



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

ELECTIONS

EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO TAKE DAY OFF WORK TO VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT PENALTY ON THEIR WAGES SAYS ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, ANDREW S. TRAWEN, CMG, MBE

Electoral Commissioner, Andrew S, Trawen, CMG, MBE, today (4/07/2012) reaffirmed the rights of employees in Papua New Guinea to vote for their leaders in the general elections without being penalized through wage deductions.

"I emphasized this Constitutional right well before the general elections and I am now reiterating the same message," Mr Trawen said.

"This is because I have had reports and enquiries about certain organizations penalizing staff for taking a day off to cast their ballot.

"This is totally wrong and staff concerned should seek legal redress without delay."

Mr Trawen said workers' voting rights have always been a fundamental right in all democracies and Papua New Guinea should honour this important Constitutional right and principle.
Ends.

COMMENTS BY LCCI

The Lae Chamber of Commerce has already expressed concern to the Morobe Provincial Electoral Manager, over the one day deferment of Polling for the Lae Urban area, from Tuesday 26th to Wednesday 27th June. The main reason for our dissatisfaction with the deferment is the fact that all business houses had agreed to give ample time off for employees to vote on the Tuesday, with some even giving the whole day off. Most of the manufacturers had decided that it would be difficult to keep production going throughout the day with reduced staff, and so halted production for the full day so that all employees would have ample time to cast their vote. With the late deferment notice it was not possible to get workers back to start production again on the Tuesday and arrange for a halt to manufacturing the following day.

The deferment of polling till Wednesday 27th meant that the employees had to be given extra time off to vote. Whilst it is easy for the Electoral Commissioner to make to above general statement that it is wrong to penalize staff for taking time off to vote, he obviously did so without knowing the facts about the Lae situation. Most Lae businesses are not happy about having to give extra time off which was caused totally by the deferment, but have reluctantly conceded to do so.

The expressed view of the LCCI is that the elections should always proceed on the nominated day, unless some extreme situation occurs. As Lae is now in the middle of the rainy season, this should be factored in so that adequate shelter can be provided for the Polling teams to enable them to still conduct the elections. If excessive rain causes sluggish voting, then the polling could be extended to the following day, without causing too much fuss.



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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.

ISSUES RELATING TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL – A STATEMENT BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

There has been a significant amount of media attention over recent weeks about the Electoral Roll. I wish to make a number of points today about some of the claims made.

First, as Electoral Commissioner I must take full responsibility for the quality of the Roll. As such I am not going to try to blame others. We do our best within the constraints we face; we faithfully record the information we are given from the field and enter that into our database; we produce a Preliminary Roll which we make available for public inspection and modify the Roll based on feedback received. If the information we get from the field is inadequate, then the resulting Roll is also not as good as it should be.

The enrolment system in PNG relies heavily on all the actors involved to do the right thing. As I have said many times before it is very difficult to produce a Roll with the highest level of accuracy and integrity when some people are prepared to go to any length to corrupt the process. This includes signing false declarations and actively committing fraud to reduce the integrity of the Roll in a variety of different ways. We have found evidence of deliberate actions by some to remove names, add names and modify the status of persons on the Roll. Once we have completed our enquiries I will refer these matters to the Police.

I think it is important for us all to remember that the Electoral Roll in 2007 contained 3.98 million names. The Electoral Roll for 2012 contained more than 4.87 million names. This means nearly 900,000 names have been added, well above the Census projections for those who are of voting age and above, and yet there are still claims that many people are not on the Roll. Despite our efforts it seems clear that the Improvement Program we began for the Roll in September 2011 contains many names on the Roll for people who are deceased, multiple names and ghost names are still a major problem, people who have moved from one Ward to another are still on the old Roll. Fictitious names are still a major concern.

There have been allegations of names appearing on a Preliminary Roll but not on the Final Certified Roll for that Ward. As the public, candidates and media have quite rightly observed, this should not happen. The Electoral Commission has so far had limited information to check these matters, relying mostly on information provided by the media. For the few it has received adequate information the persons concerned are on the Roll.

The Electoral Commission sincerely apologises to any person who properly enrolled but whose name was not found on the Roll when they went to vote. Upon hearing of these examples the Commission immediately reminded all officials of the need to thoroughly check the Rolls and any reference Rolls available eg. for NCD, checking alternative spellings, maiden names, reversal of first name and last name etc. Only after thorough checks should polling officials advise intending voter that their name cannot be found.

The Commission advises that anyone who finds themselves in this position should make contact with the Election Manager in their area to obtain an Application for Enrolment Form, and fill it in so they are on the Roll for 2017.

The Electoral Commission has invested heavily in advertising for the 2012 General Election, certainly more so than in 2007. Based on survey information it is clear that voters are more aware of LPV, democracy and good governance, how-to-vote, offences including multiple voting and the use of indelible ink etc.

There are a number of lessons to learn, including the fact that data collection for the Census and enrolment for the General Election should be further apart. It is becoming increasingly clear that some thought they had enrolled to vote when actually completed their Census questionnaire. The Application for Enrolment Form is a 2 page form whereas the Census questionnaire is a multi-page multi-question form.

I am pleased that large numbers of people have been able to vote, and that their voting experience has been a positive one however I am keen to undertake a post-election survey, across all Provinces if possible, to determine the public's level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

I am also wanting to undertake a post-election assessment of all aspects of the Electoral Roll. That assessment would include submissions from the public, candidates and political parties, civil society organisations, the media, observers and other stakeholders. The aim of the review will be to assess how we might be able to compile a better quality Roll for use in elections in PNG in the future, ensuring we continue to try to improve our electoral system.

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COMMENTS BY LCCI

The number of people who have complained about the accuracy of the common roll are too numerous to ignore. There were definitely huge deficiencies in the roll, with names not appearing even though they had been registered in the 2007 roll, or the place of voting altered from previous rolls. There must be a better way of registering voters and checking if the names actually appear and are accurate. The LCCI was a member of the Morobe Provincial Electoral Steering Committee, but was invited to attend only one meeting leading up to the elections. Surely there were other meetings which we could have attended, where we could have offered to use our extensive network to promote registering and checking on the Common Roll.

The problems created by an inaccurate Common Roll must be addressed before the next elections. Voters are absolutely sick and tired of non inclusion and inaccuracies on the Electoral Roll and the trouble we saw during these elections may escalate further if it is not addressed in time for the next elections.



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ICC News Alert



International Chamber of Commerce

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Registration opens for 2012 ICC Rules of Arbitration training in Paris

Paris, 02 July 2012

Registration has opened for a two-day training session on the 2012 ICC Rules of Arbitration, hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 8 and 9 October 2012 in Paris.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/Registration-opens-for-2012-ICC-Rules-of-Arbitration-training-in-Paris/>

ICC Demand Guarantee Rules URDG 758 celebrate two years of rising popularity

Paris, 2 July 2012

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees URDG 758, which today celebrate their two-year anniversary, are increasingly being incorporated into international trade contracts, where they provide a welcome element of financial security and trust in a precarious economic climate. The World Bank's update of its model guarantee forms to include URDG 758 last week is the latest step towards ICC's rules becoming the international standard for demand guarantee practice.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/ICC-Demand-Guarantee-Rules-URDG-758-celebrate-two-years-of-rising-popularity/>

Continuing professional education of Incoterms® 2010

Paris, 5 June 2012

After its success, ICC is organizing another series of Masterclasses on the Incoterms® rules to extend to international trade and legal professionals the opportunity to enhance their understanding and use of the rules. This practical training programme is scheduled to take place on 11-12 October in Paris.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/training-and-events/all-events/events/masterclass-on-incoterms-2010-paris/>

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LCCI WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

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

It is located at 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.

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LCCI WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The new LCCI website is functioning well and we have taken notice of the many suggestions on changes. We believe it is looking good.

Kuakawa Solutions a Sydney based company with strong PNG links has provided a most helpful service to develop this site.

The **LCCI MEMBERS SECTION** provides a list of member companies with links to their own website. We are finalising a spreadsheet with full details of members that will be posted to the website.

Please send any further comments or suggestions on the website direct to our email address – lcci@global.net.pg. The website is at www.lcci.org.pg.

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PNG REPORT
June/July edition
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PNGREPORT

The latest edition for June/July 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the ELECTION EXPECTATIONS, LAE PORT EXPANSIONS, PNG DEVELOPMENTS, BUSINESS CONCERNS and more, when you get your free copy of this June/July edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg. or just come into the chambers and pick up your copy.

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SECOND EDITION OF 'MADE IN PNG' ON ITS WAY

Focusing on PNG's products and producers-

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The LCCI will receive your free copy, which will be promoted when available.

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Todd Simpson will be in Lae next week consulting with a client, arriving on Thursday the 12th of July in the evening and flying out first thing Saturday morning the 14th of July.

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