

Media report irks landowners

By SIMON ERORO

LANDOWNERS from Western Province yesterday express disgust at The National newspaper over its report on customary land issues in the province.

The chairman of Tosigiba Timber Group Limited Dina Gabo said there were some stories which were sensitive and readers and the general public expected reporters to do a proper research before putting the stories together.

Mr Gabo said such reports were like a scheme to jeopardise the will and determination of the landowners of project areas to bring developments.

The landowners from the Agro-Forestry Project area in North Fly travelled to Port Moresby and met with the Lands Secretary Pepi Kimas yesterday and apologised to him over accusations in the newspaper and the department for being corrupt in their decision to issue land leases over a 1.25 million hectares of land to landowners.

The chairman of Kebogas Investment Limited Max Miyoba said the political interference and personal interests was taking precedence to destroy what the landowners had developed for their benefit. He said the provincial chamber of commerce's Warren Dutton was not a landowner.