



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

16 December 2011

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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(Newly updated)

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

CLOSURE OF LCCI OFFICE

We advise all members that the LCCI Office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2011 and will reopen on Monday 9th January 2011. Whilst the office will be officially closed during this period, we will monitor the mail with any crucial items or events attended to as well.

Please use the email - lcci@global.net.pg - if you have any matters of concern or if you wish any form of assistance from the LCCI.

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ONE COUNTRY TWO GOVERNMENTS

Lae seems to have become a black hole as far as receiving reports on the Political crisis that the nation is facing in Port Moresby. There is very little news filtering through to our city, and I suspect that this is the same situation in other Towns, Cities and Provinces in the Nation.

The impasse between Somare and O'Neill is potentially devastating to the country. The country just cannot operate with 2 Prime Ministers, duplicate Ministers, 2 Attorney Generals, 2 Governor Generals and a divided Police Force under 2 Police Commissioners. Parliament must sit if only to pass the budget and the Supply and Appropriation bills for 2012, otherwise come the New Year there will be no money for the Police, Telikom, PNG Power, Public Servants - in other words no money for the Country.

There have been offers from various politicians to arbitrate between the two factions but it is unlikely that this will be acceptable to one side or the other. The Chairman of the Morobe Peace & Reconciliation Committee Joshua Haggai suggested in an article in today's paper that a third party be asked to act as a go-between the two factions and he suggested that this role could be filled by Australia. This is probably not a bad idea but is one which both leaders would probably not accept.

Various groups have decided to put the leaders under pressure to find a solution to the standoff. The Unions have given 24 hours otherwise they will call for a nationwide strike. The Political activist Noel Anjo has given until 20th December for a solution to be found otherwise he will organise nation-wide civil disorder. Both of these propositions are not going to be really helpful as they will adversely affect the people who can ill afford to lose out on wages or suffer destruction of property again, and leave the leaders to play out their game.

Whilst the different Police factions are coming out with statements for people to remain calm they themselves present a threat to the nation's security as there is always a chance that a splinter group may support one bloc over another and use force to instate them.

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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.



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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The official Holidays over the Christmas period are as follows:

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December 2011

Boxing Day, Monday 26th December 2011

Public Holiday, Tuesday 27th December 2011

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 1	1 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 Inde-
pendence 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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**Latest with the
Lae unrest.**

LAE CITY SITUATION

The bodies of two of the five Morobe people killed during the fighting in early November were buried at the Second Seventh Cemetery on Wednesday this week. Arrangements are being made to send the other three bodies back to their own Districts for burial. The direction of Governor Wenge to bury the dead at the cemetery on the old airstrip was thankfully considered inappropriate.

The burial of all these bodies is the first step toward settling the friction that caused the uprising last month. Still to come is how to deal with the other petition requests to the Governor – getting the City Authority to get rid of Street Hawkers and Venders, stop the illegal sale of Government land and rid the City of illegal settlers. Then the Landowners must formalise the use of their land by the legitimate settlers. The continued ad hoc rental of customary land will again lead to future disputes.

The Police are doing a good job in removing illegal settlers from State Land, and so far have demolished a number of the worst settlements, the most recently being the Kau Banis Settlement. Some settlers claim that they have title over the land they have been kicked out of and have resorted to seeking clarification through the courts. It could be that some of the land in question may have been wrongfully allocated or rezoned.

There are still displaced settlers from the Back Road disaster camped at the Igam gates. The business community continues to provide assistance to these people. Most recently we have seen food and biscuits gratefully received by these people, from:

Lae Biscuits
Homestate Corporation
Prima Smallgoods
Laga Industries

A solution must be found to solve the predicament that these people find themselves in.

POLICE ACTION IN LAE

The Police Commanders in Lae have advised the LCCI that there have been no Lae Police sent to Port Moresby for special operations to deal with the current political situation. All of the Lae Police are committed to keeping Lae as safe and peaceful as possible over the Christmas and New Year period. Divisional Commander Labi said that the Momase Police are acting as part of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and as such they are non political and serve the legitimate Commissioner of the day.

Again we have received the first donations for the Police to assist them to better carry out their special operation over the Festive season. Super Value Stores Ltd has donated 50 cartons of bottled water which is a great help to those police who will be on the move during the operation.

As normal food, drink, coffee, tea and biscuits will be appreciated by the police over this period, and any further donations can be delivered to the LCCI office for collection by the Police.

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lae road report

We advise that the information on the road-works is provided to be used as a guide and is based on the latest advice from the Project Engineers, the contractors and from regular road inspections by the LCCI.

The LCCI cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information as a change in weather conditions may mean that plans have to be altered, or contractors have to meet other obligations

UPDATE ON THE LAE ROAD WORKS

LAE ROADS

As mentioned last week, some of the contractors will be closing down for Christmas today and others will be closing next week. Most contractors will recommence on 9th January 2012.

The problems with the blocked drains on Coronation Drive (Police Station), 7th Street and 8th Street were exacerbated this week when the deluge of water from Tuesday's heavy rain caused floods in all these roads, which clearly showed where the drains were blocked. The contractors have been instructed to address these problems.

The main obstruction to direct travel remains the roundabout construction at the Huon and Seventh Street Junction being done by East West #1. This will not be completed until the after the New Year.

The closure of the Central drain on Huon Road at Eriku will also not be completed and will still provide an obstacle to traffic.

The bypass road near Angau Hospital, diverting traffic to the old airstrip is becoming difficult to navigate and this stretch of road should only be used if really necessary.

Shorncliffe promise to open the whole of Fourth Street for Christmas.



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ISSUE THREE 2011

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This latest edition of PNG REPORT

A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

PNGREPORT

Get your free edition from the LCCI Office

The latest edition of this newly produced magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Your free copy of this November edition can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg.