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Tribunal rejects bribery offer



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Defence ammo that never came



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Aussie says he freed crocodiles

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PM hits back

Youngster's celebration bloom



BLOOMING BEAUTY: Veta Vali, aged one year and six months, may not be ready to go to school yet, but she couldn't miss the opening of four classroom buildings at Tauruba village in Rigo, Central Province. She also dressed the part as the buildings were officially opened by Governor for Central Alphonse Moroi and Member for Rigo Anderson Vele last Thursday.

Picture: GEVOKILA ALFRED

Chief heaps shame on media, declares 'Moti is a dead issue'

By ALEX RHEENEY

PRIME Minister Sir Michael Somare yesterday declared the Julian Moti saga a "dead issue" as he broke into a tirade over the focus that the media had given to the controversy.

Attempts by the Defence Force board of inquiry to get the Grand Chief to appear voluntarily to give evidence was also turned down.

Sir Michael wrote back to advise that he would not avail himself as he was not a soldier or a Department of Defence employee.

"This is an internal inquiry into the involvement of Defence personnel and civilians who are employed by the Department of Defence.

"This is not a public government commission of inquiry," he said in a letter yesterday to counsel assisting the inquiry John Kawi.

In an emotionally charged press conference at Morauta Haus, Sir Michael denied giving orders for Moti to be flown to the Solomon Islands on October 10 last year and lashed out at the media for continuing to run reports on the issue.

"I don't want to spend my valuable time, wasting my time on a foreigner who transits through and people usurp the authority that is

snapshot
SIR MICHAEL SPEAKS

- **INQUIRY:** PM informs inquiry lawyer he will not allow himself to be called to give evidence.
- **POLICE:** NEC appointment of Baki stands, and chief urges all police officers to abide by that decision.
- **PARTIES:** PM says only five people turned up at New Generation Party launch in Wewak, denies any part in cancellation.

given to them (to arrest him) — (as it was) not from National Executive Council, not from me, not from National Security Council who I am also a chairman of.

"You press have spent 90 per cent of your time writing about nothing but garbage, as far as I am concerned its garbage.

"And you have not tried to sit down with people with authority and find out and research and know what transpired.

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