

Posts about Petromin on Papua New Guinea Mine Watch



[Tolukuma mine owners deny profiteering in sale to Singapore nightclub company](#)



One of the Singapore nightclubs owned by LifeBrandz

Asidokona Mining Resources, the owner of Tolukuma mine, has put out a press release [see below] trying to calm fears over the proposed sale of the mine to a Singapore nightclub company and denying any profiteering.

Asidokona is a Singapore company owned by financial speculator Philip Soh Sai Kiang (also known as Soh Sai Kiang, Mr Soh and Mr Kiang). Asidokona is the sole shareholder and owner of Tolukuma Gold Mines Ltd which it [bought from Petromin for around K80 million in November 2015](#). Asidokona is now proposing to sell Tolukuma Gold Mines to another Singapore based company, [LifeBrandz for US\\$212 million](#). But this will not signal the end of the involvement for Asidokona and Soh Sai Kiang, as LifeBrandz will pay for the purchase of Tolukuma Gold Mines by issuing shares in LifeBrandz to Asidokona. Asidokona will then become the largest shareholder in LifeBrandz which will in turn own TGM.

Asidokona denies any *“exchange of cash or profiteering by the shareholders of ASK”* but the simple truth is they are making a huge profit – selling a mine they bought from Petromin for K80 million to LifeBrandz in exchange for shares worth US\$212 million (around K670 million), shares which they will then be free to sell for cash.

Rather tellingly, Asidokona says two of the main benefits of the sale will be the short term funding of the mine and the recommencement of mining operations – a tacit admission that Petromin sold the mine to a company without the resources to fund the ongoing operations or reopen the mine!

Asidokona has not made any mention of what it will do about the pollution of the local river system with heavy metals, which has been [described as a genocide for local people](#). Interestingly, the press release also makes

no mention of Soh Sai Kiang and his ownership of Asidokona or any mention of the value of the shares in LifeBrandz, \$212 million, he will be receiving. It also makes no mention of who the other owners of LifeBrandz are.

Obviously there are some things Asidokona and Soh Sai Kiang would rather keep from the people of Central Province...

Tolukuma Mine acquisition strengthened by LifeBrandz input

Asidokona media release | PNG Loop | July 16, 2016

The proposed acquisition of the Tolukuma Mine in the Goilala District of Central Province has brought in an interested party to the table.

Lifebrandz Ltd ("LB"), a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Singapore ("SGX"), announced on July 13, 2016, it has entered into a Non-Binding Term Sheet ("Term Sheet") with Asidokona Mining Resources Pte Ltd ("ASDK"), for the proposed acquisition of Tolukuma Gold Mines Ltd ("TGM").

The Term Sheet also includes the requirement for LB to provide funds to TGM for its operations prior to the completion.

TGM is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASDK. The announcement concerns a proposed acquisition and there has not been any sale or transfer of ownership in TGM, nor has there been any exchange of cash or profiteering by shareholders of ASDK.

The Term Sheet concerns an all share deal where LB will acquire TGM (the "Proposed Acquisition"). The Proposed Acquisition is subject to certain conditions, key being the recommencement of mining operations and the exploration programme currently underway at TGM.

If the conditions are met, the value of TGM will far exceed the value of LB and the resultant effect, should the Proposed Acquisition proceed, is that the shareholders of ASDK will become the majority shareholders of LB as the consideration will be paid for in new shares issued by LB.

Hence, TGM will be owned by a listed company that in itself will be majority owned by the current (and potentially future) shareholders of ASDK.

The nature of the Proposed Acquisition is commonly known as a Reverse Take-Over Exercise ("RTO") and will still be subject to the necessary regulatory and supervisory authorities in Singapore.

The Proposed Acquisition is expected to be completed by June 2017.

EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

The Proposed Acquisition will have the following effects:

1. Access to additional funding to TGM to support its operations in the short term and prior to completion of the Proposed Acquisition.
2. Recommencement of mining operations, creating stable employment for the Golaila community, income for the company, as well as royalties to landowners and the PNG government.
3. Upon completion, TGM will be owned by a listed company, meaning greater access to further capital for expansion. TGM intends to convert its surrounding exploration licences to Mining Leases and commence mining operations there.
4. TGM will be propelled onto the international financial stage, with PNG Nationals as senior executive management.
5. PNG will benefit from additional foreign direct investment, tax income, and royalties from expanded operations.
6. As a listed company in Singapore, transparency and integrity are key governance metrics which TGM will strictly abide by.

About Tolukuma Gold Mines Ltd

Tolukuma Gold Mines Ltd (“TGM”) is a company incorporated in Papua New Guinea (“PNG”) and the holder of mining lease No. 104 issued under the Mining Act 1992 of PNG (“Mining Lease 104”), located in the Golaila District of the Central Province. TGM has been in operation since 1995 and was acquired by Asidokona Mining Resources Pte Ltd on 30 November 2015. TGM also holds five (5) exploration licenses and one (1) exploration license under application.

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[Tolokuma mine owners says people can't complain about sale](#)



The operator of the Tolokuma mine, Asidokona Mining Resources has defended its takeover by a [Singapore nightclub operator](#) and says people should stop complaining [see story below].

Asidokona, owned by Singapore speculator Philip Soh Sai Kiang, says Petromin was fully informed the company would be listed on the stock exchange when it sold the mine in 2015 and the listing “was part of the conditions stated in the sale and purchase agreement”.

Asidokona says other parties have also been kept fully informed of the listing and shouldn't now complain:

“Since we took ownership of TGM, we have in our meetings with the various stakeholders, including Yulai landowners, Central provincial government, MRA, local member Willie Samb and other state agencies, on numerous occasion, apprised them of the probable listing of TGM. So no one party who dealt with us can feign ignorance that they did not know that TGM will be listed”.

Of course, once a company is publicly listed on a stock exchange its shares can be bought by anyone and any other company can make a takeover by buying a majority or all of the shares.

Seems the people to blame here, for Tolokuma ending up with a nightclub owner, are Brown Bai and the rest of the Petromin Board and Mining Minister Julius Chan. They should never have sold Tolokuma to a Singaporean financial speculator in the first place!

They also need to explain how they sold the mine for K80 million but eight months later it is changing hands again for K670 million!

Shirley Mauludu | The National aka The Loggers Times | July 14, 2016

OPERATOR of Tolukuma gold mine in Central, Asidokona Mining Resources, says it is working on raising the

standard of the mine.

It was responding to reports that the mine had been bought by the LifeBrandz Group, a Singapore-based nightclub and lifestyle company.

Asidokona director Vincent Siow told The National yesterday that the company was working on raising the standard of the mine.

“When the then Petromin selected us in their tender exercise to sell Tolukuma Gold Mines, we intimated then that we will list TGM on a recognised stock exchange,” Siow said. “This was part of the conditions stated in the sale and purchase agreement we entered into subsequently with Petromin.

“This listing either by way of an outright initial public offer or reverse takeover is to crystallise by end of December 2016 or a mutually agreed date.

“Because of the stringent requirements of the stock exchanges especially on the governance aspects, we have been very careful in our dealings with all the stakeholders and we took all measures necessary to ensure that nothing untoward will jeopardise the listing of TGM.

“Hence we rebutted where there are inaccurate account of any of our dealings or any matters about Tolukuma Gold Mines and its operations.

“Since we took ownership of TGM, we have in our meetings with the various stakeholders, including Yulai landowners, Central provincial government, MRA, local member Willie Samb and other state agencies, on numerous occasion, apprised them of the probable listing of TGM.

“So no one party who dealt with us can feign ignorance that they did not know that TGM will be listed.

“We reviewed our options and decided the RTO route to list TGM.

“It so happen that the listed company we selected formerly conducted its businesses principally in the entertainment and recreation sector.

“The company had fallen on difficult times and is wanting of a lifeline and new business.

“As you know in RTO we take over the company and will run TGM as a listed company through this vehicle.

“Please bear in mind that the RTO has conditions in itself, especially the governance and compliance aspects of the statutes of both the Republic of Singapore as well as the State of Papua New Guinea.

“TGM will have foreign sources of finance and Papua New Guinea has indirect foreign sourced investment.

“A goldmine in Papua New Guinea has been monetised.

Yulai Landowners Association and Central Provincial Government are shareholders of Asidokona Mining Resources Pte Ltd and were given free carry shares as part of the SPA.

“They will own shares, even though their stake will be diluted because of the RTO, can easily realised its market values if they so choose to dispose of their shareholdings. When the RTO is completed it signifies the commitment and reinforce the fact that Asidokona is in PNG for the long haul.”

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[Govt needs to explain huge difference in mine sale prices](#)



The Tolokuma mine, sold by the government for K80 million in November 2015, is now being traded for K670 million...

PNG Exposed | July 12, 2016

In November 2015, Petromin sold the Tolokuma mine to a foreign speculator, Singapore businessman Philip Soh Sai Kiang, [for a reported K81.35 million](#) [US\$25 million]. Soh Sai Kiang acquired the mine using a Singapore registered front company, Asidokona Mining Resources.

The mine has been [closed since April 2015](#) when Petromin shut down gold production claiming it could no longer cover the mining costs. At the time of the sale in November 2015, Petromin Chairman, [Brown Bai said](#) the decision was based on commercial considerations and refuted claims of 'political overtones'. He said the Petromin Board had sole responsibility for the decision to sell. Mining Minister [Byron Chan said](#) the buyer, Asidokona Resources, was "reputable, committed, has integrity and capacity" (LOL). Now, just eight months later and with the mine still mothballed, another Singapore outfit, LifeBrandz, an entertainment company that owns six nightclubs, bars and restaurants is [reported to be paying US\\$212 million](#) [K670 million] to acquire the mine. How can a State asset sold by the government for K80 million in November 2015 now be worth K670 million? That represents a huge profit of around K590 million for a Singapore based company, Asidokona Mining Resources, and its owner Soh Sai Kiang. And why is Petromin House the registered address in PNG for Asidokona!

ASIDOKONA MINING RESOURCES PTE. LTD. (3-109020) [Overseas]

If you want to maintain this company you need to be **logged in** and have authority over the company

[Request Extract or Certificate](#)

General Details	Addresses	Resident Agent	Directors	Filings
Principal Place of Business Address				
Principal Place of Business Address				
Start Date	09-Dec-2015			
Principal Place of Business Address	Level 1, Petromin Haus, Section 45, Allotment 4, Sir Hubert Murray Highway, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea			

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[New firm repairs Tolukuma mine](#)



The National, aka The Loggers Times | May 24th, 2016

THE Asidokona Mining Resources, the new operator of the Tolukuma mine, is rehabilitating the mine, director Vincent Siow says.

Siow said an independent mining consultant had been engaged to assist in the process.

The mine was handed over by Petromin Holdings Limited (now Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited) last December.

“A short five months have transpired and we have been busy trying to rehabilitate the mine,” Siow said.

He said the mine was flooded because the previous owner had stopped dewatering it.

“Realising the gravity of the situation, and having being selected as the preferred bidder for the mine, we arranged with Petromin (previous owner) in September 2015 to allow us to commence dewatering the mine and we have been dewatering it since then,” he said.

“To date, we are yet to reach the areas where Petromin last mined.

“We expect to do so within the next couple of months.

“We have engaged an independent mining consultant to assist with the mining programmes and will undertake some resource drilling and other works necessary to estimate the life of the mine for the mining lease.”

Siow said the company would then be able to make plans accordingly.

“Planning for production is dependent on the outcome of the resources ascertained and indicated from the resource drilling programmes,” he said.

“We expect to be in a position to ascertain the resources available to commence full scale production beginning 2017.

“In the interim, there will be test production runs to assess the equipment status and operational shortcomings which we need to address before commencing efficient production.”

Meanwhile, he said the company had over 238 employees and 150 contractors providing other services.

“A marginal increase is expected when we start full production,” he said.

“We have also embarked on some exploration studies on a couple of our exploration leases and in the course of which created a road.”

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[Cursed Generation: People along Angabanga river doomed to chemical poisoning](#)



Cursed generation

Gloria Bauai | Post Courier | 23.02.2016

A cursed generation is how pathologist Dr Sylvester Kotapu describes the fate of the people living along the length of the Angabanga River in the Kairuku-Hiri district of Central Province.

“The physical derangement of the environment, we don’t need an expert opinion on this. You go there, you’ll see: the chaotic flooding because of the buildup of sediments, the loss of food crops.

“But what’s more specific affecting the people there is the chemical poisoning coming about because of practice of a tailings management which is unlawfully deemed in the world,” he says.

Dr Kotapu had been commissioned by the Central Provincial Government in 2007 to carry out a study on the communities along the river.

He has released his report which was to identify the cause of peculiar diseases being reported by Veifa and Bereina health centres. Dr Kotapu’s finding was in par with other preceding studies which reported high levels of mine-related chemicals in the river system, biota and bloodstream of people.

It was concluded with the understanding that these groups of people have been exposed to very dangerous toxic chemicals believed to be discharged from mining activities upstream.

“From there we realised that high chemicals of mercury and lead and all that, was affecting the people.

“In one or two of the post-mortems that I’ve done, the brains, lungs, kidney, everywhere are full of these chemicals,” he said.

He said this was the result of riverine tailings disposal (RTD) practised by Tolukuma Gold Mine, located at the Angabanga river head, in Goilala district of Central Province.

RDT had been outlawed worldwide because it is considered environmentally unfriendly and socially irresponsible.

Dr Kotapu’s report said the decision by the previous owners since productions in 1996 has cursed the generations of Goilala, Mekeo and Kuni villages forever.

“Our people are actually cursed for life because of the fact that genes transfer from one to another by way of egg and sperm, the genes transfer.

“If there is a mix-up in the father, I’m passing through to the next so it shows out in the way of expressing whatever chemicals – this is cross-generational inheritance,” Dr Kotapu said.

The report claims that the chemicals have increased from the normal levels.

Dr Kotapu said this a well-preserved and protected process of genocide on the Fuyuge, Kuni, Mekeos and the Roro-speaking people along the Auga-Angabanga River.

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[Central Govt to look into Tolukuma pollution issue](#)



Gloria Bauai | Post Courier | 22.02.2016

PARTIES involved in the toxic pollution of the Angabanga River system from the Tolukuma gold mine can and will be held accountable.

Member for Kairuku-Hiri Peter Isoaimo told *Post-Courier* that this possibility has come with the release of counter study results commissioned in 2008 by Petromin Holdings Limited.

A pathologist, Dr Sylvester Kotapu, said this counter-study confirms his own study in 2007 of high chemical levels in the blood stream of people living along the Angabanga River.

However, Dr Kotapu said these results compiled under the “Aquatic Biological Monitoring 2009” study was never made public until December 5, 2015.

Mr Isoaimo said the release now has given the Central Provincial Government a good footing to deal with the issue.

He said they are considering either a class action or mitigation on this matter.

“People involved in the pollution issue have now confirmed with that doctor’s report which places us in a better footing legally if we have to take the matter up at that level.

“We also considered mitigating the matter with the Government of the day for a specially tailored medical package for people affected.

“But if there’s any undertaking they may want to take up trading all this, we are left with no choice but to file a class action against everybody involved,” he said.

Dr Kotapu assured the member that together as a team, they will see that the people of Goilala, Mekeo and Kuni area see justice for the life-damaging issue.

“We do have a situation here, a situation that has tested all our patience and it has paid out now that they themselves have confirmed very high levels of chemicals.”

Share this:

[Petromin unaware of PNG Government’s talks with Rio Tinto over Bougainville Copper Ltd](#) **ONE PNG**



PETROMIN says it has no knowledge of any “discussion” between PNG Government and Rio Tinto over the Bougainville Copper Ltd.

But managing director Thomas Abe said the government had the prerogative to enter into such discussion.

He was asked whether the State-owned mineral company Petromin was aware of a reported discussion between Rio Tinto and the Government for the latter to buy the State’s 53.83 per cent share in the Bougainville Copper Ltd for \$100 million.

“I am not aware of any discussions between Rio Tinto and the PNG Government,” Abe told The National.

“That is the prerogative of the National Government.

“We are currently operating as Petromin.

“The successor company, Kumul Minerals, formally commences operations by the end of June 2016.”

ABG President Dr John Momis [has recently spoken](#) regarding the discussion between the Government and Rio Tinto.

Momis when addressing the ABG House of Representatives said that he had been approached by several senior government officials including Prime Minister Peter O’Neill to discuss the matter.

Petromin chairman Sir Brown Bai said the company was usually invited by the Government to become party to such discussions.

But he said he had no knowledge of the discussion.

Attempts to get comments from the Department of Mineral Policy and Geo Hazards Managements were unsuccessful.

Bougainville Copper Limited is an Australian copper, gold, and silver mining company that operated the Panguna open cut mine on the island of Bougainville.

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