



Wednesday, 24 March 2021

Resource Sector offers support to tackle COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a health and societal emergency that requires effective, immediate action by governments, businesses, and individuals.

Consistent with the country's established '*Niupela Pasin*' protocols, everyone has a key role to play in minimising transmission and reducing the impact of the virus on Papua New Guinea.

In a coordinated effort to combat COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea, The Papua New Guinea Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, through its members, has agreed to join forces and to work together with the PNG government, donors and communities, to assist with the following:

- Ensure the most reliable information reaches the PNG community on the safety of the vaccine; and,
- To support the PNG Government in their vaccine rollout across the country.

This collaborative effort will:

1. Ensure our employees have accurate information and the capacity to share this with their communities;
2. Use our collective relationships to advocate for vaccine promotion and acceptance;
3. Support the Provincial Health Authorities in our host communities in their delivery of vaccines through established government systems; and
4. Provide logistics and cold chain support where our companies have the capacity to do so.

Separately, the following companies have the capacity, through their existing health programs, to provide support in the provinces where they work and have strong relationships.

- ExxonMobil and their Joint Venture partners on PNG LNG, including Oil Search and Santos, operate in Central and Hela;
- Oil Search Ltd operates in Southern Highlands and Gulf;
- Newcrest has strong ongoing presence in New Ireland and Morobe;
- Ok Tedi Mining Limited is operating in Western;
- K92 Mining has operations in Eastern Highlands;
- Harmony operates in Wau-Bulolo and Lae in the Morobe province;
- St Barbara Limited operates in the Tabar Group of Islands in New Ireland where it is supporting the government in maintaining community health services; and
- GeoPacific Resources and Kingston Resources operate in the Milne Bay province.

Call to Action

As representatives of the Private Sector, we strongly endorse the adoption of a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and coordinated approach to urgently respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum