



# MRDC

## TOKAUT

*Custodians  
of tomorrow*

MRDC Tokaut | SEPTEMBER EDITION 2016

## State tasks MRDC to lead PNG LNG Hides landowner issue

The state has begun taking steps to resolve outstanding landowner issues arising from the PNG LNG project.

This came about after landowners from Petroleum Development Licence areas 1 and 7 staged a peaceful protest outside the Hides Gas Conditioning plant demanding that the state honour its commitments under the Umbrella Benefits Sharing Agreement (UBSA) and Licence Based Sharing Agreement (LBBSA) in 2009.

A high profile ministerial delegation led by the Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Nixon Duban, flew to Hides to meet with the protesting landowners.

MRDC Managing Director Augustine Mano was part of the delegation and took the lead in addressing the landowners on behalf of the team.

In two separate petitions, the PDL 1 and PDL 7 landowners demanded that the state release all their outstanding Infrastructure Development Funds (IDG) and complete the clan vetting process among other issues so they could receive pending benefits.

After a two-week negotiation between the state and frustrated landowners, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed to address some of the outstanding issues raised in the petition.

The MOA states that the state would adhere to a 7-day ultimatum for K35 millions of IDG to be released to the Hides Special Purpose Authority (HSPA) account while a 30-day ultimatum was given to address other outstanding issues including the



Augustine Mano addresses Hides landowners with their petitions in hand



(2nd from Right) David Manau (Acting Secretary DP&E), Augustine Mano (MD-MRDC), Wapu Song (MD KPHL) and Lamson Mapiri (Chairman HSPA) with Hides PDL 7 landowner leaders after the signing of the MOA

completion of clan vetting process.

Mr Mano explained the role of MRDC in the scheme of things. He told the landowners that the MRDC would only come in to manage and pay all outstanding royalties and their 2% equity benefits once the CVP-LOID process is completed by the Department of Petroleum and Energy.

He also assured the landowners that all their outstanding benefits were safe and that it was kept in their respective trust accounts of which bank statements were presented to the landowners as proof.

"MRDC officers will be on the ground with relevant agencies to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for

*(continued in page 2)*

## Managing Director's Message



MRDC Managing Director - Augustine Mano

Welcome to the September issue of the MRDC Tokaut and a happy 41st independence anniversary to you all. It has been a very eventful third quarter for the company. The PNG LNG Hides landowner issue (featured on page 1 and 2) kept me and the External Affairs team busy for the most part of the quarter. Their issues are being addressed through a joint effort by all project partners.

On page 3, we sadly farewelled another MRDC director, the late Jac Baru, just as we were recovering from

the loss of the late Hela Governor Hon. Andersen Agiru. Baru's contributions to the company is highlighted here.

Also on page 3 we bring you a report on the successful Moran PDL 5 royalty payment exercise in July. A total of K1.2 million was shared to beneficiaries and to the respective trust funds.

This quarter we've taken on a few initiatives to support our women in the country through fashion and a first-of-its-kind radio talk show. These stories are featured on page 4.

Page 5 features another hotel investment for the company and its subsidiary PRG - the beautiful Taumeasina Island Resort in Samoa is another proud investment for the company.

Page 6-7 are photo highlights from the company's Independence Day celebrations. To mark the day I hosted the staff to a luncheon to thank them for their efforts.

The Star Mountain Plaza project

development is highlighted on pages 8 and 9. Much has been accomplished and progress is on target at this stage. Our Project Manager, Eric Alome gives us an update.

Supporting community programs and initiatives for the betterment of PNG has always been a priority and page 10 features some of those.

Our contributions to health in this quarter is featured on page 11. This includes the PRM CITF funded Homa Paua Health centre, which is nearing completion. We also donated to a worthy cause, by supporting the Kokoda for Kidney campaign to raise awareness on Kidney disease in the country.

And page 12 features all the sports news of the quarter. MRDC finished top 10 in this year's Daffodil Golf Cup Charity challenge out of over 30 teams.

I wish you all a happy reading until the next and final issue of Tokaut in December.

## 'State tasks MRDC to lead PNG LNG Hides landowner issue'



MRDC Managing Director Augustine Mano talking to PDL 1 & 7 landowners at the signing of the Hides MOA



Petroleum and Energy Minister, Nixon Duban signing the MOA agreement between the State and Hides landowners in Hides

(from page 1)

landowners once the government processes are complete and handed over to MRDC," Mr Mano said.

Mr Mano also announced the two subsidiary companies set up by MRDC to manage their royalty and equity benefits being Gas Resources Hides 4 for PDL 7 and Gas Resources Gigira for PDL 1.

He also announced subsidiary companies for the remaining PNG LNG project beneficiaries in Gas Resources Juha, Gas Resources Angore, Gas Resources Kutubu, Gas Resources Gobe, Gas Resources Moran, Gas Resources North West Moran, Gas Resources Plant and Gas Resources Pipeline.

He reminded Hides landowners that the LNG project is a unitised project in which everyone is entitled to benefit from the royalty and equities as per the UBSA & LBBSA 2009

At the printing of this publication the K35 million IDG was being prepared to be released as promised by the Petroleum and Energy Minister, Mr Nixon Duban via the signed MoA.



## Late director Baru farewelled

With great sadness MRDC farewelled another outstanding board member in June.

The late Mr Jac Baru passed away on the 24th of June leaving behind a wife, three daughters and two sons. The news left the family devastated as they had only just farewelled their daughter Kristie, who was killed in a plane crash outside Port Moresby. She was a pilot.

The MRDC board and management stood by the family to support them through the funeral and the repatriation of the late director from Port Moresby to his home province of Goroka.

The late director was appointed as an independent director of MRDC in April 2003. He was a geologist by



Jac Baru

profession and had been a consultant in the industry for a number of years.

As a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

and an Associate of the Institute of Engineers of PNG, Mr Baru brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board during his time with the company. He served on the boards of the 'Investment Advisory Committee and Human Resource Committee.

Many who knew him, including his fellow board of directors from both MRDC and PNG Water described him as being eloquent and intelligent, yet very humble and one who had a lot of respect for others.

He made an invaluable contribution in moving the company forward. The MRDC Board and management will miss his presence and contribution.

The late Baru now rests beside his beloved daughter Kristie.

May his soul rest in peace.

## Moran PDL5 beneficiaries receive 2015 royalties

Beneficiaries of the Moran Petroleum Development Licence 5 (PDL5) in July received, their royalties totalling K1.2million for the period of January to December 2015.

As per the Oil and Gas Act, 40% of the amount is paid to landowners, 30% to the Community Investment Trust Fund (CITF) and the remaining 40% to Future Generation Trust Fund (FGTF).

### Payment Summary;

- Community Investment Trust Fund- K610,238.15
- Future Generation Trust Fund - K610,238.15
- Landowners- K813,650.86

A total of K813, 650.86 (40%) of the landowners component was paid to 636 ILG accounts according to respective benefit sharing. Moran Huli clans received a total of K662, 311.80 (81.40%) while Moran Fasu Clan received a total of K81, 365.00 (10%). A total of K69, 973.97 (8.60%) is being held in trust for the Yumbi/Webo disputed portion of land.

MRDC's External Affairs team travelled to Moro to facilitate the payments through the BSP Bank with the assistance of Branch Manager Mr Meck Kaum and Department of Petroleum and Energy officers.



L-R: Loyal from DP&E, MRDC Treasury officer Namba Kara and External Affairs Coordinator Kini Renagi facilitating the payments from the Moro Bank.

Petroleum Resources Moran (PRM) Chairman Pape Punga arrived and jointly addressed the Moran Huli and Moran Fasu landowners outside the bank premises.

The seven-day exercise, saw minimal issues. One of the interview room in the bank was made available to address

landowners who had problems with benefits sharing or account queries.

Chairman Punga was on hand during the seven days to address any pressing issues in regards to equity and other PRM matters. Director Paul Yawe also



PRM chairman Pape Punga (seated), present at the Moro Bank to address Moran beneficiaries payment issues

joined the team to handle Moran Fasu issues.

Overall, the payment exercise was a success with no major disorderly behaviour encountered.

## MRDC recognises PNG's fashion industry potential



(L-R) MRDC General Manager – Commercial, Clifford Kasi with PNGFW organising committee member Ursula Gorea and Hospital Poroman Foundation's Theresa Chatau during the sponsorship announcement

Papua New Guinea's potential to become a dynamic fashion and garment industry in the world is being recognised and supported by corporate and business houses in the country.

The Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) strongly believes that the country has a lot to offer on the global fashion stage.

The company presented a K25, 000 cheque to the PNG Fashion Week (PNGFW) organising committee to host PNG's first-ever Fashion Week Event.

PNGFW provides a platform for PNG designers to introduce and promote

their work and also aims to help upcoming designers enhance their skills and grow into an established designer with credibility and recognition.

When presenting the cheque, MRDC General Manager for Commercial Mr Clifford Kasi said the event was a brilliant initiative to support.

He said the investment would help set the foundation for the future of PNG's fashion industry.

"The potential to become a powerhouse in the world is enormous. This sector is a sleeping giant. It is the other half of tourism that is not adequately cultivated to reach its full

potential, therefore it is important to raise awareness to strengthen the sector's potential for development," said Mr Kasi.

Kasi said the PNG Fashion Week was an avenue to identify talents, promoting and linking these talents with commercial opportunities.

"We must provide a platform to empower the creative efforts of our local designers and artists and set them on the right path in their journey to create beautiful garments, drawing their inspirations from the vast diverse cultural heritage of PNG," Kasi added.

PNGFW's main objective is to put PNG on the map with the country's traditional designs and patterns being incorporated in fashion and arts.

Furthermore, PNGFW promotes small to medium enterprises by acting as a catalyst for the fashion industry to grow in the business arena and create an income for the local designers.

The PNGFW kicked off with workshops on the 17th – 19th of August at the Holiday Inn Hotel, followed by the fashion show on the 20th of August at the Stanley Hotel in Port Moresby.

Part of the proceeds from the fashion show went towards the Hospital Poroman Foundation and the Roger Hau'ofa Medical Appeal.

## MRDC promotes women empowerment on FM Central

PNG needs more platforms for women to use as a support system to speak about major issues that affect them. Women are basically in fear to speak up about issues affecting them simply because they don't have the support of the government or major organizations.

Women empowerment is one of the areas that is being neglected and brushed aside when it comes to human development and investment in women. Women are faced with issues everyday but don't have the opportunity or courage to speak up.

Recognising the significance of

women development, FM Central Maoro Limited with the support of the Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) launched a talk show called "Protecting and Empowering our Women". This program is a first-of-its-kind that not only addresses issues but also gives directions and guidance on how to go about preventing and tackling these issues.

The talk show will also have experts on the panel discussing topics such as cervical and breast cancer, violence against women, family planning, education, HIV and AIDS and women

in business.

MRDC is proud to support women empowerment through FM Central which will benefit community women of the PNG LNG Plant beneficiaries like Boera, Papa, Lealea and Porebada. Present during the launch of the talk show were Anglicare, MRDC representative and Public Relations Officer Iona Reto and Miss Pacific Islands 2015 Abigail Havora who also launched the program.

'Protecting and Empowering our Women' talk show airs every Tuesday from 10am to noon on 89.9 FM Central. It is hosted by Kevani Mado.



## PNG companies continue to invest in hotels overseas



*Taumeasina Island Resort*

Papua New Guinean companies continue to invest in hotels in the neighbouring Pacific island nations. The recent investment is the multi-million dollar Taumeasina Island Resort in Samoa. The Taumeasina Island Resort is owned by three PNG companies; the Lamana Group (50%) Petroleum Resources Gobe (19%) and Mineral Resources Development Company (31%).

PNG is being seen as a big boy in the investment business within the Pacific region. During the official opening of the resort, the Prime Minister of Samoa; Tuilaepa Sailele Malielelagoi stated that many had shown interest to invest in the Taumeasina Island but have failed.

"This is not the first time we have shifted soil and anticipated big dreams and big developments here at Taumeasina Island", said Mr. Malielelagoi. The Samoan Prime minister continued by saying that there were other foreign investors who promised to develop grand hotels but never did. "Forty years ago, American George Hadley and his company started reclaiming this exact island with the hopes of building a grand hotel, they left without a brick being laid. More recently, there was another Kiwi investor who hung around this place and made a big splash but fizzled out and disappeared back to New Zealand", said Mr. Malielelagoi.

However the Samoan Prime Minister had all the confidence in the Lamana Group who had the backing of the MRDC and PRG.

"These are people with real money", said the Samoan Prime Minister.

The resort was developed and constructed by the Lamana Development Limited which is a branch of the Lamana Group of Companies.

The Taumeasina Island Resort officially started its operation as of the 1st of July 2016 after a soft opening. It is a 45 minutes' drive from the Faleolo International Airport, and 5 minutes from the capital city of Samoa, Apia.

The resort has 80 rooms and 25 villas, shops, world class restaurants, a bar, water sports pavilion, day spa, gym, beach and wedding chapel.

## Basic mediation skills training



*The attendees with their international trainers and PNG coaches at the workshop*

The need for mediators to handle alternative dispute resolution to resolve conflicts and disputes which can be ongoing and costly through court proceedings has become crucial in PNG.

Such drawn out court proceedings become time consuming and costly, thus hindering the development of individuals, businesses and even the nation on matters of national interest.

With the aim of nation building through mediation, the Basic Mediation Skills training run by a team of national and internationally accredited and acclaimed mediators concluded in August at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby.

Retired PNG Judge Kim Wilson, an internationally accredited mediator was at the training to assess the trainees.

The training workshop ran for a week and was attended by private lawyers, National Judiciary Services staff and working professionals including UPNG Law School Dean Professor John Luluaki.

The final session saw an assessment for national accreditation to identify those who have met the requirements to be accredited mediators in the country.

This is the second workshop this year with the first one held for state lawyers only.

Lead international trainers included Craig Jones and Carol Powell, and Jeffery Shepard. PNG coaches included the likes of Judge Ambeng Kandakasi, Senior Magistrates Mark Pupuka and Regina Sagu, Andrew Kuimbari and Maya Peipul.

The national court appointed 'Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee' chaired by Justice Ambeng Kandakasi, has been a huge help in reducing the backlog of court cases in the country.

Mediation is helping to resolve cases quickly and cheaply. Justice Kandakasi previously stated that "mediation is proving to be an important development and peace-making tool to the people and legal system of Papua New Guinea."

MRDC General Manager for External Affairs and Sustainable Development Imbi Tagune who attended the training said the workshop was very helpful in his line of work.

"For 25 years I have been in the Oil, Gas and Mining Industry and have been present at many disputes and conflicts with landowners but to be able to use all that I have acquired through experience and use it in a more structured process to resolve conflicts, is a very useful tool in my 'toolbox of skills,'" said Tagune.

He said he had been involved in several ADR's chaired by Judge Kandakasi and his team as an observer, such as the Gobe landowner dispute, and Fasul leadership dispute resolution.

Mr Tagune was also involved in the first-ever successful ADR in Misima Mine landowners in 2010. Based on his experiences, Tagune believes, mediation is the way forward for PNG, in resolving conflicts. He said it would also make PNG a better and peaceful paradise now and for the future generation.





## HAPPY 41ST INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY PNG







MRDC staff joined the rest of the nation in celebrating PNG's 41st independence anniversary on the 16th of September. The PNG colours, red, black and yellow, were proudly worn and displayed on the day. Managing Director Augustine Mano hosted a luncheon in the boardroom for staff and in his address, spoke of how the company was as old as the country, having been established 41 years ago. He encouraged staff to do what they can for their country in the respective roles they hold within the organisation. He said the resources owners were the company's priority - happy landowners, means project security and therefore staff must be diligent in addressing their issues. Mr Mano thanked everyone for all their efforts so far, especially those long serving staff and urged all to continue serving the country.



## Star Mountain Plaza development **update**



The June issue of the MRDC Tokaut highlighted progress on the Star Mountain Plaza (SMP) project after one year of official construction. Since then we have made further progress both on and off site. We have also achieved some important milestones. The completion of the carpark structure five days ahead of schedule is one such important milestone.

The carpark has a capacity of 500 vehicles and is the largest single structure dedicated purely for parking. The structure also adopted "pre-cast technology", a unique and high speed construction method which is fairly new in Papua New Guinea.

We are proud to say that the SMP is the first project in PNG to adopt this construction technology on a large scale and popularise its efficiency and speed in construction. We also take this opportunity to thank all the people who have been involved in getting the carpark structure completed on time.

Key highlights up to the 31st of August 2016 are as follows:

- 55 contract packages to the tune of K248, 330,404.00 have been let to various contractors and suppliers, both in PNG and offshore. Of the total contracts value, 56.35% are in PGK while the balance is in various

other foreign currencies.

- Due to the completion of the carpark structure, there has been a reduction in site personnel. At the end of August 2016, there were 202 PNG nationals and 27 expat personnel engaged full time on site. We expect this number to increase as the hotel, convention centre and combined facility ramps up toward peak construction.
- Seven (8) contractors are actively present on site – Stratum Unlimited Limited, Fletcher Morobe, Smithbridge, Vuksich & Borich, Sun Engineering, Kemele Construction, PHP Plumbing, and PRA Electrical. More contractors and sub-contractors are expected as the project progresses towards peak construction.
- The carpark structure being completed five days ahead of schedule in July 2016.
- Hilton Hotel structure is progressing steadily. There have been some supplier issues but these have been managed and closely monitored through a

*(continued on page 9)*

## Staff News



Imbi cutting his 15-year anniversary cake at a surprise party hosted for him

## Imbi celebrates 15 years with MRDC

Congratulations and thank you to MRDC's External Affairs and Sustainable Development General Manager Imbi Tagune who celebrated his 15-year anniversary with the company in May this year.

Imbi has been a vital member of the MRDC machinery since joining the company in 2001. He heads the External Affairs Division tasked to manage project landowners on a day-to-day basis.

A veteran in the industry, serving with the then Chevron before joining MRDC, there's not a landowner in the

oil and gas business who does not know him.

The industry is lucky to have someone like him with a wealth of experience in community and public relations, vital in ensuring project security. Besides managing landowners, Imbi's door is always open to staff, who look up to him as a fatherly or brotherly figure who is always ready to offer words of encouragement and advice.

Thank you Imbi for your service to the company and to the industry!

*We'll bring you Imbi's full story in the next issue of Tokaut.*



(continued from page 8)

- concerted effort between the supplier and our project team. The end of August 2016 witnessed the completion of level 9 of the central lift core and commencement of ground level floor frame.
- The Kutubu Convention Centre is progressing steadily. At the end of August majority of the ground floor concrete slab was completed. The construction of concrete columns which will support the special engineering timer roof portals has started.
- The combined facility is progressing steadily. All underground services are in place, majority of ground level concrete slabs are in place, and walls and columns have commenced for the next level.

- Health and safety performance on the project remains positive. No fatalities or major injuries have been recorded to date which underlines the extraordinary effort put in by everyone involved on the project to ensure that the site remains a safe and secure work environment.
- Overall, the project performed "satisfactorily" in terms of both schedule and cost. There were some delays and these were aggressively managed by the project team. More importantly, it is worth noting that delays are expected in any project, let alone a project of the size and scale of the SMP; what is important is the ability of the project team to effectively deal with those delays. So far, our

project team has demonstrated the capability to address delays and make sure the project stays on schedule.

The SMP is the "People's Project", built and owned by Papua New Guinean citizens. It is the project that is expected to change perceptions of resource landowners from being rent collectors to being investors, creating sustainable income for the future generations. This is the core message driving the project team, and in turn the contractors, suppliers, sub-contractors, and everyone involved directly or indirectly on the SMP.

The project team is committed to delivering the SMP on time and on budget. Until then, stay tune and we will bring you another update in the next issue of the MRDC Tokaut.

## MRDC supports the 6th Kutubu Kundu and Digaso festival (KKDF)

The Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) is proud to sponsor the Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival (KKDF) for the sixth consecutive time.

MRDC presented K50,000 to the KKDF committee to go towards preparations for the festival this year (2016).

The company has been presenting K50,000 every year since the festival started in 2011. The company's continuous support and sponsorship to the festival will total up to K300,000 this year.

The Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival is an annual event held by the people of Kutubu in the Southern Highlands Province to celebrate the cultural and biodiversity of the region. The festival involves performers from within Kutubu, Bosavi, Samberigi, Kikori,

Nipa and to some extent, the Enga communities.

The festival will showcase different cultures and traditions from the different participating groups. The main highlight will show the extraction of the digaso oil, which embodies strength, cure, power, social status and wealth in the Kutubu region.

The two-day festival will see the union of the people from Upper to Middle and Lower Kikori River with the people from the Kutubu and Erave regions. This provides an opportunity for the people to come together to celebrate, gather and exchange information.

KKDF has also put Kutubu on the world map by attracting tourist from all over the world as well as local tourists.

The festival aims to educate the people about the significance of the

conserving the environment and the culture of Kutubu and also to challenge communities in the Kutubu region to embrace development through preserving their cultural identity.

This year, the festival will involve schools in the region where students will be given the opportunity to display their traditional singing and dances.

The theme for this year's festival; "Tingim Gut Bihain Bilong Yumi" aims to encourage the local people to recognize and value their natural environment in the present day, tomorrow and for the future generations as a means of survival.

By investing in the livelihood of the indigenous communities, MRDC has the opportunity to shift the paradigm.

## Crocodile Prize announces new sponsor

Papua New Guinea's national writing contest, the Crocodile Prize, will continue this year, thanks to much needed backing from corporate and private sponsors in the country.

In July, the Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) signed on to sponsor the 'Women in Writing' category which is one of the seven categories in the competition.

The Crocodile Prize Award competition was established in 2010 as a vehicle to encourage creative and critical writing in PNG and to provide Papua New Guineans access to a home-grown literature.

Mr Imbi Tagune, General Manager MRDC External Affairs & Sustainable Development said the 'Women in Writing' category was one MRDC was proud to support as the sponsorship demonstrated the company's commitment towards educational initiatives and programs in PNG especially in the development of women and girls in all facets of the society.

"Writing is creative tool that can be used to express one's inner most thoughts, though factual events or in fiction through the lives of your characters.



L-R Crocodile Prize Committee members Ruth Moi, Chairman Baka Bina, MRDC's Imbi Tagune and Emmanuel Peni with the dummy cheque at the announcement.

A competition like this, gives women a great platform to speak their mind free of fear and oppression," said Mr Tagune. "We hope and encourage more women and girls to participate in this competition and to tell their stories."

Chairman of the Crocodile Prize Committee, Baka Bina expressed his gratitude towards MRDC for the sponsorship commitment. "We are pleased to see companies like MRDC support educational initiatives that promote the development of storytelling.

"Writing critical essays and challenging the way we lead and live is healthy for any nation. Each country and culture have their own voice and own way of story-telling. You see, only Papua New Guineans can tell our stories in the way that makes sense."

The other categories of the Crocodile Prize are; Short Story, Illustrations, Book of the Year, Essays and Journalism, Heritage and Children's writing. The competition was opened for all Papua New Guineans on the 27th of January. Winners will be announced in November 2016.

## Sydney conference preparations

Preparations are underway to facilitate MRDC Group's attendance at the 14th Mining and Petroleum Investment Conference in Sydney, Australia on 5-7 December.

This year, MRDC will have a greater presence, going in as one of six principal sponsors of the event. As we've done for past conferences, we will be sending a delegation of close to 70 people, made up of all existing subsidiary directors and invitees from the PNG LNG Gas Resource

companies.

The Sydney Conference has a working committee dedicated to planning the companies' attendance and it's made up of officers from Admin, External Affairs, Accounts, Legal and Managing Directors office. Planning began in February this year.

So far, conference registration for all participants have been completed. Accommodation has already been secured in Sydney, with the Hilton Hotel.

Flights are now being booked. Booth space designs and all publication and promotional items are being designed and ordered.

Passports and visas are being taken care of by our admin team while the accounts team is processing all conference related payments and expenses.

The conference is just one month away and we all look forward to making our attendance another successful one.



# Homa-Paua welcomes new health centre



*The newly completed Homa-Paua Health centre getting the finishing touches done*

The people of Homa-Paua, in Kutubu District, Southern Highlands Province have been deprived of their rights to good health and well-being for so long that they have had to travel to Kutubu and Mendi to access health services, which cost money for both the health service and transportation. Recognising this need, the Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC), under its Community Investment Trust Fund (CITF) has built a health centre in the heart of the area. The people of Homa-Paua will not have to travel to Kutubu or Mendi for health services as they will have easy access to free health care and services.

The K1.5 million health centre will benefit the people living in and around the Homa-Paua area, which includes the PDL 5 landowners of the LNG Project. The health centre will also benefit the people of Kutubu District and even the people of Hela Province.

Along with the health centre, an accommodation block of five houses with complete white goods and water tanks was built for the medical officers.

The Homa-Paua Health Centre will have a doctor with four (4) medical officers to provide professional, qualified and the best health care for the people. Ten to twelve (10-12) qualified locals will also be employed in the area of building maintenance, technical expertise, grounds work, etc. The health centre will not only provide for the medical needs of the people but will also provide employment opportunities to the people of Homa-Paua, Mt Bosavi and throughout the Kutubu region.

MRDC, under its commitment to provide and promote proper health care in the project areas, is proud to assist the people of Homa-Paua in their need for health services.

## MRDC sees the need for dialysis treatment in PNG

Kidney diseases are becoming a major health concern for Papua New Guineans, destroying many lives because of the lack of public health support and high treatment cost.

In seeing the need to raise awareness for better and affordable specialist health care and treatment for patients in the country, the MRDC joined the Kokoda 4 Kidney challenge.

The company made a K10,000 donation towards the K4K challenge which is a fundraising trek of the famous Kokoda Track to raise funds for PNG's legendary radio personality Roger Hau'Ofa, who is suffering from kidney failure. Known by many Papua New Guineans for his friendly voice on FM100, Roger was diagnosed with kidney failure in October 2015.

With no public health support for kidney patients, and in view of the cost of dialysis treatment at a private hospital comes to over K13,000 per month, the family started a medical appeal to help meet costs of Roger's treatment. Roger has been undergoing regular dialysis sessions three times or more in a week.

For the short term, fundraising efforts are focused towards getting Roger to see a nephrologist in Singapore for a thorough assessment and prognosis.

However in the long term, the family would like to build up enough funds to purchase dialysis machines and meet operating costs for at least a couple of years so the patients in PNG needing dialysis will have access to this lifesaving treatment.

The assistance from MRDC went towards Roger's current medical treatment plans, and in the same token provided an opportunity for the company to raise awareness on the greater cause envisioned by his family through his illness.

The K4K fundraising trek was held in July.



## Social touch brings together industry partners

The staff of the Mineral Resources Development Company joined colleagues in the industry for a friendly game of touch rugby at the ExxonMobil field in August.

The game was an initiative of ExxonMobil to bring together companies and people working in the industry to socialize and get to know each other in a more relaxed and social atmosphere.

The six companies that participated were; ExxonMobil (EMPNG), Oil Search Limited (OSL) Total, Kumul Consolidated Holdings (KCH), Horizon Oil and MRDC.

The game started at 5pm with MRDC playing against Total and losing 1-0. Game two was a tough game with MRDC going up against Horizon where neither team scored. Exhausted from the previous game MRDC lost to EMPNG 2-0 in game three.

The corporate touch footy will hopefully be a monthly event where each company will have the opportunity to host a game.



## MRDC joins fight against cancer



Team MRDC and Mirupasi Lawyers pose for a photo at the 18th hole



Team MRDC with their caddies ending their day on the course with a photo

The Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) joined the fight against cancer in Papua New Guinea by taking part in the annual Daffodil Golf Cup Challenge.

The Golf Cup Challenge is an annual charity event organised by the Papua New Guinea Cancer Foundation (PNGCF) and sponsored by Oil Search Limited (OSL), to raise funds for the control and prevention of cancer in PNG.

Research data from the PNG institute of Medical Research shows the fight against cancer is very real with one in ten deaths in the country cancer related and more Papua New Guineans are at risk of having mouth and breast cancer.

MRDC is no stranger to the foundation having participated in the Golf Cup Challenge in previous years, winning the cup in 2008.

MRDC's four man Ambrose team was made up of young golfer Mathew, who stepped in at the last minute for MRDC Commercial General Manager

Clifford Kasi, together with long time team members Rodney Berapu, Lucas Kumane and Kevin Wapa. The three have been part of the MRDC golf team in various challenges and have proven to be a powerhouse over the years.

In spectacular conditions at the Royal Papua New Guinea Golf Course, MRDC teed off against Mirupasi Lawyers who were the overall winners this year.

Team MRDC with a handicap of seven scored 56 points against Mirupasi with 51 points and a handicap of eight. Mirupasi got 11 birdies while MRDC got eight.

Team MRDC finished in the top 10, at ninth place out of 28 teams.

The challenge raised close to K92,000 which will go towards conducting free mouth and breast cancer screening programs in six provinces within PNG in 2017.

MRDC is proud to have supported a worthy cause and looks forward to next year's challenge.