

# Press Cuttings

## Greens hit – Post Courier 30 Nov 2007

ATTACKS on the timber industry by “greens” were having an adverse impact on the country’s timber exports.

Such attacks were also detrimental to the timber industry in the country, which employs about 10,000 Papua New Guineans.

Those were the comments by the principal of the Timber and Forestry Training College (TFTC) Andrew Tagamasau during the college’s 28th graduation yesterday.

Mr. Tagamasau said the continued bashing by the “greenies” of the timber industry through various means including demonstrations and the mass media was not doing any good for the country.

He said allegations of illegal logging were also misplaced.

“We are unsure about their definition of illegal logging.

“As far as we are aware logging and related activities can only be carried out by timber companies when all necessary authorisation has been granted by the agencies of government.

“And it is logical to assume that all companies operating throughout the country have been properly authorised,” he said.

Meanwhile, Forest Minister Belden Namah, who was guest speaker, stressed the government’s commitment towards downstream processing in the timber industry.

Mr. Namah said the target was to phase out log exports and to have all logs processed on-shore.

He said the plan was to have six major timber concessions fully operational by next year, all of them setting up large scale wood processing plants. Mr. Namah told the graduands their skills would be needed, with the Government’s policy geared towards downstream processing and issuing of timber permits for 10 impact projects.

Thirty-three PETT students and four small sawmill cadets graduated.