

PRESS RELEASE

HGDC JOINS BIG EMPLOYERS' CLUB

PORT MORESBY: Hides Gas Development Company Ltd is now among the largest employers of Papua New Guineans.

The umbrella company of the upstream sector of the PNG LNG Project now employs over 1,900 skilled and unskilled labourers engaged with various contractors in the project.

When the project reaches its construction peak by next year, the number of HGDC employees will increase to a massive 3000.

As a requirement for any company employing more than 15 staff, HGDC has formalised its membership with private sector super fund National Superannuation Fund Ltd.

This would see HGDC becoming one of the largest contributors to the fund.

HGDC is also ensuring that since the construction phase of the LNG project is short term, all employees will be contributing to NASFUND from day one instead of the usual probation period of three months.

Since the construction phase is short term, all employees will start contributing to the fund as soon as they are signed up instead of starting contributions after their probation.

This will ensure that they have some form of saving after the construction phase of the project winds down.

Chairman Tuguyawini Libe Parindali said with a workforce of such magnitude and given the urgency to deliver first gas by 2014, HGDC has a mammoth task ahead to ensure that while we do our part to deliver PNG's first LNG project we also fulfil our role as the umbrella landowner company and pay dividends to our shareholders.

"As Chairman of your company, I would like every landowner from Benaria Pipeline, Angore, Juha, Hides PDL 1, Hides PDL -7, Komo Airport and the Heavy Haul Road to take ownership of the PNG LNG Project and look after it," he said.

"The Project will be here for the next 30 to 40 years and benefits to the landowners are guaranteed in the project life if we look after the project.

“There are processes and procedures in place to follow if the landowners have issues to be addressed and resolving to disrupt the project must cease.”

He said as the LNG Project is relatively new to the country, “it is also our learning curve in managing landowner issues and benefits to the landowners so procedures should be followed at all times so that we achieve a win-win scenario for all stakeholders including the landowners, the State and the developers”.

He said HGDC will grow and ensure returns to our shareholders are maximised over the years ahead. I would like to see our landowners look after HGDC as it represents all regional landowner companies in upstream sector of the PNG LNG Project.

“We will participate in all the business opportunities that are available to us and where possible, we will enter into strategic joint venture partnerships to participate in business opportunities outside of the five reserved areas,” Mr Parindali said.

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Approved for Release

Mr Tuguyawini Libe Parindali
Chairman
Hides Gas Development Company Ltd