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## UN applauds Paga Hill resettlement October 02,2014, 02:43 am

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UN applauds Paga Hill resettlement

## Bv Melissa Martin

THE United Nations has praised a property developer for funding the resettlement of settlers from the Paga Hill land to Six-Mile in Port Moresby.

The UN said Paga Hill Development Company had set the record by being the first in Papua New Guinea and the region to provide relocation assistance.

UN resident coordinator Hemansu Roy Trivedy said this yesterday as the settlers were allocated plots of land at Togua, Six-Mile.

"Across the world, many settlers are resettled but it rarely happens this way where they are given plots of land and financial assistance and so forth.

"We are really pleased to witness this historic occasion and we congratulate the company and its partners for the successful relocation of settlers," Mr Trivedy said

The settlers were issued block allocation agreements which formally binds them to Paga Hill Development Company and the landowners.

"We hope that this community will prosper and grow from strength to strength and in a year's time, we will see more children in school, more health centre, electricity, services being provided and so on. We are also pleased to notice the support of the local MP Labi Amaiu and the Government," he stated.

Paga Hill Development Company has spent more than K5 million to secure 14 hectares of land at Six-Mile and an additional K3 million for the resettlement exercise.

The company provided cash compensation, relocation assistance and temporary accommodation for people affected by the resettlement.

The company has also provided employment opportunities, civil works, water and sanitation facilities, learning and community development opportunities and a safe environment for the resettled community.

The company CEO Gudmundur Friedrikson said it was a long and difficult journey since 2004 when the resettlement exercise started.

"We are proud as this is possibly a solution and an example of many resettlements to come," he added.

Mr Friedrikson has urged the National Capital District Commission to work in partnership with the Lands and Physical Planning Department to assist the settlers to gain proper legal titles over their blocks of land.



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