



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

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**PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S DOWNSTREAM  
PROCESSING AMBITIONS FULLY SUPPORTED BY  
CHINA**

17th APRIL 2023

On Saturday 15th April 2023, Hon. Jelta Wong - Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, accompanied by Chairman of the National Fisheries Board, Mr Laurie William and Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority, Mr Justin Ilakini met with a high level delegation from the Peoples Republic of China, led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs - Mr. Ma Youxiang to discuss the mutual direction of collaboration in the fisheries sector between the two countries moving forward.

This was to progress discussions held in November 2022 between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister James Marape towards strengthening comprehensive strategic partnerships and Chinas readiness to work with PNG to pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and to expand cooperation in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, special economic zones, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and green development.

The key themes of Saturdays discussions centered around China's commitment towards investing resources and technology into Papua New Guinea fisheries infrastructure directly.

The goal of this enhancement of infrastructure will be to better allow onshore capabilities for fishing vessels to land and process high quality fish and fishery products in PNG, and then establish the process chain to allow the products to be exported directly to Chinese markets.

The Chinese delegation proposed a number of development plans for consideration of the PNG contingent, that are all centered around 3 key pillars.

Sustainability - including combating IUU, increased surveillance capabilities, sharing of surveillance data and enhancing processes for policing the stringent Port State Measures regulations;

Infrastructure- enhancing onshore processing capabilities and application of practical technologies;

Training - ensuring Papua New Guineans are trained and have the appropriate level of capacity to run, grow and subsequently transform the sector themselves.


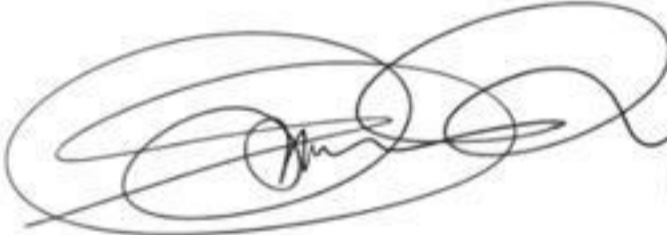
China, who has one of the worlds largest consumption markets for fishery products, is the fourth largest importer of fish in the world. It processes 2.3million tonnes of distant water fish products, and 60,000 million tonnes of onshore aquaculture products on average annually.

There has already been longstanding engagement and discussions between the two countries through the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and PNG National Fisheries Authority, and a number of pivotal milestones have already been achieved between the two countries. The main milestone being substantial steps towards Market Access for PNG Fish and Fishery products.

Ensuring regulative protocols for products are met, alongside enhancing processes towards ease of access for certification licenses for Papua New Guinean companies remains an ongoing priority and important task for the National Fisheries Authority.

After the meeting, Minister Wong stated "We see our big neighbour countries, such as Australia and New Zealand enjoying very strong, long-standing conducive and beneficial trade agreements with China. It's no secret. This is what we are aiming for, and inevitably will achieve for PNG, so we too can enjoy and utilize the same economic benefits from engaging in high level consistent trade and cooperation with PRC. If there is a demand for our vast fisheries resources, we want to have serious conversations. Market access comes with PNG meeting strict quarantine and clearance guidelines for the bigger markets. There is a willingness from China to engage and they are committing significant resources to help us achieve our shared goals".

A Papua New Guinea Ministerial delegation led by Hon Jelta Wong will continue the negotiations next month during attendance of the 2nd China-Pacific Island Countries Ministers Forum in Nanjing, China in May.



**Hon. Jelta Wong, MP**  
**Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources**  
**Member for Gazelle Open**



