

Establishing a Youth Organisation

by

Navari Beuri

Firstly I would like to introduce myself. My name is Navari Beuri. I am from the Wonenara in Obura-Wonenara electorate, in Eastern Highlands Province.

At the age of sixteen I started Grade One to Grade Three in Wonenara Primary School. During the same year on the 28th of June, 1994 my father took all of my family to live in 8 Mile Settlement, in Port Moresby. We came to Port Moresby because of the law and order problems like trouble fighting in my home place and we were also looking for better basic services in the city.

As soon as we arrived at 8 mile, I was new in this community. Also at the time the 8 Mile Settlement was only five years old. When I arrived here in 8 Mile I continued my education and made it to Grade Six at the Ororo Primary School in Tokarara in the NCD. I went to Kilakila High School from Grade Seven to Grade Ten.

After I graduated I did not get a place in Grade Eleven, so then I just sat around in the community with street kids. We smoked and chewed betlenut and we always just passed time and made jokes to enjoy ourselves.

One afternoon all the street boys got together and started discussing our different points. Within the discussion I got up and suggested about why our community faced law and order problems like murder, rape, drugs and gambling, etc. This was because I knew that these were the problems we faced within our community here in 8 Mile. New people are still coming to this settlement to live and our population is increasing. At this time the population of 8 Mile Settlement was four thousand people. Within our discussions I also suggested that we should establish a youth organisation.

When I said this, all of the other youths agreed with me and we discussed how to start an 8 Mile Youth Organisation.

After establishing our Youth Organisation I have seen many changes and improvements to the law and order problems that used to affect this community. Since we established this organisation, we realised that we had changed a lot of people's attitudes towards the community.

Now there are around fifteen thousand people living in 8 Mile Settlement. The 8 Mile Youth Organisation still exists now in 2009 and it will continue to help keep the community safe in the future.

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