



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

26 July 2013

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

ASYLUM SEEKERS DEBATE

The big news this week for the whole of Papua New Guinea has been the agreement reached by the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and PNG's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, to send all the asylum seekers that try to arrive into Australian waters by boat, to PNG's Manus Island for processing.

The asylum issue is one that has been hotly debated ever since Labour came into power in Australia in 2007. The failure of the Rudd/Gillard Governments to come to grips with the increasing number of illegal boat people arriving into Australian waters has been a political disaster for the successive Labour Governments in Australia. The agreement between Kevin Rudd and Peter O'Neill is a hard line approach to deter the boat people from entering Australia and subsequently to take the political heat off the Australian Government.

I have included in following pages of this newsletter, some aspects of this policy from both the PNG and the Australian perspective.

Basically the agreement is to send all the boat people to Manus Island in PNG where they will be accommodated and processed according to international refugee laws. They will not be allowed into Australia. Where the asylum seekers do actually finish up is a bit hazy? If they are not genuine refugees, then they will be returned to their place of origin or to some place that will accept them, at the Australian Governments expense. If they are found to be genuine refugees, then it appears that they may be able to become PNG Citizens, or be offered asylum in another country that has the facilities to take them in.

There has been much debate within PNG as to whether it will be constitutional to grant citizenship to the genuine refugees, and how they will fit into the PNG society etc. The Prime Minister has stated on more than one occasion that they will only be able to become PNG Citizens, if they fulfil all the established requirements to do so – that is to meet the required years of residence, have skills in a PNG language including pidgin and have a certain amount of assets.

During this week I have been contacted by both the PNG and Australian Press to discuss how this new Asylum Policy will affect business in PNG. In answering I have tried to be as pragmatic as possible. Basically the policy will be positive for business, for example:

- The extensions and maintenance to the Manus refugee camp, will give an opportunity to many Lae based contractors;
- Lae based suppliers will be given an opportunity to sell their products for the short and possibly the long term;
- The Manus economy will be stimulated giving the local people the ability to spend more on household goods and foodstuff, much of which will be sourced from Lae.



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- 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;
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ASYLUM SEEKERS (CONT)

The debatable citizenship issue is particularly sensitive and one that the LCCI does not really want to buy into. However we can see if the refugees are allowed to become citizens, then it could have the following effects on businesses:

1. PNG is suffering from a lack of skilled tradesmen and professional staff, a fact that was accelerated with the commencement of the LNG project. If the refugees that are assessed to be genuine and have skills in areas that PNG is deficient, then these workers could be vital to fill the skills gap;
2. If however the refugees have no skills at all, then they will be unfairly competing directly with PNG unskilled workers, who are already faced with the insufficient availability of jobs.

One of the questions that I was asked time and time again, from the Australian press was what would be the effect of the change from the current Australian policy on tied Aid to untied Aid for PNG. From everything I have seen and read the only changes will be that PNG will get more say in the areas that the Australian Aid will be spent and of course more Aid money.

With the O'Neill Governments commitment to increased spending on infrastructure, then we are likely to see more of the Australian Aid money spent on infrastructure development. We are pleased that some of the already declared projects will have a direct affect on Morobe.

On Monday a team from AusAID discussed the rebuilding of Angau Hospital with the Hospital Board and the Provincial Administration. As a result a decision on the way forward to construct a new hospital for an estimated K650 million was reached with the project to start shortly. Funding for this hospital will be on a 50/50 basis between the PNG Government and AusAID

The other project that has been approved that will have a direct impact on this Province is the reconstruction of the Ramu Highway. The trucking of goods from Lae to Madang has been reduced to just about nil, due to the poor state of the Ramu Highway. If the road is reconstructed then it will again be economical and timely to truck goods between Lae and Madang.

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Click here to - [Contact the LCCI Website to find out how!](#)

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Whilst we do run regular paid advertisements in the newsletter, we have a standard offer to Profile your business, as a one off opportunity – free of charge deal. All we need is for you to put together information on your business, what it does and the main contacts. This can be up to one page in size with limited graphics. Send it electronically to the Chamber and we will include it in the next newsletter publication **Free of Charge.**



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Will the PNG solution work?

25th July 2013

[Stephen Howes](#) is Director of Development Policy Centre at ANU. Prior to joining the Crawford School in 2009, Stephen was Chief Economist at the Australian Agency for International Development. In 2008, he worked on the Garnaut Review on Climate Change, where he managed the Review's international work stream.

The agreement to send asylum seekers to Papua New Guinea is high risk, writes STEPHEN HOWES.

On Sunday 14 July, the day Prime Minister Rudd arrived in PNG, [two truckloads](#) of rampaging soldiers attacked medical students at the University of PNG medical school, firing weapons, holding knives to their throats and causing injury and widespread [damage to property](#). The attack was apparently some sort of pay-back following a minor incident the day before.

The attack drew little publicity in Australia, even though apparently Rudd had originally been scheduled to visit the same medical school, which receives considerable Australian support. In PNG, however, it was the topic of the week. Classes were suspended at UPNG, and students marched to Parliament House in protest. The medical school remains closed, a crime scene. The Port Moresby General Hospital doctors went out on strike in sympathy with the students. Many in Parliament and in the media questioned how things had come to this. Some traced the problem back to the military cut-backs of the early 2000s, when soldiers had been retrenched, but not physically removed from their Moresby barracks. Others pointed to a culture of indiscipline and impunity. Some noted that the police were no less of a concern.

There are certainly many countries which are less stable and have worse economic performance than PNG. But the weakness of PNG's public institutions is borne out by the international evidence. The World Bank regards a country as 'fragile' if it scores 3.2 or less out of 5 on its Country Policy and Institutional Analysis [rating system](#). Overall, PNG gets 3.3, which puts it just above the fragile state category. (Solomon Islands, also mooted as part of the new regional approach, scores only 2.9.) PNG scores well for economic management and policies. But it scores poorly for public sector management and institutions (3.0), and very poorly for social inclusion (2.7).

That its public institutions tend towards dysfunctionality is uncontroversial in PNG. On Friday last week, I attended a "Q&A" in Port Moresby, a recent innovation. The panel included two rising stars, one from Government – the Minister for Planning, Charles Abel – and one from the Opposition, the Governor for the Province of Oro, Gary Juffa. It was an interesting discussion, but, unlike the Q&A we watch here in Australia on Monday nights, there was no debate. The theme for the forum was public sector accountability, and both sides agreed that there was virtually none. At one point, the Minister for Planning commended the Oro Governor for trying to improve public administration in his province which was, the Minister said, at "ground zero." The Governor's only disagreement was that he didn't think that "zero" was an adequate description for how bad things were in his province.

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The advertisements that appear in this newsletter have for a long time been at the phenomenal rate of K75 per issue. We have been encouraged to increase the rate for some time now but we have kept it as budget priced as possible, in an effort to provide a cheap means of promoting our members businesses.

Unfortunately we have been forced to increase the rates from the 2nd August 2013 to K95 per insert. This is due to the cost and unreliability of the internet as well as the measures that we have had to take to get the publication to you as quickly and to the best standard that we can.

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Will the PNG solution work? (Cont)

PNG's public sector weaknesses will be exposed by the new asylum seeker agreement. According to a recent UNHCR [assessment](#), PNG's legislative framework for asylum seekers is inadequate. But, whatever the legislative problems, the real weakness in PNG is implementation: getting things done.

We have already seen this in the recent history of Manus itself. The Manus Island solution was resurrected by the Gillard Government almost a year ago. Despite intensive effort, construction on a new detention site has been greatly delayed. Australian media reports conflict on whether construction on Manus has now started, but my sources on Manus state that it has not, though apparently the contract has now been [awarded](#), and a site surveyed.

Without a permanent site, only a couple of hundred asylum seekers can be sent to Manus. [Expanding capacity](#) for the permanent facility from the current target of 600 to the mooted 3,000 would require another massive effort, and cause further delay. Building a new project on another site outside of Manus would be even more difficult, as the entire process of seeking agreement would have to start anew.

Resource developers know that to make a project happen in PNG you need to get the agreement of not only the national government, but also the provincial government, and landowners. All three levels of players have an effective veto over every project, and getting the agreement of all of them takes considerable time.

At best, Rudd has the support of the national government for his new approach, though the public response in PNG seems to have been uniformly negative, and how long that support will remain if it is tested by a large number of arrivals is unknown. At the provincial level, even now, Manus MPs are [asking for more](#), including, an international airport – and why not ask for the impossible if you hold a veto over the necessary? Landowner agreement for a large expansion of the Manus processing site, or for any new site, will also be time consuming, and could be withdrawn at any time, as we have [seen](#) on Manus itself.

All of this raises issues of credibility. Is it credible that asylum seekers will stop coming to Australia because they think that in one or two years they will be sent to PNG? If thousands do come, is it credible that they will all, or even a significant minority of them, be sent to PNG?

PNG's implementation challenges will also threaten the Rudd solution once asylum seekers arrive in country. Manus has been run as an Australian project, but the longer asylum seekers stay in PNG, the less Australian control there will be and the more chance of a something going badly wrong. The PNG police sent to Manus have already [caused trouble](#), and been sent back. Disease and violence are problems that many PNGians are all too familiar with. They are unlikely to tolerate special privileges being given to resettled refugees. But Australians are unlikely to tolerate refugees who have sought asylum here living in conditions of poverty and risk elsewhere. Either way, popular support on both sides of the border will be hard to sustain.

Imagine if we had seen the truckloads of rampaging soldiers at the medical school on our TV screens. Would the Rudd announcement still have gone ahead? The attack certainly doesn't align with the Rudd narrative of PNG as "an emerging economy with a strong future." It does align with the reality of PNG, a country of both exciting economic opportunity and profound governance challenges. And it illustrates why the new agreement is high in risk and low in credibility.

This piece was originally [published on Devpolicy Blog](#)

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Will Manus Island deal benefit business in Papua New Guinea?

25 Jul 2013 by [Business Advantage 1 Comment](#)

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is adamant that PNG businesses 'will directly benefit' from the asylum-seeker deal signed last week by himself and Australian counterpart Kevin Rudd. But some business leaders are sceptical.



PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill signs the agreement with Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd

The agreement with the Australian Government will deliver Papua New Guinea a comprehensive package of direct assistance from Australia worth hundreds of millions of kina.

In return, Papua New Guinea will accommodate hundreds, if not thousands, of asylum-seekers while officials decide if they are genuine refugees.

But some business leaders are concerned about the deal.

PNG Business Council President Ernie Gangloff told [Radio Australia](#) the country will have trouble processing that number and wants to meet the Prime Minister.

The PNG Chamber of Commerce and Industry says business is supportive of the deal.

'It worked well under (former Australian Prime Minister) John Howard,' said Chamber Secretary, Phil Franklin. He expects health and infrastructure on Manus Island to get a boost. But he warns the project should be approached in the same way as a mining project-with proper planning for what will happen to the facilities after the end of the project.

Landowners' doubts

Mary Handen, President of the Landowner Association at the Manus Island Detention Centre, told [Radio Australia](#) the detention centre is nowhere near ready to handle 3000 asylum seekers.

'I hope this new agreement is changed because if it is the same, you know, everything that is coming through, there are foreigners that are going to come and do the businesses and indigenous Papua New Guineans and indigenous Manus people are going to miss out on provision of services, being active participants in that manner.

'We hope it does not end in empty promises. We need roads, schools, hospitals and jobs,' electrical contractor Peter Ndrasal, chief of Tawii clan, told the Brisbane [Courier Mail](#).

Much depends on how many asylum-seekers will be sent to Manus Island, or elsewhere, and when.

Franklin says he's optimistic that the government's promises for local businesses will come to fruition. He says many local businesses have already been approached to quote for road transport, shipping and bussing, and he expects locals to provide fruit and vegetables for the centre, as they did under the Howard regime.

Construction delays

The Australian construction company that won the A\$137 million (K275 million) contract to expand the Manus Island facility last month, Decmil Group, told the [Australian Stock Exchange](#) it would take it until 31 January 2014 to create 600 asylum seeker places.

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Will Manus Island deal benefit PNG? (Cont)

But O'Neill is confident the agreement will give the PNG economy 'a massive boost, with the first benefits to be seen in a short period of time'.

'There will be significant ongoing spending in the management and operation of detention centres – such as staff, food, services and infrastructure.

'My government will work closely with the Australian Government to ensure maximum opportunities for local businesses, contractors, and suppliers, to participate in the construction, and servicing, of the new Manus centre, and any additional centres that are built.'

List of benefits

O'Neill outlined other benefits, which he said would start flowing in a matter of weeks:

- The funding of the redevelopment and upgrading of UPNG and UNITECH as recommended by the Garnaut/Namaliu Report.
- The funding of a new and modern base hospital for Lae on a 50/50 funding basis with the national government. The funding will include the most modern equipment, and additional medical will include the most modern equipment, and additional medical and nursing staffing.
- Funding of the major upgrading of the Lae-Madang highway.
- Funding of the construction of the new Lower Courts Complex in Port Moresby.
- Support for the government's law and order program through the provision of 50 police, funded by Australia, to be in Port Moresby and Lae by the end of the year.
- The Lombrum Naval base on Manus Island will be upgraded. Roads in the province will be significantly improved. There will be new health centres and schools provided, and the airport will be upgraded.

ROADS

The Lae roads have suffered disastrously from the recent heavy rains.

The Lae to Nadzab Road is in abysmal condition, with the section from 2 mile to 5 mile being practically impassable. The traffic was jammed up so badly on this section this morning that it took an hour for some cars just to get through the 2 mile stretch of road. I am told that the security vehicles used their sirens and flashing lights to get through the worst sections of the road, which just added to the congestion let alone added to the frustration of drivers of the static vehicles.

The LCCI has received many messages and calls from frustrated drivers, who are finding it difficult to commute along this section of road.

AusAID is still responsible for the Maintenance of the Highway from Lae to Kassam Pass. The trouble is that with the news that a new 4 lane highway will be constructed soon, the maintenance teams have been working at the Kassam end of the road. We have appealed to AusAID, NRA and the contractor and we hope that some reparative maintenance will be done on the Lae/Nadzab section soon.

The Lae Roads, which are currently being reconstructed by contractors, have all suffered from the rains and the congestion is dreadful in some of the sections. We have approached DOW to instruct the contractors to open up the roads as much as possible.

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ROADS (Cont)

The problem with the Lae Roads is that the new arrangement with the appointment of a Melbourne based Project Engineer to oversee the Lae Roads Rehabilitation Project is still not completed. In the meantime the Department of Works Engineers are still overseeing the contractors but they are under equipped and undermanned and are having difficulty doing the work as thoroughly as needed.

We have been in contact with both DOW and the new engineers and we hope to see an improvement soon.

In the meantime the contractors have slipped back into their old habits of not notifying anyone about road closures or disruptive works. This just adds to the congestion especially at peak traffic hours. We hope that this situation will improve when the new arrangement commences.

Water PNG

Water PNG have also suffered from the lack of consultation by the Road contractors, which has led them to make the following announcement:

In light of major road work upgrades and improvements in our City, Water PNG demands that all Road work contractors liaise and involve them in the planning stages, including implementation of their road works. Failure by some contractors to do this has led to damages to Water Mains, pipelines and valves. These damages are not planned or budgeted for and as such, Contractors should be fully aware that all costs of repair and replacement will be passed on to them.

Water PNG Contact persons are:

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Mr.Anthony Yakupa	Operations Manager	" " Ext 311
Mr.Mari Ravu	Team Leader -Distributions	" " Ext 322

Water PNG also experiencing difficulty from roadworks



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It will be hung on the walls of the current Lae Post Office.



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

This Photo is taken of a plaque made up in a magnificent frame, highlighting the actual first Airmail Letter that was sent from the Lae Post Office on 30th July 1934.

A small ceremony will be held at the current Lae Post Office on Tuesday 30th July 2013 to mark the 79th Anniversary of the posting of this letter, and handing it over to the Lae Post Office Manager to be hung on the wall of the Post Office.

It is hoped that the Honourable Kasiga Kelly Naru, the Morobe Governor will officiate at the event

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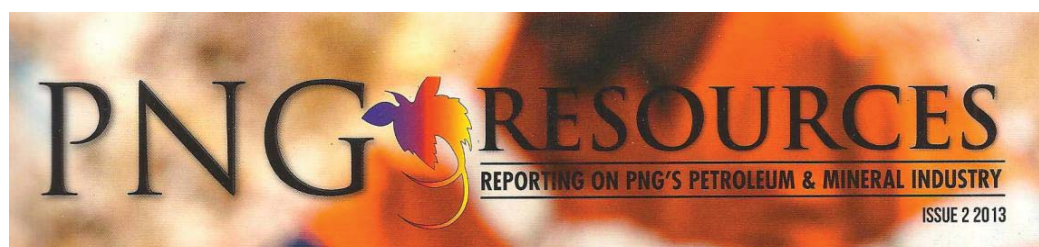
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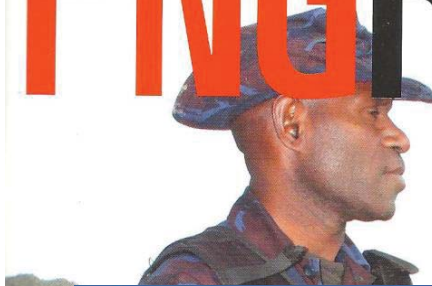
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ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LAE IS HOSTING THIS NOW FAMOUS EVENT

DON'T MISS OUT!

Training offered by the MTO Training Group.

global voice
for women

FEDERATION OF SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Soroptimist International of Lae



Annual Trivia Night 2013

Limited Space so Hurry & book your table now

Come along to the night prepared to try out your IQ in 8 category rounds of Quiz, fun and a lot of lucky door prizes to be won

Judges have keen eyes for best dress team so come along looking your BEST



Proceeds will go towards;

- Well Women's Clinic
- Haus Clare Orphanage
- PNG Cancer Unit
- Huon District Maternal & Child Health: Village Health Volunteer Project (Which is our major project)

Date: 31st August 2013
Time: 6pm-11pm
Venue: Melanesian Hotel, Lae

For more information on ticket, Contact;
Mrs Nellie McLay 479 3103/Mob: 719 12713
Ms. Kylian Kenni 71084784/71003645
Miss Rahab Warra 72830911/76528792
Ms Jane Kenni 72727732/76892274

TICKETS are @K250/person or K2'500 per Table of Ten

MTO GROUP PTY LTD
MTO Training PNG LTD



Diploma of Project Management

An Australian Qualification to be delivered in Port Moresby and Cairns, Australia for Middle / Senior Managers and High Achievers.

Based upon International Standard, ISO 21500 Guidance on project management, and the PMBOK Guide, the BSB51407 Diploma of Project Management is ideal for those who have had experience in managing projects, or have been involved as a team member and looking to progress your career as a Project Manager. This course will provide you with the skills and knowledge to manage projects from planning them to implementing, monitoring and reviewing them. You will also gain the skills to manage the work of a team as well as learn how to manage timelines, budgets, control the quality of projects, and generate maximum team performance.

Course syllabus comprises 9 subjects:

- BSBPMG501A Manage application of project integrative processes
- BSBPMG502A Manage project scope
- BSBPMG503A Manage project time
- BSBPMG504A Manage project costs
- BSBPMG505A Manage project quality
- BSBPMG506A Manage project human resources
- BSBPMG507A Manage project communications
- BSBPMG508A Manage project risk
- BSBPMG509A Manage project procurement



Complete real projects

In cooperation with IEA TAFE, the course is delivered through our eCampus with 9 webinar sessions (1 – 1.5 hours each, once per month), online training materials and concluding with a one week full time workshop at our modern training centre in Cairns, enabling international experience and the opportunity to complete assignments with experienced mentors.

Course presenters are experienced industry professionals with many years of experience in managing and implementing complex projects in the construction, manufacturing and IT industries.

Minimum Student numbers apply to this course.
English literacy test mandatory on enrolment.
Cost: Cost: Kina: 14,597.93 Plus GST if applicable
Facilitated by : IEA College of TAFE

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