

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA REVIEW OF CURRENT LOGGING PROJECTS

CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL  
PLANNING AND MONITORING

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Chief Secretary to Government, Joshua Kalinoe  
Director General National Security Services, Joseph Asaigo  
Police Commissioner, RPNGC, Sam Inguba  
By safe hand T. Yangavi

## **Brief (point form) Situation Report Wawoi Guavi Project, TP 1-07**

### **Wednesday 15 April**

- Security contingent flew out of POM, arrived to a tense reception at Kamusie Airport.

### **Thursday 16 April**

- Security contingent reported back to the Field Team leader that the situation was stable and safe for the team to travel<sup>1</sup>.

### **Saturday 17 April**

- Review Team arrived Kamusie Airport, 2.30 pm to a quiet but welcoming reception<sup>2</sup>.
- Review Team Leader briefed WGTC (ie Operations Manager, Mr Ling and Gabriel Samol, in the presence of Solomon Kosa and Udu Dumai) and arranged for a meeting with full Review Team for 4.30 pm.
- A villager reported to the Field Team Leader that he had overheard the Operations Manager Mr Ling had instructed Solomon Kosa to collect the names of anyone seen cooperating with Review Team and report back to him. This caused a certain amount of tension at the site.
- At the 4.30 pm meeting the Field Team Leader explained the purpose of the review, discussed the rumours mentioned above, noted that the PNG government

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<sup>1</sup> RT Field Team leader received satellite phone calls from Kamusie and local calls from Solomon Kosa warning about our safety right up until late Friday evening.

<sup>2</sup> The Review Team would like to take this opportunity to thank the advance security contingent, headed by Theaddeus Yangavi, without whose help we are certain that the field visit by the Review Team would not have been possible.

considered the situation at Wawoi Guavi as a potential National Security issue and that the matter would be reported to the Secretary of the National Security Advisory Council, Mr Joe Asaigo. I then introduced the team members, who in turn briefed the company on their TORs for the review.

- In the evening several concerned landowners and workers visited the team for discussions<sup>3</sup>.

### **Sunday 18 April**

- The full Review Team held a meeting with landowners and workers at the Kamusie market. Towards the end of the meeting, some landowners asked the Review Team to explain why there was an attempt to stop the team from coming to Wawoi Guavi. The Field Team leader suggested that Mubami Resources Ltd respond to this question. Solomon Kosa gave a valiant effort to justify his actions, eventually giving up and welcoming the Review Team.
- The Review Team then split, Labour, Foreign Affairs and Community Development members going to Panakawa, where they spent the night, landowner specialist holding meetings with Upper and Lower Bamu River people and a separate meeting with the Kamusie Base Camp landowners.

### **Monday 19 April**

- Field team (forestry/environment) travelled to bush camps and logged over set-ups and walked to Wawoi Falls, Landowner specialist travelled to Mosula Village on the border with Southern Highlands and Gulf provinces and stayed overnight. Other government departments returned to Kamusie base camp.

### **Tuesday 20 April**

- Landowner specialist remained in the field conducting meetings in two other villages and overnighing. Field team (forestry/environment) drove to Panakawa, inspected veneer mill, held public meeting with landowners and workers. Other government departments carried out their work at Kamusie.

### **Wednesday 21 April**

- Landowner specialist remained in field and later returned to Kamusi. Field Team Leader held meetings at Kamusie; other government departments inspected bush camps, debriefed the company and flew back to POM. Forestry/environment, including regional inspector inspected set-ups.
- The Review Team Leader was handed a photocopy of correspondence indicating that certain people, including Solomon Kosa, Udu Dumai and Max Senewa, who signed a request to WGTC for allowances which are tantamount to payment for attempting to disrupt the meeting. Several people were paid amounts varying from K50 to K200 each, authorised by Gabriel Samol<sup>4</sup> (see attachment).
- Foreign Affairs, Labour and Industry and Community Development officers flew back to POM.

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<sup>3</sup> These meetings were held everynight, often until midnight.

<sup>4</sup> I believe this to be in contempt of the court order, by the WGTC, the recipients and Mr Gabriel Samol.

### **Thursday 22 April**

- Landowner Specialist and Field Team Leader travelled down the Wawoi River from Panakawa to investigate environmental concerns at stations 1 to 5 (strategic locations where barges stop and await the right conditions for navigating the river) and held a meeting with landowners at station 5 (Tirere and Maipami).
- Environmentalist/Regional Inspector inspected the re-entered set-ups near Sogae.
- In the evening we were briefed about guns and drug smuggling and Task Force Human Rights abuses.

### **Friday 23 April**

- Landowner Specialist held meeting at Panakawa, Field Team Leader held meeting at Kamusie, Environmentalist inspected concerns around Kamusie Base Camp, Regional Inspector briefed Operations Manager about RT findings wrt to Logging Code of Practice and issued a "Lawful Direction"<sup>5</sup>.
- At the Kamusie meeting the Field Team Leader cautioned the people to stay calm until the situation regarding establishing a stable and trustworthy police contingent were installed at Kamusie as we were seriously concerned that once we and the mobile squad were not present, the situation whereby the police in the companies payroll could go back to their old ways.
- Three members of security contingent flew out to POM, with Environmental specialist.

### **Saturday 24 April**

- Team Leader warned Operations Manager, Mr Ling, not to take action against the landowners and workers who had cooperated with the Review Team.
- Photos taken of suspected building holding arms cache (unable to confirm as yet) and a foreign national who had closed her trade store and "ran away" whilst the Labour and Foreign Affairs Department officers were at Kamusie.
- Task force member deployed at Kamusie, Robert Isoro (Freddy) reported that he had been told that Mr Ling had contacted the Task Force "Boss" and complained about him cooperating with the Review Team, he is concerned that he may be dismissed for cooperating with us, (which we consider to be a legitimate role for any RPNGC police officer).
- Review Team departed for POM.

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<sup>5</sup> No. A 3704, directing the Camp manager, Pacific Wood Contractors Ltd to refrain from felling in unapproved set-ups (two unapproved set-ups had been logged in total breach of the Logging Code of Practice.

ISSUE	COMMENTS
Task Force Police	Several reports were received about actions of the Task Force Police, most described actions against landowners and individuals and involved forcing people to strip naked at gun point and forcing them to engage in acts of an explicit sexual nature, parading naked in front of fellow villagers or climbing Pawpaws/Banana plants naked. Several names of victims and perpetrators available.
Guns and Drugs	<p>Names of people accused of gun and drug smuggling and involvement of police eg Gerry Biamaga (letter requesting assistance from Mr Ling also sighted). Mode of operations appears to be that when the cessna 206 flies to Mendi for service, it carries bags of guns disguised as saksak and returns with marijuana which is then sent to Balimo and overseas. (Nb at Kamusie pilot informed RT that he does not check cargo but is suspicious of large amounts of saksak being consumed by highlanders). Guns come in on logships and offloaded and stored in a workshop opposite sawmill, under curfew imposed at the camp by Task Force police. Names of suspects available.</p> <p>RH planes arriving at Kamusie are often seen to taxi to the end of the airstrip where it is assumed tha contriband goods are being unloaded.</p> <p>Name of person profiting from selling drugs at Kamusie given to RT (same person “disciplined” for insubordination by Theaddeus see * below)</p>
Law and Order at Panakawa and Kamusie	<p>Claims of Martial Law imposed by Camp managers Ling ang Wong at these camps using their own guns and task force police. Boom gates were removed duiring the field visit but can be manned to control movement at the company’s will.</p> <p>Ling and Michael Patias*, being trained as Reserve Police, due to complete course in June.</p> <p><b>The Review Team is seriously concerned for the safety of those workers and landowners seen talking with the team.</b> One long serving worker jumped into dense vegetation to avoid being seen by Ling when he was walking away from a meeting with us.</p> <p>Now that we have left the Camp, the company has complete control of whatever police are on the camp, hence the warnings to Ling and caution to the landowners.</p>

Illegals	<p>Landowners reported that many foreigners had hid in their houses during the visit by the Labour and Foreign Affairs officers; many had travelled out of Kamusie to Omuda by tug. So although documents revealed more than eighty illegals (Labour report), we believe there are many more who have no records on government files and who have been smuggled in by logships. The foreigner who operates the trade store near the sawmill hid during the Labour and Foreign Affairs officers presence but reopened her shop two days after they had departed. Many more stories collaborate the presence on illegals in this operation.</p> <p>Some camps were not visited by Labour and Foreign Affairs.</p>
Suspect Industrial Activities	<p>IPA did not send an officer on this field visit. Review Team observed shipbuilding industry at Kamusie, which needs further investigation, photos available.</p>

**Recommendations for Immediate Action:**

It is recommended that any police being paid by the PNG government who are stationed at Kamusie, Panakawa or elsewhere in the Wawoi Guavi TRP and who are provided with allowances by the company, be replaced by trustworthy Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary police who are provided with relevant allowances by the PNG government so that the government of Papua New Guinea regains control of law and order.

It is further recommended that this be considered a matter of national security and expedited as soon as practicable in order to ensure the safety of genuine landowners who are at risk until the situation is satisfactorily resolved.

**Final Comments:**

The Review Team would, once again, take this opportunity to thank the National Security Council, Joe Asaigo, Gerry Baki, and particularly Theaddeus and his team for their efforts, which have achieved such a good outcome.

We will now continue to prepare our final report.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom Diwai Vigus  
Field Team Leader/Forester  
Anzac Day 2004

Cc Director General National Security Services, Joseph Asaigo  
Cc Police Commissioner, RPNGC, Sam Inguba

**APPENDIX 1: FURTHER INFORMATION HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

ISSUE	INCIDENT AND NAMES <sup>6</sup>
Human Rights Abuse by Task Force	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Task force officers based at Kamusie. 14 December 2002. Case of adultery at Musula, female and male told to strip naked, paraded in front of other villagers, forced to commit indecent acts in front of the community, forced to have sex.</li> <li>2. Wavoi Falls. Sunday after Independence Day 2002. Warsuwe Haiya forced to strip at gunpoint and climb a banana tree naked, suspected of assisting in drug trafficking. Same day MiriyeGolobe forced to climb a pawpaw naked at gunpoint same suspicion.</li> <li>3. At Camp 56, after visit by Provincial Government and Member for Middle Fly Mr gagi, Ms Bukino Gomo and Mr Duga and Mrs Mawere, found to be gambling, were paraded around the camp ground, told to roll around on the ground and and “grab” each, for three hours (with clothes on).</li> <li>4. Two males, Siyale Yaela and Johnathon Lawrence accused of swearing at an AC policeman (Mr Tiut) were told by Task Force police to fight each other, tackle each other then kiss each other.</li> </ol>
Guns and Drugs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rodney Michael, informant on his father Michael Patias.</li> <li>2. Yakama Albert sells drugs on street Kamusie for M.Patias, also travels to Balimo often and has RH pay packet, confessed (10 Nov 2002) to TDY’s informant.</li> <li>3. Jerry Biamaga has connections at Balimo, Mr Igia Kutika (ex army).</li> <li>4. Yakama Albert gets drugs in highlands, then thru Balimo.</li> <li>5. Another name, Gideon, works with “One Eye” on drug smuggling.</li> <li>6. Informant has Theaddeus’s direct phone contact in Pom, for further info.</li> </ol>
Other Evidence and Affidavits	<p>Many affidavits and statements, dating back to 1999, given to Southern Command, now in possession of Review Team and passed on to Theaddeus. No apparent action by Southern Command to date (hardly surprising).</p>

<sup>6</sup> Words used are those of the informant, he claims to have sent all this information to the Governor (Hon Dr Bob Danaya, 2003).