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# 1995: The region

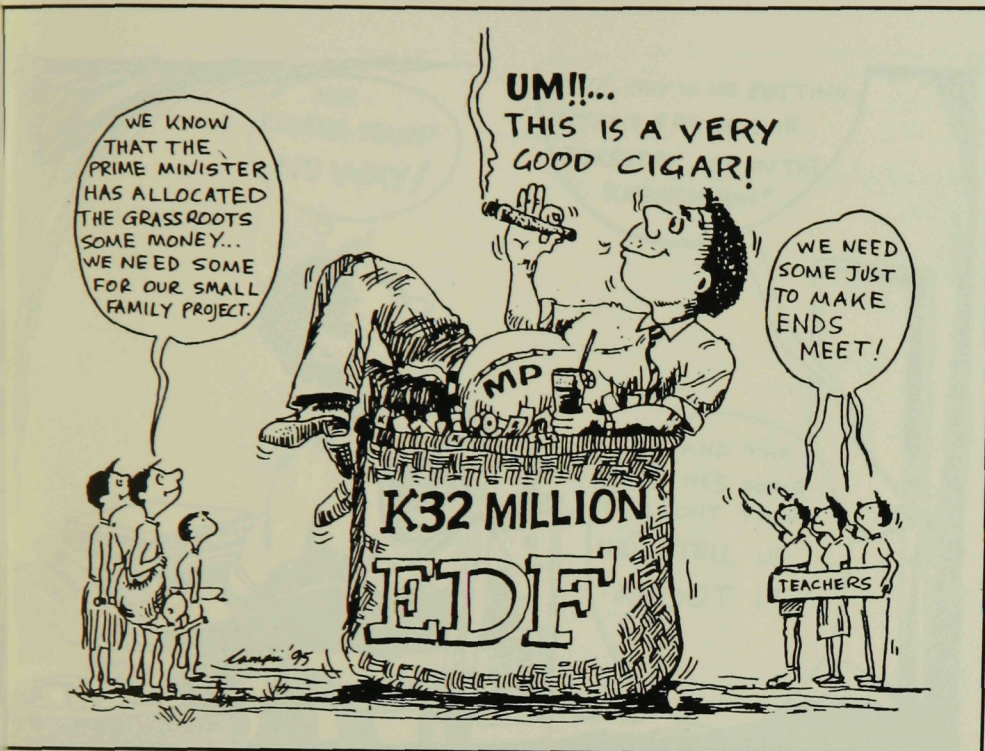
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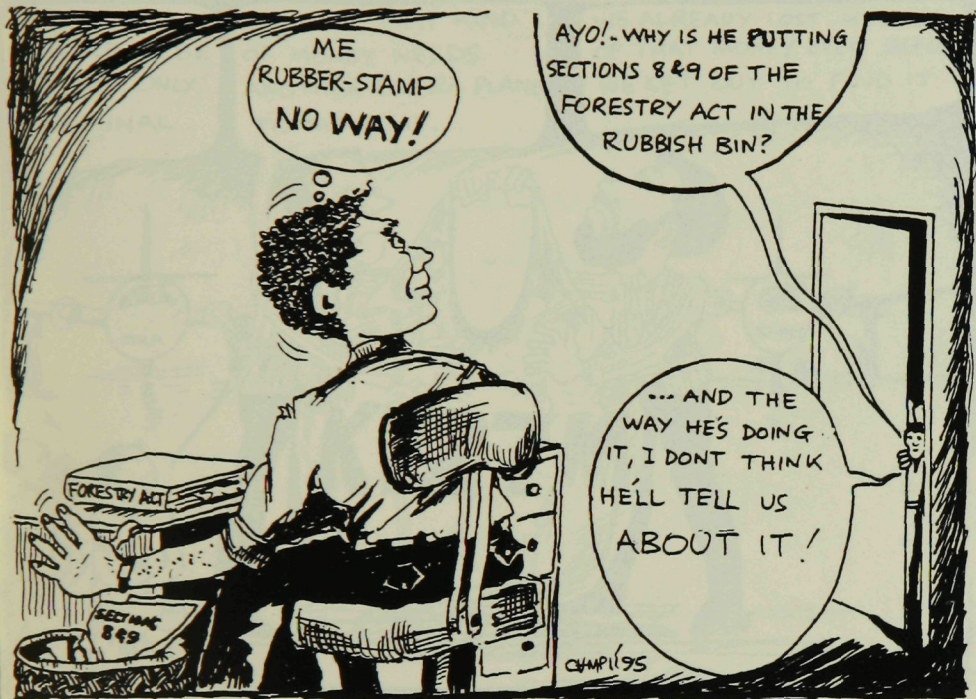
*By Gus Frang, 24 February 1995:* The controversial  
removal of University of PNG Vice-Chancellor Joseph  
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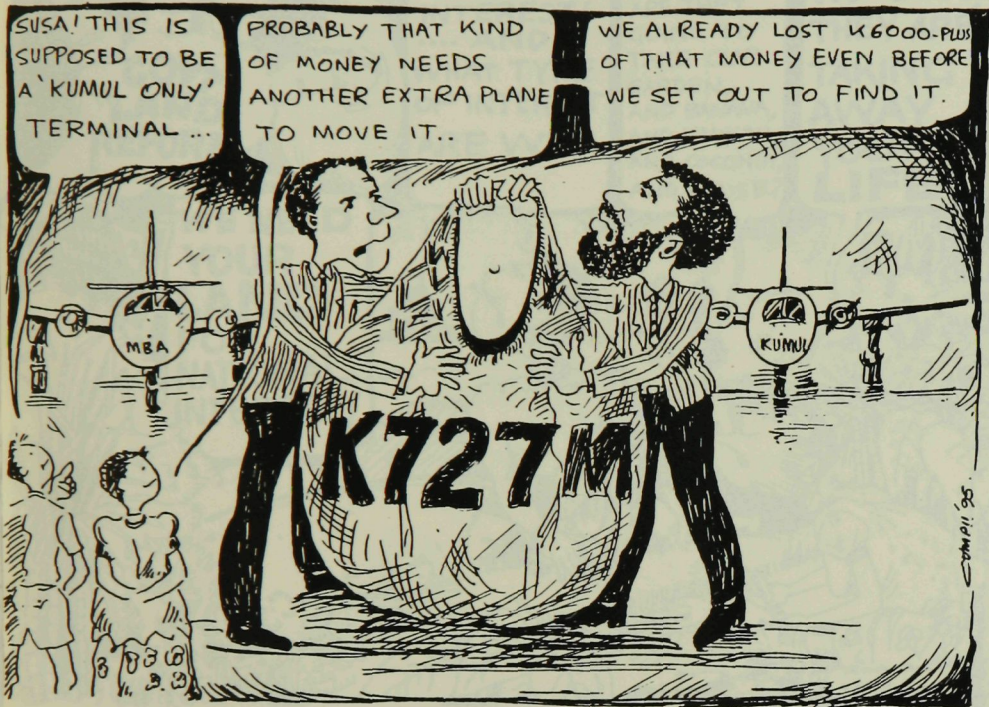
**28. Uni Tavor, 24 February 1995:** The controversial sacking of University of PNG Vice-Chancellor Joseph Sukwianomb by the University Council came as a shock for UPNG and the country. It was also a surprise to the vice-chancellor himself. The VC was determined to seek justification from the University Council. Some saw him as a scapegoat for the university's long-standing administration problems, many of which he inherited. He took his case to court. Probably he's still asking the same question, 'What have I done?'



**29. Uni Tavar, 10 March 1995:** The National Government effectively increased the controversial Electoral Development Fund to K500,000 for each MP. It faced a public outcry about the increase and how the fund had been abused in the past. The public expressed its concerns while the MPs do the usual things that they do.



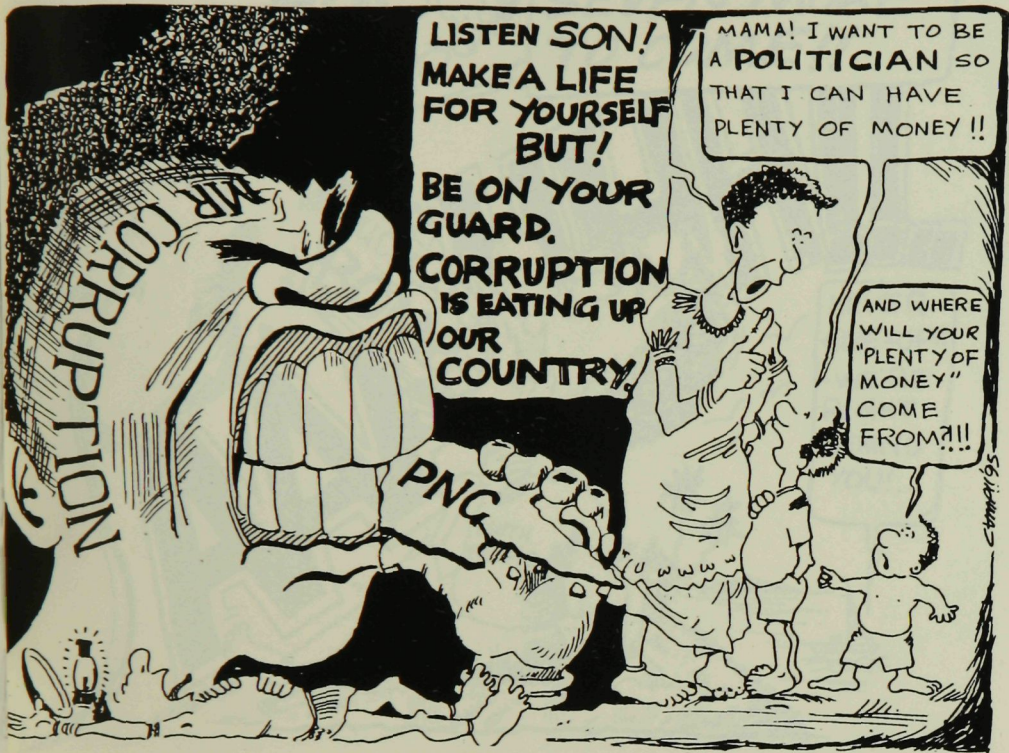
**30. Uni Taur, 24 March 1995:** The now disgraced former Forests Minister John Posai threw away Sections 8 and 9 of the Forestry Act, which guide the granting of logging licences, in the hope of seizing sole power in handing out licences to whomever he chose.



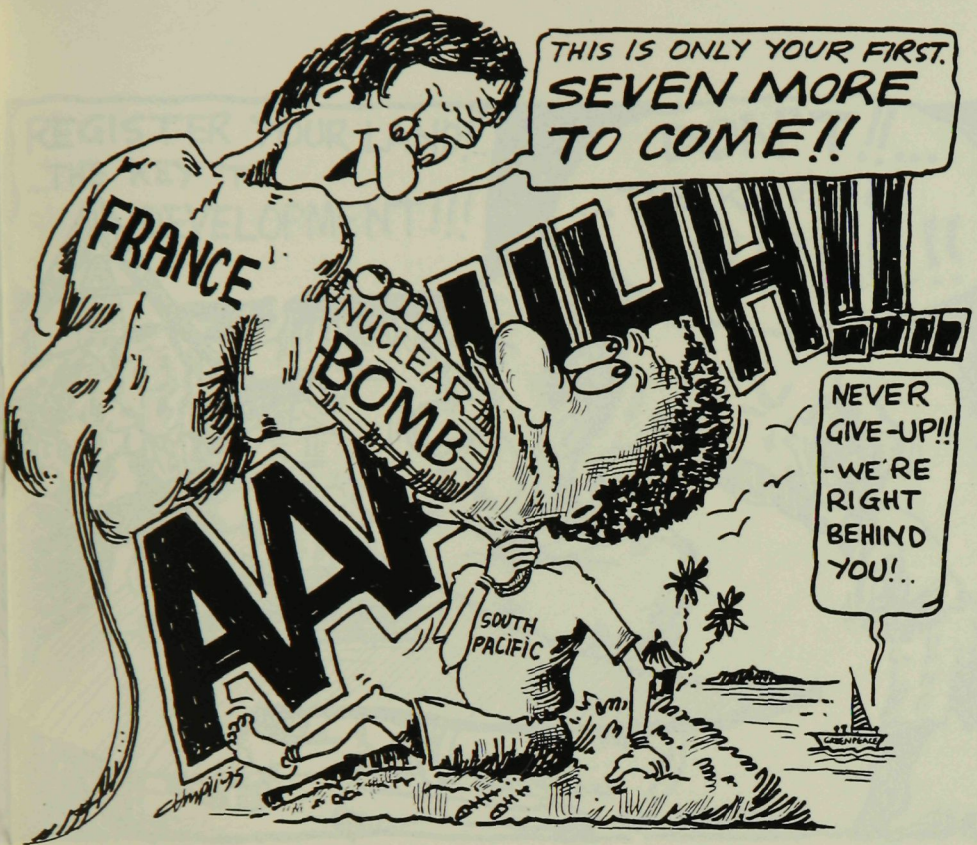
**31. Uni Tavor, 21 April 1995:** The ailing PNG economy was worsening day by the day and drastic steps needed to be taken to rescue the country's finances. Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and his Government did just that. They went on a booking spree down south and signed a K727 million loan. Their travel arrangements to the signing venue in Cairns gained the attention of the media. Deputy Prime Minister Chris Haiveta chartered an MBA plane to attend the meeting — instead of flying in Chan's special aircraft. The cost was more than K6000.



32. *Uni Tavar*, 5 May 1995: Following recommendations from the World Bank, the PNG Government decided to carry out land mobilisation and a structural adjustment program, claiming they were for the national interest. What type of 'interest' are rural people whose land is the only thing they have?



33. *Uni Taur*, 19 May 1995: Corruption was eating up the riches of the country and many politicians and other people in power were responsible. My thought about the problem was that probably the best way to go was to educate the children about honesty and corruption .

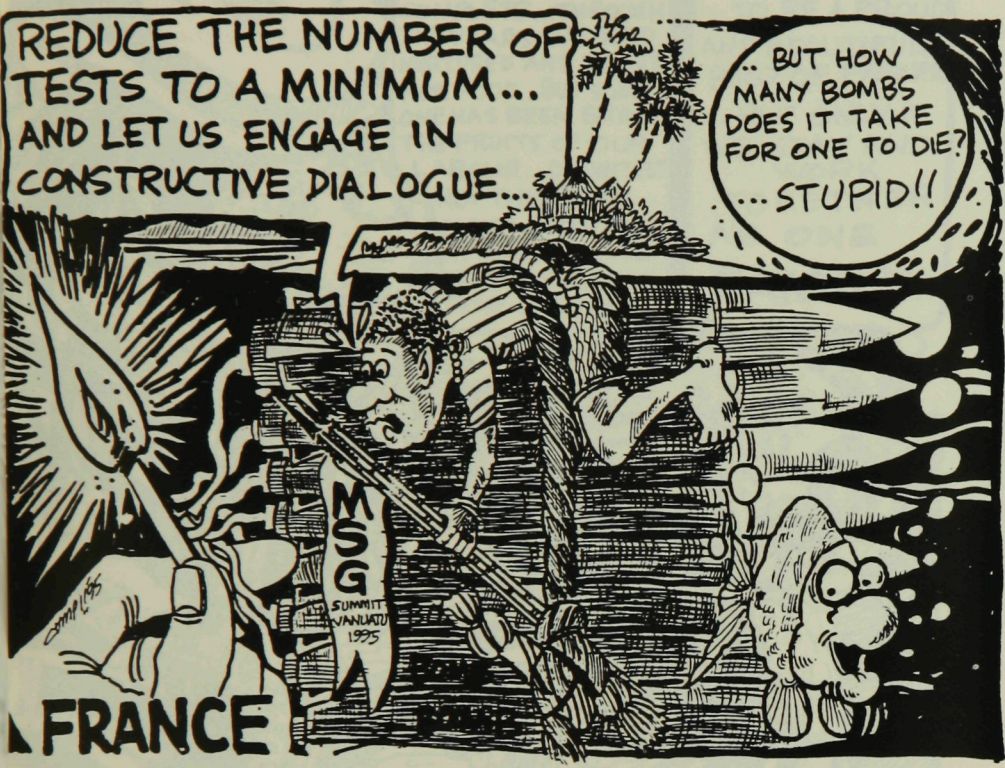


34. *Uni Tavor*, 21 July 1995: French nuclear testing in the South Pacific has always been opposed by the South Pacific countries. Here is how I saw the attitude problem of the French towards the small Pacific nations. They claimed their testing was safe and they kept pushing their nuke tests down our throats because they knew we could not stop them. All we can do is write protest letters and carry out peaceful demonstrations.





35. *Uni Tavor*, 4 August 1995: University students led a major awareness campaign against the Government over land mobilisation and the structural adjustment program imposed on Papua New Guinea by the World Bank. The Government fully supported land registration, claiming it was the key to true development. Students claimed the opposite. Caught in the middle were the confused grassroots people and landowners. They didn't know who was telling the truth.



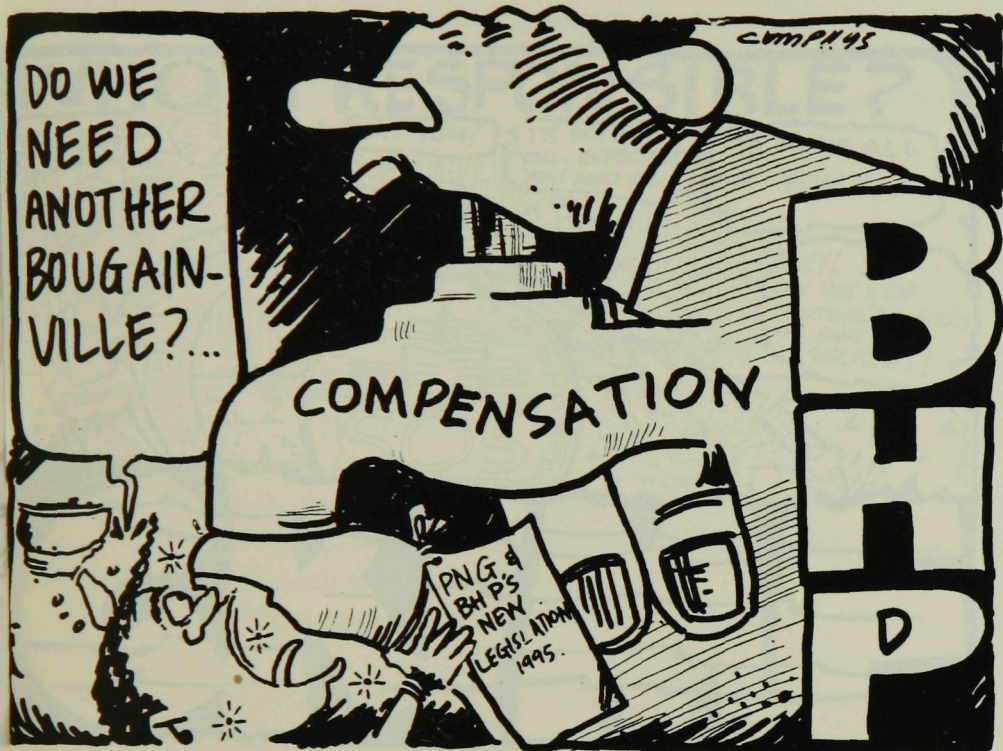
36. *Uni Tavar*, 18 August 1995: The Melanesian countries made this decision over French resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific during their Spearhead group summit in Vanuatu. My view: 'How many bombs does it take for one person to die?'



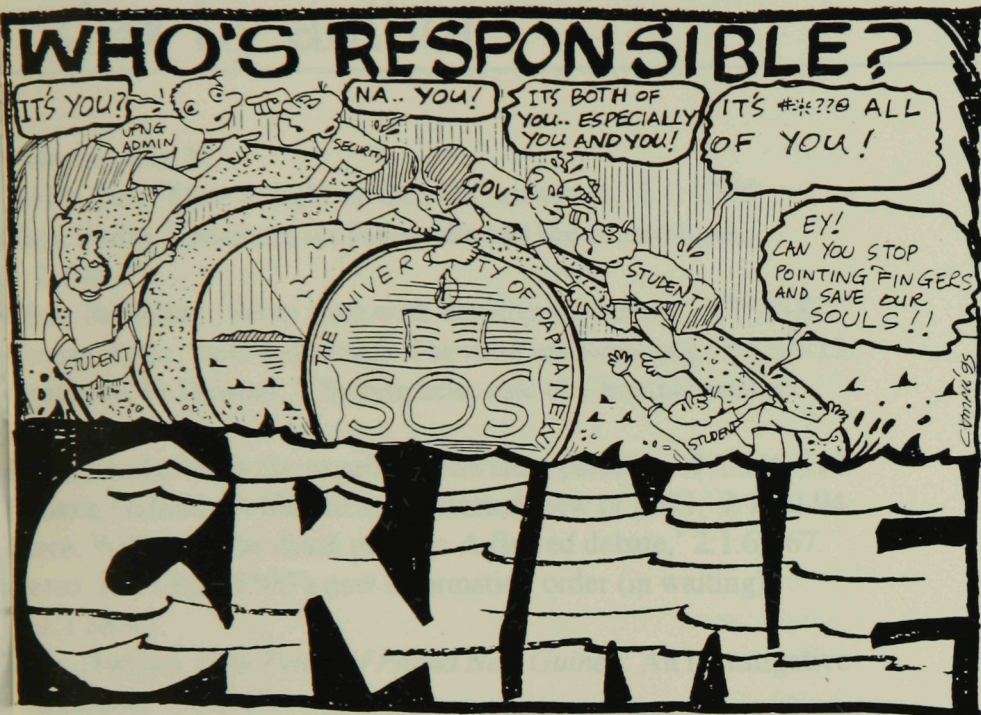
17. *Uni Tavor*, 15 September 1995: Papua New Guinea celebrated 20 years of political independence the next day. My cartoon here played on the intertwining themes of the birth of the nation, 'Wan Kantri', and the threats to our future. So I portrayed the founding 'Chief', Sir Michael Somare, and today's PM, Sir Julius Chan, as birds of paradise. The original cartoon was published in colour.



38. *Uni Tavar*, 15 September 1995: Logging abuses are a serious problem in Melanesia. Like a huge cigar, Asian logging companies are smoking away tonnes of our forests every year. We live from the forests. Like the family in the cartoon reveals, what would life be like without our forests? Groups such as the non-government organisations are trying very hard to put out this fire — or at least limit it to a sustainable rate. Ironically, it is the ‘responsible’ governments of our Melanesian countries that promote this rapacious practice.



39. *Uni Tavar*, 29 September 1995: The Ok Tedi landowners had filed a lawsuit against the giant Australian mining company BHP in its headquarters city of Melbourne seeking up to K3.7 billion in compensation for the alleged destruction of their environment. BHP retaliated with support from the PNG Government which passed new legislation to prevent the landowners from winning their demands. Don't we learn from experience? Just imagine another Bougainville and the effect it would have on the country.



40. *Uni Tavor*, 13 October 1995: Once upon a time the University of Papua New Guinea was a safe place to live and study. Not any more! In recent years the university campus at Waigani has been rundown with many criminal activities. During 1995, two lecturers and two students were murdered in separate incidents. It has been going on for so long that no one wants to be held responsible. University authorities just point the finger at each other. When this collection of cartoons ended, little had been done to deal with the problem.

*Postscript:* And, by the way, our newspaper *Uni Tavor* won the 'best print publication' award in the 1995 JEA Ossie Awards. We gained this honour against publications at more than 22 universities in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific that run journalism schools or programs with ties to the Journalism Education Association.