

## Finance to probe whether State owes K2.2b to fund

ACTING Finance Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan says he will clarify with Nambawan Super whether the Government really owes it K2.2 billion in outstanding members' contributions.

If it was true, the Government would need to offset the liability, he said.

Nambawan chief executive Garry Tunstall revealed the figures last week.

He said the Government owed K2.2 billion to the fund in outstanding members' superannuation contributions.

"The State stopped paying the contributions eight to nine years ago," he said.

Nambawan members – in this

case public servants – have their contributions deducted from their pay. Their employer, the State, forwards that to the fund. But it failed to do so for some years.

Tunstall said the outstanding amount was a State liability.

Nambawan has been slowly recovering the money when members retired by claiming from the State retirement payouts.

Ngangan said if the department found the claim genuine and if the State owed the amount, then it had to off-load the liability.

"The State has to make its commitment to contribute for its employees," he said, adding that the Finance Department would make it its business to check the liability.



**Latest earrings** ... Madang residents driving along Sagalau Road were wondering why these cows wore bright plastic earrings. But the cattle had been tagged because they were to undergo an insemination programme. They will be injected with sperm from an Australian bull to improve the quality of beef.

# Child sex abuse cases on the rise

ALARMING statistics on child sexual abuse in Western Highlands demand greater advocacy on child protection, Provincial Health Authority clinical supervisor Edith Namba says.

Namba said statistics from the Family Support Centre showed sexual abuse of children tripled from that of reported adults cases for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

"In 2012, out of 310 reported rape cases, 222 were of children and 88 of adults," she said.

"That was 85 per cent children and 15 per cent adults."

The centre saw 330 sexual abuse cases in 2013 and among them were 220 children and 110 adults, meaning 67 per cent of the cases involved children.

Namba said in 2014, the centre saw 202 rape cases, of which 145 were children and 57 adults.

"This is shocking. We must understand that these are the reported cases only," she said.

"Others are not reporting it in fear of discrimination and rejection in their homes and communities."

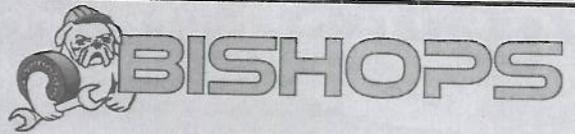
"We must have more family

support centres and more advocacy is needed to be done to stop these barbaric acts on our innocent children."

She said village court officials and people, including pastors and youths, needed to be trained on the Lukautim Pikinini Act so that all people looked children and stopped them from being abused.

She said with the passing of the Lukautim Pikinini Act, they were hoping to see a decrease in rape cases on children.

She urged parents to provide extra care for children.



## Stock Take

Friday March 13 and Saturday March 14, 2015

Please be advised that due to full stock count Bishops, Kimbe Branch will be closed for business on Friday March 13 and Saturday March 14, 2015.

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