



Business & Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As 2011 draws near to a close, we reflect on some of our achievements so far this year. We have awarded over 230 scholarships to young women and girls attending schools and institutions all throughout the country. By the end of the year we will almost achieve our target of 300 scholarships for 2011.

The Women's Advisory Centre (WAC) has been a success since it became operational in July this year, helping and advising many women, who are employed, self-employed or full-time mothers. The workshops are educational and mind-opening for the participants and continue to give advice and direction for many women who are accessing its services. Well done Val and Dia our hard-working WAC team and we are happy to announce that our major sponsor of the WAC, the British High Commission has made known its intention to continue its sponsorship again.

In our September meeting we had the pleasure of having a very inspirational young woman from the Gulf Province. Ms Julie Hulama spoke of her achievements and experiences studying in Australia and her passion for books which earned her two masters. She hopes to use her second masters to help her

local community who are directly affected by the PNG LNG Project.

At our October meeting, Ms Sisa Kini, Social Impact Coordinator with Exxon Mobil, gave an inspiring and excellent presentation on her career and the work being done through the LNG project to address emerging social issues. Sisa's presentation allowed all of our members to learn more about the project and the implications for PNG.

Our continued efforts to raise much-needed funds this year has resulted in our plans to host a Gala Night to the Rock of Ages. Rock of Ages will be staged at the Moresby Arts Theatre, on Thursday, 3rd November at 7.30 pm with pizza and drinks before the show. The Executive Committee is tirelessly planning and organising and I encourage you all to attend this event and help raise funds for the club. It promises to be a fun-filled night of entertainment.

As we approach the end of another successful year we acknowledge the support and donations that we received from the many sponsors, organisations and individuals throughout the year. Our thanks to you all our members and we hope see that commitment for the coming year.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to Jo Roach who left us a few weeks ago. Jo has been a staunch BPW supporter and member of our Executive Committee. Her organisation of our BPW breakfast has been a huge contribution and we will miss her presence and her skills.

Before she left us she found someone willing to take over her role and we all breathed a sigh of relief – thank you Rachel for agreeing.

Thank you Jo.

Susil Nelson

President**BPW SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS**

In September we were honoured to have Ms Julie Hulama as our guest speaker. Julie has recently completed her second Masters at University of Sydney on a year-long scholarship. Her first Masters was in information technology, her second in international development. Julie is from Gulf Province and inspired the young women and members present with her account of her experiences as a woman with great passion for her country and a determination to contribute to the development of PNG.

Julie has spent many years in the PNG law and justice sector and was responsible for establishing PaCLII, the first internet based resource for the law and justice sector. PaCLII is an extensive database of legal resources for law and justice sector agencies, lawyers, and the general public.

Julie described her experience adjusting to life in Sydney away from her extended family and culture and the excitement of studying abroad and the challenges this presented her with during both Masters' programs. She urged young women to take up the challenge of studying and gaining skills which equip you for a world of work in developing PNG. She amused us with her student stories of navigating new relationships, coffee shops, and Australian culture. For the last 6 months of her recent scholarship she also managed her new role as mother to 12 months old Taylor.

Julie concluded by emphasising that she wants to spend some time back in her village supporting her community to work on managing changes emerging from major resource projects.

In October we were graced with the inspiring story of Sisa Kini, the Social Impact Coordinator with Exxon Mobil for the LNG project. And like Julie, Sisa is tertiary educated and has a Masters in International Development. Sisa is from Central and Gulf provinces. Sisa commenced her career working in an NGO, challenging resource companies. After four years of this work, one of the resource companies offered her a position and challenged her to '*put her money*

where her mouth is! She has been the Social Impact Coordinator with Exxon Mobil for most of this year. Sisa also has 3 children.

Sisa gave a wonderful explanation of the LNG project from construction through to delivery of gas to major clients and the journey of the pipeline through three provinces. She went on to inform us about the social impact of the LNG project and what the project is doing to address these issues. She described the resettlement process and community engagement work being done by the company. The work with women is extensive and she showed members the photographic records of the many initiatives which encourage women into leadership, economic development and activities which will assist the provinces to get maximum benefit from the project, being very aware that women often suffer as a result of resource projects.

SCHOLARSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2011

As the year draws to a close we reflect on our achievements this year. We are very proud of having exceeded 230 scholarships at the end of September and hope to allocate more over the coming months. We allocated over K161,000 to 37 institutions including in West New Britain, Simbu and Eastern Highlands provinces.

We now need to raise funds to meet our 2011 of 300 scholarships by the end of December.

The Committee is constantly encouraging new institutions to contact us and we want to expand our coverage across PNG. Our committee spends considerable time improving our allocation process and ensuring that we meet as many requests as possible with our guidelines.

If you would like to donate to us please contact us on:

yogi.barampataz@stjosephsinternational.ac.pg

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville is in the New Guinea Islands' region of Papua New Guinea. It consists of the main island of Bougainville, the large island of Buka and five smaller islands. Buka is the provincial capital and is located on Buka Island.

The province occupies a land area of 9,384km² and has a population of 175,160. It has three districts. Each district is represented in the PNG national parliament by three elected members with the President as the head of the province.

Between 1989 and 1998 Bougainville was the site of major civil conflict which had a devastating impact on the people of Bougainville. The Bougainville crisis involved landowners of the Bougainville Copper mine protesting regarding increased royalties and led to over 20,000 people dying in the conflict. In 1998 there was a Ceasefire signing and the Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed in Arawa in September 2001.

Over the past 10 years the Region has been engaged in a range of reconstruction activities.

Bougainville was granted political autonomy in July 2010 and Mr. John Momis is the current President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. He is the former PNG Ambassador to China.

Most of the province's income comes from the export of cocoa, copra and the people earn some cash from the sale of betel nut, fish and food crops.

Recently the province has been experiencing a boom in economic activities in the form of foreign investment with a lot of interest shown by foreigners to set up their businesses in the province. As a result, Bougainville businessmen and women have gone into joint venture partners with these foreign companies.

Women in Bougainville are mobilising their efforts and actively participating in the economy of the Autonomous Region.

Bougainville is a maritime province and is one of the provinces which comes under the care of the Border Development Authority, a government institution set up to manage the affairs of all border provinces in Papua New Guinea.

The people depend on land and sea transport to access vital government services. Most parts of the province is connected by roads and many of the outer islands depend on shipping services to deliver goods and services to them.

There are no shipping services and many people are completely cut off from all vital services.

Under the Peace Agreement, a referendum can be held on whether the region pursues full autonomy but cannot do this before 2015. The Autonomous Bougainville Government is currently negotiating with the National Government to draw down some powers such as mining, Police, other law and order services and, over time, all of the functional areas of government including health and education.



Water transport in ARB

CENTRAL PROVINCE PROFILE

Central Province is one of the six provinces in the southern region of Papua New Guinea. The provincial capital is Port Moresby and it has four districts. Plans to establish a separate administration centre for the province close to Bootless Bay, (a 20 minute drive from the centre of Port Moresby) appear to be stalled.

It shares its border with Milne Bay Province to the east, Oro Province to the north where the famous Kokoda Track connects to it and the Gulf Province to the east. Sogeru Plateau at the start of the Kokoda Track, is the heart of a major agricultural area where large quantities of the nation's fresh vegetables are grown. The National Capital District is located within the boundaries of Central Province but is a separate Province by an act of Parliament.

The province covers a land area of 29,998km² and has a population of 183,983. Of the four districts, three are on the coast and the Goilala district is inland, where the Tolukuma Gold mine is located.

The four members of each district represent the province in parliament with the Governor as the head of the Province. Mr. Alphonse Moroi is the current Governor.

The Province is the host to the site of the billion kina PNG LNG Project's (processing) Plant facility, 20-25 kms to the north west of Port Moresby taking in the villages of Boera, Porabada, Lea Lea/Papa and Kido. This area is undergoing a major transformation with a major highway under construction, a new city planned close to the plant, and extensive economic development occurring around the plant area. The result of this has seen an increase in economic activities, employment and household income for the local landowners.

Overall, most of the people's income comes from the sale of betel nut and coconut with pockets of income as wages from being engaged in non-agricultural jobs in Port Moresby.

The province is strategically located with most of the people having some access to health and educational facilities in Port Moresby because of a very good road link with most of its districts. However, the more remotely located districts of Abau and Goilala lack good road links and experience difficulties in accessing better health, education and banking services. Even closer to Port Moresby services are often limited.

For services to reach the majority of the people, there must be a strong and transparent political leadership together with direction and vision for good governance.



Beautiful Central province

RESERVED SEATS FOR WOMEN IN PNG

Last newsletter we promised that we would give you a summary of the concept of quota

systems which underpin the proposal for the reserved seats for women in PNG Parliament. PNG is a parliamentary democracy with a very modern constitution. In this article we aim to explain the idea of the quota system and how this is implemented in other countries.

Wikipedia has a good summary of the PNG party system and here is a summary statement from that source.

Papua New Guinea has a [multi-party](#) system, with numerous [parties](#) in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and [parties](#) must work with each other to form [coalition governments](#).

Members of Parliament represent the 109 single-member [electorates](#). The 19 [provinces](#) and the [National Capital District](#) each elect a provincial member. Additionally there are 89 local ("Open") electorates, of which three are in the National Capital District and 86 are in the provinces, with boundaries of the latter corresponding directly to administrative districts.

Dame Carol Kidu after being re-elected as the only female Member of Parliament in the 2007 general election, called for seats to be reserved for women to improve the representation of women in Parliament. She suggested that the 20 provincial seats could be reserved for women by the 2012 election'.

For the past 2-3 years Dame Carol and a group of local people committed to increasing the number of women in Parliament have worked on a Draft Bill to see this dream become a reality. The final draft bill actually has 22 reserved seats to accommodate the two new provinces, Hela and Jiwaka, which come into being in 2012 and 2013.

In September 2011, the new Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill, made a commitment to see the Bill through Parliament before the 2012 national election.

In this edition of the newsletter we provide some basic information on the logic and arguments for the use of quotas, as the system is commonly known, and some information on other countries which have reserved seats for women.

According to the *quota Project, Global Database on Quotas for Women*, a joint NGO/Stockholm University project, the use of quotas for women in parliaments is now widespread across the world. They claim that as many as 50% of countries are using quotas to increase the participation of women in politics. This trend has emerged after over a century of failed attempts to increase the number of women in politics across many different cultures and countries. Quotas are seen as one of the most effective and quickest ways to redress the significant imbalance of power sharing with women which has characterised almost every country's political system in the world to the present.

The *quotaProject* identifies three forms of quota systems for women. Here is an extract from the project's summary explanation of quota systems:

'There are three basic forms of quota systems:

- 1. Reserved seats (constitutional and/or legislative)*
- 2. Legal candidate quotas (constitutional and/or legislative)*
- 3. Political party quotas (voluntary).*

These are the main quota types in use today. While reserved seats regulate the number of women elected, the other two forms set a minimum for the share of women on the candidate lists, either as a legal requirement (no. 2) or a measure written into the statutes of individual political parties (no. 3).

Our statistics are based on these three categories. There are however many more types, as will be discussed below. Important is also, whether the rank order of the candidates on the lists is regulated, so that women candidates are not just placed at the bottom of the lists. Sanctions for non-compliance are also important to look at.

In some countries quotas apply to minorities based on regional, ethnic, linguistic or religious cleavages. Almost all political systems apply some kind of geographical quotas to ensure a minimum representation for densely populated areas, islands and the like. However this (project's) database focuses on gender quotas - that is quotas that apply to women for elective office'.

The arguments for quotas include:

- To be effective in power sharing women must constitute a critical percentage (critical mass) of the body's decision makers – 30% to 40% - this avoids tokenism
- Quota systems address the inherent imbalance of power and discriminatory attitudes which prevail against women in many societies (included in so called modern societies)
- Quotas avoid the practice of political parties putting women into unwinnable seats, a common practice observed by researchers over many years.

We found recent data for 9 countries which currently have reserved seats for women in their Parliaments based on a similar model to what is being proposed for PNG.

The following countries have reserved seats for women:

Afghanistan – 68 positions in the lower house must be women

Argentina – requires 30% for female candidates for Congress

Bangladesh – 36 seats out of 330 seats

Eritrea – 10 seats out of 105 are reserved for women

Germany – 33% of seats reserved for women

Pakistan – fixed number of seats – 60 of 342 in the assembly are reserved for women

Rwanda – now has 56.3% women in Parliament - 131 women of 361 seats held by women and quota is 112 (they have just exceeded Sweden where 45% of MPs are women – Sweden has a voluntary system)

Somalia -

Tanzania – 126 seats out of 346 are held by women (30% quota – actual numbers are 36%)

Uganda – Constitution provides for reserved women's parliamentary seats from each of the 39 Districts

So please think about this issue carefully. These systems do not take seats away from men. Women still have to win the support of their electorate. In fact you could equally argue that these systems protect seats and votes for men as the voters direct their support for women to dedicated seats and may not vote for women in open elections.

Countries like Australia took more than eight decades to get women into parliament in any significant numbers, and over 100 years before they had a women Prime Minister. In the last general election they lost many women and the numbers of women went down substantially. In 2011 Australia still has less than 25% of seats held by women in the national parliament House of Representatives and 38% in the Senate.

PNG has an opportunity to make this journey of equality much more quickly and effectively than their closest neighbour.

Incidentally – did you know that New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1893 whilst South Australia was the first government to legislate that women could both vote and stand for parliament in 1894? Australia led the world in according women the right to stand for parliament but it took decades for this to become a reality. Afghanistan by contrast, is a very recent democracy and has 68 women because it has quotas; 405 women contested these 68 seats in 2010.

If you would like to read more about women in parliaments here are two web links to follow:

Women in National Parliaments:

<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

IDEA and Stockholm University quotaProject: Global Database of Quotas for Women

<http://www.quotaproject.org/aboutProject.cfm>

BPW NOVEMBER MEETING 2011

- Date:** Saturday, November 5th 2011
- Venue:** POM International School, Boroko East
- Time:** 12 noon for lunch with the meeting starting at 1 pm
- Event:** Regular monthly meeting
- Speaker:** Ms May Matthew
Nationwide Micro Finance

Please bring a plate of finger food to share a light lunch, K2 for a donation and a few toea/kina for the raffle. A raffle prize is always welcome.

This will be the last monthly meeting of the year before our Christmas lunch in December.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY CENTRE

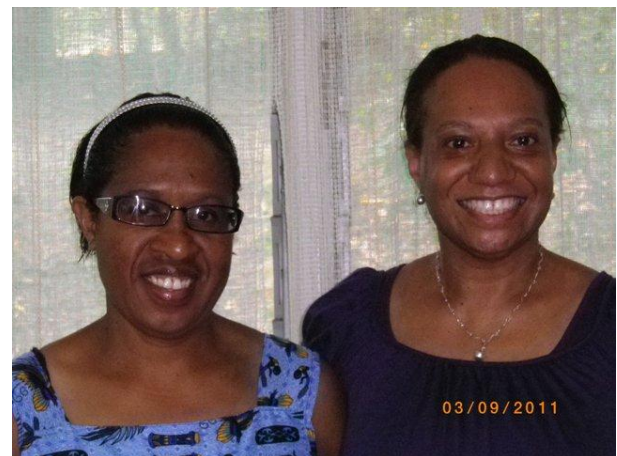
The Women's Advisory Centre (BPW in partnership with POM Chamber of Commerce and Industry) is actively contributing to the education and support for women interested in developing their business knowledge and skills. This service is especially relevant for women wanting to start their own small business. They are holding a series of half-day events on Wednesdays with local speakers on a range of topics.

For more information contact:

Dia Taru-Bogana
WAC Project Officer

Email: wac@pomcci.com
<mailto:daveconn1@pomcci.com> |
Mobile (+675) 7218 2839

PHOTOS FROM BPW EVENTS



Julie Hulama and Susil Nelson at September meeting



Young women enjoy lunch before our meeting



Julie Hulama with young women



Members listening intently at September meeting



Helen Disney, Deb George and Jo Roach – Jo's last meeting



And a final photo of Bougainville women performing at a local ceremony

BPW WEBSITES:
BPW Port Moresby
BPWportmoresby@gmail.com

BPW international
www.bpw-international.org/

From your newsletter team:
Brenda Auhava and Elizabeth Morgan
Elizabeth_morgan@justice.gov.pg
or
brenda.auhava54@gmail.com
Please send in your ideas, questions or topics you would like us to address, answer, cover.