

Updates

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



No. 3 – April 2006

ACP General Secretariat Compliments the Government

Secretary General of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), Sir John Kaputin, complimented the national government on the progress of the preparations for the upcoming ACP and ACP-EC Council of Ministers Meetings.

Sir John made this remark after a briefing by the PNG Events Council and a visit to the Conference Venue, at the Sir John Guise Stadium on Friday.

Sir John was in transit to Brussels after attending a meeting in Fiji which the Chairman Sir Peter Barter also attended.

The two leaders told the weekly Council meeting that there was some nervousness from some of the delegates about coming to Papua New Guinea. However, Sir John assured them that the government and people of Papua New Guinea is prepared for this big meeting and will ensure their safety and comfort.



Kevin Moran, Construction Manager, explains details of the conference venue to Sir John Kaputin. Photo Anna Solomon.

Second Time for PNG to Host an ACP Meeting

The ACP and ACP-EC Ministers Conference in May will be the second big ACP related meeting that Papua New Guinea will host. The government hosted an ACP meeting in 1991 where over 400 guests attended and they went away very pleased with the reception they received. The official opening of that meeting was also in the Chamber of the national Parliament. Secretary General of the ACP, Sir John Kaputin reminded the organizers to ensure that the people of Papua New Guinea make this event another memorable one for the visitors.

The Final Countdown Begins

With less than two months before the conference date, the pace of completing renovations to the conference venue has quickened. KG Contractors, walked Sir John Kaputin through the building and pointed out the various offices and updated him on the various stages of the renovations. Contract manager, Kevin Moran is confident the renovations will be completed by the first week of May.

Sir John Informs the Public through NBC

The National Broadcasting Corporation was pleasantly surprised when Sir John Kaputin arrived at their 9 Mile Studio on Friday morning and they quickly set up a live radio interview with him. Senior broadcasters, Memafu Kaperu and Jimmy Veneo interviewed Sir John on the agenda for the meetings, the important relationship that EU has with the ACP member countries, and how Papua New Guinea benefits from this relationship. Sir John explained to the listeners about the

main objectives of the ACP-EC including the Trade Partnership Agreements (EPA).

Information on Security and Health Precautions

Detailed information on the conference will cover everything that a visitor will need to know about health precautions and places to visit so that they make informed choices on their movements around Port Moresby. Information on police help lines, local transport and some simple *Tok Pisin* words to help them ask directions to the conference venue or their hotel will be in the Information Brochure and the Delegates Handbook.



*Sir John Kaputin interviewed at the NBC Studio by Memafu Kapera.
Photo Anna Solomon.*

Regular Updates on TPA Website

This weekly update of the ACP-EC meetings will be carried on the TPA Website—www.pngtourism.org.pg. The Tourism Promotion Authority's generous offer is another example of all government departments and line agencies cooperating to make this event a success by making information available through their network. Air Niugini is also finalizing the special tour packages for the brochure. This information will also be available on the TPA website.

State Radio and Telecommunication Contribute

The National broadcasting Corporation (NBC) has been given the Official Broadcaster status and will be the distributor to other radio stations. Meanwhile Telikom PNG has completed the job of additional direct lines to the conference venue. They are now awaiting the completion of the voice and data cabling by the subcontractor in the building.

Public Awareness on the ACP and EU

Public awareness on the relationship between the ACP Group of States and the European Union and their institutions will start this month. Posters of the African, Caribbean, Pacific member countries and the European Union members showing their flags and a brief profile of each country has been completed and will be printed for distribution to schools. The media will also feature special supplements on the relationship between PNG and the EU which is one of our most important development partners, the EU funded projects and the importance of Stabex, as well as background on the cooperation between the EU and the ACP Group from the "regime of association" in 1957 to the Georgetown Agreement in 1975.

ACP's 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Last year, 2005, when Papua New Guinea celebrated its 30th Independence Anniversary, the ACP also celebrated its 30th year of existence. Among the many anniversary memorabilia was a colourful montage of all the member country flags. An anniversary song was also composed to mark the occasion by a female artist from Africa. More information on the Anniversary and the ACP can be obtained from their website: www.acpsec.org

Accreditation Forms

The Delegation Accreditation Form 1 and the Media Accreditation Form 2 have been distributed. These Forms can be obtained from the Papua New Guinea Events Council Secretariat at this email address: asolomon@global.net.pg. The deadline to submit the Accreditation Forms is April 31st 2006.

*Papua New Guinea Events Council Secretariat
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