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PRESS RELEASE

Prime Minister officially opens Gee 2024 Conference

PORT MORESBY: Prime Minister Hon James Marape, through the Managing Director of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) Jerry Garry, today officially opened the Geoscience, Exploration & Extraction (GEE) Conference 2024.

The three-days (Aug 7-9) conference organized by the MRA is being staged at the APEC Haus in Port Moresby.

PM Marape who could not attend in person due to prior commitments, welcomed all participants in a prepared statement read by Mr Garry. The PM said: "It is indeed appropriate that I address the second Geoscience, Exploration & Extraction Conference, given PNG's emergence as a significant mineral, oil and gas producing nation in the Pacific Region.

He said the abundant mineral and petroleum resources in the country, held the hopes, dreams and livelihoods of countless communities under whose land resources are found.

"Our involvement in geosciences is not merely an academic exercise. It is a calling and a mission to understand our land and also all resources on land and under the sea."

The PM said sound understanding of the geological framework was critical and directly relates to the type of mineral and hydrocarbon deposits that the country has, which at the end of the day has implications on the country's economic status.

He said PNG's economy is 80% based on revenues generated from the extractive industry, adding that without geoscience data, there would be no extraction and production, which means no revenue for the country.

He said the country's natural resources were depleting at an alarming rate and that there was a need to start looking for new mines that would sustain the country's economy going forward. However, he said, the country could only depend on well researched geoscientific data in order to find new resources and mines.

Hon Marape said the world was calling for a reduction of emissions and greater care of our environment. He said PNG must therefore embrace sustainable mining practices utilizing cutting edge technologies and data analytics to optimize our exploration and extraction method.

Platforms such as the GEE 2024 provide the opportunity to share ideas, research findings and

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experiences that could possibly enable the discovery of new resources and gradually new mines.

The GEE Conference 2024 is being attended by geoscientists from PNG and from around world particularly Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom. Amongst the many guests is the former President of the Republic of Kiribati, Anote Tong.

Photos:



Photo: Mr Garry delivering the PM's speech this morning



Photo: Conference participants



