

Editor's Note

Hi everyone, welcome to the last edition of our 2016 Paitim TalkTok Newsletter. In this final version we bring you information about the work of the CIMC spreading over the last three months.

During this period the CIMC conducted the 2016 National Development Forum in Port Moresby in October. An outcome report and the proceedings of the development forum will be released in early 2017. The CIMC also conducted some important training on community empowerment and good governance for LNG corridor communities at Papa Lealea and also at Rigo district in Central Province.

Other activities undertaken include the various Sectoral Committee meetings which form part of the CIMC core activities.

While most planned activities have not been carried out during the year due to funding constraints, the CIMC was able to undertake most significant activities as highlighted above. Given this experience the organisation is working hard to source financial support for 2017 so that it will be able to carry out most of its activities.

Come 2017 we will again bring activity and outcome updates through the Paitim TalkTok Newsletter editions.

In the meantime, we hope you will appreciate this final version with the information contained and look forward to bringing to you more updates next year. From the organisation we wish all our stakeholders and partners a very pleasant festive season and look forward to working with you all in 2017.



Development Forum provides recommendations to government for action

Less political interference, adequate budget and expenditure transparency and accountability at all levels must be embraced by government to ensure there is equal wealth and service distribution in the country.

This and other recommendations were put forward by participants of the three-day biannual National Development Forum organised by the Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council (CIMC) in Port Moresby late last week.

In light of the government's commitment to bring funding to the ward level by 2017 participants also recommended for the DDA Act 2014 to be reviewed and amended, particularly Part III, Section 12. Sub-section 1 (c) which gives the Member of Parliament (Chairman) the powers to appoint not more than three members of the DDA.

Participants strongly recommended this change because the clause in the Act provides a conducive

environment for DDA membership appointments and service distribution to be politicised by Members of Parliament.

The Forum was opened by the Minister for National Planning & Monitoring and Chairman of the CIMC Hon Charles Abel and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Hon Peter O'Neill gave the keynote address to all participants.

The development forum was attended by participants from all sectors of society including government and development partners and politicians while forty four of the participants representing the 22 provinces representing the provinces were flown in from around the country.

Considered as a leading national dialogue body the CIMC convenes forums that bring together civil society,

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the private sector and government partners to dialogue and develop policy and directly influence government decisions in relation to long and short-term development aspirations of the country.

The theme for the forum this year was “*Showcasing Achievements: Government fulfilling Development Aspirations & Improving Service Delivery through Strategic Partnerships*”

The event brought together civil servants, politicians from the government and opposition, top business managers, NGOs and members of the international community and overseas presenter

including Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat in Vanuatu.

Discussions were very dynamic with the audience engaging in a wide range of topics presented from foreign policy, governance mechanisms, local level development, transparency in the extractive sector and overall state of the economy. Importantly the forum provided the opportunity for government, development partners and the private sector to highlight development achievements through strategic partnerships in alignment with government policies and plans.

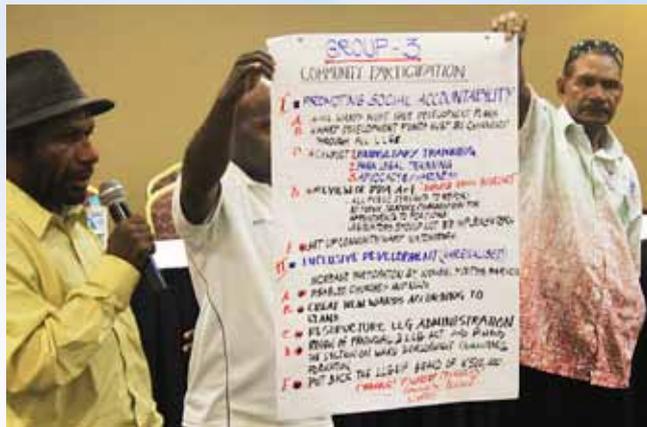
including DSIPs, PSIPs etc. and Sovereign Wealth Fund to have local resource owners as beneficiaries.

A recommendation was also made for the Provincial and Local Level Service Monitoring Authority (PLLSMA) to play a more stringent and up to date role at the district and provincial levels to ensure funds were used for the delivery of goods and services in compliance with PFMA and DDA guidelines.

Participants also recommended for government to reduce the percentage of loan equity to be put forward by people to access loans from financial institutions including NDB so that more people especially women can access loans for small business activities.

Calls were made for the Urban Youth Employment Program to be extended to prisons around the country as part of a rehabilitating program for youth serving prison terms.

A recommendation was also made for the Department of Labour & Industrial Relations to take training institutions to task so the institutions provide statistics on what percentage of their graduates get employment that fits their training. This will ensure targeted training is provided by these institutions to meet labour market demand in the country.



With the 2017 budget being prepared, the forum was a good opportunity for all sectors of society to come together, to share information, discuss the development needs most important to them and explore solutions together and provide certain recommendations to government.

Recommendations

Some recommendations that came from forum participants called for adequate budget transparency at all levels, equal wealth distribution

CIMC as the Consultative Platform

Having a population that is informed about key government policies and their implementation is critical for wider public understanding and inclusive development of our society.

To provide that opportunity the Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council (CIMC) hosts National and Regional Development Forums (NDF) in in the four regions of the country and in Port Moresby using a theme focused on development and service delivery.

Discussions and debates are generated around themes that are focused on the lessons learned from implementing past policies and plans, and to guide the country’s aspirations for sustainable development and service delivery over the medium and long term.

These themes are also meant to stimulate discussions around achievements and challenges associated with implementation and guide our way into the future with new government plans aligned to the Alotau Accord and Medium and Long Term Development priorities.

The forums which are usually convened between two to three days bring together between 200 to 500 participants representing a cross –sector of society from government, private sector, civil society, churches, development partners and the community at large.

As a broad based consultative mechanism, the CIMC facilitates ongoing dialogue between government, private sector and civil society

discussions on development issues with a view to directly influence implementation through collective input.



The forums also allow sector government officials to talk about the functions of the offices they manage and how they work towards ensuring the government continues to provide basic goods and services to the majority through design and implementation of certain government policies

Such discussions promote and enhance community participation, and capture a multi sectoral approach which is crucial to achieve broad based and inclusive sustainable development and provision of efficient public services.

Current overarching policies including the Vision 2050 and PNG Development Strategic Plan 2030 clearly articulate that active bottom up participation through dialogue and partnership is important to achieve the stated goals and objectives.

In this light the CIMC uses its consultative platforms and the respective forums to facilitate meaningful dialogue providing the opportunity for citizens’ concerns to be aired and considered in public policy design and implementation. As such forum participants have over the years come to consider the CIMC forums as a highly valuable process that provides them this opportunity.

The CIMC Forums have been recognised as informative and an avenue the people can provide their feedback on government policies and be aware of what is in store for them.

Going forward sector participants continue to echo the need and importance of regular forums at provincial and district levels to ensure wider participation claiming that districts and communities are where information on policy priorities is critically needed.

Guina urges LNG community leaders to use knowledge to bring change



Acting Secretary for Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs (DLPGA) and Chairman of the CIMC Governance and Service Delivery Sectoral Committee, Dickson Guina has called on community leaders from the LNG affected areas along Hiri District to act on the opportunity to bring change to their communities rather than sit back and expect change to happen.

Guina when making closing remarks at the end of the four-day seminar on Budget Tracking Initiative organized by Exxon Mobil and facilitated by the CIMC Governance and Service Delivery Sectoral Committee urged leaders to make use of the knowledge gained to bring about development and provision of basic services.

“As you have learnt, make use of it. Do not expect anybody to come in and make a change for you. It’s you who needs to make a change so make it happen for yourself and the communities who rely on you to make decisions for them,” Guina stressed.

The seminar was conducted to educate Local Level Government leaders and Ward Councilors on governance and service delivery mechanisms including budget planning and management at the district and LLG level.

More than 30 participants from Porebada, Boera, Papa and Lelalea villages received valuable training on the types of grants available and their users, Organic Law on political and administrative structures, the composition of committees and their roles and responsibilities and managing service delivery at district levels.

Other components include; the revised administrative guidelines and financial instructions on Services Improvement Programme components, National Service Delivery Framework, District Development Authority (DDA) implementation of service delivery, LLG planning and budgeting process, informal economy, procurement and tendering process, monitoring and evaluation, and the leadership code.

Acting Secretary Guina said the valuable information gained from the training provides leaders with the opportunity to make things happen.

“The organic law in 1995 up to today recognizes the provincial government and Local Level Governments, as the systems of government that were used to deliver services but not much had been done in service delivery over the years. It could be because of corruption issues or other challenges such as capacity”.

“It is important that citizens know their rights to basic services and how they can participate in the development process. Unfortunately we have not given them the power to implement at the village level where the bulk of the people are. That is why it is important that we apply what we have learnt through this training.”

“The O’Neill government is pushing to go back to the basics. I commend the government for realizing what the law says regarding service delivery and the implementation process and empowering people with knowledge to make use of these opportunities.”

“We all need to participate in the development process. The government has given mandate in terms of review of the law on how well we can deliver services at the LLG and district level.

“As a department we have a huge responsibility because we have 319 LLGs with 319 Presidents and more than 6000 Wards and Ward Councilors, so it is a huge role to up-skill these people to know what their roles are.”

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Access to information critical for community development: Barker

Having access to information or knowledge on the laws and processes in place for economic empowerment opportunities at the community level is critical for development, says Institute of National Affairs (INA) Director, Mr Paul Barker.

“Sharing information with community leaders on the laws passed by the government and the processes in place for economic empowerment is vital for community growth,” Barker said at the closing of the four-day seminar on Budget Tracking Initiative organized by Exxon Mobil and facilitated by the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC).

More than 30 Local Level Government (LLG) leaders including ward councilors from the LNG impacted communities in the Hiri District attended the training held from 3-5th of October at Konebada Resort in Boera village, Central province.

Barker said that the government and politicians have drafted and passed many laws over the years and it was difficult for village leaders to act and make decisions on behalf of communities if they were not informed about these laws or legal mechanisms that they can tap into for development of basic services.

“Having access to information is all about empowerment. It is about empowering leaders



Paul Barker, Director of the Institute of National Affairs

to reach out to community members so that the community as a whole can participate effectively in the planning and implementation process as well as holding accountable others who were not performing.”

It is important that everyone in the community have access to that knowledge and that all communities work together and keep each other on their toes,” Barker said.

He added that he sees a huge potential for change in the communities along Hiri District and also at the provincial level because of the economic benefits presented by LNG however that all depended on how well they managed these resources.

The purpose of the seminar was to inform and empower community leaders to make informed decisions on how to better manage government funding allocations and resource development shares or benefits to ensure sustainable development in program planning and implementation at the community level and that everyone fully participate and enjoy economic benefits.

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Guina urges LNG community leaders to use knowledge to bring change

Guina called on leaders to plan and identify priority areas and involve the community in the development process.

“You need to organize yourselves, develop a plan and target priority areas. You now know about what is happening in the planning, funding, implementing and management aspect so use that to develop a plan. It is also important to work along with your

district authorities and provincial authorities so that work can be done effectively in the delivery of services.

“My department is also available to assist you however, it is up to you to make it happen so be smart, innovative and transparent and use that opportunity to make change for the good,” Guina added.

The participants which comprised of men and women leaders from LNG communities were very appreciative of the knowledge they gained during the four day training and resolved to form an association to oversee planning and implementation of development initiatives and delivery of basic services in their communities.



Seasons Greetings

from the Management & Staff of the CIMC and the Institute of National Affairs

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