



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS BULLETIN



1 November, 2016

Upgrading Makun Perigo Sawarin Back Road Project's ground-breaking ceremony



EAST SEPIK PROVINCE, 1st November, 2016 – The Japanese Ambassador, representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Wewak Town Mayor, officials from the East Sepik Provincial Administration (ESPA), officials and staff from the Department of Works (DOW), officials from the Department of Public Enterprises, representatives from the Defence Force, the Police and the Corrective Institutional Service, representatives from PNG Power, PNG Ports and Water PNG, and the general public gathered in the grounds outside the St. Michael Primary School, Wewak, for the ground-breaking ceremony of the Upgrading Makun Perigo Sawarin Back Road Project.

The project's objective is to improve an existing road behind the Boram (Wewak) Airport. The project road will become the main route between east and west of the town. Currently the Boram-CIS Road serves this purpose, but it will be phased out of use in preparation for a section to be removed in order to allow for the Wewak Airport Redevelopment Project (WARP) to extend the runway and upgrade the airport to meet international standards.





The 3.2 km-long project road connects to the Boram–CIS Road east and west of the airport. The scheme consists of improving the existing 2.2-km Makun Road to two lanes with a bitumen-sealed surface and improving the existing 1.0-km Perigo Road to two lanes with a gravel surface. The project road is being constructed by the Department of Works' East Sepik Provincial Office, as the implementing agency of the East Sepik Provincial Administration (ESPA) and Government of Papua New Guinea, with technical assistance from JICA's Project for Capacity Development on Road Maintenance (CDRM).



The chief JICA representative, Mr Takashi Toyama, congratulated the provincial works office on winning the project contract from the provincial government and commented, "East Sepik Provincial Works office is the most active works office in terms of expanding their business." He also expressed hopes that the exceptional approach, management and teamwork of DOW ESP can be propagated among other provincial offices. Mr Toyama stated, "our project focuses on the capacity building of technical staff," and finished by saying, "when the capacity of staff on the ground improves, the quality of roads constructed will also improve. JICA will continue to work with the DOW for the capacity building of their staff and we expect to see more good results of our collaboration here in East Sepik Province."



The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Morio Matsumoto, was welcomed to the stage by traditional singing groups. In his keynote speech, the Ambassador stressed the importance of improving the capacity for road maintenance. He praised the provincial government and DOW with support from CDRM for working together to ensure that the heavy equipment provided by the Government of Japan in 2014 are used

advantageously. He added, "the completion of this road project will improve road conditions and accessibility to basic services." Following the Ambassador's speech, he was assisted by DOW staff to do the ground-breaking with an excavator from the JICA fleet that will be used in the road improvement works.

