

# Miracle: Toddler, 2, survives killer croc

A 2-year-old toddler has miraculously survived a crocodile attack with just a scratch on her arm while her aunt is still missing in Gulf Province.

According to Koravake village ward member Jethro Aumari, toddler Adosha was getting a bath from aunt Regina Evo'o when the crocodile struck in the morning of May 30 in the Kikori district.

Both aunt and baby were grabbed and taken under water by the beast and their screams attracted the attention of grandfather Allen Koivi, who ran down to the river and leapt and grabbed hold of Regina's leg.

But the animal was too strong and dragged all three under a log. An uncle of baby Adosha jumped onto the log and ran along searching and was shocked and amazed when the baby floated to the surface.

Men from Koravake, a village on the muddy banks not far from Baimuru government station on the Purari River delta, have since been hunting the crocodile. Police attended to the village but were unable to locate and shoot the reptile.

In a second attack, on Monday, June 3, 2019, Mr Aumari reported that two men, Omera Aua and Namari Aua were paddling back from Baimuru after buying some supplies for those who were searching for the body of Regina and hunting the crocodile with harpoons.

As they paddled a large crocodile came under the canoe and attacked Omera.

The crocodile snapped onto Omera's paddling hand and man and beast put up a mighty struggle.

Colin Calvert, the son of famous



REGINA'S mother weeping in the mud at the site of her daughter's death. Below: The claw mark on Adosha's arm.

Kapuna Hospital doctor Dr Lin Calvert said: "With his friends help they pulled his hand out of the crocodile's jaws."

"In this tug of war they had come closer to the bank of the river so the two men managed to leap out of the canoe, one with his bloodied hand and got to the bank.

"The canoe was now floating its self. The crocodile followed them as they made their way along the bank of the river; it was seriously intent on getting one of them.

"From there they made their way through the bush calling for help until others who were out searching for the body of the girl found them.

"These attacks have left the village, particularly women and children in great fear are now afraid to carry out their daily food gathering of making of sago and fishing.

"Help is needed." Calvert further made an urgent appeal for help to the Gulf Governor Chris Haiveta for police to be sent back again



## DAL excited to have new Minister

BY ISAAC NICHOLAS

THE Department of Agriculture and Livestock is looking forward to working with Maprik MP and new Agriculture Minister John Simon.

The Acting Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Daniel Kombuk has welcomed the appointment and thanked the Marape government for its wisdom in appointing a leader who is passionate about agriculture development in his own electorate and the country.

"I believe the government has made the right choice in appointing John Simon as our new minister to take charge of this important sector," he said.

"I am aware, the incoming minister is passionate about agriculture and he has his own views and thoughts about the sector and I look forward to working with him."

He said the department is fully aware of the development initiatives undertaken by the minister in Maprik to promote agriculture as the main economic activity for the electorate and for his people.

"It's fitting to have a like-minded leader appointed to the ministry so we can work collaboratively to promote agriculture as the mainstay of our economy in line with government policy and priority in making PNG one of the richest black Christian nation's in the world," he said.

Mr Kombuk said agriculture employs more than 85 per cent of the people of PNG and is this government's number one priority, adding that we needed to put our heads together and work to achieve a common goal, and enable economic sustainability for the country.

The official handover-takeover ceremony for the incoming minister will be held today at the DAL headquarters at the Central Government Office, Waigani.

## Panguna LOs refer ABG-McGlinn deal to OC

IN a dramatic escalation, the landowners in Bougainville, the Special Mining Lease Osikaiyang Landowners Association ("SMLOLA") yesterday announced a formal referral of the entire Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)-McGlinn deal to the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.

"The Bougainville Executive Council formally resolved to proceed with a proposal which in effect would transfer for free, 40 per cent of the world renowned Panguna Mine, our minerals, together with an exclusive monopoly over all large scale mines in Bougainville, to one man - Jeffrey McGlinn.

"McGlinn does not have the money or institutional backing and no relevant experience. He has never financed nor developed a mine, so something is very, very wrong here," said Philip Miriori, chairman of the SMLOLA, whose members own the land and minerals of the Panguna open pit mining area.

The Panguna landowners believe that Jeffrey McGlinn has been banned by the PNG government from entry into PNG and Bougainville.

Mr Miriori said: "The Panguna Mine belongs to the customary owners, not the ABG. It is not for the ABG to gift Panguna to their friend - McGlinn. We believe this is an abuse of executive power and, if the draft bills are passed

by parliament, it will be an abuse of both the Bougainville Constitution and the National (PNG) Constitution.

"Over our dead bodies and those of our family members, will we ever stand by and allow this McGlinn fellow, to steal our land, our minerals and both our future and our heritage.

"How arrogant are they to think they could possibly get away with this and pay us nothing or even listen to our views."

SMLOLA adviser Lawrence Daveona said: "In my opinion, personal interest and greed are written all over this proposal. We just can't explain it any other way.

"If the ABG passes the McGlinn drafted unconstitutional and unlawful legislation to perpetrate this theft on the customary owners of Bougainville, we intend to focus the most intense investigative light on this extraordinary conduct."

The ABG's actions will effectively reverse customary ownership of minerals granted under the Bougainville Mining Act, which was passed with much fanfare in 2015, and will then deceptively transfer 100 per cent of Bougainville's minerals for free to a secretive McGlinn incorporated British Virgin Islands shelf company with no assets, money or track record in developing mines.

"How did these people ever think they could get away with

'stealing' Bougainville's minerals before gifting it to a McGlinn BVI company, whose directors and shareholders are not even disclosed. How could one have ever contemplate transferring a nationally significant asset like Panguna to a jurisdiction like the British Virgin Islands.

"The conduct of the ministers and secretary pushing this unconscionable deal on the people of Bougainville has to be reviewed.

"When Parliament reconvenes on Tuesday, the three parties involved in pushing these bills need to disclose whether they have already received benefits and whether any future benefits have been promised before these dodgy Bills are placed before the House of Representatives."

The Ombudsman Commission is an independent institution established directly by the National Constitution. It forms an integral part of the system of checks and balances put in place by the National Constitution to regulate the government systems of PNG.

The Ombudsman can investigate a complaint by a person affected by any conduct which may be wrong, taking into account, amongst other things, the Basic Rights.

The SMLOLA's advice is that the draft bill to amend the Bougainville Mining Act offends their basic rights.

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