

Masalai i tokaut

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An extensive and corrupt political network is protecting Philip Lee and Concord Pacific

A new report, Partners in Crime II ([Download PDF](#)), clearly details the extensive political web of support for the illegal logging operations of Concord Pacific and Philip Lee. The report shows how Lee is linked to sixteen government Ministers, Provincial Governors, Members of Parliament and senior public servants through a whole series of unlawful logging permits and tax exemptions, business dealings and other activities (*see chart below*).

Concord Pacific and its General Manager, Philip Lee, have gained an unwelcome notoriety in Papua New Guinea for their illegal business scams and involvement in a number of criminal activities.



Concord Pacific is the company behind the illegal logging operation known as the Kiunga Aiambak project. Concord Pacific has over the last 7 years exported more than US\$50 million of stolen logs from the remote Western Province.

The project was declared illegal by the forest authorities as early as 1995. Since then, the Independent Forestry Review, the Chair of the National Forest Board, the Forest Industries Association and even the Prime Minister, as well as national and international NGOs, have all complained about this illegal logging operation.

Yet no effective action has been taken by the authorities to stop the illegal logging. Indeed, the project has been allowed to expand through a series of illegal permit extensions and to avoid tax liabilities through unlawful tax exemptions.

In December 2001, Concord Pacific was given a new and even larger illegal timber permit. This new permit allows it to log along an 830-kilometre corridor through 7 unallocated timber areas with a total area of 2.7 million hectares.

Philip Lee is the General Manager of Concord Pacific and its minority shareholder. He has gained notoriety not only for the activities of Concord Pacific but also for a series of scandals including an immigration and passport scam, attempts at billion dollar loan deals with government ministers, fraudulent agricultural leases and allegations of gun smuggling.

'Partners in Crime 2' begins to explain how Concord Pacific and Philip Lee have managed to survive for so long outside the law and to reap their enormous criminal profits. The report sets out in meticulous detail, and with over 200 pages of supporting documentation, the intricate web of political support that has protected and nurtured the illegal activities of Concord Pacific and Philip Lee.

The Political Web that Supports the Illegal Kiunga Aiambak Project

The Prime Minister

Sir Mekere Morauta

Has failed to deliver on promises to stop the illegal project and has failed to take action against those in his Government responsible for:

- Illegal logging permits
- Unlawful tax concessions
- Undeclared conflicts of interest
- Abuse of position
- Alleged involvement in logging corruption

Other Members of Parliament

Governor for Milne Bay

Titus Philemon

- Illegal logging permit extension
- Illegal logging at Turama

Member for North Waghi

Fabian Pok

- Illegal logging permit extension

Member for Middle Fly

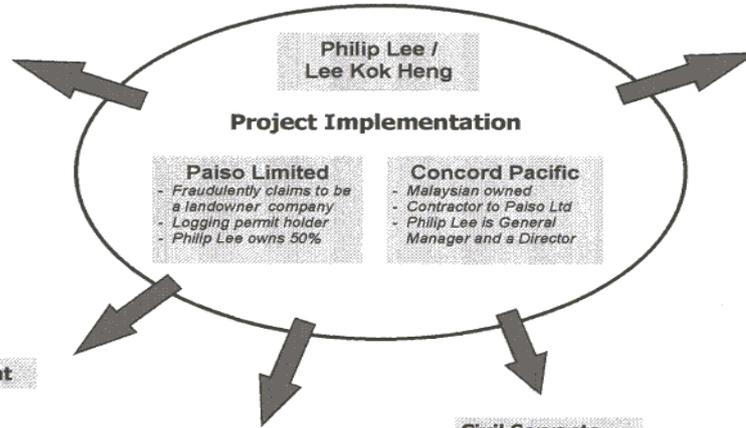
Cosmos Kuok

- Sponsor for logging permit
- Project initiation

Governor for Western Province

Norbert Makmop

- Sponsor for logging permit



Government Ministers

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Forests

Michael Ogio

- Illegal logging permit
- Illegal tax concessions
- Sponsor for logging permits

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr. John Waiko

- Citizenship sponsor
- Delayed deportation
- Shared business interests
- Attempted government loan

Minister for Mining

Chris Havieta

- Illegal tax concession
- Attempted financial support
- Illegal logging at Turama

Minister for Works

Alfred Pogo

- Sponsor for logging permit
- Attempted government loan

Minister for Transport

Bart Philemon

- Sponsor for logging permit

Minister for Agriculture

Mao Zeming

- Sponsor for logging permit

Ex Government Ministers

Minister for Finance

Nakikus Konga

- Illegal tax concession

Minister for Forests

Tim Neville

- Illegal logging permit

Civil Servants

Attorney General

Francis Damem

- Philip Lee's lawyer

Ex Forest Authority MD

Thomas Nen

- Illegal logging permit

Ex Secretary for Agriculture

Utula Samana

- Fraudulent leases

Secretary for Lands

Guau Zurenuoc

- Illegal logging permit

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12474

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