



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Mental cases on the rise



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Criminals hit Digicel outlets



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Five NCDC heads suspended

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It's our day to celebrate!

STUDENTS at the Koroboro International School celebrated the country's 32nd Independence anniversary in style displaying the diverse culture and traditions of the country. It was a hectic day for children, parents and staff from the school. Theme for the day was "Independence for all – lifting the barrier of poverty, gender and race". The dance festival which started at 10.15am catered for about 18 performances from different provinces and regions coming in colours at the school yesterday. Pictured are students from the Motuan villages performing the Edioro and Tou Tou dance at the school in Port Moresby yesterday.

Picture: STEVEN PETER.

Step aside Chief!

Opposition turns the heat on Sir Michael Somare over Motigate

THE Opposition has appealed to Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare to step aside following his failed attempt to quash the findings of a PNG Defence Force board of inquiry.

Referring to the 1997 Sandline crisis when New Ireland governor Sir Julius Chan stepped down as prime minister to allow for a commission of inquiry, Opposition

Leader Sir Mekere Morauta and his deputy Bart Philemon said it was time Sir Michael "practiced what he preached" at that time and stand down over the Motigate saga.

"There is a precedent over the Sandline issue and I was in the Opposition then and we and Sir Michael (who was Opposition leader) called for Sir Julius to

stand down which eventually he did. And I think we've come to the same challenge now over this issue (Moti)," Mr Philemon said.

The two leaders said Sir Michael should step aside and allow relevant state agencies to look at the findings of the inquiry following the unsuccessful National Court battle.

"That he owes to the nation, to

the people and to himself as the founding father of this nation," they told reporters yesterday in a press conference.

They warned that Papua New Guinea was at a crossroad as the court decision showed the executive and judiciary arms of government had differing views on the Moti saga.

Sir Michael was part of court

proceedings initiated by former chief secretary to government Joshua Kalinoe and senior PNGDF officers Colonel Vagi Oala and Captain Tom Ur.

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