



26 March 2010

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Delayed Southbound Voyage of the Sofrana Surville V160S/161 N.

Dear Valued Customers,

For two consecutive sailings now we have encountered major delays at the Port of Lihir. The Sofrana Surville V160S arrived on schedule at Lihir Island, Papua New Guinea Monday 15th of March at 13:00 hours. We were unable to berth upon arrival because the Hartwig Scan a “project carrying vessel” was on the berth discharging and a Swire’s vessel the Pacific Harmony was next in the queue.

Throughout the week large onshore seasonal swells prevailed resulting in days when either no work or minimal work took place, because of safety concerns by the stevedores, throughout the cargo operation. The Hartwig Scan finally sailed on Thursday 18th March at dusk. The Pacific Harmony berthed on Friday morning and sailed that afternoon. Lihir Gold then elected to bring in a fuel tanker (one of two that had arrived in the meantime), because they were running desperately low on diesel. The tanker discharged her fuel throughout the night and sailed Lihir mid morning (Saturday 20th).

We finally went alongside on Saturday the 20th of March and commenced cargo operations. Just prior to dusk we were then taken back outside whilst the 2nd fuel tanker could be bought alongside (for an over night discharge). Once the tanker had completed her discharge we went back alongside. Over the next few days cargo operations were at times painfully slow due to the ongoing swell conditions. Once our discharge operation was finally complete and we had managed to load back just 30% of the empties available, we sailed on Wednesday 24th March at 18:05 hrs for Port Vila.

Our stay at Lihir was 8 days, 4 hours, when our normal stay is scheduled not to exceed 2 days (full 48 hours).

As a result of these unforeseen delays, V161N will be 3 days later than advertised in our last schedule of 18 March 2010.

Lastly, once again we do sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this lengthy delay causes you and your customers. Once again, we are working now on a recovery plan to normalise the frequency between vessels back to 17 days as soon as possible.

Your faithfully

Sofrana Unilines NZ Ltd.