

PNGs Universal Periodic Review

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Paper Structure & Outline: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Introduction

Citizens of Papua New Guinea are still searching for their rights in the context of protection due to fear of economic, social, environmental and cultural exploitation. Today, citizens live in fear and they do not understand themselves as humans regardless of status in the community. This is shown in and through the many practices and actions towards one another in the society. For this reason, I will address the issue of human rights do brief assessment, identify appropriate mechanisms to collaboratively implement and do a recommendation in ways that promote human dignity and protection. First, I will identify and consider the nature of traditional and modern forms of protection treating human rights, their processes and how PNG citizens have conceived these in the community. Second, I will look at what the UN Declaration of Human Rights says about human protection and how it can guide citizen in life. Finally, I will conduct a survey of traditional, modern and universal forms of protection, apply this to a real-life situation in PNG highlands context, and finally I will recommend ways in which citizens can live up to their challenges.

Cultural Relative Rights

Traditional and modern forms of protecting human rights will be discussed. Traditional forms highlight the importance of the communal rights shared in nature of protection. Key modern forms of communal and individual nature of protecting human rights will then be discussed, identifying the modern focus of protection and the ongoing search for modern protection of human rights in the context of development in PNG societies. Hence, after ten years as an activist on violence against women and girls and sorcery related violence, the country needs a smart approach to reduce human rights issue encountered by our young female folks.

Traditional Forms of Human Rights & its Protection

Modernisation was introduced to PNG people some sixty years ago. Consequently, as a result of development it has brought so much social changes into our traditional way of life. The western influence has influenced our behaviour and actions which our traditional customary practice and way of life like care, respect and protection were replaced by inhuman practices, violence and treating others bad. Why is this? How can these human rights issues and fears be addressed? Guided by these questions, we will investigate some of the main aspects that

influence citizens thinking within the social, cultural and political contexts of Papua New Guinea.

Cultural obligation on human rights

Few traditional methods are used to practice human rights in some clans and hamlets of PNG today, even among the educated communities. As is essential to consider and integrate cultural relative rights apart from universal human rights standpoint in this review. Traditional inherited mindsets are still around in our elders who see individualism of modern western society as foreign and damaging the traditional social ties and networks of mutual cultural support that are foundation of traditional values. Cultural rights thus would be relevant if a state is acting in the best interest of the majority of the population and state actions are essentials for guaranteeing the stability and welfare of its citizens. Hence real stability and welfare achieved through,

- Promote indigenous inherited cultural values and practices and justify
- Ethnic and racial connection as we focus on issues that affect people and their development as one group rather two separate groups in PNGs society.

Political question on human rights

Some people argue against the universality of human rights seem to be very different. This is because of self-interested cynicism of political dictatorship who wants western government to ignore human rights. The leaders manipulate to enrich themselves and their cronies. Some also argue that promoting universal idea of human rights is a form of political or colonial domination. This becomes an argument that former colonial powers are imposing their western views and ideas of justice and human rights on other countries where these views are inappropriate. While other countries argued that each nation evolves its own concept of human rights and that concept is dependent upon the nation's own ideological and social context. This is seen in freedom of speech and to vote, as viewed that some rights are more important than others, as in economic aspects let us not underestimate potential of local investors. That has been creating unstable climate in the economic sector especially government favour outside investors to dominate the sector.

Assessment of human right from the youth perspective

Through observation, I have seen that young people have been excluded from active participation in many of the decisions that affect their lives. They need participation in democracy, i.e. employment, education, cultural and even religion as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Young citizens need to feel the ruler must not govern arbitrarily to agreed procedures and standards. The steps to shape young people in

democratic decision making or different styles of decision making in the democratic system needed to be in liberty, equality and in collective rights as found in Universal Declaration of Human Rights Appendix. Young people needed to be fully empowered and enlighten on the governing of the human rights as they are the key players in human rights issue of today and the future shaping the landscape of the human rights in Papua New Guinea.

There is a need and appropriate local based national bill of human rights adopted into socioeconomic context of Papua New Guinea. For instance, there we have four human rights conventions at the Universal Declaration; they were known as the International Bill of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and others. These bills have to fully support young people to give inner realisation as citizens.

In PNG social and development context, the issue of human rights is in vast array, eternal business exploitation, gender imbalances, sorcery accusation relate violence, limited freedom in speech and assembly, right to vote, financial freedom and business and so on.

In PNG, almost 78% of women are constantly tortured and accused for sorcery related violence. I have been into building family relationship and peace resolution dare to see a radical approach in legal regulatory process to be tightened in Papua New Guinea.

The reason to target our youths is because the nature and reason of human rights vary from different social and political period to another. For example, it was the massive and systematic human rights abuses due to socioeconomic factors undergone. Human rights is seen as a product of, i.e. no education, no employment no moral and spiritual and religious connection. Therefore, collaborative investment should be focused and directed to building capacity of its youths towards informal education. It is a corporate effort to build skills in relation to youth rights. The young people have asked this question, what is human rights and why do we need them? The simple answer to that question-it is a right that every person has by virtue of being human. So the trainings with young people will give idea that they should live with dignity. The upbringing and environment young people brought up may vary and has shape the mindsets and behaviours. The reason I emphasis to target capacity building and skills training for young people is because they are key influential group in the population gap. They are in the middle of the age gap where they can impact children growing to reach youth and promote self-awareness to their peers and adults especially parents and guardians. The UPR can consider build young people by taking into account interests so the opportunity gives youths to make good decisions in life. This should achieve through their moral vision connected with human nature and human dignity. The moral vision can be expected among young people in Papua New Guinea to create opportunity to understand individual needs and the needs of others that supposed to be respected and protected. That contributes to develop

individual and collective potential through cultural informal education activities.

Our approach to social and political change needed to be radical. Like we as individual and collective contribution through activism, training, modelling need to be improved and relevant to meet the needs of youths today. If we evaluate past and current work in our communities against the standards set in Universal Declaration of Human rights we can develop new policies and procedures, new development concepts, amended laws can be constructed in order to try to improve the achievement of human rights in Papua New Guinea. I write from the youth development perspective as a youth development worker for the last ten years, I have identified young people's needs and values are- democratic rights, social development and the eradication of poverty, equality of women and protection for children and youth. Young people participation in cultural life now days are confronted by western culture and influences and at the crossroads where it puts indigenous inherited cultural values at stake. Hence, these values had embedded in communal way of life and productivity prior to colonial era.

So amended treaties concerning human rights adopted to national level from Universal Declaration of Human Rights needs to be captured local indigenous values and priorities. The concern is how can the UPR consider in its review economic, social and cultural rights and formally recognise and secure rights require time and effort and they are:

- Youths social security
- Youth work, rest and leisure
- Youth health and wellbeing
- Education
- Participation in cultural life.

Mechanism for implementation and recommendation

Human rights issue is a direct human daily issue in the context of development. Papua New Guinea government has an approach to structural adjustment that protects poverty alleviation and provides services essential for human development. However, different government comes with specific development priorities in both ways, i.e. human and infrastructure. Despite the instability in government, activist and human rights defenders have attempted to have a plan forward that supports advocacy work in comparison human rights situation in the country.

The UPR consultation was creating network and sharing information and building capacity of human rights workers.

Assessing the Evidence

The increased number of killings by perpetrators happens daily, sometime in secret without people reporting to authorities and law enforcement in Papua New Guinea. The killings occur for several reasons. One main reason is sorcery related accusation in every parts of the country. It is believed that if one issues like sorcery related violence is address will nevertheless address others human rights issues. The sorcery related accusation is different in nature with gender based violence and domestic violence. Sorcery related accusation is people accusing other people believed to be involved in the death of a person. Therefore it involves urgent collaboration as a way forward to lay significant step in cooperation with organisations and churches in the communities. This should cross culture boundaries the capacity to respond to sorcery accusations that can eventually lead to a range of significant benefits, including:

- increased support and approach to sorcery related accusation and violence;
- Increased ownership of the programs and commitment to create harmonious, productive and respectful community.

Effective collaboration help deliver significant, tangible and viable economic and social wellbeing for men, women and children in every province of Papua New Guinea. Moreover, it will strengthen and reward us capable of delivering high impact development activities that benefit men, women and children.

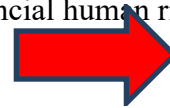
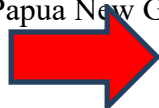
In the UPR, the steps need to change from policy to practical approach to allow everyone to participate and take ownership of human rights problem.

Recommendation

Different participants in the UPR may have their own version of recommendation to the United Nation Human Rights Declaration. But I wish to specifically point out as seen from my observation and experiences.

The National Human Rights Secretariat office as a principle body to be established to coordinate and take action in relation to human rights in Papua New Guinea. The diagram shows the structure and operational functions. Each body to have its functions and networks.

The National Human Rights will coordinate national functions and provide policy direction and budget to Government of Papua New Guinea. Then the provincial human rights will



work with government actors, non-government actors, the private sector, civil society, donors and churches. The provincial secretariat will provide management, coordination, monitoring, data base, capacity building and reporting. Then the district officer will work with village courts, safe houses, prosecution and justice, visit to wards and intervening and empower volunteer human rights defenders in the district and advocate on human rights. The LLG officer may have similar roles with the district officer. The ward human rights defender will be an agent in the ward and monitor and advocate on human rights. The UPR should focus from legal and policy framework to activity oriented implementation framework. There may be some additional functions from the list below to be considered in the plan. Primary prevention

- Incident reporting
- Early intervention
- Referral pathways- medical, courts, safe house, follow-up
- Protection and investigation
- Engage volunteers and training
- Networking and engagement
- Treatment and counselling
- Advocacy and prevention
- School curriculum
- Social networks and video
- Ward Human right community policing
- Compensation and peace mediation.
- Working with perpetrators
- Culture relative rights

The UPR should now be critical and evaluate different situation from the country context so the plan works suitably in the country. For instance, Papua New Guinea is a leading country in the world concerning gender based violence and sorcery killings. Therefore the amended laws can worked well and change the trend. Since human right issues emerged from social, economic and political struggles, the UPR need to look at those aspects that instigated human rights in the country. Due to social, economic and political complexity of the situation in the country, individual rights often come into conflict with each other, or collective rights and government policies are often based on making choices between competing interests.

Conclusion

In our discussion we have discovered the culture relative rights and system of protection in social, economic and political. First, we have discussed traditional methods of human right protection that are packed with meaning. Papua New Guinea citizens need to examine the methods and offer support to reduce human rights in our soil. Second, we have discussed the on the ground assessment for human rights and seek evidences and ways to address and minimised. Third, we have way forward and implementation plan with local based recommendation to consider and UPR to seek avenue as its change its approach from legal and policy framework to activity based and implementation of human rights in the country.

Acknowledgement

UPR Online Course

Interviews

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Manual for Human RIGHTS Defenders in Papua New Guinea.