



# Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ISSUE No. 1

January - February, 2008

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## Fishermen to Benefit from Cold Storage Facility



• (from L-R) Hon. Luther Wenge, Governor of Morobe Province, Hon. Paul Tiensten, Minister for National Planning and District Development, His Excellency, Ambassador Wei Ruixing, Chinese Ambassador to Papua New Guinea and Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries walking into the gate of the Malahang Cold Storage and Fish Processing Facility for its official opening.

Small-scale fishermen from Morobe Province will be able to benefit from the newly constructed Cold Storage Facility and Fish Processing Plant. Minister for Fisheries Ben Semri made this remark during the official opening and handover of the facility. The event occurred at the Malahang Industrial Centre, Lae Morobe Province on 16th January this year. This is a K10 million project that was funded by the People's Republic of China.

He said the facility will be used to support small-medium fisheries entrepreneurship, whether they are 100% locally owned enterprises or joint venture enterprises of foreign and local.

Minister Semri said the recent introduction and promotion of fishing cooperatives in the provinces supported by

Fisheries Credit Scheme will also support and supply tuna to this plant. He also stressed that with the establishment of such facility, small local groups must be supported and nurtured by commercial viable private sector partners.

He said that once this facility is fully utilized will also play an important role in the development of skilled human resources in the seafood processing, value-adding and quality handling which will in the long term keep these skilled people contributing to the development of the fisheries sector. "This is the type of development needed to sustain and further enhance and continue the government's strategy for export driven economy recovery and growth", Minister Semri said.

## From the Managing Director's Desk

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of 2008 Fishing Line News. This year is a challenging year as we approach meeting the deadline for Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Project submission to United Nations (UN) in 2009. This submission is to ensure that PNG complies with its obligations as a member state to the 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention.

The government has injected funding for the implementation of this project as it considered Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Project as being important in terms of economic development. For instance, the EU Economic Partnership Agreement for fisheries emphasized that for fish products to gain access into Europe markets, the products originality is important therefore we need to have well defined Maritime zones which will be achieved by this project.

We have attended FFA Secretariat meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This was the Fourth meeting of Pacific Island Parties Working Group-Mid Term Review of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with the United States of America. In this meeting we discussed the Review of Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with United States of America, Review of the Industry Payment and Review of Observer program cost. This meeting comprised of Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Our five year Corporate Plan (2008-2012) has been finalized and gone to the Board for review and final recommendation but unsuccessful as the Board further requested additional information to incorporate other nec-

essary inputs of activities concerning other Pacific Island nations toward this corporate plan. Since the PNG shares sea boarder with other neighboring countries, there should be some additional information on conservation measures of fish stock in the Pacific.

National Fisheries Authority will soon have a new boss. We have advertised Managing Director's position in the media recently and the Board has already submitted the short listed candidates to the Public Service Commission. The Commission will make recommendation to the Minister for Public Service for his endorsement.

The Madang Marine Industrial Park has been approved by the government and National Fisheries Authority and Department of Commerce and Trade will implement this project. The establishment of Marine Park is to enhance the stakeholders by increasing the volume and value of down-streamed processed tuna products and to reduce the export of whole tuna frozen. Madang Marine Park will be very crucial to PNA approach. This will play an important role to some member countries as this will develop a regional strategy which will facilitate and encourage the development of domestic or locally-based fisheries for surface tuna, with onshore support and processing industries. This will be a regional development initiative that will allow investment opportunities, employment and other benefits of the projects to be shared by neighboring countries especially PNA member countries.

**Sylvester B. Pokajam**  
**Acting Managing Director**

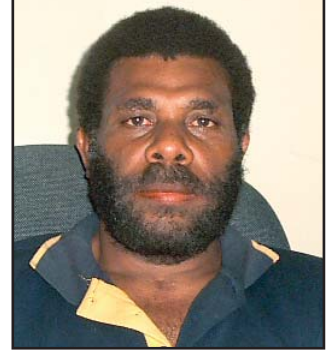
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The government is aggressively pursuing onshore investments and also mindful of the need to an optimum balance between development and fisheries management so that the fisheries resources are sustainable in the long term. Minister Semri said the government through National Fisheries Authority is undertaking significant conservation measures within the corridors of our Economic Exclusive Zone to ensure that the tuna stocks remain at a

sustainable level.

Minister Semri thanked the Chinese government for funding the project. He said the fishing relations between PNG and China is young, and has been created with the objective of developing the tuna fisheries of PNG and formalizing fishing operation.

## Staff Profile



Name: **Mr. Moseley Babate**  
Age: **42**  
Marital Status: **Married with 2 children**  
Qualification: **Bachelor of Agriculture Lae Untitech**  
Current Position: **Provincial Fisheries Advisor (East New Britain Province)**

Mr. Babate comes from East New Britain Province. He attended Kalamalagunan Primary School from 1972-1977. He continued into High School and attended Kokopo High School in 1978 and completed Grade 10 in 1981. He did well in his school examinations and was accepted into Kerevat National High School to do grades 11 and 12 from 1982 - 1983. He however missed out on selection to the universities and other tertiary institutions.

He joined the informal sector and worked hard to earn enough money to pursue further studies. Thus in 1988 he applied for Agriculture courses at PNG University of Technology and was accepted to study Agriculture. He graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture in 1993.

He got a job with Collins and Leah on Markham Plantation as manager. He served as manager for only a year and left for Kina Gil Banks in East New Britain Province in 1994. He held a senior position for almost four years but left and joined Coconut Products Limited (CPL) as a senior manager from 1997 to 2000. Mr. Babate however left CPL and was attached with Beef and Graft Animals in ENB from 2000 to 2003.

In 2003 he joined East New Britain Provincial Government with the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) as an Extension officer. He served the department for three years and was further promoted to Advisor, Division of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Currently Mr. Babate is the Advisor for the Provincial Fisheries and Marine Resources with ENBP.

He said although he has no fisheries background he likes to discover new things and know more about fisheries. He said that it is quite challenging but that would not hinder him from excelling in the fisheries profession.

## NFA Assists New Ireland Fisheries with Vehicle



- Ms Welete Wararu, second on right watching Mr. Sirimbat opening the door of the newly delivered 4x4 Toyota Hilux vehicle. Looking on are Mr Tatek Buraik, Principal of National Fisheries College and from left, Mr. Saterek Taput, NIP Fisheries Advisor.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) is continually assisting provincial fisheries offices with necessary office equipment, office renovation and vehicles to enable them perform their duties effectively.

NFA came to the aid of New Ireland Provincial Fisheries Office a week before Christmas day (2007) and handed over a double cab four wheel drive vehicle to be used by the New Ireland Provincial Fisheries Advisor, Mr Saterek Taput and his officers.

Ms Welete Wararu, NFA's Executive Manager for Provincial and Industry Liaison Division, handed the vehicle to the Provincial Administrator, Mr Robinson Sirimbat at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng.

At the small handover ceremony, Ms Wararu said that the New Ireland Provincial Fisheries office is one of the 14 maritime offices that has benefited most from such assistance due to the influx of marine research activities into the province, particularly the Nango Island Research facility and also for the fact that the National Fisheries College is in Kavieng and has received enormous assistance from ADB and AusAID for the renovation of College facilities since 2000.

"I hope you will use the vehicle properly which will assist you achieve your programs and goals and NFA delegated functions in your province." Ms Wararu said.

Provincial Administration, Mr Sirimbat upon receiving the vehicle said he is very appreciative of the Christmas present to his fisheries office and that he will make sure the vehicle is put to good and proper use.

## OFCF Projects Transferred to NFA



- Acting Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority Mr. Sylvester Pokajam signs the transferred documents with Mr. Keiichi Sato, Fisheries Technical Expert from OFCF. Looking on from left is NFA Projects officer, Mr. Bolton ToWok.

Overseas Fishery Corporation Foundation (OFCF) has officially signed the necessary documents for transferring OFC projects that comes under the umbrella of OFCF to the National Fisheries Authority (NFA). This was officially signed by the Acting Managing Director Mr. Sylvester Pokajam and Fisheries Technical Expert from OFCF Mr. Keiichi Sato on the 14th February this year. Under this signing two projects will be implemented by NFA for 2007 /2008 financial year which include; supplying and installation of the engine simulator at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng and Supply and installation of ice making machine at Kokopo in East New Britain Province.

The next projects to be implemented by NFA under OFCF projects include; construction of the National Fisheries College (NFC) Engineering Training workshop, Supply and Installation of Ice Making Machine for Tufi in Oro Province , Business Operation Assistance to Madang Fishermen Association and Business Training to the operation of Fish Market in Kokopo, East New Britain Province. These projects are expected to be implemented in the 2008/2009 financial year which will start in April this year.

OFCF was established in 1973 with the intention of joint purpose of facilitating the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Projects, implemented by Japanese Fishery Companies or Organizations, as well as promoting mutual understanding between coastal countries. PNG became a recipient to OFCF after the Access Agreement was signed in late 2006.

## PNG Fishing Companies in China Fish Exposition



- *Mr. Mabisa Landu of Wamomo Seafood Ltd attending to sea cucumber clients at the PNG exposition booth.*

PNG fishing companies dealing with frozen marine products of Beche-de-mer (processed sea cucumber), trochus shells, shark fin, crab, coconut crab, lobster and lobster tails, slipper lobster, filleted and whole barramundi, and whole reef fish participated in the 12th China Fisheries and Seafood Exposition. They were accompanied by National Fisheries Authority officers.

This exposition is an international exposition that had participants from all over the world that are involved in all kinds of fisheries activities, from fishing, farming (aquaculture), processing and packing of end products. This was the largest exposition of fisheries and aquaculture show in Asia organized by the Minister for Agriculture of the People's Republic of China.

The exposition has provided an avenue for the fishing industries of PNG to be exposed to some of the world's fishing and fish processing companies for marketing purposes and to get a glimpse of how their export products are being value-added in China.

So far the National Fisheries Authority has arranged seven expositions for the fishing and fish processing companies, particularly in Europe, United States of America, Japan and China.

## NFA Maintains the Lead in Soccer



- *NFA Men's Soccer Team geared up to crash National Parliament with 1-0 during round 5 on 16th February 2008.*

National Fisheries Authority men's soccer team is maintaining the lead ever since the beginning of the Public Servants Soccer season. This is the fifth game of this season and NFA men's soccer team is tirelessly maintaining the top post. NFA men's team dumped the Community Development team with 2 nil in the first game. During the second game with National Agriculture Development Project (NADP), NFA scored 1-1. PNG Institute of Public Administration (IPA) came in to halt the success of NFA with 0-0 in the third game but NFA found comfort on the back of the tuna fins and crushed Bank of PNG with 2 nil. This was a booster for team moral which saw NFA stealing the show from National Parliament with a 1-0 win.

NFA's commitment in soccer is very strong and tough thus leading to continuous successive wins. NFA is one of the teams that participates in the Public Service Soccer Association in pool one. Captain of NFA men's soccer team, Mr. Rodney Kirarock said that he is very pleased with his boys and the way his team is going. "If the same spirit is maintained nothing is impossible for NFA to go into grand final", He said. He also would like to thank NFA especially the Managing Director Mr. Sylvester Pokajam for approving and funding their participation. Mr. Kirarock said that NFA has sponsored both men and women's team and is thankful for the support. He said both men and women teams are above the ladder. According to women's team captain Ms Solemarie Waga although there were two loses out of seven games her team turn out is good and hope that they will enter the finals. She said the five wins imply a positive chance.

## NFA to Have Additional Office

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) will have additional office space soon. NFA has acquired stage three of Monian Tower, Down Town, Port Moresby.

According to Mr. Rainol Gibson NFA Property Manager, the number of staff has been increasing continuously due to increase in work loads. Thus the current NFA office at Deloitte Tower in Port Moresby cannot cater for all staff.

He said NFA has got seven business units and one of the units will be relocated to the new office.

Mr. Gibson said that the final announcement of which particular business unit to move over from Deloitte Tower to Monian Tower will be made soon.