



PNG PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED
HEAD OFFICE, STANLEY ESPLANADE, PORT MORESBY
PO BOX 671, PORT MORESBY, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TELEPHONE: (675) 321 1400, FACSIMILE: (675) 321 1546
E-MAIL: enquiries@pngports.com.pg, WEBSITE: www.pngports.com.pg

MEDIA RELEASE

16th January, 2009
For immediate release

Recent report on Lae Port staff snubbing Cyanide Training is a mistruth says PortsCorp CEO!

A recent media report on Lae Port staff snubbing Barrick Gold's Cyanide Training is full of mistruths and is misleading; a fine example of typical media sensationalism – to the extent it was even implied that a cyanide spill had already happened!

As PNG PortsCorp CEO, I am extremely disappointed with the way this report was presented - the fact is that Lae Port Staff have totally co-operated with this particularly vital training right from the start.

Just two years through transitional changes from a fully Government owned institution, PNGPCL is currently embarking on a vigorous change initiative, implementing a comprehensive strategic direction and corporate plan, requiring a major reorganization, revitalization of its services and rehabilitation of its facilities throughout PNG to achieve its corporate goals.

One major component of this change initiative is to put into place the necessary and appropriate instruments relating to Safety issues such as handling Highly Inflammable Liquid and Dangerous Goods.

Thus, creating partnership with other stakeholders especially in manpower training is valuable to ensure our employees reach their full potential to maximize their capabilities in playing a significant role in their respective ports.

Lae Port Staff attended the Cyanide Training sessions organised by the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV). The first **Cyanide Training was attended by 18 port staff** from all sections which included Pilotage, Security, Operation, Works, Administration and the Senior Management.

Stage 1 Cyanide Training from the 16th to the 19th of August 2008 had two components: Theory and Practical. It included demonstrations on wearing the right safety gear, particularly gas masks and oxygen cylinders to enter containers, to either identify leakage and/or contain the chemical Cyanide before issuing instructions to workers to isolate or travel beyond certain identified areas.

All participants were issued with certificates after successfully completing that particular Stage 1 Training.

Stage 2 Cyanide Training was conducted from the 16th to the 19th of November, 2008. A number of staff attended the Theory component of that training, however, the Practical or demonstration session was delayed until only last week Thursday (08/01/09), when the one day session on wearing the appropriate safety gear to contain Cyanide spillage was held.

Unfortunately, this was not attended by any Lae Port staff quite simply due to a misunderstanding in the communication and also the short notice from the organizers – certainly not for any other reason as suggested by the media.

PNGPCL manages and operates 16 operational ports out of the 21 declared. These ports deal directly with the handling of Highly Inflammable Liquid and Dangerous Goods and to imply that the organization is not serious about its safety measures is totally irresponsible and completely untrue.

PNGPCL is committed to operating at the highest standards to protect the health and safety of its workers, the public and the environment.

Activities within the Ports are in compliance with:

- the Explosive Act Chapter 308,
- Explosive Act (adopted) Chapter 309,
- Inflammable Liquid Act Chapter 311 and
- Poisons & Dangerous Substances Act Chapter 231 which all constitute the handling and transportation of these Highly Inflammable Liquid and Dangerous Goods including other international conventions.

PNGPCL is in the final stages of implementing instruments in compliance with these applicable laws and industry standards to ensure a timely and appropriate response to emergencies. These instruments cover Training as a major component which compliments the Port Facility Security Plan on Emergency Response.

Lae Port Staff (as with all PNG Ports staff) are fully committed to attend any training on spillage of Cyanide and other containment procedures if and when organizers run sessions in the future.

Authorised by :



Brian Riches
Chief Executive Officer