

NEWS FLASH



Wed. Feb. 10, 2010

An occasional News Flash on Events and Developments within PNG Ports Corp. Ltd

Issue No. 15 Feb. 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PNG Ports grateful for Minister's visit 1
- Healthy living been urged for PNGPCL staff 2
- PNGPCL set to help in tourism 3
- Vacation employees farewelled 4

News Flash is an occasional publication for the Executive Management Team to explain important policies, projects and management issues relating to the operations of the PNG Ports Corporation Ltd. It is a fortnightly newsletter for the benefit of all PNGPCL employees and stakeholders.

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PNGPCL grateful of Minister's visit

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) greatly appreciated the courtesy visit by Minister for Public Enterprises, Hon. Arthur Somare. MP recently to its head office and Port Moresby port.

The Minister's visit on Monday, February 8 was part of his plan for this year (2010) to do site visitations to all State Owned Enterprises (S.O.Es) operating under the Independent Public Business Corporation (IPBC) and the Ministry for Public Enterprises.

As the Minister responsible for S.O.Es it was paramount that Mr Somare continues his partnership and relationship with the management and employees of PNGPCL in order to maintain the deliverance of the PNG government's economic and development initiatives going forward.

The Minister was received warmly by the PNGPCL executive management led by Chief Executive Officer, Mr Brian Riches and were grateful for the opportunity to meet face to face with Mr Somare to highlight the Company's strategic plans and also highlight to the Minister on some of the key initiatives undertaken PNG Ports and more particularly the major port infrastructure projects, many of these projects are key infrastructure and major redevelopment of facilities which are pivotal to facilitating the overall economic growth and development of PNG.

In round table discussions with the Minister, Mr Riches stressed the importance of PNGPCL's aim to cement and carryout the establishment of its community service obligations



Minister Somare (pictured right) discusses some plans and strategies with PNGPCL CEO, Mr Riches which is closely followed by IPBC official, Mr Brian Gomez during the Minister's visit to the PNGPCL guest house.

(CSO) policy but also highlighted the need for appropriate funding mechanisms and arrangements to ensure the future viability of these services into the rural and remote coastlines of PNG

He also highlighted to the Minister PNGPCL's current focus on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) possibilities as a way forward to fund some of the major infrastructure projects which includes the proposed port relocation project in Port Moresby.

Mr Riches said the Company is focused in growing its revenue base by venturing into a partnership with other resource developers and further build and expand its internal operational capability.

PNGPCL is also excited about the prospect of playing a supporting role in the upcoming PNG LNG project as a port service facilitator and port/harbour authority.

Mr Riches also highlighted to the Minister PNGPCL's plans to have wharf mounted mobile cranes at its major ports of POM and Lae to improve

cargo/container handling efficiency.

This will shorten by almost half the hours of berthing time by cargo vessels and increase the throughput/number of vessels calling at ports in a day.

In addition, PNGPCL in complying with international port safety and security requirements and as a measure to support law and order agencies in the country is planning to install container scanners at its ports to prevent the movement of illegal firearms, drugs, stolen vehicles and human trafficking in and out or within PNG.

Mr Somare acknowledged the executive management for what has been done so far and also appreciated PNGPCL's strategies going forward.

Minister Somare was accompanied by Second Secretary to the Minister, Mr Stephen Damien and senior official of IPBC, Mr Brian Gomez.

The delegation had a meeting with PNGPCL senior executives which included CEO Mr Riches,

General Manager - Corporate Services, Mr Jerome Peniasi, Chief Commercial Officer, Mr Stanley Alphonse, Chief Operating Officer, Mr Michael Nye and Chief Maritime Compliance Officer, Mr Paul Unas.

The Minister was then escorted around the port facilities in Port Moresby Port including the recently renovated guest house at Paga Hill overlooking POM harbour for light refreshments. The guest house was recently established as a result of the current shortage of hotel accommodation in Port Moresby and to realise cost savings on the ever increasing accommodation costs in Port Moresby for its guests.

PNGPCL has a partnership with the International Education Agency's (IEA) TAFE College to provide hospitality and catering services to boarders who are staff in Port Moresby attending training and operational, all costs savings via this initiative is used for further training of PNG Ports employees.

Fenders to ease berthing of vessels

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) has successfully installed four Pneumatic Fenders at its Coastal Berth in Lae Port in the Morobe province recently.

The fenders (pictured) have been installed on Berth 4 with the assistance of United Stevedores who provided a forklift to shift and lower the fenders into the water and held in position until it was safely mounted onto the wharf side.

The head pilot at Lae port says sounding tests were undertaken and the results indicate that ves-

sels require deeper draft can be able to safely berth.

Chief Executive Officer, Brian Riches said PNGPCL set out to purchase and deploy these fenders for a solution to what is an infrastructure, maintenance and an impaired capacity issue.

Mr Riches said following the installation, PNGPCL is yet to decide whether the Company will or will not charge shipping lines for the use of the fenders.

These fenders will absorb berthing energy of ships and prevent damage to ships and infrastructure.



Pictured are pneumatic fenders which were recently installed at Lae Port. Picture courtesy of Lae Port Office.

PNGPCL urges safe and healthy living in the work place

Employees of PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) have been urged to practice safe and healthy living by observing their lifestyle habits.

PNGPCL Chief Executive Officer, Brian Riches made this remark recently when outlining the Company's objective in promoting a safe and healthy workplace for its staff, particularly free from lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure (HBP).

HBP is a serious condition that can lead to coronary heart diseases, heart failures, strokes, kidney failures and other health problems.

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the walls of the arteries as the heart pumps out blood.

When this pressure or HBP rises, it can lead to coronary heart diseases, heart failures, strokes, kidney failures and

other health problems.

Mr Riches said the unhealthy lifestyle habits including eating too much sodium (salt), drinking too much alcohol, not getting enough potassium in the diet, not doing enough physical activities and too much smoking practiced by many people nowadays can increase their risk of having HBP.

He said high blood pressure itself usually has no symptoms and therefore, urged PNGPCL staff to undergo blood pressure tests on a regular basis in order to know their status.

"Knowing your blood pressure number is important, even when you're feeling fine. If your blood pressure is normal, you can work on maintaining this level.

However, if your blood pressure is too high, you can take steps to lower and control your blood pressure as this helps reduce your risk of complica-

tions," he said.

Mr Riches said lifestyle measures of eating healthy food, losing weight if overweight or obese, doing enough physical activities, quit smoking, managing your stress and

"Knowing your blood pressure number is important, even when you're feeling fine.."

learning to cope with stress can assist in maintaining normal blood pressure.

"If you have HBP, you can still take steps to prevent the long-term problems it can cause.

Lifestyle measures and medicines can help you live a longer and more active life," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Riches has warned PNGPCL employees to also watch their consumption of sugar to avoid the risk of having high blood glucose/sugar levels.

Normally, blood glucose levels in people increases slightly after eating.

This increase causes the pancreas to release insulin so that your blood glucose levels do not get too high.

Mr Riches said: "Blood glucose levels that remain high over time can damage your eyes, kidneys, nerves and blood vessels."

PNGPCL's human resource division through the corporate services department is therefore organising for its employees in all ports and head office to have blood checks on blood pressure and blood sugar together with Cholesterol levels in the very near future (a date and time will soon be announced).

PNG Ports is set to help in cruise shipping



FILE Photo: mv The World in the back ground cruises into Alotau harbour in 2009. Alotau port registered the highest number of visiting cruise ships last year totaling 17, with Rabaul port second at 15 cruise ships, followed by Madang port 10, Port Moresby port 7, Wewak port 4, Oro Bay 3 with the other ports registering only 1 or nil for last year.

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) is committed to cruise shipping and tourism in Papua New Guinea.

PNGPCL Chief Executive Officer, Brian Riches said the Company looks forward to working in partnership with tour operators and shipping agents in facilitating cruise ships visiting Papua New Guinea.

However, Mr Riches advises that the tour operators and shipping agents formally request berthing space three to four weeks in advance from the Business Manager (title now given to Managers of ports) of the respective port of call.

The respective Business Manager will then have more time to lead his team assist in providing security passes for the number of vehicles and persons of shipping agents and tour

operators entering the ports at the time of the ships arrival.

PNGPCL also advises that any persons entering the ports should wear a safety vest or hard hat; one can always enquire at our port offices.

Mr Riches said the Company is geared up and ready to welcome the tourist cruise ships visiting the country this year as part of PNGPCL's support to the growth of the tourism industry in PNG and in particular the increased number of cruise ships visiting last year (2009).

According to Statistics obtained from the Company's Economics & Statistics Unit; there was an exceptional increase in the number of cruise ships that visited the country last year.

The number of cruise ships calling at ports in PNG in 2009 totaled 58,

from 47 in the previous year (2008), which is an increase by 11 ships.

This statistic do not include those ships that anchored within PNG Ports' harbours.

Mr Riches said PNG must realise the potential flow-on benefits this industry can make to improve the economy of this country.

He said: "PNGPCL is a changed organisation and as such is seriously focused in promoting tourism in PNG, more particularly in the facilitation of cruise shipping which is a growing industry."

He said the cruise shipping industry is profitable for both the cruise shipping companies and destination cities/towns at our ports.

"Papua New Guinea can optimise on its existing resources and work together and in partnership to successfully attract many

cruise ships. PNG Ports need to be seen as promoting and taking the lead in cruise shipping and tourism," he said.

Mr Riches said PNGPCL as a provider of pilotage services is available to provide support for berthing and unberthing of the cruise ships.

He urged PNGPCL employees to ensure that this Company objective of promoting tourism is achieved.

Mr Riches is calling on relevant stakeholders and agencies in this industry to work in partnership with PNGPCL in exploiting the benefits of tourism in the country.

PNGPCL committed to HR development



2009/2010 vacation employees pose for a group photograph during the farewell luncheon with PNGPCL HR staff.

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) is committed in promoting human development and has shown it through the engagement of 44 students at all its Port Offices for 2009's vacation employment program.

Acting PNGPCL Chief Executive Officer, Jerome Peniasi said this remark when farewelling these students during a small luncheon on Wednesday (03/02/10) at the Head Office organised by the Company's human resource division through its corporate service department.

The PNGPCL vacation employment program was designed to provide opportunities for students during their vacation at the end of the academic year from November and February each year.

Mr Peniasi thanked the students for their contributions towards the Company in assisting staff to achieve real work outcomes.

He said the program enables students to gain valuable job skills and experience to enhance their studies and abilities to gain employment after completing their studies.

Mr Peniasi said: "The vacation

employment program not only provides the opportunity to learn about the business and the type of industry the business is operating but also an opportunity to earn an income to assist with meeting school fees."

The target group for vacation employment every year is for grade to University levels. Grade 10 students can be considered but must be over the age of 16 years old. PNGPCL requires students to undertake part-time employment for up to 12 weeks during their vacation.

Mr Peniasi said PNGPCL recognises the importance of providing

opportunities for students to integrate their studies with work experience which supports university programs that incorporate industry placements, work integrated learning and internship programs.

"PNGPCL's vacation employment program helps students to engage themselves in a valuable activity over their vacation periods as well as being able to expose themselves to the realities of a work place situation," he said.

He encouraged the students to apply again this year, 2010 for the annual vacation employment program which runs for 15 weeks.

CEO cautions shipping agents & operators

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) Chief Executive Officer, Brian Riches has cautioned shipping agents and operators to observe laws governing the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Mr Riches made this remark recently while outlining ISPS Code issues particularly related to access through our ports such as passenger manifest requirements, searches of persons, accompanied baggage, cargo and security level declarations.

He said PNGPCL sees ship-

ping agents and operators as valued business partners in its operations and such issues should be clarified in order to create a conducive business environment for all parties.

Mr Riches said the legality of PNGPCL operations is guided by the *Merchant Shipping Maritime Security Regulations 2005* which was enacted to give effect to the application of the ISPS Code in PNG.

"Security at our ports is governed by the *Merchant Shipping Maritime Security Regulations 2005* which empowers PNGPCL to establish and maintain a Port Facility

Security Plan (PFSP) for each port and appoint a Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) to maintain and administer this Plan," he said

Mr Riches further elaborated that the law also requires that any person seeking to enter a port is required to comply with all regulatory provisions brought to their notice by any means of communication including oral messages.

"Under the requirement of the ISPS Code, PNGPCL officials are also obliged to do searches of persons and personal luggage that pass through our ports and person (s) who refuse to comply with

this requirement may be refused entry to the port," he said.

Mr Riches said: "It is also a concern to us that passengers ticketed outside the gates might not have their names on the manifest, thereby making it difficult to confirm their identities and permit them access to a ship through our ports."

He further reiterated PNGPCL security requirements as not negotiable and the need to observe these requirements to avoid the embarrassment of being denied entry to our ports.