## **Chief Operating Officer's Message**



Dear Valued Members,

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I'm excited to share updates and achievements from PNG CORE this quarter.

The PNG CORE team has had a busy start to the quarter, successfully hosting the inaugural PNG Resources Week from July 1-4 at the University of Papua New Guinea with CANCONEX as the flagship event. This event marked a significant milestone for all our stakeholders including Landowner Groups Companies who prominently featured. The other milestone was the Legacy Awards recognizing invaluable contributions of past industry stalwarts in the mining and petroleum sectors.

Following this, our team participated in various external engagements, which are featured in this newsletter. It's pleasing to see our members actively engaging in community initiatives focused on health, education,

sports, and environmental responsibility.

In terms of operations, it also pleasing to note that Hidden Valley has concluded its 2024 financial year with outstanding results in safety, production, and cost management. The mine was honored with the prestigious CEO's Special Award from Harmony Gold Mining Company. General Manager, Steven Rooney emphasized the team's collaborative spirit in overcoming maintenance challenges.

We also recognize Great Pacific Gold Corp's progress in exploration activities across PNG and Australia, particularly at the Arau Project in Kainantu, Eastern Highlands Province.

This quarter also saw the reelection of our Council members, along with the addition of new councilors. We look forward to collaborating closely with all Councilors as we prepare for the upcoming 2024 PNG Investment Week in Sydney in December.

These updates underscore our ongoing commitment to excellence, community engagement, and sustainable development.

Sincerely,

Mrs Pansy Taueni-Sialis

Chief Operating Officer



# Hidden Valley closes FY2024 with Outstanding Achievements

Hidden Valley Mine wrapped up the 2024 financial year with outstanding achievements, setting a benchmark in safety, production, and cost management.

This success is reflected throughout the workplace, earning the mine significant recognition, including the prestigious CEO's Special Award from Harmony Gold Mining Company.

Hidden Valley Mine General Manager Steven Rooney said "FY24 was a fantastic year for Hidden Valley Mine, with notable progress in safety, production, and cost efficiency. Despite facing

some challenges, particularly in maintenance, the team's collaborative spirit ensured that these obstacles were swiftly addressed, keeping operations running smoothly."

He added that as the mine enters FY25, the commitment to safety remains the top priority. The focus is on mitigating minor safety risks and fostering a culture where employees are encouraged to check and challenge each other, reinforcing the strong family ethos that exists at Hidden Valley.

In a significant achievement, Hidden Valley Mine was awarded the



Engineering team representatives recieving the Best Engineering Project Award from Harmony Executive Operating Offi cer Jaco Boshoff (right). Picture Supplied.

CEO's Special Award, distinguishing it as the best operation within the Harmony Gold

In addition to the CEO's Special Award, Hidden Valley Mine was honored with two other notable awards:

Best Sustainability Project: This award was given for the successful completion of the Tailings Facility Early Warning System project. The project, which began in 2019 but faced delays due to COVID-19, was completed in 2022 with the installation of a state-of-the-art warning system in Nauti village. This system, the first of its kind

globally, showing Harmony's commitment to the safety and health of not only its employees but also the surrounding communities.

Best Engineering Project: recognition This awarded for the innovative overhaul of the overlaying conveyor system. project, initiated in 2019 and completed in the same year, introduced safer and more productive methods for replacing the belt. The new OLC/splicing station has significantly enhanced production efficiency and commercial performance, demonstrating the

team's dedication to continuous improvement.

#### **Looking Forward to FY25**

As Hidden Valley Mine celebrates these achievements, the focus now shifts to FY25. Harmony Executive Operating Officer Jaco Boshoff emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum, particularly in safety, and expressed his hope for another winning year at Hidden Valley.

"With such a strong start, the mine is poised to continue its success and further contribute to Harmony Gold's legacy."

Executive General Manager Operations Gary Davies, reflecting on the mine's accomplishments, noted that the last time Hidden Valley won an award was in 2018, making this year's award more significant. He commended the team's efforts and encouraged them to keep up the good work as Hidden Valley Mine heads into another promising year.

"Hidden Valley Mine's outstanding performance in FY24 shows the dedication and hard work of its team, and the awards received are well-deserved recognition of their efforts," said Davies.



Projects team (TSF) recieving the Best Sustainable Project Award from Harmony Executive Operating Officer Jaco Boshoff (right). Picture Supplied.

#### Santos delivers improved half year results

Santos in its half year results released in August 2024, has reported a sales revenue of US\$2.711 billion (PGK10.6billion), EBITDAX of US\$1.846 billion (PGK7.2billion), underlying profit of US\$654 million (PGK2.6billion), strong free cash flow from operations of US\$1.068 billion (PGK4.2billion) and a record interim dividend of US13.0 cents (PGK0.51) per share (unfranked).

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Gallagher said Santos has delivered strong cash returns from its operating business because of its highperformance culture, disciplined low-cost operating model and consistently prioritising safe and reliable operations.

Mr Gallagher said the results demonstrate the capability of Santos to generate strong cash flow from operations, deliver significant progress on major projects and deliver competitive, reliable shareholder returns.

"The disciplined low-cost operating model underpins our business, and we continue to manage our cost base to be resilient through all scenarios and price cycles. We remain focused on delivering our major growth projects with Moomba carbon capture and storage (CCS) phase one in the final stages of commissioning,

Barossa is on schedule to come online within the next year and Pikka in 1H 2026.

"Our base business continues to deliver record reliability in PNG, the Angore wells are on track to come online later this year, Queensland coal seam gas is achieving record production rates, and in WA we have safely and efficiently delivered a significant decommissioning program in the first half. The base business provides the foundation for reliable production and cash flows to support returns to our shareholders in accordance with our capital management framework," Mr Gallagher said.

#### **K92 Mining Announces 2024 Q2 Financial Results**

In August, K92 Mining Inc was pleased to announce its quarter 2 financial results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2024.

According to the market announcement K92 produced a total of 24,347 ounces of gold equivalent, which included 21,661 ounces of gold, 1,246,639 pounds of copper, and 26,754 ounces of silver.

The cost to produce an ounce

of gold was \$919 [PGK3,595], with total costs, including all expenses, amounting to \$1,510 [PGK5,907] per ounce. It was also noted that the recovery rates for gold and copper were exceptionally high, at 93.7 per cent and 95.3 per cent respectively, marking the best performance since late 2019.

K92 recorded a total of 95,582 tonnes of were ore processed, and 99,209 tonnes were mined. The ore quality was commendable, with an average grade of 8.5 grams of gold equivalent per tonne.

The company secured up to \$120million [PGK469m] in loans, with \$100million [PGK391m] available immediately. It maintained a strong cash position



Kainantu Mine Underground Drilling.

of \$71.1million [PGK278m], excluding \$20million [PGK78m] in restricted cash. The company generated \$17.3million [PGK67.7m] in operating cash flow. Revenue for the period was \$47.8 million [PGK187m] and the company achieved a net income of \$6.1million [PGK24m].

Sales included 19,064 ounces of gold, 898,578 pounds of copper, and 18,467 ounces of silver.

John Lewins, K92 Chief Executive Officer and Director, stated, "In the second quarter, K92 continued to deliver strong financial results even with the impact of the Form 29 (temporary suspension of underground operations for part of March and April) due to the non-

industrial fatal incident.

Our financial position at quarter end is strong, with \$71 million [PGK278m] in cash and cash equivalents plus \$20 million [PGK78m] of restricted cash that can be available January 1, 2025. This includes proceeds from our first drawdown of \$40 million [PGK156.5m] from the Loan with Trafigura. Trafigura has been our offtake partner

since the start of operations and the upsized credit facilities and new-offtake agreement reinforces our strong long-term relationship. Subsequent quarter end, a drawdown of \$20 million [PGK78m] was made, with \$60 million [PGK235m] remaining for immediate drawdown as unrestricted cash, plus another million [PGK117.4m] through an accordion feature providing considerable liquidity forward. Operationally, going performance strengthened in the second half of Q2, and production in the second half of the year is expected to be considerably higher than the first half - we reiterate our 2024 operational guidance.

# GPAC Advances Exploration Activities Across core Projects in PNG and Australia

Great Pacific Gold Corp. (GPAC) has announced a series of exploration updates across its projects in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Victoria, Australia.

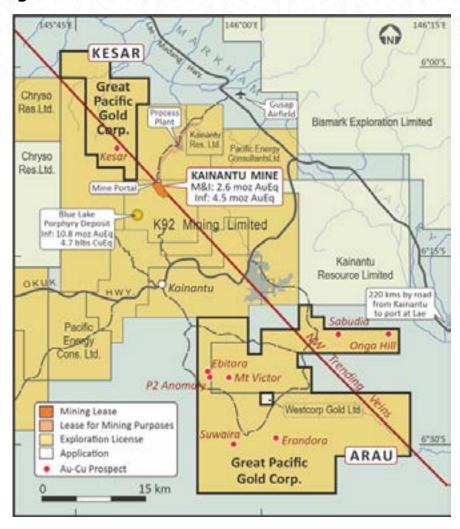
The company in a series of market announcements has provided updates in quarter 3 with regards to work that has been carried out in its core exploration projects.

In PNG, GPAC has commenced drilling at the Arau Project, marking the company's first drilling operation in the country. The Arau Project, located in Kainantu Eastern Highlands Province, includes the Mt. Victor Prospect, where previous drilling found copper and gold mineralization. program of around 2000 meters of drilling is expected to confirm copper-gold porphyry mineralization underneath the skarn mineralization at the project.

In addition to Arau, the company is preparing the Kesar Creek Project for a drilling program. The Kesar Creek Project is contiguous with the highly prolific K92 Mining Inc. tenements. A phase 2 soil program at Kesar Creek recently completed, will further define targets for its upcoming drill program in the next two months commencing in October 2024.

The Wild Dog located in East New Briatin Province is a brownfield exploration project with a history small-scale gold mining. The project contains numerous and epithermal, porphyry hydrothermal-magmatic targets evidenced by previous exploration and operations. The Company completed a road refurbishment in August 2024 and access to the project has been established for baseline environmental and exploration work.

In Victoria, Australia, the Lauriston



project is located on the southern extension of the Fosterville Goldfield Belt and is adjacent to Agnico Eagle's extensive Fosterville tenements and mine operations. Lauriston contains the Comet-Trojan target, a 4.5km long epizonal orogenic system. A follow-up drilling program was completed in Q3 2024.

The Walhalla project, also in Victoria, consists of over 1,400km2 of concessions including the historical mining numerous the operations and recently Woods **Point** acquired package. Walhalla contains a highpriority greenfield target called Pinnacles, which is fully permitted and ready for drilling.

"The Company has spent the last four years compiling an extensive portfolio of high-quality exploration assets" stated Greg McCunn, CEO of Great Pacific Gold. "After this period of acquisition, it is now time for the Company to focus on developing one or more of its core projects into a mineral resource. While focus will be on these five assets in the short-term, the recently acquired Tinga project also has the potential to create significant shareholder value longer term and is an important part of the Great Pacific Gold's future."

The company is also evaluating its non-core assets in Australia and will be looking to maximize value from these assets, which may include asset sales, project spin outs, and other transactions.

#### **About GPAC**

Great Pacific Gold has a portfolio of high-grade gold projects in Papua New Guinea ("PNG") and Australia. In PNG, Great Pacific Gold recently assembled a 2500 sq. km mineral exploration land package in PNG. The land package comprises of exploration licenses (EL). It includes both early-stage and advanced-stage exploration targets with high-grade epithermal vein and porphyry-style mineralization present.

The Arau Project consists of two exploration licenses, located in the Kainantu region, and includes the Mt. Victor Prospect, where previous drilling found a multiple phase intrusion complex hosting copper and gold mineralization.

The Wild Dog Project consists of two granted exploration licenses, EL 2761 and 2516, located on the island of New Britain and about 50 km southwest of Rabaul and Kokopo, PNG.

The Kesar Creek Project consists of one exploration license, EL 2711, and is contiguous with the K92 Mining Inc. tenements. Initial work by Great Pacific Gold at Kesar has returned multiple highgrade samples from outcrop and underground workings coincident with high grade soils and aeromagnetic geophysical highs. The Tinga Valley Project consists of one exploration license, EL 2720.

The OK Tedi Copper Gold Mine is 140km to the northwest along the same belt is a superb geological comparison to the Tinga Valley Property.

In Australia, Great Pacific Gold began with two, 100% owned, high-grade gold projects called the Lauriston and Golden Mountain Projects and has since acquired a large area of granted and application tenements containing further epizonal (low-temperature high-grade gold mineralization and associated intrusion-related gold mineralization all in the state of Victoria, Australia. The Great Pacific Gold land package, assembled over a multi-year period, notably includes the Lauriston Project immediately to the south of and within the same geological framework that hosts Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's Fosterville Gold tenements. The Golden Mountain Project is an intrusion-related gold project on the edge of the Strathbogie granite and occurs Walhalla Gold Belt. The acquired projects include the epizonal gold Providence Project containing the Reedy Creek goldfield which adjoins the Southern Cross Gold's Sunday Creek exploration project, and a large group of recently consolidated granted tenements called the Walhalla Gold Belt Project, which contain a variety of epizonal and intrusion related style gold mineralization. Additionally, Great Pacific Gold has another gold-focused project called the Moormbool Project which has epizonal style gold mineralization and associated potential intrusionrelated gold mineralization, as well as the Beechworth Project occurs in the northeast of the state and contains intrusion related and mesozonal gold mineralization.

All GPAC's properties in Australia are 100% owned and have had historical gold production from hard rock sources despite limited modern exploration and drilling.

#### **Angore First Gas expected in Q4 2024**

The successful drilling and completion of both Angore wells were successfully completed during the second quarter of 2024 with the Santos project team commencing tie-in. High compression reliability at Gobe and Kutubu fields is providing

additional backfill to the PNG LNG facility.

The Angore Development project is expected to be a significant boost for the sector and economy, with Santos' share of capital expenditure around US\$135million [PGK528m].

The first gas from Angore is expected in 2024, contributing to the global LNG market and supporting local economic development.

Santos has also seen strong performance from the Agogo and Moran Fields.

#### TotalEnergies provides update on Papua LNG

TotalEnergies EP PNG Limited remains committed to the US\$10 billion (K38 billion) Papua LNG project. Managing Director Arnaud Berthet clarified that rumors about the company leaving PNG are false during a recent interview with the National newspaper.

The final investment decision (FID) is expected in 2025, with first gas anticipated by 2029. The company is focused on obtaining commercially viable offers from contractors, particularly from Asian firms, to drive down costs.

TotalEnergies is working with partners ExxonMobil, Santos, and JX Nippon to optimize technical aspects and open competition among contractors.

## Newmont's 'Mother Mary' recounts PNG Independence Anniversary

Mother Mary of Newmont Papua New Guinea is among thousands of people who started their PNG independence anniversary celebrations weeks leading up to 16 September.

Mary Simi, known by her colleagues as Mother Mary, Young Mary and Hahine Korikori (Real or true woman) kicked off independence celebrations when the PNG Hunters won the elimination final in the Queensland Hostplus Cup season – an outstanding achievement after seven years, under the great leadership of first-year Head Coach and former Kumul player Paul Aiton.

The excitement and celebrations when she continued joined thousands of Christians in Port Moresby to welcome His Holiness Pope Francis to the country on Friday, 6 September. Even more special to Ms Simi was her participation in the Holy mass at the Sir John Guise Stadium on Sunday, 8 September - not just as a committed Christian but also as a talented soprano among 500 choir members who symphonically graced the stadium with their mellifluous voices.

"This year's PNG Independence anniversary was different in a very special way for me; from cheering our PNG Hunters at the National Football Stadium a week earlier, to worshipping God with His Holiness Pope Francis and other Christians at another stadium [Sir John Guise Stadium]. Like other footy fanatics, I also felt blessed when our PNG Hunters took down the Sunshine Coast Falcons in the semi-final match in Australia on the same day as the Holy mass."

"Reflecting on these events, I am reminded of God's love for PNG, uniting us as a family this year through faith and footy. As a nation, we've been through some trying times recently and I feel that these meaningful events brought hope for great things to come,"

said softly spoken Ms Simi.

In 1984, Ms Simi led students from Catholic schools to welcome Pope John Paul II to PNG. She was in grade 10 at Marianville High School at that time. In 1995, she was an employee of SP Brewery and was among thousands of people who took the streets of Port Moresby to welcome Pope John Paul II during his second visit to PNG.

"Being able to participate in the three-day Papal visit to PNG this year – nearly 30 years after the last visit – and especially a week before PNG's independence anniversary – was a blessing to me; I shared this memorable experience with my four adult children and six grandchildren," Ms Simi said.

Ms Simi, born in 1967 therefore eight years older than Papua New Guinea, hails from Bakoiudu village in Kuni local level government (LLG) and Moroka village in Koirari LLG, Central province. Her career with the Lihir gold mining operation started in 2002. Five years after Lihir's first gold pour. Ms Simi now leads a team of three people, whose core job is to ensure quality applications for work permits and employment visas are submitted to and endorsed by the PNG **Immigration** and

Citizenship Services Authority (PNG ICSA) before technical specialists outside PNG are hired for any role at the Lihir gold mining

operation.
The Lihir
operation in New
Ireland Province
has a unique set
of challenges
primarily linked

to its geothermally active mine site and complex processing plant. Often, specialists from abroad are required to provide technical support at Lihir.

"Sometimes, specialised skills are required urgently for unplanned technical issues at Lihir. We try our best during such situations



to obtain the necessary work permits and visas to allow technical specialists into PNG immediately because down-time can significantly impact Lihir operation and ultimately impact Lihir's financial contributions to PNG," Ms Simi highlighted.

This year marks Ms Simi's 22nd PNG independence anniversary with Lihir. She described her journey as 'interesting', having been through three acquisitions and blessed with many memorable experiences in the mining industry.

"Not a day has gone by without learning something new. Our team has always embraced an owner's mindset; owning every task and doing our best to ensure that work permit and visa applications we submit are transparent and compliant with government requirements," she said.

Ms Simi is more than just a colleague to her workmates at Newmont, as she is such a cheerful mum figure.

"I call her Young Mary because of her vibrant personality and character. Mary walks around with a heart loaded with sunshine, lighting up every room with her joyful mood and uplifting everyone around her with her infectious laugh and smile," said Ms Simi's colleague Jeanette Joseph.

"Her youthful spirit and generous heart are also an inspiration to me and many others. I was empowered recently when learning that Mary's employment with Lihir is enabling her family to financially support the construction of a Catholic church in her community," Ms Joseph added.

When asked how she felt about helping her community build a church, Ms Simi teared up and described it as 'an honour to serve and bless others'.

Her employment with Lihir also helped her build her family home, pay for her children's school fees

and financially support members of her family and community. In addition to Ms Simi's PNG independence highlights, she praised PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority for its new web-based application called the Sponsor Portal.

The portal was launched in August this year, enabling companies to apply for work permits and employment visas for non-citizens using a single online form. Ms Simi led her team in successfully registering Newmont subsidiary, Lihir Gold Limited (LGL), on the sponsor portal three weeks prior



Mary Simi (right) celebrating PNG's 49th Independence anniversary with her colleague Jeannette Joseph.

to the independence celebrations and the team is now lodging applications through that platform.

"LGL was the first company to register successfully, which enabled us to make our first online lodgement on 27 August. I am happy to still be with Lihir and be part of this improved online lodgement process," she highlighted.

The Lihir gold mine has been in operation for 27 years of PNG's independence, currently providing employment for up to 8000 people during the busiest maintenance periods. Over the last 10 years, the mine has contributed to the people and governments of PNG through payments of K3.2 billion in taxes, royalties and levies. This includes corporate tax payments of K441 million.

Lihir has also supported PNG suppliers and provided training opportunities for thousands of Papua New Guineans. From January to June this year, Lihir paid K690 million to PNG suppliers, which included K255.5 million to New Ireland suppliers. Over the same six-month period, Lihir contributed K185.2 million in total taxes and levies, K55 million in royalty payments and over K30 million in various payments directly to Lihir landholders.



Mary Simi (second row, third from right) among her choir mates after the Holy mass with His Holiness Pope Francis on 8 September.







The National St John Ambulance Service Papua New Guinea has kicked off its Restart a Heart Campaign with the PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy team.

According to St John Ambulance, cardiovascular disease is a significant public health issue, with risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity contributing to its increase. Given the rise of these lifestyle diseases in PNG, it's likely that sudden cardiac arrest is increasing too.

The three member St John team who attended PNG CORE's Safety Talk of the Month session organised by the Communications & Public Relations Unit revealed that every day the ambulance service is called to someone who isn't breathing.

Too often the St John team see the tragic results when the casualty's family and friends don't know what to do and CPR is delayed. In nearly all cases of delayed Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the person tragically passes away.

As a result, the National St John Ambulance Service is offering a free, one-hour awareness session under its Restart a Heart Day campaign to its valued partners on how to respond in the event that a person collapses and isn't breathing (cardiac arrest).

This awareness includes training

on vital first aid techniques like Cardiopulmonary

Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Restart a Heart Day (16 October) is a global initiative led by the **European Resuscitation Council and** coordinated locally in Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea through the Council of Ambulance Authorities (Australasia). Its aim is to help the public understand how to give CPR, use a public access defibrillator and generate awareness about heart (cardiovascular) health. If you are interested in this free training, please indicate your preferred date and time (during business hours) between 02 October and 16 October 2024 (or until the end of October).

St John Ambulance trainers can either come to your workplace, or you are welcome to join them at the National Ambulance Headquarters. PNG CORE was appreciative of being the first organisation to start this campaign.

Knowing CPR is incredibly important and learning these lifesaving skills will give us the confidence to use them in the event of an emergency.

For more information contact: (+675) 7111 1234 (+675) 303 1000 enquiries@stjohn.org.pg

## PNG CORE Meets with DAL Secretary

Following the successful completion of the inaugural PNG Resources Week that coincides with the Community Affairs and National Content Conference & Exhibition in July at the University of Papua New Guinea, a call was made for the industry to be involved in implementing national agriculture projects through Tax Credit Schemes.

This call was made by the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Secretary Dr. Sergie Bang.

PNG CORE had a meeting with the department and the secretary following the call to explore the potential of a partnership between the industry and DAL to support materialize the recently launched National Agriculture Sector Plan (2024-2033).

boost This plan aims to agriculture's contribution GDP and create 2 million jobs by 2033. It was established during the meet that DAL is now seeking industry support for projects such as oil palm and cocoa poultry programs, processing, and rice production under the Tax Credit Schemes (TCS) to enhance agriculture commercialisation,

noting the traditional TCS related infrastructure focused developments.

The industry's involvement is seen as essential for transforming farming subsistence commercial enterprises, fostering economic sustainability, reducing dependency on imports. Secretariat from CORE that meeting has provided a recommendation to the Council to further explore and see how the industry can develop an approach and structure to support TCS-funded National Agricultural Impact Projects.

An update of this engagement will be provided in our quarter 4 newsletter.

## Tax issues and reform initiatives discussed with IRC Commissioner General

Our Policy & Analysis Unit has met with the Internal Revenue Commission's Commissioner General Sam Koim to discuss tax issues and reform programs impact the industry in September.

The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that members are well-informed about current and forthcoming changes in tax laws and initiatives driven by IRC.

Key discussions included concerns raised by PNG CORE regarding the IRC's issuance of Section 65A notices to private sector taxpayers, which disrupt existing GST reporting mechanisms and could lead to misallocation of GST inputs and outputs.

The IRC acknowledged these

challenges and committed to a reasonable implementation approach, emphasising the importance of awareness and support during the transition. Additionally, concerns about ongoing delays in GST refunds were addressed, with the IRC promising to improve processing times through systemisation.

The IRC also provided updates on the final stages of the new Income Tax Act and expressed support for proposed tax exemptions on medical insurance premiums.

Overall, the meeting concluded with the IRC's commitment to work closely with taxpayers to facilitate smooth transitions and enhance communication on tax matters.

#### **PNG CORE Participates in PNG Business Regulators Summit**

The PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNG CORE) was invited to participate in the 2024 PNG Business Regulators Summit that was held from July 30-31, 2024, at the Stanley Hotel and Suites in Port Moresby.

This PNG Business Regulators Summit was held to bring together regulatory bodies to discuss and align strategies for effective governance and compliance in Papua New Guinea, with an aim to garner recommendations from wider business community, government and relevant agencies.

PNG CORE was invited to present at this Summit. Attending and presenting on behalf of PNG CORE's President Mr. Anthony Smaré was PNG CORE's Manager Policy & Analysis Ms. Gretel Orake.

Ms. Orake presented on the Challenges in Regulatory Compliance and Coordination highlighting the need for regulatory reform and enhanced capacity within PNG's regulatory bodies and emphasised that the decline in mining exploration licenses over the past decade and the challenges posed by under-resourced



PNG CORE's Manager for Policy & Analysis, Ms. Gretel Orake delivered a presentation on "Challenges in Regulatory Compliance and Coordination" during the 2024 Business Regulators Summit held in July at the Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby. Picture Supplied.

regulators struggling to meet industry demands.

She also made a call for better funding, improved coordination, and modernisation of outdated laws to ensure compliance with global standards and boost economic growth.

Ms. Orake stressed that a well-resourced regulatory framework is vital for fostering a more business-friendly environment in PNG.

# KPMG represented at the IPA Regulators Summit

KPMG representatives Kalinga Baliki and Brett McDermott attended the IPA 2024 Business Regulators Summit in July, which was held at the Stanley Hotel.

The summit theme "Interoperability; Connect and Co-create" stimulated conversation between Government regulators in attendance in respect of sharing of information, digitalisation, adoption of technology to improve efficiencies and economies of scale and included discussion on the challenges of doing business in PNG. As part of the summit program, KPMG's Business & Tax Advisory Partner, Brett McDermott moderated a panel discussion between senior members of IPA, IRC and ICA as key regulators who spoke about their



KPMG Business & Tax Advisory Partner, Brett McDermott and senior members of IRC, IPA and ICA as key regulators at the IPA Summit. Picture Supplied.

current systems and processes and shared their views on the possibilities of interfacing the IPA certification, TIN registrations and work permit and visas.

The focus was on first-tier entry points for foreign investors and generally doing business in PNG.

#### **Import GST Concerns Addressed with PNG Customs**

The Policy & Analysis unit in August has had a meeting with PNG Customs to address concerns raised by our members regarding the GST exemption on imports for the resource sector.

This was after members reported delays in clearing shipments due to PNG Customs not accepting the blanket GST Exemption letter issued by the IRC.

The meeting aimed to explain the situation faced by members, clarify IRC's stance on the exemption letter,

understand Customs' reasons for rejecting it, and establish a resolution. During the discussion, PNG Customs acknowledged awareness of the blanket exemption letter, stating it should suffice for clearing imports. However, due to prior IRC advice requesting GST exemption letters for each shipment, this led to delays and GST charges on some shipments.

PNG Customs confirmed the blanket exemption letter is sufficient and agreed to respond formally to the Chamber's letter.

Customs further explained their process, highlighting the need for importers to secure additional clearances for duties and other concessions under the Tariffs Act.

It was advised that am importers' brokers to submit shipment documents early to ensure timely processing in the Asycuda system.

Next steps include PNG Customs

providing a formal response and IRC issuing a letter clarifying the exemption process.

#### PNG CORE attends Roundtable on Value for Nature Report

The PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority together with the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Facility Projects has invited PNG CORE to participate in a joint Private Public Dialogue Roundtable discussion in September. This roundtable discussion based around the Value for Nature Report related to Nature Positive Economy and its impact on PNG.

Both the PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority

(CEPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented a high-level finding from their report which included an estimated total economic value of the natural environment in PNG to be worth PGK1 trillion (US\$ 310 billion) per annuum indicating that it is 13 times the value oof the country's GDP. projects Ongoing to preserve PNG's biodiversity includes the implementation of the Protected Area Policy and to Maintain and expand the country's Protected Areas'

Network. The challenges in effective implementation of those programs include increased financial support, whole of government approach and policy shift towards a 'green' and 'blue' economy.

PNG CORE representatives emphasised the need for government efforts at the local and provincial levels to communicate the importance of raising awareness within communities about the value of their natural environment and biodiversity.

PNG CORE stressed that it is crucial for local people to exercise caution in their daily activities to protect the environment, where the vast majority of the population go about. Additionally, communities must be better informed

when engaging in development activities that may negatively impact the environment.

Since communities are the most vulnerable and affected by environmental degradation, PNG CORE also highlighted the importance of coordinated government support at the national level to secure resources for this vital cause.

#### **Industry visits MRA Live Data Monitoring Centre**

A few members from our Mining Committee were supported by the Policy & Analysis Unit for a site visit to Mineral Resources Authority's Mineral Production Live Data Hub in August.

The aim of the visit was to enhance industry knowledge and provide firsthand insight into the Centre's operations and processes for monitoring and managing mineral production data.

By understanding these mechanisms, PNG CORE seeks to ensure transparency, accountability, and improved efficiency within the mining sector, while also strengthening collaboration between PNG CORE and MRA to support a well-regulated industry.

MRA's Chief Inspector of Mines Mr. Lave Michael received the PNG CORE team with a tour to the Hub and provided an overview of the Hubs



Visit to MRA production Live Data Hub.

function, challenges, and areas the PNG CORE members (mining companies) could look at to improve coordination, communication, and information exchange.

Similarly, members of PNG CORE

were able to outline areas of opportunities where collaboration is ideal to work towards achieving mutually beneficial outcomes.

#### **PNG CORE meets with Minister for Petroleum & Energy**

A meeting was convened between PNG CORE and the Minister for Petroleum and Energy Hon Thomas Opa and the Department of Petroleum Secretary David Manau in August.

This meeting saw discussions centred around key reform initiatives in the petroleum industry. These reforms include the proposed National Petroleum Authority (NPA) Bill, the

shift from a royalty tax regime to Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), and the Organic Law on Ownership of Hydrocarbons and Minerals.

PNG CORE through its Policy & Analysis unit commends the Ministry's dedication to advancing these reforms and looks forward to ongoing collaboration to foster a stable and sustainable environment for the petroleum sector.

The meeting highlighted the government's plan to pass six sublegislations under the revised Organic Law, including the National Petroleum Authority (Act) Bill (NPAA), which is set to be tabled in November. However, the implementation of the PSC fiscal regime is postponed to 2025 due

to its complexity.

PNG CORE expressed the need for clarity on the objectives of these legislative changes, particularly around ownership and licensing provisions, and stresses the importance of transparent, consultative dialogue in the reform process.

PNG CORE stressed its support for the establishment of National Petroleum Authority, provided its fees adhere to a fair user-pay principle, and welcomes the PSC framework if it improves efficiency without reducing benefits for project owners.

PNG CORE requests the current draft of the NPAA Bill et al to be shared by department of Petroleum for industry to review and provide its input.

The Policy unit has opted to secure more consultations with respect to these reforms going into October and November 2024.



PNG CORE meeting with Minister for Petroleum & Energy Hon. Thomas Opa and department secretary Mr. David Manau.

#### **2024 INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARDS OPEN**

The PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNG CORE) continues to acknowledge the efforts of organizations within the resources and energy sector who do more than just extracting minerals and hydrocarbons.

In acknowledging the efforts and commitment these organisations put into driving health, environment and humanitarian initiatives within their project areas, PNG CORE is calling for submissions for the 2024 Industry Recognition Awards to award organisations for their outstanding initiatives in the following award categories:

- 1. Outstanding Health and Safety Initiative.
- 2. Outstanding Environmental & Climate Change Initiative.
- 3. Outstanding Community Humanitarian Initiative.

These awards are aimed to trigger innovation and improve best practices through shared values within the industry where people and communities are the center of project areas.

To participate as a contender for these Awards, participants

must submit a completed Award Nomination form accompanied with a one pager highlighting the program or initiative driven by their organisation with supporting information such as photographs and reports or a short video (less than 2 mins).

Calls for nominations close on 5 November, 5pm. For more information, contact the PNG CORE Member Services Team Lead, Edith Baimur through email ebaimur@pngcore.org or on telephone 3212988.

#### Preview of last year Industry Awards Winners



Outstanding Health & Safety
Initiative 2023 Winner
Harmony Gold's Morobe
Consolidated Gold Fields for the
Hidden Vallet Mine Reduction of

Lifestyle Diseases Program.



Outstanding Community Humanitarian Initiative 2023 Winner

K92 Mining Limited for its Women in Mining Program.



Outstanding Environmental or Climate Change Initiative for 2023 Winner

TotalEnergies EP PNG Limited for Zero Net Deforestation Projects.



## QUARTER 3 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE











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Total Members

(as at September 2024)

## Meet TotalEnergies People & Services Director

TotalEnergies EP PNG Limited (TotalEnergies) has appointed Vavine Fay Mulina-Trusty to the newly created position of People & Services Director, effective as of September 1, 2024.

The new People & Services directorate will focus on employee management and support, maintaining a high level of service with regards to care of our people in the affiliate.

Human Resources, General Services and Internal Communications all fall within her purview. Working at TotalEnergies for the last five years, Vavine has slowly established herself, starting within the affiliate as an officer, being promoted to Human Resource Manager and now overseeing her own directorate, proving herself as a hardworking and dedicated professional within the space of human resources.

Alongside Public Affairs Manager Mr Richard Kassman and the new Head of Acceptability and External Communication, she is one of only three nationals who sits on the Management Committee, an extraordinary feat for a young Papua New Guinean woman.

Her profound comprehension of her role, coupled with her empathetic approach to employee relations, knowledge of culture and ability to harmonize these elements with corporate culture, establishes her as a standout amongst her peers.



#### **MOKUT wins Leading Award at Resources Week 2024**

The MOKUT Women's Business Group has been recognised for its outstanding contribution in the resource industry at the PNG Resources Week 2024.

MOKUT is 100 per cent locally owned by women from Kutubu (Foe & Fasu) and Moran Huli areas whose business activities range from vegetable farming to sewing and traditional bilum weaving.

MOKUT which stands for Moran and Kutubu was established by Santos Community Affairs with the support of the Business Development & Local Content team.

In a moving speech at the Awards ceremony in Port Moresby, MOKUT Chairlady Naomi Samuel said: "I would like to thank Santos and its Community Affairs team for the continued support in promoting equal opportunities for women to be self-reliant through sustainable agriculture projects....

MOKUT first supplied eggs in 2014 to Santos through PNG Mining and Petroleum Hospitality Services (PNGMPHS). However, the 2018 earthquake and 2020 Covid-19 pandemic caused our small business to struggle just like the rest of the

world

Thanks to the (continued) support of Santos, we are progressing slowly but surely." MOKUT supplies eggs direct from its farms to PNGMPHS weekly. An estimated PGK41,600 has been paid to MOKUT employees from egg sales including vegetables annually.

From egg supply alone, around PGK97,000 has been brought into the community in 2023. Some of this was used for operational costs, commonly transportation and purchase of chicken layer stockfeed

and day-old chicks from Mt Hagen in WHP.

With an increase in egg prices, the business group has received close to PGK15,000 in the first half of 2024. MOKUT has made astounding contributions in developing skills and improving livelihoods of local women and youth in the community by promoting income generation opportunities for less privileged women. Apart from eggs, fresh vegetables are also grown in the group's centres and sold to MPHS.



MOKUT Women Business Group. Picture Supplied.

## Welcome to Policy Bites!

#### What are we chewing on this quarter?

In this edition we're excited to share an update on what your Policy & Analysis team has undertaken in Quarter 3, as we look forward to the final quarter.

Our trio in the P&A unit for this quarter have been busy working on four Policy Initiatives.

Here's an update from the team:

#### I. Production Sharing Agreements in the Petroleum Sector

The team has re-engaged the conversation around Production Sharing Agreements in the Petroleum Sector with the Minister for Petroleum and the Department of Petroleum Secretary with regards to the reform initiatives under the current Government's policy direction.

Government is currently proposing reform initiatives which may see a shift in the legislative, institutional and fiscal regime of the Petroleum Sector in PNG.

The reforms in the sector would necessitate new legislative changes such as in;

- National Petroleum Authority (Petroleum Resources Authority) Act
- Production Sharing Contracts
- Organic Law on Ownership of Hydrocarbons and Minerals

Commitments have been made by PNG CORE members to assist and provide inputs and offered suggestions given their extensive global expertise in various fiscal regimes.

#### II. CEPA - Waste Oil Program

The Policy & Analysis Unit is currently at work with the industry

and has provided initial views with a submission in relation to the Proposed Waste Oil Program/ Scheme by the PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA).

Waste oil, in this case, refers to oil that is used in the industry which may be contaminated with substance that are hazardous thus subject to hazardous waste management standards.

This program initiated by CEPA suggested an alternate method or mechanisms for the management of used oil in PNG.

The team offered initial suggestions and is calling on CEPA for clarification on the details, the associated Waste Policy and feasibility studies and for further dialogue on this program.

#### III. GST payments on Imported Goods

The team held a series of discussions with PNG Customs and Internal Revenue Commission, discussing specific issues on GST Payments including broad issues relating to Customs clearances processes.

The engagement was able to provide solutions to the issues faced by Industry members and was able to provide further insights and explanations to Import documentation requirements for clearances which the industry members are required to obtain for ease of cargo clearances.

#### IV. Tax matters and Reform Initiatives

The team met with IRC-Commissioner General and his team and discuss a variety of issues relating to tax administration as well as broad initiatives and policy updates.

The discussion basically includes Section 65 A GST Notice by IRC for the private sector, Issues relating to Goods and Services Tax, the new Income Tax Act-Re- write, Infrastructure Tax Credit Schemes, Medical Insurance, amongst others. This engagement was crucial which provided a better understanding of the present and impending changes on tax laws and tax initiatives driven by the government through IRC and state agencies.

## V. Independent Consumer & Competition Commission [ICCC] - Prices Regulations Act (Chapter 320)

The team provided views in a submission to ICCC on a proposed amendment to the Prices Regulations Act. The proposal made by ICCC intends to amend Part VII of the Prices Regulations Act which will empower the ICCC to apply unilateral price controls under special circumstances or based on grounds of social equity.

Accordingly, ICCC, intends to apply these measures to where the market is less competitive to prevent businesses from charging monopoly prices, instances of natural disasters, inflationary pressure, public interest concerns, amongst others. As understood, the ICCC, at present, can only apply price control measures for justifications of market competition.

The team, therefore, provided a submission outlining its concerns and offered recommendations to the ICCC for consideration. They also called for more discussions to understand potential benefits to PNG and the economic and legal implications which may impede upon the industry's operations and investment and business climate.

#### **Historic Mines:**

The Panguna Mine on Bougainville Island, which started operations in 1972, was one of the world's largest copper mines before it was closed due to civil unrest.

#### Morobe Gold Field:

In 1932, the Bulolo Gold Dredging Company airlifted a 110- tonne dredge piece by piece from the port city of Lae to the Bulolo River Valley. The largest single part, the main tumbler shaft, was four metres long and weighed more than three tonnes. The operation pioneered large-scale air transport in PNG. This operation was one of the first large-scale uses of air transport for mining equipment and significantly boosted gold production in the region.

#### **Petroleum Discoveries:**

Oil was first discovered at Vailala in Gulf Province in 1911, but commercial discovery was not until in the 1980s. The first well commenced drilling at Kariava in Gulf Province in 1941. Most of the commercial oil discoveries made to date as such Kutubu, Agogo, Moran, Gobe Main and South East Gobe have been in production since 1991, and these fields will be depleted soon with only 8 per cent of their recoverable reserves remaining as of December 2019.

#### **Petroleum Exploration Potential:**

Papua New Guinea has five basins which potentially contain hydrocarbon reserves. They are Papuan, Cape Vogel, New Ireland, North New Guinea and Bougainville.

#### **Industry:**

Papua New Guinea has been mining and using natural resources for about 40,000 years. Early inhabitants mined and manufactured stone tools, harvested oil seeps, and used clay for pottery long before metals became part of the culture.

# DID YOU KNOWS INTERESTING FACT

## Kumul tackles cancer in PNG



KPHL MD Wapu Sonk speaking at ANGAU event. Picture Supplied.

In August this year the Radiotherapy Services Unit at the PNG National Cancer Treatment Centre at ANGAU Memorial Hospital finally became fully operational and was opened by Prime Minister James Marape, after installation of a muchawaited Cobalt 60 radioactive source.

This event was the culmination of a 2020 commitment made by Kumul Petroleum to spend K15 million over three years to support cancer services at the hospital, recognition of the fact that cancer is the fourth largest cause of death in the country.

Since that time much has been done, including recruitment of a resident oncologist, assistance with a vehicle and accommodation, along with supply of necessary equipment and training of radiotherapy technicians.

Kumul Petroleum worked with the Morobe Provincial Health Authority, NDOH and ANGAU Memorial Hospital to ensure that cancer chemo and radiotherapy services would be upgraded and ready for full operation. Equipment provided to the cancer services unit under KPHL funding included X-ray machines, beds and other standard equipment used for chemotherapy treatment. For the last few years KPHL has also organised an annual charity golf event at the Lae Golf Club, the proceeds of which are donated to the ANGAU Memorial Hospital specifically to purchase chemotherapy drugs. These events raised K344,000 and K368,000 in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

In 2022 Kumul Petroleum also made a commitment to contribute K10 million towards the construction of a cancer 'bunker' and related treatment facilities at Port Moresby General Hospital.

Kumul Petroleum managing director, Wapu Sonk, advised,"The operation of the radiotherapy equipment is one of the final components of the package of support that KPHL has been providing since we signed a funding support agreement with the National Department of Health and the hospital in 2020. At that time KPHL committed to spend

K15 million."

Although the Lae Cancer Treatment Centre has been able to carry out chemotherapy, radiotherapy was awaiting the acquisition of a Cobalt 60 radioactive source from a manufacturer in Canada. KPHL has facilitated this process by paying PNG's membership of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and ensuring that ANGAU obtained a licence from National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology to transport this radioactive source to the hospital for installation. Even then, the security, transport and logistic arrangements to get the radioactive source to Lae were quite complex.

Cancer treatment can involve the use of specific chemical agents or the use of intermal or external radioactive radiation, depending on the type of cancer involved. KPHL funding has restored the nation's cancer radiation and brachytherapy services. Brachytherapy is where certain cancers are treated by placing radioactive material temporarily

inside the body.

During 2023, KPHL support for the ANGAU cancer unit totaled K9.5 million, and during that year the unit treated 2,027 patients, more than the previous year in all categories. This included 427 new patients, 1,209 follow-up patients, 309 patients who were screened, 1,141 who required chemotherapy and 878 who required radiotherapy.

The arrival of the Cobalt 60 source means that for the first time in many years, Papua New Guineans needing cancer treatment will be able to get radiation treatment alongside existing chemotherapy services.

Kumul Petroleum is proud to be able to invest in the country' health care infrastructure such as at the National Cancer Centre at ANGAU Memorial Hospital, and to an even greater level for the National Heart Centre at Port Moresby General Hospital. The support of cancer services at ANGAU will have a meaningful and lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Morobe, and others who utilise these health facilities.

#### **Kina Bank Staff Support Conservation Efforts**

Kina Bank is deeply committed to supporting sustainable livelihoods within our local communities. As part of Kina Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, the bank's Support Services team recently planted mangroves at Barakau village in Central Province.

The event was held on Saturday 7 September through a partnership with the Eda Davara Marine Sanctuary, who supervised the activity. Eda Davara Marine Sanctuary is a marine research centre and sanctuary, established to provide a platform for university students who have interests in research to implement their projects within the sanctuary.

It also serves as a learning hub for students to study different marine ecosystems and organisms found within them. A total of 28 mangrove seedlings from the sanctuary were planted on the village's Kohua Beach, where the sanctuary is located.

Kina Bank Support Services General Manager Samuel Kovea thanked the Eda Davara team and the community for organising the activity, which gave his team the opportunity to contribute towards protecting the local community's shoreline from erosion and flooding.

"We are also pleased that by planting the mangroves, we are supporting marine conservation and helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change that are already impacting our coastal areas," he added. Eda Davara Marine Sanctuary Projects Manager, Alena Gebai thanked Kina Bank for supporting their project.

"Your participation shows that you care about the livelihood of our local community. These mangroves will eventually grow to protect our shoreline from rising sea levels, provide a habitat for marine life and eventually help in research and conservation efforts," she said.

The mangrove planting was Kina Bank's Support Services team's second CSR initiative. The first was held in July this year when the team raised funds and purchased 60 chairs and 30 tables for the Coronation Primary School in Port Moresby.



Kina Bank Staff Support Conservation Efforts.

## Demonstrating responsibility for women's health

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of premature mortality among women in PNG and the implementation of screening and early detection of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) that causes cervical cancer is a promising strategy to address this challenge.

As a pivotal step for companies to empower and value their female workforce, Santos is demonstrating responsibility through free HPV testing and treatment for its female workforce

and their families as part of a women empowerment initiative by the Medical & Wellbeing team.

Utilising its existing health facilities and trained staff; testing and treatment through

thermal ablation was seamlessly woven into the health service provided to all staff and dependents.

The company benefitted significantly from reduced time loss among female staff through the cost-effective and impactful program for women.



Dr. Jemimah Taganny.

## **Empowering women and girls Santos Cup to grow women's rugby in PNG**

A new era for women's rugby league in PNG has begun with the launch of the Santos Cup the first ever national women's semi-professional competition in 2024. Santos along with its valued partners, PNG Rugby Football League Inc., the Australian Government through PacificAus Sports, Digicel and Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited, congratulates the participating teams their exceptional performance throughout the competition: Lae Tigers, Mt Hagen Eagles, Rabaul Gurias, Goroka Lahanis, Port Moresby Vipers and Central Dabaris.

Santos also commended all the coaching staff and management. Cup signifies Santos commitment to equal participation by women and paves the way for the younger generation of women rugby players in communities throughout PNG. It is also a direct pathway in identifying and working with young girls who have the talent and skills to go on and represent the country in the national women's team, the Papua New Guinea Orchids. The inaugural Power Meri Round for the Santos Cup also celebrated

the contribution of women to rugby league in Papua New Guinea from players to coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, team doctors, match officials, media personnel, administrators and executives – from the grassroots to the boardroom, women are meaningfully contributing to and shaping PNG's national sport for the better. This includes the delivery of the competition.

The Santos Cup enters its first ever grand final seeing Central Dabaris taking in Goroka Lahanis at the Santos National Football Stadium in Port Moresby on Sunday, 15th September 2024.

Goroka Lahanis came out victorious claiming the Santos Cup in the inaugural national women's rugby league competition.







#### **Santos implement** Flex Friday

the implementation of Flex the significance of work/life Friday for residential full-time employees in its Port Moresby office making it the first energy company to offer this benefit in Papua New Guinea, to the best of our knowledge.

The Port Moresby office trialled a compressed 9 days per fortnight work schedule for a period of 6 months from 19 January 2024 to 5 July 2024. Santos Country Chair PNG, Leon Buskens, lauded the efforts of Flex the Port Moresby workforce in ensuring the success of the Flex Friday trial without impacting operational requirements.

employees "Our of exceptional results. There business.

Santos is excited to announce is a growing realisation of balance while at the same time maintaining or even enhancing productivity levels across the business.

"Flexible work is not only feasible but necessary. I am quite pleased that Flex Friday will now be implemented in Port Moresby alongside our offices in Australia and Anchorage in Alaska," said Mr Buskens.

will allow Friday participating employees to compress their working hours into a nine-day fortnight and enjoy the benefit of every have second Friday off with no demonstrated the core values impact to their salary or leave of Santos by working as one entitlements. Flex Friday will team, being always safe and commence on 11 October 2024 accountable in the pursuit in line with Santos' Australian





Week, UPNG.

speaking at the 2024 PNG Resources



# Hides Gas to Electricity plant back online after four-year shutdown

Santos is pleased to announce that the Hides Gas to Electricity (GTE) Plant is back online after a four-year shutdown coinciding with the closure of the Porgera Gold Mine in Enga province.

Thanks to its remarkable feat of engineering and teamwork by all parties involved, it took the Santos Hides Return to Service (RTS) team eight months since August 2023 to fully restore the plant

operations.

The Santos-operated Hides GTE plant will resume supplying gas to the Porgera Joint Venture to produce electricity from their gas turbines to power up the Porgera Gold mine.

This is a major milestone for the country's energy sector and a testament to the dedication and expertise of teamwork led by a local workforce with the engineering support of Santos' wider business.

With the restoration of the plant, this will provide a significant boost to Papua New Guinea's gas supply, contributing to increased energy security and economic growth.

It is a demonstration of Santos' commitment to developing its resources and building a strong and sustainable energy sector in PNG.





## 2024 Papua New Guinea **Investment Week**

Creating Opportunities & Reinvesting Equity



Speakers

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