



# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

21 December 2012

VOLUME: 49 - 12

### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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*Thank you*

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

#### Our message



We advise all members that the LCCI Office will be closed from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and will reopen on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Whilst the office will be officially closed, we will monitor the mail during this period with any crucial items or events attended to as well. There will be no **News Updates** during this period but we will continue to circulate messages of urgency from time to time.

Please use the email – [president@lcci.org.pg](mailto:president@lcci.org.pg) if you have any matters of concern or if you wish any form of assistance from the LCCI.

**We wish all members, staff, associates and families of the Lae Chamber of Commerce Inc. a safe and happy Christmas leading onto a prosperous New Year.**

We take this opportunity to advise members to keep in mind the following:

- If you drink make sure you have someone to drive who is sober. Make sure the car doors are locked when driving and do not stop or pick up unknown passengers.
- Drive only along well known roads and avoid going into areas that you are unsure about. Try to avoid crowds that assemble along roads.
- When you park the vehicle double check that all doors are locked.
- If you leave your house make sure it is as secure as possible, and if there is alarms make sure they are armed. The best option is to leave someone in your property during your absence.

The City is currently experiencing a crime wave as well as battles between many different ethnic groups. The Police have been absolutely stretched to their limit and have struggled to contain all of the crime problems in Lae City.

My discussions with the Senior Police Commanders resulted in their promise in keeping Lae as safe and peaceful as possible over the Christmas and New Year period. The Lae Police will mount a special Christmas and New Year Operation, to make sure that Lae remains as peaceful as possible over this period.

Lae is full of people at the moment, many of who have come from distant locations and provinces. A lot of these people will want to return to their own homes after Christmas and into the New Year, and will not have the means or the funds to do so. Some will turn to crime by stealing cars or robbing individuals, or break into homes and offices so we all must be on our guard at all times.

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2012

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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



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## OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Dec-12						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25*	26*	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan-13						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1*	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

\* Christmas Day

\* Boxing Day

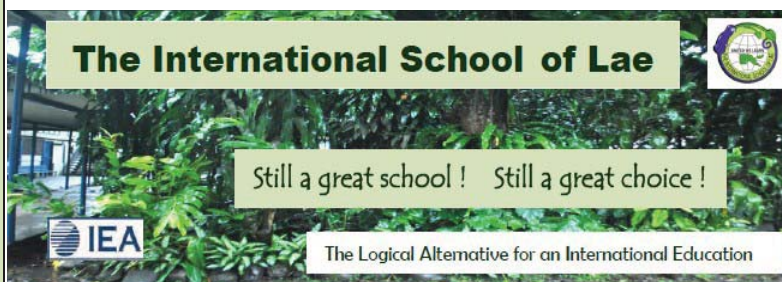
\* New Years Day

Whilst every company will adopt their own policy on Holidays over the Christmas & New Year period, the only official holidays are the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012 is not a holiday as such and if an employee is absent on this day, then he or she can forfeit full salary.

### LCCI HAD A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Even though the year has finished on a low with law and order problems at a disastrous level again, the LCCI had a successful year. The continued interest in the LCCI and what we have to say and the ever increasing membership base is testimony to the organizations success.

The year saw the lengthy National Elections which caused disruption to most businesses throughout the country. The election results have seen the country return a stable Government with Peter O'Neill at the helm and the introduction of reforms to many Departments and Statutory organizations, which have been clearly needed for some time. The 2013 budget will go into deficit and utilize a large soft loan with the aim of restoring the nations wilting infrastructure.



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**LCCI a  
continuing  
success story**

**SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR LCCI (cont)**

The rehabilitation of the Lae Roads has been one of our major agendas again in 2012. The halting of this project in September 2011, whilst the adoption of the report on corrupt practices in the LCRRP (Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project) was lifted when further funds were made available to complete stage II of the project early in 2012. The management of the roads was taken over by the Department of Works, which is a better means of controlling the work, but still not perfect. The road contractors have been closing roads at will with no thought of the travelling public and trees have been felled just to make the work easier.

The first recommendation of the LCRRP Report was to establish a PMU (Provincial Management Unit) made up of the Provincial Works Manager, Provincial Administrator, City Engineer and the LCCI has not been implemented. We continue to demand this Unit, as it is an ideal means of getting local input to the project to correct items that benefit from local knowledge – proper street markings; appropriately located crossings with the best paint possible; necessary drainage, as well as only approving variations and completion certificates on actual completion of the work.

We have continued to do a report on the road work that has been underprovided by many of the contractors during the project – see the current report in this newsletter. It is disturbing that work on the section of Markham road, between Coronation Drive and Huon Road Junctions has been stopped, because land has been allocated right across the existing road – described as Allotment 83, Section 2. This bungle is likely to stop work on this road and further cause disruption to the smooth flow of traffic. If this problem is not resolved satisfactorily, then this road will be blocked off permanently, with disastrous results.

The LCCI has worked tirelessly on the plight of the Police to be better manned and equipped. The result of our efforts is the new Morobe Governor promising the Police with more men, vehicles and equipment. During the year we set a priority of a new Police Station built at Eriku and our request is still languishing in the National Planning Head Office. This is something that is vital and we will pursue in the coming year.

The Business Mentors program started well during the year, with Wendie arranging mentoring for 8 small PNG businesses. The New Year will see a further intake into the program. We have discussed this mentoring program with the Commerce Department and they believe it fits well with the National Governments drive to strengthen the SME sector.

The LCCI could not have asked for a better reception to our requests by the new Governor Hon Kelly Naru, when he addressed a luncheon of LCCI members. He has promised to look into the operation of Boards and Organizations that we believe are vital for the Province – especially the Provincial Land Board, Provincial Physical Planning Board, Provincial Building Board, Provincial Liquor Licensing Board, Lae Urban Authority (Commission), City Roads, re-establishing the Tourism Bureau, a youth employment scheme under a “Yumi Lukautim Morobe Project”, and others. Our request for a position on the Morobe Provincial Government “Tutumang” that has been denied us for many years has been granted. Other issues have been concluded by the Governor – mostly in a successful manner.

The LCCI looks forward to continuing some of these projects and taking on more challenges during 2013, for the benefit of our members.



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News  
Alert

## ICC Commission on Competition appoints new leadership to carry forward an ambitious mandate

Paris, 19 December 2012

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Lugard, Partner at Baker Botts, as the new Chair of the ICC Commission on Competition, and Anne Riley, Associate General Counsel at Shell International, as a one of its Vice-Chairs. Ms Riley will be working in close collaboration with existing Vice-Chair Michael Blechman, Special Counsel at Kaye Scholer.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/ICC-Commission-on-Competition-appoints-new-leadership-to-carry-forward-ambitious-mandate/>

## Tobacco Products Directive risks undermining IP rights in EU market

Paris, 19 December 2012

Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP), an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), is concerned that measures included within the newly introduced EU Tobacco Products Directive will result in a backwash of unintended negative consequences, undermining intellectual property (IP) rights and increasing the problem of counterfeiting throughout the EU.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/Tobacco-Products-Directive-risks-undermining-IP-rights-in-EU-market/>

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## EU-Singapore, Investment, EU-WTO, Dispute settlement, Western Balkans, EU-US & the WTO

20/12/2012

### EU – Singapore

#### Signing of a landmark trade deal

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang, completed on 16 December final negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between the European Union and Singapore. This agreement is one of the most comprehensive the EU has ever negotiated and will create new opportunities for companies from Europe and Singapore to do business together. An EU-Singapore FTA will be the EU's second ambitious agreement with a key Asian trading partner, after the EU-Korea FTA, which is in operation since July 2011.

[Press release](#) [Q&A on trade agreement with Singapore](#)

### Investment

#### Adoption of new legislation on bilateral investment agreements

The European Commission welcomed on 12 December the adoption by the European Parliament and Council of new legislation on bilateral investment agreements. This is a key step in respect of foreign direct investment, which has become an exclusive EU competence under the Lisbon Treaty. The Regulation will ensure a smooth transition towards the new EU investment policy by clarifying the legal status of investment agreements under EU laws.

[Press release](#) [Memo on EU investment rules](#) [EU investment policy](#)

## **EU-WTO**

### **Commission proposal for improved rules to enforce EU rights under international trade agreements**

On 18th December the Commission proposed to the European Commission and the European Parliament a new framework to enhance the EU's ability to enforce its rights in the international trading system. Ensuring the EU's trade partners respect the agreed trade rules is essential to make trade agreements work for the EU economy. The proposal covers the EU's trade responses in cases of illegal trade measures in other countries, and it will allow effective action to safeguard the interests of EU companies and workers.

[Press release MEMO](#). [The Regulation](#) [Dispute settlement](#)

## **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

### **Conclusions of the WTO Dispute Settlement Panel on Ontario's renewable energy sector**

The EU welcomes the conclusions of the WTO dispute settlement panel that a programme introducing restrictive conditions in relation to Ontario's renewable energy sector is inconsistent with Canada's obligations under the WTO. The EU supports the promotion of renewable energy but considers this must be done in a manner consistent with international trade rules.

[On this particular WTO case](#) [Information about this case on the WTO website](#)

## **WESTERN BALKANS**

### **Signing of bilateral deal on Bosnia and Herzegovina's WTO accession**

On 19 December EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and the Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mirko Šarović signed a deal on Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The bilateral deal provides for the lowering of tariffs for trade in goods and for the opening of services markets upon accession. These commitments will be then embodied in the future Protocol of Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the WTO.

[Press release](#) [Trade relations between the EU and the Western Balkans](#) [Bosnia and Herzegovina's WTO accession process \(WTO website\)](#)

## **EU-US & the WTO**

### **Statement on the WTO trade policy of the US**

On 18 December, M. Angelos Pangratis, Ambassador of the EU to the WTO made a statement on the trade policy of the US in the frame of the current Trade Policy Review. As mentioned in his statement, the Trade Policy Review offers an opportunity to address certain important developments in the US trade policy since its last review and he stressed the importance of specific trade policy measures.

[Statement](#) - [Why does the EU participate in the WTO?](#) [USA](#)

The new 2012 MADE IN PNG Magazine is on display and available for you to collect from the LCCI Office

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## CONTACTS FOR WATER PROBLEMS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

In the event of an emergency with the Water Supply, the following contacts should be able to assist:

1. Mr. Joe Agavi – Manager Customer Service – General information - 71096001
2. Mr. Kamba Kandoa – Sewerage and Waste Water Issues - 71909635
3. Mr. Marie Ravu – Water Distribution - 71909644
4. Mr. Tony Aitsi – Distribution Emergencies - 71096008
5. Mr. Gideon Manase – Water Production - 71772445

Imbu Palya, General Manager

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## LAE ROAD REPORT

### LAE ROAD REPORT FROM CONTRACTOR EAST WEST No.1 Limited

#### Sub: ROAD CLOSE FOR CONSTRUCTION – MARKHAM ROAD

We would like to advise your office and the business houses along the Markham Road Section from Huon-Markham Road Junction to Airways Avenue-Markham Road Junction for the following listed works to be completed in a limited time frame given by the Dept of Works. The closure of the road is estimated for a month which you will be updated from time to time on our progressive reports.

#### Works:

1. Removal of old culvert and Installation of new culvert
2. Construction of kerb
3. Construction of line drain
4. Preparation of road base
5. Priming, sealing and asphalt overlay

The traffic diversion plan is attached for your reference.

We apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused during this period. For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the following personnel.

- 1) Department of Works - Mr. Gibson Holambe Project Engineer 7204 9212
- 2) East West (1) Limited - Mr. Clarence Kekeram Project Surveyor 7282 5778
- 3) East West (1) Limited- Mr. Ngamanath Sanjel Project Engineer 7120 9921



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– 2012 PNG  
Resources Magazine

# PNG RESOURCES

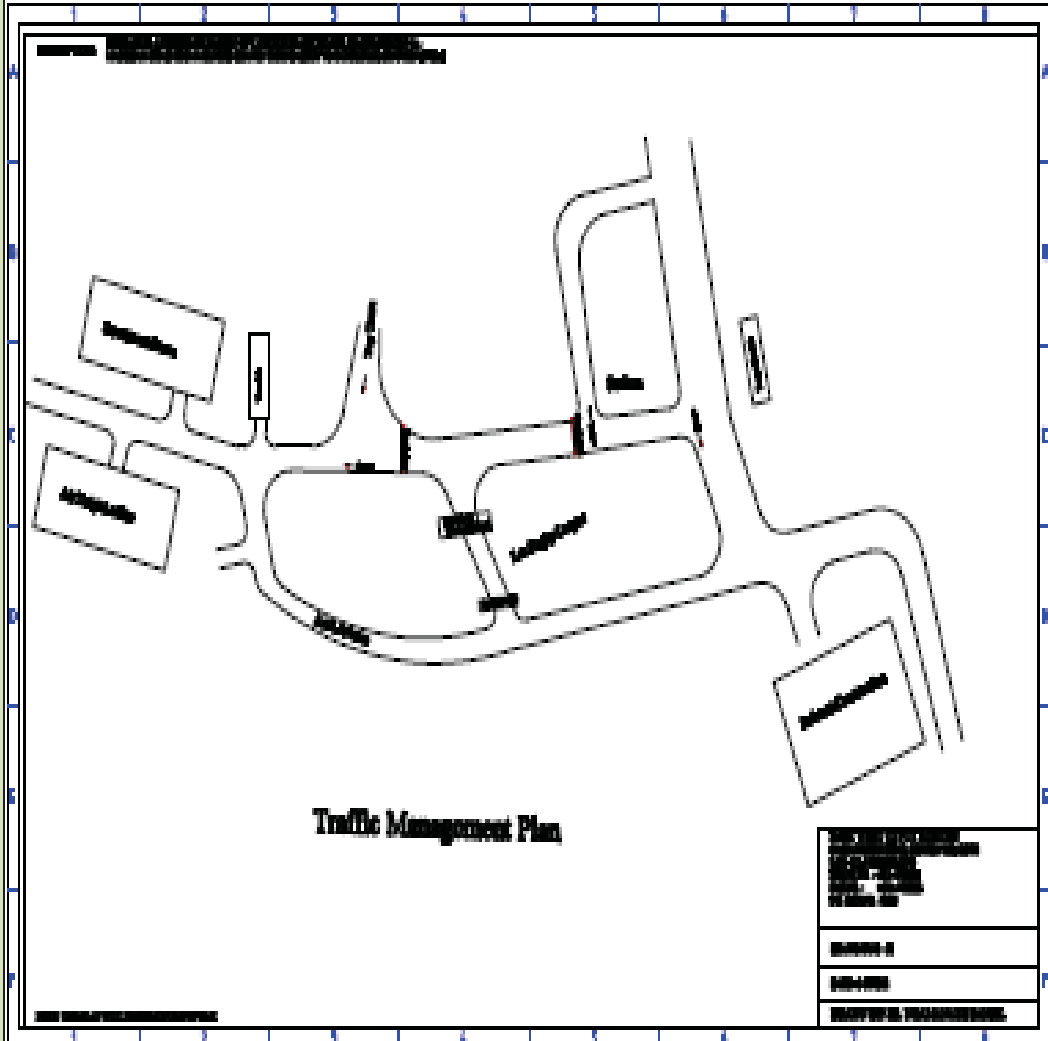
REPORTING ON PNG'S PETROLEUM & MINERAL INDUSTRY

This Magazine contains reports on PNG's Petroleum & Mineral Industry, and is jam packed with the most up to date and comprehensive news on this sector. Copies can be obtained from the LCCI Office or they can be reserved by contacting Jenna on - 472 2340.

## Traffic Management plan

Markham Road

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN



November/ December edition only just arrived yesterday

## PNG REPORT

Collect your free copy from the LCCI Office

A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

# PNGREPORT

NOVEMBER 2012

The very latest November/December 2012 edition of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the **ENERGY COSTS** and Fuel and Energy explored, **RESOURCE NATIONALISM** – the elusive fair deal, **DUTCH DISEASE** – getting crushed and **EXPLORER UPDATES** – Clive Palmer and more, when you get your free copy of this edition, which can be reserved by contacting Jenna on 472 2340 or by emailing us at [info@lcci.org.pg](mailto:info@lcci.org.pg) or just come into the Office and collect your copy.