

Media Release

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BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIANS RETURN FROM UNITED STATES TRAINING PROGRAM

Two biomedical technicians from the Mendi Hospital have returned from the United States, where they have spent six months participating in a Biomedical Equipment Repair Training Program in Dallas, Texas.

Their participation in the training program was made possible through the support of the PNG LNG Project.

Esso Highlands Limited, operator of the PNG LNG Project, and the management of the Mendi Hospital identified Tobias Gual and Sam Owil, the hospital's biomedical technicians, as suitable candidates to participate in the Medisend International Biomedical Equipment Repair Training Program, which is an exclusive, performance-based curriculum of theory and practical training with state-of-the-art equipment in a professional learning environment. The training enhances technicians' skills in installing, repairing and maintaining lifesaving biomedical equipment.

Esso Highlands Limited Managing Director Peter Graham said that through its Biomedical Equipment Repair Program, Medisend International provides students from developing countries with the education, training and skills to improve community healthcare conditions.

"This is a highly specialised area, and Tobias and Sam are among only a handful of biomedical technicians in Papua New Guinea who are responsible for repairing and maintaining hospital equipment ranging from small suction equipment to x-ray machines. We are pleased to support Tobias and Sam, who had to go through a rigorous selection process and later intensive training. We're happy to see them back here, ready to start using their new skills," Mr Graham said.

Director of Mendi Hospital Mr Joseph Turian said he was very appreciative of the support of Esso Highlands Limited. He said that the Medisend training program is not only beneficial for the two technicians, but an added advantage to the management of hospitals in neighbouring provinces within the region.

He said the technicians will be contracted to the Mendi Hospital, but there are arrangements with other rural based hospitals and health centres in the region for their services to be deployed whenever there is a need.

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Media Contact: Rebecca Arnold
Phone: +675 309 7071
Email: rebecca.a.arnold@exxonmobil.com

