

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

17 May 2013

VOLUME: 20 - 13

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

Room 5, the Professionals Building, 5th Street

P O Box 265, Lae 411 Morobe Province Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 472 2340 Fax: (675) 472 6038

F-mail:

president@lcci.org.pg info@lcci.org.pg

Website: www.lcci.org.pg

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LAE

We have been running a survey on International Education in Lae for 3 weeks with little response. We encourage members to complete this survey so we can work out our next move.

This is in light of the fact that TISOL have introduced a new single fee structure and budgetary cuts that has resulted in a perception that these moves may lower the standard of International Education in Lae.

The questions we must ask ourselves are:

- Is the schooling that is available in Lae equivalent to what is received in Australian schools?
- If no then is this going to have an effect on company recruiting policies?
- Some companies make a fairly large contribution to the schools by paying school fees, but will they be prepared to put in more funds to improve the performance of the school?

If you are affected by any of the above or have strong opinions, we invite you to go to the URL below and answer the very short questionnaire.

Please click the following URL and complete the survey:http://www.lcci.org.pg/survey-iea/

Results of this survey will be used to decide on any course of action that the Lae Chamber will take.

WALK AGAINST CORRUPTION

The walk against corruption will be held in Lae for the first time on Sunday 26th May. A map of where the event will be held is displayed later in this newsletter. This very good cause needs the support of the Private sector and we ask that you encourage your employees to make the effort to participate. The walk is 5 KM and will start at the Sir Ignatius Kilage Stadium at 6:00AM on Sunday 26th May 2013.

Registration forms are available from - Evah Banige on 738 37005/763 22905.

For further information, please contact the Chairman Mr. Brian Alois on 768 79931 or Secretary - Evah Banige on 738 37005/763 22905.



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Lae Chamber of Commerce Inc. 2012

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Objectives of the LCCI

- ■To promote the business interests of the private sector;
- ■To further the economic development in
- 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;



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HAUS KRAI

The media have been constantly asking for a statement from the LCCI this week. We have responded by supporting the following statement from the President of the PNGCCI which is made on behalf of all the affiliated Chambers of Commerce in PNG.

It is already a well known fact that the Lae Chamber of Commerce has been very actively involved over the last four years, in raising the levels of awareness on Gender Violence issues, particularly against women, with all member companies in Lae. It is amazing how many companies did not appreciate how violence against women can flow into the workplace.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC.

P O Box 1621, PORT MORESBY NCD PAPUA NEW GUINEA Site: IPA Heus, 2rd Floor, Allotment 6, Section 35, Granville Intersection Lawes Road & Munidubu Street, Konedobu

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Tel: (675) 321 3057
Fax: (676) 321 7143
Email: oraco fluido/ral.po

Date 13 May 2013 May be released

Media Release

PNGCCI supports Haus Krai and calls for action on Law and Order

The Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce and Industry representing 15 Chambers of Commerce and Industry throughout the country, today called on businesses throughout the country to get behind the National Haus Krai.

This is a fantastic initiative to bring attention to the most serious issue facing PNG, that of violence.

"Violence is probably the most significant issue affecting the quality of life for Papua New Guineans of both genders, but it is particularly galling when directed at those most vulnerable, in particular children and the many, many adults who are not themselves prepared to resort to violence", said Chamber President, John Leahy.

"We view this as a national issue requiring a comprehensive approach and we note some steps by the government in the right direction, but we say much more needs to be done. Our focus is on properly resourcing the law enforcement agencies as this will provide the best chance of achieving outcomes".

Meanwhile, the National Haus Krai is a great way of raising awareness and businesses should get behind it in whatever way they can.

Sohn Loahy President Papus New Guines Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. **NZ TRADE DELEGA-**TION - SEE THE LIST **OF MEMBERS. NOT ALL ARE COMING TO** LAE BUT IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT A **PARTICULAR MEM-**BER, PLEASE DO SO OR LET THE LCCI KNOW AND WE WILL PASS ON THE **MESSAGE**

NZ TRADE DELEGATION

As advised last week we have a visiting New Zealand Trade Delegation in Lae on Thursday 23rd May

A list of the members of the delegation follows so you will be able to make prior contact with them. They will be staying at the Lae International Hotel. Some members have already been contacted to meet some or all of these delegates.



New Zealand Papua New Guinea Business Council 20th Anniversary Trade Mission



MICHAEL GREENSLADE

NZTE's Trade Commissioner for the Pacific Email: Michael.greenslade@nzte.govt.nz Web: www.nzte.govt.nz

Based in Auckland with responsibility for Papua New Guinea. He has been a Trade Commissioner in the Pacific since 2004 and has lived in Fiji for several years. Michael sits on a number of Business Council is including the NZ Papua New Guinea Business Council. He holds a Master's of Business Administration and joined Government from the private sector having had extensive experience in Export Trade, General Management and Economic Development.



STEPHEN FAGLE

Chairman, NZPNG Business Council in Auckland NZ Email: seagle@clear.net.nz

Stephen, director of international business at Fraser Thomas Ltd (Consulting Engineers and Resource Wanagers) first visited PNG as a student in the 1980s and has since worked on a number of infrastructure development projects. He has been chairman of the NETNGEC since 2009.





TAMATI NORMAN

Romack Industries Email: tamati@romack.co.nz

Tamati Norman is the owner and managing director of RoMack Industries Ltd, an import company established to trade PNG agriculture in to the NZ food industry RoMack slao export high quality NZ products to Papua New Guinea from the food, education and machinery industries. Currently he serves as the Deputy Chairmen on the NZ PNG Business Council.



KEVEN DENT

Fletcher Aluminium-International Sales Manager Email: KevenD@falum.co.nz Web: www.fletcheraluminium.co.nz

Fletcher Aluminium designs premium window, door and curtain wall systems which are assembled, glazed and installed by local fabricators. Bowman's Glass in Port Moresby and PNG Metal Fabricators in Lee. Keven liaise between Fletcher Aluminium's in house technical support team, local fabricators, Architects and Designers to provide and/or specify the correct joinery to meet the design criteria set. Keven is a past Chairman of the NZPNG Business Council and on the Executive of the NZFUI Business Council.



FLETCHER ALUMINIUM

DR PETER GOLDSMITH Honorary Consul General in Auckland for Papua

Email: pgoldsmith@ftl.co.nz



Peter, a geotechnical engineer project management specialist was formerly managing director of Fraser Thomas Ltd in Auckland. He has provided specialist services for road and building projects in PNG since the early 1980s and is regularly called upon to provide specialist advice.



ROBERT BONIFACE Plant & Platform Marketing Manager Email: rboniface@pandp.co.nz Web: www.pandp.co.nz





Fitzroy Engineering Group Limited NZ Business Development Manager Email: marnold@fitzroy.co.nz

Website: www.fitzrov.co.nz

Fitzroy Engineering is New Zealand's largest multi-disciplined engineering company with over 60 years knowledge of oil & gas, energy, minerals, timber and process engineering. We are experienced EPC contractors with qualified project management staff, and are extremely competent fabricators and exporters of pressure vessels, heat exchangers, piping, modules and processing staffs.



Web: www.blacktopgroup.co.nz



Managing Director Blacktop Group

Simon manages the Blacktop Group of companies and has been involved with the family company Blacktop Construction Limited for over 30 years. He has extensive involvement in international and specialist surfacing projects. Simon is a board member of Roading NZ and is a natural innovator who provides technical leadership for projects.





M Fitzroy



PAPUA NEW швеса **GUINEA**

INDUSTRY REVIEW magazine

There are still a few copies of **PNG** Report and PNG RESOURCES magazines for your collection at the LCCI Office.

Collect your copy today or book a copy by ringing Jenna on 472 2340.



Director - Beca International Consultants Ltd Email: andrew.wilson@beca.com

Chairman Pacific Cooperation Foundation Email: kiely@ktc.co.nz

Peter Kiely is Chairman of the Pacific Cooperation Foundation (www.pcf.org.nz) which leverages relationships to promote wealth creation and Pacific communities by cooperating with coordinating and connecting public and private sectors. He is a founder member of the New Zealand PNO Business Council. He is a lawyer by occupation and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Auckland.

Web: www.beca.com

Web: www.pcf.org.nz

Andrew is the Director of Beca's International business. He is responsible for Beca's overall international business and the overview of the pursuit, design management, implementation and project management of a wide range of projects throughout the Asia Pacific region. Andrew is currently the NZ Private Sector representative to the Pacific Forum and has engaged in the private Sector Dialogue in the Forum meetings over the past two years.



ADAM LINNELL

NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Foreign Policy Officer Email: adam.linnell@mfat.govt.nz Web: www.mfat.govt.nz

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for protecting and promoting New Zealand's interests overseas. As part of the Ministry's Pacific Division, my role encompass many different parts of our engagement with the region, w particular emphasis on trade policy and trade facilitation.



SETH PARDOE

Hawkins Infrastructure National Business Development Manager Email: s.pardoe@hawkins.co.nz

Web: www.hawkinsinfrastructure.co.nz

Web: www.hawkinsinfrastructure.co.nz
Until recently, Seth was National Business Development Manager for Hawkins Infrastructure, and coordinated all business development Manager for Hawkins Infrastructure, and coordinated all business development identifying opportunities for the group and additionally provide clients with value for money proposals and alternatives, and when encessary forming strategic partnerships and alliances throughout the supply chain. Seth brings more than 20 years: genericen is business apply chain. Seth brings more than 20 years: genericen is business cross a diverse range of disciplines - giving him a well balanced understanding of the wider industry and proven ability to building successful business. He has specialist expertise in building teams, business devolopment and negotiotion, business and oproject start up value engineering, project cost benefit initiatives and establishing key client relationships.



ANDREW CASELEY

ANDREW CASELEY
MWH Global Director New Zealand
Email: Andrew.M.Caseley@MWHglobal.com Web: www.mwhglobal.com

Andrew is the Director for the MMH Global operations in New Zealand whose territory extends to the Pacific Islands. MWH lass 700 staff spread across 1s officers in New Zealand and 64 staff in Fig. 700 staff spread across 1s officers in New Zealand and 64 staff in Fig. 700 staff spread across 1s officers in New Zealand and 64 staff in Fig. 700 staff spread across 1staff spread across 1

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III Beca

Business Director, Civil Infrastructure, Beca Ltd Email: richard.steel@beca.com

Web: www.beca.com

Richard is a Chartered Civil Engineer with over 40 years of manature a A. Inattered LIMI Engineer with over 40 years of worldwide experience. His responsibilities include leading the delivery and growth of Beca's services in road and bridge asset management and road and bridge maintenance support in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific region. Richard was based in PNG with Beca from 1981 to 1987 and was the founding Chair of the NZPNG Business Council.



PETER FREEMAN

Fresha Export International Sales Director Email: peter.freeman@fresha.co.nz Web: www.fresha.co.nz

Since 1983 Fresha Export has operated a food export business focused solely on supply into the Pacific region. The Fresha team have over 100 years' experience in exporting in the Pacific. Our product range includes chilled, frozen, dairy, produce and dry goods – sourced from New Zealand and international suppliers.



STEVE SHIRLEY

Tenix Business Development Manager Email: steve.shirlev@tenix.com Web: www.tenix.com

Tenix provides multi-discipline engineering design, construction, fabrication, project management, operations & maintenance services to PNG Oil & Gas and mining sectors. Tenix has 10 years operational experience in PNG building infrastructure projects that include: electrical generation and distribution, mineral processing Ball-SAG mills, storage tanks, an oxygen plant and conveyor systems.



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STEVE SULLIVAN

Aimex Ltd Chief Executive Officer Email: steve@aimex.co.nz Web: www.aimex.co.nz

Amex Ltd is in the business of "Applied industrial Mechanical Excellence" for marine and land based operations. Our facilities are based right in the heart of the Port of Nelson. We have a wide range of specialst machinery, with a site of \$900st metres and employ over 30 staff and additional contractors. Our philosophy in "Excellence Must be Engineered". We take pride in offering our customers the right engineering solution to meet their specific requirements to create value for their investment. We do this by the operation of our dedicated experienced engineering teams matched with our workshop capabilities and our strong local networks. Where required we operate emergency disposits cervice where our engineers can be with you within short notice to assist with emergency.



GUY RICHARDSON

Watergain Ltd Country Manager Email: guyrichardson@roofguard.co.nz

WaterGain is an Auckland based manufacturing and distribution company specialising in a range of water harvesting, and treatment products. Central to the range of products is Pour n' Go which is a chlorine free treatment for potable water currently enjoying huge sales in New Zealand, Australia, and several overseas countries.



AMÉLIE WAHL

Tegel Foods Ltd Territory Manager Pacific Email: Amelie.wahl@tegel.co.nz Web: www.tegel.co.nz

Tegel Foods Ltd is New Zealand's market leader in the poultry industry. They have been exporting poultry to the Pacific Islands including Papua New Guinea for the last 10 years. Amelie Wahl looks after sales & marketing for Tegel in the region.





PATRICK BROCKIE ANZ

Email: Patrick.Brockie@anz.com Web: www.anz.com



MARKUS BENTER-LYNCH

MWH Business Development & Strategy Manager, NZ Energy & Industry

Email: markus.benter-lynch@mwhglobal.com Web: www.mwhglobal.com

MWH Global is a strategic consulting, engineering and construction services firm. Offering a full range of services beginning in the initial planning phases through construction and asset management, we partner with our clients to implement projects and programs that focus on water, energy, natural resources and transportation infrastructure.



IAN WEBSTER

Plant & Platform Service Delivery Manager Email: iwebster@pandp.co.nz Web: www.pandp.co.nz

lan has 35 years experience in the commercial building, roading and petrochemical industries. Extensive Design and Project Management experience, mainly in the petrochemical fields in New Zealand as well as China, Singapore and Vietnam. Varied experience in civil, pipework, pipelines, bulk storage tank design and detailing, tank inspections, statutory approvals, contract documentation, including project management, administration and supervision.



JOHN COPLESTONE

Karina Water Managing Director Email: iohn@icsnz.co.nz Web: www.icsnz.co.nz

Karina Water is owned by Industrial Chemistry Services Ltd. We design and manufacture Portable Water Treatment Plants, and water treatment chemicals. Our plants and chemicals are operating in PNG, NZ, Aus, and New Caledonia. ICS has an IANZ accredited laboratory for water and wastewater testing, and is Biosecurity NZ accredited for sample import.



ROSS HARVEY

Aimex Ltd Engineering Services Manager Email: ross@aimex.co.nz Web: www.aimex.co.nz

Web. WWW.aITIEX.CO.1IZ

Almex Ltd is in the business of "Applied industrial Mechanical Excellence" for marine and land based operations. Our facilities are based right in the heart of the Port of Nelson. We have a wide range of specialist machinery, with a site of 5000s; metres and employ over 30 staff and additional contractors. Our philosophy is "Excellence Must be Engineered". We take pride in offering our customers the right engineering solution to meet their specific requirements to create value for their investment. We do this by the operation of our decicated experienced engineering teams matched with our workshop capabilities and our strong local networks. Where required we operate emergency diagnostic service where our engineers can be with you within short notice to assist with emergency.



NEIL MACDONALD

Watergain Ltd Technical Manager Email: neilmacd@xtra.co.nz Web: www.gutterwitch.co.nz

WaterGain is an Auckland based manufacturing and distribution company specialising in a range of water harvesting, and treatment products. Central to the range of products is Pour n' Go which is a chlorine free treatment for potable water currently enjoying huge sales in New Zealand, Australia, and several overseas countries.



STUART BRUCE

JLE Electrical Manager Business Development Email: stubruce@jle.co.nz Web: www.jle.co.nz

JLE Holdings Ltd is the parent company for JLE Electrical (New Zealand), JLE Electrical Australia Pty Ltd and JLE PNG Ltd. We are an Electrical and Mechanical contracting company with significant resources in the Hazardous area Industries. Our senior management team has been operating in PNG completing significant projects in the Oil and Gas and Mining industries for over 10 years.



ProDesigners Architects Ltd

ALLAN KARO

Prodesigners Architects Email: allan.karo@gmail.com Web: www.prodesigners.co.nz

The NZ PNG BUSINESS COUNCIL TEAM WILL HAVE 13 FROM THE ABOVE DELEGATES TO **VISIT LAE ON 23RD MAY. MANY MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED TO BE PART** OF THIS VISIT. THE DELEGATES THAT DO NOT COME TO LAE WILL BE IN PORT MORESBY FROM THE 19TH TO 24TH MAY.



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Please send your email to: Herman Kagl (Team Leader - Customer Services) E-mail: hkagl@waterpng.com.pg or Kelly Muo (Debt Recovery Officer) E-mail: kmuo@waterpng.com.pg

The Lae General Manager Imbu Palya has advised that Water PNG prepares regular newsletters which can be obtained by contacting him. Also he is available to answer requests or provide information on what is happening to the Lae Water Supply, and can be contacted at IPalya@waterpng.com.pg.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We note this adjacent article that appeared in the press on Wednesday and we congratulate Water PNG on receiving the BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE PERFORMING UTILITY award in the Pacific region.

The LCCI has had a good working relationship with Water PNG for years, and we have assisted them in getting the message across to the public on many occasions.

At the same time however the LCCI has been a constant critic on why the Water Head Office is retained in Port Moresby when they have no business in that city.

Lae is Water PNG's largest centre and should rightly be the Headquarters. All the funds that are used to maintain the purposeless but expensive Port Moresby Office, would be better used to improve the Lae Water supply.

We see constant upgrades to water supplies in smaller towns, but Lae has an endless need to maintain the pumps – and the situation never improves.

Water PNG among top Pacific water firms

WATER PNG is one of the top water utilities in the Pacific region in terms of technical performance, drinking water quality, customer services, human resources management and financial sustainability.

The Pacific Water and Wastes Association (PWWA) says "the utilities that participated in a survey are supplying water to about 1.8 million people and provide wastewater services to about half a million people in the region.

According to PWWA's 2012 benchmark report, "Water PNG received the best customer service performing utility accolade and the Tonga Water Board as the best financial performer.

"Water Authority Fiji, rated best wastewater and sanitation utility, the Samoa Water Authority was named the best human resources Management performing utility.

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), was rated the best performing Pacific water utility of the year.
PWWA executive director Latu
Kupa said: "Pacific water utilities
are making good progress with improving service delivery, but this
report shows, further improvement
is needed, particularly in key areas
of: the reduction of 'non-revenue
water', improved quality of drinking water, managing the demand
for water, strengthening the skills
of staff, and enhanced cost recovery."

The PWWA report presents the performance results of 22 water utilities in the Pacific region and was prepared with the support of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).

The PRIF partners- the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, New Zealand, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and European Investment Bank are assisting Pacific governments with improving infrastructure and services in the region.

BREAKING NEWS!

Water cut to the industrial area this afternoon!

WATER PROBLEMS THIS AFTERNOON

We regret to advise that there is a breakage in one of our water mains caused by a road contractor down at the Main Wharf area. Our maintenance team has shut off water to the area since then and are currently undertaking repair works.

Our maintenance team has shut off water to the area since then and are currently undertaking repair works. The pipe that is affected is under the Concrete works leading to PNG Taiheiyo Cement factory. Concrete work will actually take some more time to repair.

Areas affected are: Frabelle, Taiheiyo Cement, Niugini Oil, Lae Builders, InterOil and firms in the industrial locality.

We are working toward getting the water supply back to normal before COB today...



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Extract from Lae City Mission Newsletter

HAUS CLARE GETS A FRESH NEW LOOK FROM DULUX

House Clare has just received a fresh coat of paint making it look better than ever. One work team from the plantation has been busy giving House Clare a makeover. They have done an amazing job.

Andrew Gunn, General Manager from Dulux, came for a special morning tea with the staff to cele-

We are very thankful to Dulux for generously supplying the paint to make this project possible.



With funding from Newcrest Mining, City Mission Boys and Staff have been busy building a new kitchen and eating area to replace the small, worn out one. The improvement of the kitchen has shown massive improvements. With just a few finishing touches to apply the boys are looking forward to making good use of this building. The staff and boys have done a great job and this building has been built to last for a very long time.

Many thanks again to Newcrest for this generous donation.

How can you help??

LAE CITY MISSION



ANDREW GLINN GM DILLLIX

AND LCM STAFF

P.O. Box 2599 Lae, Morobe 411 Papua New Guinea Phone: (+675) 475 1214 Email: PomCity_Mission@online.net.pg General Manager: Bruce 't Hart Email: brucethart@gmail.com

Thank you for thinking about us and the needs of the people in Papua New Guinea. Thank you to local businesses as well as supporters from overseas.

We need people like you - Lae City Mission exists on the backbone of goodwill from others. Our needs do continue, with keeping up with ongoing running costs, further expansion and upcoming projects including new missionary housing and classrooms.

For our Australian friends and supporters funds can be de-posited and clearly marked for Lae City Mission and placed in the following account. A receipt will be issued in A\$ if requested.

Account Name: Life Church Bank: Westpac Banking Corp. Branch: Pennant Hills NSW

BSB No. 032 377 Account No. 113124



P.O.Box 3395, 3rd St. Lae, Morobe, Papua New Guinea, Ph: 472 0138, Fax: 472 7373 WWW.laeCityhotel.com email:info@laecityhotel.com

SEEKING A POSITION

Young Expatriate lady is seeking a suitable position. Skilled in Computers with extensive training and years of experience in the MYOB. Her background includes widespread Hotel Management and Marketing experience. If interested please reply to the president@lcci.org.pg and we will send her CV to you.

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Ranked by STAR Rating and Region:

- Cairns
 - Pullman Reef Hotel Casino
 - Pullman Cairns International
 - Cairns Harbour Lights (Apartments)
 - Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort
 - Mercure Cairns Harbourside
 - Ibis Styles Cairns Colonial Club
 - Ibis Styles Cairns
- Palm Cove
 - o Pullman Sea Temple Palm Cove Resort and Spa
 - M Gallery Reef House Boutique Resort and Spa
 - Novotel Palm Cove
 - Grand Mercure Palm Cove
- Port Douglas
 - o Pullman Sea Temple Port Douglas Resort and Spa

If you wish to book at any of these hotels, contact the Lae Chamber of Commerce for an introduction.

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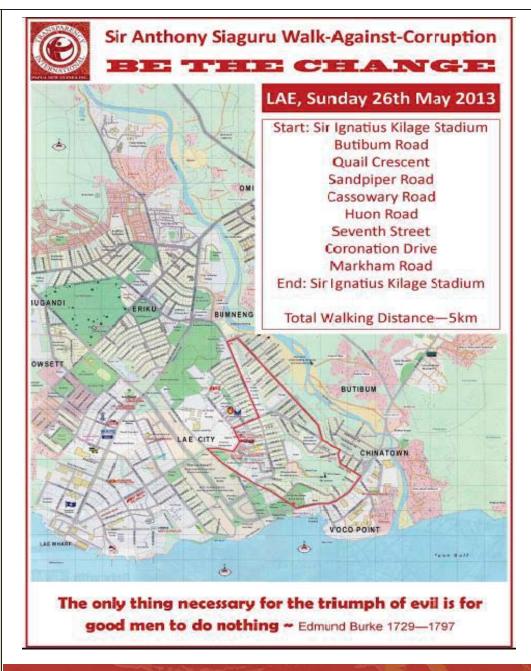
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REMEMBER THIS
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CORRUPTION
STARTS AT 6 am AT
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IT IS ONLY 5 KM



Business Advantage article of the week!

Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

Papua New Guinea Government flags measures to combat law and order problems

15 May 2013 by Business Advantage

The Papua New Guinea Government is promising to improve the law and order situation in PNG, with new laws covering white collar crime, rape and murder, while Australia will assist with police training.

Pressure has been building on the government to act, after a series of rapes and murders of local and foreign women, which has attracted negative publicity for PNG across the globe.

The proposals include:

- re-activating the death penalty
- rape will now attract life imprisonment without parole
- armed robbery will attract 30 years
- the Sorcery Act will be repealed so sorcery related crimes will be punishable under the Criminal Code and
- the penalties for all forms of assault will be increased.
- Alcohol licensing will now be a national function and no longer a provincial function and alcohol trading hours for alcohol
 will be limited

The measures are due to be discussed in PNG's National Parliament this week.

National Haus Krai

The mooted legislative changes will be discussed in Waigani in the same week as the National *Haus Krai* (house of mourning), a two-day nationwide protest against the high rate of violence against women, organised by women's groups and non-government organisations.

Policing package

The Australian Government has also agreed to a A\$56 million (K123 million) package to provide training and support for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, PNG's police force.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the package during her visit to Papua New Guinea last week.

The new policing assistance program will involve 19 Australian Federal Police taking up roles including the Assistant Commissioner (Reform), Commandant of the Bomana Police Training College, and advisory support in areas such as the prosecution and investigation. The four-year program will also offer placements for PNG police officers with the AFP, Northern Territory Police and Queensland Police.

At a media conference, PNG's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said the police training facility would be rebuilt and admitted 'we have not trained any single policeman over the last ten years'.

Opinion: Fixing Papua New Guinea's law and order problem

15 May 2013 by Alan McLay Leave a Comment

Law and order is back on the agenda, with this week's National Haus Krai on violence against women, Australia reactivating its assistance to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the PNG Government committing itself to heavier punishments for some key offences. But solving PNG's law and order problems will require much more, says Alan McLay.

The arrival of 19 Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers to boost training, investigations, and prosecutions, will be generally acceptable to police of all ranks.

There are a lot of areas where the police could really benefit from extra training: for example, in carrying out prosecutions properly, obtaining fingerprinting and maintaining records. These are specific functions where the AFP officers could train up local police and establish proper systems.

But with the placement of the police comes the need for funds for resources and equipment. For years now, we at the Lae Chamber of Commerce Incorporated have been providing the local police force with fuel, equipment and supplies. The reason we do it is that so the police don't make their requests direct to companies, which they do in most centres. If police make direct requests, those companies may feel more obliged and sometimes intimidated.

Petrol and paper

In the late 1990s, we spent about AUD\$20,000 (K44,000) buying hand-held and car radios for police leading up to elections, in recognition they were short of vital communications equipment. We also maintained the radios for several years after that. A couple of years ago we asked members to donate reams of paper so police could photocopy their court documents.

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The police team here in Lae is under strength. We need about 750 officers (men and women) here, but currently we have about half that number. The Police Commissioner recognises the problem and, while he's willing to place more men here, there's insufficient accommodation. I understand the Member for Lae and the Morobe Governor have put funds together for some more accommodation, and as soon as there's accommodation, the Commissioner has promised to send more men.

Tough crime laws

While the Chamber doesn't have a position on the death penalty, which the Government is proposing, my personal belief is that if you revert to using the death penalty you're going back in time. We really should be moving on from that.

But I do support abolishing the Sorcery Act. While sorcery has no place in modern society, it is being used as a weapon more or less to intimidate people. The Sorcery Act keeps it alive because it recognises sorcery in society, whereas you should have some way to get sorcery out of a society.

There is also the need for longer terms of sentences, particularly for rapists. Murderers seem to get lengthy terms, but some rape cases appear to be treated a bit lightly.

Treatment of women

The Chamber supports more attention to improving the treatment of women, who are clearly not on an equal footing with men and many are treated as their husband's chattel.

We have an awareness project, which is designed to ensure companies recognise their responsibility to gender issues. We've run peer education courses with middle-level staff to try and get the message across. So, we're certainly very firm on trying to get the gender balance in the workforce.

Settlements a root cause

The law and order situation in Lae seems to be a function of a combination of quite a mixed population of different groups, but also significant economic stress in the population with under employment and settlements that are bursting at the seams.

The population of Lae in the 2000 Census was 120,000. The current Census indicates that there are 350,000 people living in Lae. And while the established settlements are bursting at the seams, they're also encroaching on other settlements, which only increases friction. There are local land issues, so-cial problems in relation to race, stealing women, stealing goods and burning houses etc.

Once these clashes occur, quite often they spill out into Lae and affect workers and business. Recently, for example, all the buses were withdrawn, so people couldn't get into town, workers couldn't get to work and business was severely affected.

It is important to recognise there are legitimate settlers and illegitimate settlers. The legitimate ones are those who get good jobs and contribute to the community. The illegal settlers are the ones that come in and can't get jobs, but hang around, living in cardboard houses and get into crimes, drugs, prostitution and so on.

The solution is twofold: the illegitimate settlers should be encouraged to go back home, and the settlements need to be formalised so that those who have got jobs can build a proper house, get a long-term lease and borrow money for their house, so they are encouraged to establish a long-term community.

Alan McLay is President of the <u>Lae Chamber of Commerce Inc</u>

Mentoring program to boost women in business launched

15 May 2013 by Business Advantage

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched the Pacific Women in Business initiative during her visit to Papua New Guinea last week, which establishes a mentoring program to assist women to access management positions and tackle violence against women.

The focus is on supporting female employees with high potential into positions of leadership through mentoring, networking and training. The initiative will also support businesses to introduce workplace policies, addressing the issue of violence against women.

'Employers in PNG understand that tapping into the full potential of women isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do,' she said.

Gillard announced that Lady Winifred Kamit would be Patron of the initiative.

The initiative will be supported by AUD\$1 million from AusAid over five years plus funding and technical support from the IFC, with funds being channelled through the Business Council of Papua New Guinea and the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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Paris, 15 May 2013

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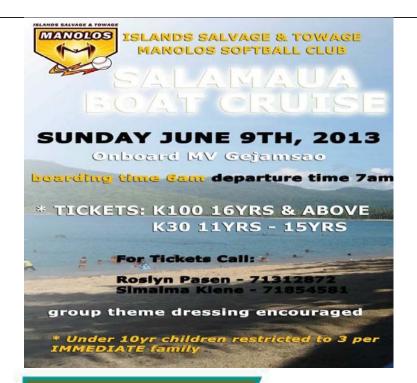
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