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PRESS RELEASE

Simberi Mining Project CDA Signed Landowners and Stakeholders to Receive Their Benefits

The long-awaited Simberi Mining Project Community Development Agreement (CDA), was finally signed yesterday (Friday August 28) at the New Ireland Provincial Government Assembly/office in Kavieng, New Ireland Province.

This milestone comes three decades after the first CDA was signed in 1996.

The parties to the agreement and their signatories are:

1. State – CDA signed by the Minister for Mining Hon Solen Loifa MP.
2. New Ireland Provincial Government (NIPG) – CDA signed by the Governor of the New Ireland Province Hon Byron Chan MP.
3. Sentral Niu Ailan Local Level Government (SNALLG) – CDA signed by the SNALLG President Hon Terence Kamari
4. The Simberi Mining Area Association (SMAA) – CDA signed by the Chairman Mr Pius Maris Vaket.
5. Simberi Gold Company Pty Ltd (SGC) – Represented by the Country Manager Mr Randy McMahon. He could not sign due to administrative hold-up within the company. The company indicated their willingness to sign at a later date.

Following the initial signing in 1996, the CDA was reviewed in 2012 and finalized in 2013. Between 2014 and 2016, statutory approvals were sought for fiscal and legal clearance, alongside the Business Development Plan and Training and Employment Plan. In 2017, the National Executive Council (NEC), through policy decision No. 95/2017, approved the implementation of the agreement.

However, signing was delayed due to objections from the NIPG, which sought increased benefits including Special Support Grants (SSG), Infrastructure Development Grants (IDG), and the Tax Credit Scheme (TCS). Internal differences within the SMAA, the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, and a court case involving SMAA leadership in 2023 further contributed to the delay.

With the signing yesterday, each party will move forward to implement its commitments under the agreement, paving the way for strengthened community development and long-term benefits for stakeholders in.

Minerals for Life

Mining Minister Hon. Solen Loifa MP, congratulated all parties and commended their patience, understanding, and cooperation over the years. He reminded landowners that the island's gold resources will one day be exhausted, stressing the importance of investing in sustainable projects and businesses. Such foresight, he noted, would ensure that future generations continue to benefit long after mining operations have ceased.

This sentiment was echoed by the Mineral Resources Authority's (MRA) Acting Managing Director, Mr. Harry Kore, who outlined the MRA's role in facilitating the Community Development Agreement (CDA) process. Mr. Kore reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to working closely with all stakeholders—particularly landowners—to guarantee that benefits are delivered in accordance with the CDA. Governor Chan congratulated the landowners and the parties on the achievement adding that they had missed out on benefits in the last 10 years.



Photo: Minister Loifa speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday



Photo: Governor Chan



Photo: Minister Loifa (in suit) and Governor Chan putting pen to paper.



Photo: Hon Loifa, Governor Chan, Mr Maris, stakeholders and parties with the signed CDA document



Photo: A proud moment for Chairman Maris



Photo: President Kamari signing the CDA



Photo: "The MRA is committed to ensuring benefits are delivered:" Mr Kore



***Photo: Wealth from resources must translate into lasting improvements
in people's lives: Chairman Maris***