



MINERAL RESOURCES AUTHORITY
(OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA
NEW GUINEA)

Mining Haus, Poreporena Highway
P.O. Box 1906
Port Moresby 121, NCD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Tel: +675 321 3511
Fax: +675 321 5711
Email: info@mra.gov.pg

29 August 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Simberi CDA Signing is a Plus For SMAA

Chairman of the Simberi Mining Area Association (SMAA), Mr. Pius Vaket Maris, described the signing of the Simberi Mining Project Community Development Agreement (CDA) as a proud and a historic achievement for his people.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held yesterday at the New Ireland Provincial Office in Kavieng, he declared:

“Today is a proud day for the people of Simberi Island and the wider Tabar community. We are not simply signing a Community Development Agreement — we are signing a new chapter in the history of our people.”

Mr. Maris emphasized that the wealth generated from Simberi’s resources must translate into lasting improvements in the lives of his people. He noted that, as Chairman, he carried the hopes and aspirations of thousands across Simberi and the wider Tabar Island group, representing past generations, the present, and the children who will inherit the islands long after mining has ceased. Reflecting on years of co-existence with mining operations, he acknowledged both the opportunities and challenges of large-scale resource development. He affirmed that while development is welcomed, land remains more than a resource — it is identity, history, culture, livelihood, and the foundation of the future.

“Our ancestors did not inherit land to sell it away; they held it in trust for future generations. Likewise, we hold it in trust today for those who will come after us. That is why this agreement is so important,” he said.

The Chairman highlighted that the CDA is the product of extensive discussions, consultations, negotiations, and at times difficult conversations. Yet, through mutual respect and a shared commitment to progress, all stakeholders have reached a point where they can move forward together.



Photo: Chairman Maris