



Mining Haus, Poreporena Highway
PO Box 1906
Port Moresby 121, NCD
Papua New Guinea

Corporate Services Division
Tel: +675 321 3511
Email: info@mra.gov.pg

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PRESS RELEASE

Minister Dilu to Present Stakeholders' Views on the Proposed National Gold Corporation Bill 2024 To PM

Mining Minister Hon Muguwa Dilu, said yesterday that he would inform the Prime Minister, that the mining industry and stakeholders would need another 6-12 months of consultations on the proposed National Gold Corporation Bill 2024, to fully understand the implications of the bill.

The Minister said the government would have two objectives of conducting more consultations.

1. Is to make amendments to the proposed bill, or shelve it.
2. Is to design a business model that will work for the country

Minister Dilu was speaking during the stakeholder consultation workshop on the bill at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby.

He said the government had taken note of the overwhelming call by the industry and the wider stakeholders for more consultations.

"As a responsible government and as a responsible Minister, I hear all your concerns," said Minister Dilu. However, he said, the government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Hon James Marape, would not change its goal-post and focus on downstream processing of the country's commodities especially gold. "We just need to find a best way forward. If we don't talk about downstream processing in the mining sector now, when and who will talk about it in the future?"

The Minister said that the concept of operating a gold refinery in the country had been around since 2014, adding that the Marape-Rosso government simply inherited it (concept). He said that he had been tasked to re-visit the idea and see how best the country could go about introducing the idea again.

The Minister said he believes that stakeholder consultation is the best way forward in addressing concerns and views of the mining industry and interested stakeholders.

"I think this is the way we should run our country. We will be heading into 50 years of maturity as a country, and the way we formulate laws and policies must go through rigorous processes, intellectual debates and discussions," said Minister Dilu.

Stakeholders, organisations and individuals that commented on the bill included one of the country's senior statesmen and former Chief Justice, Sir Arnold Amet, senior counsel Mr Loani Henao, the Board Chairman of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Hubert Namani and representatives of the PNG Transparency International.



Photo: Minister Dilu responding to stakeholders yesterday.