

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

27 January 2012

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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(Updated Weekly)

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

PNG ISSUES

The PNG Party Morobe fund raising function was deferred from last Saturday night to this coming Saturday. I still intend to address the gathering on Lae concerns.

The event that took place in Port Moresby yesterday (Thursday 26th January 2012) where a renegade Military group under the leadership of ex-Defence Force Colonel Yaura Sasa attempted unsuccessfully to take over the Command of the PNG Defence Force. This event took place all day yesterday, starting with the storming of Taurama Barracks and then Murray Barracks, declaring that the Barrack Commander and the Defence Commanding Officer were under House arrest. A press conference that followed showed to the world the demand of renegade ex-Officer Yaura Sasa, for both the Somare and O'Neill factions to comply with the Supreme Court decision on the Constitution and for Parliament to be called with the reinstatement of the Somare Government in seven days.

It appears that when ex-Col Sasa and his renegades could not get any further support from the military, the situation was diffused with Brigadier General Francis Agwi taking command of the Defence Force again and the renegades "dealt" with. As of this morning ex-Col Sasa had not been detained.

The Port Moresby Chambers of Commerce have advised their members that – *"the situation at Murray Barracks has stabilized although there may still be part of the story to play out at Taurama Barracks over the weekend"*.

The dilemma that PNG faces is the damage to the country's image. Just when investors' confidence was soaring this has showed the world that the nation may not be as stable as they would like. The LCCI received calls from as far away as Canada to seek information on what was happening in PNG. Because there was restricted news of events in the National Capital, we of course could pass on very limited information.

We have been advised that many businesses shut down in Port Moresby as a result of this event. Problems however overflowed onto Lae as well – although no business that I am aware of actually closed their doors. The closure of NADZAB Airport yesterday afternoon however was more than disruptive to businesses than just stopping the movement of passengers. Vital airfreight of crucial goods was deferred and you may think that ½ day does not make much of a difference. When however those goods were freezer or perishable in nature then the unannounced closure of the airstrip became critical. Morobe Province has the two largest chicken farms in the country and a consignment of day old chicks was delayed at NADZAB and fresh chicken consignments had to be sold locally at discounted prices. It was fortunate indeed that the flights returned to normal this morning.



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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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PNG ISSUES (CONTINUED)

The article in today's paper which quoted the Prime Minister O'Neill requesting the elections to be brought forward from June this year was a pleasing sign as it indicates that he does not want to hold onto power but made his position clear, to let the polls decide on the next Government, where the people of the nation will have their say. In our estimation it will be very difficult for the PNG Electoral Commission to bring the physical date of the elections forward as they now have to consider the identity cards that was recently requested by the Prime Minister as well, but it can be interpreted as a positive gesture.

Yesterday's event was a very serious attempt to wrest control of the PNGDF and ultimately the reins of the nation. It caused an interruption to businesses, and it is fortunate that it was over in one day (although there may be more problems to be faced). Lae has already had recent major disruptions with the riots last November and losses that were incurred to most Lae based companies will never be recovered. This year's elections will see more disruptions to business but most companies have already taken these into consideration and made allowances. However we really do not need any more unscheduled disruptions!

PNG UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The handover/Takeover of Vice Chancellors Ceremony that I announced would take place on Tuesday 31st January has now been deferred again to Tuesday 7th February 2012 to take place at the Taraka Campus of Unitech.

The University Council has formally approved the appointment of Dr. Albert Schram as the New Vice Chancellor to succeed Professor Misty E. Baloiloi.

Dr. Schram was previously the Research and Policy Advisor to the Vice Chancellor of Maastricht University in the Netherlands and takes over from Professor Baloiloi who has been VC of Unitech for the past 16 years.

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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.

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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:

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Elizabeth Nir	7200 5802	enir@trukai.com.pg
Ludwina Philemon	7337 9992	Ludwina.Philemon@anz.ccamatil.com
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“WITH OUR EXTENSIVE REPRESENTATION, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO MEET ALL YOUR CAR HIRE ARRANGEMENTS”

CRIME

A company Sales Manager was held up at the 6 Pack Corner at Bumayong (just before the shopping centre) at about 11.45am today. He was confronted by about eight youths, with about 5 carrying homemade guns and the rest armed with stones and bush knives. The victim was stabbed in his leg as he was dragged from his car and he also lost his wallet phone etc plus about K1000 cash which he had picked up from a customer earlier in the morning.

The matter has been reported to Bumayong Police Station and we are awaiting their report.

We ask all members to be alert to increased criminal activities, and the fact that this gang is active in the Bumayong area.

UPDATE ON THE LAE ROAD WORKS

LAE ROADS

The Lae Resident Engineer from NME has still not returned from Sri Lanka due to his wife's medical condition. The Company's Senior Engineer travelled to Lae this week to provide the contractors with direction that they need.

Work at Eriku is proceeding with R & Sons providing access to Pelgens and Papindo stores. The bus stop at the Eriku Roundabout is still a serious traffic problem, and you are advised to avoid this area if at all possible.

Dekenai Construction has been doing kerbing and crossovers on Sandpiper Road near the Huon Road Junction. An effort was made to inform all the concerned residences of a part time closure, but unfortunately not all were at their properties. The driveways that have been poured will be covered with sand this afternoon for access tonight. Dekenai say they are trying their best to help and cooperate with the public.

PROGRESS ON THE LAE ROAD WORKS



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Customs 2nd notice, to advise that they will still take Cheques from reputable companies!



PUBLIC NOTICE

CUSTOMS WILL NOT ACCEPT PERSONAL CHEQUES

This notice serves to advise all importers, exporters, customs brokers and business houses that the PNG Customs Service will, from January 25, 2012, no longer accept personal cheques. Added to that, Customs will also risk assess and accept company cheques from organisations with reputable payment history only.

This is due to the increase in the number of dishonoured personal and company cheques received by Customs, which is greatly affecting its efforts in collecting revenue for this country, as it is mandated to do.

As a result, ONLY bank cheques and company cheques from reputable organisations will now be accepted by Customs. Companies can contact their respective port managers to find out if their company cheques will be accepted.

Authorised by:

John Pomoso
CARETAKER COMMISSIONER
PNG Customs Service

Get your
new edition of the
PNG Report

AUSTRALIA WEEK
OFFERS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
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RANGE OF UNIQUE
EVENTS IN

PORT MORESBY
LAE
MADANG

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HERE -----

OR CONTACT THE
LCCI IF YOU WANT
MORE INFORMATION

A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

PNGREPORT

The latest edition for January 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read their report on the Lae Riots when you get your free copy of this January edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg

Australia Week 2012

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 March 2012

Festival Events Program

Monday 5 March

Official Launch

The Australian High Commission will officially launch Australia Week 2012 and our featured exhibition. The launch will be followed by a reception.

Venue: Chancery Foyer, Australian High Commission

Feature Exhibition

John Gould is an award-winning Australian artist, who, as a child with severe dyslexia, found a passion for visual arts. A trained artist, Gould has held twelve major exhibitions of sculpture and paintings and participated in thirty group exhibitions since 1978. His work has been collected by the ANU, the University of New England, Lord Alistair McAlpine (UK) and private art collectors worldwide.

Gould's work will be exhibited during Australia Week alongside the work of celebrated PNG artist Ratoos Gary. Gould and Gary have a Wollongong connection - Gould taught art at Wollongong Tafe, and Gary studied in Wollongong with famous Australian painter and sculptor, Bert Flugelman.

Gould will be selling his work (purchases made after exhibition). He has proposed that ten per cent of all sales be donated to a charity chosen by the Australian High Commission.

Venue: Australian High Commission foyer.

www.johngouldartist.com

www.pasifiknau.com/PNG_Contemporary_Art/PNG_Art/Pages/Ratoos.html

7:00 pm Australian Short Film Festival

The Australian High Commission will screen Flickerfest, a popular Australian short film festival. Students studying film at tertiary institutions in PNG will be encouraged to attend.

Venue: University of Papua New Guinea Main Lecture Theatre

Tuesday 6 March

3:00 pm Austrade - Australia PNG Business Council Function

Guest speaker: TBC

Venue: Australian High Commission Chancery Foyer

Wednesday 7 March

Community Concert

Australia Week artists will perform in front of thousands of locals at Tubuseria Village in Central Province. This is an opportunity for the artists to engage with members of the public unable to attend ticketed events.

Venues: Tubuseria Village

Australian Defence Force Golf Day

The Australia Defence Force will host a Golf Day at the Port Moresby Golf Club.

3:00 pm Austrade - Australia PNG Business Council Function

A repeat of the Austrade - APNGBC Function in Lae.

Venue: Lae International Hotel

7:00 pm Restless Dance Theatre

Restless Dance Theatre is Australia's leading dance company working with young disabled and non disabled people to create dance theatre and run workshop programs. Restless Dance Theatre is a place where dance is used as a mode of expression which allows people to speak eloquently to everyone. Restless Dance Theatre is an integrated dance company where the art is made by young people for a diverse audience: <http://restlessdance.org/>. During Australia Week, Restless Dance Theatre will perform and participate in workshops.

Restless will also participate in workshops and present for schools on Thursday 8 March.

Venue: University of Papua New Guinea Main Lecture Theatre

Thursday 8 March

7:00 am International Women's Day Breakfast

To celebrate International Women's Day, the Australian High Commission and the Business and Professional Women's Group will once again jointly host a breakfast for business and community leaders, with speeches by women in leadership roles in PNG.

Venue: Crowne Plaza Ballroom

7:00 pm AUSTRALIA WEEK 2012 LIVE Concert

The Australian High Commission will host a fabulous mix of Australian and Papua New Guinean artists to Port Moresby to perform in our Australia Week Live Concert. Artists will include:

The Red Eyes is a core group of seven multi-instrumentalist musicians that deliver an explosive live show combining masterful beats and shake the house dub rhythms with heartfelt lyrics that offer a unique spin on the broad reggae genre. The band is led on stage by enigmatic front man El Witeri (2011 APRA Songwriter Award Finalist). Recent release *Red Army* received critical acclaim including a nomination for Best Blues & Roots Album at the 2010 Australian Independent Record Label Awards and Album of the Week on PBS FM and Radio Australia.

Busby Marou is an Australian rock duo originally from Rockhampton in Queensland. The duo are characterised by their melodic guitar riffs and meaningful lyrics. The band primarily consists of Thomas Busby and Jeremy Marou, however several other musicians perform with the duo in concert. Jeremy is of Torres Strait Islander heritage, and both performers come from musical families. In 2009, the duo became one of five successful applicants for 'Break-through' - A Federal Government initiative supporting emerging indigenous contemporary musicians. The award assisted in the production of the band's debut, in June 2011, a record which includes their first hit single "Biding My Time". In 2010 they won the Indigenous Award at Brisbane's Q Song Awards and took out a Deadly for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

Richard Mogu hails from Amazon Bay, Milne Bay province on the south coast of Papua New Guinea and now resides in Port Moresby. Mogu has been a feature musician in PNG for many years, as a solo artists and session musician excelling in both traditional and contemporary style. Mogu is a multi instrumentalist. Whilst bass is his feature instrument he is also adept at bamboo flutes, garamut drumming, guitars and drums. Now through his relationship with Wantok Musik, he has released his debut solo album. Produced by Airi Ingram, Inagwe is an astonishing mix of contemporary and traditional PNG sounds. Mogu has created something distinctive and is part of the new sound of PNG.

Telek is a band, a man and, in some parts of the world, a legend. George Mamua Telek, or

Telek as he is known to his legion of fans in PNG, has long been at the forefront of the local music scene. Telek's songs and his haunting voice, traverse many musical styles perfectly capturing the spirit of the proud cultural heritage of the Tolai people. Songs of the "midal" (magic charms) and "malira" (love magic) draw on Tolai culture blending contemporary grooves with Melanesian rhythms, enriched with textured environmental sounds.

Venue: Gold Club, Lamana Hotel

Friday 9 March

12:00 pm Australia Week Luncheon - 'Raising the profile of PNG in Australia'

Guest Speaker: Parliamentary Secretary Richard Marles MP

Venue: Grand Papua Hotel

The event will include the awarding of prizes for an essay competition for Port Moresby Year 11 High School students.

6:30 pm Sponsor Dinner

A thank you reception for sponsors hosted by the High Commissioner at Bacchus Restaurant with guest Australian chef Andrew Fielke.

Venue: Bacchus Restaurant, Airways Hotel

07.00 pm Australian Movie Night - 'Bran Nui Dae'

Venue: Madang

Saturday 10 March

10:00 am Family Day

The Australian High Commission will host a Family Day for AIDS orphans in conjunction with the Friends Foundation.

Venue: Australian High Commission grounds

2:00 pm 'A Day of AFL'

Curtain-raiser match between Papua New Guinean national and expatriate teams, followed by the main event: PNG Mossies v PNG Youth Team. Visiting AFL stars to play and coach.

North v South - PNG Women's League

Super Clinic (AUSKick) - 5 to 12 yr olds

Old Boys Game - PNG v Australia

AFL PNG Academy v Emerging Mosquitos (main game - excellent standard of football)

Venue: Amini Park (free entry)

Sunday 11 March

10:00 am 'Cricket: Battle of the Nations'

'Battle of the Nations' cricket tournament, supported by Cricket PNG.

Venue: Amini Park (free entry)

Throughout the week

The Australian High Commission will partner with Netball Australia and PNG Netball to bring coaches and players to PNG to conduct clinics.