

PRESS RELEASE

HIDES GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED ASSISTS TO REOPEN PARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

HIDES (25/02/13): Hides Gas Development Company Limited has taken the lead to reopen Para Primary School located in Hides -4, Hela Province.

The reopening of the school will ensure students have access to formal education after the school was closed due to teachers and students seeking well paid employment in the PNG LNG Project.

The Company assisted the school with refurbishment of classrooms and teachers' houses and contributed money to purchase much needed materials including text books.

HGDC Ltd also placed advertisements in the newspapers to recruit qualified teachers and a head teacher.

The head teacher and the teachers will move into the school once all accommodation has been completed.

Hides Gas Development Company Limited General Manager John Gourley said, "The rebuilding of the school has been achieved in a very short period of time."

"As an umbrella landowner company, owned by the shareholders who are landowners in the project area, we are pleased to assist in reopening the school to ensure vital educational services reach our landowners.

"Our assistance will ensure the children have access to good quality education and see themselves as contributing meaningfully to the development of the Hides area.

The Para Primary School, which is located close to the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant, was allowed to deteriorate and closed as teachers left their teaching positions and took up well paid jobs with contractors on the PNG LNG Project. Most of the staff houses were also taken over by local landowners.

Just this year HGDC Ltd in consultation with local leaders took the lead in rebuilding the school and the school will soon be opened to accept new enrollments.



Caption: Workmen building desks for the Para Primary School.

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For further information, call Eric Tapakau – Media and Public Affairs Coordinator on 321 4360 or 7190 3083.