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## **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For immediate release

#### **“CLOSURE OF BUKA PORT DUE TO LANDOWNER THREATS”**

*“The port of Buka will be closed forthwith until further notice due to landowner threats and intimidation of the staff, property and facilities of PNG Ports Corporation at the Buka port facility”,* said Mr Brian Riches, Chief Executive Officer of PNG Ports Corporation.

*“We have used every possible avenue to trying to resolving this issue, however the matter has been made more complicated by three different landowner groups claiming land rights over the port facility with unrealistic demands”,* Mr Riches said. In addition, *“our efforts to getting the relevant authorities involved including the Bougainville Autonomous Government in the overall negotiations have been unsuccessful”,* Mr Riches added.

Mr Riches further stated, *“the safety of my staff is not negotiable and given the current level of threats which are quite serious in nature, the port unfortunately had to be closed”.*

*“We sincerely apologise for any inconveniences caused to our stakeholders using the Buka port, however the issue is now quite beyond our control. PNG Ports is ready and willing to having this matter resolved but until and unless the current situation improves, the port unfortunately will remain closed”,* Mr Riches concluded.

**Authorised by:**



**BRIAN RICHES**  
Chief Executive Officer

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