

## Award winner persuade colleague

BY GORETHY KENNETH

THE United States Government has honoured a Papua New Guinean woman leader with a prestigious award during International Women's Forum in Port Moresby.

Maria Lakamiku Towai Nepal, from Bougainville, was acknowledged as the US Department of State's 2015 Women of Courage Award nominee for Papua New Guinea yesterday.

US Ambassador, Walter North, presented the award and acknowledged her work that lent the honour.

Mrs Nepel is a nurse by profession, who is now studying for her PHD in Australia at the age of 55. She was given the Woman of Courage Award for her perseverance to excel in her career and for her contribution to the people of PNG.

In her speech yesterday, Mrs Nepel, who comes from Siwai in South Bougainville and married to Nissan Island, said: "I didn't do it for name and fame, I did it for all of us."

She gave an encouraging speech that women should work together to build the society we live in.

"We cannot make a difference just on our own. Yes we have challenges, but challenges cannot be overcome without our male counterparts.

"So it's amazing that we can talk about these issues, we are empowered women, we just need to walk the talk.

"Half the time we come for bigger forums like this, we say oh, we are empowered, but what happens when we get back home?

"We have to make the change and it has to start from you, from within ourselves," Mrs Nepel said.



MRS Nepel and women leaders who were her school mates.

# Taylor: PNG women over-empowered

BY GORETHY KENNETH

PACIFIC Island Forum Secretary-General, Dame Meg Taylor, says Papua New Guinea women are already "over-empowered" and they just need to be encouraged to move forward.

In a brief interview, Dame Meg highlighted the quality of women leaders' presentations thus far and upcoming women leaders had improved tremendously, which was a sign that PNG was advancing.

She spoke briefly about women connecting with the

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**“PNG women are already over-empowered”**  
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DAME MEG TAYLOR  
 Port Moresby

right people and how they needed to work together and be encouraged to prosper.

Dame Meg was speaking at the 2015 PNG Women's Forum co-hosted by the US embassy and the National Government. In her inspi-

ration speech, Dame Meg mentioned her experiences of 20 years in top jobs, one of which was in the World Bank and heading PNG offices in US and Canada.

"All of us here in this room, especially our women departmental heads and all of you, I want to say, when you have a problem, don't walk away from it. You sit there, put your mind to it and address it, this is what I had gone through and it changed my whole attitude.

"The desire to learn every day, live like there is no tomorrow, learn like you

will live forever. So every day, when somebody else says to you about something you didn't know, take it on board, that it is something that will enrich your mind because it is something you are learning," she said.

"For those of you in management positions, hire young people who are smarter than you, don't be afraid of their knowledge because your job and skill is to manage that knowledge. If you can learn how to manage that knowledge, you will have an amazing organisation," Dame Meg said.

## Govt to adopt plan for women

THE Government will adopt a strategic plan for women to benefit from hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2018.

Papua New Guinea is hosting the APEC Summit in 2018 and already women are making inroads to have access to economic markets and questioning how the country can benefit from the country's biggest event ever.

At the 2015 PNG Women's Forum in Port Moresby yesterday, the issue of women's economic participation in PNG and achieving APEC priorities for gender equality was discussed.

The forum also heard about how important using APEC to increase market access for women was and how PNG would co-host the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) in May this year.

Head of Investment Promotion Authority, Iva Pomaleu, gave a rundown of how using APEC would increase the market access for women in PNG come 2018.

"Because PNG's male dominated institutions have little inherent interest in gender-oriented reforms, they must be challenged to commit to opening up opportunities for women to participate in the economy," he said.

"Any such challenge must be based in fact, but is well known that lack of quantitative information about women's participation diminishes the impact of gender sensitive public policy, donor initiatives, and private sector planning.

"There are four priorities of APEC's policy partnership on women, providing a framework for facts articulating challenges," M Pomaleu said.

He said the priorities include access to capital among others.

**The bottom line** Drinking too much water too quickly can cause water intoxication, which is likely to occur during periods of intense athletic sessions

## Sirinumu Dam Level Update

*We have recorded a huge 170 mm of rain in the last week. This has resulted in the dam level increasing by 14 Million Cubic Metres (Mm3). We are expecting some rain in the next couple of weeks and hopefully the reservoir can keep on filling up.*

*As of Tuesday March 10, the water level has increased to 49%, which is 168 Mm3 below spill level. The Dam is designed to hold 340 Mm3 of water. We are still below the halfway mark and it is important that we manage our power and water usage wisely. Please continue to be conservative in using your power supply.*

- TURN OFF ANY LIGHTS, FANS AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES NOT IN USE.
- SET THE TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT AT 24 Degrees.
- DO NOT USE MORE THEN ONE POWER POINT.
- DO NOT OVERLOAD POWER POINTS.

**PLEASE USE POWER AND WATER WISELY!**