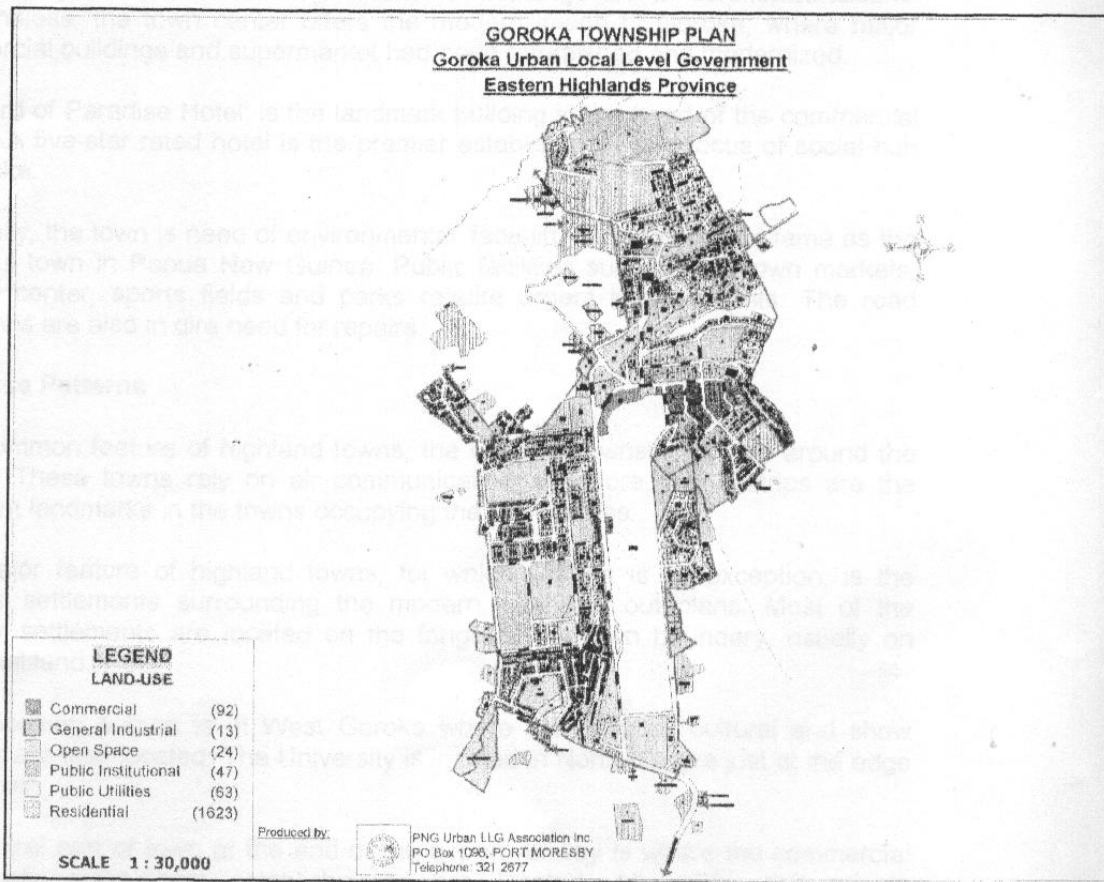
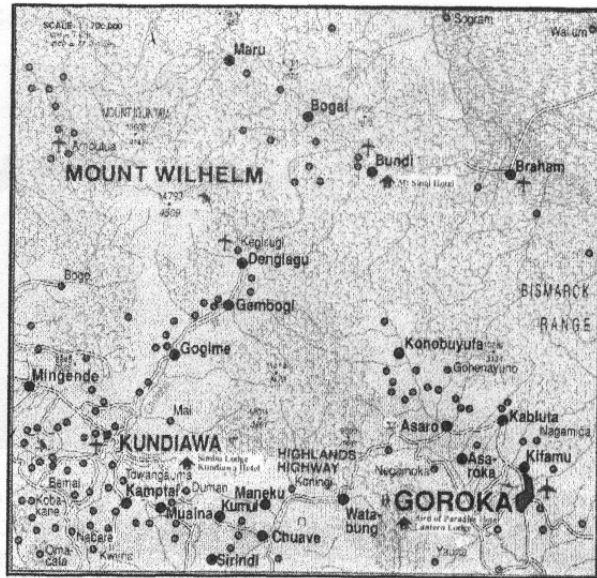


GOROKA URBAN LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNMENT





1. Background and Regional Context

Goroka is the Provincial Capital of the Easter Highland Province and is an hour flight from Port Moresby. Established in 1939, it was used as a rest centre during WWII. The original patrol post in Bena was moved to Goroka, because the land formation lacks a suitable site for an airstrip.

Nestled among the mountains, this picturesque township is built around the airstrip. Actual development of Goroka Town did not occur until the 1950s, and rapidly grew from a small administrative outpost into a major Regional Centre for the Highlands Region. Now Goroka is the commercial centre for four other highland provinces of Simbu, Western Highlands, Enga and Southern Highlands.

2. Role of Goroka Town

Until Talair Limited, one of the largest third level airlines in the country, closed its operational headquarters, Goroka's economic influence in the Highlands Region was unrivalled by any towns in the region. Despite

reduced economic activities, the town continues to play a major role as the premier location for major educational and institutional centres in the country. Goroka Town hosts one of the National Universities (University of Goroka) and a College (National Sports Institute), Institute of Medical Research, National Secondary and International Schools. The town has eight Primary Schools, two High Schools, two International Schools and fifteen Elementary Schools. The coffee industry also continues to influence the economic life in Goroka and its region.

3. Physical and Environmental Conditions

Although the climate of this province is referred to as 'land of eternal springtime' with beautiful landscapes and sceneries, the general environmental conditions and the physical urban image need a 'face-lift'. No new developments have occurred in recent years and some major industrial buildings are in derelict conditions. Nevertheless, the town centre offers the modern image of Goroka, where major commercial buildings and supermarkets have been refurbished and modernized.

The 'Bird of Paradise Hotel' is the landmark building in the heart of the commercial centre and is the premier establishment and social hub in Goroka.

Generally, the town is need of an environmental 'face-lift' to bring back its fame as the beautiful town in Papua New Guinea. Public facilities such as the town markets, cultural centre, sports fields and parks require urgent improvements. The road conditions are also in dire need of repairs.

4. Land-use Patterns

As a common feature of highland towns, the Goroka Township is built around the airstrip. These towns rely on air communication; therefore, the airstrips are the dominant landmarks in the towns occupying the prime areas.

One major feature of highland towns, for which Goroka is no exception, is the squatter settlements surrounding the modern, well laid out plans. Most of the squatter settlements are located on the fringe of the town boundary, usually on traditional land.

Major housing suburb is in West Goroka where the hospital, cultural and show grounds are also located. The University is located in North Goroka just at the edge of the town.

The central part of town at the end of the airport runway is where the commercial and public institutional establishments are located. All public and private commercial buildings are located here and it is a major employment centre of the town. The industrial precinct adjoins the CBD area located at the east portion of the airport. The main town market is located three hundred metres from the town centre and this is a daily hub of the activities in town. Two other feeder markets are located at North and West Goroka residential areas.

The sporting and recreational facilities are interspersed in residential and institutional areas.



5. General Economic Conditions

The province's role is as a major coffee producer and as such, the coffee industry plays a significant role in the economy of Goroka Town. As the Provincial Administrative capital, the public sector offers the major employment opportunities. The main educational institutions also provide the much-needed employment for the local population. The employment by sector shows that thirty percent (30%) of the urban population is directly employed by the private sector, twenty percent (20%) by the public sector and the informal sector constitutes twenty percent (20%) of the workforce. It is estimated that thirty percent (30%) of the urban population is unemployed.

Tourism also plays an important part in the local economy. The Annual Goroka Show inaugurated in 1956, is the oldest known cultural show in the country that attracts international tourists, annually. The world renowned 'Asaro Mud men' is the province's most unique cultural attraction for tourists during the annual cultural show.

show.



The five-star rated 'Bird of Paradise hotel' is an important part of Goroka's social life and the guest facilities and services are amongst the best in the country. There are thirteen other Hotels and Guests Lodges available in Goroka. The boats and accessories are sold nationwide to the coastal regions.

6. Urban Services

The town residents enjoy modern urban amenities; however, a lot of these infrastructures were built in the pre-independent period and are in need of upgrading and refurbishing.

a) Water

Recently, the water Supply System has been upgraded to meet the growing demand. The new system is said to have the World Health Standards and is perhaps the best in the country.

The water is drawn from a river and the treatment is done through filtration system. The supply coverage is hundred percent (100%) for the township except for the squatter settlements in the urban fringes. The new Water Supply System produces an estimated ten thousand cubic meters (10 000m³) of treated water to meet the consumer demands of the town. Extension of the Water Supply System also boosted the revenue base for the Urban Council.

b) Energy

Electricity is supplied by the PNG Power Limited from the Ramu Grid that covers most of the highland towns. However, poor street lighting is generally a problem in town.

c) Sanitation and Sewerage

Reticulated Sewerage System is available, but is confined to West Goroka (hospital and high covenant housing precincts) and Central Goroka (commercial and administrative centre). At present, there are four sewerage lagoons where the sewer is treated.

Septic Tank System is available to high-class residential areas and the major institutional establishments, particularly in North and West Goroka.

Sanitation Pan System is still in use in town, mainly in low-cost housing areas. At present, six hundred fifty (650) households depend on this system.

d) Refuse Disposal

The town dumping pit is located just outside the town and is maintained by the Goroka Urban LLG. The same site is also used for the disposal of the night soil.

e) Roads and Surface Drainage

All roads and drainage require substantial rehabilitation. The priority is for the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government to seek funding support to improve the road conditions of the town.

7. Population Characteristics

The present urban population of Goroka is at 18 618. Of this, 9 927 are male and 8 691 female. The household population is 3 338. It appears the population is stable from the last census, but the natural increase is a contributing factor in the overall increase. A large proportion of the urban population is from the educational institutions and those from the informal housing areas, particularly the squatter settlements.

8. Transport and Communications

The town is linked by a major highway (Okuk Highway) from the Industrial City of Lae. All freights destined to other four highland provinces pass through Goroka. It also has a twice daily flight from Port Moresby with a flight time of one hour.

All telephone communications infrastructure is of modern standards.

9. Urban Governance and Management

a) Finance

Until the new Provincial and Local Level Governments (LLGs) system was initiated, Goroka Urban Council was the only effective and well-administered town council in the country. It had a good revenue base and had contributed to improvements for the town in the 1970s and mid 1980s.

The 2001 budget was estimated at K4.8 million to maintain the Council's existing services. In 2002, the Council has estimated to receive K1.9 million, but was reduced to K1.2 million. About K3.14 million has been estimated for the 2003 fiscal year. Out of this, the Council expects to raise sixty-five percent (65%) from its internal revenue sources to complement the 2003 budget.

- Land rates = K800 000.00 (25%)
- Water rates = K1 000 000.00 (32%)
- Service charges = K150 000.00 (5%)
- Trading licenses K90 000.00 (3%)

- TOTAL = K2 040 000.00 (65%)

Revenue from water rates constitutes a significant budget estimate at K1 million. The new Water Supply System has increased the Council's revenue capacity.

In 2002, Goroka ULLG was a proud recipient of K15 million funding assistance from the Government of Japan to upgrade its water supply in town. This year, the Council is also fortunate to have the extension of the Japanese Technical Assistance (JICA) in planning for the new Sewerage System. Both the water and sewerage sector are expected to provide a good revenue base for Goroka Urban LLG.

b) Governance

The Urban Assembly is comprised of six elected Members from the Urban LLG Wards and two appointed members to the Assembly – one Women Representative and one from the local business community. The Town Mayor is the political head and is also the Chairman of the Urban Assembly.

c) Administration

The administrative function of the Council is headed by the Town Manager with the total support staff of one hundred forty-three. Salaries and the welfare of all staff are taken care of by the Council, except for the four top management positions. The Town Engineer is on a contracted position with the Council's establishment.

d) Office Space and Equipment

The Goroka Urban LLG owns a two-storey office complex in the centre of the town. This building was part of the assets transferred to the Council by the former Eastern Highlands Capital Authority (EHCA). The office accommodates all operational requirements of the Council. Excellent office facilities and amenities are available.

10 Priority Issues

There is an urgent need to strengthen the technical capacity of the administration. Immediate priority is to request for additional positions and funds to cater for the technical positions.

The concerns of the Council relate to adequate funding support from the Provincial Government to enable the Council to fulfill its responsibility in terms of:

- Town cleaning and beautification;
- Improve road conditions;
- Proper Urban Development Plan; and
- Street lighting.

Urban planning and development control aspects of the Council's function is said to be one 'grey area' of concern. The Building Board function, in planning and carrying out development control within the urban jurisdiction, is outside the scope of the Council's responsibilities.

There is an urgent need to establish a Physical Planning Board in Eastern Highlands Province so that local planning and development matters are dealt with locally. Without this Board, the Council is unable to exercise development control in the town or take enforcement measures.

