

NATION

# Kemish: Women vital to PNG's development

By ANCILLA WRAKUALE

IT is important to advance the role of women in Papua New Guinea through education, Australian High Commissioner Ian Kemish said.

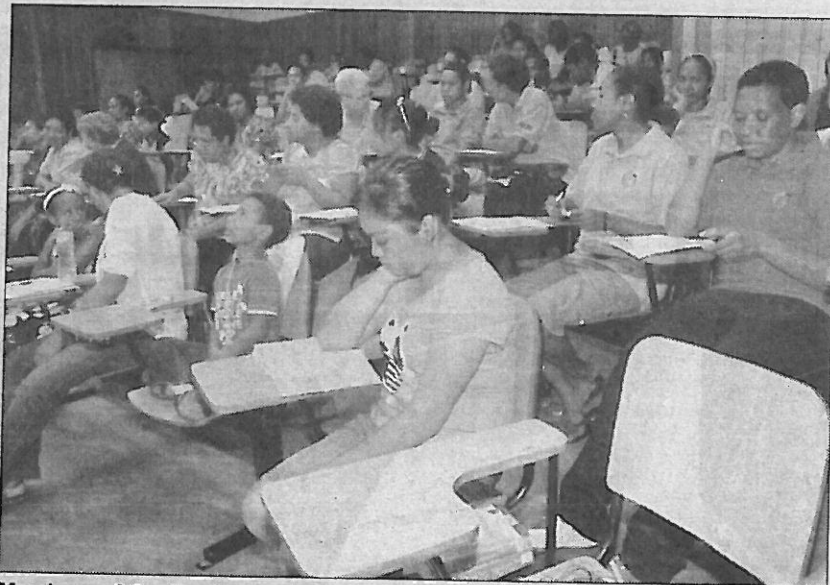
He was addressing a Business and Professional Women meeting in Port Moresby on Saturday.

"It is no doubt that the LNG project will bring significant economic growth in PNG but PNG will never leverage such full growth without the full participation of women," Kemish said.

He said no society would reach its full potential until women were given equal opportunities as their male counterparts.

"Our focus today is education because it is important."

He said they were working closely with the police and the law and justice sector and would like to see more women magistrates in



Members of the Business and Professional Women Club of Port Moresby at its meeting at the Port Moresby International School on Saturday. – Nationalpic by AURI EVA

the country.

Kemish said at least half of the scholarships funded by the Australian government went to women to support them in education.

He said he was pleased with the Business and Professional Women's Club of Port

Moresby for supporting girls and women in education.

The club is largely supported by sponsors who help girls and women achieve their dreams in life by allowing them to complete their education through sponsorship.

The club provided 220 scholarships last year and has provided 300 scholarships so far this year.

The club's scholarship committee chairperson Yogi Barampataz said they had a large number of applications for sponsorships this which

were yet to be processed.

Barampataz challenged the recipients of sponsorships to work hard and score good results in school and excel in education.

Council president Susil Nelson said it was important to educate women and girls so that they were able to use their education to improve their lives and families.

She also thanked corporate sponsors who had sponsored girls in schools.

The club was established in 1982 by Dame Carol Kidu to help women and girls.

It has now gone out of Port Moresby to assist girls and women attending secondary and tertiary institutions.

The club also provides information and workshops for women on upgrading their personal presentation, report writing, legal rights and other things.

## IBS meet

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