



# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

9 March 2012

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### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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The newsletter can be located at:  
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*Thank you*

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK SQUATTERS

# Gamato: Ruling will boost squatters

By PISAI GUMAR

A SUPREME Court decision over an eviction exercise on illegal settlements is posing problems for urban authorities.

Morobe provincial acting administrator Patilias Gamato said yesterday illegal settlements sprouting up around urban areas in the province was hindering proper planning and expansion of the city while providing a breeding ground for criminals.

A recent Supreme Court decision dismissed

an appeal by the provincial government over an eviction exercise carried out in January 2002.

The Supreme Court comprising Justice David Cannings, George Manuhu and Steven Kassman backed a National Court decision earlier and ruled that an eviction programme at Yonggo Mountain, 2-Mile in Lae was "harsh, oppressive, inhuman and not reasonably justifiable in a democratic society".

Gamato said he wel-

comed the decision but questioned the extent to which the Supreme Court defined a "harsh and oppressive eviction".

"The Land Act says the provincial government is the 'leader, caretaker and responsible authority' to ensure its citizens are taken care of in a manner which is possible and in accordance with set guidelines to protect their rights," Gamato said.

The provincial government had acted on requests from commu-

nity leaders as well as regulations covering the demarcation of urban zones from customary land in the 2002 case.

He said community leaders were asking for the removal of such settlements believed to be breeding grounds for criminals.

Gamato said the Morobe provincial government was trying to establish an office for 'settlement and urbanisation' to ensure proper services were delivered to settlements.

You may have seen this article in Tuesdays National Newspaper. The matter that the article refers to is an eviction exercise against settlers on Government Land in the 2-3 mile area of Lae in 2002. The squatters, on receiving an order to vacate the land signed by the Morobe Provincial Administrator, obtained a restraining order against being removed. The matter went to the National court which ruled against the evictions and this article refers to how the Supreme court has dismissed a subsequent appeal lodged by the provincial government.

When Lae was terrorised in November last year, one of the petitioned items from the Morobe youth was to rid the city of illegal settlers. Unfortunately with this decision of the Supreme Court, getting rid of unwanted settlers is made more difficult.

There are areas of vacant land in Lae that have been settled that are downright dangerous – I refer to drainage reserves including the banks of the Bumbu River and Didiman Creek. If the settlements are allowed to develop further in these areas, then what will happen when the next flood occurs and washes all the houses and dwellers away? Who will be blamed? The city planners created these reserves for a purpose and they must be kept free of residents – both illegal and legal, for the sake of their own safety.

As Mr. Gamato said settlements have become a breeding ground for criminals and the officials should have the capability to control them. Otherwise the illegal settlers and criminals will take over the city.

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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 ROADS

The funding problem with the Lae Roads has not yet been resolved. The work on the contracts under the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project (LCRRP) has all but stalled with some of the contracted sections not complete. Whilst we do benefit from the smoother and safer roads that have been completed, there are congestion problems caused by the roads not yet finished. From our perspective these sections must be completed – they just cannot be left as they are with water filled ponds between completed cement segments.

The frustrated contractors have not been paid for work performed, some for many months and they sent a delegation to Port Moresby to raise their case with the Project Engineers, Finance Department, the Treasury and Government Ministers, and they have received promises but so far no funding. These contractors are making noises to block off all the roads that they have been working on. If this occurs then the whole city will be in shut down. The unfortunate thing is that the travelling public will again suffer, as they will become the pawns in the battle between the contractors and the Government.

## Winning the War on Attracting and Keeping Talented Staff Are you finding it difficult to attract and retain key people?

Come to our free information session (includes morning tea & coffee) and find out:

- What is your remuneration position within your industry sector?
- Do you know what the general remuneration movement was in 2011 and what the impact is for your organisation?
- Are your annual salary adjustments based only on CPI, but you wish you had more information?
- Do you know what the salary averages are for your industry sector?
- Are you relying on forecasts not based on actual survey results?
- Do you know what the 'hotspots' are in remuneration?

The Hay Group PayNet Survey, PNG Service, provides answers to these critical questions and more ... Don't miss out.

Participate and Subscribe in this years' survey to find out!

**Date:** Wednesday 14 March 2012

**Venue:** Melanesian Hotel Lae

**Time:** 9:30am till 11:30am

Registration is essential to attend. Call 3231920 to reserve a seat or email [pnghaysurvey@bhc.com.pg](mailto:pnghaysurvey@bhc.com.pg).

For more information, contact Gabriel Selibu, Stephen Sandor or Peter Kent at Brian Hart Consulting Limited on +675 323 1920.



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For more information call us on phone 472 2000.



## 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.

The most recent PNG REPORT Is available for collection from the LCCI

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## 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.

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# 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](mailto:lcci@global.net.pg)



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Include the **LCCI AGM** as a **MUST ATTEND** function in your diary. With other member company reps attending, it is a great opportunity to network.

Want to be a Councillor? Nomination Forms are available on request.

*Take care in LAE at the moment as there have been a number of incidences of crime.*

*Whilst we provide the notification service to keep members aware of criminal activities and crime HOT SPOTS in the Lae City, this is done so members can take necessary precautions. It does not necessarily mean that Lae is infested with criminals or that crime is out of control.*

## LCCI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Lae Chamber of Commerce Incorporated will hold the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 29th March 2012. The venue will be the **Bulolo room at the Lae International Hotel**, and the function will commence at **5PM sharp**. The agenda for the AGM will be to present the 2011 Annual Report and audited Financial Statements for 2011, as well conducting elections for the 2012 Executive members and Councillors. Drinks and a cheese platter will be provided until **7:30 PM**.

Nomination forms and Proxy forms for those that cannot attend can be obtained from the LCCI Office on request. This may be your opportunity to participate in one of the prime private sector organisations in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

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## CRIME IN THE CITY

We have discussed the crime situation in and around Lae with the Metropolitan Commander of Police, who believes that the Police are coping fairly well with the crime in the city but are struggling with the incidents on the fringes of the city, because of a severe lack of mobility.

Even though the reports that we are receiving indicate that there is a fair increase in criminal activity, the Police state that there is no real spike showing from their records. I believe that there is a higher rate of crime reports coming in which can only help us when presenting our case for better law enforcement. We do advise that we are monitoring all the reports that we have been receiving and will use the figures when dealing with the Law & Order requirements in the city. The other thing is that some crimes may not be reported.

The following are reports of recent incidents reported by Guard Dog Security services in the city:

- Zero City at ERIKU was held up this morning between 8.30 – 8.45am by 8 thugs who went into the Shop dressed like females....
- Yesterday at about 11:30 AM in top town at the car park opposite Westpac Bank, a lady got out of the vehicle she had just parked and was approached by a gang of 4 well dressed men - all with backpacks on. Two of the men walk towards the passenger side and the other two walked straight to the unfortunate lady and one thick-set man actually bumped into her and demanded the car keys. Feigning that she needed space to get the car key, she pushed him towards the ditch and ran for safety, straight towards the police station. When she returned with a policeman the gang had gone.

These incidents highlight that the criminals are highly active during the day, even with large numbers of people around. They are also using different tactics to get easier access to properties. We advise that all security measures are to be taken and for everyone to be extremely vigilant at all times. We will continue to press the police to improve their effectiveness. We will also follow up on our submission to the Government to properly fund the Police and build up their numbers and capacity.

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\*A minimum number of 5 participants are required for this course to proceed.

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## 2012 NATIONAL ELECTIONS

We are pleased to advise that the preparation of Electoral Rolls for Morobe Province is well advanced.

There have been some funding issues but the Morobe Provincial Government has assisted with Provincial Funds.

There should be no technical reason for a delay of National Elections in Morobe Province.

All staff should be aware that each vote is important – they should not throw away their vote to elect a “PUSSY CAT”

### Candidates

Before elections



After elections



## 2012 National Election - Tentative Program

The Constitutional mandate of conducting free and fair elections is the prime responsibility of the ELECTORAL COMMISSION of PAPUA NEW GUINEA as per the requirement under Section 126 (1-8) of the Constitution and Section 15 of the Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections.

The ELECTORAL COMMISSION hereby announces to the general public the **Tentative Election Program** for the 2012 National Parliament General Elections as follows:

- |                                  |          |                           |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 1. Issue of Writs:               | Friday   | 27th April, 2012 (4:00pm) |
| 2. Nominations Close:            | Friday   | 04th May, 2012 (4:00pm)   |
| 3. Polling Starts:               | Saturday | 23rd June, 2012           |
| 4. Polling Ends:                 | Friday   | 06th July, 2012           |
| 5. Return of Writs on or before: | Friday   | 27th July, 2012           |

The calculation of days are as follows:

- |                      |           |                             |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| • Nomination Period: | (7) days  | 27th April - 04th May, 2012 |
| • Campaign Period:   | (8) weeks | 04th May - 23rd June, 2012  |
| • Polling Period:    | (14) days | 23rd June - 06th July, 2012 |
| • Counting Period:   | (21) days | 06th July - 27th July, 2012 |

The 2012 National Parliament General Elections Program is tentative and is subject to variations.

For further information, please contact the Director - Policy Development on Phone: 343 1185.

Authorized by:

ANDREW S. TRAWEN, CMG, MBE  
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