

Mekamui News

Mekamui Message to the World

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
-

MANPOWER @ PANGUNA MINE

3 05 2011



David

It was Sunday the 24th of April when I and JM and my nephew where driving up to section 16 to refill. I saw a white man whom I recognized from a far distance. JM stopped the truck beside him and I opened the cabin door and called out: David. David is an Australian who has become my friend after meeting and knowing him through a woman from my area. He's been in Mekamui/Bougainville for some years. Now he has gone back to Australia and lives in Canberra where I met him last year in November. He told me than that he wanted to visit Mekamui/Bougainville again. I went back to my motherland in the middle of March, he came over in the third week of April. He wanted to go to Buin, South Bougainville but it was Easter weekend so he couldn't find any transport. We left him in Arawa and went to Tororei and told him that when we get back I would get in touch with him.

I arrived back late in the night so I texted him and told him that I would meet him on Easter Monday as I will be leaving my motherland on the weekend. When we met on Monday morning he told me that he wants to take pictures of locals or grassroots, as he refers to them, when panning gold. I quickly tried to contact the Mekamui General Chris Uma to give us green light to go past the check point but couldn't get through to him. I tried to contact Mekamui commander Moses up at Panguna too but his wife answered the phone and told me that he is out so I told her that I will call him in the night. We left my sisters residence and walked down to the Arawa town centre. On our way we met General Uma and I told him about David and he told me to see the

Mekamui Officers and Connol Alex at the check point. I left David and went to see the Mekamui officer, who said it was ok.

Later in the night I talked with Moses and he gave me green light that David could go up. I texted David and mentioned to him that he will meet with me at the main market to catch the bus. The next day we met at the market and waited for the bus, in no time the bus came and we hopped on it. As we were driving the driver asked me if I had informed the Mekamui Soldiers at the check point. I told him I will let them know when we get there but the two commanders and officers I had informed yesterday.

We came to the check point and stopped I talked with a soldier there than he had to call connol Alex so I went out of the bus and talked with Alex telling him that David is very helpful and his blog is linked to our blog so he let us go through.

As we arrived in Panguna we went straight to Commander Moses residence. His wife came out and told us that Moses is already at the gold panning area. So we took some pictures at the resident area of the people who are panning for gold than we walked up the former married quarters area. Our guide told us to take our shoes off as we will walk following the stream. The stream where people were panning up stream was all dirty and very brown. We walked some distance before we came to the place. The third lot of people we met asked me if Moses knew we were coming. They told me that a couple of weeks ago he kicked out another white man who went there with late Francis Ona's son. I told them: yes he knows I told him last night. In fact he told me during our interview earlier about the panning but I didn't make it there, so when David came over and wanted to take the pictures of people panning gold I thought it will be great and Moses dreams will come true that people are sweating their soul out to make a living rather than letting the biggest mining company do the job with massive destruction and little money.



While interviewing the panners who are landowners and others from Nagovis they told me that they don't want the biggest mining company like Rio Tinto's BCL to come again. A person who is known as John told me that the people, who want BCL to come back and mine the land, are lazy people they just want to sit and earn money and not work as we do.

We walked back and waited for the bus at the bus stop for a while as we saw a small boy aged about 10 coming around dressed up well. In the morning we had seen him at the panning site and he showed me some gold on a disk. I asked him if he managed to sell it, how much would he make? He told us 3 grams a local buyer bought for PNGK65. So within hours of work he earned PNGK195.

That is why people are saying no to destructive mining with very, very little money.

I jumped on the bus leaving David behind as he wanted to take more pictures and Moses had been willing to accommodate him. While taking the trip back we went to new Dapera village to drop of some cargo for a person who runs a store. While waiting I walked to the old man who was standing outside his store and asked him if they were there when the mine was in operation. He said yes and pointed to the other side which is now only gravel and told me that was the Dapera village: this is where we have been relocated or moved to.

I said to him, so when the mine re-opens you people will be moved again. He looked at me and said, young man there will be bloodshed, killing young man we don't want to move. I went back to the bus and took a picture of him feeling sorry for him, as to move and mining to come back is the last option he and his people want.

Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

[GENESIS SCHOOL: an example of grassroots initiative to teach kids their native language.](#)

3 05 2011



Chairman of the school, JM, Clytus and family, Clive P.

On the 24th of April I took a trip to Tororei, a village in central Mekomui/Bougainville, near Koromira. Clytus a man from the area invited me to film his school, which he runs with the help of his wife Merry. He had met me in Arawa and asked me to come to his village and film the school. Unfortunately it was a holiday week and I couldn't do it later as I am about to leave Mekomui.

We went first to the former BRA Commanders residence thinking that Clytus might be waiting for us there, but Sam Kauona told us that he is waiting for us in the village.

JM my comrade drove us up with his skilled hands through the rough rocks and pot holes. When we arrived we saw Clytus waiting for us. I chatted with him for a while before I started filming him and his wife Merry, while they were talking about their school, which is run without any funds from anyone.

The school was very touching to me as they taught the kids their mothers language and Clytus and Merry told me with a big smile on their faces that the kids who attend the school do well when they are moved to the elementary or primary schools.

The thing that is very impressive is that they want to give the kids a solid foundation in their mothers tongue, because when we mix it with pidgin and English the native language tends to get forgotten. They told me: that is the reason why the community saw the need of teaching the kids first the mother's language and they are supporting the idea.

Later they took me to their project site which they started building. It is a fishpond consisting of 3 pools, with a bigger one, which they are still digging. He got some

white ants and fed the fish. The three different pools hold each different fish types. He told me that when this project is on the ground they will have some kind of funds.

They said that around the area they have now set up 8 language schools. They have been invited by many to set up more schools and this is the beginning, as the name of the school tells: Genesis School.

After filming we sat and talked for a while with JM and the Chairman of the school and had fruits before we drove back to Arawa.



Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

SECOND PANGUNA TRIP

25 04 2011

On the 19th I went back to Panguna. In the morning the day was cloudy again like the last time I took the trip so I thought it will be the same: rain all day in Arawa and Panguna. I went to the bus stop and waited for the bus, round about 8:30am the 25 seater bus came and I signalled the driver pointing up to the mountains which means are you going to Panguna. He called me over and I jumped in, when we arrived in Panguna the weather was fine, I went straight to Moses Pipiro, the resident Mekamui Commander. I chatted with him for some time and he took me around his setup at the rundown 3 story building. He told me to film his men and women who were panning gold at the same building.

Later I went down to where the mini market is. I asked the women who were selling their goods if I could take their pictures but they were shy. Out came one of the woman and I said *tampara mata* in our mothers language she said *tampara* in reply. I chatted with her for sometime than I asked her the very question about re-opening the mine. She looked at me and asked: where are you from and are you here to talk about the re-opening of the mine. She told me that she is the landowner there and she doesn't want the mine re-opened. She looked very cross at me till I explained to her who I am and why I am there and if she could tell me on the

camera what she was telling me. She agreed, but said she is not dressed up; she was ready to go to the garden when I caught up with her. She told me lets go up to my store where my husband is looking after our store, located on the side of the old Panguna market. I told her there is no need to dress up: you are okay, so on the way to her store she picked a few beautiful flowers and put them in her hair.

Magi Monona told me that BCL and big mining operations are no longer needed and for BCL to return is not the answer. She stated again the same strong message which others voiced out that they have no land to move to. If they were moved to other places which are different clans land and if they were kicked out from there, by the clan who owns the land, where would they go?

When asked about the money, the loyalty the company gave, she said when the company was in operation was K40.00 per month, which is peanuts but the destruction they caused in that one month was very, very big compared to the money they gave us. Now we earn up to K1000.00 in a day or week when we pan for gold without much destruction to our land.

She told me that we the Panguna landowners are divided but those who want the mine re-opened are only a few and they don't care for the land and the future generations. They only want money, handouts and don't want to sweat their guts out like we are doing. I asked Magi what will happen if those who want the mine re-opened sign any agreement. She told me there will be bloodshed, another war.

I finished the interview with her and went over to the top of the mine pit and took some footage there. After one year 3 months since my last visit to the mine site there are more trees growing. Magi said that they want the hole to be grown with bushes again though it will not be like in the old days where they had gardens here and hunted animals. Another bus came by and I jumped on it. I told the driver to stop at Sipatako road. I had to see my boys who are playing volleyball at the school bazaar.

Another man from Dapera, Panguna dropped off with me and while crossing the swing bridge I asked him about the Panguna issue. First he said it will depend on the leaders and what they say. But when I closely questioned him, as he is from the mine area, he told me that if there will be a better benefit than last time it will re-open but if there are no better benefits for the people, he didn't think the mine will be re-opened.



Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

PANGUNA MINE RE-OPENING

19 04 2011

A total disaster to the future Bougainville generation

From the Meekamui Desk, Arawa.

Panguna mine re-opening is a very sensitive issue it is not for Rio Tinto, BCL, PNG, ABG and a few pro-mining landowners executive to discuss it in the guest houses in Buka or the hotels in Port Moresby and sign agreements or any other binding documents to decide on the mine re-opening. It is the total population's prerogative to come up with a decision which best suits them.

PNG and BCL are standing crystal clear that for the last years they have been pushing ABG to organize Panguna mine affected landowners into the categorized lease groups to form up six groups of landowner associations and succeeded in a way but they still yet to form an umbrella body or association from which two or three members will be appointed to represents the six associations if and when the B.C.A review takes place. An idea which even those in the association are opposed to.

All concerned Bougainvilleans, especially the villagers around Panguna and Java river tailings people have continuously voiced out their opposition when they hear so much about Panguna mine re-opening. They were the most affected people and the effects of the environmental destructions remain crystal clear today. One can only

travel to Panguna and witness the destructions done to the ecology and the hardships the people in Panguna area are facing today.

As it is known and it is in the records of Bougainville war twenty thousands lives have been lost and their blood is still crying, their properties destroyed and for PNG and BCL to push ABG for their gain to re-open the mine is uncalled for. BCL and PNG have to put right the Bougainville people, there is no justice and BCL has not re-addressed for the losses and damages to our environment and the properties destroyed.

BCL and PNG Government have failed the people of Bougainville and caused them much head ache and pain, the Original Meekamui stand now is: no to the re-opening of the mine. When the mine remains closed it will do away with all the problems associated with the mining industry.

There are surely other resources in Bougainville that ABG can develop in order to sustain the economy on the Island. One and the only renewable resource is the agriculture sector. This is where from all walks of life Bougainvilleans can put their hands to it and they will be participating in the creation of economy for our Island or nation with the eco-system intact which otherwise with mining it would have the opposite effect.

From the desk of Meekamui we ask concerned Bougainvilleans to think positive to save our Island. Let us not bow down to these western sharks and eastern tigers, the multi international corporations who are coming in disguise of bringing services or helping us at the invitation of those self centred or self interested people who want to become fat cats as we are witnessing in PNG and we will be affected if we remain with PNG.

Let us hold our hands together and save our Island and our future generations. If we don't we will be cursed for not acting now. Let Panguna mine remain closed.

William Mungta,

Meekamui Office Arawa.

Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

SILENT MAJORITY

19 04 2011



Joel S

On the 2nd of April I took a highway truck to go to Inus a village at the border between Central and North Mekomui/Bougainville. The truck sped along the gravel road which had been graded lately and it took one hour 30 minutes. I with my nephew dropped off at a place called white stone. We walked for about 2 hours than finally reached the village. The road is still the same as a couple of years back not much used and not fixed for ages, a villager told me that before the war it was the same.

In the afternoon many people came to where I was talking with a former BRA platoon commander from the area. I was asking him if I could do an interview with him on the camera. He asked me what I want to know and what questions I want to ask.

I told him, there are a lot of media talks about re-opening the Panguna mine and I am doing my follow up film on it. As he is from far away from the mine itself what did motivate him to join in the fight, and did he want that mine re-opened. Those who came and listened asked me if the mine will be re-opened? I told them I don't want the mine re-opened and they all gave a big smile and said: its closed and now we enjoy the life why talking about re-opening it.

Later, on the 4th I went up to Joel S village and did the interview with him on the camera.

He joined the war because Independence or self-determination for Bougainville are linked to it. Also he saw that one day our island will be a land of only gravel if the mining continued because we got minerals all over the island. For our Future Generations to live in peace and harmony in their land we joined the war.

He told me that he was a BCL employee and had been fighting with the company for a pay rise and then resigned. He wants a better Mekamui/Bougainville and wants to save the land and future generations from the destruction of mining and outside influences.

He mentioned that his people really don't want the mining on the island, although they were far from the mine itself they saw many things being destroyed and people lived in fear from the outsiders when the mine was in operation. Now my people are blessed and being blessed. When I asked him what he thinks the government will focus on to have an economic base so that independence for Mekamui/Bougainville will be viable, he showed me his cocoa plantation.

He said this is renewable, in some years you can cut it and make a garden than later plant it again. But by digging gold and copper you make a mess in your land. Lets save our land for our future generations.

Comments : [1 Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

[PANGUNA MINE TRIP](#)

17 04 2011



Panguna

On the 13th of April, a cloudy and wet day, we took a chance to visit Panguna mine.

Before we left Arawa we thought that it will be sun shine in Panguna but unfortunately it was not. When we reached Panguna we couldn't see anything, it was all cloudy, so we drove to the top of the hill on the west side and stopped at a house at the mine site.

Out came the person who owns the place and lives there since the mine stopped. As I wasn't able to go out and take footage I asked him if he could talk on the camera about the issue of re-opening Panguna mine.

Max is one of the landowners who makes a living carrying people on his truck to Arawa and back. The first question I asked was: "You have build this house in a mine site and BCL is planning to come back. If all the negotiations go well with the pro-mining landowners will you move from here?" He says "I will not move, this is my land and I have no place to go."

He pointed to the gardens on the hills behind us and stated, "That is all the land left for us to make our gardens, the rest is being dug up and left with gravel, you can't plant food here now. Those who are talking about re-opening the mine live on money not on the land, they are like the old people who sold our land for axes and tobacco. If we let BCL come back again where will we go? we don't have land anywhere else on Mekmaui."

While talking with him a mother and her son age about 6 or 7 came covering themselves from the rain with a banana leave and an umbrella. They came to one of the houses near Max's and were putting down taro when I walked over to them and asked the woman if I could take their photo, she agreed and I filmed them. Later I asked her if she mind if I asked her a question, she nodded her head in agreement. I asked her the same question about re-opening the mine. She looked very sad and said, she doesn't like to see the minere-opened. If the mine re-opens, she told me, they will spoil the land which she uses to plant the taro. I asked her: "What if they offer you money?" she says, "I don't want money I want my land preserved."

As the rain still continues and it makes it hard for me to take pictures of the mine pit after almost one year and 3 months since my last visit, my comrade the driver JM says we will go to the district office at Kavarong and interview the Meekamui hardliner Moses Pipiro. So we jumped into the truck and drove over.

We asked John Duni, one of the founders, and he told us that Mr Pipiro must be in his base or went to pan for gold up the river. We didn't make any arrangement to see him so when we stopped near his base and I opened the door I saw a young girl looking down at us. I know that if we asked calling him Moses they would not tell us where he is, even though he is home. They will think that we are strangers, so I used the name he is called back home, when I asked the girl for him. She quickly says I will go and call him.

In few minutes he appeared and came to us and when he saw me he was full of smiles and put his hand out to shake mine. We told him why we are there and we drove to the other side of the buildings where on the ground women were selling ramputan or local lollies [fruits] and frying doughnuts. His secretary met us there and took us up to the second floor of the burned down 3 story building. To waste no time I turned on the camera and asked him about the issue of Panguna mine.

He told me that Panguna mine had been closed and will remain closed till Mekamui/Bougainville becomes an Independent Island Nation. He further stated: "When the leaders from Bougainville and PNG came to talk to me they returned and they spread their propaganda saying that I gave green light for the re-opening of the mine." He says even though the landowners talk about it or if there is a referendum about the issue carried out from South to North and the majority says yes, it will remain closed, mining is not the issue, the issue now is Independence for our island. We fought for

1. To preserve our culture

2. To preserve our land

3. And for the betterment of our future generation.

The original demand still stands: that is PNG 10 billion Kina.

He told me that the landowners have no right to talk about the re-opening of the mine and those who talk about it live in Arawa and elsewhere. This bloody mine causes bloodshed to the people of this Island and it's not a small issue.

Later after the interview I went downstairs and took some footage of the women and asked them the same question. All they say is no to mining, enough is enough, the land is for gardening not for mining.



Moses Pipiro

Comments : [1 Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

MANEE RESOURCES

15 04 2011



Wind house @ Manee Resources

On the 7th April I booked my comrades truck and we took off on a trip that was very interesting in the way the set up was done in the mountains of Kongara. It used to be the stronghold for the BRA during the height of the war.

We bought some fruits on the roadside market at Makaki point to keep us busy while driving on the rough and stony road.

I saw the beautiful set up in a face book photo taken by someone who went there earlier. I noticed a familiar face on that photo, so when I came to Arawa I asked him if I could take some footage of the venue and put it in my story "Bougainville after the war", he told me no problems.

JM the comrade who drove us there told me that only rough and all weather drivers goes that far, as it is very tiring driving that stony road. We reached the place in no time as the wheels of the truck are big footed and always count no pot holes or stone big enough to slow any other truck.

We were welcomed by the owner of the rest place.

I went into action filming and taking photos wasting no time as the place itself was very exciting and interesting. There is this wind house at the middle of the big fishpond with video screen and entertainment going on.

The owner's son said it's time to feed the fish so he took some food and put his hands down to the water and all the fish came up to have their breakfast from his hands, very amazing!

I asked the Leo when did they come up with the idea of building such a beautiful resort like place in the highlands of Mekamui/Bougainville?

He told me after the war they thought that we fought to defend and preserve our land; so let's do something that will not make our land become wasteland and gravel like it can be after digging copper and gold.

One of the founders and the contact in Arawa David Onari says, this is something we fought for, this is our land and we will keep the land so that our children and their children will use it.

On the questions of security as it is far and further away from Arawa he says if anyone is interested in going there and visit or camp there for how long he/she wants they will provide security. On top of that he says all is peace now, there are no troubles or hold ups as the mainstream media in many cases likes to refer to Mekamui/Bougainville.

The owner Orinu and his son says that with mining our motherland will be wasted and one cannot plant food. This setup is better as we will not spoil the land and at the same time you can plant your food on the side of the project area.

Leo asked if I was willing to go up to the lookout site, which is yet to be cleared and a small wind house to be build. We follow him up the track for a couple of minutes, unfortunately we can't see anything as the fog covers the view. However, it was very nice.

We headed back on a different track and arrived on the other side of the fish pond. We were welcomed back with a dish of big and tasty taro with green soko. We sat at the wind house on the fishpond and ate while listening and watching music clips.

The water from the fishpond goes out to a dump from where it goes straight to turn the motor of the mini hydro which gives the electricity to the wind house and two other small houses. The power will go on for 24 hours and you can sit there and watch videos for how long you want.

As time catches up we have to go back to Arawa so we had to say goodbye to the people and head back to Arawa.

Mekamui/Bougainville is safe in many ways compare to other parts of PNG.

When you are thinking of visiting Mekamui/Bougainville, try out the Manee Resources camping site, and you will see and taste the reality and fresh air of Mekamui/Bougainville.



Comments : [1 Comment »](#)

MOTHERS CRYING AGAIN

15 04 2011



In the 1960s when the exploration was carried out and the mining company came in, the women, the mothers of the land cried out and they were kicked and draged along the beach by the police. The mine was forced down on them without listening to their cries.

ON the 6th of April women [mothers] from around Bovonari and Kerenari just outside of Arawa Township gathered at Mari mari haus lotu in Arawa. The main agenda was all the talk in the media about re-opening Panguna mine. I was invited to film them by Marta the woman who organised the meeting. When I went there I saw Meekamui General Chris Uma standing on the door listening to the meeting.

I asked the ladies if I could take their pictures and they all agreed.

Among them was the women's representative from Bougainville Tresa Jaitong, who is also the person from the Arawa Landowners Group who used to meet with the promising Panguna landowners association. She told the women that all they talked about during the meetings, which Regional member F Semoso organised, was not about re-opening the mine. They talked more about how to go about it and be organised when the time comes for the bigger meeting with BCL. She stated that the landowners themselves don't held any meetings, only when F.Semoso called a meeting they came together.

Ms Jaitong mentioned about Papua New Guineans and Westerners, who are coming into Bougainville in numbers, that they created squatter settlements before the war and been a pain in the neck for the Bougainvilleans especially for the women from this two areas. She told the women that they must talk to their respective members in the ABG to put some kind of restrictions as that is one of the factors of the war.

The mothers voice out their concern to Ms Jaitong that the original demand of K10 billion is still standing and they don't want the re-opening of the mine. We are free and happy now not like before. We live on food from the land not on money, where will we go when the mining destroys our land? One mother says that the BRAs from South, Central and North blood are not paid, so why go for the re-opening of the mine?

They want their land not mining, and they don't want the ABG, PNG and BCL to force the mine on them again.

A good thinking Bougainvillean leader should care about land and not money, 99% live from farming on Bougainville.

In the end General Uma told them that if they try to re-open the mine with out listening to us, than we will have a job: that is fighting with who ever tries to re-open the mine. This is the last option, but in the long run we don't want to fight anymore, therefore leaders should talk about other investments rather than Panguna mine.



Chris Uma

Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

[CALLAN SERVICE ARAWA](#)

5 04 2011

On the 29th of March as I was strolling around my home town of Arawa, a town we refer to as cowboy town these days after the war, I noticed some people with kids wearing school uniform marching towards the oval near what used to be the Post Office before the war. I went near the person with the loud hailer who welcomed me, he knew me, so I somehow became part of the team in some ways. Then I heard that it was the disabled children's national day. I was amazed because before the war in my teens I never saw anything like it, those that I knew were taken care of back in the villages and never went to a school or training like this.

I thought this is great so I asked Lucy the lady I know if I could take some footage of the events and the disabled kids who are full of smiles and proud in their own ways. Lucy told me you can go ahead and I filmed the kids. I am very proud that I will add this footage in my documentary which I have just started shooting: "Bougainville after the war".

I asked Mark the master of ceremony if he could talk on the camera and he was very happy to do so, he told me that he's got a disabled daughter who is now integrated into the abled kids school because of the Callan Service programme in Arawa. Later I asked one of the teachers as well to talk on the camera, she talked and talked giving me no time to ask her questions. I told her I would go to the school the next day to film her teaching the kids.

On the 30th I went to section 17 where the school is and took few shots and asked the site leader Hildergard Kamena to talk on the camera. She was very excited as she told me that this is the first time that a media person is around to film them. She stated that the centre in Arawa looks after disabled kids and people from central and south Bougainville. There are more out there in the villages, and they visited them when time permits as funds are one of the main obstacles.

She mentioned that many of these disabilities were caused by the war on the Island. I was very impressed as before the war no one took notice of the disabled kids and people in and around Arawa and all over Bougainville.

Even those who become disabled after the war will be cared for and learn and will not be left out and they will make use of the life that they have.

Comments : [Leave a Comment »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

[Panguna Mine](#)

29 03 2011

In the media there are lots of talks of re-opening the Panguna mine but it is a different story when you are on the ground, you will not hear more of that talk.

Outsiders think that it is very simple and easy to re-open the mine after 20 thousand Mekamuians/Bougainvilleans were killed, wounded and died while closing the mine down.

On the 27th of March a chief of one of the clans in Central Mekamui/Bougainville came to see me and we talked for a while chatting on our interest etc. Later we went to see a person who I will do an interview with. Fortunately the member for central Bougainville in the PNG National Government Jim Miringtoro was there too. He invited us to where he and others were sitting. While chatting on we came across the Panguna mine topic. He told us that Panguna will remain closed till the compensation is paid by BCL.

I asked him if he could talk to me on the camera, he agreed and we did the interview. He told me that **80% of Bougainvilleans don't want the mine re-opened**. He mentioned the silent majority who the mainstream media never talks to: they don't want the mine re-opened. Every time he visited the rural villages during his constituency visits they voiced out their concern to him.

As we finished the interview with the member, we walked to the mini market at section 15 and we caught up with one of the main characters in the struggle for no mining: Mr Damian Daman. We asked if he could talk on the camera and he agreed. His answer to our question is short: no to re-opening Panguna. When asked what if the ones who are talking about the re-opening go ahead and sign any agreement? He told us something bad will happen.

On our way back we saw the minister for veteran affairs in the Autonomous Government David Sisito. He too agreed to talk on the camera. His stand is for the company to pay the original demand of PNG K10 billion. Without BCL paying the compensation it is a big NO to re-opening the Panguna mine. As one of the founders of the revolution he still maintains the outstanding demand.

Sweat, tears and blood has flown down our brothers and sisters, relatives etc while talking about re-opening Panguna mine we step on our dead leaders and comrades blood and tears. This is not the way to go and very much against our culture and customs.

All of the three leaders, when asked about the economic, had the firm stand that our island will be based on agriculture. We live from the land and we have proved it during the war. They told me that those who are talking about re-opening the mine they don't care about the land and the future generations: they only worry about money. They told me the Regions member Mr F Semoso is pushing hard to re-open the mine, but that will not happen he will just hand out cash after cash for a speedy re-opening.

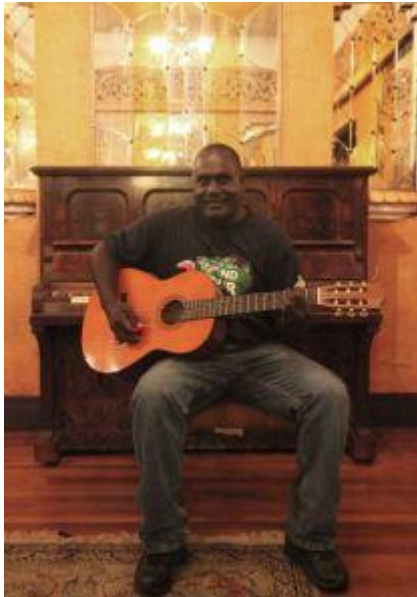
The video of the interviews will be out before June.

Comments : [4 Comments »](#)

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

[« Previous Entries](#)

Welcome to Clive's blog on Mekamui Message



Clive Porabou

Search

Topics

[Mekamui Message](#) [Uncategorized](#)

Tags

[Autonomous Bougainville Government](#) [BCL](#) [Bougainville](#) [Bougainville Copper Agreement](#) [Clive](#)

[Porabou](#) [Kieta](#) [mining](#) [music](#) [Panguna Papua New Guinea](#) [women](#)

May 2011

M T W T F S S

[« Apr](#)

1
2 [3](#) 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

Recent Posts

- [MANPOWER @ PANGUNA MINE](#)
- [GENESIS SCHOOL: an example of grassroots initiative to teach kids their native language.](#)
- [SECOND PANGUNA TRIP](#)
- [PANGUNA MINE RE-OPENING](#)
- [SILENT MAJORITY](#)
- [PANGUNA MINE TRIP](#)
- [MANEE RESOURCES](#)
- [MOTHERS CRYING AGAIN](#)
- [CALLAN SERVICE ARAWA](#)
- [Panguna Mine](#)

Email Subscription

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Sign me up!

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#) Theme: [Freshy](#) by [Jide](#).

☺