

### 13. Appendix

#### 13. Appendix 1: Attachment of Public Consultation Hearing Meeting Minutes

Kulomadu, Kumadau, Bomagai and Surrounding Community Areas.

Woodlark Island, Milne Bay Province

Meeting Venue: Komadau Community Area

Meeting Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Meeting Chairman: Mr Niwela Kapowota

Minute Taker: Aaron KOTTO

#### 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

1.1 Declared the meeting opened

1.2 Welcome those in attendance and thanked them for giving time for this special meeting

#### 2. Opening Prayer by Pastor Joel Boilematu of Christian Revival Church

#### 3. Chairman Introduced DAL PISS Team

3.1 Mr Joseph Nou Taunao NDAL –PISS

3.2 Mr Brown Gende NDAL – PISS

3.3 Aaron Kotto NDAL – PISS

3.4 Mr Samson Siguyaru - Investor

#### 4. NDAL staff Mr Brown Gende's highlights on the purpose of the meeting notes.

4.1 Purpose of our presence

4.1.1 represent the government

4.1.2 ensure to understand what's going to happen here

4.2 We have a project proposal from an investor to develop this area through agriculture and there will be big things happening

4.3 On Land Matters: I understand that Government / Private Sector owns 3% while land owners own 75%. However 50 metres down from the surface of the ground is owned by traditional landowners and below the 50 meter limit is owned by the

government. Thus government have a say in land developments especially when it comes to mass production activities like mining. That's why government allowed mining company to do the drilling on your Island.

- 4.4 Government has processes and procedures for every big scale activities in order for government to allow the investors/ company (s) to utilise the land on mass production activities. These processes and procedures have to be fully accomplished prior to issuing of certifying certificates and licences/ permits to those concerned.
- 4.5 Thus government officers from Lands department, Health department, Environment and Conservation including DAL plus other stakeholders will come to check (and balance) the area and seek consent from the land owners or community of their wish.
- 4.6 We (NDAL) are now here (others will come later) fulfilling some of those procedures collecting information/ data and now we want to seek your consent on your wish/ will for this agriculture proposal therefore we are having this public hearing meeting. Feel free to express your will on any matters and share your opinions, interests, visions, etc. This is a very important meeting which will take your voice to the investor and the government authorities regarding this development.
- 4.7 We do not want any disputes to erupt when the project start. It costs both the government and investors a lot of money on the initial development stages therefore talk precisely and honestly so we do not spend or lose money, time, labour, resources etc.
- 4.8 The investor's concept for the development on your land is on mass production. That is in order to go into intensive agriculture farming, the land will have to be cleared. In this case logging or harvesting of timbers at certain intervals will take place which you the land owners will also benefit from the royalties and / or other compensative payments. Land preparation will follow thereafter, infrastructures built and subsequently farming activities will take place. You may want to be selective on the types of crops and livestock to be grown or raised here. Otherwise this project will also in future will bring other developments as well as goods and services to your area.

4.9 We are here to hear from you so participate and openly air your views so they (authorities) can be considered during these pre – planning stages. This meeting has the power to continue the process which will go to national forestry or even change the agriculture development proposal (i.e., plant selective nuts/ trees/ roots/ vegetable crops, or rear selective livestock species based on your recommendation. This is one of the formal documents that have to be presented to the authorities.

4.10 Mr. Gende briefed on the processes and concepts of Forest Clearance Authority (FCA) and be tone the importance of such public hearing to gauge views from concerned land owners. Importance of Government departments like DAL, Lands, Forest and Environment as well as explaining the concept of crop and land suitability assessment for agriculture project/s. Mr Gende further stated the importance of incorporating agriculture project as a sustainable plan when deciding into logging.

#### 5. Mr Samson Siguyaru – the investor

5.1.1 Thanked the chairman, the NDAL team and the meeting participants

5.1.2 He purposely reiterated his intentions of developing their land which he told them (the landowners/ community) earlier this year and has gone into implementing that intention now. He has seen some officers from the relevant government departments and found out that agriculture is the gateway to harvesting timber. For that reason, he has seek advice from senior officers which advance farming practices will have to be employed on very big scale production. Two challenges are: (a) TRANSPORT -- as woodlark is an isolated Island and (b) MARKET – but we have mining company to buy our produce. When mining company comes into full operation, they will require more agriculture produces, thus we look forward to working on big scale farming which will generate more money. This is where our people will benefit. For logging, Mr Samson said that in the process of clearing areas for farming , those logs will be exported which 75% will be benefitted by the land owners while 25% will go to the investor. He told them to express their views to complete this part of the government's requirements.

6. Mr. Helisen Senta from Sinavvia Clan.

6.1.1 I want to ask a question to the investor regarding making land available for agriculture projects. Looking at our land it is a very small island and we did not clarify how much land will be used. Can you tell us how much land will be used for agriculture?

**Response:** Mr Samson replied that our land mass is around (est.) 130 000 ha which I want to focus on Vamoana side only to establish my pilot projects. However, those clans that agree will be the ones that I'll work closely with. Mr Senta continued to enquire on the type of logs that will be exported but Mr Samson responded that the meeting should concentrate on agriculture rather than logging because only those particular areas cleared for agriculture will sell their logs. Those logs will (excess) be wasted if they are not sold so will have to export them to generate income as well. Once the agriculture matter is settled then logging will be permitted and that's when we can talk about types (round or rosewood etc.) of logs.

Mr. Gende gave a scenery of a cocoa development from the field to the market taken into consideration the current market price with the proposed hectares of land for cocoa production and possible economic return. Mr. Gende said that the entire land mass is around 130 000 ha but your farming area available is around 87000 ha which is still too much. For example, if we plant 5000 ha of cocoa and with the current export price of K 6000 – K8000 per tonne we can earn around K130 million in one year.

6.1.2 Mr. Richard Marari thanked all those present in the meeting which he spoke on behalf of his elders. There is development on the eastern side of this area and in here we have the mining operations. But another group of people have been left out since independence. Mr Marari said they have resources in their areas that they can offer for development. Beginning of this year (around March) they made an attempt to organise something (with his uncles) at Alotau but up till today it is still pending. Their attendance to this meeting is to express their interest as they appreciate the development plan. They are free, and believe that this is the stepping stone and their participation in this arrangement will also benefit the people from their area.

They believe that eventually government services will enter their area which will bring change and improve living standards. Mr Marari said that they agree with the development plan and support the idea. Mr Marari said “on behalf of my elders and people, I now extend our formal appeal notice for inclusion in this agriculture proposal.

#### 6.2 Mr. Chris from Malasi Clan

Started his speech by way of welcoming the presence of everyone in the meeting. Appreciated the development concept and believed that, government services can be seen in this neglected part of the island via this proposed agriculture impact project. He is fully in support of the project.

#### 6.3 Donald Mali from Lakaidoga Clan

A ward recorder and model farmer. Initiated rice farming in 2014 and was seen to be successful. However the awareness of the rice farming concept was not fully understood and replicated by locals therefore rice growing ceased thereafter. He said, there is currently mining exploration on the island but tangible development is yet to be realised and encouraged the urgency of this proposed agriculture project. He is in full support of the project.

#### 6.4 Martin Natowosi from Lakedoga Clan

A retired teacher and a senior clansman. He gave a general overview of the vegetation of the island and emphasised the importance of the development project. Urged his clansmen to go for this proposed agriculture project.

#### 6.5 Gram Dedi

A Ward Chairman and well respected community leader. He emphasised that, services like health, education, transport and other infrastructure are very poor to none on this island therefore encouraged the project with full heart. Just before he finished his speech, he asked to clarify between the difference between SABL and FCA. Brown gave a good response to that.

#### 6.6 Kenneth Loasi from Lakedoga Clan

Believed that, agriculture is the only project that all stakeholders including land owners will involve, participate and benefit. Thus fully in support of the project and urged for the speed up of the project.

#### 6.7 Bosco Lapis from Malasi Clan

He asked two sensitive and important questions. The first question was, is the land has been marked and has title been given? The second question was, if so did investor apply for the licence to clear the land? These two question was not directly answered but was addressed somehow. Need clarity on that. Despite that, he went ahead and pledged his undivided support.

#### 6.8 Mr. Brown Gende

After hearing collective views from concerned and respective clan leaders and important community members, Mr. Gende asked for the vote whether to go for the project or go against the project. All voted for and went for the project and urged for the urgency of the proposed project development to start.



*Fig 6: Participants filling out their ILG forms*



*Fig 7: Chairman emphasising the importance of public hearing*