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## **LGL gets behind New Ireland community project**

Leading PNG gold miner Lihir Gold Limited (LGL) has made the single largest corporate donation towards the completion of a K900,000 Transit Accommodation Centre in New Ireland province.

LGL presented a cheque for K300,000 to New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan on Monday to help finalise construction of the Namatanai Catholic Parish Community Hall and Accommodation Centre.

The urgently-needed facility will service an area with a population of more than 80,000 people, with the main beneficiaries expected to come from Namatanai, Lihir Island, Tanga, Anir, Lak, Kandas and Central New Ireland.

LGL CEO Mr Arthur Hood said as a major employer in New Ireland, LGL felt it was important to support a worthwhile community initiative that would provide assistance and services to so many people in the province.

“There is a very high demand for inexpensive accommodation in Namatanai and surrounding areas. Currently the town only has two guest houses with a total of 18 rooms, whereas the new centre will offer approximately 40 rooms with 80 beds, and provide a suitable venue for large-scale functions,” he said.

“LGL’s donation will go a long way towards the completion of a new facility that will give people a place to call home while they are getting on their feet.”

The funds will be used to complete construction of the main hall, as well as to begin building two accommodation wings, toilets, an office and kitchen.

New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan said he was enormously grateful to LGL for once again stepping forward in support of the people of New Ireland province and looks forward to further involvement in Namatanai district where basic power and water are critical for development.

“This is another example of LGL digging deep and helping New Ireland and Papua New Guinea. On behalf of the people, I thank LGL for the generous donation and also for the company’s willingness to give back to those in our community,” he said.

The project has been underway since 2007 but is reliant on donations for completion. With the latest injection from LGL, the centre’s construction fund has received contributions of around K750,000, with an estimated K150,000 needed to complete the building.

With the completion of the centre, meetings, conferences and workshops that would otherwise need to be held in Kavieng due to venue and accommodation shortages will be able to be held in Namatanai.

Namatanai is the second largest town on the island province of New Ireland in PNG, and is connected to the largest and provincial capital Kavieng. Namatanai is the central sea port connecting travellers from the outer islands within the Namatanai District to Kavieng, as well as travellers from Rabaul in New Britain.

LGL operates one of the world’s largest gold mines and processing facilities, located on the island of Lihir in New Ireland province. The Lihir Island gold operation has a workforce of over 3,000 employees and business partners, and is a significant contributor to the local economy.

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