

# Updates

## **The ACP and ACP-EU Council of Ministers Meetings Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 28 May – 2 June 2006**



No. 1 – February 2006

### **Preparations Are On Target**

Preparations for the hosting of the ACP and ACP-EU Council of Ministers Meetings from May 28 to June 2<sup>nd</sup> is progressing well.

Chairman of the PNG Events Council Secretariat, Sir Peter Barter said work at the main conference venue, the Indoor Sports Complex is progressing well with the painting and carpentry work lending an impressive look to the building.

The eight working committees of the PNG Events Council Secretariat in charge of the various aspects of the planning and logistics are working to ensure that their tasks are completed in time to avoid last minute rush and inconvenience. These committees are made up of representatives from Foreign Affairs & Immigration Prime Minister and NEC, Trade and Industry, Police, Defence Force, Correctional Service, NIO, IRC, Finance and Treasury, CAA, NAQIA, Telikom, National Cultural Commission, National Museum, the PNG Chamber of Commerce, Air Niugini, Tourism Promotion Authority and Department of Inter Government Relations.

### **Technical Team Assured of Successful Meeting**

A joint technical team of the ACP and the European Union secretariats in Brussels visited Port Moresby from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26 to check out the conference venue and discuss the preparations and technical details with the government agencies responsible for planning this meeting. While in the country they visited the Indoor Sports Complex of the Sir John Guise Stadium and discussed their needs with the contractor upgrading the conference venue. They met with the Chief Secretary to Government, Mr Joshua Kalinoe, senior officers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, the Police Commissioner Sam Inguba and his deputy Gari Baki to get first hand information on the preparations and police and security operations. They visited the four main hotels in the city to see first hand the sort of accommodation available and the rates that are offered. The delegation left well pleased by their fact finding mission and better placed to advise their respective secretariats on what PNG, the host government is doing.

### **The ACP and EU**

The African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states has 79 members while there are 25 members of the European Union countries with two observers who will become full members in 2007. The meeting of the Ministers for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries will be from May 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> followed by the joint ACP-EU Council of Minister's meeting from June 1-2. The official opening of this meeting will be at the Chamber of the National Parliament at 11am on June 1. The Parliament of PNG approved the venue of the meeting at its sitting last month.

### **Accommodation**

More than 680 rooms have been secured in hotel room around Port Moresby and the PNG Events Council Secretariat has already signed accommodation agreements with some of them. These include the Port Moresby Crowne Plaza, The Holiday Inn, the Hideway, Ponderosa, Granville, The Gateway and Ela Beach Hotels. The agreement with the rest of the hotels will be signed before the end of March.

## **PNG Village Concept**

Port Moresby will be host to more than 500 international visitors during this time and plans for involving the people of Papua New Guinea in making this event a memorable one is already well underway.

The Trade, Tourism and Investment Promotion Committee is working with the private sector the business community and line government agencies in showcasing Papua New Guinea at the Sir John Guise Stadium during the week of the meetings.

Many of these visitors to the ACP-EU meetings will not be able to travel to other parts of Papua New Guinea before or after the meeting. Thus, a mini PNG village will be shown to the visitors. Businesses houses and provincial governments are asked to work with the Council to build a house from their province and show some of the products that is exported or the culture of the people.

## **Tour Packages**

Air Niugini has responded positively to this opportunity to publicise many of PNG's unique culture and environment by offering journalists free travel throughout the country. A brochure with information on the hotels, tour packages and what each province has to offer is being finalised and will be printed and distributed. The tour packages will try as far as possible to involve business houses and tour operators in the provinces so that the visitors get to enjoy the many diverse faces of PNG.

## **Information**

Weekly media briefings and press conferences have been held to publicise this event. The first information brochure on the meeting has already sent to Brussels to be distributed among the ACP and EU member countries to prepare them for PNG. A second and more detailed one is being prepared by the PNG Events Council Secretariat.

Information on visa requirements, hotels, transport, meeting venue, PNG and the provinces are in the brochure which is also available on the PNG Events Council Secretariat website which will be launched soon. Similar information is being distributed to media organisations and government agencies, and tour operators to post on their websites.

## **Educational Material**

The PNG Events Council Secretariat is using this opportunity to produce information posters on the African, Caribbean and Pacific as well as the European Union for the use of school children. Many questions have already been asked about the ACP and EU and their importance to Papua New Guinea. Many of the students are not aware that the Secretary General of the ACP is Papua New Guinea's own Sir John Kaputin. These posters will carry information on the importance of the ACP to PNG and what the European Union and its member countries have done to help PNG and the Pacific.

## **Ceremonial Protocol and Program**

After the draft program has been finalised it will be included in the delegates handbook for distribution at the meeting. Other than key information for the delegates, the booklet will also contain background information on PNG and its people, a detailed map of Port Moresby and the Conference venue itself. Guests list and invitation for the various official functions including the official opening on June 1<sup>st</sup> are now being finalised.

