



## **NEC ENDORSES NATIONAL FISHERIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2030**

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The National Executive Council recently endorsed the PNG Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021-2030 for the next 10 years.

It provides the Strategic Road Map and Vision towards a broad-based fisheries sector and industry that is globally competitive, inclusive and sustainable.

The Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape, MP says the PNG Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021-2030 has adopted and aligned its development and growth strategies to the Government's policy directives, Vision 2050, PNG Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030 and the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP).

"The Plan is intent on taking PNG's fisheries sector forward by improving the status quo to a state where it will resonate with the Government's high-level strategic agenda to *'Take Back PNG'* and to specifically respond to our shared vision to realize equitable benefits for our people.

"The evolution of such policy directions over the last 12 months has culminated to two high-level strategic pieces of work at hand. These are the project on creating a Fisheries Commercial Entity to be responsible for the Government's commercial interests as approved by Cabinet and the National Fisheries Board decision to formulate a 10-year Fisheries Strategic Plan," said Prime Minister Marape.

He said to develop the fisheries sector from its artisanal and informal state into a commercial state, one that provides formal employment and cash income earning opportunities for the citizens, has been very challenging. This is because fish and marine resources, whose habitation is oceans that spread over international waters; is subject to natural phenomena such as currents that in turn influence their migratory behavior. This is particularly so with the tuna stock and as such they cannot be domesticated within the PNG waters.

Prime Minister Marape said the NEC has also noted that supply dynamics of tuna stock had necessitated regional countries to enter into governance regimes that involves all of them to interdependently manage the moving stock across their borders.

"Commercialization and strategy together with sustainable management of the fishery resources going forward will be necessity needs and requirements to take into consideration under such regional interdependent considerations," Prime Minister Marape said.

The strategic plan is therefore PNG's response to these regional and national development considerations. Putting in place the fundamental foundational building blocks, with a good mix of policy prescriptions and supporting enabling strategic actions, is a must for this Government and their citizenry for whom the fishery provides the only opportunity for their participation in the domestic economy of the country.



The National Fisheries Board and the National Fisheries Authority, have over the last months embarked on designing a strategic road map as a response to the emerging challenges.

“Therefore, the 10 year Fisheries Strategic Plan is aimed at guiding the Government’s development intentions for the sector to invest smartly to awaken and consolidate the latent commercial and socially inclusive potential of the fisheries sector, whilst at the same time, position the State’s body, the National Fisheries Authority to purposefully perform its mandated functions in overseeing the governance and management of the development of the sector going forward,” said Prime Minister Marape.

The framing of the strategic plan through a consultative process with provinces, and stakeholders undertook a review of the industry’s performance over the last two decades and identified the main challenges impeding growth. It recommends a development road map to capture the growth opportunities that are ahead of us.

It also proposes a series of strategic enabling actions aimed at re-positioning the industry to not only respond to the Government’s vision but to consolidate the dynamic operational architecture of the industry aimed at developing the sector into a strong, broad based, diversified and value-adding industry that is globally competitive and domestically inclusive.

**Ends!**