



Papua New Guinea Council of Churches

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Statement on Seabed Mining

The Papua New Guinea Council of Churches gathered together the heads of churches throughout the maritime provinces met for two days for a workshop on deep seabed mining from August 28 and 29th at March Girls Resort, Gaire 30 minutes drive outside of Port Moresby in Central Province.

Having considered the seriousness of the activity on deep seabed mining through deliberations and presentations from respective people and groups we hereby make the following statement.

The PNG Council of Churches by our membership call for a total ban on seabed mining in Papua New Guinea. The seabed mining only will bring destruction to our ocean life and people forced by Developed Industrialised countries.

The world is watching PNG and it will be a 'joke' to the world if PNG says 'yes' to this destructive monster in the absence of a relevant national policy and legislative framework on offshore/seabed mining. Following the Madang Guidelines concluded in 1999 we call on the Government to ensure a separate policy and legislation is developed before offshore mining including deep seabed mining activities are commenced in the country. Government should also clarify to the Churches and people of PNG as to what consultation processes have been undertaken to develop relevant policy and legislation governing offshore mining.

The government's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) reports have highlighted that PNG is not getting its fair share of resource revenue and as such we express concern that the state's equity participation in the Solwara 1 project will be a waste of ordinary taxpayers money.

Further we call on Government to be more focused on People development rather than profit development when making crucial decisions. We call on the government to consult people, ensuring citizens and the public are aware of the benefits and the negative impacts of these development and allow them to make informed decisions on what the people think is best for them.

The churches as the prophetic voice to provide stewardship to God's Creation and therefore appeal to the leaders of the nation not to destroy but to have and make good use of God's gifts of land and sea to us.

It is our sincere prayers that God will guide our national leaders in making development decisions for the future directions of our country.

Church representatives present.

- United Church
- Catholic Church
- Anglican Church
- Lutheran
- Salvation Army
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Evangelical Alliance Church of Manus
- Baptist Church
- Body of Christ