



# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

25 May 2012

VOLUME: 20 - 12

### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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See the new WEBSITE and let us know what you think about it. Are there any suggestions that you can make?

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

#### ELECTIONS

The Morobe Electoral Office has advised that the Polling Day for Lae and the surrounding Lae Urban areas has been changed to **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012**. The Polling hours will be from **8 AM to 6 PM**. Please notify all staff of these changes.

The Lae Urban areas include voting for the three open electorates:

1. Lae
2. Nawae - Malahang and Bumayong areas
3. Huon – extends as far as 11 mile and Awilunga

The Electoral Commission has requested that Companies allow staff time off to perform their voting duties on the polling day of Tuesday June 26th, and suggest either the full morning or afternoon be allowed for this.

We intend to publish a full polling schedule in next week's newsletter, when it has been finalised by the Morobe Electoral Commission Office.

### Index

In this Issue  
From the  
President's Desk

Australian HICOM team to visit on Monday & Tuesday

Telikom e-billing

Important Election News

Political Commentary

Transparency International Statement

LCCI New Website

EU Trade News

Thank you

### AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT LAE

**A Consular Outreach Visit is coming to Lae on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May.**

*Representatives from the Australian High Commission will be available to provide Notarial and Passport services as well as advice on Immigration and related matters.*

**Location:** *Lae International Hotel, in the Board Room*  
**Date:** *Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of May*  
**Time:** *between 3 and 6 pm*

*Please phone Aina to make an appointment on 76138191.*

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Tony Wyatt

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.

## Simple steps to access your monthly statements on e-billing

Telikom have introduced electronic billing, which has replaced the hard copy monthly bills sent through the post. The e-billing system is a welcome initiative by Telikom who offer the following step by step advice on how to login.

- Step 1: Logon into Internet
- Step 2: Type <http://www.telikompng.com.pg> or type: Telikompng and search
- Step 3: Click on "Account Login"
- Step 4: Enter customer details: Username: **Customers Account Number**  
Password: **Customers Account Number**
- Step 5: Click on "Account Balance"
- Step 6: Click on "View PDF Bill"
- Step 7: Select and click on either 'Bill Summary or Bill details'

You need further assistance do call Reuben Tibu on **4735168**

## POLITICAL EVENTS

This week's events have certainly been extremely worrying and perplexing. The Supreme Court ruling in favour of returning Grand Chief Sir. Michael Somare to the Prime Minister's position could only have one result, rejection by the O'Neill led Government. Why this decision was made only weeks away from the nation's election, when a new set of leaders will be elected and a fully recognised legitimate Government will be formed, is any ones guess.

The events that occurred on Thursday, which resulted in a Belden Namah led faction marching on the National Court House to arrest the Chief Justice, on extremely serious charges is certainly a most alarming and unwanted result of the Supreme Court ruling.

The parliament sat yesterday afternoon after managing to assemble the required number of members. A decision was made to declare a State of Emergency for the National Capital District, as well as the Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces, which is designed to give the Police more powers to control any election related trouble from these potentially volatile areas.

There is every indication that the elections are still on course to proceed, but there have been some suggestions that a nationwide State of Emergency could be declared which could be used to delay the elections. Parliament has now had its final session before the elections and it is unlikely that a nationwide SOE will be declared. A SOE is normally invoked as a result of civil unrest or extreme criminal activities, so if a SOA were to be forced onto PNG as a result of a Political Power struggle it would be an abuse of the Political powers by the members of Parliament and would not be in the interest of the public in general.

Whilst all this political unrest is distressing the nation, business is expected to carry on as normal. Workers are expected to turn up daily so they can continue to support their families and trading is still expected to remain profitable. In fact the nation needs the revenue that is generated by the private sector during this period of flux when new politicians are elected and a new Government is formed.

It is in the interest of everyone - the Private sector and the general public to get the elections over as quickly as possible so as to return to a peaceful and stable country again.

**Message from the  
Chairman  
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The following release by Transparency International sets out the recent chain of events clearly.



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC.

A national chapter of Transparency International  
– the coalition against corruption  
Level 2 IPA Building Lawes Road Konedobu  
PO Box 591 Port Moresby, NCD Phone 320 2188 Fax 320 2189  
E-mail: tipng@daltron.com.pg  
Website: www.transparencypng.org.pg  
24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012

### **INVASION OF THE SUPREME COURT**

TI PNG strongly condemns the alleged invasion of the court by the Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah along with members of the PNG police and defence force. If the reports are correct this raises serious questions as to under what authority the Deputy Prime Minister was acting and under what authority the members of the disciplined forces were being directed to invade the sanctuary of the courts.

TI PNG calls on the Police Commissioner Tom Kulunga to explain to the public the role of the police and their behaviour. He as Commissioner and head of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary must be held accountable for the actions of his officers, including any defence force officers under his command.

Today's display is shameful and unfortunately an inevitable consequence of the failure of ALL parties including the courts to deal with this matter in a timely way and with careful consideration of due process.

TI PNG calls on all parties to uphold the constitution and respect the offices that they are privileged to hold. This issue is not about personalities or individuals it is about the offices of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, the Registrar of the Courts all independent constitutional office holders. There are well establish conventions and processes that direct how these offices must interact, and TI is concerned that these conventions have been grossly abused.

The behaviour of all parties has placed our judicial system under serious threat, directly impacting on the public's confidence in one of our key pillars of democracy. Today's events have placed in jeopardy the work of the Courts. It is indeed a sorry day when our judges, their staff and officers of the courts are intimidated and reportedly assaulted in this manner, and in full view of the general public.

We note also Prime Minister Peter O'Neil stated categorically that he would not accept the ruling of the Supreme Court handed down on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012. TI PNG believes such a statement is unbecoming of the office of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. This is not what Papua New Guineans deserve from the leader of our Nation.

TI PNG is concerned that we may be on the path toward the abrogation of our Constitution, in other words the removal of the People's Power.

Authorised by:  
Lawrence Stephens  
Chairman

Transparency International PNG

Phone: + 675 72532402 email: [taubadasaku@gmail.com](mailto:taubadasaku@gmail.com)

*The LCCI newly re-vamped WEBSITE is up and running.*

*It is located at [www.lcci.org.pg](http://www.lcci.org.pg)*

*The website is easier to use with more useful information and provides some easy to use tools that you will find very handy for your business.*

*We are still fine tuning the website and we welcome any suggestions.*

*Issue 1 of 2012 arrived this week*

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## LCCI WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

We invite you to visit our new Website. We have engaged [Kukawa Solutions](#) an Australian based company with PNG origins to design and support the website and it is now more user friendly site, as well as providing more useful information. We would of course welcome any comments or recommendations to further enhance the site.

The [LCCI MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY](#) contains a list of members that have links to their company websites. This is a service that we are looking at expanding and we are willing to add your company to this list. Currently this is a free service for the benefit of members but if the list expands and is considered to be a useful tool, then there will be a small fee in the future.

We are working on providing a full list of members and contacts, so that useful contacts can be made through our website.

A new feature of the website that you will find of real value is the Map of Lae which is powered by Google Earth and is ultra easy to navigate. This is provided in Map, Satellite and Terrain format, and is an easy to use tool for everyday use in finding locations, identifying developments in certain areas of the city etc.

Please send any comments or suggestions on the website direct to our email address – [lcci@global.net.pg](mailto:lcci@global.net.pg).



**ISSUE 1 2012 – is newly arrived and available to you**

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PNG has been undertaking Tariff reforms for some years.

The European Union is challenging Argentina's Import Restrictions. To find out more click onto the fact sheet



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For more information call us on phone 472 2000.

## PNGREPORT

The latest edition for April/May 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the HIDDEN GOLD TRADE, JUDICIAL BILL CONTROVERSY, BIG BAD AND UGLY FREIGHT and FREEDOM'S LAST STAND, when you get your free copy of this April/May 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), or just come into the chambers and pick up your copy.

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## EU Trade News - weekly digest

### EU Trade News: EU challenges Argentina's import restrictions

25/05/2012

#### ARGENTINA

#### EU challenges Argentina's import restrictions

The EU today launched a challenge to Argentina's import restrictions at the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Under WTO dispute settlement procedures, the EU is first requesting consultations with Argentina in a bid to have these protectionist measures – which include Argentina's import licensing regime as well as the obligation on companies to balance imports with exports - lifted. This is a first step in the WTO dispute settlement system. If no solution is found within 60 days, then the EU can request a WTO Panel to be established to rule on the legality of Argentina's actions. Exports of goods to Argentina amounted to € 8.3 billion in 2011 and imports of goods from Argentina to the EU were worth € 10.7 billion. The restrictions which were in place in 2011 affected about € 500 million of EU exports to Argentina.

#### Commissioner De Gucht on...

##### ...the EU's challenge of Argentina's import restrictions with the WTO

"Argentina's import restrictions violate international trade rules and must be removed. These measures are causing very real damage to EU companies – hurting jobs and our economy as a whole"

"The trade and investment climate in Argentina is clearly getting worse. This leaves me no choice but to challenge Argentina's protectionist import regime and ensure that the rules for free and fair trade are upheld."

[Press Release](#)

[Factsheet](#) [More on trade with Argentina](#)

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