



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Post-Courier

40 Pages Wednesday September 8, 2004 **Since 1969**

Issue No. 9003

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

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Unitech protest continues **PAGE 3**

Injury to brain incidence high - Medical Symposium **PAGE 2**

Namaliu wants to see closed missions re-opened **PAGE 3**

Ex-gaming boss

jailed

By ALEX RHEENEY

A NATIONAL Court judge yesterday decried appointments of non-qualified people to departments and authorities that resulted in the State losing money.

Justice Panuel Mogish expressed his reservations about the practise before sentencing former National Gaming and Control Board chairman Daniel Mapiria to nine years imprisonment with hard labour for misappropriating K3.188 million — through the cashing of 41 cheques between September 1998 and July 1999.

“Apart from the prisoner’s credentials that I have alluded to, there is nothing which . . . would have qualified the prisoner to be appointed to the position of chairman. Yet the Finance Minister and the National Executive Council seemed content with his appointment,” Justice Mogish said.

“They gave little or no consideration to his background and experience (and) as a result of their decision to appoint him as chairman, the State has lost K3.188 million in revenue,” the judge said in reference to then Finance Minister and former Alotau MP Iairo Lasaro’s February 1998 appointment of the Grade 6 educated Mapiria as the NGCB chairman.

Mogish critical of NEC on selection

However, Justice Mogish suspended the nine-year jail sentence saying he could not impose a custodial sentence on a “sick man”, after Mapiria’s lawyer Andrew Kwimberi submitted a medical statement dated June 21 and signed by a Dr Bennie Amoff showing that his client suffered from gouty arthritis, diabetes mellitus and chronic bronchitis.

Justice Mogish told Mapiria the sentence was suspended on the condition he paid K1 million as restitution to the State within 18 months; re-appeared in court on September 7 next year; do community work for the next five years under a probation officer’s supervision who would then furnish a report to the court, the Public Prosecutor and Mr Kwimberi every six months starting yesterday; and be placed under a good behaviour bond for five years.

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B’villeans kept busy

THE people of Bougainville celebrated two important events this week.

Yesterday, they played host to members of the Australian Federal Police who arrived in Buka to take up their appointments to work with the local police in an effort to strengthen police work on the ground.

On Monday, the province witnessed the opening of the National Literacy Week in Tinputz, a district of North Bougainville.

The launch was for Literacy Week nationwide organised by the Literacy Committee which was in Tinputz for the ceremony.

Yesterday, eight AFP officers arrived to a traditional welcome to begin their tour of duty under the Enhanced Co-operation Program between Papua New Guinea and Australia under which Australia, over the next five years will see public servants and police officers work in PNG.

DETAILS P15.

LAUNCH: School children (above) at the launch of Literacy Week in Tinputz and (below) AFP officers greeted on arrival in Buka.



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