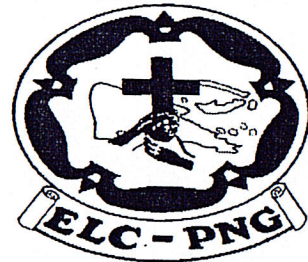


# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



JABEM DISTRICT P.O. BOX 80,  
LAE 411,  
MOROBE PROVINCE



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

## WAFI GOLPU MINE – WASTE PIPELINE TO LAE AND INTO THE HUON GULF

The current Wafi Golpu mine development plan is to extract the ore by underground mining and process it in a plant to recover the copper and gold than dump the waste by pumping it in a pipeline, through Lae city and dump into the sea in the Huon Gulf peninsula.

The plan to dump waste into the sea is very frightening given the scenario to an ordinary Morobe villager living along the Morobe coast to the north and south. It does not matter how much or how many scientific knowledge that one can preach to an ordinary villager to change his way of thinking and accept the foreign understanding of a science that they were never being exposed to in their lifetime.

For an ordinary villager who is a Christian by faith believes that GOD ALMIGHTY is the only creator who created this earth and blessed it with all its wealth in a **perfect way**, and here comes man who thinks he can extract this wealth without due care to human life and put his greed of monetary value in front of human life and well being, man cannot guarantee ones safety and well being in an environment that is being disturbed for natural resources extraction, because profit making take the centre stage than local people's welfare and their environment.

This is not a first time that a mining operation is done in PNG, people in PNG have experienced and know the kind of disaster a mining or oil or gas brings to an ordinary villager and how it affects his/her livelihood since the first mining took place in the early colonial time of the 1920's and 1930 in Wau and Bulolo. Honorable Sir Julius Chan once said "signing an agreement with a resource developer is not a blessing but it's a curse", and until today this statement is true in every word.

We have seen and experienced Bougainville Copper own by CRA of Australia and what it has brought to the people of Bougainville, the OK Tedi mine previously owned by BHP of Australia



how it has destroyed Fly River and the people living along this great river. The Porgera Mine and the environment it destroyed along the Strickland River and the Landowners welfare. The same message was preached by the developers in all resource development sites and I quote **"The geological structure is unstable to hold a waste dam only possibility is dumping the waste into river or sea"**. Wafi Golpu is no exception, they are spreading the same message, coming from the money making prophets.

It is true that every ordinary people living in and around any resource project area whether it is Landowners or surrounding community still live in the thatched roof houses and they become poorer than they were before the development of the resource and operations. It is true that the most affected and forgotten people are those who live where the waste is being dumped.

We have witnessed Bougainvilleans taking CRA to international Court in USA on the waste issue, the Fly River people took Ok Tedi Mine to international court in Melbourne, Australia for waste issue which forces the BHP to exit the mine and transfer its shares to PNGSP. Recently the Porgera people have engage a Queens Counsel to take Porgera Joint Venture to international court for waste issue. All this court actions were taken after the damage was done to the environment. Therefore we the Morobeans and especially Lutheran Church members are not going to wait until the damage is done to our livelihood and environment; there is the saying that **"PREVENTION is better than CURE,"** so let prevent WGJV from dumping their waste into the sea, than feel sorry later.

Due to above reasons, the ELC-PNG will support the people of Morobe who are Lutherans by faith, based on this Lutheran World Federation's principle that says;

1. CREATION NOT FOR SALE
2. HUMAN BEINGS NOT FOR SALE
3. SALVATION NOT FOR SALE

Therefore, ELC – Morobe District Leaders Forum, with the ELC-PNG will support its current Governor and the Morobe MPs to stand united to stop the WGJV Company's plan to dump their waste into the sea, the Huon Gulf for that matter. The National Church Council of ELC-PNG has already passed a resolution in their meeting held recently not to allow any dumping of waste into the sea, and will support ELC – Morobe District Forum Leaders not to let pipeline to pass through Church land into the Wagang (Sipaia) village. The dumping of this waste into the sea will affect our Lutheran members living along the coastline of Morobe Province, the people that will be most affected are the members of the ELC-PNG Yabim District. The fear and perception alone will create havoc amongst the coastal people which will destroy their normal way of living that they have been so used to for many, many ancestral years.

The fear and perception of waste being dump into their waters where they fish, and make money out of this will suddenly disappear, they will lose their customers, and the buyers of their fish will hesitate to buy from them regardless of any scientific knowledge to convince them. The Company and the Government have suddenly destroyed their only way of life and making money to sustain their livelihood.



We strongly demand that the Company **should build a waste dam** to store all the waste and to control the spillage by way of daily monitoring. We also understand that this waste also contained copper and gold that is lost to waste during processing as no process design and build by men is perfect or 100%. The lost of copper and gold to the waste can be processed again by future generation that is our children and their children. We do believe that this is a non-renewable resource and if we dump the waste into sea we will not have access to it in the future but if we do store it in the dam it can be mine later and so the life of the mine can be extended two times more. In other words we are saying that this **"WASTE HAS A VALUE"** so let's store it and come back later when all the ore in Wafi Golpu is exhausted or completely taken out. **LET'S BE INNOVATIVE FOR ONCE AND THINK AHEAD BECAUSE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES EVERY GENERATION, LET'S GIVE OUR FUTURE GENERATION A CHANCE TO ADVANCE BY SHARING THE WEALTH ACCUMMULATED FROM OUR NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES.**

The company Wafi Golpu Joint Venture (WGJV) is a foreign company and all it is thinking of is let's get in and remove whatever we can and get out, their future is not our business.

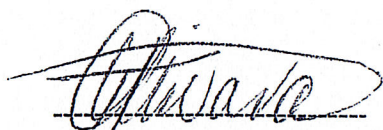
As such, the 6 ELC – Morobe District Leaders in the Lutheran in Morobe we stand together and oppose and reject dumping of waste in our God given environment together with Honorable Governor of Morobe, Mr. Ginson Saonuc with his decisive statements rejecting out rightly MOU.

Therefore, we strongly oppose and reject putting up of pipelines to dump waste in the sea of Huon Gulf than building a terrestrial tailing dam where the ore is dug out. For it is an acceptable mining practice in the world especially in developed countries.

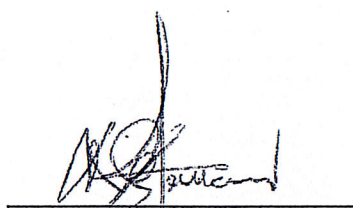
**"Based on the above mentioned facts we demand that building a waste dam is non-negotiable!!!"**

Thank you

Sign by



**YASAM AIWARA (REV,)**  
President Jabem District



**MICAH YALAMU (REV)**  
President Siassi District

**For and on behalf of ELC – Morobe District Leaders Forum members.**

President: Rev. Sokeka Twaman  
President: Rev. Jonati Metu  
President: Rev. Tau Bibato  
President: Rev. Bayuso Botingnuc

ELC – Boana District  
ELC – Kate District  
ELC – Mumeng District  
ELC – Ukata District

**"GOD YU STRONGPELA BILONG MI, NA OL BIRUA INO INAP DAUNIM MI." SAM 61:03**