



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

24 February 2012

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

LAE ROADS

The reason for the lack of progress on the contracted Lae Roads was made clear in an article in Monday's Post Courier. The Government has halted any further release of funds for the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project until they have considered all the recommendations made in the REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF THE LAE CITY ROADS REHABILITATION PROJECT.

This has resulted in the contractors that have been working on the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project (LCRRP) halting most ongoing work on the roads. As I mentioned last week, the contractors sent a delegation to Port Moresby to meet the respective Government Ministers and Departmental representatives involved in the Lae Roads Project, to get a commitment to pay them for outstanding work, and the work to finish their contracts. We are not aware of the outcome of these meetings.

We sat in a meeting with the NME Engineer visiting from Port Moresby and the a/City Manager and City Engineer on Tuesday this week. Whilst the NME Engineer did not know if further funds have been made available, he did listen to our requests to fine tune the ongoing work on the roads. He promised that the pedestrian crossings will be done in compliance with our requests, as it remains our belief that if left the way they have been done, the pedestrian crossings will cause a severe accident in the not too distant future.

It is our understanding that the report on the LCRRP has made many recommendations to the NEC for them to decide on the course of action to be taken. The first two Governance and Administrative recommendations do concern the Lae Chamber of Commerce and are:

1. To ensure that proper governance and administration of the LCRRP is established as a matter of priority. In this vein establishment of a strong Project Management Unit (PMU) located within this project as the implementing unit of the LCRRP and reporting to an advisory board and provincial stakeholders is recommended.
2. Key provincial stakeholders, LCC (Lae City Council), MPA (Morobe Provincial Administration) and LCOC (Lae Chamber of Commerce) are included in the governance of the LCRRP and be involved in the decision making of the LCRRP as a matter of priority.

The Lae Chamber of Commerce has been actively lobbying for proper governance since the outset of the Lae Roads project, which led to the Provincial Coordinating and Monitoring Committee establishing a "Lae Roads Technical Sub-Committee" which met several times in the LCCI Board Room, and did have a significant influence on the way the LCRRP was managed and which roads were to be eventually rehabilitated. If these 2 above recommendations are adopted it will formalise and strengthen the work of this Sub-Committee.

We do state categorically, that the LCCI is keen to retain a role in the LCRRP in a Governance, Administrative and Technical capacity.



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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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For more information call us on phone 472 2000.

INA Private Sector Survey - 2012

The business and investment climate of Papua New Guinea has changed greatly over the last 5 years attributed by factors that include improvements in commodity prices, improvement in fiscal regimes, the approval and implementation of mega projects in the mineral resource sector like the PNG LNG project. Despite improvements, there are still other areas that require policy intervention.

The Institute of National Affairs (INA) has been carrying out Private Sector Surveys every 4-5 years. The purpose of the survey is to get information on the impediments to business and investments in Papua New Guinea. The Institute has successfully carried out three similar surveys in the past, 1999, 2002 and 2007 respectively, and the results have influenced and provided the basis for constructive policy dialogue with the government.

The survey emphasizes the key impediments identified by the business sector to be restraining private sector development in PNG. In doing so, the survey contributes to an improved understanding of what needs to be addressed to boost PNG's business and investment environment. The survey findings can therefore assist government in developing comprehensive policy interventions for improved economic performance, with a particular focus on investment, small and medium sized enterprises, transport, law and order, education and training.

The survey aims to collect views from the business sector on the following themes;

- The impact of political uncertainty on businesses
- The effect of government regulations and policies
- Business – Government relationships
- The effectiveness of government services
- Business security
- Constraints to business and investments

In the earlier surveys, businesses were classified into 10 broad economic industry groups: (1) Agriculture, fisheries & forestry; (2) Building & Construction; (3) Finance, investment & Business; (4) Hotels, guest houses & restaurants; (5) Processing & manufacturing; (6) Mining & quarrying; (7) Other services; (8) Retail & wholesale; (9) Transport & communication and (10) Utilities. The 'other services' category in this survey covers business activities such as gaming, entertainment, hair salons and sporting enterprises. The 'finance, investment & business' category includes real estate & property, private law firms, accounting firms, private medical clinics, insurance brokers and financial institutions. In this year's 2012 Private Sector Survey, these broad economic industry groups will remain and will provide an in-depth analysis and comparison to better understand the challenges each industry is encountering in their operations. The survey is also intended to provide some comparative analysis on a regional and to some extent provincial basis, and between industries and sectors.

Overall it is hoped that the findings of the survey will assist the Government, private and non-government organizations as well as donor organizations, in identifying the most appropriate policies and programs to support the development of a growing and competitive private sector in PNG; a private sector best able to contribute to the nation's sustainable development.

The questionnaire is currently being finalized, after which it will be distributed to INA members electronically, as well as via the LCCI and will also be available on the INA Website.

COMPANY PROFILES

The Lae Chamber of Commerce advises that your company profile can be included in our Weekly News Update, at no charge to you. We encourage you to send the layout with the appropriate 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.

MARKHAM BANANA FESTIVAL

PNG RESOURCES

REPORTING ON PNG'S PETROLEUM & MINERAL INDUSTRY

ISSUE FOUR 2011

Reporting on PNG for the last **20 Years**. The latest edition of this highly sought after magazine is now available at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Please arrange to collect your free copy by visiting the Chamber in the Professionals building in Fourth Street Lae, or book a copy from Wendie on telephone 4722340.

TVET Trade Mission

The TVET Trade Mission organized by Austrade in Lae earlier this week was a success although the numbers were somewhat less than expected. We believe that Monday was not a good time for the event, as people were busy getting their businesses operating again after the weekend. The event was however well worthwhile seeing as some of the visiting Queensland Mission members have excellent training credentials, which could be of benefit to Papua New Guinea companies.

If you have an interest in finding out about the available training courses, please respond and we can pass on appropriate information to you.

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MARKHAM BANANA FESTIVAL

2 - 8 APRIL 2012

MARALUMI ESTATE

PORTION 8 NGARU UMI LLG

DAILY 8AM - 10PM

ENTRY FEE PER DAY: Adults K1
Children 50 toea

STALL HIRE K5 PER DAY

CONTACTS

JENNIFER BAING -Festival Coordinator
B-mobile: 7641 9845 Digicel: 7217 3750
e-mail: savepng@gmail.com

See more details on the following page.

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Venue:

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Pre-requisites:

- Have a lap top computer and WIFI.
- Currently in a training role or conduct training

Duration:

2 blocks of days with an assignment between

Dates:

March to April 2012 to be set depending on numbers, with a minimum of 8

Interested Members are asked to respond to:

McLeod Training Organisation PTY LTD

P: +61 (0)7 4033 0130
M: +61 (0)438 954 481
E: ian@industrytraining.org

Or reply to the LCCI

A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

PNGREPORT

The latest edition for February 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the ROAD WARRIORS (The unforgiving Highlands Highway), MONEY LAUNDERING (looking under the carpet), BLASTING (Orica sets the standard) and LOGISTICS (Shipping on the Fly) when you get your free copy of this February edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg



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Australia Week 2012



**AUSTRALIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BUSINESS COUNCIL**



The Australian High Commission Port Moresby Presents Business Council Seminar & Food and Wine Event

as part of Australia Week, Monday 5 to Sunday 11 March

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH, 15.00 – 18.00, Lae International Hotel, Lae

Speaker: Hon. Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs

"PNG's economic partnership with Australia - harnessing the opportunities"

Panellists: Hon. Richard Marles MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs
Professor Hurriyet Babacan, Foundation Director, Cairns Institute
Mr Alan McLay, President, Lae Chamber of Commerce
Mr Ian Clarke, National Chairman, Gadens Lawyers

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Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Australian High Commission's Public Diplomacy Section on 325 9333 or email: Public-Affairs-PortMoresby@dfat.gov.au