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Sub Regional And National Triangular Alliances: Faith
Based And Traditional Leaders

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Introduction

Society effectively started as a traditional community along time ago. Things has evolved to a stage where there must be proactive alliances and collaborations between;

- The Government
- The Traditional Leadership Hierarchy
- Faith Based Organisations

Governments has the major task to govern and ensure everybody is covered and served in their respective localities.

In a country like PNG (with over 800 language and cultural groups), the task of having confidence in one group of Traditional Leaders, and govern with the modernisation of society, makes it a difficult proposition.

Faith based groups have done a lot of work, to reach the unreached and serve the needy in some very challenging places of PNG.

The government must work hard to build bridges and cause proactive participation, especially of Traditional Leaders in society, but to also appreciate and support adequately Faith Based Organisations.

Traditional Leaders in PNG

Most societies had the Big Man syndrome tagged with Traditional Leaders. The Chieftain System is still being practiced in some societies today (Bougainville, Milne Bay and Central).

A lot of the Big Man lost the trust and confidence of their subjects through;

Unscrupulous forestry dealings with overseas developers.

Major land acquisition for oil palm and other commercial crops

Signing off land rights to major mining deals between developers and the government.

The younger generation, the educated elites and the marginalised have mobilised and no longer show the respect to these Traditional Leaders.

Because of continuous support (financial plus) from developers, some of these Clan (Traditional) Leaders are growing in material wealth – 14 wives and still able to attract young ‘concubines’.

CLRC is proposing legislation to outlaw Polygamy. Most polygamist disagreed and commented negatively against parliament.

Women As Traditional Leaders

Yes in some Matrilineal Communities, the Women has authority and must be consulted and included in agreements for resource use.

The Panguna and more recently Lihir is experiencing a major shift away from including Traditional Women Leaders.

Women Traditional Leaders were also influential in Traditional Customary activities – bride price, death rituals or planting of a new garden.

Women Traditional Leaders must stand shoulder to shoulder with the menfolk and assert themselves into the governance and leadership responsibilities of our communities.

Traditional Alliances for Development

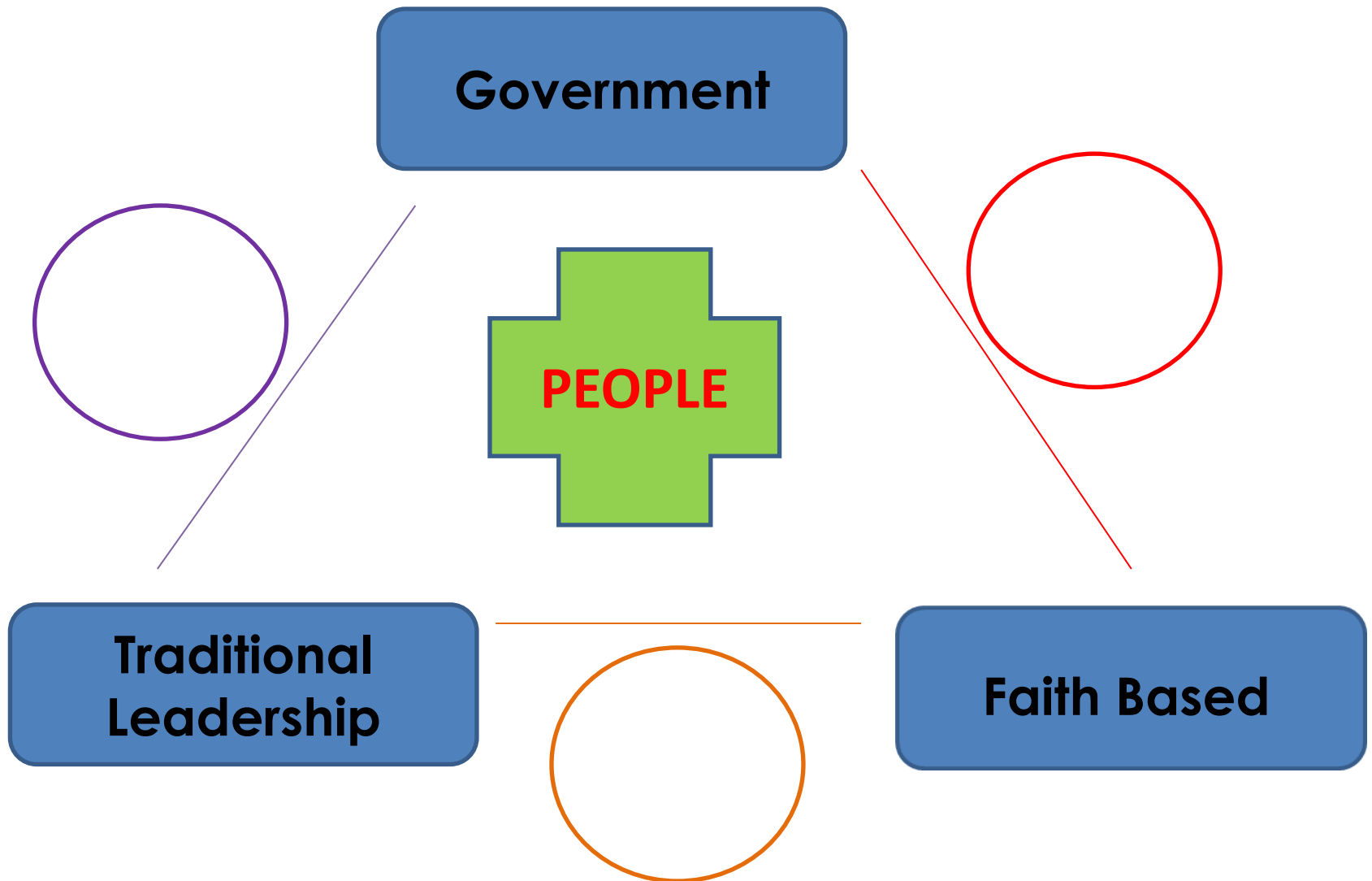
The term 'Haus Laen' describes a unit of habitations from the same clan or tribal groupings, and can be effectively found clustered together within the same locality.

From within this clan or tribal groups, one or two important elder members will have a lot of influence within these homes and families. This leader could be their grandfather, the husband to the many wives within the locality, or a great uncle who now represents the passing generation.

Today these influential traditional leaders are now bribed out to make sure their clan can stand behind a certain candidate and all vote for the candidate. This traditional stance and influence is now being commercialised and is no longer used to foster developmental agendas.

Still these traditional leaders play some important role to cause development programs to come, or can call the group to go to war, and destroy classrooms or health centres. Just being in a tribal fight will restrict movement of mothers to health centres, children to schools and government officers to come into these remote areas to deliver much needed services.

Triangular Alliances



The Challenge – PNG PPD 2013

PNG PPD has this task to continuously coordinate gatherings to inform and highlight to respective members the issues to be addressed at their respective electorates.

A Secretariat (SMALL PNG) is being brought into line to assist with information, research and coordination of gatherings to make sure the right information is passed on to respective representatives in parliament.

The need to also collaborate with other agencies, stakeholders, and Faith Based units must be stepped up to make sure a lot more people are addressed, and also they can help to explain who we are and what we are on about.

The coordination with media organisations to make sure we can reach a lot more people apart from their elected representatives from parliament.