

Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association conference

WELCOME back to another edition of the Court page.

While we have had a lot of events recently within the judiciary in our country, this week we feature a story on our Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika who is currently attending the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association forum in

Kigili, The forum's aims and objectives are to promote better understanding amongst judicial officers of all ranks and from all parts of the Commonwealth of judicial independence issues and to explore the approach to those issues in different parts of the Commonwealth.

It is also to promote greater awareness amongst the magistrates and judges of the Commonwealth, of international treaties and law relating to the development and access to justice, and to consider the practical application of that body of law.

Furthermore, it is to enhance networking within the

Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association on judicial developments.

We also feature other stories including recent trainings within our judiciary as well as other major court stories.

Once again, we remind you our valued readers, to contribute to this page, either by commenting

on articles published or questions arising from this page. We will publish your comments, and questions and get the appropriate people to answer your queries.

Contact us on this email: jpok@spp.com.pg

Chief Justice attends CMJA conference in Rwanda

BY BELLIAM IOMU

FOLLOWING the successful conference held in Cardiff in September 2023, the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) is currently hosting its annual conference from September 8-12 in Kigali Rwanda on the theme "Environmental Justice".

The aims and objectives of the CMJA conference is;

- To promote better understanding amongst judicial officers of all ranks and from all parts of the Commonwealth of judicial independence issues and to explore the approach to those issues in different parts of the Commonwealth;

- To promote greater awareness amongst the magistrates and judges of the Commonwealth, of international treaties and law relating to the development and access to justice, and to consider the practical application of that body of law; and

- To enhance networking within the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association on judicial developments.

The Chief Justice of PNG, Sir Gibbs Salika is currently attending the CMJA conference which plays host to members of judiciaries in the Commonwealth jurisdictions.

Judges attending the CMJA conference along with Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika include Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi,



CHIEF Justice Sir Gibbs Salika delivering remarks on handling environment disputes.

Justice Iova Geita and Justice John Carey. Chief Justice Salika spoke during Session 6, Plenary Panel Session at the conference on the topic "Ensuring our Courts can handle Dispute about the Environment".

Rwanda is the current chair of the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government, and the judiciary of Rwanda is a member of the Commonwealth Magistrates and

Judges Association.

Host Chief Justice of Rwanda, Dr Faustin Ntezilyayo, said the theme for the CMJA conference "Environmental Justice" will enable the participants to explore how environmental justice can be ensured for all individuals, providing equal access to a healthy and safe environment.

"It will also allow us to probe the

right to a healthy environment, the protection of vulnerable populations, the promotion of sustainable development, and the addressing of systemic inequalities in environmental decision-making and resource allocation," he stated.

The conference was divided into sessions which saw topics regarding the environment and the judiciary being discussed.

Commercial litigation workshop ends on high note

THE Legal Training Institute has ended its 12th Commercial Law Litigation and Advocacy workshop last week Friday.

The workshop was presented by 13 members of the Queensland Bar Association comprise of judges, lawyers and King's Counsel.

The activities covered in the workshop were;

- Application for Interlocutory Injunction;
- Pleading;
- Applications for Judicial Review;
- Application for Discovery;
- Appeals;
- Preparation for Trial; and
- Opening at Trial.

The Association has praised the trainees for their work ethic and seriousness and enthusiastic during the five days of the workshop because they understand how important the training is.

Chair of the Queensland Bar Association for the South Pacific Region Andrew Crow, KC told the trainees that legal profession is not just the job, it is a profession that comes with the responsibility. And that responsibility is doing pro bono work by giving back to the family and the wider community.

Mr. Crow, KC said the legal profession in the country is changing quickly with increasing number of lawyers and their participation which they saw during the Commonwealth Lawyers Mediation and Commercial Law conference recently.



Participants at the Legal Education Disputes and Commercial Law seminar recently. PICTURE SUPPLIED

Continuing Legal education a success

BY BELLIAM IOMU

THE Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) in collaboration with the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence (PNGCJE) and the PNG Law Society successfully completed a seminar on the topic "PNG continuing Legal Education Disputes and Commercial Law".

Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika whilst giving the opening remarks said this was the second continuing legal education seminar with the first one held last year in collaboration with the CLA, PNG Law Soci-

ety, Bar Association of Queensland, PNG Australia Partnership and the PNGCJE.

"There is a need for continuing legal education for lawyers, everyday is a learning day for you and me.

Commercial Law and Disputes are quite intense that involve transactional matters such as drafting documents and contracts that often become the subject of litigation.

"The legal profession in PNG must improve in terms of quality whether it is in transactional work or court room advocacy and through the large turnout this evening I am encour-

aged by their commitment to do so," mentioned Chief Justice.

"Where the focus goes the energy flows.

Chief Justice Salika encouraged the participants to keep their focus on the topics and let the energy flow with their efforts and conscience and to learn to reflect and to be better as lawyers and law students in their practise or in preparation of the law.

He congratulated the organisers of the seminar, for organising it.

"I am sure the topics we discuss are important for the profession and development of the attendees."

Senior judge to retire

THE third most senior judge of the National and Supreme Courts, Justice Les Gavara-Nanu (pictured) will retire come December when he turns 75.

This was made known by Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika during the recent PNG Continuing Legal Education Disputes & Commercial Law secession in Port Moresby.

Sir Gibbs said Justice Gavara-Nanau had served the nation well through his journey to retirement and called on all lawyers, judges and magistrates to look after their health well so that they can be able to live long and serve the people.

He said Justice Gavara-Nanu served as a State prosecutor when he and others like senior lawyer Loani Henao joined back then.

Noting that students from the Legal Training Institute (LTI) were also present at the session, Sir Gibbs shared some of the history of how they were groomed as lawyers and the discipline that came with it during their time.

"I carried my senior's briefcase when I went into court in those days. Mr Henao as well, he was working under an Australian called Brian



Castles whilst I worked under John Burn.

"Don't consider carrying a briefcase to be a lowly job, no, that's your job. That's where you start learning the discipline of being a lawyer.

"You do the little things well first and then you climb up the ladder of the legal profession. I want to impart that knowledge so that you do not take little things for granted," Sir Gibbs said.

He further encouraged young lawyers to be committed to what they do.

"Again, you don't take it for granted that everybody who graduates with a law degree from the University of Papua New Guinea is a lawyer. No, don't call yourself a lawyer until you finish your Legal Training Institute studies and get admitted to practice law," Sir Gibbs said.

He said only when the court recognizes a lawyer being admitted to the bar, then he or she is eligible to be called a lawyer.