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MEDIA RELEASE

**Resource industry marks 43 years of PNG independence with renewed commitment to growing PNG's future**

The PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum has congratulated PNG on its 43 years of Independence and says as the country continues to prosper, the mining and petroleum industry will continue to play an integral part in the nation's development.

The Chamber says the industry has been the backbone of the country's development since 1975 contributing immensely to the development of the nation's human resource, economy, infrastructure, and improving thousands of communities' livelihoods and living standards.

In the decades that have followed, mining and petroleum companies have worked closely with the government to deliver an impressive record of successful exploration that has produced world-class projects and established PNG in the top 10 gold producers in the world and a significant producer of LNG.

President of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, Mr Gereia Aopi CBE said he is proud of the resource industry's contribution to nation building.

"The resource industry has invested in developing PNG's economy so it can compete and thrive on a global level," said Mr Aopi.

"We are extremely optimistic about the expansion of existing projects and the development of new ventures which will deliver the country further economic growth."

Along with serving as the backbone of the PNG economy for many years, the mining and petroleum industry has invested millions of kina into providing local communities with access to health centres, schools and roads which have opened up a world of opportunities for thousands of men, women and children in PNG.

During the February earthquake which ravaged parts of the country's Highlands, and left thousands of people and communities displaced and devastated, the resource companies supported the PNG Government by providing significant relief assistance to the recovery efforts.

“The resources industry is committed to supporting local communities under any circumstances with the aim of leaving a positive, lasting footprint,” said Mr Aopi.

“Our community programs are focused on delivering tangible benefits like better health, education and infrastructure that improve the day-to-day lives of local communities.

“With the support of the government and the spirit of the people of PNG, we believe the sky is the limit for this great nation. Congratulations, Papua New Guinea on our 43 years of Independence, and best wishes for many more years of prosperity and good fortune.”

-Ends-



The Ok Tedi mine in the Western Province has a robust apprenticeship program that has provided technical skills training to many young Papua New Guineans such as fourth year Auto Electrical Apprentice Janet Damua.



Communities living between the Usino and Bundi areas of Madang Province have been able to access vital government services and transport their cash crops and garden produce to markets since 2008 after the Ramu Nico mine constructed a new bridge connecting both areas at a cost of K20 million.



About 340 children from six villages in remote Muluma area of Mt Bosavi in the Southern Highlands Province were immunised in July this year during a four-day health patrol as part of Oil Search Foundation's ongoing post-earthquake relief operations in the Southern Highlands Province in June

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