

Wharf feasibility studies tender set to go ahead

BY MATTHEW VARI

THE tender to begin feasibility studies for the proposed Vanimo international port facility in West Sepik Province to be awarded within the next week.

Secretary for Transport Mr Roy Mumu gave the update on Tuesday during the visit of a high powered delegation led by the Minister for National Planning and Monitoring Richard Maru.

Mr Mumu said with current dimensions of the existing Vanimo port facilities was only 28 metres long, with the other challenge the depth where it currently stood at only 4 to 6 metres and cannot take on larger vessels.

Mumu said so far the tender for the new port project has gone out for feasibility studies.

"I was just talking to our central supply tender board (CSTB) colleagues who are just going through the financial proposal and I am confident they should be awarding that in the next couple of days."

"Our challenge now is when the tender comes out the feasibility study we will undertake through various geotechnical and hydrological tests to identify what we need."

"We need basically a minimum 15 meters depth for large vessels to come in," he said.

Mumu reiterated the delegation visit to Bewani Oil Palm Plantation mill, in Vanimo-Green electorate, where the needs of the major oil palm project would require a bigger land areas set aside for its crude palm oil (CPO).

"Our challenge as you noticed from Bewani oil palm their current indicators they need about a minimum of 8-10 hectares."

"Our challenge now is to work with the governor and look for land together on the side of the new international port."

"Our trip here is to basically look at that and the final decision on where it is going to be located will be on the outcome of the feasibility studies."

Planning Minister Richard Maru said the anticipated wharf will also serve the needs of the Freida River Mining project.

He said meetings with the military have also indicated plans for a navy vessel to be parked at the port facility in the future as well.

The National Government has provided K15 million in the 2018 budget for the new wharf development.

PHAMA COFFEE BREAK

COUNSELLOR Economic Governance with Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Chakriya Bowman during a coffee break conversation with fashion designer and entrepreneur Annette Sete yesterday at a PHAMA hosted event called the 'Coffee Break Conversations' at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby. It was a specialty coffee tasting and interactive session with the Coffee Industry Working Group members (IWG) that was well attended by organizations, businesses, development partners, and senior business and industry executives. International coffee expert Andrew Hetzel was the guest speaker at the event. PHAMA also used the occasion to present the outcomes of the recent Coffee Market Study to their partners and stakeholders and seek feedback on the way forward.



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