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# Lawyer raided

## Police confiscate computer diskettes, hard drive, tapes

**CONFUSION** reigned yesterday at the Justice Department over who was its legitimate secretary as Port Moresby police raided the home of State Solicitor Isikel Mesulam and confiscated personal items.

By ALEX RHEENEY

Local police accompanied by two Australian Assisting Police officers served a search warrant on the government lawyer after lunch yesterday, searched his Gordons house and confiscated a computer hard drive, video tapes and floppy diskettes.

A copy of National Gazette No.G6 of 2005 dated January 14 obtained by the *Post-Courier* showed Mr Mesulam was appointed acting Justice Secretary from January 10 after the lapsing of Attorney-General Francis Damem's contract on January 9.

"Police are working for Francis Damem, not for the State, you see how they have come to crucify me and my family," Mr Mesulam said.

"After all these I am going to sue the State, the police and everybody," Mr Mesulam muttered outside his home while police rummaged through his family's personal belongings in search of evidence to further their investigations into allegations about an alleged pornographic tape (See report Page 2).

"Some of us sweat our guts (and) sacrifice our lives and families to serve this country and top shots hide behind money and power to do all these.

"... this thing (the investigation) has been with them (police)

for two years. What are they looking for now? I am not hiding anything, I have said let's go to court and clear this stuff (the allegations) and no, they've (police) been sitting on it," Mr Mesulam said.

NCD criminal investigations division officer in charge Superintendent Peter Guinness, who served the warrant on the lawyer was tightlipped about the search but said he was not aware the charges against the State Solicitor had been pending for two years.

When asked to comment on reports that Mr Damem got police to re-open the case against his successor, the CID boss said: "No, no, this claim is untrue.

"In fact, it all started when people in (police) headquarters directed me to find out what is happening. So I went through my section, which initially investigated this case.

"They told me it was pending. I said it would not be pending any more, we will go ahead and conduct the investigations."

Supt Guinness said the search warrant was raised a "long time" ago but they could not go into Mr Mesulam's property until he was at home.

When questioned on revelations by the State Solicitor that he paid police K1300 as a "fine" for the criminal charges that were laid against him two years ago, the CID OIC said: "No, this is news to me. He just told me here, I didn't know."



**RAIDED:** (From left) NCD CID boss Superintendent Peter Guinness and three police officers, including two members of the Australian Assisting Police, leave State Solicitor Isikel Mesulam's Port Moresby home with a confiscated computer hard drive, video cassettes and floppy diskettes. Mr Guinness served a search warrant on Mr Mesulam yesterday afternoon to comb his home for evidence as they continued their investigations into criminal charges laid against the top Government lawyer two years ago. **Picture by AURI EVA.**