



OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION

OF

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

P. O. Box 1831
PORT MORESBY
National Capital District

Our reference: M19818-C1049/2006-434

Date: 07 March 2007

Mr. David Tibu
Secretary
Department of Labour & Industrial Relations
P. O. Box 5644
BOROKO
National Capital District

Dear Sir

RE: ALLEGED ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF EXPATRIATES BY PARKER DRILLING COMPANY

The Ombudsman Commission has received a complaint from Mr. John Akar, an employee of the Parker Drilling Company in the Southern Highlands Province.

Mr. Akar is a Travel Coordinator with the Parker Drilling Company. He alleges that expatriates are brought into the country on business visas (work prohibited) and are employed with the Company. He alleges that the alleged illegal conducts had gone unnoticed by all State Agencies concerned for many years until reported on 14 March 2006. He states that the company was charged K345,000.00 for illegally employing expatriates on business visas in the oil fields.

Further, the Commission is also informed that the department made an undertaking that the expatriates involved would be deported and blacklisted and not allowed to enter the country in future. The Commission is informed that the expatriates are still in the country working on business visas and were recently issued work permits. Refer to copy of the newspaper article attached for ease of reference.

He also alleges that the PNG Nationals have suffered loss in terms of training and localization of jobs held by expatriates. He states that the nationals pay rates are very low, CPI pay adjustments were never paid for the last five (5) years and so human rights abuse was prevalent on the Rig Sites. He also states that the company is operating an illegal scam to ensure that a safe passage for the expatriates to enter the country to get employment in the oilfield. He further alleges that the Papua New Guineans are not allowed to apply for jobs instead the company recruits direct from overseas for simplest jobs like welder, truck driver, electricians, mechanics. He states that working conditions are always in the expatriates favour.

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He also informs the Commission that Mr. Rusli Ben Sabi, an Indonesian was brought in on a business visa. Upon arrival at Moro, Police Personnel were at the airport to do a routine check on incoming passengers, he was checked and demanded his passport. He therefore intervened and advised Police Personnel that he had come to work at Parker Drillers.

The Commission considers that the issues raised are of serious concern and that the matter falls under your duties and responsibilities. We therefore refer the matter to your office for your consideration and deliberation on the matter. Please advise the Commission of the action taken to rectify the matter so that the complainant can be advised accordingly. A copy of same will be also forwarded to him for his information and follow-up purposes with your office.

We thank you for the assistance and the co-operation that you have given to the Ombudsman Commission and look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully



John ToGuata CBE QPM
Director
Regions & External Relations

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Acting Deputy Secretary
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Cc: Mr. John Akar
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