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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

RE-OPENING OF THE BUKA PORT

The Buka Port is re-opened for operations as of today (Thursday 16/04/09) following the closure of the facility last week due to landowner threats to staff, property and facilities.

PNG Ports Corporation's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Brian Riches made the decision to re-open the port after agreement with authorities and the Autonomous Bougainville Administration.

It is agreed that a concerted effort will be made to establish dialogue with the land owners and the Autonomous Bougainville Administration (ABA) with a view towards resolving such complex issues permanently.

In re-opening the Port, PNG Ports Corporation's Management like to thank the Autonomous Bougainville Administration and various other mediators for their assistance in resolving the impasse and in allowing the Port to reopen.

Mr. Riches asks that the landowners to sort out their internal issues and identify the legitimate landowner group or establish a single body for further negotiations with their claims. He also requested a retraction all the threats as detailed in their correspondence and accordingly provide in no uncertain terms, as best practically possible, a guarantee that in re-opening the port no attempts or threats to disrupt operations be levelled against any staff or PNG Ports at the port of Buka. He asked that all future negotiations to be done in a professional manner through the proper channels.

PNG Ports Corporation's Management sincerely apologise to the good people of Buka for the closure and again wishes to thank the efforts of the ABA in trying to resolve this difficult issue and further advise the people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, its business houses, Shipping Agents and other Port Users that the Buka Port is now fully operational.

Authorised by:



BRIAN RICHES
Chief Executive Officer

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