



CHIEF Justice Sir Gibbs Salika addressing judges, magistrates, lawyers, MPs, the disciplinary forces and dignitaries during the legal year opening yesterday. PICTURE: TARAMI LEGEI

# Parkop urged to enforce Summary Offences Act



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THE Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea Sir Gibbs Salika has called on the National Capital District Governor Powes Parkop to enforce the Summary Offence Act.

This strong yet significant appeal was made yesterday by Sir Gibbs at

the opening of 2024 legal year.

Lawlessness in the city is escalating immensely because the laws of the country are not being enforced. This should be a wake-up call for the NCD Governor Mr Parkop to fix this issue at hand said Sir Gibbs.

"The rioting on January 10, 2024 was repeated by the same group of people a few days ago and many other issues arise in the city and throughout the country, which is becoming a threat to the rule of

law. This shows our adherence to the rule of law, which is by far weak and not working well.

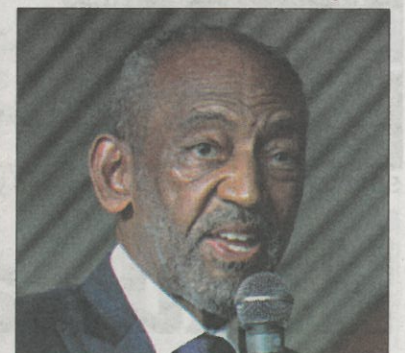
"Relevant authorities should enforce the National Capital District Commissions Act to control the chewing of betelnut and its spittle all over the city, which shows lawlessness; it is disgusting, the NCDC Act must be enforced along with the Summary Offences Act to penalise the citizens who are violating the rule of law.

The constabulary was also urged

to uphold and adhere to the rule of law in making sure the citizens are helped without fear or favour from the police force.

Sir Gibbs expounded on the duty of the judicial arm of the government and explained that the judiciary is there to interpret the laws in a timely and partial manner, hence, encouraged the police force to also perform the duty to execute the laws that are passed down by the government in order for the society to function accordingly.

## President of Commonwealth Lawyers Association visits law firm



DR PETER Maynard

THE president of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) Dr Peter Maynard visited the Leahy Lewin Lowing Sullivan Lawyers (LLS) yesterday to address the law firm on the importance of the rule of law.

Dr Maynard who once served as a High Court Justice and currently heads the Law of the University of Bahamas, raised concerns on the elevation of poverty and corruption in Papua New Guinea which can lead to the crippling of the economy.

As an experienced complex civil Litigation recovery fighting corruption Dr Maynard encouraged the young and upcoming lawyers of this country to uphold the rule of law. He went on to commend the Chief Justice of PNG Sir Gibbs Salika for taking a bold stand to raise concerns on the conduct of the Royal PNG Constabulary.

Dr Maynard explained the commission of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association being anti-corruption and upholding human rights.

He went on further to explain that the CLA is also committed to solving climate justice issues and the rule of law resonates with CLA in providings networking.

Michael Sullivan, the managing partner of the LLS firm acknowledged Dr Maynard for taking his time to encourage young lawyers to uphold the rule of law.

The LLS is an independent PNG based law firm advising a wide range of investors, institutions, finance, resource taxation, construction property, including the government and many other businesses

Mr Sullivan further mentioned that as a firm they support the CLA and will make sure the young lawyers are associated with the CLA.



## 2024 Enrollment Opens WAIGANI CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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## Waigani court complex expected to open soon

THE new Waigani Court House is expected to open and be in use by March.

The K450m worth building that underwent construction in 2017 is now completed and ready to be used, however, there are some electrical equipment that needs to be installed and, the Information Technology team needs to approve if the building is ready to be used, said Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika.

Apart from the new Waigani National Court House that is near completion, there are other court facilities throughout the country that are also under construction.

One such court house that is completed and ready to be used is the one at Walum in Imbongu, Southern Highlands Province, that will be opened tomorrow. The court house in Finschhafen is also expected to open soon.

Court facilities play a vital role in housing judges, magistrates, lawyers and court users who access legal services.

Other court complexes that were named to be in construction are: the Wewak Court House located at Kreer Heights, Biella in West New Britain Province, Banz in Jiwaka, Imbongu, Finschhafen in Morobe and many others that needs a facelift, like the Mt Hagen Court House.

Sir Gibbs said that these court facilities are taking shape and soon PNG will have National Court Houses in every province that will fast track the court process.

With the backlog of cases piled up in Waigani, it is now refreshing to know that the judicial service in PNG is focused on minimising law and order issues throughout the country.