



# Department of Finance Newsletter



Issue No.3, October, 2022



**Public Accounts Committee review meets**  
Quality and compliance review on the 2019 Public Accounts

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**Hardwork pays off for Amos**

Amos graduates with Masters of Business Administration in Kalinga University, India.

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## Secretary's Kona



**DR. Ken Ngangan OBE PhD CMA CPA Secretary**

*In this edition, we focus on transparency, good governance and accountability but most of all looking at systems and process to see where the risk is and fix it through established audit committees, thus the Department is ensuring that all state agencies receiving public monies remain accountable, so it gives confidence to stakeholders and the public on what we are doing especially in the Public Service.*

*Furthermore, we also continue to see success stories of DoF graduates from our various training programs including the rise of intake of graduate trainees for work experience in the Department from various educational institutions across the country.*

*With those remarks, I thank you all, especially for the patience that was exercise in us managing a situation that was unaware of in the equivalence of technology during the ICT restoration process.*

*Finally, I wish all the fathers in the Department a 'Happy Father's Day'.*

# Corporation Launches Audit Committee



(L-R) Deputy Auditor General Lemecki Illa, SMEC Managing Director Petrus Ralda, Deputy Secretary Sub-national Sam Penias and SMEC officers during the launching at Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby.

Department of Finance has congratulated Small & Medium Enterprises Corporation (SMEC) for the establishment of the Audit Committee which was officially launched last Friday. (23 September, 2022)

With the launching of SMEC Audit Committee brings the total to 56 Audit Committees launched so far since its establishment in 2005.

First Assistant Secretary Tom Tiki said, the Department of Finance is ensuring

that all State agencies receiving public monies must have an audit committee.

He further stated that Audit Committee is in placed to strengthen our country's democracy by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector through financial reporting, thereby building public confidence.

Deputy Secretary Sam Penias who was there to officiate the launching thank Internal Audit, stakeholders and the officers responsible for running this



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# Quality reflects good governance: Ngangan



L-R Secretary Ngangan and Deputy Secretary Operations Stephen Nukuitu sharing insights on the 2019 Public Accounts as Ms Ah Ben takes the committee through the presentation.

Quality and timely submission of the Public Account reports are paramount reflecting compliance and good governance as stipulated in the Public Finance Management Act. Secretary Ken Ngangan addressed this to the Public Accounts during the quality review meeting of the 2019 Public Accounts in Port Moresby mid this year. Secretary Ngangan said the Public Accounts have deadlines to meet and it must be prepared within that time frame. "Whilst we want to meet deadlines, the reports we compile or submit must be of quality. Quality reflects good governance." The quality review meeting derived from the recommendation report from the



Auditor General's Office for the 2019 Public Account. The report identified errors and also noted recommendations for improvements. DoF facilitator Thomasina Ah Ben went through the report with members of the Public Accounts Committee including other concerned divisions of the department. Despite noting issues raised in the report, Ms Ah Ben encouraged the committee to have proper reporting of revenue that must be accurate and be of quality to avoid and or maintain the system process going forward. "The report reflects on what has been done and we must take ownership of areas that needs improvement for a better financial reporting." The review was taken to determine the extent to which the departments and agencies are complying with its requirements and the extent to which DoF monitors compliance with set guidelines and Financial instructions. The AGO also recommended the Department must perform its own quality review before submission of the Public Accounts.

program. He said with this audit program it gives confidence to stakeholders and the people on what we are doing especially in the public service. "The purpose of this committee is not to find fault but to make sure the system and processes within any government organisation works well. And adds value to the service that we provide to people of Papua New Guinea." "We talk about transparency, good governance and accountability but most of all looking at systems and processes to see where there is risk. And so we fix it through the establishment of audit committee." he said. "I want to challenge SMEC to have regular meetings in ensuring that the committee is active and carrying out its responsibilities. SMEC managing director Petrus Ralda said The internal audit committee will guide us to ensure we do everything right. He said to do the right thing comes down to individual as we owe it to our people occupying public offices. "Every state agency should not only abide by rules, protocols but also to maintain creditability and integrity. And most importantly business ethnics and our obligation to the 8 million people of Papua New Guinea," he said. The Department is thankful for its stakeholder partner Auditor General Office for being there since the establishment of the committee. And is keen to establish audit committee to all state agencies. Since the establishment of the program in 2005 a total of 56 Audit Committees were established, National Departments-22, Statutory Bodies-18 and PHA-1 5.



From left to right: The delighted trio- Ms Flavia Pasi, Mr Nenne Esau & Ms Maryanne Varage posing with their laptop gifts at the cake cutting.

# Department praised for staff development

The basic tenet for human resource management and development is that the people working in an organisation are its greatest asset for achieving organisational objectives. Department of Finance has and is continuing to assisting its staff including other government agencies excel in raising skills and knowledge levels, improving self-esteem and confidence in various roles through the Departmental sponsorship and support. Like many others, three officers from the Internal Audit & Compliance Division had a warm congratulatory reception led by FAS Tom Tiki and staff in August for completing Bachelors & Masters accounting programs in various institutions. Officer Nenne Esau graduated this year with a Bachelor of Public Finance & Accountancy program under a MoU between DoF and UPNG, an initiative of Secretary Ken Ngangan. Whilst officers Flavia Pasi and Maryanne Varage acquired off-shore studies in Australia. Ms Flavia Pasi graduated with Masters of Professional Accounting at the University of South Australia last December and Ms Maryanne Varage graduated with Bachelor in Business (Accounting) from Southern Cross University, Australia (on-

shore program facilitated by IBS). **Mr Nenne Esau:** "I joined DoF in 2004, late January with a Certificate from PILAG in Business Development, (then Administration college). It was after 12 years I attended Port Moresby Business College (2016-2017) for my Diploma in Accounting, of course sponsored by DoF, then now a Degree from UPNG. On behalf of my family and myself, I say thank you. In any organization, training and development is an important function to achieve overall Management Corporate Objectives. "From the Divisional perspective, it gives IACD an added edge and strength to lead and coordinate divisional activities to support DoF Management achieve its



overall Corporate Objectives. Therefore, I say thank you and acknowledge IACD, OSD and DoF Management for the recognition and consideration of an IACD candidate to under-go the 2-year Bachelor of Public Finance & Accountancy (BPFA) program at UPNG.

**Ms Flavia Pasi:** "I would like to add on that every individual has shortcomings and training and development helps employees iron them out. If shortcomings and weaknesses are addressed it is obvious their performance improves. It amplifies their strengths and acquire new skill sets which they may utilise in the growth of the organization and also transfer knowledge to other staff. "And finally, I would like to say that with patience, humbleness and strong-will through the Lord, no obstacles will halt anyone to achieve another milestone in life."

**Ms Maryanne Varage:** "I would like to thank FAS Tom Tiki, IACD Management and the Department as a whole for the support towards me acquiring this Bachelor of Business - Majoring in Accounting successfully. "This achievement now places me in a position to add more value and professionalism to produce quality and efficient work output. I am grateful for the Department's focus in upskilling workers through on-going training opportunities and I believe this investment will go a long way in enhancing my aspirations and meeting required competency and skill levels to ensure I contribute meaningfully to achieve goals and objectives of the Department. In recognition for successfully completing their programs, the officers were given a laptop each, something they never expected but a kind gesture from the IACD team as a way of rewarding officers to do more and better in delivering divisional outputs to support DoF Management.





# IFMS Restoration update

The Department of Finance has given full update on IFMS and indicated the system is malware cleaned and is now open for use.

Secretary Ken Ngangan said this during IFMS restoration meeting with all government agencies on IFMS at the APEC Haus in June (24th).

“We’ve made considered efforts and secured the operating environment. As of last week we opened up the IFMS to the national departments, statutory authorities, PHAs, provinces and districts.

“IFMS is now open. All we now require is for you to connect back into the system. And that you should be able to do it yourself in your various department and agency. “Of course we have been faced



The IFMS technical team with Deputy Secretary Support Services Magaret Tenakanai at the IFMS restoration meeting last June.

with the issues of connectivity, this is not Finance issue, rather the internet service provider.

“Within these constraints, the direction now is for you as a department, statutory body, PHA, provinces and districts to have yourself connect back online (IFMS). “And we should be able to do that easily. By the end of next week, we

should have all national agencies come back onboard IFMS.

Secretary Ngangan reminded the agencies to work together in making IFMS work effectively.

“IFMS is the official (Government of Papua New Guinea) budgeting and accounting system and it has not change and it will not be for a very long time.”



*Happy Father's Day*

*The Department of Finance salutes all male officers for the important role they play as fathers. Secretary Ngangan thanked them and said “let me cut this cake to signify the great effort that we fathers contribute to our families, to the nation building and the world as a whole.”*

# Commitment and perseverance pays off

The journey of going aboard studying was a childhood dream that came true for Amos Mandawi when he recently graduated with Masters of Business Administration with Dual Specialisation of Finance & Economics in Kalinga University, India.

“I believe that the only way to get a better life is through education and if others can do it I can do it one day,” says Amos. Amos hails from one of the remotest district in Papua New Guinea from Purenii village, Koroba Kopiago Electorate in Hela Province.

“In my province, conflicts and tribal fights seems to be happening every day and has become normal to the community affecting many school aged children to have access to basic education.

“I was strong to beat all odds to complete my primary education from 2002-2009 at Purenii Primary School, Hela and secondary education at Tari Secondary from 2010-2022.

“It was unfortunate for me where at a tender age of two my parents divorced and leaving me behind with my aunt who was kind enough to look after me.

“There were many struggles and challenges living without my parents but the thing that kept me going was education.

“After a long day at school, a tiring walk home, and as usual living with relatives I have to do some house chores first before I have my dinner. Because of the long distant to and from school whenever I have free time I get to complete all my homework and assignments.



(L-R) Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan congratulated Mr Mandawi for his achievement.

“While in school I had one of my uncle working in Port Moresby who usually go home every holiday. Every time when I see him in the village I remind myself that one day or maybe someday I will be like him.

“Being a typical village kid, the dream of going to Port Moresby is hard, but I reminded myself that I will see the Capital city of Papua New Guinea if only I do well in school.

“Fast forward, that little village boy’s dream of going to the big city came through when I was selected to Pacific Adventist University for the Bachelor of Accounting Program in 2014.

“It was tears of joy as the struggles and hard work pays off for me. “I took the plane and came to Port Moresby.

“I thought life would be easier in the city however it turned out to be more challenging trying to cope with the city life and studying.

“Sometimes I thought of giving up but when I look back I have come a long way and I have to complete the journey.

After four years (2014-2017) Mandawi graduated at the Pacific Adventist University with Bachelor of Accounting. This was a big win for him so far.

After graduating, Mandawi began his job search and was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to join Department of Finance through the graduate development program in 2018 as an Accountant.

“While working my dream of studying overseas never died so I told to myself I will give a try. “In 2020 I was privilege to be given the opportunity to study in Kalinga University in India doing Master of Business Administration for two and half years.

“Throughout the course of my MBA programme at Kalinga University, I lived in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, New Delhi Mumbai INDIA, travelled to nine other countries, met amazing people from all over the world. All of this has led me to achieve my ultimate goal.

“I want to thank the Department under the leadership of Secretary Dr Ngangan for giving me the opportunity to pursue my education to that highest level.

“I am ready to give my best back to the Department and service my people.

“It has been a pleasure sharing my MBA experience with you all.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- PFO/ DFO regional workshop
- Financial Information Forum
- DoF 2023-2027 Corporate Plan workshop
- PFO/ DFO restructure & recruitment



*Putting together a newsletter is a team work. Please advise the team if you have any upcoming events at your respective division. See Communications & Reporting Team at OSD*





# Officers joins the rest of the nation in celebrating 47th Independence



Team FRDC



Team OSD



*Pictured are some of the officers during the pre-independence celebration held in the respective divisions*