



The Association of Surveyors of Papua New Guinea Inc.

Report to the Association of Surveyors of Papua New Guinea on the operations of the Papua New Guinea Surveyors Board 2019 – 2021.

The term of the previous Board expired on 26th June, 2020. In accordance with the Survey Act a list of four registered surveyors were forwarded to the Surveyor General by letter dated 19th June, 2020. The ASPNG nominees, in order of preference, were William McKibben, Terence Kuniaka, Masang Bangindo and Gairo Waigeno.

The current Board was gazetted on 1st December, 2020 and the members as gazetted are Chris Manda, Jack Bakus, Damake Murio, Masang Bangindo, Gairo Waigeno and Bill McKibben.

Chris Manda (Chairman), Jack Bakus and Damake Murio are the DLPP representatives whilst Masang Bangindo, Gairo Waigeno and Bill McKibben are the ASPNG representatives.

During the inauguration of the Board Mr. Lazarus Malesa (Deputy Secretary) in his welcoming address made mention that the aims of the Dept were to remove the Regional Offices and empower the provinces. In my closing remarks on behalf of ASPNG I stated that the Regional Offices should be strengthened rather than be done away with as almost all of the provinces do not have the resources or the incentives to maintain functional provincial offices.

The first meeting of the current board was held immediately after the swearing in of the members at Eda Tauno Building on 21st January, 2021. Bill McKibben was appointed Deputy Chairman.

It should be noted that the previous meeting of the Board was held in December 2019, 13 months prior and that no meetings were held during 2020. This contravenes the Survey Act which states that “The Board shall meet at least once in each year.”

Business discussed at the January meeting and in many previous meetings that require urgent attention include:-

- Quite a number of surveyors at the last couple of meetings have been removed from the Register under Section 19C(1) of the Survey Act for non payment of outstanding subscriptions.
- Very few practical examinations by cadets have been lodged in recent times and with the passing of surveyors the numbers are greatly reduced from past levels.
- The need for the Survey Act, Survey Regulations and Survey Directions to be updated. This could and should be addressed by aid assistance or Land Mobilization funding.
- The need for Cadastral Noting Maps to be updated. This has been ongoing for a number of years and nothing is being done to address this issue.
- Plan registration procedures and the issuing of Legal Cadastral Descriptions at DLPP is totally unsatisfactory. It is extremely difficult to get plans registered in a timely manner although DLPP staff seem to have their survey plans registered promptly. The current system where plans are borrowed, scanned and then returned to DLPP is unacceptable, the scans should be done at DLPP.
- Incorporated Land Group survey plans currently being done by “Lands Dept surveyors” often include alienated land (patrol posts, missions and airstrips) are a cause of concern with landowners making unwarranted claims based on these plans.
- EDM calibration bases – there are no current EDM calibration bases in PNG.

- Publication of lists of registered surveyors should be published annually. This has not been done for many years and has to be addressed.
- The carrying out of private surveys by DLPP staff and Provincial Surveyors has been ongoing for many years and continues to this day.
- Poor standard of plan examination by DLPP staff has been partially addressed by having private examiners for surveys submitted by private surveyors. There are however still some DLPP staff who examine surveys from private surveyors for a fee, quite often in government paid time.
- Regional Surveyors positions being occupied by unregistered surveyors.
- Frequency of Board meetings has been subject to funding constraints yet ASPNG has been willing to subsidise meetings in the past.

With the recent removal from the register and the passing on of a number of surveyors the current number of Registered Surveyors now stands at 38. There are 40 Valuers and 55 Architects registered by their respective Boards. These numbers are insignificant compared to the 1,000 or so Registered Engineers and the 70 or 80 Lawyers who are admitted to the bar every year.

Many of the above issues have been ongoing for a number of years yet nothing has been done by Office of the Surveyor General who continually complains of lack of resources and funding. I believe that assistance could be sought from aid sources or Land Mobilisation funds to address these issues.

I believe that we should make a more direct approach to the Minister responsible in order that these issues can be addressed.



Bill McKibben,
Deputy Chairman.
27th May, 2021.