

## BOOK REVIEW

### Eric L. Kwa and Professor Edward Wolfers, *The Constitution of Papua New Guinea With Commentary*\*

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This book review concerns the book titled “The Constitution of Papua New Guinea with Commentary” co-authored by Dr Eric Kwa and Emeritus Professor Edward Wolfers, CSM, CMG. The book is really a layout of the *Constitution* with its various amendments to date. This is complemented by endnotes that espouse to each provision pertinent case laws. There is also included a commentary on selected constitutional subjects. The authors are renowned experts in the area of constitutional law and are accordingly well placed to write and provide such useful material for judicial officers, lawyers and law students. In fact, they have done well by obtaining a copy of the *Constitution* from the First Legislative Counsel, the official custodian of the *Constitution* of PNG.

The approach adopted by the authors in laying out the provisions of the *Constitution* separately from the case authorities, which appear in the endnotes, helps the reader identify the exact provisions of the *Constitution* and what cases one should read for a better understanding of the subject provision. This is a useful material and guide as it cuts down on time for researching cases by pointing the reader to the case on point.

However, this book can only be useful to those who have access to the internet since there are no citations of the pertinent passage from each judgement. The authors may need to consider in their next edition to at least include the relevant excerpt from the judgments.

The commentary is very educational and enlightening on the subject matters it covers. The highlight of this commentary are the discussions on the following:

- Context and History of Papua New Guinea’s emergence as a Sovereign Nation-State.
- How the *Constitution* was made.
- The *Constitution* and System of Government.

Their discussions on these areas are indeed engaging for any Papua New Guinean because it captures one’s interest and curiosity in having a glimpse of what transpired in the days leading up to self-governance and eventual independence, the forces at play, and to know the players involved in this enviable venture. The authors seem to have achieved their purpose in this commentary because after reading, one walks away with an appreciation of the critical role of the *Constitution* in crossing over as an independent nation and the rationale behind its comprehensiveness.

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\* Kwa E and Wolfers E., *Constitution of Papua New Guinea with Commentary* (Port Moresby: 110 Ltd, 2020).

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However, in the commentary, the authors could have done well by including the names of all those people who played a role in the subject matters. In this way, the authors would be doing tremendous justice and paying tribute to each of the main players, for instance, those that comprised the Constitutional Planning Committee or those that were involved in the two groups that toured the districts in conducting awareness and obtaining views from the people.

Overall, this is a good book and should be given to all governmental agencies, schools and placed in hotels and airports so it can be accessed by everyone especially the upcoming generation and visiting tourists. The story of the *Constitution* is a positive story and must be told to everyone.