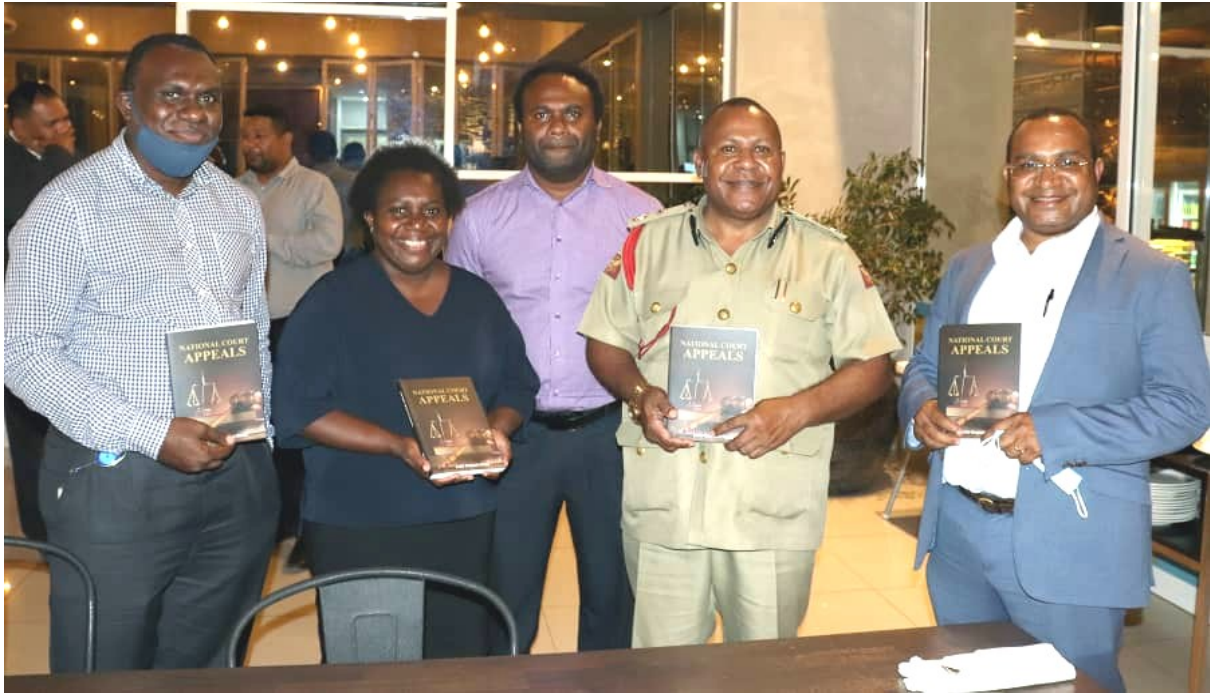


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‘National Court Appeals’ book launched



From left: Samuel Tohui, Angelyn Paranda, Leslie Mamu, Stephen Pokanis and Sam Koim.

By BRIAN JEMEJEME

The Public Solicitor Leslie Mamu who has 13 years of experience as a practising lawyer in the country has written a book entitled “National Court Appeals.”

It is an informative and valuable reference book on court appeals among other related procedures. The book is valuable and beneficial for legal practitioners, court users and people who wanted to get familiar with the appeals process.

So far, the National Court Appeals book is the fifth edition of Mr Mamu’s publications. Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika who was the main guest at the launching described the book as ‘valuable reference’ and encouraged the public and those in the legal fraternity to buy a copy each.

The book was launched in Port Moresby. The Attorney-General Eric Kwa, Correctional Services Commissioner Stephen Pokanis, Centre for Law Reform Commission Secretary Dr Mange Matui, Public Prosecutor Pondros Kaluwin, Legal Training Institute Director Angelyn Paranda, Chief Magistrate Mark Pupaka, Prof David Kavanamur, Law Society Council member and Solicitor General Tauvasa Tanuvasa, Kumul Petroleum Holdings Senior Legal Officer Samuel Tohui and Internal Revenue



Commissioner General Sam Koi were among others that attended and witness the launching.

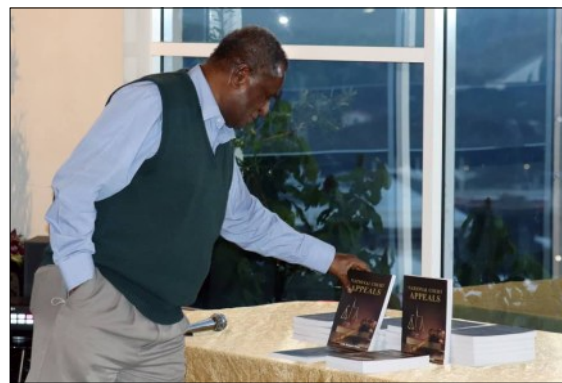
The other four books written by Mr Mamu were Supreme Court (PNG) Practice and Procedures; Law of Bail in PNG; Living your Dreams & The Human Resource.

CJ applauds Mamu for writing such an informative book that would go a long way to assist and guide the people to understand on how to go about when it comes to the court appeals for the Supreme & National Courts.

In the same sentiment, IRC commissioner Koim congratulated Mr Mamu for a job well done in all his publications.

.. more pictures of book launching on p10 ..

Book launching in pictures..



Books selling...

1. *K200 per copy – The Law and Principles of Bail in PNG*
2. *K500 per copy – Supreme Court (PNG) Practice and Procedure*
3. *K300 per copy – National Court Appeals*

Judges went through ‘hands-on’ training on IECMS

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The judges and their associates of the Supreme and National Courts went through ‘hands-on’ training on the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) at the Stanley Hotel on June 10, 2021.

The IECMS is a new data base system for the Papua New Guinea Judiciary. The development of the database of this IECMS goes back to 2019 and with a great success, it was introduced last year in March.

However, most of the judges and their associates were unable to get familiar on how to get into the system despite having their first training.

“The idea on this hands-on training is to educate all the judges for the use of the IECMS,” said Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika upon welcoming the judges, associates, court staff and the media in his opening remarks.

He said the issue of missing files and the court orders been altered or tampered with, the IECMS will ensure that does not happen.

“The moment it happens, whoever tampers with it, will be traced and face the consequences because

the system will record everything from the moment you file a case.

“We are taking the manual process and putting it into an electronic process so that the process become more fast-track and more-accurate,” said CJ.

In the old system where the manual files go missing or a document got removed, no one will know about that. “But in the IECMS system, whenever a document is lodged, it gets recorded and whoever tampers or remove it, we will know it.

“When the document is lodged and the first attention is given to it, we will know the status of it right through the progress in the system. We have set ourselves some goals to achieve through the use of IECMS if all of us get into the system,” he said.



Pictures: Participants (judges & associates) with their laptops. It was during the judges’ hands-on training on IECMS. Stanley Hotel. June 10, 2021. **Pictures by BRIAN JEMEJEME.**

Deputy Chief Justice effectively using IECMS: CJ

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

Judges and their associates were informed three judges of the Supreme & National Courts are the only ones using the integrated electronic case management system (IECMS) effectively.

This became known when Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika was encouraging judges and their associates to get familiar with IECMS at the one day Judges' 'hands-on' training on IECMS held at the Kokoda Ballroom of the Stanley Hotel on June 10, 2021, in Port Moresby.

He revealed that the most effective user is Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi including two other judges - Justice David Cannings and Justice Colin Makail but the rest of the judges are yet to get familiar with.

CJ said more judges are on the CDS (case docketing systems) and building up more cases. "And that's what the lawyers are complaining about saying after they file, its taking too long for their matters to be heard.

"We must listen to our stakeholders. The people who are using our system so that we can all work together and corporate to ensure these matters are dealt with quickly," CJ said. CDS is another case recording system in the electronic format.

Meanwhile, CJ urged all the technical officers to be hands-on on IECMS. He said the technicians have to be hands-on because they are always on the computer and using the systems more often than the judges are.

"Therefore, when a judge calls for assistance, please attend to the judge's need quickly so he/she can do what he is supposed to do.

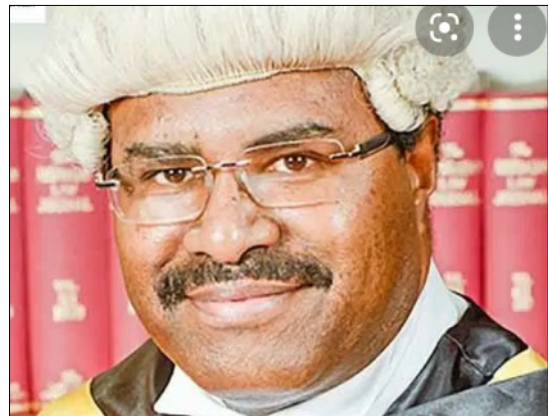
"We need the best training and our technical people should be helping us quickly whenever a judge calls for assistance in terms of using the IECMS appropriately," he said.

In attendance were associates to the judges, senior judicial staff, judges and the media.

Registrar Ian Augerea gave a brief history on the developments of IECMS while CJ gave the welcome and opening remarks. Deputy Chief Justice Kandakasi spoke on the goals, aims and the objectives of the IECMS going forward.



Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi



Justice Colin Makail



Justice David Cannings.

Photos supplied..

IECMS is intended to speed the process: CJ



Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika delivers his opening

By BRIAN JEMEJEME

With the use of Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS), the life span of all cases filed is 12 months.

Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika revealed this in a one-day ‘hands-on’ training on the integrated electronic case management system (IECMS) for judges of the Supreme & National Courts at the Stanley Hotel in Port Moresby.

He said there are many objectives of the IECMS and one of them is to have the life span for all cases filed for 12 months period and not more than that.

“So this is how the IECMS is meant to help us to achieve what we want to achieve. This program would not only assist the judges and the associates to

understand the operations of the IECMS but to get familiar with the case transition in the system once the case is filed online on the IECMS,” CJ said.

There are less than 25 thousand backlog of cases in the system and around 13 thousand civil cases are ready to be processed. Under the current system, the PNG Judiciary were unable to bring that number of backlog cases down to the manageable level.

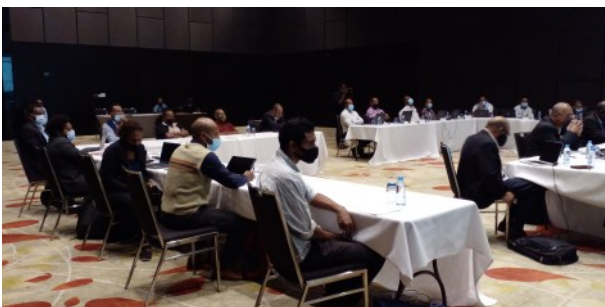
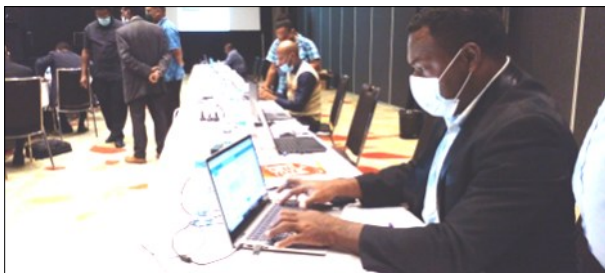
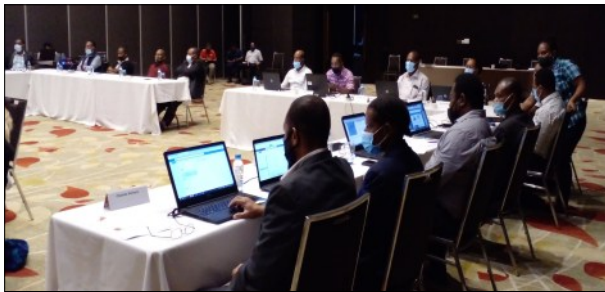
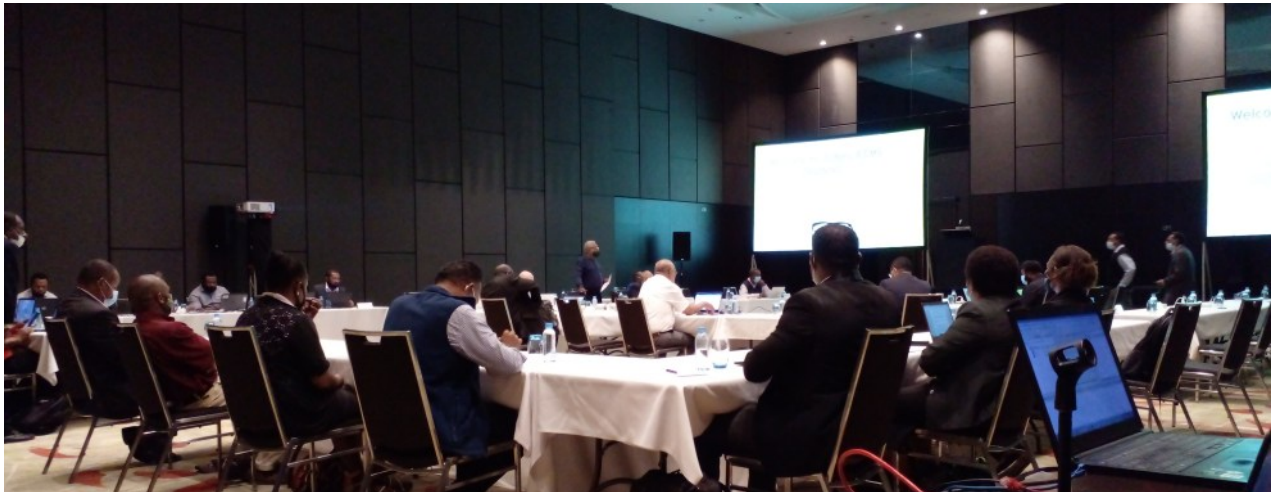
“But with the ‘hands-on’ training on the IECMS, it would be the thing of the past as the IECMS is intended to speed the process and reduce the number of backlog of cases to a more manageable level.

“The system was developed so that we can work smarter, faster and be able to dissolve the cases in a speedier manner. I am proud to say that this IECMS is going to help us in the long run to achieve our goals,” CJ said.



Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi embarks on the aims, goals and objectives of the IECMS

Judges' 'hands-on' training on IECMS in pictorial



IECMS: Integrated Electronic Case Management System

- In the IECMS system, whenever a document is lodged, the status of it gets monitored right through the system.
- The IECMS records every activities so you can follow until to the end.
- In the IECMS, you can see different activities progresses in the system.
- IECMS will expose who went and did those activities, what activities are there, what time and on what date the documents are lodged
- The IECMS steadily records every movement of lodged documents and whoever tries to tampers or remove any document in the system, it will expose you

Documents accurately monitored

IECMS is the process that centre a document/material. For instance; when a lawyer goes into the system, it starts recording what the lawyer does.

When it comes to the Court clerk who receives it and goes through the documents to clarify it and records it for registration, its recorded. When the Court clerk sends it to the registrar for his approval, its recorded. When the registrar then sends it to the registry officers to allocate it to a judge, its recorded.

When a judge goes in, its also recorded. And when he (judge) decides and refers it to another judge, it would still be recorded.

The transaction of a document in the system is based on different categories but IECMS monitors every movements steadily and more accurately.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES - IECMS



FROM



TO

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor file management<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Delays in filings- Files going missing- Documents going missing- Missing file endorsements- Hard to tell failures and responsible officers• Poor Record Keeping Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">- lack of proper capturing of data- More time and effort required- Manual extraction of data for reporting- Inaccurate records and reporting• No tangible benefit Judges in decision making<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not able to capture decisions and reasonings- Judges required to arrive at decisions without the system assisting• Unfair Distribution of Work<ul style="list-style-type: none">- some Judges overloaded- delays- No timely intervention and assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantially improve file management<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No missing files- Real time filings (24 hours turn around)- No missing endorsements- Able to detect failures and who is responsible• Better Recording and Reporting<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All relevant data captured in real time- No extra time and effort required- Accurate record keeping and reporting• Substantially assist Judges in decision making<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All decisions and reasonings captured- Artificial Intelligent capable• Fair Distribution of work<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enable fair sharing of the workload- Substantially reduce delays- Able to detect work output on daily basis and allow for assistance |
|---|--|

continue page 16

AIMS & OBJECTIVES - IECMS

FROM



TO

- **Costly Operation**

- Much paper and ink required
- File folders and associated items
- Movement of physical files
- Replacement of lost files
- Storage of current and archived files
- Duplication of paperwork for appeal and reviews

- **Corruption**

- files going missing
- Delays or backdating of filings
- Judge shopping
- No proper recording of activities on the file

- **A New and Strange System**

- IECMS will replace CDS and how we do business
- Paper files and manual records to be replaced
- Judges will be required to use the technology
- Not sure how it works
- Training required

- **Substantially Reduced costs**

- Less or little paper and ink required
- No file folder and associated's costs
- No physical movement of files
- No files lost
- No physical storage space required
- No duplication of paperwork for appeals and reviews

- **Corruption Eliminated**

- No file to go missing
- Real time filings (24 hours turn around)
- Judges Allocated
- All activities capture

- **A User-friendly System**

- This is part of the training required
- There will be ongoing personalized training as required
- You will get used to the system and be able to use it with ease.

Let us Enjoy the IECMS system

IECMS BENEFITS

The number of court locations, Judges and caseload has increased in recent years, but the backlog of cases has not reduced. Effective information management to increase efficiency to handle increasing complexity and caseload.

Use of Artificial Intelligence enabling no human interventions thus speedy case processing and closure.

Currently data delivered by manual interventions. IECMS will make it easy for data retrieval for purpose of references and referrals by the public and or Law and Justice Sector information sharing.

Statistics for reporting purposes of key metrics and indicators for purpose of planning and resource allocation by the Judiciary, Law and Justice Sector Agencies and the Government of Papua New Guinea. Currently there is no effective way of reporting on key metrics, management reporting.

Quicker hearing and case disposition and justice for aggrieved parties

Enabling confidence in the Higher Court

This confidence can boost international investors and development partners

KEY BENEFITS OF IECMS SYSTEM

E-Filing File case documents electronically, reduce the burden of paperwork and ensure that all documents are completed and filed correctly. Instantly scan and search a case by a unique QR code.

Case Workflow Management Create and modify case-flow processes and user actions on-the-fly with a built-in Workflow Designer, rapidly adapting Synergy CMS to new legal processes and procedures.

Role-Based Access Grant users field-level access to system modules based on their role within the court, ensuring the security and confidentiality of sensitive legal data.

My Workspace Interact directly with a portfolio of cases to manage, edit and take action on cases electronically. Synergy CMS provides a safe electronic file repository for online access to files, thereby preventing loss and physical damage of files.

Generate Forms & Certificates Instantly produce case documents based on predefined templates with auto-populated case information. This may include subpoenas, warrants, affidavits, orders, or decisions with support for e-signatures.

My Calendar & MS-Outlook Integration Check the availability of judges, and schedule hearings, tasks, and meetings for court staff using the My Calendar module.

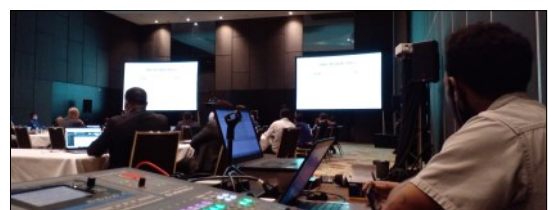
Reporting, Analytics & GIS Visualise system information with an interactive data visualisation toolkit (reports, lists, charts, and GIS maps) tracking the progress of ongoing case activities, and revealing trends, inefficiencies, or bottlenecks.

E-Payment Integration Secure e-payment module for handling payments retains all information relevant to the payment of fines, court costs and fees.

Intelligent Case Allocation Automatically allocate new cases to judges according to their existing caseload, case weight, and subject, thus ensuring an even distribution of work and reducing the time required to administer cases.



Participants at the IECMS training



“IECMS possesses suit of capabilities”

Registrar Ian Augerea



The Supreme and National Courts introduced a new case management system since 23rd March 2020. The development of this system was actually done in 2019.

This new case management system is named Integrated Electronic Case Management System or in short, its IECMS.

This IECMS possesses suit of capabilities to fully automate filing and processing of court cases and when fully implemented, it can improve the speed with which cases are processed, eliminating duplication of effort across agencies, and reducing the time required to transmit documents between institutions.

IECMS offers rapidly customisable features designed to support case filing and administration, document management, case scheduling, case tracking through workflow management, and analysis of case data.

Make use of the village courts: PPC Michael Welly, EHP



Justice William Neill chatting with lawyers as new PPC Michael Welly (right) looks on. Pictures by BRIAN JEMEJEME

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The new appointed provincial police commander (PPC) for the Eastern Highlands Province Michael Welly has encouraged the eastern highlanders people to make use of the village courts.

In an exclusive interview with Mr Welly at the opening of the Legal Year on Feb 2, 2021, in Goroka, he said the eastern highlanders must make use of the village courts when trying to solve their conflicts.

“We have witnessed the opening of the legal year. Let us do things in a more logical or appropriate manner by way of solving disputes in the village courts first. We know the law and the law is here. Let’s abide by the law,” he said.

He said let us be more responsible and be reasonable when we are trying to solve a problem in the villages or in the communities.

He encouraged all to become good citizens adding when there is a conflict, they should not rush to the high Courts but first turn to the Village Courts and solve the problem there hence if the problem escalates, then they could take up their conflicts to the District or National Courts.

“If there is a problem in terms of issues in the villages or in a community, the village courts are there. “Court system starts from the village level so we got to utilize the village court system properly first,” he said.

Meanwhile, the usual procession and the church service for the opening of the legal year did not occur but guard of honor and inspection by Justice William Neill took place in front of the Court House.

The program started at 9:30am and ended around

11:34am. Members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the Correctional Services combined and assembled in front of the Court House as Supt Welly escorted

Justice Neill for the guard of honor inspection. After the inspection, Justice Neill addressed the disciplined forces and the judicial staff to continue with the good work they are doing.

In attendance at the occasion was Law Society Council member and Deputy Solicitor General Tauvasa Tanuvasa, OIC of the Public Solicitor’s office (EHP) Vincent Agusave, the eastern highlands legal fraternity and the public.



Michael Welly. PPC, Eastern Highlands Province

“Court system starts from the village level”

See pictures on pages 20 & 21.

Goroka Legal Year Opening in pictures, Feb 2021



Goroka Legal Year Opening in pictures



Legal Year Opening ceremonies

This year, as usual, the national judiciary staff services (NJSS) hosted Legal Year Opening ceremonies in various centers and the Council members of the PNG Law Society were able to attend and meet & greet lawyers there and get their views and opinions on matters of importance concerning the legal profession. PNG Law Society also contributed some funds towards those events.

Mount Hagen - Western Highlands Province

Legal year opening in pictures



PNG Law Society also contributed some funds towards the opening of the legal year

Legal Year Opening ceremonies

Kimbe - West New Britain Province

[Legal year opening in pictures](#)



Law Society Council member Tauvasa Tanuvasa (top right) attended Kimbe's legal year opening ceremony

We owe a duty to everyone: Christobella Haro

BY BRIAN JEMEJEME

The 15th law graduating class of the legal training institute (LTI) owe a duty to everyone says Christobella Lahar.

Lahar, in her speech as the women's Class Rep said five years of hard work had finally ended and it is now up to us to do the right thing, owing a duty to everyone and do them correctly.

She said the knowledge they gained is not for them but for their families, parents, wantoks, siblings etc.

"The journey was tough. It started out in 2016 when we all met at the School of Law at UPNG. We saw each other not knowing God had a plan for us. Tough times and uncertainty was the potion for us last year – Covid year.

"It (Covid-19) was the year of change and learning, learning to adapt while maintaining the rule of law to poses and be resilient and to rise above the challenge not only facing Papua New Guinea but globally.

"Quite frankly, I have my doubts whether we would be completing classes or finishing academic year at LTI but I can tell you God has been good. All through the efforts, hard work and perseverance of the hard working staff at LTI and the corporation of the students, we were all able to pull through," she said.

She also thanked the parents and families for their support. "Your support, your encouragement, your love has brought us to this moment of faith and what I want my class to do is to feel that we owe a duty to everyone," she said.



Above: LTI Director Angelyn Paranda (seated) looks on as 15th law graduating class rep Christobella Haro prepares to deliver her speech at their graduation.

Pictures by ALPHEUSE KAVEREGARI



Left & Right: The 15th graduating class of 2021. Legal Training Institute. Their graduation was held on the 22 January 2021

The power of lawyers robe creates that great duty

Being educated as a lawyer is a different thing. Graduating out from LTI is another step forward to become a lawyer. Getting admission in the Supreme & National Courts to become an actual lawyer is exciting but when it comes to wearing the Black Robe, it has a different feeling.

The Class Rep of the 15th graduating class of LTI Christobella Lahar testifies her feeling when she first put on the Black Robe just before their graduation at the legal training institute (LTI) on the 22 Jan 2021.



Few days ago, I went to get my lawyers robe. I heard of what senior lawyers said about wearing the robe for first time and the feeling of it..... well this is how I felt it when I first tried it.

The wearing of the Black Robe on my shoulder told the heaviness of the great duty that I owe it to my people – my country, my families, my relatives, my friends my community. I had on my back not only a duty to just one particular person, family or friends, but even to the world.

I felt a sense of duty. I felt that sense to do the right thing and do them correctly. And that is what I want my class to do. I want these class, in front of all the law enforcements sitting, to feel that we owe a duty to everyone.

This is the profession where we build and be held. Some may say like superman or woman, the robe we wear is ours to keep, to protect and to serve. In the midst of change we have a duty to maintain the rule of law – the duty to the Court. The duty to the client and our people and this is the profession that God has place us all and may God help us all.

We know that without the rule of law and the maintenance of the rule of law there will be chaos. Therefore, God has sent each of us the graduands to be the guardians of the law. And as Justice Gavara Nanu says in his recent visit to LTI, 'you are the Talking, Walking living rule of law. And therefore, you must act accordingly.'

And to conclude, Ecclesiastes chapter 7 verse 8 says: "Better is the end of the a thing than the beginning thereof. And the patient in the spirit is better than the proud in spirit."

And I know we can all attest to the end of our journey which has started many years ago. This is the end and I know you are all proud and overjoyed to be sitting here.

Thank you again to giving me this time to speak. To you all, remember your duty, remember the rule of law.

15th Legal Training Institute Graduation in pictorial... Pictures: Alpheus Kaveregari



No one is above the law - nobody



Mapusaga Tanuvasa Chou-Lee (front) and others at their graduation.

Picture: ALPHEUS KAVEREGARI

By **BRIAN JEMEJEME**

The rule of law is a legal political principle or maxim, which states that nobody is above the law.

This was the message delivered by the men's Class Rep Mapusaga Tauvasa Chou – Lee at the Legal Training Institute's (LTI) 15th graduation ceremony hosted in Port Moresby on 22 January 2021.

He told the future lawyers that they must endeavor to maintain the rule of law. "But how and at what weight. The rule of law says no one is above the law – nobody," he said.

He said in order to maintain the rule of law is through accountability. "Accountability is one that not only make other people accountable for what they do wrong but we are accountable for our shortcomings, our wrongs.

"We can be transparent in our everyday dealings and maintain the integrity of the legal profession by way of certain procedures and that would be, sometimes, the longest way, or the hardest way or could be the right way. They are all the same," he said

Chou-Lee told the 15th graduating class in front of a packed crowd consisted of families, friends, peers, schoolmates among other relatives not to look at the short

cuts because the fastest way to the top can be the hardest way down.

Meanwhile, he said this was a joyful event adding some have lost loved ones along the way while studying and some had financial pressure beyond their control.

"Some had problems in their homes. Some of us struggle through. It does not make anything easier with Covid 19. This journey was very hard. But here we are. We survived.

"Our journey was made possible with the help of our families, friends and most especially the staff of the LTI under the auspicious of Ms Angelyn Paranda.

"We are not going to stop here. Today marks another of our journey uphill.

"Whatever we achieve here and push at, we are resilient. We came through a very short period of struggle," he said.

Your contributions to the Law Tok

We encourage contributions from our members. It would be good to hear from you as to how we can better disseminate information to and from you in this Law Tok publication.

Contributions can be on:

- New Act
- Judgements
- Opinions and Discussions
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Social Events, Workshops
- Book Review etc can be submitted or forwarded to;

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Rules of Court Etiquette – Courtesy to an Opponent:

- Rule 1.** Inform your opponent if you are going to be late or are unable to attend
- Rule 2.** Advise your opponent in advance if the time estimate for a matter materially changes
- Rule 3.** Respect the procedure adopted by the particular Judge or Court
- Rule 4.** Do not insult or verbally intimidate your opponent
- Rule 5.** Be courteous in correspondence if sending communications to your opponent. Courtesy to the Court Administration and Witnesses.
- Rule 6.** Dress properly
- Rule 7.** Do not attend the Judge's Chambers without opposing Counsel
- Rule 8.** Avoid improper ex parte email or other communications with a Judge
- Rule 9.** Time estimate given should be as accurate as possible
- Rule 10.** Always inform the Court promptly on settlement of a case
- Rule 11.** Lists of authorities and copies of cases should be filed and served
- Rule 12.** Speak to your opponent prior to the hearing - Conduct in Court
- Rule 13.** No mobile phones in the Court
- Rule 14.** Always have a list of material to be relied upon available for the Court
- Rule 15.** Do not take coffee, tea or food into Court
- Rule 16.** Provide your name to the Court officials
- Rule 17.** Observe the etiquette of the Bar table
- Rule 18.** The Bar table should never be left unoccupied whilst the Judge is still sitting
- Rule 19.** Speak from the Bar table
- Rule 20.** Announce your appearance
- Rule 21.** Do not interrupt Counsel
- Rule 22.** Address your opponent as "learned friend"
- Rule 23.** Address the Court properly
- Rule 24.** Never address a Judge in the second person
- Rule 25.** Address witnesses properly
- Rule 26.** Never argue with a Judge
- Rule 27.** Cite authorities and references to Judges properly
- Rule 28.** Have draft orders prepared - Courtesy to the Judge
- Rule 29.** Be absolutely punctual
- Rule 30.** Stand when the Judge enters the Court
- Rule 31.** Always bow when entering or leaving a Court which is in session
- Rule 32.** Always stand when addressing a Judge
- Rule 33.** Never interrupt a Judge from speaking
- Rule 34.** Do not patronize the Judge
- Rule 35.** Do not disparage or put down the Judge
- Rule 36.** Help the Judge
- Rule 37.** Remain silent during a ruling or judgement of the Court
- Rule 38.** Avoid the Judge out of the Court
- Rule 39.** Do not communicate with the Judge out of Court
- Rule 40.** Be gracious in defeat

notice board...

PNG Law Society Office location

For some who are still enquiring about the location of the PNG Law Society, Law Society Office is located at the; Champion Parade, Down Town, Port Moresby.
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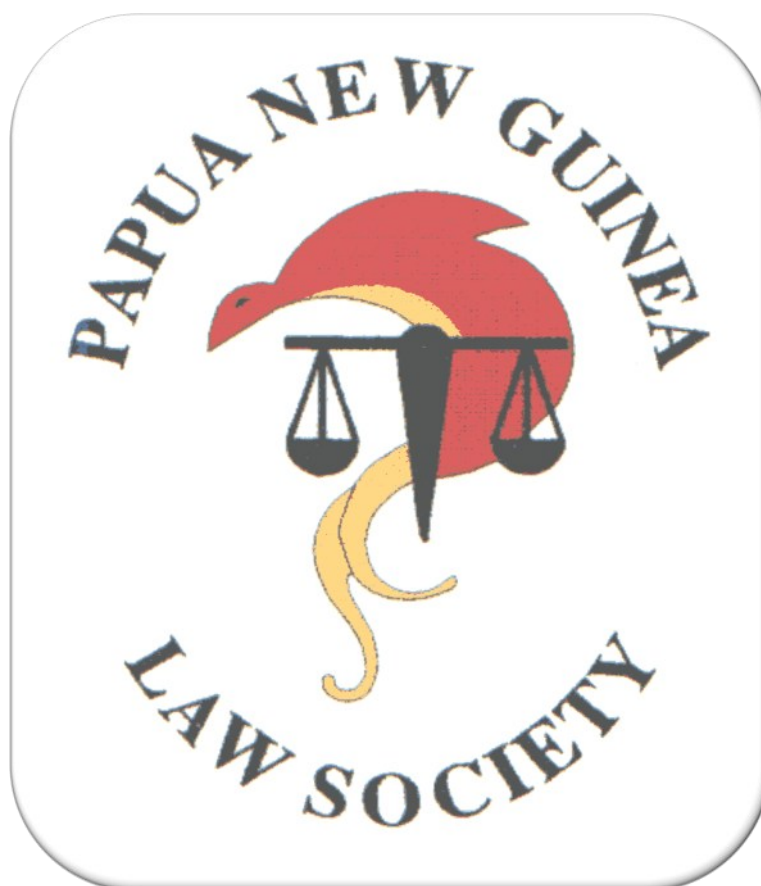
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The Law Tok publication of the
Papua New Guinea Law Society is
a drive to better inform, promote
interaction and be more inclusive
of our membership

