

NATION

# Tenants to return to property

THE Port Moresby District Court has ordered the reinstatement of tenants at a property in Morata, National Capital District, who had been improperly evicted.

The eviction order was issued by the same court on Sept 24, 2014, followed by a warrant on Oct 15 for the Waigani Police Station commander to remove Perry Tepi and other "il-

legal occupants" from Section 428 Allotment 31 on Ninkints Street, Morata.

However, the district court reversed its decision after Hardy and Stocks Lawyers, acting for Tepi and others, took out a stay order on the eviction.

The court dismissed the earlier proceedings, instigated by com-

plainant Tylan Charles Thoke, for lack of jurisdiction as the subject property in Morata was pending substantive decision by the National Court involving the same parties.

The district court ordered that the defendants and their families return and continue to occupy the property pending the National Court's

decision. In a letter to the Waigani Police Station commander, Hardy and Stocks Lawyers said the district court had dismissed the entire proceedings and set aside the ex parte orders and the warrant to enter the property.

"Importantly, the same court ordered that the current tenants including Perry Tepi shall re-

main on the property. "We ask you to observe this court order and ensure peace is maintained at the property and community at large.

"If eviction of Tepi was done then ensure he returns peacefully to the property.

"Any disobedience of this court order is at your own peril."

## US female army officer pays Unitech visit

THE PNG University of Technology in Lae was visited by one of the highest ranking female officers in the United States Coast Guard last Thursday.

Rear Admiral Cari Thomas, Commander of the 14th Coast Guard District, which has an area of responsibility that spans over 12.2 million square miles and includes the Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and activities in Saipan, Singapore and Japan, was at the Taraka campus.

She was one of the key speakers for the 2015 Papua New Guinea Women's Forum in Port Moresby last week and paid a visit to the university to speak to students after having lunch with female student representatives.

In her address, Thomas encouraged students to give their best and commit themselves to their studies.

"Education is important to your economic liability in future," she said.

She urged students that to be a good leader they had to lead themselves, lean down - listen and learn



Rear Admiral Cari Thomas (centre) with the University of Technology's Vice Chancellor's wife Paulina Schram (fifth from right) and female student representatives from academic departments.

to work with others; lead up - have the courage to speak up and have the

right character towards work and those they work with.

Thomas message was brief but strong.

## MP Potape denied bail

CONVICTED Komo-Magarima MP Francis Potape has been denied bail by the Supreme Court for the second time.

Justice George Manuhu handed down the decision on behalf of Justice Don Sawong and Justice Allen David in Waigani last Friday.

The court refused the bail application because the ground Potape relied on did not constitute "exceptional circumstances".

Manuhu will provide a written judgment this week.

The bail application relied on section 11 of the Bail Act and Order 11 Rule 27 of the Supreme Court.

Potape's lawyer Philip Ame had relied on four grounds for bail that included the prospect of the success of his appeal, Potape's medical condition and his role as a Member of Parliament.

Potape's earlier bail application was rejected by Justice Derek Hartsorn last month.

The substantive appeal is yet to be heard by the Supreme Court.

Potape was found guilty by the National Court on fraud related charges involving the misuse of K330,000 of public funds five years ago.

Potape, on Nov 20, 2010, at Tari in Hela, and other members of the Komo-Magarima joint district planning and budget priorities committee agreed to increase their sitting allowances.

## Court to hear submissions into by-election recount

THE Supreme Court will hear full submissions on Friday into a recount of 2883 ballot papers for Madang Open by-election marked in favour of petitioner Peter Yama.

The prominent Madang businessman and former MP is seeking leave from the Supreme Court to

be granted for the recount. Yama's lawyer Nickson Kiuk, in a brief submission on Friday, told Justice Terence Higgins that if the mentioned ballot boxes were counted, his client would defeat sitting MP Nixon Duban by a margin of 1438 votes.

Yama filed the application for leave to be granted to count the ballot papers after the Electoral Commission did not count them.

Yama polled 13,557 votes behind Duban on 15,002.

Kiuk said an earlier court order issued for the recount, ordered that all

the ballot papers be counted but the Electoral Commission did not count them.

Duban and his lawyer Paul Mawa were not present in court on Friday.

The matter was adjourned to Friday for full submissions to be presented.

## Parkop tells city settlers to get ready to relocate

PEOPLE living at the 2-Mile Hill settlement have been told to prepare for their relocation to 6-Mile.

National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop told *The National* that while plans for developing the settlements into suburbs were underway, some people refused to cooperate.

Parkop said about 80 settlers at the 2-Mile Hill have to agree to relocate because land had been allocated for them.

"The settlers have to adjust because in the suburban proper, most of the allotments are standard," he said.

"But in the settlement, others have

bigger land while others have smaller land.

"We have found land at 6-Mile for them. We have purchased customary land and they have been surveyed and allotments created already.

"Those who have been affected by the road construction have to move now. We delayed their eviction to

January so that we will have time to identify the land and move them there."

He said most of the land belonged to the State.

If the State needs it for infrastructure or to expand the city, then the settlers have to move.

"We are not just throwing them

to the streets. We are helping them to relocate," he said. "The benefit of this relocation is that they will have titles and it's more secure and the land is much bigger. They have to cooperate with us.

"We've made money available to build the road there and clear it out for them to go and build houses."

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