

Key Messages from CMCA Review Working Group Meeting 1

21 April 2006, Tabubil, PNG

(This is an agreed statement for general circulation released by the CMCA Working Group at the end of the first meeting)

The first Working Group meeting happened April 18-21 and was a good meeting.

- Delegates came from the 9 regions, Fly River Provincial Government, Department of Mines, NGOs, and the PNG SDP.
- It will take a year to reach agreement on compensation and benefits.
- The objective of the first meeting was to organize the Working Group and set the stage.
- The Working Group has the most power if they can hold hands and build strong agreement.
- For the Working Group to build agreement, there will need to be give and take. Villages will get some of the things they want, but won't get everything they want.
- The door is open for villages, individuals and law suit supporters within the CMCA region to join the CMCA's. People and villages need to join before the end of the CMCA review. Leaders should reach out to those who have not yet joined.
- There will be some independent technical and legal advice.

Delegates shared with the Working Group the comments they have heard from the village leaders and the people in the villages:

- There needs to be long term projects and investments that will serve CMCA communities beyond the operation of the mine.
- Compensation and benefits should increase.
- Project implementation and support must improve. OTML, Government and communities must work together in partnership for successful projects.
- Money and job generating projects are a priority.
- Needs common to all communities: health care, education and skills-training.
- The key to a successful CMCA Review is the leaders working to involve the village views and opinions.

Environmental Information was presented to the Working Group. Some key points are:

- There are big impacts to the Ok Tedi and Fly Rivers from sedimentation including flooding and dieback. Dredging is helpful to decrease some of these effects
- Delegates would like additional information about environmental impacts along the Highway and throughout the rivers. This information will be discussed in Working Group Meeting 2.
- Deeper in the mine pit the material has more sulfur which can cause Acid Rock Drainage (ARD). OTML may be able to find a solution to ARD. If they don't, there may be more environmental damage, or the mine may close earlier.
- Fish catches are decreasing in the Middle Fly, some types of fish are gone.

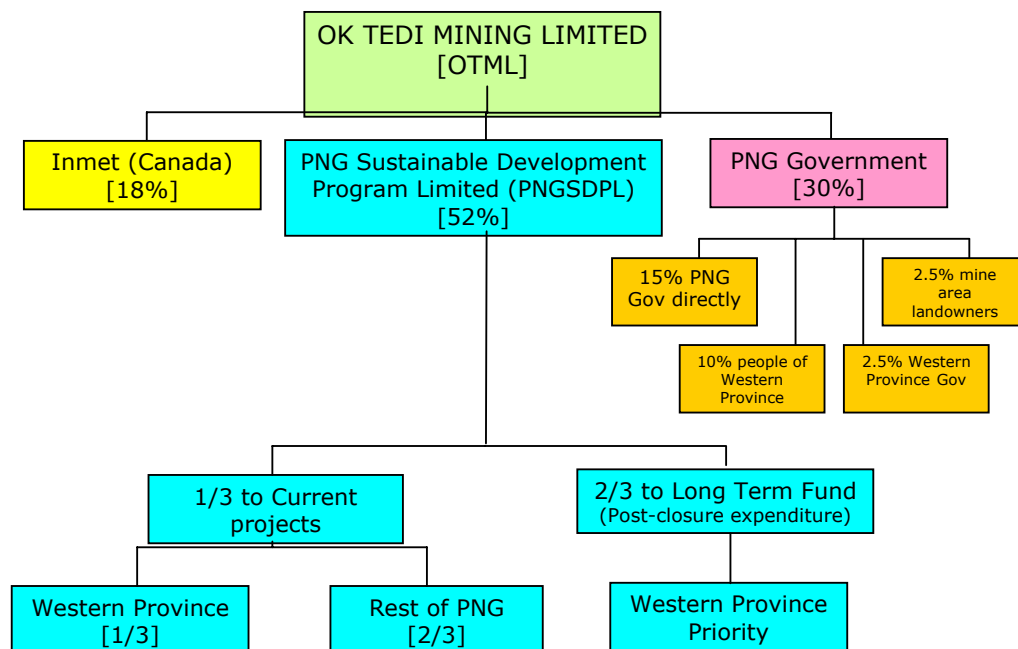
Delegates raised the hard questions about...

- Money from the mine is split among Government, PNGSDP, and the CMCA regions. Where does the money go?
- If there is so much money, why has the quality of life and number of services decreased in the Western Province in the last 25 years?
- We know the mine causes environmental impacts, but what are the true health risks?
- People want more say about projects. How can communities be partners with PNG SDP, Fly River Provincial Government and OTML and help decide which projects get done?

Business Information was presented to the Working Group. Some key points are:

- The mine will close around 2012.
- The mine is now making good money, 2005 a record-high profit year.
- This is how the money from the mine is divided:

Ok Tedi - Ownership



Getting ready for Working Group Meeting 2:

- Are there questions your village has about PNG SDP?
- Are there questions your village has about the FRPG?
- What do you think you can agree with all the other regions on?