



**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWED
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA INTO OBTAINING THE OFF-SHORE
LOAN FROM THE UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

TODAY'S SUMMARY

Hearing Date: Monday 25th May 2020 at 9:30, 1:30pm & 3:00pm
Venue: First Floor, Muruk Haus, Kumul Avenue, Waigani

1. Sir Michael Somare

Sir Michael Somare appeared by his counsel, Mr. John Kumura. The counsel advised the Commission that Sir Arnold Amet will be joining the legal team headed by John Kumura to assist in both matters particularly for Sir Michael Somare. Sir Arnold asked for leave of the Commission to do so and the Commission granted him leave. Mr John Kumura also conveyed Sir Michael's wish to be excused from giving evidence on medical grounds. The Commission asked Sir Michael's counsel to discuss with Sir Michael the possibility of giving evidence by deposition from his home. Once overseas counsel and solicitors are on the ground in PNG, they will contact him to prepare his evidence. The matter was adjourned to Monday 6 July 2020 at 9:30 am for further mention and directions.

2. Mr. Izikiel Taureka, Managing Director of Kumul Consolidated Holdings (KCH)

Mr. Izikiel Taureka, Managing Director of KCH appeared by his counsel Mr. Erastus Kambori. The counsel told the Chairman of Mr Izikiel Taureka's unavailability and said Mr Taureka needed more time to compile the documents he was directed to file. The Commission noted that Mr. Taureka needed more time to comply with previous directions (to file a list of witnesses, list of documents and copies) and extended the directions to Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 9:30 am for further directions.

3. Mr. Arthur Somare (Former Minister for State Enterprise)

Mr. Arthur Somare appeared with his counsel Mr Kumura. The Commission confirmed Mr. Arthur Somare's compliance with previous directions and granted his request to file a supplementary list of witnesses and supplementary documents. The matter was adjourned to Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 9:30 am for further direction.

4. Grace So-on, NEC Secretary (Appeared at 1:30 am)

Ms Grace So-on presented to the Commission NEC documents and list of witnesses relating to IPIC Loan and the UBS Loan in compliance with previous directions. the UBS inquiry. The Commission told the NEC Secretary to await overseas counsel and solicitors to prepare her evidence. And adjourned the matter to Monday 6 July 2020 at 9:30 am for mention and further directions.

5. Mr Richard Pagen, Acting Chief Ombudsman Commission (Appeared at 3:00 pm)

Mr Richard Pagen appeared with his counsel Mr. Mathew Kik to present to the Commission his affidavit evidence. Mr Richard Pagen presented his affidavit which was admitted into evidence by the Commission. The affidavit annexed a copy of the Ombudsman Commission's report on the UBS Loan that was presented to the Speaker of Parliament in April 2019. Examination of his evidence by way of questions to the witness from the Commissioners, counsel assisting the Commission and any other interested person by leave was deferred to the time when overseas counsel and solicitors were available. Mr Pagen's evidence was further adjourned part-heard to Thursday 28/5/20 at 9:30 am and he was directed to file a supplementary affidavit annexing a copy of the covering letter from the Commission addressed to the Speaker of the National Parliament that was attached to the Ombudsman Commission's report on the UBS Loan.