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National Agricultural Research Institute

NARI Nius

Special Issue: Sir Alkan Tololo

September 2003

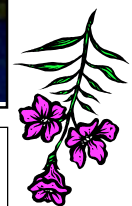
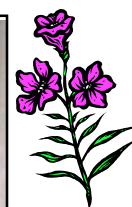
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This special issue was published in honour of the NARI Council Chairman, the late Sir Alkan Tololo, KBE.

This special issue was edited and produced by Raghunath Ghodake, Alan Quartermain and James Laraki. We acknowledge those who contributed ideas, tributes, articles and photographs towards the publication of this issue.

Sir Alkan Tololo, founding Chairman of the NARI Council, passed away suddenly in the afternoon of Tuesday, 26 August 2003. He died at the age of 69 on his way to a private hospital in Port Moresby. He is survived by his wife, Lady Nerrie, son Kevin Orim, daughters Anne Kurai and Priscilla Freda and five grandchildren.



Late Sir Alkan. Photo as of Friday, 22 August 2003
(14 February 1934 - 26 August 2003)

The NARI Council Members, Management and Staff wish to convey their deepest and heartfelt sympathies to: **Lady Nerrie Tololo, Son Kevin Orim, Daughters Anne Kurai and Priscilla Freda and five Grandchildren** on the untimely death of their beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather, the late **SIR ALKAN TOLOLO KBE**, who passed away suddenly in Port Moresby on Tuesday the 26th August 2003.

“You have shown me the way of life, and you will give me wonderful joy in your presence.” Acts 2:28.

Sir Alkan, as Chairman of NARI Council, contributed immensely and tirelessly to research and development in the agriculture sector of Papua New Guinea.

Sir, We Bid You Farewell and May You Rest in Peace.

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Biography of the Late Sir Alkan Tololo, KBE

Sir Alkan came from Raluana village, Kokopo district in the East New Province, and was born on 14 February 1934. He completed secondary education at Keravat (now Keravat National High School), East New Britain Province, from 1952 to 1955 and went on to do a Teacher ‘C’ Certificate Course at Sogeri (now Sogeri National High School) in the Central Province in 1956. He began his contribution to the public service as a primary school teacher in 1957 at the Kilakila primary school in the National Capital District and in a number of other primary schools up to 1962.



Sir Alkan, Madang Governor James Yali (R) and Morobe Governor Luther Wenge (L) ready for the tree planting ceremony to mark the Sixth Anniversary of NARI on 5 May 2003

In 1962, Sir Alkan did the Queensland Secondary Certificate at Sogeri and continued in 1963 to do a Diploma in Inspection and Public Administration. By then Sir Alkan was already promoted to Inspector of Schools and served in this capacity in many parts of the country until 1965. Sir Alkan was recalled to Education Department Headquarters in Konedobu in 1965 and was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Sir Alkan was later transferred to Northern Province as the Superintendent of Schools in 1967 and served in the same capacity in the New Ireland Province from 1968 – 1969. In 1969, Sir Alkan was appointed Commissioner of the National Public Service Commission and in 1971 as the Commissioner of the Teaching Service Commission. Sir Alkan was appointed as the Director of Education and Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea in 1973 and served as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of Papua New Guinea from 1979 – 1980.

He served the diplomatic service of PNG as Consul General to Sydney from 1981 – 1983, High Commissioner to Australia from 1983 – 1986 and High Commissioner to Malaysia and accredited to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sir Lanka from 1986 – 1989. While High Commissioner to Malaysia, Sir Alkan was also the

Representative for PNG in the ASCAP Organisation based in Bangkok. Sir Alkan was the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Broadcasting Commission from 1991 to 1995.

Sir Alkan was also involved in other professional activities which included: first President of the National YMCA of Papua New Guinea for 10 years; Member of Council for the Australian School of Pacific Administration, based in Sydney, from 1973 – 1976; Chairman of the National Education Board; Member of the Metric Conversion Committee; interim Chairman of the Museum and Cultural Council; Member of the Tolai Warmaram Committee; Council Member of the University of Technology from 1965 – 1989; Chancellor of the University of Technology from 1990 – 2003; ex-officio member of the University of Papua New Guinea Council from 1973 – 1976; Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea and Interim Chancellor of Vudal University from 1982 – 1995; Member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research from 1992 – 1995; Chairman of the Ministerial Review Committee of the National Training Council in 1996; First President of the East New Britain Savings and Loans Society from 1994 – 1999; Deputy Chairman of the Research and Conservation Foundation from 1997 – 1999; and Acting Deputy Chairman for the Federation of Savings and Loans Societies. Sir Alkan also took a three months study tour of Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria and attended the Commonwealth Education Conference in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1967.

His status as a senior statesman was well established as he received some of the highest levels of recognition, not only in this country but also overseas. He was made an OBE in 1978, CBE in 1982, and received his knighthood in 1985. He was awarded an honorary LLB by the University of Papua New Guinea, a Doctorate in Technology by the University of Technology and a Doctorate in Education by the James Cook University, Australia.

Some of his current occupations until he suddenly passed away included Chancellor of the University of Technology, Chancellor of Vudal University and Chairman of the NARI Council. He was founding Chairman of the NARI Council from 14 April 1997 until his death on 26 August 2003.

Papua New Guinea Remembers Sir Alkan Tololo

He was indeed a man of the people. A great statesman, educator and mentor who served the nation with integrity, dedication, enthusiasm and vision, the words of Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare and many other dignitaries in their tributes to Sir Alkan Tololo.

Sir Alkan passed away on Tuesday, 26 August 2003. Papua New Guinea has lost a man who though small in size, was a man of good character and wisdom. Many recognized Sir Alkan for the vital roles he played in helping shape PNG since Independence.

Much of this was attributed to the advancement of education in the country and the establishment of the East New Britain Savings and Loans Society. It started off with just 23 members and now has more than 24,000 contributors.

The daily newspaper carried condolence messages from all sections of the community. They were messages dedicated to a humble person who gave his life to his country, and was still doing that when he fell ill and was rushed to a private hospital where he died.



Accepting the responsibilities for research functions from DAL during the early establishment days of NARI. Sir Alkan and Dr John Kola

Sir Alkan had a strong influence on the lives of many Papua New Guineans, and was a fine example of leadership, commitment and dedication to the service and development of our nation and our people.

This was evident when the community in Lae, Morobe province, requested for his body to be flown to Lae before being flown home to East New Britain. This was especially for the students and staff of the PNG University of Technology and staff of NARI to pay their last respects. A funeral service was held at the University of Technology and there was also a stop over at NARI Buba for NARI staff to pay their last respects. Sir Alkan was the Chancellor of the University of Technology and Vudal University and Chairman of the NARI Council.

He was a person who displayed the greatest care, concern and compassion for his family, friends, professional colleagues, fellow Papua New Guineans and the many people with whom he came into contact in the course of his travels and work overseas said Sir John Kaputin when he delivered the eulogy at Sir Alkan's Port Moresby funeral service.

In the Kuanua dialect of East New Britain "Tololo" can be interpreted as island. But Sir Alkan's life was clearly not that of someone who saw or conducted himself as an island. Sir Alkan "Tololo" was, however, the island of decency, care and wise counsel for many different people. He was an island of quiet integrity, patience, concern and sound advice to people of diverse occupations, social and cultural backgrounds, achievements and aspirations at his home on the Gazelle Peninsula, around PNG and abroad.

Tribute by Dr Raghunath Ghodake

(This tribute was presented at the funeral service held at Unitech on Saturday the 30th August 2003).

Sir Alkan Tololo joined the inaugural Governing Council of the National Agricultural Research Institute on the 14 April 1997. He joined as a member representing the University of Technology and served as the Council Chairman until his untimely and sudden passing away on Tuesday the 26th August 2003. Sir Alkan worked and contributed tirelessly until the last moment of his life, a life that he dedicated and devoted to the improvement of the welfare of the people of this nation, especially the poor, the neglected and the downtrodden. His exemplary contribution was made to the public service, in social welfare, education, management, research, policy development and in overall leadership.



The Late Sir Alkan congratulating Dr Ghodake (left) during the latter's swearing in ceremony on 22 August 2003. Unfortunately this was the last time the two Senior Officials of NARI were to be together due to the sudden passing away of Sir Alkan four days after this event

He came to serve on the NARI Council with a very extensive and rich experience in public and social service. His has been a long, outstanding, distinguished career, stretching over 50 years.

Sir Alkan served as a member of the policy advisory board of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research from 1992 until 1995. This is an Australian statutory organization that supports research and information transfer for development in the renewable resources sectors of developing countries. That was the beginning of Sir Alkan's formal involvement in agricultural science, research and technology, which led to him making

his immense contribution to NARI and to the agriculture sector in PNG.

During his chairmanship of the NARI Governing Council over the last six and half years, he showed us the path of hard work, honesty, integrity, high moral and ethical standards, perseverance and positive determination. He showed us that this path leads us to achieve guaranteed and long lasting accomplishments. Such accomplishments can not only provide us with great satisfaction but also create lasting benefits for the people and society. He demonstrated this with simplicity, by his living example, his sincerity and straightforwardness. The best tribute to Sir Alkan will be for us to follow the path that he has showed us.

During the tenure of his chairmanship of NARI, the Institute encountered a number of economic and political difficulties and challenges. However, under Sir Alkan's leadership, this young Institute not only successfully overcame these difficulties but also made substantial progress, realizing 40 per cent growth per annum. During the same period, the Institute also accomplished highly significant achievements in improved agricultural technologies and building of new knowledge. These achievements are already making positive impacts on agricultural productivity, economic growth and increased welfare of the people in the country.

Sir Alkan was a great visionary. His vision for NARI and for the nation is reflected in his contribution to the design of the NARI logo (see colour logo on front page). The logo was developed on the basis of Sir Alkan's thoughts and ideas. When we sat with Sir Alkan to get his views, the following emerged:

1. Sir Alkan wished NARI to work towards protecting the environment and managing resources so as to develop sustainable agriculture in PNG. Therefore, three background colours were chosen: **BLUE** depicting the sky and mega environment, **GREEN** for the plant environment and genetic diversity, and **RED** portraying the land, soils and natural resources.

2. Sir Alkan wanted NARI to focus on plants and livestock as major means for the agricultural and economic development of PNG and this is indicated by the pictures of a **LEAF**, a **PIG** and a **CHICKEN**.
3. Sir Alkan reasoned that NARI must encourage and recognize hard work and the efforts of all those involved in agricultural activities including farming, research, information dissemination and training. Sir Alkan perceived this to be very important if PNG agriculture is to be sound and sustainable. It must be based on hard and persistent work and efforts. Therefore the toil and sweat of the people are further portrayed by the **RED** colour in the NARI logo.
4. Sir Alkan further wanted NARI to focus on the participation, aspirations and welfare of the people and therefore he wanted people be central in agricultural research and development. Therefore, we find people depicted in the centre of the logo, showing those involved in agriculture such as farmers, researchers, extension agents, collaborators and partners.
5. Sir Alkan specifically wanted women to be a focus in agricultural development and therefore there is a **WOMAN** pictured in the centre.

This is how Sir Alkan envisioned the role of NARI and the development of PNG agriculture in the years to come.

Sir Alkan led and guided the Institute to work towards balanced growth and sustainable agriculture and rural development. This was based on his well perceived position of support for smallholder semi-subsistence and semi-commercial agriculture, work on alternative options in cropping and farming, sustainable development and management of natural resources, including genetic diversity, and above all the importance of human resource development with a focus on gender issues and the special needs of women.



Happy times! The late Sir Alkan with his deputy, Rogers Yayabu (third from left), Director-General Dr Ghodake (L) and a guest at Bubia during the 6th Anniversary of NARI

During Sir Alkan's chairmanship of the Governing Council of NARI, the Institute made some 200 policy decisions, all of which were by consensus and unanimous and were implemented with a 90 percent success rate. This is yet another tribute to Sir Alkan's consultation skills and leadership.

Sir Alkan very ably and successfully led the Institute and helped in its firm establishment, nurtured it to be robust enough to withstand external uncertainties, and developed it rapidly

to deliver its services to the people. Sir Alkan has indeed been a great friend, teacher, guide, visionary and man of the people. In his passing away, this nation has suffered a great loss from which it is impossible to recover.

On behalf of the NARI Council, NARI Management and all staff located at its nine locations in various agro-ecological regions of the country, I wish to thank all of the Tololo family for your support and help that allowed Sir Alkan to serve this prime research institute. His contribution to agricultural research and development has been immense. This contribution will continue to make positive impacts on the lives of people, not only in this generation but in many future generations.

Sir Alkan played a vital role in guiding NARI's development with much drive, wisdom and foresight. He has been a guiding mentor who inspired many of our young scientists and other staff. His enthusiasm, simplicity, humility and integrity have been beacons for all of us. His vision has been an inspiration.



Sir Alkan congratulating the former Director-General of NARI, Valentine Kambori, on his appointment

On behalf of the NARI family, I convey our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Lady Nerrie Tololo, son Kevin, daughters Anne and Priscilla and the five grand children and the whole extended family on the untimely and sudden passing away of Sir Alkan.

We share your sorrow and loss. We wish you to know that we are with you at this time of sadness. It is our prayer that the good Lord, the source of all goodness, will continue to comfort you and be with you.

Our assurance is in the Lord. He says (in John 11:25) "I am the Resurrection and the Life and whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies".

To Sir Alkan, NARI very gratefully and very sincerely thanks you Sir for your immense contribution to mankind. It is our belief, and we are reassured by our Lord's words, that you are gone to be with the Lord forever.

Sir, we bid you farewell and may you rest in peace.

Raghunath Ghodake
Director-General

Tribute by Rogers Yayabu

Sir Alkan Tololo was a very rare and unique Papua New Guinean. A humble, loving, caring, extremely dedicated and wise husband to Lady Nerrie Tololo; father to son Kevin Orim, daughters Anne Kurai and Priscilla Freda; and grandfather to five young grandchildren with whom he always enjoyed quiet moments from his very busy work schedules.

NARI Council will always value and treasure his great leadership and guidance in all our deliberations to date. Sir Alkan always insisted and ensured NARI Council to be the first state institution for prudent corporate governance and management. He ensured that in NARI's short history it set an excellent precedence in corporate governance which it achieved far more than any other statutory organizations.

We will always remember the period 1999 and 2000 for NARI as an entity and its corporate governance, as well as for developing and setting new benchmarks for management of statutory organisation like NARI after its abolition by the Skate Government. We will cherish our collective strategic decision not to shut down the institute after the government's decision. This was due to the fact that the NARI Council under his Chairmanship did not believe in the government's decision because it was out of line with its own MTDS. Therefore, the Council decided the institute must continue in the long term interests of PNG. Sir Alkan ensured that during this period, the Council made key policy decisions on corporate, research and technical programmes which enabled NARI to achieve continuity and effectively serve its mandate.

Sir Alkan's personal involvement with decision makers along the corridors of Waigani, together with inputs from Council Members and executive management, ensured certainty of government support was re-established and resulted in NARI's continuity to date. His personal involvement in this, and more recently in the appointment of current Director-General Dr Raghunath Ghodake, are the most significant milestones of achievement. We proudly salute you Sir Alkan.

Sir Alkan, you will forever remain in our hearts as the foundation of our prudent corporate management and a tower of strength in achieving scientific excellence. We deeply value your vision and strong belief that PNG's future lies in the hands of our young people and that this country's real economic prosperity can only be achieved through empowering our rural people through agriculture. The Council and the management will make every effort to fulfill this vision effectively by empowering young people and transferring improved agricultural technologies and information to increase their productivity, incomes and general welfare.

May Our Heavenly Father in His Divine Mercy give you Eternal Peace.

Thank you Sir Alkan

**Rogers Yayabu
Deputy Chairman of the NARI Council**

Tribute by Jimmy Risimeri

(This tribute was read at the funeral service held at Bubia on Saturday the 30th August 2003).

On behalf of the NARI site management at Bubia and Labu, the staff and all our families, I wish to express our deepest sympathies and most sincere condolences to you Lady Nerrie, your children and grandchildren on the passing of the late Sir Alkan Tololo, KBE.

We thank you for allowing your husband, father and grandfather in refreshing the lives of thousands of people of many nationalities and cultures with his integrity, dedication and enthusiasm. You have shared and indeed given freely a rare blessing from our heavenly father. May the lord give you comfort and peace during this season of bereavement.

Here lies a man who chose the field of education to liberate and elevate his people from the limits of their cultural confinements and well-defined environmental surroundings to the greater challenges, acquaintances and opportunities in the wider world through a professional teaching career. This indeed was an appropriate ambition in a country at that juncture, when people from a diversity of tribal communities were venturing out to unite in a nation. Having achieved his goal in life and perhaps even surpassing his own expectations, this shining role model focussed his efforts and channeled his energies into higher institutions of learning and inquiry. While he firmly believed in establishing a pool of quality human resources for the country, he simultaneously had a commitment and vision for the multitudes. It was our hope that he would share with us all the

joy of accomplishment during the opening and occupation of the new European Union funded NARI HQ building, along with the utilization of the AUSAID sponsored additional staff housing. But our hopes have evaporated into wishful thinking as a result of this untimely tragedy. I know his inspiration will live on in the lives of many here today and tens of thousands more scattered throughout this nation. We will be constantly reminded by the signatures on our certificates, or the echoing recollections of those words of wisdom, in the pleasant memories of his gentle yet reassuring handshakes and by the mental images of that beaming smile of hope.

Sir Alkan was a dazzling example of a true son of this nation, who had yesterday been raised out of the Tolai cultural endowment, who was whole-heartedly serving a nation endeavoring to maintain unity in diversity that is perplexed today with complex issues and uncertainties. He was a source of hope for tomorrow. It is my prayer that those of us who have been so privileged to be touched by this great man will be propelled by the trademark legacies he left behind and dedicate ourselves as living tributes in service towards a better Papua New Guinea tomorrow.

Thank you GOD for the late Sir Alkan Tololo, KBE.

**Jimmy Risimeri
RPL - Wet Lowlands Mainland Programme - Bubia**

Tribute by Rosa Kambuou

(This tribute was read at the funeral service held in Port Moresby on Friday the 29th August 2003).

The Council members, Management, and the staff of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in the Southern Region, wish to express our deepest and heart felt sympathy to Lady Nerrie Tololo, son Kevin, daughters Anne and Priscilla and the five grand children on the untimely passing of their beloved husband, father and grand father, the late Sir Alkan Tololo.

The NARI establishments in the Southern Region have been very fortunate to have the support of the late Sir Alkan in offering advise and words of wisdom to continue working despite the limited resources and uprising security problems in the area. His simple nature often brought him to visit us at Laloki Research Station and the National Chemistry Laboratory at Kilakila, a practice that not many people of his caliber do. He has shown great interest in our field operations and always emphasized the development of simple technologies and techniques that would be appropriate for use by our people in the rural areas. His advice still echoes in our hearts and has been and will continue to be our source of strength as we progress in our attempts to contribute to agricultural development of the country.

For many young Research Administrators, Sir Alkan has been to us an inspiring leader and a wise "father" who knows what to do in times of difficulties. His advice to us is that, there is always hope for people who work hard and who are honest in their dealings. Many of us have come to stand firm on this advice and have seen positive results.



Sir Alkan delivering the keynote speech at the 6th NARI Anniversary at NARI Bubia on 5 May 2003

To the Tololo family, we share your sorrow and want you to know that we are with you at this time. It is our prayer that the good Lord, the source of all goodness, will continue to comfort you and be with you all. Thank you for your support in allowing your husband and father to serve NARI and contribute immensely to agricultural development of the country.

Our assurance is in the Lord. He says in John 11:25 "I am the Resurrection and the Life and whoever believes in me will live even though he dies". It is our belief and we are reassured by our Lord's words that the late Sir Alkan is gone to be with the Lord.

To Sir Alkan, NARI salutes you for your immense contribution to the development of Agriculture in PNG. Thank you for the job well done.

We Bid You Farewell and May You Rest in Peace.

Rosa Kambuou
RPL - NARI Laloki

Tribute by David Loh

In 1963 Sir Alkan was District Inspector of schools in the Kainantu sub-district of the Eastern Highlands and I was the sub-district didiman. At that time the Education Department was unable to provide accommodation for the Tololos and, as luck would have it, DASF had extra unoccupied housing on the Kainantu Extension Centre alongside the Kainantu airstrip. They became my neighbours at that time and I grew to know Alkan and Nerrie Tololo during the many months ahead until the family was transferred to fulfill greater positions in the Education Department elsewhere.



Flower girls leading the hearse on the arrival of the late Sir Alkan Tololo's casket at NARI Bubia for NARI staff and their family pay their last respects

We rekindled that friendship in 1970 when I was posted to LAES Keravat (now NARI Wet Lowlands) in Sir Alkan's home province of East New Britain and this continued when I joined Sir Alkan's NARI Council in the late 1990s.



Pall-bearers lower Sir Alkan's casket for staff at NARI to pay their last respects at Bubia on Saturday, 30 August 2003

All this has ended now but his presence and commitment will live on with us and I will personally miss Sir Alkan's friendship and sincerity, his wisdom and warmth and especially his profound love of this country, Papua New Guinea.

"We will all miss him more than words can express as we pray for his eternal rest after a job well done".

David Loh - Member of the NARI Council

Tribute by Professor Lance Hill

I first worked closely with Sir Alkan when he became Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea, succeeding another great Papua New Guinean, Sir Buri Kidu. My association and growing friendship continued through my membership of the NARI Council where he was the founding Chairman until his untimely passing this past week. NARI has lost, indeed Papua New Guinea has lost, a great man. We are all the poorer but his legacies will live on.

Sir Alkan was a dedicated man of great wisdom and vision. He showed boundless enthusiasm for a wide range of interests and was able to sit with academics, agricultural scientists, economists, medicos, politicians, teachers, librarians, engineers and businessmen and discuss issues of great importance to the future of PNG. His concerns and comments were always driven by a desire to engender improvements in the life of all our communities. He was extraordinarily hardworking and spent many hours patiently waiting to gently persuade decision makers of the importance of his particular concern and course of action at that time. He always had time for everyone, to hear their stories, learn about their work, their views, and to offer guidance and worldly advice. His strength and dignity were expressed through his remarkable dealings with people and his ability to make all meetings, however brief, feel special and personal, something to be remembered. Everyone, wherever they came from, was special to him.

Yes strength, dignity, humility, concern and laughter clothed his life so richly. Let us all seek to put on afresh these qualities in our own lives ... let that be part of his legacy, part of our tribute to him.

Lance Hill
Member of the NARI Council

Tribute by Professor Alan Quartermain

Sir Alkan was Chairman of the Governing Board of Vudal University College when I arrived there in 1994 as temporary Principal. Vudal was at that time a college of the University of Technology having recently been taken over from the Department of Agriculture and Livestock. Sir Alkan's quiet but efficient and consensual chairmanship eased my task of running and developing the programmes and activities of the college until I left in 1998 to join the ACNARS project team and ultimately the NARI staff. Together we helped Vudal and the community through the volcanic eruptions crisis in 1994 and the progression of the college ultimately to become the University of Vudal. Sir Alkan put up with the disruptions caused by my two young daughters while they were staying with me and he obviously loved children. Whenever we met since then he always asked after them and their progress.

My involvement with Sir Alkan since 1998 was perhaps less close but I enjoyed the way he chaired NARI Council meetings when I had to give presentations on behalf of ACNARS or later the Publications Unit. I watched and we all benefited from the way he steered the NARI ship as we went through the different crisis of 1999 and, stronger and wiser, went on to build NARI to what it is today. Its performance and potential are his legacies, as are those of Vudal, and both institutions could not have

wished for more solid yet visionary foundations on which to build. Their foci have clearly been directed by Sir Alkan onto the real VIPs, the smallholder and traditional farmers of this land.

Alan Quartermain
RPL - Livestock Research Programme

NARI Honours Sir Alkan Tololo

The NARI Council has named the institute's agricultural research station at Bubia outside Lae, which also accommodates the head office, as the Sir Alkan Tololo Research Centre.



This sign board at the Bubia Main Office building will now be replaced using the new name. Bubia also now accommodates the NARI Headquarters

NARI Director-General, Dr Raghunath Ghodake, made the announcement during the late Sir Alkan's funeral service at Bubia on Saturday, 30 August 2003. To honour Sir Alkan's memory and to keep alive his spirit, the NARI Council has resolved that the Bubia Agricultural Research Station be renamed and will now be known as the Sir Alkan Tololo Research Centre.



This is how the new sign will look. This new centre accommodates the NARI Headquarters, Wet Lowlands Mainland Programme, Livestock Programme and Rice and Grain Programme

As Chairman of NARI Council, Sir Alkan had been a guiding mentor who inspired many young scientists and other staff members of the institute and had shown them the qualities of hard work, honesty, integrity, perseverance, determination, and high moral and ethical standards. He demonstrated this with simplicity, by his living example, his sincerity and straight forwardness.



The recently completed NARI Headquarters building at the Sir Alkan Tololo Research Centre, Bubia. The new offices has been occupied as of 8 September 2003. The original schedule to open the building on 20 October 2003 will now be rescheduled due to the sudden passing of the late Sir Alkan. Sir Alkan will be sadly missed on this occasion

WHO WILL TAKE UP THE BATON ???

You have run your race,
69 years in all,
A long and noble career,
Meeting biblical standards,
Traversing all corners of PNG society,
Like no other earthly mortal,

From the Ulualul hamlet,
To Kerevat, Sogeri,
Throughout PNG,
And beyond the shores of Waigani,
You conquered them all,
In your distinguished relay,

Vision, hard work,
And selfless commitment,
Honesty, humility, trustworthiness,
The smile and the gentle voice,
And God fearing
The hallmarks of your leadership and service,

You practiced fairness and justice,
You listened to all voices,
You harnessed,
In making wise choices,
And you nurtured,
So that all could run a fair race,

You did not have to be tall,
To stand tall amongst men,
You shook hands with the small people,
You did not seek self-agrandisement,
To be the greatest leader of the nation.

They came from the highest offices,
And came from the seats of higher learning,
They also came from the fields of taro and rice,
And cocoa and coconut fields,
They came from the length and breath of the nation,
To honour the end of your race,

And to seek,
Whom among those leaders left standing,
Shall take up the baton,
And continue the relay,
Of godly service to the public of PNG ???

Naihuwo Ahai

Public Notice

The is to advise the General Public that the Head Office NARI has been moved to its new and permanent location at the Sir Alkan Tololo Research Centre, Bubia, Ten Mile outside Lae, Morobe Province. Postal Address remains the same.

Telephone and Facsimile Contact

General Enquiries: 475 1444
Switch Board: 475 1445/475 1446/475 1447
Facsimile: 475 1450

Sir Alkan Laid to Rest

Sir Alkan Tololo was laid to rest at his Raluana village near Kokopo in East New Britain on Sunday, 31 August 2003. His journey home started with a State funeral service in Port Moresby on Friday before the body was flown to Lae and then on to Kokopo on Saturday afternoon.

Sir Alkan finally reached his final resting place on the Sunday. This ended four decades of distinguished public service to Papua New Guinea from the colonial era through to self-government and Independence, ending tragically in the late afternoon on Tuesday, 26 August, at a private medical practice in Boroko, Port Moresby.

Mourners from all walks of life packed the Reverend Sione Kami Memorial United Church at Boroko on Friday (29 August) morning to pay their last respects to a man described as a man of great wisdom, highest integrity, patience and concern for others, and one highly respected by people throughout Papua New Guinea and overseas.



A mark of honour! Alan Quartermain laying the wreath on the casket of Sir Alkan Tololo on behalf of NARI staff as a token of respect. Others who laid wreaths on behalf of NARI Staff were Jimmy Risimeri, Jacob Kiara and Raghunath Ghodake



Combined CIS and Defence pall-bearers transferring the casket of the late Sir Alkan onto the plane at Nadzab on his way to his home province of East New Britain where he was finally laid to rest

It was revealed at his funeral service in Port Moresby that a week before he died Sir Alkan was working alone in his office at the family home in Gordons updating his life history as well as writing the order for his own funeral service. He reportedly told one of his daughters, Priscilla, that he was trying to make things easier for the family in case anything happened to him.

He told Priscilla that he wanted Sir John Kaputin and Sir Rabbie Namaliu to deliver his eulogy. Sir John, who is a nephew of Sir Alkan, delivered the eulogy in Port Moresby while Sir Rabbie delivered the eulogy at the Raluana United Church on Sunday before the burial.

The staff of the National Agricultural Research Institute and the staff and students of the University of Technology, of which Sir Alkan was Chancellor for many years, paid their last respects on Saturday, 30 August 2003.