

merit of the latter is, at best, questionable. Finally, the author's review of decompression illness (DCI) proposes a 4 type classification, at a time when most practitioners are abandoning such typing (even 2 type classifications), and the author's pathological concept of DCI is simply outdated.

Overall then, the need for a comprehensive review of diving at altitude remains and is not completely satisfied by this monograph.

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SPUMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 1994

OPENING ADDRESS SPUMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, RABAUL

Sir Mekere Morauta

Governor of the Reserve Bank of Papua New Guinea
Chairman of Air Niugini

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you tonight. I am sure you are all wondering why I, of all people, was asked to speak. I am not a diver. Nor am I a medico; nor one of those brand of people often asked to speak at such functions, the brand known as (quote) "distinguished politicians". My only claim to fame here tonight is having been, many years ago, a friendly cohabiter of Lincoln College, Adelaide, with Doctor Chris Acott, whom you all do know. Some time last year, after a feast of prawns and crab, accompanied by a couple of bottles of wine from our old stamping ground, the Barossa Valley, I was conscripted by Chris to appear before you tonight.

As I said, I am neither a diver nor an administrator of medicine. I am however very familiar with water, muddy swampy water, of the Lakekamu and Tauri river basins in the Papuan Gulf. Apart from breeding mosquitoes, those waters, although highly unattractive for divers, are very rich in seafood, prawns, crabs, lobster, fish, clams and oysters. Which brings me to the theme of the few words about my country I want to share with you tonight.

Papua New Guinea is very fortunate in having a rich resource base, both on land and in seas and rivers. Other Pacific countries also have rich water-based resources, but are less endowed than we with land-based resources. The challenge South Pacific countries face as nations is to identify, plan and invest our resources. It is through this that we increase the value of our resources. The resources on their own are of value to support traditional life styles. But today's generation has different needs and requirements from those traditional needs, different even from the needs and life styles of our parents. Resources are there to

be exploited for the benefit of their owners. What the present generation must not forget is that it has an obligation to ensure that future generations are not denied the use and benefit of the resources.

Papua New Guinea has a well developed policy framework for the exploitation of its mineral resources. Policies relating to the exploitation of forest and marine resources however are poorly developed, and generally end up as being reactionary to exploitative developers. Just this morning I was shown a map of PNG carved out into large forestry permit areas to suit large-scale forest exploitation, but we have no plans for replanting, no plans for alternative land-use. The nation's capacity to safeguard the ecology likely to be affected by such exploitation is non-existent. In another ten years, our topography could look like that of Borneo or Madagascar, denuded and red. The effect of erosion and siltage on land and sea resources may be catastrophic.

Governments alone can not fully safeguard the resources of the people. But Governments can help organisations like yours, interested in the simultaneous use and protection of natural resources, ensure that balanced development occurs.

I know Papua New Guinea, like other islands in the Pacific, is surrounded by beautiful, unspoiled reefs, corals and rare species of sea-life. Like our gold, copper, oil, gas, timber, tuna and prawns, the use of these reefs can contribute positively to the nation's development and people's well-being. Is it beyond the capacity of the Pacific nations to get together to develop a common user plan for these underwater resources?

As a "senior" Papua New Guinean, interested in the sustainable development of my country, I welcome the contribution you are making to better and safer use of our underwater resources. Our task is to assist you and use the knowledge that you have in putting together a plan which will ensure beneficial use and conservation of this divers' paradise.