

**BY FRANCIS POKA**

**WC:585**

THE Tiyebo and Associates, a local landowner company in the East Pangia, Southern Highlands province would work closely with the Nupan PNG Trading Corporation limited in order to get maximum benefit from their vast forest resources.

Mr Timothy Tepi, the managing director of Tiyebo and Associates representing the 274 incorporate landowner group (ILG) said last Friday that the Nupan PNG Trading Corporation would act on behalf of the landowners to trade their forest to bid for the carbon credited trade through reducing emission from the deforestation and forest degrading (REDD) program.

Mr Tepi said that since it's a new thing, the landowners want to deal directly with a company who has already involved in a similar project and has vast experience in order for the landowners to get maximum benefit from their resources.

He said that all the chairmen of the 274 ILGs agreed to work with Nupan PNG during the official welcome ceremony hosted by the landowners to welcome partner developer into their area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month.

Mr Tepi said that the people want the project to get off the ground as soon as possible.

He said that about 48,000 people in the East Pangia want their local MP and Minister for Public Servants Peter O'Neil to come in and assist.

Mr Tepi said that for Mr O'Neil to describe their relationship with the Nupan PNG as a "cargo cult," last week in the media is a slap on the faces of his very own people who gave him the mandate to help them.

He said that his people didn't sit back and become spectators when others benefited from their forest resource.

He said the people have organized themselves and now recognized by an international company and it's a big achievement for the people.

Mr Tepi said that Mr O'Neil as an elected to sat back and criticized his people is unbecoming of a leader.

He said that as a leader he should be the first person to take the lead by ensuring that his people benefit from their vast forest resources.

He pointed out that the Nupan PNG Corporation limited didn't promised the people that they would benefit millions of kina from their forest early this month in Pangia.

He said that the people engaged the service of the developer to use its expertise to show them the way as to how they would go about benefiting from their resources.

Mr Tepi said that 274 ILG chairmen of the Forestry Management Area have thrown their support behind the developer.

Mr Tepi said people want their elected leader to stand up and give his support rather than attacking the people and developer in the media.

He claimed that the people have missed out on Governments' services for more than 17-years, the people strongly believed through this project it would bring tangible changes into the community.

Mr James Wiai, one of the chairmen of the 274 ILG said on behalf of the other colleagues that they fully supported the project.

He said that carbon trade project will become one of the major income earner for the people who would also benefit from other spin-offs project.

Nupan PNG Ltd managing director Robert Kirk William said Nupan Trading Corporation Ltd is a well established company and registered with Foreign Investment Authority under the

PNG Investment Promotion Authority and is the original Carbon Trading contracted in PNG.

He said Nupan has many Forest Projects for Carbon Trading contracts in PNG and it's not new in this country.

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