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from **Post-Courier:**

Ambassador to visit B'ville

By *FABIAN HAKALITS*

THE newly appointed United States Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Teddy B Taylor intends to visit Bougainville once he has settled in the country.

Ambassador Taylor relayed the message to the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government James Tanis during the president's recent visit to Port Moresby, where he also witnessed the presentation of his credentials to the Governor-General of PNG Sir Paulias Matane at the Government House.

President Tanis said the new ambassador was continuing the good work started by his predecessor Leslie Rowe who had taken up a new appointment elsewhere.

Mr Tanis said the ambassador was keen to visit Bougainville to see the progress on the removal of old war relics from Torokina on mainland Bougainville.

The US envoy becomes a roving ambassador for his country and his duties cover other Pacific countries.

Once Mr Taylor presents his credentials to countries like the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu he will then visit Bougainville.

Meanwhile the United States will also assist and take part in the conduct of the ABG's 2010 general elections and they are among other countries who intend to observe the polling.

Mr Tanis said the observer's presence would rule out any complaints of foul play by candidates and political parties.

B'ville told to bring in peace

By *WINTERFORD TOREAS*

BOUGAINVILLEANS have been challenged to stand together in bringing everlasting peace and normalcy into the region.

To do so they should change their attitude and also contain illegal arms that people still kept.

Speaking during a peace ceremony held last week at Wakunai on central Bougainville, ABG Minister for Weapons Disposal, Peace and Reconciliation Robert Hamal Sawa said Bougainvilleans should not depend on "outsiders" to help them bring peace into the region.

"People of Bougainville should stand together in bringing everlasting peace to the region. In order to do so we should change our attitude, and also remove arms that people still possess. We must not depend on outsiders to help us," Mr Sawa said.

He is also appealing to the youths in the region to respect and look after government agency properties or any properties owned by donor funding agencies in the region.

"I am also appealing to youths in north, central and south Bougainville to look after these properties in the region. If you do bad things to these properties you are destroying those who are helping Bougainville," said Mr Sawa.

Mr Sawa singled out the new bridging project which is funded by the Japanese Government and scheduled to start next year as an example which people should "look after".

Policy to aid B'ville

A NON-Government organisation on Bougainville has launched a policy document on women, peace and security.

The Leitana Nehan Women's Development (LNWDA) recently launched the policy document in compliance with United Nations Security Council policy guidelines on women, peace and security.

The NGO group runs under the Pacific region network which includes Tonga, the Solomons and Fiji who are working to promote women, peace and security in the region.

The network focuses on strengthening policies in their countries.

LNWDA started promoting peace in 1992 based on policy guidelines providing counseling services, conducting gender and human rights workshop plus running one day workshops in village communities.

This year LNWDA conducted workshops for men only.

It is also working with other NGOs, churches and the ABG in strengthening peace building initiatives.

The network is being co-ordinated by Femlinkpacific in Suva, the Ma'afafine Moe family in Tonga, Vois Blong Mere Long Solomons and Fiji.

The United Nations Security Council has recognised Bougainville women due to post conflict situations which women in the region have gone through during the crisis.

Bougainville women feel the pain and are frustrated because the Government does not recognise their sole needs.

The policy document can help them to share their views regarding their potential life.

The ABG must also allow more women into the House of Representatives in order for them to share their daily grievances and problems.

The policy document aims to educate women to express and share their views and concerns regarding peace.

It also aims to encourage women to work together and obtain knowledge to advocate peace, women both young and old who are in post conflict areas must protect themselves.

This policy document also condemned sexual violence against women during armed conflict, calling upon all parties to conflicts to stop such violations and set up mechanisms for the prosecution and investigations of such actions.

Kieta form group for juveniles

By WINTERFORD TOREAS

KIETA district in central Bougainville has set a milestone achievement in the history of PNG following the establishment of the country's first District Juvenile Justice Working Group (DJJWG) last week.

The district's DJJWG comprises members of the police, district government and village courts officials and other stakeholders based in Kieta.

The group was set up following the completion of a weeklong juvenile justice workshop held in Arawa. The course participants numbering 15 were presented with certificates in Juvenile Justice Training-Of-Trainers Training after completing the course.

Topics covered during the workshop include:

- * INTRODUCTION to Human Rights
- * CONVENTION on the Rights of Child (CRC)
- * LUKAUTIM Pikinini Act
- * JUVENILE Justice in PNG: An Overview
- * INTRODUCTION of Juvenile Courts Act 1991
- * JUVENILE Policy and Protocols
- * PREVALENT circumstances and situations juveniles are caught up in
- * INTERESTS of Juveniles paramount
- * FUNCTIONS and roles of Juvenile Court Officers (JCOs)
- * POLICE and Courts Diversion Programs

According to one of the course participants, Evelyn Banas, they were fortunate to have undergone this workshop because it broadened their knowledge on the rights of juveniles.

"We are happy about this course that we have attended. We now know many things about the rights of juveniles. Many of these things, especially about the rights of juveniles, we had not known of before," Mrs Banas said.

"We should not blame children if they commit crime. Instead parents are responsible and should be blamed. If children do anything wrong then this shows that parents are illiterate about their roles and responsibilities," Mrs Banas said. The workshop which was funded by UNICEF was facilitated by probation officer Martin Tisivua from the Buka court house, Arawa police commander Senior Sergeant Herman Birengka and Fiona Harepa of Arawa-based UNICEF office. Senior Sgt Birengka, who is also the chairman of the Kieta DJJWG thanked UNICEF for funding the course, adding that without their support this workshop would not have eventuated. It is very important that people in the villages know about juvenile justice.

Electricity to reach rural Bougainville

By FABIAN HAKALITS

BOUGAINVILLE is planning to have round-the-clock power available to rural villages in the Autonomous Region in the future.

The Bougainville Administration announced that the Government was committed to extending its power services to other parts of the region.

Bougainville's Acting Chief Administrator Puara Kamariki made this announcement during the launching of the Tsitalato Rural Electrification Project in Buka on Friday.

He said the Tsitalato rural electrification project was one of the first of its kind in Bougainville and the agreement set a precedent.

He said the services were to be linked to other areas of the but due to funding indications projects would be extended to other parts of Bougainville using a phase by phase approach.

Some of the power supply projects being undertaken and for which funds have been paid to PNG Power Limited are:

* BUKA power supply submarine cable project:

This project involves the installation of the new power supply submarine cable linking Kokopau township and Sohano Island to the Buka Town power supply, construction of the Kokopau power distribution system, rehabilitation of the Sohano island power distribution system and the extension of power supply system from Bonus to parts of Selau.

* REGIONAL centre power supply rehabilitation project:

This involves construction of the Arawa and Buin power stations as well as building of power supply generating capacity. Work on these power stations is expected to start soon.

* DISTRICT power stations rehabilitation and reconstruction:

Funds for Kunua and Tinputz District power stations have been released to PNG Power Ltd and work on these power stations should start early next year.

Scoping of other district power stations has been carried out and construction work will be done next year.

STUDIES on alternative and renewable energy sources:

Feasibility and design studies are nearly complete for the proposed Ramazon hydropower project. This project once developed and becomes operational, will supply power to communities within the North Bougainville region including Selau, Tinputz and Buka Island.

Studies on the Togarau hydropower project have been completed and funds have been committed by PNG Sustainable Development towards the construction phase of the project and construction work will start when all technical details have been finalised.

Feasibility and design studies on the Mivo and Siribai River basins in South Bougainville will be conducted next year with funding support through the District Services Improvement Program.

The three hydropower projects once developed will have their distribution systems inter-connected to provide a Bougainville-wide grid to allow all communities, either urban or rural, to have access to power supply.

"These are long term visions and aspirations and with perseverance, commitment and cooperation from political leadership, the bureaucracy and the people, this dream will become a reality in the future," he said.

From a broader perspective, the rationale behind the provision of electricity services to the people is to help improve their general living standards, enhance a vibrant economic base hence prosperity and self reliance both for the people and ABG and create employment opportunities for the youths now and in the future in enhancing the effective delivery of basic services to the people of Bougainville.

Preparing for the festive season



CHECKING: Buka police have already started their Christmas and New Year operations following the launching of their police operation codenamed "Operation Tonsu Hois, Tonsu Moun" (meaning East to West) last week. Since the launching, they have been beefing up their manpower to conduct foot beats in and around the vicinity of Buka town. They have also been conducting roadblocks to check PMVs and other vehicles travelling to town. This is to ensure that these vehicles are roadworthy, and are driven by licensed drivers. The police manning the roadblocks have been very strict by thoroughly checking every vehicle that passes through the checkpoint, which includes their own fleet. Pictured are constables Chris Makoe, Boas Boin and James Gis checking the license of a New Zealand police officer yesterday.