



LOs in dark after 100th LNG export

PNG LNG landowners are still anxiously waiting for their share of benefit from the sale of the liquefied natural gas.

After the 100th LNG cargo export, landowners are being kept in suspense while the K43 billion gas commercialisation project's co-venture equity partners have already benefitted from the sale of LNG.

ExxonMobil said in a statement dated June 15 that the project had so far exported the 100th cargo of liquefied natural gas, just over one year on from the start of export operations.

The LNG carrier Methane Spirit had transported the cargo bound for Japan for Tokyo Electric Power Company Inc. (Tepco).

Tepco is the same customer who received the maiden LNG cargo on-board the Spirit of Hela in May 2014.

Outspoken Tuguba tribal chief Simon Ekanda said the Department of Petroleum & Energy's (DPE) failure to complete on time the clan vetting process enabling the identification of genuine landowners had caused the delay in disbursement of the royalty funds.

"It clearly shows that DPE, the State's key agency that regulates the oil and gas business and manages landowner issues is completely falling apart and is incapable of providing sound advice to the government of the day," Ekanda said.

More than 7 million tonnes of LNG have been exported since the project commenced production in April 2014, ExxonMobil said.

Another landowner leader and former Southern Highlands premier Albert Mokai asked the challenged the State to be cautious when dealing with landowners.

"Who were those landowners who signed the UBSA (umbrella benefit sharing agreement) in Kokopo and LBBSA (licensed based benefit sharing agreements) if the government is now sanctioning the CVP to identify genuine landowners?" Mokai asked.



One of the two LNG storage tanks at the PNG LNG Plant site northwest of Port Moresby. Photo Courtesy of Media Hillside Ltd

Former managing director of ExxonMobil PNG Peter Graham had once told the media that all royalty payments for landowners are safely parked in a trust account managed by the Bank of PNG.

Meanwhile ExxonMobil PNG's current managing director Andrew Barry said the 100th LNG cargo export is a milestone further underpinning PNG LNG's reputation as a reliable producer of gas.

"Since export operations began an LNG carrier has been loaded on average every 3-4 days with continuous operational excellence.

"This achievement is the result of an excellent performance delivered by world class facilities and an exceptional workforce," said Barry in a statement.

The project is expected to produce more than 9 trillion cubic feet of gas over the estimated 30 years of operations.

Built in 2008, the Methane Spirit is 286 metres long, 43 metres wide and can carry approximately 163,000m³ of LNG.

Polye, where is the money?

Meanwhile, the government has been urged not to deal in secrecy

with the proceeds from the sale of the PNG LNG.

This is the call by Opposition Leader Don Polye, who wants the Government to come out clear and tell the whole nation including the disgruntled Hela landowners about the proceeds from the sale of the liquefied natural gas from the PNG LNG Project.

While Hela landowners from the ExxonMobil-led K43 billion gas project's up-stream site are demanding from government the release of their share of benefit from the sale of the gas, the National Government has kept the landowners and the rest of the country in suspense since the first shipment took place in May last year.

Now after almost the 100th export, Polye has urged the Government to not to deal in secrecy with the LNG revenue but disclose the exact amount of State's share of benefit and that of the landowners.

Government is still formulating the legislative framework that will enable the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), a highly significant future investment vehicle and savings fund that will

prudently manage the nation's wealth from the proceeds of resources projects including LNG.

"The country and its seven million plus population have the right to know how much the government has made since the first shipment of LNG."

"The government must disclose where the proceeds from the LNG is being kept, while awaiting the establishment of SWF," Polye said.

Finance Minister James Marape told the recently staged PNG Update seminar at University of PNG that the Government is moving forward to establish the SWF to properly manage the LNG revenue and revenue earned from the sale of other natural resources as well.

"As a government, we do not want to repeat past mistakes," Marape said.

Just recently National Petroleum Company PNG (NPCP), the third largest equity partner in the project, has declared a net profit of US\$167 million and managing director Wapu Sonk attributed the company's profit gains to the early LNG sales on top the Hides Gas to Electricity revenue it earns.

ExxonMobil said earlier the royalty benefits for the landowners are safely parked onshore in a trust account with the Bank of Papua New Guinea while waiting the finalising of the clan vetting process (CVP) which would identify only genuine landowners who would then be entitled to benefit from the sales proceeds.

Bank of PNG confirmed that royalty payments for landowners are parked in a trust account which it holds but it did not disclose the exact figure held in that trust account.

Sources at Department of Petroleum & Energy said the CVP is complete but some landowners, especially from Hides and Juha have disagreed with the result and have instituted court proceedings to nullify the outcome of the CVP.

A prominent landowner leader Simon Ekanda expressed a concern that if the CVP failed to properly identify the genuine landowners, then who were those purported landowners who signed the initial agreements (UBSA, LBBSA) prior to the execution of the project.

Your Thoughts...



Your thoughts after the 2015 Pacific games...



Name: Kelly Lipu
Age: 41
Home Province: Enga Province
Employment: Security
What are some of the positive things you saw during the Pacific Games?

One of the positive I saw about the Games is that it united all the provinces from the highlands who came here to participate in the Pacific Games, the coastal people who came here too and the other Pacific Island countries. But I think the government should come up with an event like this after every 2 or 3 years for the Papua New Guineans only from each province to compete against each other.

The Sports Minister, Justin Tkatchenko said that University of Papua New Guinea will not take care of the Games Village, what do you think about that?

I think they are human beings too so let the University use it too.

Name: Henrietta Yama
Age: 21
Home Province: Western Highlands Province
Employment: UPNG Journalism student – BSP Wantok Volunteer
What are some of the positive things you saw during the Pacific Games?

Some of the positive things I saw about the Games is that it united all the nations especially the Pacific Islands, and also it is good to keep the relationship in such activities.

The Sports Minister, Justin Tkatchenko said that University of Papua New Guinea will not take care of the Games Village, what do you think about that?

I agree with the Minister for Sports because the students have to change their mindset before accepting such world class facilities. I think they should keep it for their own use rather than giving it to the University.

Name: Joycelyn Joseph
Age: 25
Home Province: Enga
Employment: UPNG Journalism student
What are some of the positive things you saw during the Pacific Games?

Pacific Games was one of the most memorable and remarkable events which took place in Papua New Guinea. What inspired me most was the winning and the medal tally by PNG against 22

Pacific countries. Being the Game's host country PNG showed the real team spirit and that they have the courage to compete and move the country forward.

The Sports Minister, Justin Tkatchenko said that University of Papua New Guinea will not take care of the Games Village, what do you think about that?

I do not agree with the Sports Minister's statement because it has already been approved by the Prime Minister as a UPNG facility.

Name: Asa Willie
Age: 21
Home Province: Morobe Province
Employment: UPNG Journalism student – Games News Service
What are some of the positive things you saw during the Pacific Games?

As I was attached with the Games News Service, it helped me in my studies as a journalism student and I learned a lot from others as well.

The Sports Minister, Justin Tkatchenko said that University of Papua New Guinea will not take care of the Games Village, what do you think about that?

I do agree with him because students can't take care of facilities they are given already but then the University has over population and less dormitories so I think they should give it to the school.



Name: Waksan Tua
Age: 26
Home Province: Southern Highlands Province
Employment: Security
What are some of the positive things you saw during the Pacific Games?

Some of the positive things I saw in the city are the rubbish bins everywhere. Now when we walk around everywhere we have a bin to dump the rubbish which is a good initiative by Governor Powes Parkop.

The Sports Minister, Justin Tkatchenko said that University of Papua New Guinea will not take care of the Games Village, what do you think about that?

I agree with the Sports Minister because the students from UPNG are not infants, they are matured enough to take care of the facility but there are some students who take drugs and do not know how to look after things. I think by the time the University takes over the facility, there will be graffiti everywhere and the facility will be in ruins.

Education can change ones' life

By Esther Bralyn Wani

EDUCATION can be a very harsh and a long journey to take, but at the end of the day it is a rewarding experience and the ticket to everything.

However, it comes with a price when there is determination and hard work and a thirst for such.

This is a story of a young man who never gave up, regardless of the situation he was going through.

He saw education as the only way out of the life he was living. He never gave up his dream of getting an education until one day an angel, a loving and caring mother came to his rescue when all hope seem lost and rescued him from his reckless life.

Tapua Ekari is a successful Sales Executive with Word Publishing Company who shares his story with young people who are facing the similar situation. His dreams finally became a reality when he graduated with a Certificate in Sales at the International

Training Institute (ITI) in June 2005.

Tapua completed his Grade 10 in 2001 at Gordons Secondary School with grades to qualify him to continue his education. However, he couldn't go on because he lacked financial support. His parents couldn't afford anymore because they didn't have an income.

He still didn't want to go back to the village because the hunger to get an education was so intense.

He didn't have a place to stay so his best friend offered him a house and a family.

In the next five years he was living with them but he was not the same person anymore. His dreams and hopes were shattered as he was following the wrong crowd.

Until one day, his best friend's mum asked him if he wanted to go back and complete his studies.

He didn't eat or sleep well knowing that this was what he longed for. He went to ITI and he completed his studies as one of the top 5 students.

Tapua's first employment started with the Magazine on 2005. He



Tapua hard at work as a sales executive in Word Publishing Company. Producers of the weekly pidgin paper, Wantok Niuspepa and the monly liftout, the Wantok Today.

was one of the pioneers to start the Sunday Chronicles in 2006.

There was the 2008 Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) up for grabs and he applied. He studied Dual Award Course in In-

ternational Business and Marketing from 2009-2010.

He came back to PNG and worked with a series of different companies. However, at one point he left work and went back to Gulf to help his father in the village

when the LNG went through their village.

As long as he was educated, he would go miles and get employed anytime and finally his dream was fulfilled.

HIV/AIDS kills! Stick to one partner...

Overview of Athletics PNG

By Philemon Tame

ATHLETICS PNG won 22 of the 44 gold medals in the 2015 Pacific Games.

Eighteen members of the team went home with a gold medal.

They also won 19 silver and 16 bronze medals.

A big success was achieved because of the 10 years prior preparation by the athletes prior to the games.

Athletics PNG approached Fiji in 2005 with a request to join their very successful training program in Brisbane.

A group of athletes including Salome Dell, Mae Koime, Mowen Boino and Toea Wisil began training under coach Lloyd Way.

Fijian athletes to the Pacific Games' who under the same coach included Makelesi Bulikiobo, Isireli Naikelekelevsi and Niko Verakauta.

Athletics PNG performed well by winning eight gold medals in the 2007 Pacific Games hosted by Samoa. They won gold in the 4*100m relay. The gold medalists were Sapolai Yao, Boino, Sharon Kwarula and Wisil.

The training program continued with the addition of Nelson Stone and Wala Gime.

PNG enjoyed outstanding success at the 2010 Commonwealth Games with Wisil taking a fourth placing in the 100m race. National records were set by Stone, Dell and Wisil in the women's 4*400m relay.

A domestic scholarship program commenced in Goroka in 2003 and expanded after it was transferred to Lae in 2007.

Athletics PNG sponsored young female athletes to remain in the sport by providing accommodation and meals, and also funding their education.

The athletes trained as a group and overcame many difficulties. Results continued to improve and the gold medal tally hit 14 in Noumea in 2011.

Athletics PNG started serious preparations immediately after the successful Games in Noumea for the 2015 Pacific Games to be played on the home grounds in Port Moresby.

They continued to conduct national and regional championship competitions. The talented athletes identified were taken on into its development programs.

A follow up workshop was held in Kokopo with the PNG Olympic Committee in June 2014. They set to achieve 20 to 25 gold medals during the 2015 Pacific Games.

The "Go for Gold" funding enabled many members to spend extended periods of time overseas.

It also motivated Athletics PNG to commence training 16 middle and long distance runners at the National Sports Institute (NSI) in Goroka immediately after the 2014 PNG Games. This group achieved four gold, seven silver and six



Officials and Athletes for Team PNG celebrates after the games.

bronze medals.

In sprint hurdles and relays, the 2015 Pacific Games saw Athletics PNG won eleven gold, seven silver and five bronze medals.

Head coach, Sharon Hannan, is also Wisil's coach and ensured that Toea not only met the expectations of the people of PNG, but put on an awesome display of sprinting.

Hannan also tasked to coach three upcoming athletes including Wesley Logorava, Peniel Joshua and Charles Livuan.

Two athletes posted significant improvement in their performances with Logorava winning gold in the Men's 4*100m, and Joshua winning silver in 400m hurdles.

Team PNG prepared well and achieved a huge success in the just concluded 2015 Pacific Games.

The generous support of the government, the packed stadium and incredible support of the home crowd really lifted the spirit of the athletes, and made a lasting impression which motivated them to excel in the sport.

The support of the PNG Olympic Committee to Athletics over many years was also a huge contributing factor to the success.

The Oceania Athletic Association and overseas technical officials led by Barry Mullins provided an awesome inspiration with world-class venue and equipment which is the envy of every Pacific nation.

They worked extremely well with the local officials to provide the perfect setting for the athletes to perform.

Athletics PNG now have the potential to bid for the Commonwealth in 2018.

That is in partnership with both the PNG Olympic Committee and the Government through the PNG Sports Foundation.



The Pacific Sprint Queen, Toea Wisil, on the race to add Papua New Guinea's gold medal tally.

PNG drug penalties too lenient

CULTIVATION, trafficking and consumption of marijuana and other illicit drugs in PNG is illegal but penalties are not that harsh, says an official of National Narcotics Bureau of PNG.

Senior education and awareness officer Lawrence Tau said Papua New Guineans must learn lessons from Indonesia and start impose stringent penalties on offenders who are caught cultivating, processing, smuggling and consuming drugs in the country.

Tau said government must pass the bill to increase the term of sentence from a mere six (6) months to 50 years in prison for drug related crimes.

This bill was proposed when Sinasina-Yongomugl MP Kerenege Kua was the attorney general and justice minister.

"When you talk about rape, murder, petty theft, vandalism, graffiti, car theft, armed robbery, domestic violence, teenage pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, school cult groups and many other problems, abuse of marijuana and other drugs are one way or the other the cause of these problems," Tau said.

Tau urged the Attorney General Ano Pala and Prime Minister Peter

O'Neill to amend the existing drug laws as many of those laws are out-dated.

"I urge the Government look into this. The existing laws on drug offence cannot address the growing level of trend in drug related crimes in PNG today," Tau said.

He urged the government to also support the work of National Narcotics Bureau (NNB) in educating the people about the dangers of drug abuse and its effects on individual and society as a whole.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill in a recent statement warned Papua New Guineans not to risk their lives by smuggling drugs into Indonesia or other Southeast Asian countries, where penalties for such crime attract death sentence in most cases.

"Do not to take part in drug smuggling and trafficking into Indonesia or other Southeast Asian countries as the possibility of drug traffickers' ruining their lives is very high," O'Neill said.

PM O'Neill said individuals who might be tempted to be involved in drug crimes along the PNG-Indonesian border must think twice or ruin the rest of their lives as drug trafficking attracts death penalty in that Southeast Asian country.

File Illustration of Jada Wilson



PNG must reduce internet cost

PAPUA New Guinea has to reduce the cost of internet services to ensure more businesses, especially small to medium enterprises (SME) and rural populace to have access to cheap internet service to conduct business efficiently.

Deputy Secretary for Policy with the Department of Communication and Information, Koreken Levi said doing business in PNG using information and communication technology (ICT) is very expensive unlike other neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

This raises a concern for PNG to come up with laws to reduce the cost of ICT services in the country and ensure more people, especially rural Papua New Guineans are on par with other countries when it comes to ICT usage. "If it means to make and adapt to the fast technological innovations in the ICT sector, PNG has to come up with laws and regulations that deal directly with reducing the cost of internet access in the country," Levi said.

That means all relevant stakeholders like the National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA), internet service providers (ISPs) and others need to work together to come up with a policy that best suits PNG's development needs, Levi said. "Technological innovations in the ICT sector are fast changing the culture of doing business and are having a profound impact on how government policies are designed," Levi said.

Levi said recently this while returning from the 10th APEC



PNG need cheap internet service to conduct business efficiently.

Telecommunications and Information Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Levi said the APEC TEL Working Group wants to make sure all the people in the APEC region have affordable access to ICTs and the internet and the PNG must ensure that by 2020

at least internet access is available in rural areas.

A tour operator in Thailand who frequently visits PNG said the cost of internet service is very expensive in this country.

Ted Tim told *Wantok Today* that having a reliable and affordable in-

ternet services will transform the economy of PNG in many ways. "I've been in the tourism industry for many years.

I believe many tourists will like to visit PNG if the cost of internet is cheap and the service is much more reliable," Lim said. A foreign

diplomat also told this paper on the condition of anonymity that the cost of internet is 'very high' in PNG in comparison to other countries where he had served. "I have been posted to more than five (5) countries and I had extensively travelled the world.