



2015 working year dedicated with prayer



Group Photo of Lands Department Executive Management with Reverend Sir Samson Lowa at the Reverend Sione Kami Memorial Church.

We are in charge of our destiny and we have to make a commitment to God to take charge of our lives, in our duties within our divisions, sections etc.

This is the challenge issued to all staff of the Department of Lands and Physical Planning during a dedication prayer service early this year.

The main celebrant, former United Church Moderator, Reverend Sir Samson Lowa issued the challenge to all the staff and the executive management of the Department during the dedication ceremony held at the Reverend Sioni Kami Memorial Church.

Reverend Sir Lowa urged all staff to review their lives and make changes if they want to be the best in what they do instead of just being better. "We are to hold ladders for one another. Ladders are made for only one person to climb, so whatever position one of us is in, let's hold the ladder for each other and not to pull each other down."

The Reverend's four main message

to the Department were to:

1. Present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice. (If you have not done your best over the years, this was the time to dedicate our lives to God so we can prosper in everything we do.)

2. We need to separate ourselves (we are to avoid conformity/connections to the world's ways: if someone is tempting you to do bad things, cut the person out. eg: you know some families are stable at home but their spouses are playing around. Avoid advances that are going to ruin effectiveness/performance.)

3. We need to renew our minds (renew our thinking and eradicate thoughts of gossip, jealousy, power hungry, getting money from people etc.) There is a revolutionary way of thinking and that is to dedicate our thoughts and lives to God and he will lead you from one step to the next. Pride (self centeredness

must be crucified for oneself to offer their lives to be good servants.

4. Demonstration: we are to prove we belong to God by doing his good will.

It was a historic moment for the Department as this was the first time the Department had resolved to dedicate its working year through a dedication prayer.

Reverend Sir Lowa said the gathering for the dedication prayer was the answer to many prayers.

He added also that the dedication prayer of the year was the fruit of a meeting he had with the former Lands Secretary, the late Pepi Kimas 7 years ago. He said he had made a few minutes appointment with the late Kimas then, however; late Kimas offered him two hours of meeting instead.

INSIDE



*NCD Valuations
Rolls updated*

Page 3



*New Surveys Board
members*

Page 4



*Lae land issues
highlighted*

Page 8



*New vehicles for
Regional Offices*

Page 11

Message by the Secretary



Welcome to Land Tok Issue #1, 2015.

I would like to firstly take this opportunity to wish you all readers, our

stakeholders, fellow state agencies and Departments, the general public and of course our staff, a happy new year 2015.

The Government's focus for this year is that 2015 will be the defining year for Papua New Guinea.

Based on this, the Government will be taking a much deeper root on its core policies including better infrastructure and a stronger economy which land is an important part of.

As you may notice, there is massive roll out of infrastructure projects within our major towns and cities such as roads, over

head bridges, building constructions and impact projects in the rural areas such as jetties and airports.

All of this projects are subject to the business of making land available as well as making it accessible for development purposes.

The Department of Lands and Physical Planning will continue to support the Government's obligation whilst we maintain a professional approach in ensuring there is a transparent land management system.

The Lands Department will continue to carry out its priority areas of:

1. Land Access
2. Lagis Enhancement and Program
3. Legislative Reviews

Whilst we highlight the above three areas as priority, we will also continue

-our land rental collection exercise which continues this year for NCD and later to other urban centers.

In conclusion, I would like to inform our readers that this year Land Tok Newsletter will randomly feature various land processes. The first process we will feature in this first issue is 'State Lease preparation'.

With this, I wish you all the best in your plans for this year 2015 and I hope you enjoy and be part of our Land Tok News letter throughout 2015.

Happy Reading and God Bless!

ROMILLY KILA PAT

The Land Tok Newsletter is a quarterly publication of current events, programs and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

Executive Editor: *Secretary*

Editor: *Dep. Sec.-Corp Affairs*

Reports & Designing : *Clara Sam*

Printing: *Government Printer*

We welcome any positive stories you may have on Land and invite you to be a part of this Newsletter.

For editorial comments or contributions, please write to:

The Editor

Land Tok Newsletter

Department of Lands and Physical Planning

PO BOX 5665

BOROKO, NCD

Ph: 301 3228

Fax: 301 3299

Email: samc@lands.gov.pg

Website: www.lands.gov.pg

Processes and Procedures: State Lease preparation Process:

Gazettal of successful applicants by the Land Board Secretariat and Land Administration files containing gazettal copies and recommendation are forwarded to Manager Leases.

- 1) Manager Leases examines all files and distributes to respective Leases officers in the Region.
- 2) Leases officers produce (LGs) and (LAFs) pursuant to Sec 75 & Sec 76 of Land Act 1996 and served on successful applicants
- 3) The LGs and LAFs are served and monitored within a 28 days grace period with LGs containing Statutory fees such as part rentals, survey fees, lease preparation fees and premiums if recommended payable by the successful applicants. LAF is executed by the applicant and returned to the Leases Unit/section.
- 4) Lease is documented on a prescribed silky hard paper with insertion of Land Board recommended Lease conditions.
- 5) A checklist is produced by the Leases officers and forwarded to the Manager Leases for check and clearance.
- 6) Director State Lands Division endorses the checklist and files forwarded **to the Secretary's office for Delegate of the Minister's approval**
- 7) Upon approval by the Delegate of the Minister, files are returned to Leases section to produce copies for Land Board Recommendation, applications, gazettes, LGs and LAFs for creation of Registrar of Titles files
- 8) Registrar of Titles files are forwarded to Titles Division for leases registration and title issuance

LG: *Lease Grant* LAF: *Lease Application Forms*

Updated NCD Valuation Rolls finally presented

An updated 2014 NCD Valuation Roll has finally been presented to the National Capital District Commission.

The NCD Valuation Rolls remained unchanged in the past 20 years due to funding constraints which had deterred Valuers from carrying out their required 5 year rolls update exercise.

Valuer General, Michael Gabriel on the occasion of presenting the updated 2014 NCD Valuation Rolls in Port Moresby recently said the valuation rolls update exercise is done for local authorities to collect tax and rates and land rentals from lease holders.

“We are obliged to do this and I’m happy that the updating of NCD rolls have finally been completed. After we have now updated, there will be definitely an increase in land rates and tax. These will be reflected in the reports we have produced.”

The 2014 Valuation Rolls update exercise began in September 2014 with NCD and will move on to other towns and cities. The exercise had costed a total of K800,000 to fully complete the updated rolls for NCD.

Senior Valuer, Elizabeth Yenpiti said a total of 3 teams were engaged in NCD to cover the areas of Granville, Matirogo, Boroko, Bomana and Hohola.

“We had to walk property by property and get every detail of the property and we did both land use survey and rolls update.”

NCD Governor, Powes Parkop upon receiving the updated valuation roll reports, expressed gratitude to the Valuers saying the NCDC is challenged to provide a lot of services to the city residents and running the city was not an easy task.



Officers from the Valuation Division proudly displaying the updated rolls before presenting to the NCD Governor, Powes Parkop.

“We are equally challenged to finding the revenue to provide the services and solve every problem in the city and it is not easy when every problem in the city is solved by the City Hall or the Governor. We cannot provide the quality of service if we do not get the revenue required”

Governor Parkop expressed his sincere gratitude to the Valuers to have finally come out with an updated valuation roll which will be used by the city authority to collect appropriate rates from lease holders and property owners within the city.

“These are the challenge that we face and I am hopeful that the report now will give us a very objective assessment of the real values of the properties in the city so we can charge the appropriate

Rates.

Meanwhile, Lands Secretary Romilly Kila Pat congratulated the Valuers saying the Office of the Valuer General plays a vital role in terms of assessing or carrying out appraisals on land so that authorities such as NCDC can use the valuation rolls to provide important services.

“Department of Lands and Physical Planning is quite a big department as we play an important role in as far as development is concerned however, we can only provide what is being provided to us.”

The valuation rolls update exercise for Lae City was expected to kick start on the 21st of April 2015.

According to the Momase Regional Valuers, the valuation rolls update exercise in Lae will also include a land use survey and status update for all properties.



Revenue taskforce team maintains momentum in 2015 operation

The Land Rental Collection Exercise has resumed on a high note this year 2015 after a successful operation last year 2014.

The Task Force Team consisting of officers from the Lands Department, Finance and Police Personnel have joined forces again this year officially resuming operations on the 19th January 2015.

Acting Project Manager, Betrand Kaoho has commended all the members of the Revenue Collection Taskforce for their efforts in recovering outstanding land rentals from the major locations within the National Capital District.



Mr. Kaoho encouraged all officers involved to work extra hard and keep the momentum going as they still had 21 other provinces to cover this year 2015 and beyond.

“I would like to see that the remaining suburbs of Hohola, Matirogo and Bomanabe completed by the end of April 2015 so that we can look at extending the operations on to other provinces nationwide.”

He says there are currently an adequate number of officers participating in the program therefore it is likely that number of officers participating will be reduced based on commitment towards the exercise as well as upon requests from their respective Directors and managers within their Divisions to attend to urgent matters relating to their substantive posi-

He says the Land Rental Collection exercise is part of a number of key programs that the department is committed to therefore as project coordinators, they have also considered the importance of awareness in ensuring the notice of reminder to all defaulters to come forward and pay up their dues is effective.

“We will be using the mass media both print and electronic media in disseminating our notices. We will utilize Radio and Television advertisement and furthermore, we hope to use the SMS advertising as most of our clients are mobile phone users.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Kaoho called on all team leaders to be prompt in submitting their weekly reports whilst emphasizing on the strict monitoring of officers’ allowances claim especially on their timing or hours clocked.

New PNG Surveyors Board Members sworn in for 2015 to 2016



The PNG Surveyors Board has sworn in new members for another two year term. The board members (above) are: L-R– Jack Bakus, Simon Yambaki, Gairo Nipulu Waigeno, Chris Manda (Chairman), Secretary-Romilly Kilapat, William Bill McKibben, Wari Bokuik and Luther Sipison.

Land Rental collection exercise underway in NCD



Government serious in building homes for people: Minister Allen

Providing affordable housing is not a “gimmick to appease our low income earners” says Lands and Physical Planning Minister, Benny Allan.

He was responding to recent comments by the deputy opposition leader, Sam Basil regarding the government’s bold move to provide affordable housing and accommodation for the people in the country.

Mr. Basil who called on State agencies such as Lands and Housing & Urbanisation to work together to develop proper planned residential areas and not continue to develop settlements has been described as ill-conceived statement.

“It’s not a ‘gimmick to appease low income earners’. We are trying to make people get away from settlements, give them proper titles so it becomes their security especially when they want to get a loan from commercial banks to build proper and decent houses for their families. “This government is serious in building houses for its citizens and we have made two portions available in NCD, the Gerehu 3B and the Duran Farm at eight-mile. Apart from that we have made land available for the private sector and appreciate what POSF and Nasfund are doing under their housing scheme.

“Also this government is now embarking on reactivating the settlement program in urban areas of the country. We are working with NHC to prepare titles for block holders. This program has started in NCD as a pilot project at eight-mile to convert the land into a small suburb with public amenities. The duplicate of this program will apply to other centers such as Lae, Hagen, Kokopo and other small towns. These are all government’s effort towards getting land available for our people.

“The settlement problem has never been addressed since independence and this government under the leadership of the O’Neill-Dion government is trying to settle this chronic problem. Tell us which government in the past has thought of this. We should give credit where it is due instead of politicking.

Minister Allan also said the notion that there is no close working consultation with other state agencies is wrong.

“We have a Land and Housing committee in place. The composition is made up of



Surveyors at the Land and Housing project site outside Gerehu-NCD



Top and Below: Land and Housing project site at Gerehu 3B-NCD



several ministers including Attorney General, Public Service, Lands, and National Planning Minister as the chairman. Lands ministry is always working closely with the chairman,” he explained.

Minister urges Governors to develop master plan

The development of a master plan to address increasing urban issues in regard to land in our towns and cities is vital says Lands Minister, Benny Allan.

In a letter to certain provincial governors, he advised that rapid increase in rural-urban migration is putting the country's towns and cities under immense development pressure.

He said the need to address this problem is to initiate a master plan for the future through the establishment of the provincial Lands and physical planning boards. .

"I have seen the need to advise the governors of the provinces where our major cities are located to prepare a master plan of the various cities. Those top of the list are Port Moresby, Lae, Mt Hagen, Kokopo, Madang, Goroka, Alotau and Wewak.

"The current challenges facing our cities require special attention and careful planning to absorb the ever increasing urban issues.

"The influx migration in search of quality livelihood opportunities by our people has put a strain to the supply of infrastructures and urban services, thus resorting to illegal and improper means to secure land for de-



Minister for Lands and Physical Planning, Benny Allen.

velopment purposes," Mr. Allan said. He said this practice must be stopped and managed properly through the development of a Master Plan for each city.

"I'm therefore appealing to the honorable governors from the respective provinces

where our major cities are located to seriously take ownership of the development issues and work with me to address the pressing matters as a result of urbanization.

"In Port Moresby as you are aware similar problem exists compounded by the rapid growth and city development which prompted me to request for the preparation of Fifty-Year (50) Urban Development Plan for Port Moresby city. I would also like to see other cities in PNG follow the same course," he said.

The minister urged provincial governments concerned to allocate funding of K1m in order for the Lands Department through the Office of the Chief Physical Planner to prepare the master plan for the selected towns and cities.

He said for those provinces that have yet to establish a Provincial Lands & Physical Planning Board to do so.

"It is imperative that they establish their own Boards to enable the provinces to consider decisions of land and physical planning matters in their respective provinces."

NCD Land Tax tariffs to be reviewed

The current NCD land tax tariffs are expected to be reviewed against the latest updated valuation rolls.

NCD Governor Powes Parkop made the undertaking when receiving the 2014 updated Valuation Rolls on the 4th of March 2015 in Port Moresby.

The National Capital District Commission has been using Valuation Rolls dating back to 1992 for land rate purposes thus losing significant revenue despite the Valuer General's attempt to update the roll in the past due to capacity issues.

According to the NCDC database, NCD has a total of 25, 000 registered land parcels of which 19, 000 are active however; their next step was to synchronize the records held at the Department of Lands with those at NCDC.

Governor Parkop said the current NCDC rating is based on the out-dated valuation roll

which has accounted a total unimproved capital value of K681 million adding that this equates to the average unimproved value of each property in NCD at K37, 865.

"The current land tax tariffs are 3.5% and 2.3% of the improved capital value for Commercial and Residential properties respectively. We are yet to see the current value but with the current market value of NCD properties, the increase is estimated to be significant."

However, the Governor assured property owners in NCD not to panic as NCDC will be reviewing its current tax tariffs against the new valuation roll to ensure that the land tax is affordable for everyone and that the review will be captured in the 2015 amendments which will come into effect in 2016.

"NCDC in the past offsets the loss of low values with higher tariff. We have also received a lot of objections from the land owners of using higher tariff inconsistent with trade-practices in the rest of the world," the Governor said.

Governor Parkop said NCDC later decided to strengthen the Valuer General through the support of K500,000 to enable the Valuer General's office to complete the NCD Valuation rolls update.

The Governor also commended the coordinated approach by National Capital District Commission and the Valuer General's office to finally complete the valuation rolls saying it was timely and complements the current developments in the city.

Lands officers meet with stakeholders to clear air on controversial land issues in Lae

Lae city known as the Garden City of Papua New Guinea is one of the fastest growing urban centers of Papua New Guinea with a population of almost 80,000 people.

Known as the largest cargo port, trade and manufacturing epicenter, Lae city is the hub of business and economic activities qualifying it to be the 2nd largest city of the country.

With all the ongoing developments and activities, comes its own social, economic and administrative issues and land is no exception particularly with expansion of industrial activities, social issues and of course population boom.

Land in Lae city like any other urban center in PNG is scarce and the only option apart from tapping into accessing traditional land is to carefully manage the existing available alienated land within the city boundaries.

Lae city has recently been the media focus of land issues within and around the boundaries of the city. And no doubt, this has caused a lot of strain on the part of land administrators within the province in terms of processes and procedures involved in the issuing of land titles as well as lands officers in the Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

On the 31st of March 2015, an Executive Team from the Department of Lands and Physical Planning visited Lae to hold a meeting between all interested stakeholders and Lands Officers both from the Provincial Lands Division and the Lands Department.

The meeting, first of its kind to be held between lands officers and stakeholders was aimed at ironing out the controversial land issues and to put to rest confusions involved in issuing state leases to the major controversial land portions at the Papuan Compound Field, the SP Beach and all the undeveloped Leases held by defunct companies.

The Department of Lands entourage headed by the Deputy Secretary for Land Services, Luther Sipison included the Chief Physical Planner, the Valuer General, Surveyor General, Director of Land Services and the Registrar of Title.



Top: The DLPP Land Services Executive team. Above Left: Angau CEO-Jim Abraham making a verbal presentation on the proposed new regional cancer unit. Below Right: participants at the Lae meeting at Phils Motel.

Agendas of the meeting include: The Papuan Compound field, SP Beach, Old Lae Airport, Urban Development Leases held by defunct companies and the Lae City Valuation Rolls.

On the first agenda of Papuan Compound field, Deputy Secretary Sipison gave a status brief that the lease issued over the land was based on a survey plan that was currently non-existent therefore the lease was legally superseded. It was resolved during the meeting between the lands officers that the Provincial Lands authorities would present a report over the land based on their findings.

On the agenda of the SP Beach, the Provincial Lands Officers were urged to vet the procedures and processes involved in the applications that go through the Provincial Physical and Land Boards before

a state lease can be issued. Mr. Sipison stressed to that the misunderstandings and the loopholes must be corrected and properly vetted before considerations to avoid controversies.

Sipison told the lands officers that powers and functions have been devolved to the Morobe Provincial Administration therefore Lands and Physical Planning Department was only a Regulator and that ground work of ensuring all processes and processes are complied with must be done by the provincial lands officers.

The one day meeting was attended by representatives from the Morobe provincial administration, the Deputy Governor, representatives from the Police, Justice and Health Department, Ausaid and the Media. The other agendas were the old Lae Airport and the Valuation Rolls update for Lae city.

Vacant state land on old airport yet to be awarded

The Government entities that have expressed their interest to obtain parcels of vacant state land at the old Lae Airport are waiting anxiously for outcome of decisions over the piece of land.

They are the Department of Justice, Police and the Health Department. This was revealed in a key stakeholders meeting co-ordinated by lands officers from Morobe Provincial Lands Division and the Department of Lands and Physical Planning.

The Lands Department Executive team headed by the Deputy Secretary Land Services, Luther Sipison together with his Directors gave a status brief of the old Lae airport highlighting the controversial land allotments.

“The airport land was advertised some years back as Urban Development Leases and certain people applied and got sections of the airport except section 375 that lies opposite Angau General Hospital and starts from the old cemetery stretching down to the roundabout. That one was never advertised under the UDL, and has always remained a vacant Government land,” Sipison revealed.

He said certain blocks were proposed to be given out to state institutions once proper allotments were established.

He said allotment 6 was now before the court following a compulsory state acquisition. Allotments 7 & 8 went to the Land Board process and is now under an appeals tribunal for final deliberations.

“What we have left are allotments 2, 3 & 4. These are vacant Government Land. Government land is scares in the city. We have the Hospital, Justice Department and Police vying for this land, and one of the reason why we are here is to talk about how best we are going to award these vacant allotments,” Mr. Sipison stressed.

He added that a 5 meter strip of land down the airport will be consolidated and re-designed into two blocks whilst closing the pathway that has never been utilized.

Meanwhile, Justice Don Sawong gave a brief on the plans in place for the Justice Department to utilize the undeveloped land for a new court house whilst Angau CEO, Jim Andrews also made a presentation of a new cancer unit for cancer treatment across the region.



Top: Vacant land at the Old Lae Airport opposite Angau Memorial Hospital. **Center:** vacant land at the Former SP Beach. **Above:** the Papuan Compound field.

Staff urged to work together as a team

Staff at the Regional offices must maintain regular communication with those at the Head-quarter in order to avoid the current misunderstandings pertaining to land application processes.

This was the call from Deputy Secretary, Land Services-Luther Sipison during a courtesy visit by the executive management team of the Land Services Division to the Momase Lands Regional Office recently.

“I urge you to do your duties transparently and perform to the best of your abilities. Most of us are University graduates and let’s put the public perception of being corrupt aside and prove ourselves whilst giving confidence to the general public that we also have a service to provide for the people,” He said the procedures involved in issuing titles must be accurate urging the staff to perform to the best of their ability based on their qualifications.

“Let’s support each other both at the regional and head office to provide our core business of issuing a state lease in the most appropriate and transparent manner.”



Land Services Executive team pose for a group photo with the Momase Regional staff based at the Lae Department of Lands and Physical Planning Regional Office.

The Deputy Secretary was accompanied by his Divisional Heads: A/Director State Land Services, Simon Bendo, Surveyor General Chris Manda and Registrar of Titles Benjamin Samson. Mr. Sipison told over 20 officers that they were the eyes and ears of the Department of Lands and Physical Planning at the Regional level and they were expected to carry out their duties in consultation with their colleagues in Surveys, Valuation, or Customary Land in the head office to highlight issues that needed to be addressed.”

“You got communicate with your colleagues either in Physical Planning or other divisions in the Land Services, Corporate or Customary land Divisions.

He said this was the first time a management team from a particular Service Division had visited a Regional Office and met them in person. Whilst acknowledging the visit by the Land Services management Team, the staff also raised concerns over Managerial representation and training needs at the Regional Level. The staff were told that their concerns would be raised at the next Management Meeting.

No Provincial Land Board matters to be entertained at the National Land Board

No applications from the provinces with respective Provincial Land Boards will be entertained at the PNG Land Board.

This was the direction from the Deputy Secretary Land Services during a recent stakeholders meeting between Lands Officers and their various stakeholders within Lae City.

Deputy Secretary, Luther Sipison made the warning in light of the recent media reports on controversial land issues and dealings within Lae City.

“Powers and functions have already been devolved to the provincial level and therefore it is only appropriate that the various

Provinces including Morobe Provinces which have their own provincial land board must deal with all the applications from within the province itself.”

Mr. Sipison explained that the Morobe Provincial Land Board was suspended in 2013 due to administrative issues however, the board is now re-established and therefore all land applications for Morobe or Lae city must be dealt with by the Morobe Provincial Land Board and not be referred to the PNG Land Board.

“Since I took office as the Deputy Secretary, Land Service which the

Land Board administration comes under, I have ensured that all applications or matters pertaining to provinces with their own physical planning and land boards must be dealt with by the provincial boards and not in Port Moresby.”

Apart from the Highlands Region, which does not have a provincial land board, Momase region has Sandaun, Morobe and Madang Provincial Land Boards, Islands Region has East and West New Britain and New Ireland Provincial Land Boards whilst Southern Region has only Milne Bay Provincial Land Board.

New vehicles for Regional offices



Left: Deputy Secretary Land Services– Luther Sipison handing over the keys to Senior Compliance officer- Seni Kai, during a Media Briefing outside the Lae International Hotel.

Below: Deputy Secretary , Corporate Affairs– Oswald Tolopa flanked by officers from the Highlands Regional Officers in Goroka posing in front of their new Land cruiser 10 Seater Vehicle.



The three (3) Department of lands and Physical Planning Regional offices throughout the nations now have 3 brand new 10 seater land cruiser vehicles. The 3 vehicles were delivered to the regional offices in March for Kokopo, Lae and Goroka regional offices. The new vehicles will assist the regional officers to carry out their duties effectively and also to serve the other provinces within the respective region that are connected by road. Secretary Romilly Kila Pat delivered the vehicle for the Islands Regional Office in Kokopo, Deputy Secretary-Land Services, Luther Sipison delivered the vehicle for Momase Regional Office and Deputy Secretary-Corporate Affairs, Oswald Tolopa delivered the vehicle for the Highlands Regional Office in Goroka.

New survey board to ensure improvement of cadetship program

The new PNG Surveys board will be looking at improving the surveyors' cadetship program as one of its main priorities.

Acting Surveyor General, Chris Manda revealed this upon his swearing in as the new Chairman of the PNG Surveys board in Port Moresby last Friday 01st May 2015.

The Surveyors Board was inaugurated in 2012 after being dormant for over a decade and since then had only registered a total of 4 surveyors.

"The Survey board will be seriously looking at ensuring that the cadet training program is in order. Due to lack of participation from outside, we will be looking at recruiting our own surveyors within the Lands Department for the cadetship training," Manda said.



Acting Surveyor General and Chairman of PNG Surveys Board– Chris Manda.

He said the whilst the Board regulates survey practices in the country, it is also aware that whatever role the board plays, it must also reflect land reforms

introduced by the National Government.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary, Land Services and Surveys Board Member, Luther Sipison called on the newly recruited young surveyors to register themselves.

The new survey board members include: Chairman Chris Manda, Members: Luther Sipison (Deputy Secretary Land Services-Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Jack Bakus- Regional Surveyor, Lands Department, Damake Murio-Regional Surveyor, Lands Department, Simon Yambaki-Director Yambaki Surveyors Limited, Gairo Nipulu Waigeno- Director, Arman Larmer Surveyors Ltd and William Bill Mckibben- Manger Lands, Hargy Oil Palm and Registrar-Wari Bokuik, Lands Department.

Staff register under the new NID program

The National Government in 2013 endorsed the PNG National Identity project that will eventually establish a national population information database.

The National Planning and Monitoring office, National Statistics Office and the Civil Registry office have been tasked to coordinate the NID Project. The project has 3 major phases:

1. 2013- Nationwide Tour where people were educated at the Provincial and District levels.

2. 2015- involves data collection and registration of all PNG Citizens. The registration is twofold.

1-people can walk in to the fixed data collection office (urban)

2-target all communities in rural areas: a total of 177 teams equipped with mobile kit (laptop, scanners etc) to collect data in

rural areas. Name, Date of Birth, Address, occupation, Gender etc will be collected.

3. The third phase is the ongoing update of data base instead of waiting for the 10 year cycle of a national census to update data.

To avoid duplication and save cost, the unified database will be made available to other key user agencies for their planning and reporting purposes.

All information will be strictly kept confidential.

Civil servants at the provincial and district level are also urged to corporate and assist the NID program in its effort to inform and educate as well as encourage other Papua New Guineans to be identified and get registered from February to December 2015.



Revenue Officer-Rau Leta (R) getting herself registered under the NID program; assisted by an NID project volunteer at the Lands Dept. office.

NID Benefits

Voting	Banking	Passport	Health Care	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent double voting Accurate & reliable electoral roll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on the spot ID for new account More secure & safe banking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID for domestic travel ID for Visa & passport for overseas travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better access to health care & medicine Access to subsidized health fees/services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier school enrolment Better access to subsidized school fees

Stakeholder Survey Report finally presented

The final report of a stakeholder survey has now been officially presented.

The 'Stakeholder Survey Report 2012' was presented to the Secretary, Romilly Kila Pat and witnessed by members of the executive management in December 2014. The survey was conducted by the Policy Analysis Unit beginning in 2011. The 45 paged survey report captures the views of the different stakeholders of the Lands Department. The survey began with the department staff and then to other stakeholders of the department such as the DLPP clients or customers, suppliers (government and non-government) and Political and Corporate Stewards.

The stakeholder survey was aimed at obtain the views of the different stakeholders based on the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis for the department.

The Stakeholder survey was commissioned in 2006 with the anticipation of the following outcomes:

- To understand more about stakeholders experiences and relationships with DLPP
- To measure DLPP performance in me



Top L: Secretary Kila Pat signing off on the Stakeholder Report



Top R: Policy Officer Rex Ropie making a power point presenting of the report whilst Manager Policy, Patrick Minato looks on.

-eting stakeholder needs and expectations

- To provide indications of how DLPP can better meet the needs and expectations of its stakeholders; and
- To ascertain stakeholders aspirations for the future of DLPP

The questions were grouped in an attempt to address areas related to Leadership, Communication, Service Delivery, Quality of relationship and the overall

Performance.

Amongst a number of recommendations, was the need for more DLPP officers participation as well as to conduct the survey bi-annually.

The survey was the first of its kind for the department and was hailed a success despite the inability to survey two groups of stakeholders (Political and Corporate stewards) due to funding constraints.

Leap Project rolls out read only-access for all key users



Members of the Lagis Enhancement and Program including the Property and Rating and ECM team pose for a group photograph during the launch of the read only access roll out in November 2014.

LEaP is a government program aimed at automating all land transactions from application of a lease to the issuance of title. The program is awaiting contract payment approval from the CSTB to project developer Technology One of Australia before it proceeds onto final stages of completion.

Four graduate with flying colors



'It is impossible to withhold education from the receptive mind as it is impossible to force it upon the unreasoning.' ~ Agnes Repplier

Four officers from the Lands Department have graduated this year 2015 after undergoing further training to enhance their skills and knowledge as part of their career path.

Of the four (1 male and 3 females), the three females were self sponsored all in the field of management.

The four (3 Managers and 1 Officer) having graduated from two main Universities in the country can now look forward to the challenges relating to their tasks and activities as public servants whilst looking forward to utilize the skills and knowledge gained from the two years of studying.

"I am glad to have successfully completed the two year management course and I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that may arise especially in the area of management and leadership. I have self-sponsored myself and I believe the knowledge and skills I have acquired, will greatly assist and enhance my performance," said one of the recently graduated female officer and Manager.

She added that the trend in training and education nowadays has changed adding that most employees or those in the workforce in both private and public organizations are now training

and educating themselves because they want to compete with the global trend of knowledge and skills instead of waiting for their employers or the government to train them.

In her words of encouragement to other colleagues; she said: "As an elite citizen of the country, each and every one of us must have a dream and career path and not wait for training opportunities; instead we must take ownership of ourselves as an individual because we are an asset ourselves."

She urged those who miss out on government sponsorship to plan their own training and most importantly ensure their superiors consent to their study schedules in order to make their goals and dreams a reality.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary Land Services in his recent meeting with staff at the Momase Regional Office in Lae who raised concerns about the Department's training programs and opportunities; encouraged the staff not to rely on the government's training programs but train themselves for their own future benefit.

"You don't just sit around here and expect the government to train you but you train yourself because you are a Human Resource. You put a price tag on yourself and add value to yourself."

PNG Valuation Registration Board toughens its stance on all Valuers



L: PNG Valuers Registration Board member, Thomas Bullen and Board Chairman– Gabriel Michael

The PNG Valuation Registration Board has announced it will be tough on all practicing Valuers throughout the country.

Valuer General and Chairman of the PNG Valuation Registration Board, Gabriel Michael said for too long, the Board has not been sitting to consider the various criteria that valuers should be abiding by including the screening of certificates issued for valuation projects.

He says there are two valuation licenses for Urban and Rural valuation and valuers must provide reports and specifics based on the criteria set by the Valuation Board in order to be issued a license over a valuation project.

He says the other thing the board will be monitoring now is the members' registration.

Mr. Michael says some of the valuers are practicing without registration and this must stop because it is illegal. He called on valuers who were practicing without

being registered to stop signing on valuation certificates for the projects instead get themselves registered before involving in any valuation project.

He added that the Board had not been sitting for some time and these were some of the important things that have not been strictly monitored.

The other areas that the board will now be closely monitoring include: annual registration of members. Mr. Michael says any valuer who fails to pay up his or her annual registration fee of K200 will have their licenses revoked.

Board Member, Thomas Bullen in sharing similar sentiments highlighted the engagement of overseas valuers saying it would be proper if they also liaise with the Valuation Registration Board's criteria's adding that these would also give an opportunity for them to share experiences or other expertise with our local valuers.

The PNG Valuers' Registration Board currently has a total of 48 members however, they have not been holding regular meetings over the recent years and this year 2014 will see the board more active under the leadership of Mr. Michael.

The board is now calling on all graduate valuers to come forward and get registered as part of the requirements of obtaining a valuation license. Board members include Chairman Gabriel Michael, members: Thomas Bullen, Paul Ikupu, Saleng Hosa, Moses Kila and Margret Boga (Acting Registrar).



Business Improvement Unit kicks of 2015 on high note

The Business Improvement Unit under the Land Information Services Division has kick started the new year 2015 on a high note and is on par with its scheduled plans.

The Unit was tasked to complete a set of very fundamental documents for the Department this year 2015 and so far, the team has set its foundation for targets to be achieved once all the documents are printed before the first quarter ends.

The documents include the 2014 – 2015 Annual Work Plan book, the 2015 Annual Planner calendar and the Divisional Information Brochures.

A special Executive Management Committee (EMC) Meeting was conducted on the 21st January 2015 for the management to verify and approve the content of the documents before they were published.

During the special EMC meeting Secretary, Romilly Kila Pat commended the tireless efforts by the Unit particularly on the work plan as it was vital for the Department to spell out its activities accordingly in line with the budget allocated for each activity.

“The Annual Planner and DLPP Information Brochures are some of the very important publications that the Department has never had for a very long time and it is exciting to have them finally out for the general public and particularly for our clients and stakeholders,” Kilapat said.

The Annual Planner was a newly introduced initiative aimed at capturing all the major events or activities for each division or sections which was of shared benefit or public importance both within the Department and outside.

The full gloss color 2 panel information brochures will highlight the major roles and functions for all the 13 Divisions within the Department. It also highlights main processes, scheduled fees and contact details for customer advantage. All brochures will be placed at the main reception area.



*BIU officers **L:** Dickson Tigalia-Assst Marketing and Research Officer and **R:** Jerome Dupaku– Marketing and Research Officer*



***L-R:**Dep. Secretary, Corporate Affairs-Oswald Tolopa officially presenting the 2015 DLPP publications to Secretary Kilapat*

The annual planner will be printed on A2 glossy paper and will be issued to all members of the EMC, Managers, Personnel Assistants and certain staff based on their relevance of duties.

Manager Business Improvement Unit, Danagi Geita whilst commending her team also called on all staff to work in conjunction with the BIU particularly the Directors to take ownership in the responsibility of submitting vital information needed for the Department’s Reporting, Performance Assessment, Media and publicity requirements.

“Our job is to compile information

required for the benefit and good of the department so let us all work together as a team and get these documents published on time” Ms. Geita said.

According to the Manger, this year 2015 would be an exciting year for the Business Improvement Unit as they had planned for many exciting programs as far as promoting the products and business of Land is concerned.

“Although we are a very small unit with only 4 members, I believe with the experience and a well qualified team, we can achieve our targets and plans for this year 2015 and beyond.”