# Urban Public Transport Challenge in the LNG Era: A case study of the Port Moresby Urban Public Transport

By

**Jack Assa** 

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# **ACRONYMS**

GoPNG: Government of Papua New Guinea

ICCC: Independent Consumer Competition Commission

PNG: Papua New Guinea

LT: Land Transport

LNG: Liquefied Natural Gas

LTA: Land Transport Division

MVIL: Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited

NRSC: National Road Safety Council

NCDC: National Capital District Commission

OLPLLG: Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government

PMV: Public Motor Vehicle

RTA: Road Traffic Authority

UNPF: United Nation Population Fund

WTA: Works Transport Authority

# **ABSTRACT**

# Urban Public Transport Challenge in the LNG Era: A case study of the Port Moresby Urban Public Transport

Author: <u>Jack Assa</u>

MA (Public Policy), BA (Government and Politics), Dip (HRM. The Author is the Project Manager for Clean Green Energy Ltd.

Today the cities are residence to half of the world's population, and in 2030, 60% of the population will live in a city (UNPF, 2004). The urban areas have an increasing importance in our society as they are continually growing, along with all the issues related to them. Papua New Guinea (PNG), the host to one of the world's largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project cannot easily escape from urban issues as LNG and other urban centered developments are partly cause of the issues faced in the urban centers today.

The continuous increase in Port Moresby's population is putting the urban public transport system in brink of collapsing. This study was conducted in Port Moresby and the researcher applied qualitative research techniques to extract data, analyses and present the data. The purpose of the study was to identify the problems faced in the urban public transport system and how it can be addressed using the right policy.

The study has brought to light some of the problems that are being faced in the public transport system today. It was identified that majority of the population living in the city depend largely on public transport. Given influx of the population in the cities due to city, the number of public buses operating in the cities cannot meet the high demand for the vital service, to travel from point A to point B. As a result, the bus fare fluctuates at the discretion of the PMV owners.

Apparently, the older men, women, sick and disable flocks are left to struggle for bus seats. Between, there are no others alternatives for the public transports users. This is equally important to our tourism industry. Urban centers needs to have different forms of public transports so that the people can decide and choose one that is comfortable and worth their money.

The study concluded that a single entity needs to be created by the government and through the organization, appropriate policies and strategies be formulated and implemented to address the problems identified. The following are some of the strategies that need to be included in the policy to improve the public transport systems in Port Moresby: (1) integrate various modes of transports; (2) introduce Smart Card System for user confidence and convenient; (3) provide transit services to make public transport more attractive to users; (4) paint the suburb buses for quick recognition; (5) design good-quality public transport infrastructure.

Having said that, city provides the first hand impression to the outside world. Appropriate regulations needs to be introduced to improve the image of the city and provide improved and efficient public transport services.

**Key Words:** Urban public transport system, congestions, policy

#### **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

# 1.1. Background

Papua New Guinea is going through a drastic change and development. The population in the rural areas is declining as people are drifting to urban centers for 'better service'. Urban centers cannot accommodate these changes, thus leading to problems. The government services found in the urban centers cannot mitigate these hitches. This can be seen in sectors such as the urban primary and secondary educational institutions and urban health centers. The classrooms and health centers cannot meet the demand of these additional changes. Not only that, the urban transport system has faced the biggest slice of the problem. The increase has an adverse impact on the government services. This can be clearly seen through the illegal land grabbing and unauthorized settlements popping in the recent years. With this increased population, Port Moresby's city public transport cannot meet the demand, thus it needs sweeping improvement.

#### 1.2. Research Problem

It is obvious in Port Moresby that the current public transport systems cannot adequately meet the demand for better services by the city residents. Some may argue that our cities have been poorly planned and built without catering the future. The government is now faced with huge test to find solution to these problems.

The population of PNG's two major cities, Port Moresby and Lae are expected to double by 2025. This is due to centralization of the spin off benefits from PNG's multi-million kina Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project and other government services in the urban center (Wilma: 2013). This is evident in the rural areas that many schools and health services have closed down or serviced by lone officer (Sia: 2012). The chase for better health, education, and better jobs and small business opportunities have led many people to leave their rural areas and live in the cities, thus, fueling the public transport crises that are seen in our major cities.

Majority of the population living in the city depend largely on public transport. There is a chain of reaction in the problems. Given the influx of the population, the number of public buses operating in the cities cannot meet the high demand for the vital service and that is to travel from point A to point B. Hence, the bus fare fluctuates at the discretion of the Public Motor Vehicle (PMV) owners. Given this, the public transport users have no choice but to pay the price for the transport provided.

Furthermore, according to Timson (2015) agrees that "older men and women flocks are left to struggle for bus seats". In the process of the struggle to get into the bus and find a seat, petty criminals find it as an opportunist and execute their well-planned tactics in robbing passengers of mobile phones, wallets and other valuable items. It is pretty clear now that the main bus stops are the breeding place for petty thefts during rush hours. People with sick will eventually die inside the bus after the struggle. Other problems such as incompletion or routes by bus operators and lack of effective enforcement relevant regulations are some of the tip of the problems that were identified during the preliminary study conducted by the author.

# 1.3. Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to:

- A. Identify and know the problems faced in the urban public transport in the LNG era
- B. Identify relevant policy options to address the problems faced in the urban public transport

#### 1.4. Research Benefits

This study is very important because it will benefit the government and its citizens in the following ways:

- A. Relevant government institutions: government can rely on past and present\_information provided from this study to make appropriate decision in making improving the urban public transport.
- B. Literature gap: PNG has a literature gap in the urban public transport sector, thus, this paper intent to provide the basis for public transport system literature. The study will contribute to the PNG's existing literature on urban public transport by expounding on the challenges faced in the by the sector in the LNG era.

#### **CHAPTER 2**

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

# 2.1. Public Transport Literature Review

More than 50% of today's world population is living in urban regions, making the planning of liveable future cities critically important (CAETS: 2012). Thus, many governments around the globe have taken this issue as a priority and taken steps to address this concern, focusing on the impediments and potential solutions to controlled sustainable urban development. Today the cities are residence to half of the world's population, and in 2030, 60% of the population will live in a city (UNFPA, 2004). The urban areas have an increasing importance in our society as they are continually growing, along with all the issues related to them.

That is why the essence of planning is very important because it provides adequate and equitable services to all groups. It has influences and impact on regional patterns of development, economic viability, environmental impacts and on maintain socially acceptable levels of quality life (Murray et al. 1998). Hanson (1995) states transport is an absolutely necessary means to an end and allow people to carry out the diverse range of activities that make up daily life. It contributes to pro-poor policy by providing access to opportunities and enhancements to security (through reduced isolation) as well as providing job opportunities in the sector (World Bank 2002). There are many reasons why people take trips in urban areas, but trips to work (40 to 50% of urban trips in developing countries) and school (20-35%) are major components of travel (Mohan 1994) in (Ingram 1998).

In general, transportation systems form the basis by which economic development can occur and the means by which society interact (Murray et al. 1998).

The urban transport sector, however, has many problems in most developing countries. Inadequate and poor infrastructures, mismatch between supply and demand, and increased rate of accidents are some of the problems. These problems are triggered by interrelated trends such as population growth, and (rapid, unplanned and uncoordinated) growth of cities (TranSafety, 1998).

In order to cater for the changes, it requires efficient intermodal public transportation and effective use of motorized individual transport (specifically cars and motorcycles), integrated into one optimized transportation system according to Murray et al. 1998).

Future cities have to fulfill the following basic criteria: sustainability; good quality of life (e.g., low noise, plentiful daylight and space, "coziness," a sense of identity, etc.); a variety of local shops in each district to satisfy daily consumer needs; and an efficient, integrated transportation system. This should consist of firstly, a reliable and highly frequent public transportation between suburbs and inner city with a high modality; and secondly, measures to optimize motorized individual transport, such as traffic control systems, traffic management centers, and information systems for drivers. According to Wilson (2013:4), transportation makes its greatest contribution if it is integrated so that switches between different modes are seamless for the users, enabling them to choose the optimal solution for each leg.

Such integrated and optimized transport systems reduce the requirement for roads and parking; reduce congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; support the optimization of resources used for transportation in general; and increase the quality of life. Suitable urban development, such as mixed land use, where work opportunities and residential units are closer to each other, can reduce the need to travel. Flexible working time models together with public transport incentives can reduce excessive peak period travel and encourage off-peak travel, and so make public transport more effective and affordable.

Vikash (2003) asserts that it is intuitively clear that urban development and transportation are highly interdependent. On one hand, change or growth of existing or new commercial or private living settlements creates needs for new transportation or increased capacity, more frequent services, and/or shorter travel times. Alternatively, better access to public transportation and more frequent and faster services create a new demand for settlement space nearby, be it for commercial or private purposes, and can completely change the character of an entire neighborhood or area. Hence, a feedback loop exists between urban development and public transportation, but the detailed mechanisms of this loop are not understood well enough to ensure efficient developments of space, transportation and living environments for humans.

# 2.2. Decentralisation and the Three-tier System of Government of PNG

PNG has a three-tier system of government operating in a unitary fashion: the national or central government at the center, provincial governments below the national government and local governments. Under the present reformed system of decentralised government, the central or national government devolves law-making powers and public service responsibilities to provincial and local

governments. This is done through the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments 1995 (OLPLLG), and the Provincial Government Administration Act 1997.

According to Sause (2012), Provincial governments exercise their power in those areas that have been designated primarily provincial functions in the OLPLLG and by formulating and executing policy in relation to these matters. Public services designated under the "primarily provincial functions" are delivered by the provincial governments' bureaucratic machinery, the provincial administration. Those that fall under national functions are delivered by the national government, although provincial and national governments often act in concert deciding which level of government should be responsible for particular activities where boundaries are unclear. In terms of lawmaking, although provincial legislatures can make provincial laws, national legislation takes precedence over any regulation imposed by provincial authorities in areas where a national law already exists or in areas where there are no provincial laws.

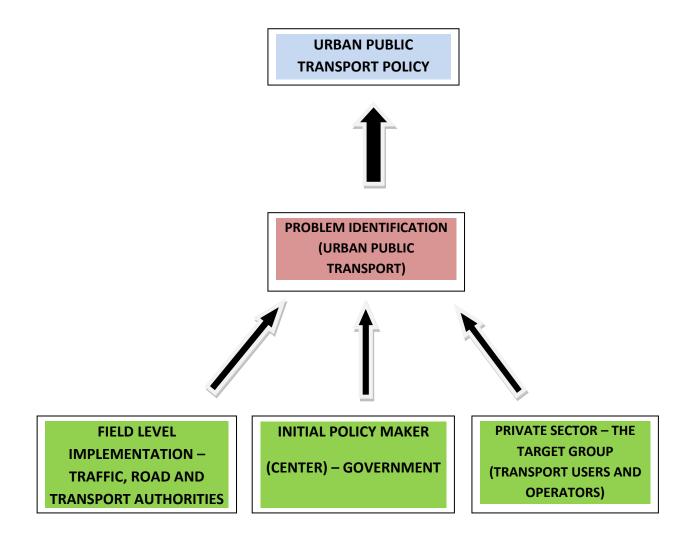
# 2.3. Public Transport Authorities

Through the decentralization and three-tie system of government, public transport authorities or agencies responsible for enforcing, coordinating and monitoring public transport functions and regulations were established. This includes National Road Safety Council (NRSC), Road Traffic Authority (RTA), Land Transport Division (LTD), Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited (MVIL) and Works Transport Authority (WTA). These important agencies perform important functions in developing and coordinating the implementation of the public transport policies and other GoPNG's ongoing public sector reform initiatives.

# 2.4. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this study is based on the theory by Mazmanian and Sabatier (1983). They argue that for policies to be effectively implemented to address a particular problem, the government authorities (policy implementer) and central government (policy maker) and the private sector (target group) needs to jointly identify the actual problems and basing on problem identification, relevant policies are to be formulated and implemented. The theoretical framework for this study is illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1: Theory by Mazmanian and Sabatier (1983)



#### **CHAPTER 3**

#### RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter deals with the research methodology of the study, including the research setting, research design, sources of data, sample and data collection instruments. According to Bernard (2002) in Tongco (2007:1), data gathering is crucial in research, as the data are meant to contribute to a better understanding of a theoretical framework.

# 3.1. Research Setting

The research setting refers to the place where the data are collected. In this study, data were collected in Port Moresby. The two sites are:

- 1. Public Bus Stops
- 2. Relevant Government Authorities

# 3.2. Research Design

According to Polit and Hungler (1999:155), research design is described as a blue print, or outline for conducting the study in such a way that maximum control will be exercised over factors that could interfere with the validity of the research results. The research design is the researchers overall plan for obtaining information that could be associated with the real situation. This study applied qualitative descriptive design to identify and collect, analyze and present data.

# 3.3. The Key Informants of the Research

The key informants are people in various capacities who provided information to the researcher. The key informants were selected using purposive sampling. In choosing a sampling method for informant selection, the question the researcher is interested in answering is of utmost importance. It is a nonrandom technique that does not need underlying theories or a set number of informants. Simply put, the researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge or experiences, according to Lewis & Sheppard (2006) in Tongco (2007:1). The key informants for this study are:

- 1. Land Transport Authority
- 2. National Road Safety Council
- 3. Public Motor Vehicle owners/operators

# 4. Public transport users

# 3.4. Data Collection Techniques

From Creswell's techniques (2008:179), the followings were applied to collect data for this study: Firstly, the researcher conducted un-structured in-depth interviews with the key informants identified above. These interviews yield highest response rates in survey research. They also allowed the researcher to clarify ambiguous answers and when appropriate, seek follow-up information. Secondly, the researcher applied observation technique. Since, the main focus of qualitative research is naturalism, the researcher observed person or persons in their natural state as undisturbed as possible according to Potter (1996). And finally, documents as a secondary source of information were obtained from the relevant authorities and other sources like internet and public libraries.

# 3.5. Data Analysis Techniques

According to Creswell (2002:10), "during or immediately after data collection, you need to make sense of the information supplied to you by individuals in the study". He further adds that analysis consists "taking the data apart" to determine individual responses and then "putting it together" to summaries it. The data collected from interviews, observation and documents were analyzed through the process of data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing and verification.

#### 3.6. Research Schedule

This study was conducted under the scheduled time frame as provided below.

Research Activity January February March April 2015 2015 2015 2015

•	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
Research Preparation					
Data Collection					
Data Analysis and Completion					

Table 1. Research Schedule

May

# 3.7. Research Focus

The focus of this study is presented in table 2 below.

Table 2. Research Focus

Variable	Dimension	Indicator	Informants
	Public Transport Infrastructure	1. Bus Stops 2. Bus Stop Rapid Shelter	<ol> <li>National Road and Safety Council</li> <li>MVIL</li> <li>Land Transport</li> <li>Traffice Authority</li> <li>Public Transport Users,</li> <li>PMV Operators</li> </ol>
Urban Public Transport System (Port Moresby	Mode of Transport	1. Buses 2. Taxis	<ol> <li>National Road and Safety Council</li> <li>MVIL</li> <li>Land Transport</li> <li>Traffice Authority</li> <li>Public Transport Users,</li> <li>PMV Operators</li> </ol>
	Efficient and Affordable	<ol> <li>Friendliness</li> <li>Cleanliness and</li> <li>Comfort</li> <li>Safeness</li> <li>Reliability</li> <li>Policies</li> <li>Impact on General</li> <li>Public</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>National Road and Safety Council</li> <li>MVIL</li> <li>Land Transport</li> <li>Traffice Authority</li> <li>Public Transport Users,</li> <li>PMV Operators</li> </ol>

#### **CHARPTER 4**

#### RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The results of the study are presented first followed by the recommendation and conclusion. The indicators were presented under their dimension or aspects.

# **4.1. Public Transport Infrastructures**

Public transport infrastructures are the responsibility of the government through its managing authorities to put in place. As a dimension of this research, the following indicators where studied to research the overall goals and objectives of this study and that includes bus stops, rapid shelters and roads. For the purpose of this study, bus stops and rapid shelters are only discussed here under the public transport infrastructure dimension.

# **4.1.1. Bus Stops**

Most of the bus stops in the city are considered dangerous and very narrow thus, causing traffic bottlenecks. Observations made at Wagani-Morata bus stop, opposite the Wagani Tiger's Rugby Oval is a clear example of such. In some centers in Port Moresby, it is very hard to locate the bus stops like in the case of Manu as depicted below (Photograph 1).



Photograph 1: Narrow Bus Stops

Source: Assa (2015) City Public transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby

Bottleneck bus stops are common in Port Moresby. The bus tops are very narrow that they cause

traffic queue. In Port Moresby, buses are the "king of the road". Of the 67 major bus stops visited by

the researcher, only 40% of the bus stops are were noted as acceptable.

Nevertheless, bus operators have less care for bus stops as they are "used to stop for pick-ups and

drop-offs" according to Chris Lima of Oro Province. He goes further by saying that "...these drivers

have no care attitude. They are the king of the road. You have to wait so that they complete their

business. It's frustrating but we have no choice but to wait for them to clear the road..." (03/05/2015,

Down-Town)

4.1.2. Bus Stop Rapid Shelter

This study found out that almost 80% of the bus stops are incomplete. Bus stations should have small

rapid transit shelters that will provide shade for people during rain and heat. It should even have seats

made of steels for public transport to sit and relax while waiting for buses. The table 3 below

presents the full list of bus stations that were identified in Port Moresby with no transit shelters.

Table 3: City Bus Stops Rapid Shelter Study (*Next page*)

Source: Assa (2015). City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby.

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No.   Names of Bus Stops   Status   Shelter   Rapid   Shelter (%)			Current	Full Rapid	Incomplete	No Rapid
1   Gerehu Stage 2 -   One Side	No	Names of Bus Stops			-	
Guerbu stage 4	1	Gerehu Stage 2 -	One Side			
Gerehu stage 5   One Side						
Gerehu stage 6   One Side	_					
Gerehu stage 7	_					
	_					
ADCOL   One Side	_					
10   Wagani	8	POM National High School	One Side			
11   Vision City	9	ADCOL	One Side			
Highlander	-	_				
13   Central Wagani	_					
14   Tunnel (Stop and Shop)   One Side	-					
15	_					
17   Boroko Main Bustop	-					
18	16	Ministry of Works	One Side			
19	17	Boroko Main Bustop	One Side			
20	_					
21						
22   Ela Beach   One Side   23   Downtown   One Side   24   Waterfront   One Side   25   Komi   One Side   26   PNG Power - Hohola   One Side   27   CIS Bustop (Holiday Inn)   One Side   28   Hohola 4   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   20   June Valley   One Side   21   TISA Haus   One Side   22   TISA Haus   One Side   23   TISA Haus   One Side   24   Austrialian High Com   One Side   26   One Side   27   TISA Haus   One Side   28   Limman   One Side   28   Limman   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   20   June Valley   One Side   21   June Valley   One Side   22   East Boroko Main Bustop   One Side   24   June Valley   One Side   25   June Valley   One Side   26   June Valley   One Side   27   June Valley   One Side   28   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   20   June Valley   One Side   20   June Valley   One Side   21   June Valley   One Side   22   June Valley   One Side   23   June Valley   One Side   24   June Valley   One Side   25   June Valley   One Side   26   June Valley   One Side   27   June Valley   One Side   28   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   20   June Valley   One Side   21   June Valley   One Side   22   June Valley   One Side   23   June Valley   One Side   24   June Valley   One Side   25   June Valley   One Side   26   June Valley   One Side   26   June Valley   One Side   27   June Valley   One Side   28   June Valley   One Side   28   June Valley   One Side   29   June Valley   One Side   20   June V	_					
23   Downtown	_					
24   Waterfront	_					
26	24	Waterfront	One Side			
27         CIS Bustop (Holiday Inn)         One Side           28         Hohola 4         One Side           29         June Valley         One Side           30         Tokorara         One Side           31         TST Fire         One Side           32         TISA Haus         One Side           34         Austrialian High Com         One Side           35         Limana         One Side           36         Wardstrip         One Side           37         Gordens Main Bustop         One Side           38         Foodland         One Side           40         5 mile Bustop         One Side           40         5 mile Bustop         One Side           41         East Boroko         Catholic Church           42         East Boroko Main Bustop         One Side           43         Babarako         One Side           44         POM Grammer         One Side           45         Taurama         One Side           46         Manu Main Bustop         One Side           47         Sabama Main Bustop         One Side           48         Kilakila         One Side           50	25	Koni	One Side			
28	26	PNG Power – Hohola	One Side			
29   June Valley						
30   Tokorara   One Side   31   TST Fire   One Side   32   TISA Haus   One Side   33   Waigani Office   One Side   34   Austrialian High Com   One Side   35   Limana   One Side   36   Wardstrip   One Side   37   Gordens Main Bustop   One Side   38   Foodland   One Side   39   Ela Murry Inter Bustop   One Side   40   5 mile Bustop   One Side   40   5 mile Bustop   One Side   41   East Boroko   Church   Church   Church   Church   One Side   42   East Boroko Main Bustop   One Side   43   Babarako   One Side   44   POM Grammer   One Side   45   Taurama   One Side   46   Manu Main Bustop   One Side   47   Sabama Main Bustop   One Side   48   Kilakila   One Side   49   Kaugere   One Side   49   Kaugere   One Side   50   Badili (Ela Motors)   One Side   51   Badili (Ela Motors)   One Side   52   Erima - St Peters   One Side   53   Erima Main Bustop   One Side   54   Erima - Wildlife   One Side   55   ATS   One Side   56   DPI compound   One Side   57   8 mile   One Side   58   9 mile main bustop   One Side   59   5 mile Mountain   One Side   60   Kanage Bustop   One Side   61   6 mile (IBS)   One Side   62   6 mile Main bustop   One Side   63   6 mile police station   One Side   65   7 mile gateway   One Side   66   Morota 1 main bustop   One Side   67   mile main bustop   One Side   68   Morota 1 main bustop	_					
31   TST Fire						
32   TISA Haus   One Side   33   Waigami Office   One Side   34   Austrialian High Com   One Side   35   Limana   One Side   36   Wardstrip   One Side   37   Gordens Main Bustop   One Side   38   Foodland   One Side   39   Ela Murry Inter Bustop   One Side   40   5 mile Bustop   One Side   40   5 mile Bustop   One Side   41   East   Boroko   Catholic   Church   Church   One Side   42   East   Boroko   One Side   43   Babarako   One Side   44   POM Grammer   One Side   44   POM Grammer   One Side   45   Taurama   One Side   46   Manu Main Bustop   One Side   48   Kilakila   One Side   48   Kilakila   One Side   49   Kaugere   One Side   50   Badili (Ela Motors)   One Side   51   Badili (Ela Motors)   One Side   52   Erima   St Peters   One Side   53   Erima Main Bustop   One Side   54   Erima   Wildlife   One Side   55   ATS   One Side   56   DPI compound   One Side   57   8 mile   One Side   59   5 mile Mountain   One Side   59   5 mile Mountain   One Side   60   Kanage Bustop   One Side   61   6 mile (IBS)   One Side   62   6 mile Main bustop   One Side   63   6 mile police station   One Side   64   7 mile gateway   One Side   65   Morota 1 main bustop   One Side   66   Morota 1 main bustop   One Side   67   Mile gateway   One Side   67   Mile gateway   One Side   68   Morota 1 main bustop   One Side   67   Mile gateway   One Side   68   Morota 1 main bustop   One Side   68   Morota 1 main bustop						
34   Austrialian High Com						
35   Limana	33	Waigani Office	One Side			
36	34	Austrialian High Com	One Side	6	30	64
37   Gordens Main Bustop	_					
Section	_	-				
Smile Bustop	-					
1	_					
41         Church         One Side           42         East Boroko Main Bustop         One Side           43         Babarako         One Side           44         POM Grammer         One Side           45         Taurama         One Side           46         Manu Main Bustop         One Side           47         Sabama Main Bustop         One Side           48         Kilakila         One Side           49         Kaugere         One Side           50         Badili SnS (ITI)         One Side           51         Badili (Ela Motors)         One Side           52         Erima - St Peters         One Side           53         Erima Bustop         One Side           54         Erima - Wildlife         One Side           55         ATS         One Side           56         DPI compound         One Side           57         8 mile         One Side           59         5 mile Mountain         One Side           60         Kanage Bustop         One Side           61         6 mile (IBS)         One Side           62         6 mile Main bustop         One Side           63         <	-					
43   Babarako	41		One Side			
44         POM Grammer         One Side           45         Taurama         One Side           46         Manu Main Bustop         One Side           47         Sabama Main Bustop         One Side           48         Kilakila         One Side           49         Kaugere         One Side           50         Badili SnS (ITI)         One Side           51         Badili (Ela Motors)         One Side           52         Erima – St Peters         One Side           53         Erima Main Bustop         One Side           54         Erima – Wildlife         One Side           55         ATS         One Side           56         DPI compound         One Side           57         8 mile         One Side           58         9 mile main bustop         One Side           69         5 mile Mountain         One Side           60         Kanage Bustop         One Side           61         6 mile (IBS)         One Side           62         6 mile Main bustop         One Side           63         6 mile police station         One Side           64         7 mile main bustop         One Side	42		One Side			
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From the table 3, it can be seen that almost 64% of the bus stations do not have rapid shelters. 30% of the bus stops have one side rapid shelters while only 6% of the bus stops have full rapid shelters on both sides. This basically reflects that the bus stops need complete improvement. As shown in the photograph 2 below, many bus stops do not have rapid shelters for users to sit and wait for PMV buses.



Photograph 2: Bus Stop with No Rapid Shelter

Source: Assa (2015) City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby

According to William Tangui of National Capital District Commission (NCDC) "we asked contractors and other private companies operating in Port Moresby to build small shelters at the bus stops but people with bad attitudes take them off. They sell it to people who need them. It's very frustrating. We gave up because people cannot look after such service properly" (13/02/2015 - Port Moresby).

It can been seen that blame game exist in the public transport sector as each authorities point at each other in building and maintaining public bus stops.

## 4.2. Modes of Public Transport

Generally, Public Motor Vehicles (PMV) is provided by the government as services to its people. The users are allowed to pay certain amount of fees set by relevant authorities such as ICCC in PNG. In some countries, the government through its institutions allows private owners or business to

provide this vital service to its citizens. In PNG, it is the later that take presides. The types of PMVs used are different from other countries or regions. In other words, the type of PMVs used are dictated by various factors such as culture, climate, religious beliefs, country's development status, population and the core reason is road condition. PNG's modes of public transports urban centers specifically Port Moresby City is bus. This study will look at the different modes of PMVs in Port Moresby.

#### **4.2.1.** Buses

Buses, particularly 25 seater coaster and 15 seater buses are the common forms of transports used in PNG. Many people prefer 25 seater buses for short distances or cites and 15 seater for long distances. In Port Moresby, the suitability of the bus is dictated by the hot humidity or climate. Many city dwellers prefer 25 seater buses for space, health and safety reasons. According to the study, buses were found to be the dominant force in the urban public transport sector as shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Types of Public Motor Vehicles in Port Moresby

No	Type	Capacity/Seats	Service Provided	Routes
			in the City	
1	Coaster Bus	25	100%	Routes within the
				city
	Mini Bus	15	10%	Routes outside of
2				the city
	Trucks (Dyna)	36	20%	Routes outside of
3				the city
	Taxi	4	30%	Routes within the
4				city

Source: Assa (2015). City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby

Generally, the mini buses and truck (dyna) as stipulated in Table 4 operates from outside Port Moresby, such as Gaire and Sogeri village of Central Province. Within the city range, only coaster buses are given the permit to run PMVs according to MVIL and National Road Safety Council (NRSC).

This study reveals that there are no alternatives for the public transports users. This is equally important to our tourism industry. Main cities like Port Moresby, Lae and Mt Hagen should have

different forms of public transports so that the people can decide and choose one that is comfortable and worth their money. The public transport user's choices are restricted to use buses. What makes worse is that the buses are very small in size and not sufficient to service the whole population. This is a big problem that needs to be addressed

#### **4.2.2. Bus Fare**

The maximum fare for urban PMV service in Port Moresby is 90t for all urban routes according to the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC). This is the fare for the next 5 years that took effect as of December 31, 2014. ICCC many times claimed that they will prosecute owners, drivers and crews of PMV buses that charges in excess of the maximum charge. According to ICCC Commissioner Dr. Bill Manoka "passengers are urged to contact the Commission with details of possible contraventions".

However, 20 PMV bus owners being interviewed by the researcher, argue that spare parts and service fees for buses are very expensive. They feel that K0.80 to K0.90 is not much given days taking of K200. According to Petrus Popil, a bus nine (9) driver argues that at the end of the day, he only makes K200 for serving bus nine route from Gerehu to Boroko. Other operators expressed dissatisfaction that the relevant authorities fail to impose heavy charges on buses and crews who do not comply with traffic rules.

Vagi Vele, a PMV operator from the Central Province claims that he spends K1500 per month to service his vehicle and it is a slap on his face for the ICCC to set K0.90 as the maximum fare without considering the pain and struggle the PMV owners are going through.

Other operators use the weakness in the enforcement agencies to carry out their normal PMV business. According to Kangeman James "...mipela save trickim of na drive...yu givim wanpla K20 em bikpela moni long of blo buia na sumuk..." (We know how to trick them (traffic officers). Sometimes we give them K20 which is enough for their betalnut and smoke" (22/04/2015 – Wagani).

Moreover, many public transport users agree that now are days, it's the PMV operators who set the maximum bus fare and not ICCC. Table 5 provides the changes in the bus fares for selected routes over the last few years in Port Moresby.

Table 5. Increase Fare dictated by Bus Owners

No	Routes	2010-2014	Maximum Bus	PMV	Peak
		Bus fare	fare by ICCC	Owners	Hours -
		(toea)	(toea)	chargers -	2015
				2015 (kina)	(kina)
1	Wagani to Boroko	50	80t	80t	1.00
2	Wagani to	70	80t	2.00	3.00
	Downtown				
3	Gerehu to Boroko	70	80t	1.00	2.00
4	Downtown to	50	80	1.00	2.00
	Boroko				
5	Gordons to 8mile	70	80	1.00	2.00
6	Gordons to 9mile	70	80	1.00	2.00

Source: Assa (2015). City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby.

From this table, it can be seen that the bus fares changes overtime. This also affirms that the relevant authorities have less or no control over the fares charged by the operators. It completely lacks monitoring and control. The city dwellers will continue to pay silently as they have "no option" according to Lakope Tarakali, a retired public servant.

# 4.3. Efficient and Affordable Public Transport

Public transports must be efficient and affordable. This is the main objective that main city authorities around the world work hard to achieve. For Port Moresby, the interviews and observations made through this study reveals that public transport in the nation's capital is not efficient and affordable. For the purpose of this dimension, 300 public transport users were asked to rate the indicators and the respond was overwhelming as presented in Table 6 (next page).

Table 6. Efficient and Affordable Public Transport Survey Results

No	Indicators	Results – (Ratings)			
		Assessment	Participant	Percentage	
		Category	(#)	(%)	
1	Friendliness (operators presentation	Excellent	20	6.7	
	and friendliness to passengers and	Very good	75	25	
	traffic rules)	Good	174	58	
		Poor	16	5.3	
		Very poor	15	5	
2	Cleanliness of the crews and bus	Excellent	27	9	
		Very good	131	43.7	
		Good	119	39.7	
		Poor	17	5.7	
		Very poor	6	2	
3	Comfortable seats	Excellent	88	29.3	
		Very good	102	34	
		Good	70	23.3	
		Poor	39	13	
		Very poor	1	0.3	
4	Traffic rule adherence	Excellent	16	5.3	
		Very good	41	13.7	
		Good	101	33.7	
		Poor	142	47.3	
		Very poor	0	0	
5	Safety	Excellent	63	21	
		Very good	108	36	
		Good	118	39.3	
		Poor	7	2.3	
		Very poor	14	4.7	
6	Respect for women and people with	Excellent	8	2.7	
	disability	Very good	15	5	
		Good	67	22.3	
		Poor	135	45	
		Very poor	75	25	

Source: Assa (2015): City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby

To further the discussion, the third dimension of this study has been decomposed into the following variables namely; friendliness, safe and comfortable and cleanliness as discussed hereafter.

#### 4.3.1. Friendliness

The public transport system should provide a sociable environment for people from all works of life to enjoy and use public transport. This is important because such environment will encourage and boast the morale of the users. The bus crews (driver and support crew) need to promote friendliness through dressing, look and approach. According to the survey results (table 6), 60% of the participants believed that friendliness is just as good as poor. In other words, friendliness is an area that the operators need to improve.

#### 4.3.2. Cleanliness and Comfort

Cleanliness is a very important aspect of healthy leaving. It is not only essential at home but at workplace, school, public transport and other places too. According to the study on efficient and affordable public transport survey only 9% of the participants think that the crews and their buses are clean and there is no problem when it comes to cleanliness. However, other participants believe that buses and their operators are not performing well when it comes to cleanliness.

Furthermore, most of the buses serving the main routes and suburbs in the city are not road worthy. The seats are broken, the windows and insides are fitly. Many of these buses contribute a lot to the cause of climate change through the carbon monoxide. Major cities should formulate policies and regulations that uphold green and sustainable cities in order to fight climate change problem. As portrayed in this photograph (3) taken by the researcher, many buses are filthy and hygienic is compromised.

Photograph 3: Buses Unhygienic and Uncomfortable



Source: Assa (2015), City Public Transport Improvement Study, Port Moresby.

From the study, it emerge that 60% of the buses using Morata One and Morata Two are not registered. In addition, out of all the buses in the city, these buses are seen as very filthy and unhygienic. Buses serving 8mile, 9mile and kilakila, Kaugere and Sabama are seen to be in the same category. Also emerged from the study is that, 50% of the buses operating Bus 9, 11 and 4 were clean as they drive through the main commercial centers which include Boroko, Downtown, Central Wagani and Wagani Office.

The general observation made by the researcher affirms the survey that almost all the buses are not clean, comfortable and friendly. Thus, it is a problem that needs proper analysis and solution.

# 4.3.3. Safeness

The system should be safe for its users and service providers. Urban public transports supposed to be freely and safely usable by all mankind including women, sick and disable people. From observation, urban public transports in Port Moresby are not safe for women, sick and disable people as it is a test of the survival of the fittest. Those who are strong enough will be able to get a seat.

In addition, Port Moresby's bus stops are becoming hot spots for criminal activities. Especially during peak periods and late hours, criminal activities are ripe at the bus stops. Observations and

interviews by the researcher reveals that most of the victims are women and people from the Coastal regions (Momase, Papua and Islands). In other words, "unfortunate youths" from the Highlands region of PNG are deemed as the main culprits behind this sort of illicit activities.

According to Issack Perano "... most city bus tops are the hot spots for petty criminal activities. You will see them very clear. They will just grab your mobile phone or pull wallet out of your pocket. They come in groups so sometimes they overpower the victims. Its terrible experiences..." (12/05/2015 - Koki Bus stop).

Betty Peter argues that "...a more active presence of police is required. The *rides* must be *safe* and *comfortable*, especially for elderly, pregnant women or people with disabilities", (14/05/2015 – Down Town). As shown in the photograph 5 (*next page*), passengers have to physical fight for a seat.



Photograph 4: The Tug of war for Bus Seats

Source: Assa (2015) City Public Improvement Study, Port Moresby.

Conveying the same sentiments, young Vagi Taubada from the University of PNG agrees that the city public transport today is not safe, efficient, and comfortable. Many young girls are afraid and she voiced that she is fear of her life when using PMVs. "... I don't know but it is true for me. I was robbed and almost raped one time when I got on a bus from Gordons to go to Koki. Thank God a missionary saved my life. It is frightening at times..." (14/05/2015 – UPNG).

Urban public transport should be safe, friendly and comfortable to all the users including tourist. From this study, it can be asserted that safety issue is a big concern for many public transport users in Port Moresby.

# 4.3.4. Urban Public Transport Reliability

The question of reliability comes into one's mind when the buses are not safe, friendly, and comfortable. According to Mark Stonefall, an American tourist who was on his way to Karkar Island was able to share his experience in a more friendly way. According to Stonefall, "...the people here are very friendly... one fascinating thing here is that the urban public transports are confusing and not reliable. I got dropped twice along the road because the bus was not able to pick enough passengers..." -(16/05/2015 - Holiday Inn).

In addition to this problem is the incompletion of route by the buses. The buses are not often monitored by the relevant authorities. They turn to look for green pastures when they see that their routes have not enough passengers. As such, many people have no choice but to pay for taxis or walk to their destination. It therefore gives them the privilege to join any route as they wish. Most times, buses leave their routes and operate on routes that look busy such as Gerehu-4mile and Gordans-4mile. The Chief Executive Officer of the NRSC Nelson Terema blames the buses drivers for this "attitude problem". He argues that "while NRSC Inspectors are always on the road conducting road blocks to ensure that PMVs and Taxis complete routes and observe traffic rules, PMV drivers have an attitude problem".

Moreover, the number of buses serving a particular route is not equal to another. For example, observations made by the researcher affirm that buses using the Gerehu- Boroko and to Downtown has many buses than buses serving Gordons - Hohola and Gordons - Gerehu. Even though the demand is high, the later routes have few buses because they do not have peak hour rates according to Peter Masul, a bus operator from Mt. Hagen. "... Wagani- 4mile na Wagani-Town gat planti bus bikos ol save kisim K3 or K4 long moning na apinun. Mepla nogat..." (Buses serving Wagani-Boroko and Wagani Town charge K3 and K4 during peak hours so that is why you find lot of buses serving those routes. We do not charge that). (2/05/2015 – Gordons).

This is the problem that needs to be addressed by the relevant authorities through good policies that calls for friendly, cleanliness and comfort, safe and reliable public transport.

#### 4.4. Policies for Public Transport Improvement

Better polices put in place will lead to better and improved urban public transport system. This will then have a positive impact on the city and its occupants. It is believed that many of the public transport policies and regulations are considered to be outdated. The ICCC after lengthy consultation and workshop produced a report last year. Such report needs to be made public and its recommendation be reviewed and implemented.

According Roy Mumu of the Transport Department, he argued that the organization will put in place policy guidelines to monitor the import of cars. He explains that they are focusing on the four Es of road safety – education, enforcement, engineering and emergency, which will have a positive impact on the urban public transport system.

A similar sentiment was shared by Nelson Terema of NRSC that the rules and policies already in placed were made know to the public including the operators through public and mass media awareness but operators are ignoring the rules. "We have penalized drivers, issued traffic infringement notices, impounded vehicles but still operators continue to break the rules continuously" 11/05/2015 – Central Waigani. It has been made known that once the Road Traffic Authority is established and is in full operation "big head" operators will be heavily penalized and their vehicles impounded. The Road Traffic Authority will see the Land Transport Division, NRSC, Central Province Transport Authority and Traffic Policy merge to make one policing entity.

Furthermore, this study found out that all these transport authorities are not able to monitor and enforce the relevant Traffic Acts. According to the Chief Executive Officer Joe Wemin of Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited, there are 8225 unregistered vehicles in PNG roads, in which the Southern Region which includes Port Moresby has 4166 uninsured or unregistered vehicle on the road. (3/15/2015 – MVIL).

From this discussion, it can now be seen that there are more than five (5) different transport authorities doing the same work. The agencies are ineffective and inefficient in their performances because there is duplication and waste of public resources. The study observed that all the different authorities interested in public transport need to form a single entity to implement the relevant transport policies that will address the problems identified through this study.

# 4.5. Impact on the General Public

The issue discussed in this study has a direct impact on the general public and the nation as a whole. It also has a direct impact on the people who solely depend on public transports. For the people who are employed, they end up late at work and affecting the performance. They cannot deliver the expected output each day. Some of the personnel are even under warning and some being terminated, especially for the private sectors. This further has an adverse impact on the family of the employee.

Similarly, school children find it hard to get on time. For the schools that have their own transports for pick up and drop off are lucky. But for those who depend on public transport end up late in class, missing out important lessons, tests or exams, and this affects the performances of the students.

#### 4.6. Recommendations

These and many other issues relating this subject needs to be addressed accordingly to make our cities a place where our citizens and tourist can find comport, relaxed, satisfaction and safety. A city represents the image of a country. The outside world can make a quick conclusion just by looking at the main city and impression it portrays of the whole country. Therefore, the problems mentioned needs mitigation through appropriate policies.

Nevertheless, policies formulated to improve the urban public transport should involve some strategies such as providing alternative mode of transport (i.e. coaches), providing transit services, painting of buses to avoid illegal use of unauthorized routes, introducing card system, improving public transport infrastructures such as rapid shelters, amendment of current legislations to cater for the changes and developments faced in Port Moresby. Such guidelines and regulations should also take into account the relationship between and respective responsibilities of the public and service providers, recognizing the value of partnerships in developing and financing modern, sustainable, integrated urban environments. It was also noted that wider consultation needs to be made to extract views and opinion from the users, operators and the responsible state agencies.

Moreover, this study recommends for further research and development on this subject matter to ensure that the relationship between land use and transportation is well understood and the issues faced in the public transport sector.

# 4.7. Limitations

The two major limitations are:

- a) Financial constraint was one of the major limitations for this study. The researcher used his own money collect information and analysis produce the output of the study. This might have also influenced the quality of analysis due to presence of some gaps in data collection.
- b) Time limitation was also a big problem. This study was purposely conducted to see the impact of the LNG project on the Urban Public transport, which the final paper supposed to be presented in June, 2015 PNG LNG Update Seminar. As such, data collected were not given ample time to analyze and present. This may have also influenced the output of this paper.

# 4.8. Conclusion

The much talked LNG project and other impact projects have both positive and negative impacts on the society. The urban public transport sector is faced with many issues as identified through this research. The study affirms that urban transport is doing far below the expected level even though PNG is facing a boom in its economy due to the project named. Problems such lack of proper public transport infrastructures, unhygienic and cleanliness, are discovered to on the top of the issue. In addition, transport users are restricted to a single mode of public transport which is bus and there is no alternative. The bus fares are decided by the market supply and demand relevant fall short of regulation.

This study also points out that comfort and safety has been compromised and responsible institutions are failing to enforce the traffic regulations and protect this very important sector that presents the image of the nation's capital.

It is therefore recommended that, the government dissolves all the different institutions that are duplicating the responsibilities and wasting government resources. By doing so, a single Public Transport Authority needs to be created so that it can dominantly formulate and implement policies that can improve the urban public transport system.

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# APPENDIX 1

# **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

Question Asked during Interview

# 1: Bus Operators

Is this your bus?

How much do you make per day?

Can I have a look at inside?

What do you think about operating a bus business?

How often do you service your bus?

Do you complete your routes? Why sometimes you join other routes?

What do you think about the performance of entities in charge of the urban transport?

What is your name? is it okay if I use your name or quote?

# 2. Public Transport User

Why do you use PMV buses?

What do you think about the crews? Are they welcoming, clean, friendly?

What do you think about the performance of the transport agencies?

Tell me how you catch bus? is it easy?

Tell me some problem you think is common in the urban transport industry.

How about your safety and comfort when using PMVs?

Do you enjoy riding in PMV buses?

What are some of the areas you think the sector can improve?

What is your name? is it okay if I use your name or quote?

# 3. Relevant Agencies

What do you think about urban public transport system? It's infrastructure? Operators? Users? Are we doing well?

What are the problems you see in this sector?

How can we improve this sector?

Tell me about policies your department is working on to improve the public transport?

Is it okay with you if I use your name or quote?

Thank you for your time.

Jack Assa

Researcher

# Appendix 2 Survey Form 1

**Instructions:** Participants are asked to tick the categories that they think is correct in regards to Port Moresby Urban Public Transport System.

No	Indicators	Results – (Ratings)		
		Assessment	Participant	
		Category	(Tick)	
1	Friendliness (operators presentation	Excellent		
	and friendliness to passengers and	Very good		
	traffic rules)	Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		
2	Cleanliness of the crews and bus	Excellent		
		Very good		
		Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		
3	Comfortable seats	Excellent		
		Very good		
		Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		
4	Traffic rule adherence	Excellent		
		Very good		
		Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		
5	Safety	Excellent		
		Very good		
		Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		
6	Respect for women and people with	Excellent		
	disability	Very good		
		Good		
		Poor		
		Very poor		