

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

13 January 2012

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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(Newly updated)

Index

In this Issue From the President's Desk

Lae Urban Local Level
Government

2012 Gazetted Holidays

New IRC Office Location

Seeking Employment

IPA Telephones

PNG Human Resources
Institute Seminar

Lae Roads
Update of road works

APTC Training Courses

Company Profile Section

Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

LET'S ALL MAKE 2012 A GOOD YEAR

We trust everyone had a good festive season - restful for those who could take the time off and not too stressful for those who had to continue to work. A comforting thing was that there were not many disturbances throughout the city. The fact that the city remained under the *Fighting Zone* declaration certainly helped and the liquor ban resulted in very few problems in the settlements.

We have received copies of letters from Lae Council Ward Committees, requesting that the Morobe Provincial Government and the Liquor Licensing Board only issue bottle shop licenses to the larger liquor distributors, and to close down all bottle shops in settlements and residential areas. The reasoning is that the larger Town based bottle shops stick to the trading hours, whereas the bottle shops in settlements and residential areas are open for business at any time. From my information this statement is not exactly true, as some town based bottle shops enjoyed good business during the Christmas period, but we do support the stance that the residential and settlement bottle shops should be closed. Perhaps the Liquor Licensing Inspectors need to be more active with rogue traders, particularly over holiday periods, instead of seeking spurious bonuses.

It seems however that the tranquillity that Lae has enjoyed since the riots in early November may not last, as reports are being received that the street vendors and street gangs are returning to their old haunts again. Ladies are again being targeted by pickpockets and bag snatchers and being hassled at the bus stops. These are the very problems that led to the Governor being petitioned on 3rd and 4th November which led to the unrest and ultimate violence that rocked Lae.

What are the authorities doing about this deplorable situation? The Police have manned some of the bus stops and have evicted some illegal settlers but it is the job of the City Authorities to control the hawkers, peddlers and street vendors.

It is interesting that when the 2012 Lae Urban Local Level Government Budget was passed, part of the functions and responsibilities was stated to be *"Providing Reserve Policing Unit assisting the regular police personnel in maintaining Law and Order in the City"*. This is an interesting statement because the Metropolitan Police Commander does not recognise this reserve unit as part of the Metropolitan command. It is our belief that this Policing Unit should be used to police the City Authorities Laws, such as Hawking and Vending.

If the Morobe Provincial Government and the Lae Urban Local Level Government do not do something soon to rid the streets of these pests then there will be a repeat of the problems that shook Lae in November if not worse.

We also note that the displaced settlers are still living in tents at the Igam gates. A delegation paid a visit to the LCCI Office this week where they extended appreciation to the business houses for past donations, and requested consideration to further donations of essential food-stuffs. If you can make a donation, please contact the LCCI by return email.



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Objectives
of the LCCI

- To promote the business interests of the private sector;
- To further the economic development in Lae;
- To ensure the provision of services and utilities essential to such development;
- To provide a representative body for business people, which government can consult;
- To promote support or oppose legislation; or take any other measures to improve the business community;
- To provide a forum for discussion of private sector goals;
- To pool the strengths of business people so that together, they can accomplish tasks that each one alone cannot achieve;
- To promote the economic viability of the area, so those current businesses will grow and new ones will be developed locally;
- To provide business with a common voice.

LAE URBAN LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNMENT

Whilst on the subject of the Lae Urban Local Level Government, the Councillors were all patting themselves on the back after announcing the 2012 budget with a revenue of K13,257,600, with an amount of K11,156,800 being raised from internal sources. The trouble is that the budget has appropriated an expenditure of K5,370,000 for **salaries** and personal emoluments, which is just over **48%** of the internally raised funds. This is grossly excessive and does not leave much for works and other essential services for the city.

The budget document mentions that the remainder of the revenue will come from:

a) National Government Grant	K2,026,800
b) Provincial Government Grant	K 74,000

This confirms an expected total lack of commitment to Lae City by the Morobe Provincial Government.

The budget document lists the LULLG gazetted functions and responsibilities as:

- a) Providing effective and efficient solid waste management through collection, transportation and disposal of all domestic, commercial and industrial solid wastes;
- b) Maintaining the Second Seventh dump;
- c) Coordinating grass cutting service within the city boundaries
- d) Providing and maintaining street lighting
- e) Provide, maintain and develop parks and gardens;
- f) Upgrade and maintain feeder roads within the city including patching of potholes;
- g) Clearing and maintaining storm water drains in the city;
- h) Providing and maintaining sanitary facilities such as user pay public toilets in the city;
- i) Establishing and maintaining market facilities in all six wards;
- j) Providing Reserve Policing Unit assisting regular Police personnel in maintaining Law and Order in the city.

Whilst there is a budgetary provision for new construction vehicles, there seems to be no provision for funding Road Maintenance or grass cutting. Whereas the National Government has been hard at reconstructing the city's major roads, the LULLG must honour its own commitment as listed in items (c) and (f) above. There are so many residential roads that are now collapsing due to the traffic stress from access during the construction of the feeder roads. The LULLG must fix these roads!

The budget papers go on to state that there is a ***“big down fall of three hundred thousand on Trading and Licensing fees received due to no full time allocation of vehicle and there was no back dated payments received from the business premises, thus simply means that all the business premises are licensed”***.

Apart from this statement not making a whole lot of sense, it is a clear indicator to our long standing argument that the complicated Trading License fee structure adopted by the LULLG in 2006, makes it near impossible to collect trading License fees and to maintain records. Our offer to collect Trading License fees and Land rates for the LULLG was accepted last year but despite agreement, it was never implemented due to a division in the Council. We will pursue this again this year.



Visit the Lae International Hotel new website.

Book Online at www.laeinterhotel.com

For more information call us on phone 472 2000.

**GAZETTED
HOLIDAYS FOR
2012**

GAZETTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2012

The 2012 holidays as per Government Gazette No. G197 dated 22nd July, 2011 are shown as follows: (Please note that there is no mention of a holiday for the National Day of Repentance which was declared at the last minute on 26th August 2011. This Holiday may be declared at a later date and if so will most likely be set for August 2012).

PUBLIC NOTICE

As declared by Sir Michael Ogio, G.C.M.G., K.St.J., Governor-General -

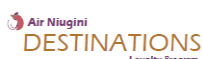
- Appoint Monday, 11th June 2012 to be the day to commemorate the Birthday of the Queen; and
- Appoint Monday, 17th September 2012 to be the day to commemorate the attainment of Independent Sovereign nationhood; and
- Appoint Monday 23rd July 2012 to be the day to commemorate the PNG Remembrance Day; and
- For general information notify that the following days shall be observed as Public Holidays throughout Papua New Guinea :-

New Years Day, Sunday	1 st January, 2012
Public Holiday, Monday	2 nd January, 2012
Good Friday, Friday	6 th April, 2012
Easter Saturday, Saturday	7 th April, 2012
Easter Sunday, Sunday	8 th April, 2012
Easter Monday, Monday	9 th April, 2012
Queen's Birthday, Monday	11 th June, 2012
National Remembrance Day, Monday	23 rd July, 2012
Independence Day, Sunday	16 th September, 2012
Public Holiday, Monday	17 th September, 2012 (in respect that Independence Day falls on Sunday)
Christmas Day, Tuesday	25 th December, 2012
Boxing Day, Wednesday	26 th December, 2012

Dated this 30th Day of June, 2011

Sir MICHAEL OGIO, Governor-General

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**IRC NEW OFFICE
AND PHONE
CONTACTS**

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSION

Wish to advise that their new office is located at the Consort Express Lines Building – upstairs opposite the Customs Office.

Contacts are:	Phone:	472 7511
	Fax:	472 7474

**SEEKING
EMPLOYMENT**

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

A highly skilled male originally from South Africa (Zimbabwe) living in Australia for the past 10 years (currently in Cairns with his family) is looking for employment. He has strong skills in Transport and Security and would be a valuable employee for companies in PNG:

CV and details can be forwarded on return email request or by phone to Alan on 472 2340

**IPA LAE BRANCH
TELEPHONES**

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Ms. Catherine Paigma (Accounts & Leases)
Tel No. +675 472 5419 Fax No. +675 472 5395
Email: zenagproperty@zenagchicken.com.pg

IPA

The Investment Promotion Authority advises clients and stakeholders in Lae City and surrounding areas that the telephone land line 479 2001 to the Lae Office is currently out of order.

The Lae office can now be contacted on the access phone number - 431 3009 until the land line is restored by Telikom.

The office can also be contacted by email on IPALae@ipa.gov.pg.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this disruption.

**SEMINAR BY THE
PNG HUMAN
RESOURCE
INSTITUTE**



2012

LAE BRANCH SEMINAR

**“DOMESTIC & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE -
CHALLENGES FOR HR PROFESSIONALS
AND COMMUNITIES IN PNG”**

GUEST PRESENTERS:

**PRISCILLA WINSTON & PAUL KUNUMP
FROM THE MSF FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE**

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 2012 - 1PM TO 4PM

MELANESIAN HOTEL, LAE

K50 PER PARTICIPANT

(includes finger food, soft drinks, coffee & tea)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE 16TH OF JANUARY FROM:

Eileen Allan 472 4133 eileen.allan@chemcaregroup.com.pg

Elizabeth Nir 7200 5802 enir@trukai.com.pg

Ludwina Philemon 7337 9992 Ludwina.Philemon@anz.ccamatil.com

Elijah Monope 7160 2967 hrtraining@mainland.com.pg

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UPDATE ON THE LAE ROAD WORKS

LAE ROADS

NME Lae Based Engineers are still on a break so information to relay to our members on the developments on the Lae Road-works is scarce at the moment. Most of the contractors are back on the job, completing their contracted sections of road.

NME head office in Port Moresby has advised that they are working at resolving the problems with Cameron Construction to get the 5th & 6th Streets and Central Avenue completed. We hope to be in a better position next week to provide a more extensive report on the road upgrades.



We advise that information and applications for courses mentioned in this message from APTC are available from the LCCI. Please send an email reply and the information will be sent to you.

LAE ROADS REPORT

APTC TRAINING COURSES NOW OPEN –

INFORMATION ON EACH COURSE AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LCCI ON APPLICATION

Dear industry partner,

Applications now open for APTC Training Programs

The Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) has now opened applications for its training programs for 2012 (second semester) and for 2013. The APTC is an Australian Government funded program which aims to up-skill workers in Pacific countries to Australian industry standards.

The attached advertisement will be featured in the PNG daily newspapers. It lists the various training programs delivered by the APTC and available to applicants across Papua New Guinea

About APTC Training Programs

All APTC training programs are therefore delivered to Australian Training Quality Standards. Trade and Technology programs are usually delivered in three or four sets of six-week blocks. The Tourism and Hospitality and the Health and Community Services programs are usually delivered in one 24 week block. The programs are designed on a gap-training model whereby each awardee is skill-assessed to allow an individual training program to be designed specifically for them. The length of this training program depends upon

the skill-gap identified. An outline of each training program offered by APTC can be found in the attached documents.

Fees

Training programs are subsidised by the Australian Government. Student fees are approximately K5,000 per qualification and may be less depending on prior assessment of the skill level of the successful applicants. A limited number of scholarships are available so your employees. They should fill in the scholarship application form provided if you are not able to sponsor them.

Action to be taken by you.

Should you wish to upgrade the skills of your employees through the APTC programs, then please advise us by email (enquiries.png@aptc.edu.au) or fax (321 3662) of their names and the training programs you want to enrol them in. We will then register their names and wait for their application forms to arrive. Provide your employees with copies of the cover sheet, application forms and also a copy of the information about the course they wish to pursue. These are attached to this email.

How to apply?

An 'Application coversheet' is attached to this email which describes how to prepare and submit an application. *Applications must be fully complete in order for us to make an offer for training to any applicant.* Please remember that applications will only be accepted if the person meets all the criteria and the training they apply for is the same trade as their existing qualification and industry experience. *Application for Admission Forms* and *Scholarship Application Forms* are attached to this email. It is essential that applicants provide accurate phone, fax or email contacts to enable us to advise them at each stage of the process otherwise they may miss their window of opportunity.

When to apply?

If you wish to have your employees considered in the current round of applications, we must receive their documents before January 26, 2012. Once we receive the applications, they will be evaluated and an APTC officer will arrange a time to interview shortlisted applicants.

Late applications will be considered for future selection rounds.

We look forward to your active participation in our effort to raise the skill levels of the PNG workforce.

Trevor Birney

Country Manager
Australia-Pacific Technical College

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Papua New Guinea
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**COMPANY
PROFILE
SECTION**



PROFILE

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Water Tank Installations
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Water filtration systems

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Hydrotech Pacific Ltd.

Solwara Haus, Milfordhaven Road
PO Box 1847, Lae 411, Morobe Province.

Phone: 472 0355; Fax: 472 0866

Email: hydrotechpacific@datec.net.pg

The Lae Chamber of Commerce advises that your company profile can be included in our Weekly News Update, at no charge to you. All we need is the phrasing and any graphics or photos (as long as they do not take up big bytes). This profile will not only reach our 250 Lae members but all Chambers around Papua New Guinea and other associated addressees.
