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MEDIA RELEASE

Harbour inspection is PNG Ports' responsibility

AS part of PNG Ports Corporation Limited's (PNGPCL) harbour management function, the Company's Maritime Compliance Department (MCD) carries out monthly harbour patrols or inspections at its respective ports.

Chief Maritime Compliance Officer of MCD, Mr. Paul Unas after a recent patrol of Port Moresby harbour said "the inspections are part of the department's harbour management responsibility to ensure that foreshore developments and mooring of vessels and laid up ships at anchor are closely monitored."

Mr. Unas said that this is "by virtue of the provisions under Sections 15H, 15I and 15K of the Harbours Act (Ch. 240) delegated to PNGPCL by the Secretary for the Department of Transport on the 11th of July, 2005."

Harbour Master, Mr. Ben Pukai also said that "the inspections are done to alert seafarers and developers that PNGPCL is in control of the ports and harbours and to also identify derelicts and wrecks for removal or disposal processes to be taken in close consultation with the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA).

Mr. Pukai said patrols are done also for the purpose of updating PNGPCL management on the activities taking place in the declared harbour limits and also for sharing information on compliance issues where necessary with NMSA.

"Should a breach of the enabling legislations particularly the Merchant Shipping Act (NMSA) and the Harbours Act (PNGPCL) is detected during an inspection, both authorities will take appropriate corrective measures," he said.

One of the main compliance issues have been the uncontrolled and unauthorized reclamations and developments along the foreshores of the declared port of Port Moresby and other ports.

Therefore, PNGPCL has started working on controlling these developments and is in the process of having these properly registered with proper approval permits issued to the developers.

Basically, the areas for inspections cover foreshore developments including new wharf constructions, reclamations, installation of private mooring buoys, anchorage positions of ships in the harbour and any other unauthorised activity in the harbour contrary to the relevant provisions of the Harbours Act.

The inspections are done monthly in Port Moresby by the Harbour Master and the Chief Pilot (Regulatory) as part of their responsibilities.

Inspections at other ports are done when officers from MCD visit the ports or inspections or done by Port Business Managers in consultation with MCD.

"For Port Moresby, our next port patrol will be in April or May provided transport (pilot boat) is available," Mr. Pukai said.

MCD is planning to buy its own boats for patrol purposes initially for POM and Lae.

These boats will be budgeted for in 2011.

Officers from MCD who did the Port Moresby harbour inspection included Mr. Unas, Mr. Pukai, Compliance Coordinator, Mr. Mike Pangheem and Pilot Services Manager, Mr. John Nuga.

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