



Yumi Save Stopem Korapsen!

A weekly column on Good Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Responsibility with a view to eliminating Corruption

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF TRANSPARENCY VANUATU AND BE PART OF THE COALITION TO FIGHT CORRUPTION. YOU CAN CALL ME AT THE OFFICE AT THE RIVIERE OCEANIA BUILDING OR CALL 2575 05 OR E-MAIL: transparency@vanuata.com.vu FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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TRANSPARENCY VANUATU THROUGH HAND WITH THE MEDIA PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

No Annual Report has been published by the Ombudsman's Office Since 2002

NO ANNUAL REPORTS HAVE been published since 2002 by the Ombudsman's Office. This is a clear breach of the basic duties of the Ombudsman as well as of the Constitution and the Leadership Code.

Why are Government Ministers and MPs not complaining about the ongoing failure of the Ombudsman in producing annual reports? Why has the government not taken steps against the Ombudsman for breach of

his duties?

A senior investigator to the Ombudsman's office was reported in the Independent Newspaper to be one of the applicants for the now vacant post of Ombudsman. All of the staff of the

Ombudsman's office are public servants.

Section 3(2) of the Ombudsman Act states:

(2) A person is disqualified for appointment as Ombudsman if he or she:

(a) is a member of Parliament, the

National Council of Chiefs or a local government council; or

(b) holds any other public office; or

(c) exercises a position of responsibility within a political party.

The question is whether that senior investigator to

the Ombudsman's office has resigned from his current position as required under the Act, and whether the required three months resignation notice has been served by the applicant to vacate his position?

Is the Public Prosecutor fulfilling its Reporting Requirements?



Section 30 of the Public Prosecutor Act (CAP 293) states:

30. Annual Report.
(1) The Public Prosecutor must, within 3 months after the end of each year, prepare and give to the Minister a report with regard to the operations of the Office during that year.
(2) The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before the Parliament as soon as possible after the report is received by him or her.
(3) The Public Prosecutor must cause copies of the annual report to

be distributed to the public within 3 months after the report is tabled in Parliament.

Unfortunately, there has been no annual report for many years and many of the points and questions raised over a sustained period by Transparency Vanuatu about the lack of prosecutions and delays remain unanswered.

Despite dozens of Ombudsman's reports implicating various elected and appointed officials, how many have

resulted in prosecution? The functions of the Public Prosecutor are being set out under section 8(1) (2) of the Act.

It is regrettable that the lack of motivation or willingness to prosecute has led many people to lose trust and confidence in the functions of the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

What appears to become more noticeable is the use of inexperienced staff who

have just graduated in handling complicated cases as well as the increasing rate of non attendance of the Public Prosecutor in court.

Forty cases at the end of 2008 were dismissed by the Magistrates court due to lack of prosecution by the Public

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Transparency Vanuatu

The lack of respect for the environment continues – Is that what authorities want?

It will not be long before the death of the tropical forest will be a thing of the past. It is a tragedy that the government has not taken any steps to address this crisis. The government has failed to protect the environment and the people who depend on it. It is a tragedy that the government has not taken any steps to address this crisis. The government has failed to protect the environment and the people who depend on it.

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Coroner's report highlights VMF as dangerous to security of the country

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Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing next week

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The Lack of Respect for the Environment Continues – Is that what Authorities Want?

SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL queries have been raised following increasing land development activities that have taken place around Port Vila and Efate recently.

Recent media reports have highlighted the destruction of one and a half kilometre stretch of mangroves at Eratap bay where a Forestry Development Consent from the Minister of Internal Affairs and

building permits from SHEFA Province were granted to an investor for what is understood to be a resort project.

Even though the Department of Environment has issued a 'stop work notice' to the project, the destruction that has already taken place may be irreversible and will take many years to return to its original state, if indeed it ever will recover.

It seems extraordinary that the preliminary environmental impact assessment done by SHEFA Province did not recommend a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) although what was shown on TV and newspaper reports appeared to be a vast destruction of hundreds of mangroves as well as shells, crabs and fish.