



MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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New Managing Director for IPBC

Rt Hon Sir Mekere Morauta, Minister for Public Enterprises, today announced that Mr Glenn Blake had resigned and that the position of Managing Director of IPBC would be advertised.

“Mr Blake has voluntarily resigned. He knows he is an inseparable part of the old Somare regime and that it would be difficult for him to work with the new Government. I thank him for his commonsense and understanding in allowing me and the O’Neill-Namah government to start afresh in our work. Mr Blake has co-operated well with me since I took over the ministry and in doing so has set a good example for all IPBC staff and public servants to follow. Our government wishes him well in his future endeavours.”

Sir Mekere said that the policy approach of the new Government to public enterprises and to IPBC would be different from the Somare regime.

“Government’s core role is to provide public goods and services, such as schools, health centres and roads, available to every person in every region. Government does not have and will never have enough capital, expertise and commercial discipline to get involved in business successfully, whether in mining and gas exploration or operation, transport, power or telecommunications. Government must choose between ownership and provision of efficient, reliable and affordable services for people. To me the choice is obvious and simple.”

Sir Mekere stressed that the manner in which the ministry would operate under his leadership would also be quite different. “It will be open, honest and accountable to the Government, to Parliament and to the people. The veil of secrecy worn by Arthur Somare has been cast off.”

As demonstration of this new approach, Sir Mekere said the position of Managing Director would be publicly advertised and interested applicants could read details of the job on the IPBC website.

“The position is open only to Papua New Guineans. The successful applicant will not be a political side-kick but a person with demonstrated high level relevant experience. Time is short and there is much to be done, so the recruitment exercise will be completed without delay,” Sir Mekere said.

Authorised for release by:

Mekere Morauta KCMG MP
Minister for Public Enterprises