



**INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND
COMPETITION COMMISSION**

CONSUMER PRODUCTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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CPCC MEETING NO. 01/2007 – 29TH MARCH 2007

INTRODUCTION

This is a record of the first (1) *Consumer Product Consultative Committee* (CPCC) meeting held on Thursday the 29th of March this year and the sixth (6) CPCC meeting since its establishment on the 27th of July 2005.

Once again the attendance and participation of the members and the presenters were very encouraging and informative, interaction concerning issues affecting both consumers and traders in PNG was very positive. Included in the agenda for members' discussion and way forward were topics of importance to the industries such as product safety standards for electrical products, product labeling for food products and the on going issues on counterfeit/fake products amongst others. ICCC also presented several reviews it has conducted over the last two (2) years on Coastal Shipping, Stevedoring Handling and Services, Sundry-Declared Goods Pricing and PMV and Taxi Fares.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE MEETING

Some of the issues raised from the presentations and in the consultative discussions during that CPCC meeting were as follows;

Issues

- Who is responsible for enforcing of Anti – Dumping Laws in liaison with IRC
- IRC – Customs Border Surveillance,
- Who is responsible for Television program content and the level of foreign and local contents,
- Capacity to monitor product shelf life – expiry dates,
- Monitoring of electricity tariff rates and the criteria established for the different rates,
- Short circuit routes by buses and the setting of taxi fares by operators.

SOME PROGRESS MADE FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST MEETING

ICCC

Regional Offices undertook surveillance of harmful toothpaste products imported to Papua New Guinea and ensured that unapproved electrical appliances were removed from shelves and brought to PPL for testing and approval.

- Enforcement of Commercial Advertisement (Protection of the Public) Act with respect to the special Airfares.

“Friend to Businesses, Friend to Consumers”

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- Invited to participate in the up coming Seminar on IPA/IPO APEC IPR Seminar and make input to the issues on IPR in Papua New Guinea.
- Participated in the IRC – Customs Workshop for Customs Officer on Intellectual Property Rights on Customs Border.

PNG BUSINESS COUNCIL

The PNG Business Council is continuing to liaise with Government Departments/Agencies, Industries and stakeholders in addressing the counterfeit/fake product issues by developing an information brochure. Meanwhile IRC has taken the initiative to advise industries and stakeholders in protecting their interest by registering the products they import.

APEC IPR SEMINAR – IPA/IPO

IPA/IPO has sought funding from APEC to conduct an IPR Seminar in Port Moresby for developing countries in August 2007. This is a culmination of the issues raised with regard to counterfeit/fake products and IPR affecting the developing countries.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- The department of Health recently launched the Food Sanitation Regulation that came into force in February 2007. The implementation of the Food Sanitation Regulation now addresses some of the issues raised in CPCC with regard to food handling and product labeling.
- Another notable event that transpired in July 2007 was the FDA Alert on Harmful Poison in Toothpastes made in China. This prompted the Government Agencies such as ICC, IRC and the Health Department to seek the ban of importing the products into Papua New Guinea which is now in force.

GOING FORWARD

The recent development in the IPR enforcement and the upcoming APEC Seminar on IPR is a positive step forward in ensuring that Papua New Guinea is keeping abreast with the international issues that affects developing countries.

Also such issues as the FDA Alert on harmful toothpaste products has opened a whole new area where government agencies need to work together and address international issues that impact on the consumers and the people of Papua New Guinea as a whole.

ICC through CPCC is looking forward to these challenges and strengthening the network it has established with all of you.

THOMAS ABE
CPCC Chairman