Woman leader calls for gender balanced budgets

By ZACHERY PER
SUCCESSIVE parliamentary budgets passed over the years have always been gender biased, according to a rising women leader in the Pacific.

Deputy Speaker of the Autonomous Bougainville Parliament and women’s regional representative of North Bougainville Francisca Semoso made the remarks at the 9th Centre for Democratic Institution (CDI) Pacific Parliamentarians Dialogue in Goroka yesterday.

She said women wanted a gender balanced national budgets right throughout the Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand.

Mrs Semoso said women always had to pay a heavy burden for which they have not been allocated the resources needed to help them cater for their subsistence needs.

She said all the issues and problems facing the countries in the region and the world would be addressed comfortably should there be a gender balanced budget.

Man dies in gruesome fashion in Kabwum

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District administrator John Orebut said the man, in his mid 50s and married with three children, ran into the spinning left propeller of the plane and was decapitated.

"He died instantly," he said. "The agent of the NCA and some other people who were standing at the eastern end of the tarmac area saw him running towards the plane," he said. "They shouted in an attempt to stop him but it was too late. They were some distance away and watched helplessly when he was struck down.

"I heard the screams from the people standing in front of my office and as I ran out, I was advised that Apo had run into the plane and was killed.

"I immediately got the police vehicle and rushed down to the airstrip," Mr Orebut said. "NCA’s Lae office was alerted by the pilot and sent in another plane with the chief pilot and a police investigator and Charlie Masage from the Provincial Disaster Centre to assess and report on the incident.

This is the second time a man was killed this way at the Kabwum airstrip and the Provincial Disaster Centre is urging people to keep away from the planes and runways in all airstrips throughout the province.

Governor-General Sir Paulias Matane meeting some of the visitors to the CDI Dialogue after officially opening the meeting in Goroka yesterday.

PRIME Minister Sir Michael Somare has arrived in Bali after he undergoing a routine medical check in Singapore.

The Prime Minister’s chief of staff Dr Theo Yasaue said in a statement the Prime Minister was very well and was attending the climate change conference in Bali, Indonesia.

Dr Yasaue said Sir Michael was not sick as reported in Monday’s Post-Courier.

"I would like to make it clear that the Prime Minister is in an excellent state of health. It was improper for the Post-Courier to report rumours and speculate on a non-issue as had been in the recent past."

Dr Yasaue said Sir Michael’s delegation travelled through Brisbane and Singapore en route to Bali.

He said Sir Michael had routine health checks on the way and was in good health. The Prime Minister’s health will continue to be assessed while he is in Bali.

Apart from discussing issues relating to climate change, Sir Michael is also expected to meet new Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and discuss a number of issues of mutual concern including the Enhanced Cooperation Programme.

Clean bill of health for PM
Public servants’ admiring misuse

By James KLA