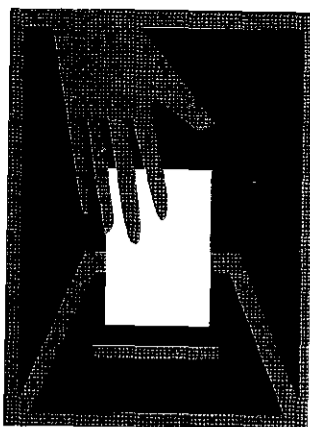


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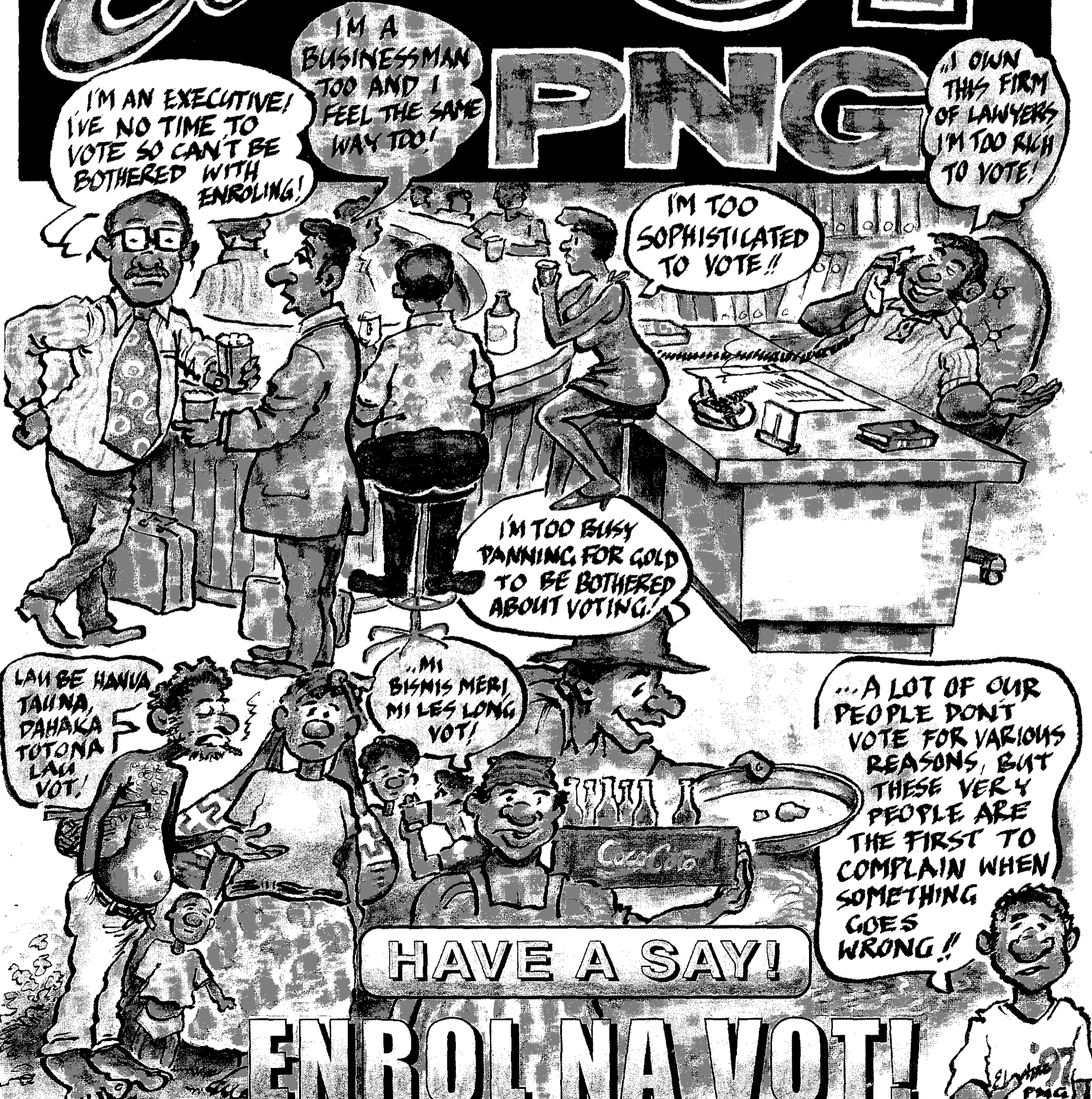


The VOTER

Malaysia's Mark for Panna New Times

JANUARY - FEBRUARY EDITION

Election PNG



I'M AN EXECUTIVE!
I'VE NO TIME TO
VOTE SO CAN'T BE
BOTHERED WITH
ENROLING!

I'M A
BUSINESSMAN
TOO AND I
FEEL THE SAME
WAY TOO!

PNG

I OWN
THIS FIRM
OF LAWYERS
I'M TOO RICH
TO VOTE!

I'M TOO
SOPHISTICATED
TO VOTE!!

I'M TOO BUSY
PANNING FOR GOLD
TO BE BOTHERED
ABOUT VOTING!

LAI BE HANUA
TAI NA,
DAHAKA
TUTONA
LAI VOT!

...MI
BISNIS MERI
MI LES LONG
VOT!

...A LOT OF OUR
PEOPLE DON'T
VOTE FOR VARIOUS
REASONS, BUT
THESE VERY
PEOPLE ARE
THE FIRST TO
COMPLAIN WHEN
SOMETHING
GOES
WRONG!!

HAVE A SAY!

ENROL NA VOT!





ABOVE: Justice Minister Mr Marsipal presenting the Southern Region Election 97 refresher training certificate to Mrs Rose Koyama, the only female at the workshop. She was there to brief officials on Election Law and Procedures.

A rose grows for elections

ROSE is a rose is a rose . . . So the saying goes. And Mrs Rose Koyama, pictured above with Justice Minister Mr Marsipal, is the rose of the Electoral Commission.

University of Papua New Guinea, Rose had been offered a New Zealand scholarship to do her Masters degree so she could teach at university.

Electoral Commissioner Mr Kaiulo is humbled by her refusal to leave her junior job as project officer with the Commission.

Originally from Kalo in Central Province, Rose and her East Sepik husband Arnold have one child, Michelle, aged three.

The two grew up in Madang and met at university where Arnold is now a part-time tutor.

The reason is simple enough. She has refused an attractive career opportunity to stay with the Electoral Commission.

A 1995 sociology graduate of the

Beware, election Officials told

Nation to be critical, not supportive: Minister

THE nation will not appreciate the success of Election 97, Justice Minister Mr Marsipal has warned election officials.

"When you do a good job, it is not appreciated," he said. "People only remember the mistakes and the problems." Mr Marsipal was speaking in Port Moresby while presenting certificates to Southern Region election officials who had completed a one-week refresher training program to get ready for Election 97.

He was asked to officially close the Southern Region workshop because he was the Minister responsible for the Electoral Commission until a year ago.

He was appointed Justice Minister while Electoral Commissioner Mr Kaiulo was in Bangladesh as part of a Commonwealth team of election bosses observing

the first free election there.

Speaking at the presentation dinner for the Southern Region election officials at the Gateway Hotel Saturday January 25, Mr Kaiulo said Mr Marsipal was responsible for the proposed election laws now before the last term of the current Parliament.

Mr Kaiulo said Mr Marsipal had initiated the proposed changes to help election officials do their job without fear or favor. "Now we have to prove to our voters - our mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters - that we can do the job," he said.

"Twenty-one years after Independence, our nation

is at a critical crossroad. If we do not do Election 97 well, our people will lose interest in future elections. We have to prove to our people - and the world - that we have free and fair elections in Papua New Guinea."

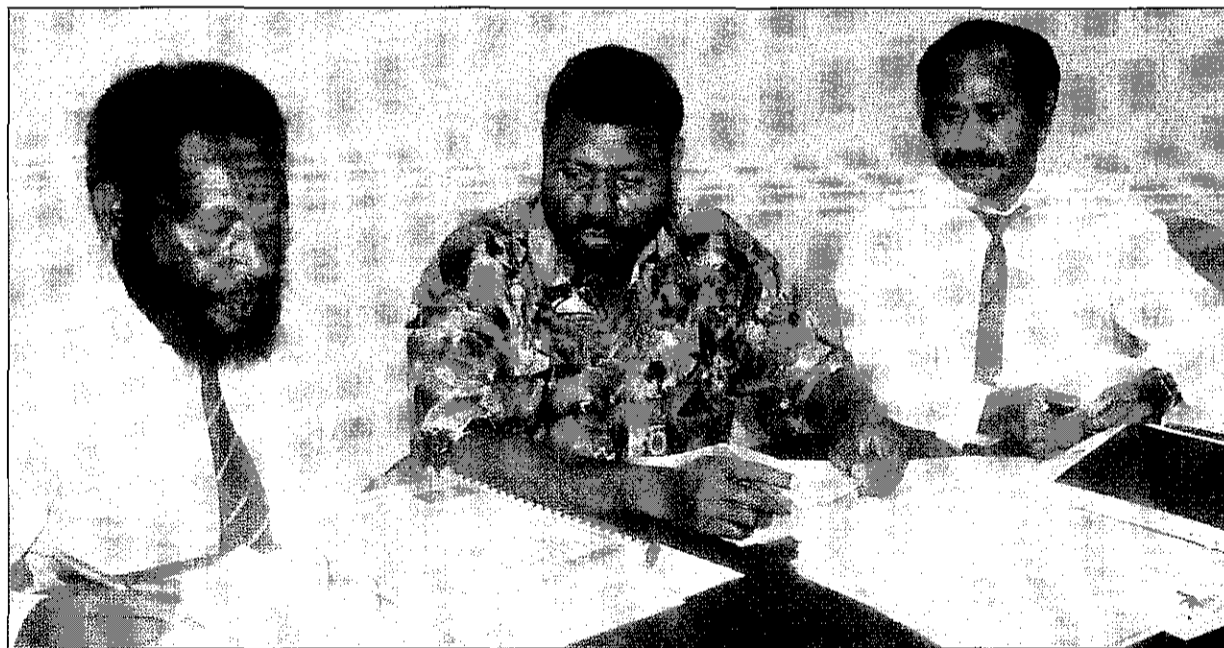
Mr Kaiulo said countries in Africa, Asia and South America had become victims of dictatorships because due process had failed and the people had lost faith in elections. "We must prove that we can do it," he said.

He paid tribute to all Government departments which had released their staff to help in Election 97 as officials. For his part, Mr

Marsipal said he had total faith the Electoral Commission would do its best to ensure Election 97 was honest.

Mr Marsipal said he was proud the whole Election 97 team was Papua New Guinean - with no expatriate consultants. "A few years ago, foreigners were organising our elections. Now there is not one single foreigner on the team. That's localisation - not localisation for the sake of localisation but localisation on merit."

All senior staff at the Electoral Commission had worked their way up to the top jobs from junior positions where they started.



ABOVE: Gulf election officials at the workshop. They are from left to right: Kikori Open Returning Officer Mr. Tulao Putu, Provincial Returning Officer Tore Poevare and Kerema Open Returning Officer Jim Ufaio.

THE VOTE AGAINST VIOLENCE



"AS Christians we have a moral and spiritual obligation to take our nation to God for a trouble-free election and those who will be elected to our legislature will be God-fearing people, who will see the need for God as a Supreme source of power and knowledge over all his creation."

- the Governor-General, Sir Wiwa Korowi.



"THE election ahead will put our tolerance of differing points of view, our ability to debate issues peacefully and rationally, and our capacity to accept defeat as easily as victory to a great test. If we are to remain a strong democratic nation with freedom of speech and association, we must be tolerant of different points of view, different political association in particular. If our national election is dominated by or even disrupted by violence, our democracy and our freedom will be the real loser . . ."

- the Speaker of Parliament, Sir Rabbie Namaliu.



"CAMPAIGNS based on ethnicity are dangerous in their potential to promote discrimination and violence - and in their tendency to erode national unity. We must promote solidarity among citizens and between provinces and ethnic groups."

- the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Reuben Kaiulo.



"ALL politicians, and all people, must work together to give Papua New Guinea a peaceful law-abiding environment to exercise its democratic responsibility to elect a Parliament to take us into the new century, into the new millennium . . ."

- the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan.



"AN election is not an ordinary cause, and it is a serious thing. It is basic and fundamental that elections are decided by voters who have free and fair opportunity of electing the candidate that the majority prefer. This is a sacred right . . ."

- the Supreme Court of PNG.

• Sir JULIUS

• Sir ARNOLD AMET . . . head of the Supreme Court of PNG.

SECURITY FORCES READY

"I'M fit and ready to take them on."

So declared a Defence Force veteran as he sat down for dinner after a physical fitness training session.

The soldier, a veteran of the Bougainville campaign who is respected by the BRA rebels, was speaking to his bosses after a debriefing on Election 97 security operations.

His bosses had just returned from the Highlands where they had attended a

meeting of the country's provincial police commanders in Mt. Hagen to review Election 97 security.

"This election will be tougher but we are in a position to contain trouble," a military intelligence officer said. A total 1000 Defence Force troops will back up police and jail officers for Election 97 security.

Five hundred of them will be deployed in the Highlands region alone. More Defence Force troops will be on standby to give additional help where necessary.

Voters 'are responsible for crisis in Papua New Guinea'

When the country was hit badly in 1995 by a shortage of money and the Government had to cut back services, ask the World Bank for help and devalue the kina, everybody was blaming everybody else for the crisis.

The Government blamed previous governments for the problem, the Opposition and political commentators blamed the Government and the people were angry with all politicians.

In the midst of all this, some observers laid the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Papua New Guinean people themselves.

"We, the people, should be blaming ourselves," one observer in Rabaul said.

"Why? Because we, the people, voted for the leaders who are running the country.

"So if anything goes wrong, we should be critical of ourselves for electing the leaders responsible for the way things are."

That is why the decision people make when they vote in an election is so important.

Now the nation has to collectively make this important decision again in the 1997 national election to be held in June.

"No matter what some people say, the honest truth is that voters are the ones who decide who will govern our nation for the next five years," Electoral Commissioner Mr Reuben Kaiulo said in Port Moresby.

"The future direction of our nation is well and truly in the hands of voters.

"The individuals whom the voters elect form the Government in Parliament. That's the fact.

"How the elected leaders behave will show whether the voters made the right choice or not.

"So everything depends on how voters vote."

Mr Kaiulo repeated his call for the so-called middleclass and upper-middle-class Papua New Guineans to enrol in the Common Roll and vote:

"These so-called elite include journalists, advertising executives, lawyers, economists, engineers, pilots, senior public servants, company executives, businessmen and academics.

"They always have plenty to say about the political leadership at drinks and meetings yet most of them refuse to vote at elections.

"They have this inverted attitude that voting is pointless because they argue that everyone is corrupt and nothing will change.

"This is wrong. Every vote makes a difference and if you want change then use your vote to change things."

The clarion-call for change has been taken up by NGOs, non-government organisations, which have organised nationwide campaigns to inform voters of the need to elect good leaders with great integrity and good track records in service to the community.

Leading this movement for better government are the churches. (See story left - *Praying for good leaders*).

The importance of voting in the 1997 election is underlined in the book, *Vote for the future*, written by former Defence Force intelligence officer Mr Yauka Aluambo Liria.

"By voting, you are helping to decide on the type of development and leadership for your area and the whole country," Mr. Liria says in his book.

"Your vote will affect you, your children and others in your community for at least the next five years.

"Don't treat this matter lightly. Don't think that politics is not important. Politics affects us all."

Mr. Liria, a captain, resigned from the Defence Force in 1993 to go to university.

His book will be launched in March by Electoral Commissioner Mr Kaiulo.



Praying for good leaders

THE time has come for every man, woman and child to acknowledge that we are 100 per cent responsible for the state of the nation. We can no longer blame anybody else for what has happened. While our leaders have made bad decisions, we are just as guilty for not upholding them in prayer.

- Operation Brukim Skru, A Call to Prayer For The 1997 Election

With this call to the nation, the Churches, both mainstream and pentecostal, are working together in historical ecumenical co-operation to get their followers to elect good leaders in Election 97.

This initiative is the first time ever the Churches in Papua New Guinea have campaigned publicly for voters to elect good leaders to form good Government.

Until now, politicians had always argued that religion and politics must be kept apart.

Elsewhere in the world, the Churches have been active agents of political change where the poor majority or the silent majority have suffered because of bad government.

Operation Brukim Skru, a grassroots campaign, was launched in December by the Governor-General, Sir Wiwa Korowi, who broke down before Press and television cameras and wept as he talked about moral decay in Papua New Guinea.

A total 500,000 Christians across the nation including eligible voters are being mobilised under Operation Brukim Skru in 5 million hours of prayer for the election of good leaders to form good Government.

Whatever non-believers say, scientists all over the world are finding that prayer is not a religious form without power.

A 10-month American study found that prayed-for heart patients were five times less likely to need antibiotics, did not need breathing tubes and fewer died.

For their part the CCJP, the Catholic Commission for Justice, Peace & Development, is using weekly radio programs across the nation with weekly advertisements in Church newspapers to get the message to the people.

There are 1.3 million Catholics in Papua New Guinea including many eligible voters.

The next part of the Catholic campaign is to put up billboards across the nation advising voters to elect good leaders to form good Government.

Corporate sponsors are backing both the Catholic campaign and the ecumenical Operation Brukim Skru.

Of course, the outcome of this concerted campaign by the Churches will only be known when the votes are declared in June.

For the moment, though, a total 1.8 million Papua New Guinean Christians are doing their best to turn the tide and save Papua New Guinea.



The Meaning of Being a Leader

WHAT qualities do you look for in an election candidate?

The question is simple and everybody knows in their heart what is right and what is wrong.

But, in elections, many forget or ignore the truth to trade their votes for favors.

In the end, generally-recognised good leaders are often not elected.

So what is a leader?

"A leader is someone who guides and gives direction and, most importantly, sets an example for others to follow," Electoral Commissioner Mr Reuben Kaiulo said.

"A leader is someone who is trusted by his or her people to guide and direct them because he or she is good.

"In fact, goodness and caring are two key points of being a good leader.

"They make up what is known in international management today as Character Ethic.

"Character Ethic teaches that there are basic principles of natural laws that are the foundation for success and effective living."

Mr Kaiulo said the same principles were used in all societies to judge a leader. These principles are:

INTEGRITY - the spirit of being honest and morally uncorrupt;

HUMILITY - the spirit of not being boastful or not being big-time;

FIDELITY - the spirit of being faithful to principles and to wife or husband, not being a womaniser or a loose woman;

TEMPERANCE - the spirit of self-restraint in behavior and alcohol drinking;

COURAGE - the spirit of not being afraid;

PATIENCE - the spirit of accepting delay and problems without complaining.

INDUSTRY - the spirit of being hard-working.

SIMPLICITY - the spirit of living without luxury and expensive things;

MODESTY - the spirit of not being a showoff;

SERVICE - the spirit of working for others;

EXCELLENCE - the spirit of promoting high quality and not accepting poor quality, second best and mediocrity;

POTENTIAL - the spirit of developing growth;

GROWTH - the spirit of releasing potential and developing talent;

FAIRNESS - the spirit of not favoring any person or group; and

HUMAN DIGNITY - the spirit of treating everyone with respect.

Mr Kaiulo said these principles were as old as the beginning of human civilisation and were part of human consciousness and conscience.

"They are fundamental truths and guidelines for human conduct and they have permanent value," he said.

"They are natural laws that all societies recognise but while the principles remain unchanged, people do.

"When these principles are ignored, things go wrong and there is trouble."

Mr Kaiulo said the principles of Character Ethic was the secret behind every family and institution that had survived and succeeded.

He said voters in Election 97 should use the principles of Character Ethic as a guide for electing leaders.

Character Ethic, Mr Kaiulo said, must not be confused with what was now known as Personality Ethic in international management.

"Personality Ethic is without substance," he said.

"It never gives the true picture because people use public relations techniques to get others to like them.

"Personality Ethic is like a television commercial.

"The commercial tells you how great a product is and you know the product is not everything the commercial says it is but you buy the product because your mind has been tricked by the advertising techniques in the commercial."

Mr Kaiulo said Personality Ethic was clever and was used internationally to fool people.

"It's all about public image, quick-fix influence techniques, power strategies and communication skills," he said.

He said the big appeal of Personality Ethic was the thinking that there was a quick and easy way to achieve quality of life without going through the natural process of work and growth.

"It's the get-rich quick scheme promising wealth and success without work," Mr Kaiulo said.

"Taking this short-cut only results in failure and disappointment because people will not be fooled forever by the public relations techniques that contribute to Personality Ethic.

"You cannot pretend to be what you are not forever.

"That is the failure of Personality Ethic which most of our voters have used in all elections so far to judge and elect many of our leaders.

"The result of that decision has led our country to where we are now."

1997 NATIONAL ELECTION

VOTE

1. My vote is precious.
2. My vote marks my life.
3. This life of mine comes from God, I am made in His image
4. Power and freedom of decision-making originates from this life God gives me.
5. I must vote with a free and informed conscience.
6. Any body who bribes or threatens me will disregard my right to elect someone of my choice.
7. I must not accept or let myself be influenced by bribery.
8. If I do accept bribery, I may contribute to bad government. Bad governments will not provide security for me and my family.
9. I may also contribute to the downfall of my people, home, province and my country.
10. I promise to use the power God had given me to elect good leaders who can provide a good and caring government for PNG.

CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE,
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 6576
BOROKO, N.C.D
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

