

NIUSPEPA BILONG APNG ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Hi folks,

The Honourable Peter O'Neill's constitutional election win as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea has verified the immense expectations of his ability to lead his nation into an era of prosperity unimagined 18 months ago and has now set Millennium Development goals to achieve by 2015 or at least during his present tenure in office.

These goals, a United Nations hopeful list, cover a wide range of targets such as: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

These are all very worth-

while items in a program for attainment during the next five years, but the Prime Minister must avoid trying to repair or implement social issues which have taken a back seat in previous governments' timetables and, which should not be the subject of a flurry of legislation which is neither welcomed nor required.

I have complete confidence in Prime Minister O'Neill's ability to broker a confident and efficient cabinet with the willingness to put PNG's welfare as number one priority and continue their all-out assault on crime and corruption.

The committee and members of the Australia Papua New Guinea Association wish all Papua New Guineans a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful 2013.

God bless

Hank Cosgrove

Important Note: The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of other members of the committee of the APNG Association.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *MoU between PNG and Qld*
- *Royal visit*



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MOU RE-SIGNED BETWEEN QLD AND PNG



APNG Association Secretary Hank Cosgrove (left) speaking with the Honourable Tim Nicholls MP.

PNG RE-SIGNS
MEMORANDUM
OF
UNDERSTANDING
FOR TRANSPORT
WITH
QUEENSLAND

The Australia Papua New Guinea Association Secretary, Hank Cosgrove, was invited by the Honourable Tim Nicholls MP, Treasurer and Minister for Trade, to witness the re-signing of the Queensland-Papua New Guinea Memorandum of Understanding on Transport on Thursday, 15th November 2012 at the Treasury Hotel.

Treasurer Tim Nicholls hosted the event but the MoU was signed by the Honourable Scott Emerson MP, Queensland Minister of Transport and Main Roads and the Honourable Ano Pala MP, Papua New Guinea Minister for Transport.

The event was well-attended by the Queensland and Papua New Guinea business and government community.

During his welcoming speech to delegates, Mr Nicholls made mention of the fact that Consul General Paul Nerau LLB will be vacating the Brisbane office after Christmas.

On behalf of the Australia Papua New Guinea Association, I wish Paul and Mrs Nerau happiness and success in the next phase of their careers.



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP (left) shakes the hand of The Honourable Ano Pala MP following the re-signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Transport.

IMPORTANT

Memberships

Over the next month you will receive tax invoices for the 2013 Australia Papua New Guinea Association membership fee.

We urge you to action these documents at an early date to avoid requests for lost invoices which necessitates extra work by Treasurer Berry.

ROYAL VISIT TO PNG

Papua New Guinea began preparing for the November visit by Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall after it was confirmed in the media in September.

The visit was planned as part of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and had been kept under wraps since July 2011, when Buckingham

Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary and Chief of Protocol in advance of the November program.

Papua New Guineans were urged to turn out in droves to greet Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, with telecommunications company, Digicel (PNG) organising a clean-up of Port Moresby and offering prizes as an incentive.



Photo courtesy heraldsun.com.au.

Palace informed Government House that a member of the Royal Family would be visiting PNG.

With the royal visit expected to cost the PNG government millions of kina, a delegation from Buckingham Palace flew in to consult with the

Roads along the routes expected to be taken by the royals were re-sealed and plans were underway to name a locally-grown hybrid orchid after the Duchess.

The Prince and Duchess received a rousing welcome with a 21-gun salute and traditional and cultural performances on Saturday, 3rd November 2012.

Prince Charles was invested with the insignia of a Grand Companion of the



Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall tour the Sir John Guise stadium in Port Moresby in the back of a ute. Photo courtesy thetimes.co.uk.

Order of Logohu. The Duchess received the insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Star of Melanesia. The couple also received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee commemorative medal.

More than 5,000 residents of Port Moresby braved the hot sun to attend the ecumenical church service at the Sir John Guise stadium on Sunday.

The royal couple flew out of Port Moresby, bound for Australia on Monday, 5th November.

PRINCE CHARLES
HAS NOW
VISITED PNG 4
TIMES.



Change of address policy

Over the past 12 months, our mail out procedures have been disrupted because letters have been returned due to change of address or change of company personnel who have been nominated to receive our mail outs.

Those disruptions can be avoided by:

1. Advising Treasurer Berry of any change of address.
2. Advising your mail room to monitor our envelopes and pass the mail to the present incumbent if the nominated person has left the business.

Please help!

NEWS ROUNDUP



The Papua New Guinea news roundup is compiled by Colin Gould and Hank Cosgrove from reports in the Post Courier and the National.

Please note that the Australia Papua New Guinea Association is non-political and the reports in this news summary are direct lift outs from the press and are published for the information of members.

The news items have been listed in sections of General News, Business, Political, Mining, Manus Island, Health and Law and Order.

The period of reporting covers September to November 2012.

Business

- AusAID gave eight communities in the East New Britain Province K576,167 to go towards funding for improved access to early learning, better water, sanitation and hygiene and increased opportunities for women.
- Oil Search signed a new Gas Sales Agreement with Barrick (Niugini) Ltd. Under the agreement, Oil Search will supply up to 56 billion cubic feet of natural gas to Barrick.
- The K6 billion loan from the EXIM Bank of China has been described as risky by Institute of National Affairs Director Paul Barker. He added the government must be prepared to address a financial debt scenario given the 10 year tax free holiday for the largest revenue earner PNG LNG project means revenue will not be due until 2023.
- Managing Director of IPBC Thomas Abe said the most important port in the industrial hub of the country in Lae was inefficient and cannot meet current demands. It accounts for 60 per cent of the nation's trade.
- The government has signed two long-term road maintenance contracts for the Highlands Highway in Morobe and Eastern Highlands provinces. The funding for the contracts has been provided by AusAID through the PNG-Australia Transport Sector Support Program.
- PNG's domestic and foreign debt stands at K7 billion and the Department of Treasury is now reviewing the country's debt management strategy to maintain it at a manageable level, Treasury Minister Don Polye said.
- Australia's peak scientific body, CSIRO, says PNG's growing population is more of an immediate threat to the region's sustainability than climate change.
- The cost of doing business in PNG is increasing rapidly and both businesses and consumers are feeling the pinch. PNG companies are now paying K27,500 to ship a 20-foot container from the northern coast of PNG to the highlands. Three years ago they were paying K8000 and five years ago they were paying K2500 for the same container.
- Air Niugini will now have its Boeing 737 to do domestic services shortly. It will service Nadzab and Momote Airports in Lae and Lorengau respectively.
- PNG is to lift tariff on 400 items it exports to Fiji, but not for salt and sugar. PNG-made goods such as biscuits, canned foods and the like are to enter Fiji export-tax free.
- Customary landowners of Port Moresby's Jackson's International Airport have threatened to close the airport if an outstanding compensation claim is not settled by the government.
- In the next 5-10 years, the K8 billion palm oil industry has the potential to alleviate rural poverty in the country. In the 45 years since its inception, palm oil has contributed to the growth of the national GDP.

PNG TO LIFT
TARIFF ON 400
ITEMS FOR
EXPORT TO FIJI

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Health

- A feasibility study and design of a new Angau Memorial General Hospital has been valued at K65 million and the price tag has astonished the National Planning and Monitoring Minister. Angau needs between K600—K700 million to build the hospital, or about 10 per cent of PNG's national budget.
- The number of sex workers in PNG's major cities and towns is increasing at an alarming rate because women and men are finding it very difficult to fend for themselves.
- A total of 15,000 children in PNG die every year from diseases that are easily preventable. These deaths, from diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia, would not have occurred if personal hygiene was followed.
- The World Health Organisation has confirmed seven cases of an extreme drug resistant form of TB in PNG. The costs of treating patients with this disease can range from \$8,000 to \$16,000 per patient. It is reported that the success rate is low.
- Minister for Environment and Conservation John Pundari has called for a total ban on betelnut in light of the new deadly TB that is threatening the country.
- PNG joined regional and global malaria experts in Sydney to address the major public threat of malaria. In 2010 there were an estimated 42,000 deaths in the Asia-Pacific.
- Leaders of Western Province including Members of Parliament are very concerned about reports that women are dying from what they have described as "abnormal bleeding" from a cause that are yet to be identified.



MINISTER CALLS
FOR BAN ON
BETELNUT
BECAUSE OF
NEW DEADLY TB
OUTBREAK

Law and Order

- Northern Province has seen an upsurge in criminal activity after the departure of the Mobile Squad deployed there for the 2012 elections. Crimes from petty theft to mugging and sexual harassment of females, break and enter have significantly increased.
- The Investigative Task Force Sweep has made four more arrests in its bid to fight corruption in the country. The arrests included a woman who was charged for applying and receiving K500,000 from the National Planning Department and diverting it for her personal use.
- PNG has been ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. According to a United Nations report, PNG ranked 154 out of 180 nations worldwide.
- Mine workers at the Porgera Gold Mine staged a stop-work action after being fed up with frustration on lawlessness in the local community surrounding the mine township.
- The Police Minister will be putting a major submission to cabinet for the doubling of police manpower to 10,000 by the year 2015.
- The Speaker of the National Parliament said a number of senior members of the parliament's staff will face the music over what he described as massive abuse of public funds over the last 10 years. A compliance audit is currently underway and an initial report shows cases of gross misuse of parliament funds and privileges.
- An Australian citizen, Brian James Wyborn, allegedly involved in a fraudulent land trans-

Continued page 6

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED



UNEMPLOYMENT
IN PNG REMAINS
AROUND 80%

General Politics

- The Vice Minister for Works and Implementation, De Kewanu, thanked the Chinese Government for having confidence in the O'Neill-Dion Government by approving what is to be the biggest loan undertaken by any government in the short history of the country.
- The rate of unemployment in PNG remains around 80 per cent with the bulk of the potential workforce unemployed and remaining in subsistence farming-based communities.
- The burning of 100,000 ballot papers for Jiwaka regional seat held in a container in Banz in the early

hours of the 21st September confirms that a lot of things had gone wrong with the conduct of the 2012 national election. The incident is believed to be the work of arsonists.

- The Government of the People's Republic of China has given as a gift K20 million as untied grant to PM Peter O'Neill during his visit to China in September.
- PM Peter O'Neill, Opposition Leader Belden Namah and Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare are among 28 other MPs out of the 111 seats whose victory in the 2012 National Elections have not been challenged.

- PM Peter O'Neill has assured the seven million people of PNG that his government is committed to working together with all the stakeholders to build a better future for everyone.
- PNG has expressed its intention to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in 2018.
- Papua New Guineans will go to the 2017 National Elections in five years time using a biometric identification card system.
- The Public Service bureaucracy has been issued a stern warning by PM Peter O'Neill to shape up or ship out.

Law and Order Continued

- fer case was allowed bail by the Waigani National Court.
- The K100 million for Lae city roads maintenance and reconstruction works will be thoroughly investigated by the Investigative Task Force Sweep and if need be, monies paid to defaulting contractors will be recouped.
- Task Force "Rausim

Alien" has netted a total of K1.3 million for the state after the completion of its operation in the highlands region. A total of 35 foreign nationals were found guilty by the Goroka District Court.

- Finance Minister James Marape has started cracking the whip by declaring a "zero tolerance" on fraud and corruption

at the Department of Finance, following the arrest of some senior officers within the department.

- Port Moresby police have busted what they believe to be one of PNG's biggest drug busts involving 50 kilograms of methyl amphetamine, commonly known as "Ice" or "Speed" with a street value of \$US8 million (K15 million).

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Mining

- Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited, South Africa's third-largest gold producer says that PNG will have to pay if it wants a stake in the company's promising Golpu project in the Pacific country.
- Senior statesman Sir Ronald Tovue says some of the country's natural resources should be left aside for future generations. He said much of PNG's financial activities such as mining projects and most recently the LNG and Sea Bed projects were all happening at the same time.
- The National government annual K500 million reconciliation payment to Autonomous Bougainville Government with the first K100 million given by PM Peter O'Neill paved forward negotiations on the re-opening of the Panguna mine which is still in progress with many positive achievements and changes already taking place.
- The death of a Tamea tribesman has caused the shutdown of all operations at the LNG Project PDL 1 project site in the Komo District, Hela Province. The deceased, the late Jackson Guariko was an employee with Nighbors Drilling and was allegedly hit and squashed by an expatriate fellow employee who was operating an excavator. This has caused a chain reaction with employees fleeing in fear of retaliation.
- PM Peter O'Neill has announced that Ramu Nickel will most probably start producing world class nickel by the end of this year or early next year.
- Australian mining magnate Clive Palmer, who's planning to build a modern replica of the Titanic, aims to start talks next year to sell stakes in a potential \$A8 billion natural gas project in PNG.
- Lihir Gold Mine total aggregate revenue since the start of gold production in 1997 has reached an astounding \$US6.1 billion.



AUSTRALIA'S PM
THANKS PNG'S
PM FOR PNG'S
EFFORTS TO
COMBAT PEOPLE
SMUGGLING

Manus Island Asylum Seeker Base

- The five villages in the Manus Province gave the National Government seven days to meet their demand of K100 million in development packages before an asylum seekers office was built.
- PNG may take up to 600 asylum seekers into the Manus Detention Centre once all negotiations are complete.
- Work on rebuilding the Manus Island asylum seeker processing facility began with the arrival of 25 Australian Defence Force personnel on 18th September.
- A PNG technical team is working on procedures that will allow asylum seekers on Manus Island to appeal against their refugee determinations.
- The Australian and PNG government have announced an additional development package for the people of Manus that should now pave the way for the arrival of the first refugees for processing.
- Australia has acknowledged PNG's efforts to combat people smuggling and human trafficking. Australian PM Julia Gillard thanked PNG's PM Peter O'Neill during a bilateral meeting.

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

General News

- Provincial authorities in Madang have revealed that the volcanic activity on Madang's Manam Island has intensified and there may be a need to evacuate 1,000 plus islanders on the island.
- Four PNG Defence soldiers have been accepted by the United Nations Military Observers to participate in the UN peace keeping duties in Sudan. The four soldiers will be deployed to Sudan and South Sudan respectively.
- PM Peter O'Neill is calling on the Australian government to allow for flexibility in its strict visa policy, to allow for easier travel between the two countries.
- The O'Neill-Dion Government has made education, like health care, its priority policy and development agenda for the next five years. The Government's free or subsidized education policy is helping hundreds of thousands of children and students from elementary to grade 10 and this will be extended to grade 12 in 2013.
- The Highlands Highway remains the O'Neill-Dion government's top priority and it will cost up to K3 billion for the redesign and reconstruction work, according to Treasurer Don Polye. The money will not be drawn down in one single year but over a period of 5-10 years.
- PNG's major infrastructure program in Morobe Province—the K370 million Lae Port project—is expected to be completed by 2015.
- The Anglicans of PNG welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Dr Rowan Williams, who is the leader of the 80 million Anglicans in 165 countries. The bishop's five day visit began on October 20.
- The multi million Kina Chinese Aided International Convention centre project in Port Moresby is set to begin following the groundbreaking ceremony which was held on the 6th November
- PNG's 2013 National Budget will definitely exceed K10.5 billion, Treasurer Don Polye said.



FOUR PNG
DEFENCE
SOLDIERS HAVE
BECOME PART
OF THE UN
PEACE KEEPERS

The churches in nation building

PNG would not be what it is today without the mainline churches—Catholic, Anglican, United and Lutheran.

Pioneer Christian missionaries arrived on the shores of PNG more than a century ago. But they began to open up the vast, rich and fertile hinterlands and densely populated Highlands region only in the early 1930s.

Anglican pioneer missionaries Rev Albert Maclaren

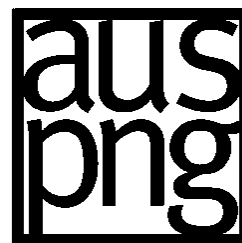
and Rev Copland King landed near Dogura in Milne Bay 121 years ago on August 10, 1891.

Catholic missionary explorer Rev William Ross pioneered the expansion of Christendom into the Highlands hinterland when he led a missionary expedition 78 years ago in 1934. He settled not far from what is today Mount Hagen city.

There were similar landings by the London Mis-

sionary Society and others and expeditions into the unknown, mostly hostile pagan territory occurred throughout the country.

These historic events took place from Central Province westwards to the Gulf and Western Provinces in Papua; and on the north coast of the New Guinea mainland of what is today Momase; and in all the provinces of the New Guinea islands.



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