
PNG Media Release

Marea House opening signifies importance of public-private partnership

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The opening of the Marea House in Port Moresby today signifies the importance of public-private partnerships – the government working with the private sector to develop the country.

Commenting on the official opening of the refurbished government building, Gereva Aopi, Oil Search's Executive General Manager for Stakeholder Engagement said:

"This is an occasion of great significance in many ways; it is significant because of the cooperation of many organisations and individuals who have made the refurbishment possible; the national government, local authorities, numerous contractors and for Oil Search, the very first major project to manage in the Nation's capital."

Practical completion of the redevelopment was achieved in December last year as scheduled, with the total project cost for the construction and fit out of the building delivered within the approved budget.

The project created more than 500 new local jobs on site, including a notable female proportion of the workforce with outstanding safety statistics achieved during the project, with around 700,000 man hours worked on the job from start to finish.

"Oil Search is PNG's largest company and investor and has built a very successful business in this country. We recognise that a key element of our success has been our relationships with our communities and government, and our ability to aid social development in PNG and partner with government to deliver critical infrastructure and services. Leveraging the respective skills of Government and the Private Sector, in true public-private partnerships, effectively delivers social development and infrastructure, whilst helping meet community expectations.

As a PNG Company, we believe we have an obligation to help Government meet these expectations and put something back into the communities in which we work. This is why we continue to build infrastructure, roads and carry out health programmes in partnership with the relevant governments and actively promote development of sustainable power options for communities across PNG. This promotes good relationships with our communities and a stable operating and investment environment in which we can continue to grow. It just makes good business sense, as well as being socially responsible," said Mr Aopi.

The integrated building systems were designed by locally based engineering consultant Kramer Ausenco. The building was designed by local architects Pacific Architects consortium, and the project was also assisted by locally based Cost Plan Services. The construction work on the building was undertaken by L&A Construction.

The refurbished Marea House comprises 12 levels, nine of which are office areas made up of open plan modern offices, executive office, reception areas, meeting and conference rooms. The building also boasts special features, such as onsite parking for 200 plus cars and backup systems for power and water supply.

In 2013, the Government appointed Oil Search as project manager for the refurbishment of the iconic Port Moresby building known locally as the 'Pineapple Building' which had fallen derelict. Its refurbishment was the flagship project under the National Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme.

The Government introduced the National Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme Bill to cater for the refurbishment of Marea House and the redevelopment of Lloyd Robson oval now renamed the National Football Stadium. Both projects are being managed by Oil Search under the tax credit scheme.

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