



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Mamose/Highlands K1.70.

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**Sir Michael to testify**



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**Britain pulls out of Iraq**



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## Daru fuel stranded

**BUSINESS** in Daru is expected to return to normal this weekend when cargo, including fuel (pictured), that had been lying idle at the Port Moresby wharf for the past four months finally arrives. Basic supplies of goods and services to Daru had ground to a halt since November leaving most supermarkets and trade stores with empty shelves. Other business houses had been unable to continue their operations. But all that is expected to change this weekend when a Steamships Shipping vessel takes the cargo to Daru on Saturday.



Picture: JOE IVAHARIA

## Finance probe tracks missing K270 million

By **TODAGIA KELOLA**

**MORE** than K270 million of public funds had been lost through payments of fraudulent, illegal and improper claims, it was revealed yesterday.

And that's just from the preliminary investigations carried out by officers of the commission of inquiry into the Finance Department. This figure is expected to increase when the commission completes its findings.

The revelation was made by the counsel assisting the inquiry, Sarea Soi in his opening address yesterday.

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# SoE vote stalls

## Government fails to muster numbers for extension, PM threatens new suspension

By **ALEX RHEENEY**

**PRIME** Minister Sir Michael Somare yesterday warned he could suspend the Southern Highlands Provincial Government again if the National Government failed to get Parliament to extend the state of emergency (SoE).

The Government needs an absolute majority of 55 MPs to extend the SoE by another two months and adjourned Parliament yesterday afternoon to 10am today in a last throw of the dice.

The current emergency lapses at 12midnight tonight. Only 48 MPs voted for the extension when it was first put to the vote in the House on Tuesday.

Failure by Parliament today to pass the two-month extension would see the SOE lapse and the suspension of the Southern Highlands Provincial Government lifted.

But Sir Michael yesterday told Parliament that he could use provisions of the constitution to suspend the provincial government

again if the SOE was lifted, despite opposition during debate in Parliament by the Southern Highlands Governor Hami Yawari, Morobe Governor Luther Wenge and Obura-Wonenara MP John Koigiri.

Under section 187F of the Constitution, arrangements could be made to re-establish a suspended provincial or local level government within nine months from the effective date of suspension.

"If we don't lift the emergency, if we don't get the support from you

members, that's OK, the emergency will still go on. We'll come back and we will tell you, that's what I want you to know. Law is there to provide us to allow us to go to nine months - even if we don't lift it now. We can suspend the provincial government; I can suspend the provincial government. The power is vested in the Constitution for us to do that so all I want to say to you, we are appealing to you, for us to extend the term," Sir Michael said.

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