



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

05/6 April 2012

VOLUME: 13 - 12

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY EASTER 2012!

LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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The newsletter can be located at:
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See the following STOP PRESS!

Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

TELIKOM

One of the important infrastructural items in the LCCI Annual Report was to check with Telikom on plans to mitigate the dreadful communications outages, such the one earlier this year, when the two back door repeater stations at Mt. Strong and Mt. Yule were down for 2 weeks, which affected all Data, Voice, Mobile & Wireless Services for the whole of Momase and the Highlands Provinces.

On Tuesday this week we received a visit from Mr. Kone Kula, the Head of Telikom Corporate and Data Services. He announced that there is a current roll-out program of Optical Fibre cables which are more reliable and have a greater capacity than the current copper wire system. Telikom are currently working with PNG Power to utilise the Power Pylons to carry the Optical Fibre Cables. The first project is to connect Lae to Madang, which is expected to be completed by the end of April and will be ready to connect in May. This will be more than a back-up if there is an outage, as this system will have a capacity of 10 Gig. This will also link to the 2nd Tiara Gateway in Madang, which will mean better overseas communications. There are plans to increase the roll-out of the fibre optic cabling to Hagen as well, using the same method.

This is indeed good news and we commend Telikom for working quickly on solving the endless communications outages caused by the mountain top repeater stations that have been the curse to all businesses in Lae for years. We must have continuous and improved communications, to keep us competitive with the International market.

This new program cannot come quick enough – refer to the Telikom message on page 2.

PNG POWER

Yesterday we met with a JICA Power system development advisor who discussed the Power needs of Lae City and Morobe Province. JICA is the Japanese Aid Agency and they have been commissioned by PNG Power to look at improving the power in PNG as a whole.

JICA are looking at 2 options – the immediate needs for power in Lae and Morobe; and the long term requirements. They will be recommending which projects are to be assisted under the Aid agreement with the PNG Government, and what can be funded by a long term loan.

The short term option will be to construct a diesel generating power sub-station to meet the immediate shortfall in power in Lae City. Because previous negotiations with landowners soured, the Singauwa area is now being considered for this development.

The project that JICA are looking at to meet the long term needs for Morobe Province, is a hydro scheme at in the Finschhafen District.

We will have more details after PNG Power discuss this further with the LCCI next week.



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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.



MAJOR OUTAGE NOTICE

TELKOM PNG would like to advise it's valued customers that we have a major outage on Mt Kerigomna affecting all services transiting through this repeater via front and back routes

Areas affected will be Madang, Kundiawa, Wewak districts, also Lae & New Guinea Islands.

Services affected are VOICE, MOBILE, DATA & WIRELESS.

Engineers in Goroka are arranging logistics to fly into Mt Kerigomna.

TELKOM PNG would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused during this time.



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LIQUOR BAN

This morning a meeting was arranged by the Morobe Provincial Liquor Licensing Commission to discuss the progress of the Liquor Ban that is currently in place in the Lae District, with Liquor Distributors. Recently the liquor ban imposed last year during the Lae Riots was extended to the 1st January 2013. The meeting this morning was arranged to discuss some of the breaches to the restrictions on the sale of liquor in the District and methods that can be taken to prevent them.

It appears that the breaches to the restrictions on the sale of liquor are really the result of the impracticality of the ban, which has been confined to a small area. Alcohol is still flowing into the settlements seemingly unabated. The Lae Chamber pointed out to the Liquor Commission, when they sat to consider the extension to the ban that it would be impossible to police a liquor ban over an extended period of time. The LCCI also supported a letter from the Ward 5 Chairman of the Lae City Council, who together with settlement leaders, calling for the closure to liquor outlets in settlements and residential areas, as these were the cause of a lot of after hours and excessive use of alcohol, however to continue to allow the sale of alcohol, otherwise there would be an increase in the use of homebrew and drugs.

The Licensing Inspector agreed this morning that our letter and other letters objecting to the extension of the liquor ban were not considered by the PEC.

The following is an article from Thursday 4 April Post Courier, which really supports our case that the liquor ban is not working, and alternative measures should be sought.

STOP PRESS

PNG DELAYS ELECTIONS

By PNG correspondent

[Liam Fox](#)

Posted April 05, 2012
15:36:56

Papua New Guinea's government has taken the unprecedented step of deferring the country's national elections.

The government successfully moved a motion to defer the national elections by six months with a vote of 63 to 11.

Before the vote, the minister assisting the prime minister on electoral matters, Waka Goi delivered an update on electoral preparedness.

He said there was a fundamental shortfall of around \$30 million, electoral rolls were not ready and police were also not ready to provide security.

During the debate most MP's supported the moves, while others said the delay should only be two months.

Voting had been due to begin at the end of June.

Prime minister Peter O'Neill had repeatedly assured Papua New Guineans and the international community that the elections would proceed as scheduled.

The road contractors want to close Lae Roads on Wednesday to add weight their case for payment for completed work.

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LIQUOR BAN (CONT)

Liquor ban not effective

THE one-year liquor ban in Lae has not helped in reducing crime and social problems. It has, however, increased the sale of illegal liquor in settlements and people are still drinking openly in public and harassing passers-by and residents. The provincial government should lift the ban to maintain law and order. – **Bosco, via email**

- Letter to Editor – Post Courier 4 April 2012

An agreement was reached at this morning's meeting that more awareness on the excessive use of alcohol is what is needed to attack the alcohol abuse problem. The Licensing Commission will be looking at developing forms to control the sale of liquor to licensed outlets.

[Arthur Strachan Ltd](#)

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LAE ROADS

For those who read the Lae Chamber of Commerce Annual Report, we have been very vocal about the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project right from the outset. We believe that our constant attention and criticisms to the project has led to a better deal on the roads for the residents of Lae.

Recently when the funding for the roads was halted by the Government whilst a Review of the roads was conducted, we supported the need to pay contractors for the work that they have performed, and for the work that is required to finish off the contracts. It is our view that the contracts between the Government and the contractors are legal, and that unless there is a breach of conditions, there is an obligation to pay out claims. After discussions with the Member for Lae Open, Hon Bart Philemon he has also written to the Prime Minister to support a pay out of these claims.

I was advised this afternoon by a representative of one of the road contractors, that due to a prolonged non-payment for completed works, three of the road contractors will block off all roads that they have completed and are working on from Wednesday next week. My reply was that whilst I sympathise with the contractors over their plight, I will not support the closure of the roads in any way or form. The travelling public have put up with enough for the past 15 months whilst the roads have been constructed and should not be held to ransom, in support of claims by individual companies.

I advised the representative that when this measure was used by one of the contractors previously, the Police stepped in stating that they need the roads to remain open so as to restrain criminal activities. We hope that good sense prevails and the roads will remain open.



Visit the Lae International Hotel new website.

Book Online at www.laeinterhotel.com

For more information call us on phone 472 2000.

This is the last chance to book for this Lunch. Please contact Wendie if you wish to attend the lunch with BSP Executive – on 472 2340 or by return email

LUNCH WITH THE BANK OF SOUTH PACIFIC

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK FOR

LUNCH ON Thursday 12th APRIL 2012

With the Board and Senior Executive of the Bank of South Pacific

12 NOON AT THE VANDA RESTAURANT

THE LAE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

The lunch will be kindly provided by the Bank of South Pacific
The Lae Chambers will also give a run down on events in Lae

Please contact Wendie of your attendance or reply to this email message

A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

PNGREPORT

The latest edition for February 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the ROAD WARRIORS (The unforgiving Highlands Highway), MONEY LAUNDERING (looking under the carpet), BLASTING (Orica sets the standard) and LOGISTICS (Shipping on the Fly) when you get your free copy of this February edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg



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HR and Staff Managers please take note of the extracted dates of the 2012 Easter Public Holidays from Government Gazette No.197 of 22nd July 2011

GAZETTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

EASTER 2012

Good Friday, Friday, 6th April, 2012.

Easter Saturday, Saturday, 7th April, 2012.

Easter Sunday, Sunday, 8th April, 2012.

Easter Monday, Monday, 9th April, 2012.

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2012 LAE BRANCH SEMINAR

Guest Presenters

Sir Isi Henau Kevau,
Executive Dean & Professor of Medicine,
Dean of Medicine & Health Sciences, UPNG
“Non-Communicable Diseases & the
Impact on PNG Workforce”

Dr. John Garap, Industry Health Care Service
Provider & Private Doctor, Lae
“Private Sector Contribution to Health
Care in Urban Centers”

Saturday 14th April, 2012 - 1pm

Melanesian Hotel, Lae

K50 Per Participant

K10 Student Members

(includes finger food, soft drinks, coffee & tea)

***Tickets Available from the 26th March from:**

Elizabeth Nir - 7200 5802 / enir@trukai.com.pg

Ludwina Philemon -7337 9992 / Ludwina.Philemon@anz.ccamatil.com

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