



LAND COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Office of The Chief Commissioner

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PUBLIC NOTICE

GOBE PETROLEUM PROJECT REVIEW PROCEEDINGS

AWARENESS AND VERIFICATION EXERCISE

The Land Commission of Papua New Guinea ("the Commission") hereby advises all affected landowners, customary groups, clan representatives, community leaders, stakeholders and members of the public within the Gobe Petroleum Project Area that the Commission will conduct an **Awareness and Verification Exercise** in preparation for the continuation of the Gobe Petroleum Review Proceedings.

This Notice supersedes and replaces any previous public notice, announcement or communication relating to the proposed Gobe Awareness and Verification Exercise. Stakeholders are requested to rely solely upon the information and directions contained in this Notice.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW PROCEEDINGS

The present proceedings arise from applications seeking review of the determination delivered by **Special Commissioner Salika** concerning customary land ownership and entitlement within various land regions and project areas comprising the Gobe Petroleum Project Area. The determination addressed competing customary ownership claims affecting the project area and associated benefit entitlement areas.

Following the delivery of Special Commissioner Salika's determination, Review Applications were lodged and recorded in the Review Register maintained by the former Land Titles Commission. Those applications form the basis of the present review proceedings before the Land Commission.

The matter subsequently became the subject of National Court proceedings in **OS (RECC) No. 05 of 2025, Paul Sapake & Others v Molean Kilepak, The State and Department of Petroleum**, following which the Court remitted the matter to the Land Commission for further action according to law.

In compliance with the Court Orders issued in **OS (RECC) No. 05 of 2025**, and pursuant to its statutory functions under the *Land Commission Act 2022*, the Commission is undertaking this Awareness and Verification Exercise to facilitate the orderly continuation of the review proceedings and to ensure that persons claiming participation in those proceedings are properly identified and verified before formal hearing notices are issued.

Any person claiming to have filed a Review Application, or claiming through a person who filed such an application, is encouraged to attend the verification exercise and provide any available documents or information relevant to that claim.

VENUE, DATE AND TIME

Venue:: Fr. Momis Hall
Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance (SILAG),
Waigani, National Capital District

Time:: 9:00 a.m. daily

Programme Schedule

Date	Activity
Monday, 27 July 2026	General Public Awareness Session
Tuesday, 28 July 2026	Verification Exercise
Wednesday, 29 July 2026	Verification Exercise
Thursday, 30 July 2026	Verification Exercise
Friday, 31 July 2026	Verification Exercise

PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE

The objectives of the Awareness and Verification Exercise are:

1. To inform stakeholders of the current status of the Gobe Petroleum Review Proceedings.
2. To explain the implications of Special Commissioner Salika's determination, the review proceedings and the Court Orders issued in OS (RECC) No. 05 of 2025.
3. To explain the scope of the review proceedings and the Commission's intended case management process.
4. To verify persons claiming standing as review applicants, successors, representatives or legal representatives.
5. To update and verify participant records.
6. To confirm contact details for future service of notices and hearing documents.

7. To facilitate efficient hearing preparation and case management before the issuance of formal hearing notices.

PHASE 1: GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS SESSION

Date: Monday, 27 July 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Venue: Fr. Momis Hall, SILAG, Waigani

The Awareness Session is open to:

- All affected landowners and customary groups;
- Clan leaders and recognized representatives;
- Community leaders and church leaders;
- Provincial, District and Local Level Government representatives;
- Relevant Government agencies;
- Petroleum industry stakeholders; and
- Interested members of the public.

The Commission will provide information concerning:

- The background to the proceedings;
- Special Commissioner Salika's determination;
- The National Court proceedings in OS (RECC) No. 05 of 2025;
- The Court's remittal of the matter to the Land Commission;
- The role of the Commission in the review proceedings;
- The proposed hearing programme; and
- Verification and participation requirements.

PHASE 2: REVIEW APPLICANT VERIFICATION

Dates: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 to Friday, 31 July 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. Daily

Venue: Fr. Momis Hall, SILAG, Waigani

The verification exercise will focus on persons claiming participation in the review proceedings, including:

- Persons who filed Review Applications;
- Persons claiming through deceased Review Applicants;
- Clan-nominated representatives;
- Authorised spokespersons;

- Legal representatives; and
- Other persons whose participation may be relevant to the review proceedings.

During the verification process, the Commission will seek to verify:

- Identity and standing of participants;
- Authority of representatives and spokespersons;
- Succession issues involving deceased applicants;
- Contact details for future communication;
- Availability of supporting records and documents; and
- Other matters necessary for hearing preparation and case management.

Persons attending the verification exercise are encouraged to bring all available supporting documents, including:

- Review-related correspondence;
- Identification documents;
- Clan authorisations or resolutions;
- Letters of Administration (where applicable);
- Representative authorities; and
- Any other records relevant to their claimed participation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attendance at the General Public Awareness Session does **not automatically confer party status** in the review proceedings.

Participation in the review proceedings will be determined by the Commission following completion of the verification process and consideration of the relevant records, documentation and representations received during the verification exercise.

Following completion of the verification process, the Commission may issue further Case Management Directions, Verification Reports, Pre-Hearing Directions and Formal Notices of Hearing as may be necessary for the conduct of the review proceedings.

EXISTING RECORDS AND EVIDENCE

The Commission advises that records, transcripts, exhibits and evidence previously produced during earlier proceedings remain part of the Commission's records.

Accordingly, parties are not required to reproduce evidence previously filed unless specifically requested by the Commission or directed by a subsequent Case Management Direction.

AUTHORITY

This Notice is issued under the authority of the Chief Commissioner of the Land Commission of Papua New Guinea pursuant to the *Land Commission Act 2022* and in furtherance of the Commission's responsibilities arising from the Gobe Petroleum Review Proceedings and the Court Orders made in **OS (RECC) No. 05 of 2025**.

DATED: 21st July 2026

AUTHORISED BY

MR. MOLEAN KILEPA
Chief Commissioner

