



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# Post-Courier



52 Pages

Monday July 12, 2004

Since 1969

Issue No. 8962

website: <http://www.postcourier.com.pg>

Air Edition K1.50



Port Moresby Edition K1.00

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## Judge says people taking law into own hands in pursuit of..

# Instant justice

By ALEX RHEENEY

**ORDINARY** Papua New Guineans were dishing out "instant justice" to criminals often resulting in death because they are sick and tired of crime, a National Court judge said on Friday.

Lamenting the increase in crime across the country affecting all levels of society, Justice Bernard Sakora said this had compelled people to take the law into their own hands and not wait for police, magistrates or judges to administer justice.

"Self-help street justice is taking place because people are sick and tired. It (crime) interferes with everything. The newspapers are full of it (and) TV screens are full of it. People are dishing out instant justice," he said.

The judge said this before sentencing David Oa Aihi and Vincent Oa Naime, from Kivoripoi village in the Central Province, to eight years imprisonment each with hard labour for armed robbery and three years each for grievous bodily harm.

The three years each for grievous bodily harm is to be served concurrently with the eight years sentence at the Bomana correctional facility outside Port Moresby.

However, Justice Sakora, noting the time the two already spent in custody deducted one year, six months and five days from Aihi's sentence and one year, four months and four days from Naime's.

They will each spend only six years, five months and three days in jail.

The National Court found the two guilty on June 30, of using violence and robbing two sisters they were related to from their own village, while travelling home in a PMV on March 30, 2002.

The court heard the PMV the two sisters travelled in made brief stopovers in Bereina and Kivorikui village, where the accused boarded and proceeded to molest the victims. They stole K120 from them after throwing their cargo out of the vehicle before their arrival at Kivoripoi.

Justice Sakora told the two convicts the court could have imposed maximum sentences.

He said they were "lucky" to be apprehended and brought to court, as the community — who are crying out for relief from criminal activities — would have dealt with them.

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**DEPARTED:** Relatives of the Tari man who was killed shortly after a fight at the Erima buai market on Friday night gather around to see his body while a spokesman addresses the crowd on Saturday morning.

## Brutal death

A TARI man is dead after a fight broke out at the Erima buai market on Friday night in Port Moresby.

Police will be conducting an investigation to establish the cause of his death. However, relatives of the victim have alleged a police officer killed him while dispatching the large crowd.

It was alleged the incident took place between 1am and 2am on Saturday after a fight broke out at the buai market. Police officers fired two warning shots in an attempt to disperse the crowd.

On Friday night, police conducted a road block around the Erima area from 6pm to 11pm and were still present around the area when the incident occurred.

An eyewitness said the 25-year-old man was with two other men when the fight broke out at the buai market and shots were fired.

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