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NBPOL opens new Corporate Office



An elevated view of the new NBPOL Corporate Office at Mosa in West New Britain during its opening on March 2 2023

NBPOL and oil palm in PNG were birthed at Mosa back in 1967 by Harrisons and Crosfield. It is from here that NBPOL has gone from a single entity to a global business leader in sustainable palm oil production. To date, West New Britain single-handedly remains the largest producer of palm oil in PNG with Mosa maintaining the nerve centre of NBPOL. On March 2 2023, NBPOL officially opened its new Corporate Office at Mosa, witnessed by the Government of PNG and Sime Darby. The million-kina facility comprises the main office complex and new housing for head office staff. The significant investment demonstrates NBPOL and SDP's long-term commitment to agriculture development in West New Britain Province and PNG, with a headquarters out of Mosa.

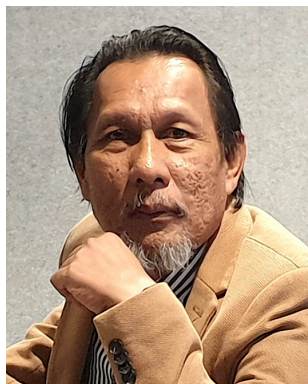
Chairman keen with headquarters moved back to where it all started

NBPOL headquarters (HQ) is now permanently stationed at Mosa, the site where NBPOL and oil palm development in PNG began decades ago. During the opening, Chairman Datuk Mohamad Nageeb Ahmad Abdul Wahab said the executive office was moved from Mosa to Singapore and then Port Moresby. "I am now intrigued that the HQ from Port Moresby is back to where it started," he said. He added that NBPOL encourages more landowner companies and incorporated

land groups to consolidate and get involved in businesses. Speaking of law and order, the chairman said: "NBPOL will contribute to deal with law and order issues in WNB and other provinces that NBPOL operates". The chairman assured its stakeholders and the Government of PNG that the relocation was part of NBPOL's long-term plan to forge partnerships and offer opportunities for the locality. He also acknowledged that NBPOL is recognized a global player today.



CEO's Message



Mohd Azlan Shah
CEO, NBPOL

Dear all, welcome to another edition of our Newsletter.

I trust that you are finding these newsletters informative. I certainly am, and I encourage you all to submit your features and photos to the editorial team on a regular basis.

I would like to emphasise how important we feel it is to be running a business in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

In both countries, NBPOL is a nationally significant employer, producer of goods for export, and contributor to the national economy.

We are also committed to improving downstream production of finished consumer goods, including sugar, premium beef and packaged cooking oil for retail.

We do this despite the challenging business environment that is forcing some manufacturers to look overseas for more efficient means of production.

Physical geography demands that we are highly reliant on roads and ports for incoming and outgoing shipments of fertilisers, equipment and finished products.

The distances and infrastructure elevate our production costs in ways that we are scarcely able to control. Our remote locations also mean that we are highly internally reliant for essentials of business such as power, water, and security.

Improving this business environment requires continuous engagement with stakeholders such as local government and overseas aid organisations to bring about sustainable development within and around our sites of operation.

As we develop our business to produce locally produced consumer goods we also hope that our surrounding communities will flourish and support our investments.

Against this backdrop, costs of production in NBPOL still appear to be high and we must all work to control costs that can be managed to ensure that we remain profitable as the CPO market price continues to slide after an extended period of high prices.

A famous adage states "This too shall pass" and is intended to be applicable to good times (say, high CPO prices) and bad times (say, low CPO prices), but our focus on cost control is one thing that we should never allow to fall from our priorities.

Last month we reported on the launching of our Corporate Office in Mosa and I am pleased to advise that the team is settling into their new home in Mosa.

My thanks again to our distinguished guests including senior leadership of Sime Darby Plantation, the Chairman and Board of NBPOL, and National Ministers, Governors and Members of Parliament for their time and inputs during the event.

I am confident that the discussions started during the launching will flourish into long term partnerships for the future.

I also thank all members of the committees involved in planning and preparation for this historic event that marks the start of a new era for NBPOL.



SDP Group MD Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha (left) getting an insight on production of Premium Beef from RAIL GM Ruari Macwilliam early this month

Cadets complete management training at Poliamba

Poliamba's two cadets who commenced the NBPOL Management Training Program back in 2021 finally graduated on February 25 2023. It took the cadets, one for mill and the other for field, the whole of 2022 to complete their respective programs given by the NBPOL Training Academy from Ramu.

Apart from their training programs, Poliamba field and mill operations also assigned specific project topics for each of them to work on. They both completed their work programs and projects which were then presented to HODs and managers including the AGM before the graduation day.

Congratulatory messages were offered by department heads of field, mill and SQM as well as the AGM; followed by remarks by the trainees and presentation of certificates.

The Mill Cadet was offered a Mill Assistant position, which was available within POL, while POL HR is still searching for any field assistant vacancies for the Field Cadet at other NBPOL sites.



POL executives with the two cadets during their graduation in February

Governor Muthuvel welcomes NBPOL HQ to WNB and expresses interest for mutual a partnership



West New Britain Governor Sasindran Muthuvel (right) presenting a traditional gift (shell money) to NBPOL CEO Mohd Azlan Shah on March 2 2023

The West New Britain Provincial Government (WNBPG) will be keen to partner with NBPOL on a number of priorities on the table for the province.

In congratulating the NBPOL Board and Sime Darby Plantation for relocating the NBPOL headquarters to his province at Mosa, West New Britain Governor Sasindran Muthuvel said his government's current priorities are;

1. law and order,
2. tourism,
3. renewable energy and
4. shareholding investment.

With the ongoing law and order issue, the Governor specifically called for NBPOL to partner with his administration in addressing them.

"We are very keen to partner with the company so that we can combine and face these law and order challenges and bring peace to our people and also to our investors like NBPOL."

Muthuvel added that besides agriculture,

tourism also remains a top priority for the WNBPG, given the historical and natural opportunities.

In terms of energy needs, which has become a nationwide issue at present, the Governor has banked on NBPOL for a sustainable solution. "The dream of becoming a province that relies on 100% renewable energy still remains, which is possible with your help," he said.

The Governor also stated that the WNBPG stands ready to invest in NBPOL if the company goes public. "We will be more than happy to invest in NBPOL if given the chance."

Muthuvel also acknowledged the seven major tribes for giving their land for development since 1964.

Meanwhile, local Nakanai Member of Parliament and Oil Palm Minister Francis Maneke commended NBPOL's contributions to the agriculture sector in the province and the country and said he will put forward his Statement of Intent for the oil palm industry in the coming weeks.

PNGOPRA training focuses on standardising oil palm pest and disease operations



PNGOPRA's Head of Crop Protection Section Dr Emard Jaber making a point during a training session at the Entomology Laboratory at Dami Research Station

Pests and diseases account for significant economic losses in oil palm. Thus, it is important to ensure pest and disease identification, damage assessment, control measures, and monitoring and reporting procedures are standardized in all oil palm sites to maintain pest and disease damages below economic thresholds.

PNG Oil Palm Research Association (PNGOPRA) implements these standards through training and upskilling of officers in order to provide technical support to oil palm stakeholders in PNG.

A Pest and Disease Training was conducted by PNGOPRA's Crop Protection Section during February 6-11 2023 at the Dami Research Station in WNB - where PNGOPRA's central station is located.

The training featured guest facilitator and collaborator from AgResearch New Zealand, Dr Sean Marshall.

Training participants comprised of PNGOPRA sub-station officers in charge and pest and disease staff from Milne Bay Estates, Higaturu Oil Palm, Ramu Agri-Industries Limited (RAIL), Bialla, Poliamba and Dami Research Station.

RAIL's Head of Research Services, Dr Mar-
nie Light, and the RAIL Research and Development team also participated.

The six-day training consisted of presentations, practical applications and plenary discussions; covering topics of pest and disease overview, ganoderma disease surveys and control, pest identification, pest damage assessment, control recommendations, emerging pest overview, and pest monitoring and reporting procedures.

Heads of PNGOPRA's Agronomy and Smallholder & Socio-Economic Research (SSR) sections also presented summaries of roles and responsibilities of their respective sections in the respective sites.



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In next month's issue

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Commemorative tree planting at Ramu Golf Course

Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare, widely known as the father of the nation, was a visionary leader who played a vital role in shaping PNG's political landscape and guiding it towards democracy.

In honor of his memory, the RAIL community, in conjunction with the Ramu Golf Course, conducted a commemorative tree planting exercise on February 24. The exercise was an opportunity to enhance the golf course's ranking, according to the Ramu Golf Club (RGC) preferences and overall design.

RGC Grounds coordinator, Henry Manga, noted that this tree planting activity will also help to improve the course's aesthetic appeal, which is often a factor in golf course rankings.

Over 400 tree seedlings of native and endemic species were supplied by the RAIL Forestry Nursery. The tree planting exercise created a legacy that will not only help to preserve the environment but also serve as a reminder of Somare's contributions to PNG's development.



RAIL's Dr Yongoe Kambue smiles as he plants a rosewood seedling

MBE introduces motorised wheelbarrows for improved efficiency in fresh fruit bunch collection



A group of estate managers and supervisors testing a motorised wheelbarrow to get a feel on how it will be used in collecting and transporting loose fruits

In recent years, motorized wheelbarrows have gained popularity in the agriculture industry for their efficiency and productivity. These machines are becoming a game-changer for farmers, particularly those who work in the oil palm industry, where the collection and transportation of fresh fruit bunch (FFB) can be labour-intensive and time-consuming.

Milne Bay Estates (MBE) has recently introduced motorized wheelbarrows for fresh fruit collection operations. The machines will be used by the harvesting team to collect fresh fruits and are likely to provide a significant increase in efficiency and productivity.

The introduction of motorized wheelbarrows will reduce labour costs, allowing workers to collect and transport more FFBs in less time, whereby increasing production and improve profitability.

The motorized wheelbarrows also offer improved safety for workers by reducing the amount of heavy lifting required during the collection and transportation of fresh fruits.

This will significantly reduce risk of back injuries and other physical strains for workers, making it a more comfortable and safer work environment.

The wheelbarrows have a sturdy design, with a capacity of up to 500 kilograms of FFBs and can be operated easily by a single person, thus will help reduce the number of workers required for fruit collection.

The machine, which runs on petrol engine and is called Land surf, is a significant technological advancement in agriculture, particularly in the oil palm industry, where FFB collection is a labour-intensive and time-consuming task.

RAIL conducts awareness on roles of water at Ramu Int'l School during World Water Day



RAIL's Environment, Safety and Health representatives and Ramu International School engaging to learn about the necessities of water on March 22

Every year the world commemorates the essential role water plays in the lives of billions of people around the world.

This year, the World Water Day was celebrated on March 22 2023 with a sound theme, "Accelerate Change", that demanded collective acceleration of progress in the global crisis of Clean Water and Sanitation.

As part of Ramu Agri-Industries Limited's (RAIL) commitment to ensure clean water and proper sanitation services are accessible to all its concerned parties (employees, dependents, third parties), the Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) representatives organized a visit to Ramu

International Primary School to share essential information about significant roles that water plays in human daily living, the company's role in ensuring clean and safe water is accessible and best practices to promote safer, wiser and responsible usage of water.

Moreso, selected students were awarded prizes by the ESH representatives for participating in short activities such as quizzes and draws done for certain exercises.

The Year 7 and 8 students also arranged a stage display to showcase different types of water usage by placing labels on several water vessels/containers.

MBE SAP users undergo e-CAPEX training

Milne Bay Estates (MBE) recently conducted an E-Capex Training for SAP users, which was aimed at equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills on how to navigate and utilize the system effectively.

The E-Capex system is a cloud-based platform that allows MBE to manage its capital expenditures efficiently. It streamlines the capital expenditure approval process, provides real-time tracking of expenditures, and offers insightful analytics to aid in decision-making.

The training was facilitated by an experienced trainer who guided participants through the various features and functionalities of the system. Participants were taken through the basics of the system, including how to log in, navigate the platform, and input data.

They were also taught on how to generate reports, approve expenditures, and monitor progress. During the training, participants also asked questions and provided feedback on the system.



Some of the participants at the recent E-CAPEX training at MBE

WHISTLEBLOWING IN NUMBERS

Top 3 reported allegation categories in 2022:



50% of the allegations were against Non-Executive personnel



Non-Executive

Supervisors, mandores, clerks and general workers



Executive

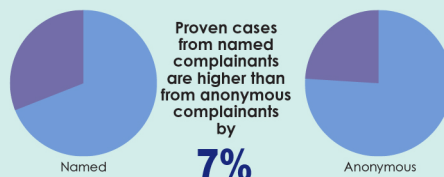
Managers, assistant managers, senior executives and executives



Others

Directors, top management, vendors, contractors, customers, etc.

■ Proven ■ Not Proven



Named complainants allow the Whistleblowing Unit/Investigator to contact them for further inquiries, hence have a higher possibility of proving their allegations. Therefore, we encourage you to disclose your name to add credibility to your complaint.

Consequence management analysis on the proven cases will be shared in the next newsletter.

Use the following Whistleblowing (WB) channels to raise your concern:



WB e-Form



WB e-Mail



WB Hotline



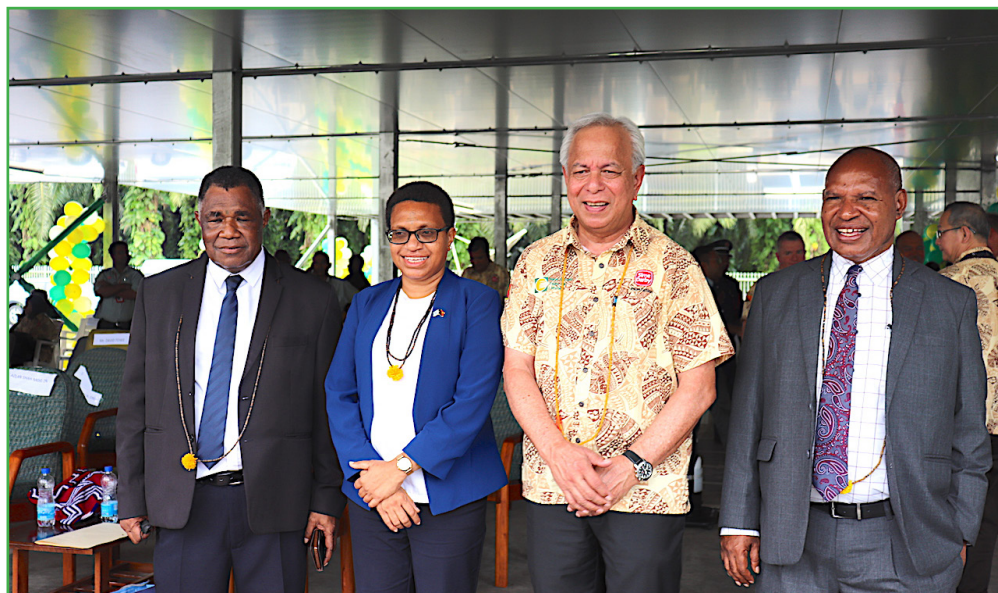
Letter

For more information, please refer to WB page in SDP SharePoint or

[SharePoint](#)

If you have further questions on the above issue, channel your queries to cobc@simedarbyplantation.com

PNG Government opens for partnership with NBPOL, says trade and investment minister



(R-L) Trade and Investment Minister Richard Maru, NBPOL Chairman Datuk Mohamad Nageeb Ahmad Abdul Wahab, Raicoast MP Kessy Sawang and Oil Palm Minister Francis Maneke during the opening of the Corporate Office

International Trade and Investment Minister Richard Maru held nothing back with his repeated calls for PNG Government's willingness to partner with NBPOL.

Speaking during the opening of the new Corporate Office at Mosa early this month, Maru said the escalating law and order situation in West New Britain Province (WNBP) can be adequately addressed if all stakeholders work together.

The National Government is ready to commit resources into the tax credit scheme to address law and order issues in the province.

"All we need is the province and the company to partner. Let's work together to find a long-term solution," Maru said.

The Minister also banked on a partnership for green energy to solve constant power blackouts in Kimbe. He said NBPOL being a responsible corporate citizen must look at ways to partner and provide solutions for WNBP.

Downstream processing was another issue he highlighted. Minister Maru requested NBPOL to produce fat free cooking oil in PNG for the domestic market. He said it is an important priority of the Government and appealed to the Board to consider downstream processing.

He also encouraged partnerships around increased production of sugar and number of cattle herds. "I'm happy to talk on behalf of the Government to look at how we can increase the production of sugar and grow more cattle herd."

Meanwhile, Minister Maru commended NBPOL for ensuring throughout the years in meeting social obligations and maintaining high standards of environmental sound practices in the province and the agriculture sector.

He said with this new office facility, the company is now in a better position to manage its business portfolios that are growing and expanding in the country.

PICTURES of the EDITION



SDP Directors and SDP GMD Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha with NBPOL CEO Mohd Azlan Shah and RAIL Senior Management Team at NBPOL Training Academy at Ramu early this month



SDP Directors, SDP GMD Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha and NBPOL CEO Mohd Azlan Shah visiting the sugarcane fields at Ramu early this month after the opening of Corporate Office



Part of the NBPOL Management Committee posing in their special corporate wear when attending the opening of NBPOL Corporate Office in West New Britain on March 2 2023



VIPs, NBPOL executives and a group of students from WNB International School getting started the official program during the opening of NBPOL's new Corporate Office at Mosa on March 2



Trainers and participants of a PNGOPRA facilitated upskilling workshop on standardisation of oil palm pest and disease operations at Dami Research Station in West New Britain last month



An arial view of the new Corporate Office (with newly constructed housing for corporate employees in the background) at Mosa in West New Britain when staff and locals gathered for the opening