



Will the MSG Survive

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is the umbrella group for Melanesian countries. It is comprised of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and (Kanak) New Caledonia. It will convene in Fiji at the end of July after a leaders meeting on the 14th of July in Honiara, the Capital of The Solomon Islands. West Papua's acceptance into this body will once again be debated and this decision might mean that the MSG will break up over this decision.

Last year the MSG decided to make Indonesia an associate member of the MSG and West Papua represented by the ULMWP, The United Liberation Movement for West Papua, was granted observer status. This year Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia are putting West Papua forward for full membership of The MSG and also to kick Indonesia out. The position of Fiji and P.N.G. is assumed to be in favour of granting Indonesia full membership. Any decision will, however, be made by consensus.

Why are there such wide differences of opinion on this topic. All of the Melanesian countries suffer from corruption to some degree. The MSG decision last year to allow Indonesia to become a member of the MSG occurred partly because Vanuatu was unable to send a delegation due to half the Parliament had been found guilty of accepting bribes from the Former Prime Minister. Each were given approx. \$10,000. They are all now in gaol for 4 years. The good news is that the new Government has maintained its strong position in support of West Papua.

Fiji recently suffered from a damaging cyclone. Indonesia has given approximately \$50 million U.S. to Fiji, according to Emele Duituturage a Fijian woman who is the Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO). They also pledged to rebuild the Queen Victoria School in Fiji that was ruined by the cyclone. This is the most prestigious school in the country where the children of the elite and Council of

Chiefs children attend. Indonesia went as far as to fly in 100 military personnel to



undertake the reconstruction making the front page of the local papers. At a meeting of solidarity groups in Vanuatu in May 2016 that was held to coincide with the forthcoming meeting of the MSG Emele further explained why the churches and people of Fiji have been protesting so strongly in favour of West Papua's desire to become a full member of the MSG. Frank Banimarama was elected Prime Minister 6 years after he led a military coup in Fiji. He won about 60% of the vote at the election that also used a new constitution that gave him and his military members of cabinet immunity from prosecution for their crimes under the military dictatorship. Although he is now democratically elected and has a full cabinet made up of ex military officers there is literally no opposition to his rule. The media has been silenced. Question time in parliament is restricted to 5 minutes and we were again advised by Emele, that after the 5 minutes of debate 17 motions were passed. There is an article about Fiji to be found later in this newsletter detailing the expulsion from Parliament for 2 years of a member of the opposition. This is the second person to be expelled. As Emele explained, the people can't protest or

demonstrate against the Government without arrest and torture . They can however, protest about West Papuan Human rights and this they now do with great vigor. As a result of the civilian pressure there is a hope that Fiji might abstain on the vote, however it could lead to a break up of the MSG

Papua New Guinea has its unique issues. The MSG meeting was scheduled to be held in Port Moresby but will now be held in Fiji because of 2 factors. At a recent rally organized by protesting students in Port Moresby , the police fired into the demonstrators injuring many. The students had been boycotting classes at the University calling for the Prime Minister to be held to account for corruption and had decided to march to Parliament to press their demands. The other factor is the refusal to grant a visa to Octo Mote , the Secretary General of the ULMWP. Previously British based West Papuan leader Benny Wenda had been refused entry to PNG but Octo Mote, a US citizen had been permitted entry. He came to PNG as part of the Solomon Islands delegation for the meeting of African, Caribbean and Pacific Islands meeting of the European Union but was not allowed to remain and advised the decision had come from the top . The MSG has since met elsewhere and historically Indonesia and The ULMWP were both seated at the same table . PNG's position on West Papua is a bit less clear. Peter O' Neill, the Prime Minister and chair of the larger body , the Pacific Islands Forum , has written to the Indonesian President about not meeting Human Right objectives in West Papua and that the appropriate place to discuss the matter was at the Bali Democracy Forum which is held annually in Bali to discuss development of democracy in the Asia Pacific . O'Neill was recently challenged by the PNG opposition about West Papua when 45,000 troops were moved into the area around Wamena in the WP highlands . PNG is intimidated by its bigger neighbor and wants to keep cordial relations.

The Solomon Islanders on the other hand have been extremely unhappy attending MSG meetings where Javanese Indonesians have been present but a notable absence of any Melanesian persons. There have been posters displayed in Vanuatu shops saying “ Kick Indonesia out of the MSG”

Whatever the outcome of the MSG meeting it appears that West Papua has now found more friends

in other Pacific Island countries as their issue has been listed in the top 5 by the Pacific Islander forum and was also discussed at the African Pacific forum just held. The International Parliamentarians for West Papua meeting held in London in May had British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn as a key speaker and in America , Democratic Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has also joined the International group.

SOLOMON ISLANDS IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL VOTE FOR WEST PAPUA INDEPENDENCE

theislandsun.com/solomon-islands

BY ERNEST TA'ASI | June 27, 2016



THE SOLOMON Islands government is in support for an international supervised vote on the independence of West Papua.

THE SOLOMON Islands government is in support for an international supervised vote on the independence of West Papua.

Solomon Islands representative Barret Salato gave the country's support before the UN Human Rights Council for the vote proposal that was made by the International Parliamentarians for West Papua Forum in London last month.

“We strongly endorsed the final declaration of this International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) Forum which took place in London on 3 May which calls for an internationally supervised vote on the independence of West Papua,” Salato said in his statement over the situation of West Papua.

The London declaration has been endorsed by cross regional parliamentarians from 15 UN member states.

Barret Salato spoke of the brutal oppression faced by West Papuans.

He said the Solomon Islands government is regularly updated on the violation of human rights against West Papuans.

“The Solomon Islands government receives regular reports of cases of arbitrary arrests, summary execution, torture, ill-treatment, restriction of freedom of expression, assembly and association, committed mainly by the Indonesian police,” Salato said.

He said on 2 May alone, 2,109 indigenous Melanesian West Papuans were arrested for participating in peaceful demonstrations in several cities in West Papua and some Indonesian cities.

“The demonstrations were held in support of the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) to be recognized as a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), the commemoration of 1 May 1963 as Indonesia’s annexation of West Papua and to support the International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) meeting.

“During the arrest, some of them experienced torture and ill treatment from the Indonesian security forces,” he added.

“The Solomon Islands notes the recent outcomes of the Foreign Ministers Meeting of the Melanesian Spearhead group that was held last week in Fiji (14-17TH June 2016) where both Representatives of Indonesia and the ULMWP sat as MSG members during the deliberation.

“This outcome envisages to establish a safe space for constructive engagement with all parties with a view to addressing the concerns of the MSG members about the recent developments in West Papua.

“In this regard, the Foreign Ministers further agreed to establish a Committee of High Level Representatives of the MSG members to accompany and facilitate this constructive engagement.

“We also welcome the initiative of the MSG to work closely with the Indonesian government to visit the Melanesian Provinces of Indonesia at a later date. This important visit would allow for a clear, objective and independent view by the members of the MSG leaders and ministers.”

Benny Wenda Australian Speaking Tour

Benny Wenda visited Adelaide as part of his four state visit. He went to Perth, then Adelaide, Sydney and finally Brisbane. Our major public event was a public meeting at the University of Adelaide. We had over 100 people attend. The function went very well. The event included several songs sung by the Romero groups and a Scottish bagpiper at the end.

Benny spent his second day here visiting politicians. State Member of Parliament Frances Bedford escorted Benny around Parliament House and she also signed the pledge for Benny’s International Parliamentarians Group . Federal Labor MP Tony Zappia has also agreed to sign up if he is reelected at the Federal elections in July as well as Greens Senator Robert Simms.

One of the highlights of his visit was a trip to the State Museum with Bouganville supporter Theresa Kemerfield to see the Melanesian exhibition. Theresa had been the driving force in having it curated . There is a significant collection of West Papuan craft stored there. It was good to give him some relief . We listened to him still working into the night doing skype interviews for TV with PNG and Spain.

His visit to the other states went as well as here. We raised \$500 for him to give to the ULMWP for travel to the Melanesian Spearhead meetings. We believe that he raised over \$2000 during his Australian tour. Unfortunately neither he nor Octo Mote, the Secretary General of the ULMWP were allowed in to P.N.G. ,however, for reasons unbeknown , West Papuan activist Jacob Rumbiak was able to visit PNG .

End Impunity and Arbitrary Arrests in West Papua

Papuans Behind Bars 2015 report, “Rising Voices, Rising Arrests: A look at West Papua in 2015” is being launched in London today. Please find below TAPOL’s Press Release on the report. The report is available online at: <http://tapol.org/id/node/525>

(London 24 June 2016) –A new report by Papuans Behind Bars (PBB) exposes the Indonesian government’s increased use of arbitrary arrests to shut down protests in West Papua in 2015. At the launch of the report, held at the Amnesty International Secretariat in London on 24 June, UK-based NGO, TAPOL, urged the Indonesian government to answer for ongoing impunity, state violence and increased arbitrary arrests in West Papua.

“The Indonesian government must end mass arrests at peaceful demonstrations as freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are in accordance with Indonesia’s obligations under international human rights law” Todd Biderman (Coordinator, TAPOL)

The 28-page report ‘Rising voices, rising arrests: A look at West Papua in 2015’ exposes how freedom of expression and assembly in the region remains severely restricted. This is in spite of the release of five prominent long-term political prisoners in May 2015, and President Joko Widodo’s assurances that West Papua is open to foreign journalists.

Based on data and testimonies collected and verified by PBB, the report shows that 1083 Papuans were arrested arbitrarily across Indonesia in 2015. This represents the highest number of arbitrary arrests documented in a single year since comprehensive records began in 2012. 80% of those detained were arrested for participating in or planning peaceful demonstrations.

The report shows a change in the pattern of charges. In a positive development, the use of treason charges under Article 106 of the Indonesian Criminal Code against political detainees decreased significantly and the use of the controversial Emergency Law 12/1951 ceased altogether. However, the use of charges of incitement under Article 160 of the Indonesian Criminal Code increased.

“The escalation in arbitrary arrests raises serious concerns that the Indonesian government is deliberately using Article 160 to criminalise peaceful political protests and limit freedom of ex-

pression and assembly in Papuan civil society” Todd Biderman, TAPOL

The report also shows that, although the number of cases of torture of detainees on arrest and in detention decreased significantly, reports of torture outside of detainee cases remain frequent. The report also gives evidence that ill-treatment of detainees is on the rise. In 2015, 690 cases of ill-treatment of detainees were recorded, more than four times as many as in 2014. Testimonies from political prisoners highlight their concerns over being denied visits from their families, being under constant surveillance and poor or complete lack of access to medical treatment.

In addition, the report exposes ongoing state violence and impunity of state security personnel. At least 11 people died as a result of state violence in West Papua in 2015. Further, the culture of impunity remains embedded amongst security forces, the perpetrators of the fatal shooting of four teenagers in Paniai regency, Papua province, in December 2014, have still not been brought to trial.

The report’s publication comes at a time when national, regional and international actors are increasingly voicing concerns over human rights abuses in West Papua.

At the launch of the report Budi Hernawan, lecturer at the University of Paramadina in Jakarta stated: “State violence constitutes the mode of governance of Papua over the last fifty years. My own doctoral research on the practice of torture in Papua from 1963-2010 confirms this pattern. The Indonesian state security apparatus do not hesitate, not only to use excessive violence against Papuans but also to demonstrate that they can do anything they want to the bodies of Papuans.”

UK opposition leader, Jeremy Corbyn noted at the recent meeting of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua that human rights and justice “should be the cornerstone of foreign policy, the cornerstone of our [the UK’s] relationship with every other country.”

The serious issue of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, summary executions, and torture in West Papua was raised at the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2016 by the delegations of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Both delegations urged the Human Rights Council and the Government of Indonesia to work together to facilitate a visit by Mr David Kaye, the current UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression to West Papua.

This echoes promises that the Indonesian government made during the country’s previous Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2012, promises that it has yet to follow-up on. Indonesia’s human rights record will come under the international spotlight again for the country’s UPR in 2017. PBB’s 2015 report calls on Indonesia to “Allow free and unrestricted access for all UN Special Rapporteurs wishing to visit and report on Papua.” Ahead of the 2017 UPR, TAPOL urges the Government of Indonesia to take meaningful actions in-line with their international human rights commitments towards ending arbitrary arrests, torture, and ill-treatment of detainees, as well as to address ongoing impunity within the security forces.

Media Contact:

Todd Biderman (Co-Cordinator, TAPOL)

Papuans and Indonesians at the same table in MSG



The Melanesian Spearhead Group Foreign Ministers meeting in Fiji has featured the rare sight of having West Papuan and Indonesian delegates at the same table.

The chairman of this week’s Melanesian Spearhead Group Foreign Ministers meeting in Fiji has lauded the occasion of having West Papuan and Indonesian delegates at the same table.

However, Milner Tozaka, who is the Solomon Islands Foreign Minister, has admitted that this was not the way Indonesia initially wanted it to be.

Mr Tozaka claimed it was the first time in the MSG history that Indonesia and the United Liberation Movement for West Papua were seated with the rest of the group’s full membership at the meeting in Lautoka.

The Liberation Movement, which has observer status in the MSG, and Indonesia, with associate member status, are both vying for full membership in the group.

An upcoming MSG leaders summit in July in Honiara is expected to deliberate on this.

However Jakarta has lobbied intensely in the region to counter efforts to include the Liberation Movement in the MSG, saying its own involvement in the group already covers representation of West Papuans.

But grassroots support in Melanesian states for West Papuan self-determination aspirations is strong and international diplomatic activity over the matter is growing.

The Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia's FLNKS Kanaks movement have signalled support for West Papuan full membership, while the other two full members, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, appear likely to side with Indonesia.

In Lautoka, Mr Tozaka said Indonesia expressed objections to accommodate the Papuans at the senior officials meetings prior to the Foreign Ministers meeting.

But he said he stood his grounds and stressed the need for both parties to participate.

Meanwhile, Solomon Islands' special West Papua envoy, Rex Horoi, described it as the start of a long awaited process the MSG has been pushing for.

He said the MSG wanted to provide a platform for both Indonesia and the ULMWP to conduct open and transparent dialogue on ongoing human rights violations and issues facing the indigenous Melanesians of Indonesia's Papua region.

The MSG Foreign Ministers also discussed the recently concluded negotiations for the new MSG Trade Agreement - the Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA) which was endorsed at the recent Trade Ministers Meeting convened in May in Port Vila.

Mr Tozaka admitted that there is a dire need to convene the meetings to ensure that the life-blood of the MSG is maintained and, if need be, revamped.

"Today we have important issues to consider, most notably the critical financial situation of our Secretariat," he said. "The Secretariat needs adequate financial support to deliver a number of important mandates and decisions of our leaders."

He said despite the challenges faced by members on the resourcing issues and differing views on how to best address these challenges, it was good to see the exploring of various cost-cutting measures.

Lack of Genuine policy and Rights in Papua

A Statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission

After monitoring 20 months of the human rights situation in Papua and West Papua provinces under President Joko Widodo's administration, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is dismayed at the utter lack of progress in the protection and realization of people's rights. Since

President Widodo's inauguration on 20 October 2014, there were considerable expectations for improvement in Indonesia's human rights situation, particularly in Papua and West Papua. President Widodo was believed to have a strong commitment to addressing the various human rights violations in Papua, providing remedies for victims and families, and evaluating the presence of security forces in the province. Over a year of his presidency however, has neither resolved any of the past human rights violations, nor seen any adequate remedy and guarantee for non recurrence given to the victims.

Law No. 21 of 2001 on special autonomy for Papua and West Papua province has yet to bring



Indigenous Papuans Women and Children (AHRC File Photo)

benefits to local indigenous Papuans. Similarly, government development of public infrastructure has an economic and business orientation rather than benefits for the local community. The government's attempts to boost international investment to Papua and West Papua will likely see an increase in migration to the provinces from elsewhere in Indonesia, further fuelling local discontent.

Furthermore, criminal justice institutions in the provinces do not function to address human rights problems. The police are frequently involved in various human rights violations in the two provinces, and the accountability mechanism has failed to address this problem. The Paniai case of 8 December 2014, where four indigenous Papuan children were shot to death, two adults seriously injured, and 17 others injured (**AHRC-UAC-089-2015**) is an indicative example of the brutality faced by Papuans, as well as the lack of any effective investigation or remedies. Other cases that have also not been investigated and prosecuted under President Widodo's administration include the case of a member of the Air Force heavily maltreating 22-year-old Amsal Marandof (**AHRC-UAC-143-2015**), the case of arbitrary arrest and torture of three indigenous Papuans on 27 August 2015 (**AHRC-UAC-003-2016**), and the case of the shooting and brutal attack on 10 indigenous Papuan youth conducted by police officers of Tigi Police Sector (**AHRC-UAC-090-2015**).

The AHRC has also observed the Indonesian government's lack of willingness to deal with past human rights abuses in Papua and West Papua provinces. **The investigation report of the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) on the gross violations in Wamsiar Wamena Papua (2001 and 2003), for instance, has been sitting with the Attorney General for the past eight years, without any action taken by that office. In the allegations of genocide in the Central High Lands of Papua from 1977-1978 as well, although the AHRC sub-**

mitted a report to Komnas HAM, as of yet there is no progress in the investigation. While Komnas HAM initiated establishing a team in November 2015 to audit human rights violations beginning from the integration of Papua to the Republic of Indonesia until the case of Tolikara (AHRC-UAC-106-2015, AHRC-UAU-002-2016), since then there has been no clear information on the team's existence or work.

Recently, a government initiative under the Coordinator Minister of Political and Security (Menkopolhukam), Mr. Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, was announced, to establish a special team dealing with human rights violations in Papua and West Papua provinces. Local human rights groups however, have largely rejected the initiative, saying that representative indigenous Papuans in the team are not genuinely representing indigenous Papuans on the ground. In fact, the initiative is typical of the government process to suddenly establish a team without proper consultation and discussion with Papuans on the ground. The government tends to simplify the problems in Papua, and its economic and infrastructure perspective on Papua does not seriously take into consideration the history of human rights violations occurring from the time of integration to the present.

The AHRC therefore calls for President Joko Widodo and his administration to take serious and comprehensive steps to deal with the various human rights problems facing Papua and West Papua provinces. The government should stop seeking political benefits in dealing with the provinces, and focus on improving the situation of the local communities. In particular, the government must guarantee protection of local indigenous Papuans, local human rights defenders and journalists, and consistently open Papua and West Papua to international monitors to ensure the progress of resolution.

Papuan Rights issues will be solved without Deception:

Marguerite Afra Sapiie The Jakarta Post June 16 2016

Indonesia is committed to taking a holistic approach in its push for an immediate settlement of human rights cases in Papua, Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan said on Thursday.

Luhut, who flew to Papua on Wednesday night and will be in the province until Saturday, plans to meet with all stakeholders, including religious leaders, students, military and police personnel, and NGOs to prove the country's commitment to settling the issue.

"The government wants to show the world that we are serious and accountable and [will resolve these cases] without any deception," Luhut said in a statement.

An integrated team responsible for investigating and analyzing alleged rights abuse cases in Papua, formed in May by Luhut, has concluded that from the 22 cases that were

investigated, three constitute human rights violations and those three are currently in the process of being settled, Luhut said.

The three are the 2014 Paniai shooting, the 2001 Wamena incident and the 2003 Wasior incidents.

Confirming a statement made by National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) commissioner Nur Kholis, Luhut said a plenary meeting of the commission had agreed to create a task force that included Komnas HAM commissioners that would assist the government in resolving the cases.

New Zealand Ambassador to Indonesia Trevor Matheson, Solomon Islands Ambassador to Indonesia Salana Kalu, Fijian Ambassador S.T. Cavuilati and Papua New Guinean Ambassador Peter Ilau also presented as witnesses of Indonesia's efforts in Papua, Luhut said.

The results of the investigation carried out by the integrated team will be submitted to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

Komnas HAM wants no part in Papua team

Jakarta Post| Tue, June 28 2016

The National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) is taking no part in a government-sanctioned team on human rights violations in Papua, commissioner Natalius Pigai said on Monday.

"Komnas HAM has decided not to delegate any commissioner to take part in the team," Natalius said at his office in Jl. Latuharhari, Menteng, Central Jakarta.

Natalius said there was no possibility that Komnas HAM, as an independent institution, would participate in any government initiative, including the Papua team, which is spearheaded by the Office of the Coordinating Legal, Political and Security Minister.

"The government is not authorized to coordinate or coax the commission into taking part in the team. We do not sit in the President's Cabinet," Natalius said.

Coordinating Legal, Political and Security Minister Luhut Pandjaitan previously claimed that Komnas HAM was part of the team, which, between now and October, is tasked with identifying human rights violations in the country's easternmost region, and is led by former Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) acting deputy chairman Indrianto Seno Adji.

The team's efforts have met fierce opposition from Papuan activists, including rights activist Yan Christian Warinussy, who wrote in an article on local online news outlet *suarapapua.com* on Sunday that according to the 1999

Human Rights Law, the only institution with the authority to investigate the causes of human rights violations and initiate preliminary investigations was Komnas HAM.

Jubi Journalists Told to Coordinate Reporting Agenda with Police

16 June 2016



Illustrated

Jayapura, Jubi – Jayapura Police Deputy Chief Police Commissioner Arnold Tata warned two Jubi journalists Benny Mawel and Zely Ariane to make early coordination with the Police while covering a rally by the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) Sentani Region on Wednesday (15/6/2016).

Both took photographs and video for reportage and followed the protesters who were arrested and taken to Jayapura Police Office.

Riding a motorcycle, both journalists intended to cover the arrests at the Police station, but an officer stopped them in front of the station.

An officer from the Sabara Unit warned the two that their journalistic activity was considered intrusive.

Mawel explained that as a journalist, based on the Press Law, they have the right to do their job without restrictions.

But the Police did not want to listen any further. Deputy Police Chief Tata said KNPB rally was illegal, so reporting is not required.

To calm down the tension, he asked both to enter the Police station to talk with Jayapura Police spokesperson, Inspector Imam Rubianto who then asked permission to photocopy their ID and press cards.

He said during the time the Police considered Jubi is less coordinated with the Police in Sentani area, less participated in such activities carried out by Jayapura Police.

‘In many activities held by Jayapura Police, other media came to participate, while Jubi has never been there,’ he said while pointing the photographs of their activities hanging on the wall of his office’s lobby.

He also asked Jubi to be more cooperative with the Police related to the reporting agenda. He didn’t question about the reporting done by both journalists today, but he only wanted Jubi to coordinate with Jayapura Police Public Relation.

Jubi Editor-in-chief Dominggus Mampioper said there is no obligation for reporters to do early coordination with the Police in doing coverage.

“Journalist is assigned to cover the fact of ongoing event, and KNPB rally was real happening, doesn’t matter if it was legal or not we should keep reporting it,” said Mampioper. *(Victor Mambor/rom)*

West Papua Groundswell not Dampened By PNG Refusal of Entry:

4 June 2016

Jayapura, Jubi – Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) Executive Director, Ms Emele Duituturaga was shocked to learn that Papua New Guinea (PNG) had not allowed West Papuan campaigner, Octovianus Mote to enter the country last Sunday (29 May, 2016).

Ms Duituturaga was on her way back to Fiji from the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, where she had presented the West Papua Fact Finding Mission report to top UN Officials, when she learnt the Secretary-General of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) had not been granted entry into PNG.

"Sadly, this situation manifests the emerging new approach of Melanesian diplomacy but it will not dampen the spirits of those who continue to call and work for West Papua's self-determination," said Ms Duituturaga.

Ms Duituturaga said she was happy to note that despite the refusal of entry by PNG Immigration, Mote was treated respectfully during the situation.

"Octo (Mote) reported that he was treated very respectfully as a 'wantok' during the situation by immigration officials until he left PNG," she added.

"Although this is the second time a ULMWP leader has been refused entry into PNG – the first being Benny Wenda in 2015 – I doubt it will stem the groundswell of West Papua support sweeping across the Pacific and the world right now," Ms Duituturaga said.

Mr Mote had travelled to Papua New Guinea as a guest of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu government.

"I was invited to assist both delegations with various resolutions they planned to table at the African

Caribbean Pacific meeting of the European Union which is being held in Port Moresby," said Mr Mote

He said no reason was given as to why he was refused permission to enter the country. He was not presented with any written explanation, he was just told it was an 'order from the top'. Although he was seeking clarification about why he was denied entry he accept this decision of the sovereign nation of Papua New Guinea.

"I would like to express my thanks to the MSG countries for their ongoing support of West Papua. I look forward to the forthcoming MSG Leaders' Summit to clarify all matters relating to ULMWP's application for full membership," Mr Mote said.

Mr Mote also expressed his gratitude to the people of PNG for their support and looked forward to clarifying the official position of PNG on West Papua with government leaders. (*)

Fiji opposition figured banned for 2 years

By Pacific affairs reporter Liam Fox



The Fiji Government has used its numbers to suspend a key opposition figure from Parliament for more than two years after alleging she called a minister a "fool".

Key points:

- Committee finds Ms Roko Tupou breached standing orders when she called MP a "fool" and an "idiot"
- NFP leader had also alleged that Mr Reddy had called the opposition "dumb natives"
- She is the second opposition MP within a year to be banned for the remainder of the term

Twenty-eight MPs voted in favour of a motion to suspend the National Federation Party (NFP) president Roko Tupou Draunidalo for the remainder of her parliamentary term, and 16 voted against.

The Government-dominated Parliamentary Privileges Committee had earlier found Ms Roko Tupou breached standing orders on Wednesday when she called Education Minister Mahendra Reddy a "fool" and an "idiot", and when she alleged he had called the opposition "dumb natives".

A transcript of the exchange, contained in a report tabled on Friday, has Fiji's Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum saying: "Point of order Madam Speaker, Honourable Draunidalo called the Minister for Education a fool."

According to the report, Ms Roko Tupou responded: "And he implied first in his speech. Calling us dumb natives. You idiot!"

Opposition MPs walked out of Parliament following Friday's vote barring the NFP president, but not before she delivered a response which, among other allegations, questioned the reliability of Hansard.

"Hansard does not record that I referred to the Minister as a fool. It is the A-G who complained that I called the Minister a fool," she said.

"The Hansard does not pick up all of the free flowing discussion, interjections and words spoken at the time. But if you listen to the audio, it clearly is different from what the Hansard records. And this is not the first time we have had issues with Hansard or verbatim, Madame Speaker."

Leader expected to be banned

Ms Roko Tupou did not deny to Pacific Beat that she had called the minister a "fool", but said her penalty was vastly disproportionate to her alleged transgression.

"It wasn't a surprise, we were prepared for this, another two year suspension or more," she said.

Ms Roko Tupou is the second opposition MP in as many years to be banned from Parliament for the remainder of the term.

In May last year, SODELPA's Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu was banned after making a slur against the Speaker outside Parliament.

"It's completely disproportionate because members of the SODELPA party had complained to the International Parliamentary Union ... [in that instance, and the] IPU wrote to the SODELPA party to say that was totally wrong. And they've done it again," Ms Roko Tupou said.

"And today the minister that moved the motion against me, he was saying in Parliament 'that's okay if they laugh at us overseas. They're not here, that's okay'.

"[The Government] said what they've been doing for ten years now, sticking up their finger to the international community."

Fiji conducted its first general election in 2014 in a return to democracy after the latest in a series of military coups in 2007.

The FijiFirst party, led by coup leader Frank Bainimarama, won 32 seats of the 50 seat Parliament in what observers described as a free and fair election.

Pro-Government Protesters Demand Disbandment of Free West Papua Organisation KNPB



A pro-government group who calls themselves the 'Defenders of the Republik of Indonesia' burns a West Papua flag during a demonstration in Abepura on Thursday (02/06). (Antara Photo/Olha Mulalinda)

By : Robert Isidorus | on 11:27 AM June 03, 2016

Jakarta. Thousands of protesters gathered at the Trikora Field in Abepura, Papua, Thursday (02/06), demanding the disbandment of West Papua National Committee (KNPB), an arm of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), arguing that both organizations contravene state ideology Pancasila and are illegal under Indonesia's 1945 Constitution.

The protesters—who called themselves Defenders of the Indonesian Republic and numbered around 15,000—marched to the local parliament house on Thursday.

"There should be no "December 1," [the anniversary of the Free Papua Movement, or OPM] there is only "May 1," the day of our integration [with Indonesia]. We should unite to develop West Papua. We don't want KNPB here," Umar, the deputy chairman of the organization, said.

The organization also called on the British government to arrest UK-based West Papua freedom activist Benny Wenda and extradite him to Indonesia.

Umar claimed his group was sincere in its intention. "There is no ulterior motive [behind the protest]. We are here because we care about West Papua," Umar said.

Vendors at the Yotefa Market—the city's main trading spot—had closed up shops earlier in the day after receiving letters and flyers about the rally.

Although the market itself was open, only a few people were seen conducting their business as normal. "Not only the sellers, but the buyers also didn't turn up today," said Marten Sremsrem, a security officer.

In the flyers, the pro-government group called on all Indonesians to rally in support of the government, saying "Let us take a moment to help create a better economic climate in the long run. Let us honor our brothers. Voice your support for the Republic of Indonesia."

Article from Jakarta globe

Indonesian troop build-up in West Papua troubles PNG MPs

By Freddy Mou in Port Moresby June 2, 2016



Oro Governor Gary Juffa ... Indonesia's continuous build-up of military presence should concern Papua New Guinea. Image: PNG Parliament

More than 45,000 Indonesian soldiers have been moved to Wamena in the Highlands of West Papua region of Indonesia, which shares a common border with Papua New Guinea, the PNG Parliament has been told.

The movement of soldiers have raised concerns from PNG parliamentarians about why soldiers have been moved there.

Oro Governor Garry Juffa raised this in Parliament yesterday, asking the Defence Minister Fabian Pok whether he was aware of the movement.

"The continuous build-up of military presence in that province should concern Papua New Guinea. Yet we don't seem to have any knowledge of what is going on there," says Juffa.

However, Pok in response told Parliament that Indonesia had been a good friend of PNG and those movements must not be seen as a threat to PNG people.

He said PNG must be considered a lucky country in a sense that PNG shared common borders with two of the "most powerful countries", Indonesia and Australia.

Pok said he had had meetings frequently with defence ministers from both countries and had never seen them as enemies but as friends.

He said it was Indonesia's "internal problems" that moved the military personnel closer to the border.

"We really don't have issues with Indonesia regarding security at the border."

Freddy Mou is news editor of Loop PNG.

www.awpaadelaide.com visit our website for more information .
We can be contacted at info@awpaadelaide.com or phone 83454480 or 83401847.

By mail at P.O. Box 29 Kilkenny 5009

AWPA SA inc is an incorporated Non government organisation that supports West Papuan Human rights and Papuans rights to self determination . Our newsletter is published every 3 months. For those wanting more frequent news please email us to arrange monthly email updates .