



INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, PNG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Do we have enough city water?

Eda Ranu General Manager for Special Projects Lot G. Zauya says the company was rationing water in Port Moresby in the month of August due to maintenance work at its Mt. Eriama Water Treatment Plant.

Water rationing was not a consequence of reduction in water level at the dam.

Zauya said there was water volume of just above 200 million cubic metres of water as of last week. This is a reduction from the Dam Spill Volume of 340 million cubic metres and the general public needs to use water wisely and to conserve water. The Sirinumu Dam is operated by PNG Power Limited and Eda Ranu uses a certain volume of water through an Off-take Agreement with PNG Power Limited.

"Once the volume drops down to 50 million cubic metres then its only water supply."

He clarified that once the



The main lake at Rouna 4 in the Sogeri Mountains that powers the turbines for producing electricity.

water level reached 50 million cubic meters, it would be reserved for water supply use only.

Zauya had been a civil engineer for the last 30 years.

He explained that the recent water rationing in Port Moresby was because of a major overhaul undertaken by Eda Ranu at its sedimentation tanks- particularly at its third clarifier at the Mt Eriama treatment plant.

It had not been done since 1974 when the machine was installed and parts like bearings have worn out.

Zauya said Port Moresby city

users consume 165 million cubic litres of water every day.

A lot of water used by settlements, Zauya admitted was not paid and there was a need to "cut down on non-revenue systems".

While NCD Governor Powes Parkop has suggested use of sea desalination to produce water, Zauya said it would be an expensive option.

He said they were using gravitational force to move water from Sogeri to Port Moresby. It costs less. But to convert sea to pure water, they would need to run more machines and it would cost alot.

Editors note: Starting September, we will be providing news flash online daily with major stories investigated and concluded at the end of each month.

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UPDATES ON



70 water taps for Tatana villagers in Port Moresby



Eda Ranu engineers would be constructing two new dedicated water tanks for the island communities of Tatana and Ariria, west of Port Moresby.

The tanks will hold a total capacity of 9,000 litres and it is expected to service a population of 5,000 men, women and

children.

Eda Ranu chairwoman Mary Karo said the project should be completed within six months and there would be 70 communal taps for the community to use.

The water tanks would be situated at the hill on the island and the total project cost is K812, 000. It is a development people there have been waiting for since independence.

The monies were a joint funding from NCDC and the office of the Moresby North-West MP Michael Malabag.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, NCD Governor Powes Parkop and Health Minister Michael Malabag were at Tatana to launch the water project two weeks ago.

Village leader Opao Udia said for 37 years Tatana women have had sleepless nights waiting to store water for use by their family when the pressure was low and they had to walk hundreds of metres to fetch 20 litres of water every day.

"Water is a basic need for life. Even though we live in the vicinity of Port Moresby, we don't benefit," Udia said.

Karo told the community that Eda Ranu would be working in partnership with the government to bring clean treated water to communities.

She said communities and businesses along the west coast of Port Moresby starting from Hanuabada were serviced by the Waigani reservoir and it had been evident that the reservoir could not meet the demand.

Karo has on the other hand urged the government to involve Eda Ranu in talks about major road construction works so that water pipes were not damaged.

Karo assured the community that low level of water at Sirinunu had affected normal flow of water.

But a senior engineer Lot Zauya said Eda Ranu was doing a full maintenance work at one of its clarifier plants at Mt Eriama.

Karo has admitted there was high demand for water in Port Moresby.

Governor Powes Parkop has challenged Eda Ranu to ensure there were enough water reservoirs available to meet the demands.

"You might like to explore sea desalination if there aren't rivers to dam," he said.

Currently, city residents use a massive 165 million cubic litres of water every day and much of it is unpaid.

NEWS BRIEFS

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says his government would spend a total of K 700 million to improve road infrastructure in the National Capital District. He said critics who think the amount was too excessive to spend in one go did not understand how the funds were to be expended. O'Neill clarified that it would be through counter funding over a period of time. He explained that the government provided

K 100 million for this year with another K 50 million each from the National Fisheries Authority and the Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited. He said in the next two years, his government would provide another K 200 million per year. O'Neill said this added up to K 700 million. Four construction companies are now expanding and improving road infrastructure in Port Moresby. O'Neill said Morobe Province was allocated K45 million to improve its road infrastructure.

The government is spending K 200 million every year to rent offices for its departments. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said this is very this is very unfortunate but his administration is looking at turning it around. "We are like visitors," he said. "Our aim is to make sure the government agencies work in their own offices." O'Neill praised the National Capital District Commission for its initiative to build a new city hall. "We will support you in every step you take."

NCD Governor Powes Parkop believes the issue of settlements can be addressed by turning settlements into suburbs. Parkop said his government would "arrest" this issue of settlements. On his foresight now is the 8 Mile area in Port Moresby. "We are ready to meet the challenges," he said.

"We will make 8 Mile become a suburb. We will convert a settlement to a suburb. We are going to arrest the problem of settlement," Parkop said. The success of what is done in Port Moresby, Parkop said can be used in other centres. Prime Minister O'Neill agreed with Parkop and said they would consider ways to allow people at settlements to register the piece of land they live on and build proper houses.

Star Mountain exploration yielding results



A helicopter approaching the remote Olgal Rig site in the Star Mountains, Tifalmin.

The Managing Director of Highlands Pacific John Gooding says their explorations in the Star Mountains of West Sepik have indicated encouraging copper-gold systems in the area.

The Star Mountains Project is located 20km north of the Ok Tedi Mine and the explora-

tion area lies within the highly prospective New Guinea Orogenic Belt.

Gooding said the Orogenic Belt hosts the Grasberg, Ok Tedi, Porgera and Hidden Valley mines, as well as the Frieda deposit.

Highlands Pacific has been drilling in the area since 2010

and 14 holes have so far been drilled.

"Copper porphyry mineralisation was identified," Gooding said this was the result from their Olgal prospect in the area but with their three other prospects (Futik, Pad 48 and Ratatat), low mineralisation was identified.

"All the drill cores were transported to Tifalmin base camp and stored at a permanent core shed. There cores were logged by experienced and competent geologists and samples were transported from Tifalmin to Tabubil and then to Townsville in Australia for essay and testing," Gooding said.

Highlands Pacific's major development assets are at the Ramu Nickel cobalt mine and the Frieda copper gold project. It also does exploration at Sewa Bay, Milne Bay Province.

Gooding said in late 2012, the company moved one of its rigs to Kumkom prospect which is located 25km North East of Ok Tedi Mine and is in the Yapsie LLG of Telefomin.

He said there was good indication of gold and copper and high grade skarn.

"This is another highly encouraging discovery, highlighting the potential copper-gold systems that exist in this new district. It is still early days and we need to drill more holes at Kum Kom while continuing to explore at more of our untested target in the Star Mountain. The reason why we are excited about the identification of skarns is twofold- first their high grades make them more economically attractive in their own right and second they can be an indicator of a potential source or host part of the porphyry system," Gooding said.

"There is no doubt there will be many challenges for talented engineers if this exciting project is to be developed in the future," he added.

Sowing the seeds of success at Hidden Valley

Vegetable farmers near the Wafi-Golpu Project camp are finding success by simply farming their land.

Every week, the farmers mainly women from Hengambu villages of Bavaga, Gingen and Hekeng take turns to sell their produce at the camp mess.

The vegetable buying program was initiated by the Morobe Mining Joint Ven-

tures (MMJV) Community Affairs team earlier this year and it is becoming popular that more women are joining the program to find alternative a source of income for their families.

Produce such as Chinese cabbage, eggplant, beans, tomato, capsicum and cucumber are supplied to the camp mess, run by the National Catering Services (NCS).

MMJV's Women Development Program Coordinator, Ms Grace Bini, said a farmer can fetch around K70 to K150 depending on the weight.

"This project is aimed at helping our local women improve their lives by earning an income. It's gaining popularity amongst the local women in Wafi who are now keen to cultivate new cabbage

varieties and they have now requested for more seeds," she said.

Ms Bini said MMJV identified vegetables that would mature faster and the seeds were donated by NCS.

"We are now seeing harvests for July and August from seeds supplied by NCS to the farmers in May and June," she said.

-by MMJV

OUR QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.
Epictetus

We are on target to export LNG

The first LNG gas sales is expected as planned to take place next year and operator Exxon Mobil has made a significant progress in the first half of the year.

Oil Search, a leading oil and gas company who has a 29 per cent stake in the LNG project says 90 per cent of the project tasks have been accomplished. They were now expecting to

deliver gas from the oil fields to the LNG plant to support commissioning.

Oil Search second quarter report says since the start of the project in 2010, the labour force has completed over 140 million cumulative work hours.

“The LNG Plant site is transitioning to commissioning activities with remaining

construction activities taking place concurrently,” the company said in its latest report.

“During the quarter, oil flushing of all five refrigerant compressors on Train 1 was completed, in preparation for commissioning.”

Oil Search says construction activities continued on Train 2 and preparations have taken place in the common process

areas for the introduction of commissioning gas.

“A bathymetric survey of the shipping channel, navigational aids and pilot boarding point was completed with no seabed anomalies identified.”

The company says both of its LNG tanks were pneumatically tested and perlite insulation installation is underway.



Heavy road works machines were now working in four separate areas of Port Moresby to expand and improve the road systems in preparation for the Pacific Games in 2015 and APEC meeting in 2018. This picture shows machines parked at Argo Street in Gordons. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has just confirmed the government would spend a massive K 700 million over a period of three years to improve NCD roads.

PNG is set for prosperity: O'Neill

We are managing the money well.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says the country under his leadership has a bright future.

He told the people of Tatana in Port Moresby when he was the guest of honour to officiate at a new water project last month.

“I can tell you, our country has a bright future,” O'Neill said.

His government had come

under massive criticism ranging from the controversial asylum seeker deal with Australia to the parliament introduction of bills to stop further votes of no confidence. “We cannot satisfy everyone,” O'Neill stressed.

He said some decisions would have to be made to displease others but if it was for the development of the country and to change people's

lives, that must be justified.

O'Neill was very affirmative that his government focused on improving people's lives and having good political stability was important to achieving it.

“I can tell you that service delivery was collapsing,” he said.

“Money must now go down to the people so that they visibly see things happen.”

He said the government was empowering districts with increased DSIP funds and they have now introduced the Provincial Support Improvement Funds (PSIP) totalling over K1.5 billion.

“We are making the money working for us,” O'Neill said. “It's not because we found a new gold mine. It's because we are managing the money well.”

K 54 million to build City Hall

China Railway Engineering Construction (CREC) has been awarded K 54 million to construct a five story City Hall complex for the National Capital District Commission.

The formal agreement was

signed in July.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill launched the project last Wednesday at the project site opposite the Vision City Mega Mall on Waigani Drive, and work began immediately.

Acting city manager Leslie

Alu said NCDC engineers, architects and Project Manager Creative Resolution would work with CREC to complete the project in about May 2015.

He attributed the project to NCD Governor Powes

Parkop's prudent leadership. "Staff have been waiting for six years," he said adding this should boost their work morale.

Parkop said it was long time coming but he was determined. He

predicted the building to be an icon of Port Moresby, promoting nationalism but not a grand hall.

"In future when the economy is good, we must build a grand hall," Parkop said.

The governor added that the move to build a new hall came at the back end of massive infrastructure spending of K 500 million last year to improve roads.

Parkop said he had a vision to make Port Moresby the best city in the South Pacific and building the new hall is just one leap.

"It's not insurmountable," he said.

The new city hall would house the board, the commissioners and the board.

Parkop said the city was fading away and there was a need to spice it up with new buildings with creative designs.



Treasurer Don Polye supports research for development

Research, Science, Technology and Innovation are catalyst for addressing development agendas in the country, Treasury Minister Don Pomb Polye says.

"Given the global advancement in the information and communication technology, they all have a key role to play in expanding the economy, managing natural resources, improving governance, promoting the effective delivery of services and better health outcomes," Polye said at a workshop attended by professionals to discuss the country's main research agenda.

He noted that the National Research Agenda should contribute to a significant growth in national innovation and business creation.

"We need to mobilize our resources to invest more in these areas to help achieve our development aspirations of Vision 2050 and other policy documents," Mr Polye told

The minister admitted that little attention has been given to these important areas and called for a national focus, concentrating on research that would make real difference to people's lives.

The workshop was organized by the Office of Higher Education, Research, Science and Tech-

nology Council Secretariat. Research priorities identified at the workshop would be put together by a new Research, Science and Technology

Council as a national research agenda.

The treasurer affirmed to inject some financial support for the establishment of the council and its secretariat in the next 2014 budget after Cabinet's endorsement.

"Collaboration and partnerships are vital to growth in research and innovation in PNG and I urge researchers, industries and agencies to work together to create targeted programs that will attract broad support," he said.

Executive Chairman of the council is Professor Lohi Maitainaho and he acknowledged Treasurer Polye for his enthusiastic endorsement of the workshop and his engagement with the nation's research community.



researchers, scientists, academics and participants at this inaugural National Research Agenda Workshop in Port Moresby.

Technical Audit workshop

The Institution of Engineers PNG Inc and the Professional Engineers Registration Board of PNG have as one of their top priorities is to help the Government combat corruption and ensure that PNG citizens enjoy infrastructure such as roads, bridges, wharves and buildings.

We would like to ensure that what is constructed conforms with standards and specifications and in accordance with guiding principles.

We believe that a lot of projects are not tendered properly, are price inflated and not constructed to approved technical specifications nor do they adhere to acceptable standards.

There is virtually no technical audit on projects that are being funded by the PNG Government. We, as the sanctioned body responsible

for the engineering profession in PNG strongly believe



that infrastructure projects constructed in PNG must be audited. This will effectively ensure projects are accurately scoped and priced, tendered



and awarded as per the guiding principles and implemented within time and cost perimeters and satisfactorily completed in compliance with

set standards and specifications.

We must not continue to accept the status quo. Millions of our peoples' money are being spent on developing the infrastructure of this nation and it is incumbent of us to ensure what we get is for the value of the money that is

being spent.

The workshop in Lae is aimed at gauging views from all stakeholders.

This will then enable IEPNG to coordinate a submission to cabinet to enact legislations, making it mandatory that technical audits are carried out on all government funded projects.

We believe that something must be done.

The project must be audited for technical compliance, safety, longevity, durability and must be guaranteed by all agencies and contractors that it will serve the people of PNG and not fall apart after a few months.

*Important
DATE!*

COMING EVENTS

There will be a technical audit workshop held at the Melanesian Hotel in Lae

Date: Sept 6

The workshop is aimed at gauging the views of all stakeholders to enable IEPNG to coordinate a submission to cabinet to enact legislations to ensure that technical audits are carried out on all GoPNG projects

Date: Sept 16
PNG Independence Day



*Send us your feedback and news articles
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