



Edition 4: 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference



# From the **President**

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the fourth edition of Indastri Nius Kona (INK).

We have just concluded the 2023 Papua New Guinea Resources and Energy Investment Conference in Sydney, Australia, hosted by PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNGCORE), the industry body representing the Mineral Resources and Energy Industries in PNG.

The industry is more than the companies that are the members of the chamber. It is the Papua New Guineans that work for these companies and their contractors. It is the PNG businesses that provides goods and services to the project. It is the landowners and the community stakeholders. It is also the alluvial miners and ecosystem participants that support them.

The resources and energy sector is also a long-term development partner for PNG. We are proud of what we have helped to achieve so far for a stronger PNG, and we are looking forward to growing our presence in the country over many years to come. Our focus remains strong on creating a brighter future for everyone – local, provincial and PNG, our shareholders, and employees –through safe and responsible development of PNG's mineral resources and energy potential.

I acknowledge the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable James Marape for accepting our invitation to attend and deliver the keynote address of this Conference, where the PNG Government and the PNG private sector work together to promote international investment into PNG.

I also acknowledge the presence of other representatives of the PNG Government – Treasurer Ian Ling Stuckey, Petroleum & Energy Minister Kerenga Kua, Mining Minister Sir Ano Pala, State Enterprises Minister William Duma, and all the other ministers, vice ministers, governments and MPs of the PNG Government who were present as part of a united front to promote investment in PNG.



I extend this acknowledgement to the many senior representatives from PNG government agencies, from PNG and international companies that invest and operate in PNG, and from international institutions that finance, support, or work in PNG. Thankyou for the important work that you do in PNG, building the economy, providing jobs, providing training, and contributing to the development of communities in PNG.

We appreciate your attendance at this conference to help promote investment in PNG and to discuss and share opportunities to collaborate to advance our mutual interests, with the ultimate aim of moving PNG forward, economically and socially.

The Sydney Conference is PNG's major investment conference. Its purpose is to promote PNG as an investment destination, particularly in the resources and energy sector, which accounts for around 90% of the country's exports. Working closely with the National Government, PNGCORE uses the Conference and exhibition to promote the government agenda and government policies, the investment opportunities, and opportunities for trade in PNG with PNG companies and PNG projects, and generally PNG's attractiveness as an investment destination.

The Conference is traditionally held in Sydney, due to ease of access of international attendees to travel to Sydney compared to holding this conference in PNG or other locations, and due to Australia traditionally being an important source of investment into PNG.

Over the years, this conference has been very successful in attracting and promoting investment, with significant amount of business done on the margins of the conference between project promoters and investors, and PNG projects and potential suppliers, customers and partners.

This year the Conference was bigger and better. We had a new venue - the Sydney International Convention Center, with sufficient capacity to cater for the 1500 attendees, and the more than 90 exhibition booths on Level 2. We also had a dynamic programme featuring 102 speakers over 3 and half days.

Monday's formal plenary began with a keynote address by the Prime Minister on his outlook for PNG for the next 12 – 24 months, his Government's agenda and particularly his view of the next wave of projects in terms of timing and impact. Prime Minister Marape's government is now at a unique juncture in our nation's history. It is the first time that our country is on the cusp of delivering not one, but four major resource projects of over \$30 billion.

Papua LNG with its \$12 billion capital cost, P'nyang at \$10 billion, the reopening of Porgera, and Wafi-Golpu Copper-Gold project at \$6 billion or potentially higher.

Looking at the experience of the economic transformation that occurred as a result of the massive capital investment in the PNG LNG project, its almost certain in my view that within 8 years, the GDP of PNG will double from its present levels

# NDASTRI NIUS KONA

just from the completion and production of the projects that I have mentioned and the consequential impetus it will provide to the economy.

Monday also featured addresses and panel discussions by senior leaders and experts of the major investors in PNG's resources and energy sector regarding international investment trends and their impact on PNG projects, PNG's investability generally, and their outlook on their investments in PNG.

This included a number of new faces that I think is important that I acknowledge personally, as the companies they lead will play an outsized role in contributing to our economy and investing in PNG, both now and into the future.

Tom Palmer, the President and CEO of the world's largest gold company, Newmont was present. The big news in the mining industry in 2023 was undoubtedly Newmont's \$15 billion acquisition of Newcrest which closed on 6 November 2023, consolidating Newmont's position as the world's largest gold company with a market cap of US\$45 billion.

There was some conjecture from commentators whether Newmont would dispose or keep Newcrest's PNG assets. The good news is that Newmont committed to PNG in a big way - firstly they ensured that \$100m of shares were listed on the PNGX to be made available to PNG shareholders to acquire allowing retail investors to gain exposure to Newmont's growth; secondly, Tom announced that they were setting up of PNG as a regional business unit of its own, separate from Australia, run out of Port Moresby to administer Lihir and Newmont's interest in Wafi Golpu JV and any other interest they acquire.

I told Tom that coming all this way to speak at this conference about his confidence in PNG as an investment destination engenders a lot of good will - it demonstrates what we call in tokpisin as "pasin". The behaviours showing respect and courtesy that go a long way and something that Papua New Guineans don't for-

Additionally, Morobe's good friend Peter Steenkamp, CEO of Harmony Gold was with us as well.

2023 was also Tera Shandro's first Sydney conference - Tera is the Managing Director of ExxonMobil PNG, operator of the PNG LNG project, having moved over from head office in Houston, succeeding Peter Larden, and is already in the thick of things supporting Exxon's partner TotalEnergies in the Papua LNG project and pushing forward with the development of the P'nyang Project as well as the exciting exploration work that ExxonMobil is doing.

This was also the first time that Thomas Maurisse, Senior Vice President of Asia Pacific for TotalEnergies is attending this conference, assuming his new role earlier this year.

Monday's sessions set the stage for Wednesday's program which we have provocatively themed as "PNG companies getting ready for the boom". And yes, I have been deliberately provocative with the title.

Witnessing the missed opportunities by PNG companies with the first LNG project in the early 2010s, it is my fear that PNG companies, and companies operating in or trading with PNG, have not adequately readied themselves for the opportunities that these projects will provide.

Challenging economic conditions over the past few years has introduced a lingering sense of pessimism and doubt with many PNG companies, and I worry that they are letting that pessimism hold them back for readying themselves properly to maximize their opportunities to benefit or participate in the boom.

Due to my position and the fact that I speak to all the players in the new projects regularly -I am convinced that these projects will be delivered, with the only conjecture regarding the precise timing.

It is important that prudently, PNG companies act with a greater sense of urgency to ready themselves to participate in the opportunities that the new resource and energy projects will bring.

Day 3 program featured an extensive agenda that features various companies talking about how they are readying themselves to participate in the boom. It was informative, but hopefully it will catalyse thinking, and action by attendees

on whether they are doing enough to maximise their opportunities to benefit from the coming project boom.

The value of this conference is that it is without peer in term of getting anybody who is anybody regarding investments in PNG, government, or private sector, in the same place, at the same time, all focused on the same purpose of making new connections and forging relationships of mutual benefit.

Most of the value of this conference happens with the business that gets done on the margins.

A lot of the magic happens with serendipity - the chance meeting with someone you didn't previously know, with an opportunity that is game changing for you or your business.

This conference, because of its scale, and because of how the program is designed and the setting, provided the perfect venue for serendipity to happen.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support and attendance. It was through your collaboration, that we were able make the 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference a resounding success.

I hope that you found this event engaging, productive and helped you find leads to better opportunities in business for you, for the next 12 months and beyond.

We look forward to working with you again in the new year, for a better Papua New Guinea.

**Anthony Smaré** President PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy

# The Chamber Council



Mr. Anthony Smaré President



Richard Kassman Senior Vice President



Philip Samar Vice President



Stanley Komunt Councilor



Leon Buskens Councilor



Kepas Wali Councilor



Albert Kaupa Tobe Councilor



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Shou Min Tan Legal Sub-Committee



Vacant Ethics



Mark McMonagle Events/Conference



Vacant Finance



Sunday Pre-Conference: RENEWABLES AND **ENERGY TRANSITION** 

The 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference began with a preconference on renewables and energy transition on Sunday at the Sydney International **Convention Centre.** 

Several notable speakers who took the stage includes Jeklin Talonu, Executive Manager Legal and Compliance, National Energy Authority, Michael Uiari, Chief Executive Officer, NiuPower Ltd, James Nelson Chief Executive Officer Dirio Gas & Power Company Limited, Edevu Hydro Project Allan Guo, AG Investment and Lesieli Taviri Chief Executive Officer of PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited.

Ms. Talonu spoke on how National Energy Authority is working on reforming electricity access in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and increasing renewable energy usage so as focusing on policy and legislative reforms, coordination, implementation of electrification plans, regulation of the energy industry, and exploring low carbon options.

Mr. Uiari discussed how NiuPower has invested in communities and delivered a water catchment area across five villages using solar energy to distribute water.

They have also focused on building libraries with solar power for students to do their homework at night. He also discussed the importance of social infrastructure and their vision to promote gas consumption in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and meet regional energy needs.

They propose a two-stage development

plan, including the distribution of LNG around coastal centres and the introduction of a small LNG carrier at the Hiri West Energy Hub.

While Mr. Nelson discussed the opportunities and challenges of investing in renewable electricity projects in Papua New Guinea. He said in order to fulfil the government's aim for 50% net zero emissions by 2030 and 100% by 2050, private sector participation is needed through the disaggregation of the industry into separate verticals for generation, transmission, distribution, and retail.

The afternoon session also heard from Allan Guo of the Edevu Hydro Project and their commitment to making hydropower a reality in PNG.

He emphasized the potential of green energy and AG's attention to it and their preparations to capitalize on the shipping industry's move to using methanol as ship

Whilst acknowledging the potential in the solar power industry, he revealed their efforts have already commenced to incorporate this into the Edevu Hydro Power facility. This is to counter the effects of climatic impacts due to El Nino etc.

To close the Sunday session, PNG Sustainable Development Program Chief Executive Officer Lesieli Taviri spoke of the Daru Solar project and discussed the development of hubs in different locations to provide health, education, and agribusiness programs.

The agri investments focus on creating livelihoods through exports and smallholder integration.

She said Daru was chosen as the main processing hub due to infrastructure availability. Other hubs support smallholders and deliver essential services.

Reliable power and water infrastructure are crucial for the success of the hubs, with SDP investing in greener solutions such as desalination plants and industrial-scale power projects.

The system has operated 24/7 since August 2022 with minimal downtime, resulting in significant energy cost savings compared to grid and diesel sources.

Daru suffers from unreliable grid power, impacting essential services like hospitals.

A power purchase agreement is being finalized to double solar generation capacity in Daru town.



# Prime Minister Hon. James Marape Affirms Growing Trust and Confidence in Papua New Guinea Economy

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape in his opening keynote address at the 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Conference has expressed confidence in the flourishing trust and confidence in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) economy.

The Prime Minister highlighted the establishment of permanent addresses in the country by major mining and oil and gas companies, showcasing the robust investment climate in PNG. Notable among these are Newmont and Barrick, the world's two largest mining companies, as well as Total and ExxonMobil, the two leading oil and gas giants globally.

Harmony, a prominent South African miner, maintains a robust presence through Hidden Valley and Wafi-Golpu mines in Morobe Province.

Prime Minister Marape emphasised,

"Papua New Guinea remains an attractive investment destination, and we invite each and every one of you to continue investing in the country."

He attributed this attractiveness to several factors, including a robust democracy, an independent judiciary, the resilience of the people, the carbon-negative environment, and the strategic proximity to markets, especially the growing Asian market.

The Prime Minister identified the consistent increase in budgets since 2019 as a key factor contributing to the growing trust in the PNG economy.

The government has invested a total of K101 billion, with allocations of K17 billion in 2019, K19 billion in 2020, K20 billion in 2021, K21 billion in 2022, and K24 billion in 2023. The recently unveiled budget for the coming year, at a record

K27 billion, is the largest in the history of Papua New Guinea.

Expressing gratitude, Prime Minister Marape acknowledged Australia's support of A\$200 million (K455 million) through the Australia-Papua New Guinea Bilateral Security Agreement.

The agreement, signed in eearly December in Canberra with Australian Prime Minister Hon. Anthony Albanese, is earmarked to bolster police training, anti-corruption efforts, judiciary initiatives, and other essential areas.

"We appreciate the ongoing support and collaboration with our international partners, and we are committed to fostering a conducive environment for continued growth and prosperity in Papua New Guinea," PM Marape said.





# 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference & Expo **Pictorial Highlights**

















# Newmont well placed to meet copper demand: Palmer

Our (Newmont) decision to acquire Newcrest was underpinned by a very clear and focused strategy designed to ensure that the Newmont of today not only retains its leadership position in the gold industry but also opens the door to copper optionality.

Newmont President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Palmer made this remark when presenting the Newmont Global Perspective and megatrends in Sydney.

Mr. Palmer when speaking on megatrends said Copper is now set to play a critical role in our energy transition to a low carbon economy.

He said the initial copper mining boom of the 20th century has created a steady demand for copper due to its excellent electrical conductivity, durability, and versatility which has allowed Copper to maintain its importance from ancient times to present day.

Mr. Palmer pointed out that, as the world seeks cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions, the demand for copper will only intensify.

According to a study by S&P Global, copper demand is expected tonearly double-from 25 million tons today to about 50 million tons by 2035 to deploy the technologies needed to achieve net-zero targets by 2050.

Based on current copper production trends, we will experience a shortfall of10 million tonsby 2035. Bridging this gap will require significantly more copper mines, copper recycling and enhanced copper leaching processes.

This means more deposits need to be discovered and mines built at an unlikely pace given the drawn-out timeframes to secure approvals.



To even come close to achieving this pace, we are going to need to rely on partnerships and as much goodwill and trust as possible, by demonstrating that our industry is responsible," he said.

"Our acquisition of Newcrest complemented Newmont's existing copper production and project pipeline with world class growth optionality. In addition to gold, the acquisition of Newcrest more than doubles Newmont's exposure to copper with 50 billion pounds of copper reserves and resources coming from Newcrest added to Newmont's existing 42 billion pounds - with the Wafi-Golpu project being a significant contributor to this impressive resource base.

Which leads me to share with you the strategic rationale behind why Newmont became interested in acquiring Newcrest.

First, the acquisition presented an opportunity to assemble the best possible collection of Tier 1 gold and copper assets in the industry under one umbrella, benefiting from Newmont's existing portfolio, operating model, sustainability practices, and disciplined capital allocation process.

Second, the addition of the Newcrest assets to the Newmont portfolio allows us to consolidate in the world-class gold and copper mining districts of Australia, Canada and Papua New Guinea, unlocking compelling strategic, operational and sustainability driven synergies, that are unique to this transaction.

And finally, the combination complements Newmont's existing copper production and project pipeline with world-class growth optionality."





# PNG Minerals Outlook Remains Positive: Mining Minister, Sir Ano Pala

With global minerals prices starting an upward trajectory, Papua New Guinea remains an attractive investment destination for mineral resources.

In his address to the 2023 PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference, Mining Minister Sir Ano Pala emphasized this sentiment, whils providing a snapshot of developments within the mining space across the last 5 years.

#### **Mineral Production**;

Over the last five years the average annual metal production has been:

- (i) 1.7 million ounces gold (and),
- (ii) 2.4 million ounces of silver as dori bar;
- (iii) 84,500 tons of copper as concentrates;
- (iv) 33,500 tons of nickel (and),
- (v) 3,000 tons cobalt as mixed nickel-cobalt hydroxides;
- (vi) 123,000 tons of chromite concentrate.

#### **Export Revenue**;

- Mineral products have earned an average of PGK13 billion over the last five (5) years, and K9.3 billion to-date in 2023. These export revenues account for about 44% of PNG's total annual export revenue.
- The total annual export revenue peaked at K15.7 billion in 2020

This decreased to K13.1 billion thereafter due to the closure of Porgera mine. The value of export revenue from the mining sector is comparable to hydrocarbons since the first export of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) in 2014.

Notably, the extractive industry continues to account for 90% of PNG's total export revenue.

#### **Best Mining Safety Record**

- The robust export revenues have been achieved from the mining operations through shared value of maintaining high safety standards by operators and regulator. Fatalities and permanently incapacitated injuries over the last thirteen (13) years, had been reduced from ten (10) fatal incidents per annum to zero (0) in 2017 and thereafter, averaged about 1 fatality per annum.
- In 2022 there were zero fatalities, however, unfortunately, 3 fatalities occurred in 2023.

These records, especially the periods of zero fatalities, are unmatched by many mining jurisdictions. Despite, hosting some of the largest and complex mines in the world, situated within geologically unstable and seismically active settings, we have kept our mines exceptionally safe.

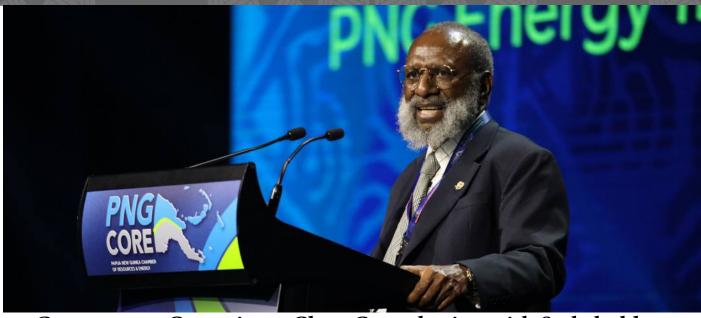
#### **Employment**

- In 2021, the mines employed more than 19,000 employees and rose to over 22,000 in 2022.
- More than 10% are female employees.
- Further increase is expected with the re-opening of Porgera and construction of

Wafi and Frieda River. These exclude the number artisanal small scale gold miners, which may exceed 80,000 plus, who contributes to an annual average export revenue of K500 million.

Minister Pala concluded by reassuring industry and investors that PNG remained their best option in mineral investments.

"The mining sector has not lost its flamboyancy and vibrancy. It kept this country afloat since independence, and it is this government's objective to make it more robust, more economically viable, more sustainable, and enable equal benefits for the citizens of Papua New Guinea and the shareholders of the mining companies and their investors. There is a call for us in the mining sector to adapt and respond to changes in social behaviours, community expectations, environment, climate change, and political environments, as highlighted by the esteemed speakers of this Conference before me. This government acknowledges the importance of the mining sector. Your role in supporting growth and diversification of economic development of PNG can never be overemphasized."



Government Commits to Close Consultation with Stakeholders Before Implementing Major Reforms - PSA Not To Apply To Mining

Any major government policy reforms in the mineral resources and energy space in Papua New Guinea, will be done in consultation with industry.

This was the assurance by Minister for Petroleum & Energy, Hon. Kerenga Kua, when presenting at the recent 2023 PNG Resources & Industry Investment Conference.

Minister Kua reassured those present that the Marape-Rosso government remained committed to maintaining a clear channel of discussions with industry, especially on major policy changes including exempting the mining industry from the proposed production sharing regime.

"We do listen a lot to our stakeholders, that I can assure you. By listening, we have changed the form and content of it a number of times. This present version will exclude minerals, we just stick to petroleum," the Minister said in relation to the proposed Production Sharing Agreement arrangement.

According to Minister Kua, more research is needed to be done on the financial and economic feasibility of adopting a Production Sharing Agreement option.

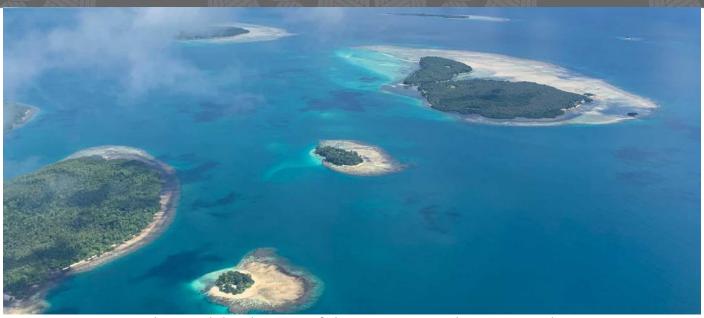
"The legal aspects of the proposed PSA changes were okay, however, there needed to be more research done to incorporate financial and economic aspects, to ascertain the impact this would have on industry and returns on investment by government.

The conclusion of the legal drafting is, therefore, pending until the outcomes of the financial and economic studies are completed."

Minister Kua's announcement was welcomed by industry, with many applauding governments for maintaining contact with stakeholders through the consultation process.



# NDASTRI NIUS KONA



Potential World Class Offshore Natural Gas Find In PNG Peak Oil excited about Exotica North Gas Prospect

Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Hon. Kerenga Kua, has affirmed that recent marine research shows strong evidence of a previously unidentified giant offshore gas condensate field in the New Ireland Basin.

Modelling of the new Exotica North Gas Prospect indicates a 90 per cent probability that it holds 3.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. This would rank the Prospect alongside other top-tier petroleum assets currently in production in PNG.



The research was conducted by Peak Oil (PNG) Pty Ltd ('PEAK'), a privately owned Australian company which has extensive acreage over the New Ireland Basin. The Minister was speaking at the Papua New Guinea Chamber of Resources & Energy's Investment Conference in Sydney.

"This latest find is very exciting news for PNG," he said. "It would strengthen our goal to become the biggest oil and gas producing nation in the world over the next 40 years." Mr Kua said that the resource sector was an important contributor to his country's economy.

Recently published IMF forecasts estimated that oil and gas extraction will contribute 16.8 per cent of PNG's GDP in 2023.

The Board Chair of PEAK, Professor Brent McInnes, said: "We are delighted to share this news with the people of PNG and the resource sector. This would be the first offshore natural gas discovery for PNG in 50 years.

It represents a new energy frontier and it is without doubt one of the most important energy discoveries in recent times."

Professor McInnes said the Exotica North Gas Prospect was a very attractive proposition for commercialisation. "It would be a ready source of energy for the domestic and commercial markets in PNG. This includes the Lihir Gold Mine which currently relies on heavy fuel oil from Malaysia.

The Prospect is also closer to the energy-hungry markets of Asia (China, Japan and South Korea) than other LNG plants in the region and could cut transport times by 25 to 45 per cent. In addition, local weather conditions are ideal for production, and New Ireland Province has excellent deep water port access, an international airport and sealed highway logistics.

All these factors combined could easily shift our LNG production costs into the lowest quartile of global producers.

"We look forward to working with the PNG government and the resource sector to bring this potentially world-class project to fruition as soon as possible," he said.

PEAK has been conducting research within New Ireland Basin since 2009. The Basin lies between New Ireland and Lihir Island in the New Ireland Province.

The company's latest research findings are based on data gathered during a two-month marine geoscience expedition to the area in June and July this year (2023).



## MRDC and ExxonMobil Sign Jet Fuel Technical Services Agreement

Representatives for the Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) and an ExxonMobil subsidiary signed a Jet Fuel Technical Services Agreement at the 2023 Papua New Guinea Resources & Energy **Conference in Sydney.** 

Augustine Mano, MRDC Managing Director and CEO, said this signing unlocks the ability for MRDC to access ExxonMobil's regional technical experts to help the State address recurring fuel supply issues.

"Building upon our long-standing partnership with ExxonMobil, this agreement will help us to increase the reliability of jet fuel supply in PNG. High-quality fuel would be imported from ExxonMobil's Singapore refinery and be stored and distributed from new tanks we will construct.

"This milestone marks another step toward helping secure our energy future," Mano concluded.

Tera Shandro, Chairperson and Managing Director at ExxonMobil PNG Limited, stated that ExxonMobil has a rich history in not only the Upstream production of natural gas and oil, but also in the production of refined products like diesel and jet fuel.

"We are thrilled to be working with the State and MRDC to help them provide reliable, quality fuel products for Papua New Guinea," said Shandro.

## **Kumul Petroleum is Planning Carbon Capture & Offset Projects**

Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited is planning carbon capture and offset projects to cover its direct existing and future CO2 emissions and those arising from its equity positions in LNG projects.

Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited managing director Wapu Sonk made this statement during the 17th Papua New Guinea Resources and Investment Conference in Sydney.

He said PNG has huge and largely unexploited natural energy sources that could be developed to produce electricity domestically and for export.

Mr Sonk emphasised saying, "Papua New Guinea has unexploited natural energy sources - hydro, wind, solar and geothermal - resources.

"It has large unlogged tropical forest areas - a huge 'carbon sink' that could be harnessed through properly designed and validated projects to generate carbon offsets, enabling potential future LNG exports to be net Zero, in line with National Government commitments."

Mr Sonk said many benefits will be generated by Kumul Petroleum's activities that are already underway or planned.

"All this is in line with our company's vision: Building the nation through its energy resources." Mr Sonk said.



# Renew Your Membership with the PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy

As we come to the end of 2023, we would like to express our gratitude to you for your continued support and participation in events and activities hosted by the PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNG CORE).

Your commitment has played a pivotal role in the success and growth of the chamber, contributing to the positive impact we've collectively made in industry, as well as with our stakeholders in Government, and development partners.

2024 promises to be another exciting year, and we invite you to renew your PNG CORE membership, to enable you to take advantage of the opportunities that will be on offer.

Contact our team on membership@pngcore.org today, to secure your membership to PNG's leading Peak Industry Body.



Papua New Guinea Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNG CORE) acknowledges the support of the following sponsors and partners, in making the 2023 PNG Resources & **Energy Investment Conference a resounding success.** 

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