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Grand opening



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill taking the honour to unveil the plaque to officially open the Grand Papua Hotel. The hotel goes into business on December 1. Pictures: TARAMI LEGEI



By ESTELLA CHEUNG

A SPECTECULAR display of fireworks on Tuesday night in Port Moresby was the grand highlight to the grand opening of the Grand Papua Hotel.

More than 100 people attended the hotel's grand opening including Prime Minister Peter O'Neill who had just arrived that afternoon from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Grand Papua Hotel has staircases of marble leading up to each floor with a long, clear view of the street, the Monian Tower and the United Church building across the road. The conference and meeting rooms are spacious with a contemporary arrangement. The dining area that was on display was equally impressive, as well as the spacious outdoor pool area.

Master of ceremony Brent St Hill said the Grand Papua

Hotel is a combination of many years of concepts designs and construction and a large number of people of many different walks of life.

"These people have come from within the Steamships Trading Company and associated companies that have worked to put this magnificent building up," he said.

Mr St Hill said from the groundbreaking which took place in May 2008, the residents of Port Moresby and the people of PNG have seen the Grand Papua Hotel grow from the ground level to the 16th floor to become Port Moresby's tallest building, boasting panoramic view, sea views that is, from all guest rooms.

The Grand Papua Hotel will be utilising a paperless system where guests will be checked in by friendly staff using tablet technology.

"The Grand Papua Hotel has several different options for meetings and small events. In

order for this to happen, the Grand Papua Hotel is led by a team of international industry professionals to ensure our guests are pampered," he said. General Manager of the Grand Papua Hotel, David Martens said he was proud about the work his staff had done for the grand opening and spoke highly of them. He said the Hotel officially opens on December 1 for business.

Chairman of Steamships Trading Company, Bill (Wilson) Rothery acknowledged the attendance of Sir Adrian Swire, who represented a majority shareholder in Steamships; and Sir Michael Bromley.

He said Sir Adrian first visited PNG in 1957 and Sir Michael arrived in PNG in 1956. Sir Michael has now made his home in the Highlands of PNG.

Both the Swire's and Mike Bromley have shown great perseverance and faith in PNG over the past 60 years.