



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

“Effectively Managing our Fisheries and Marine Resources
For Sustainable and Equitable Benefits”



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NEWS RELEASE

National Fisheries Judicial Conference underway in Port Moresby

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The Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Mr John Kasu has officially opened the National Fisheries Judicial Conference currently underway this week at Stanley hotel in Port Moresby.

With the theme “Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Fisheries,” Mr Kasu in his opening remarks stated that the main objective of the conference is to promote collaboration of inter-agency networks, information sharing between agencies of state, establish whole of government partnerships to address issues, constraints and challenges in fisheries management; in particular, protection of fisheries resources and the important role the courts play when dealing with fisheries compliance.

“The importance of fisheries to PNG and the economies of coastal and Island communities cannot be understated.

“The export of fish and fishery products out of PNG in terms of quantity have continued to increase annually over the last years. Last year the value of exports exceeded K 1.5 billion for all fish and fishery products while from licensing, PNG earns close to K400 million.

“It is also important to note that the single most significant threat to the long-term sustainability of our marine resources is the issue of Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing,” said MD Kasu.

PNG through NFA continues working in close partnership and collaboration with regional and sub regional organizations including, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries (WCPFC) Organization, Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Community (PC) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA); to establish cooperative arrangements to reduce IUU activities and overcome operational challenges and constraints,

“It has been estimated that up to USD 23 b is lost annually, through IUU activities on a global scale. PNG also has its share of IUU fishing activities which are confirmed by the number of breaches dealt with by NFA in any one year.

“PNG is committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG's), **UN SDG 14** covers **Life Below Water**. This goal calls for, amongst other things, targets to effectively regulate and harvest overfishing (IUU) and destructive fish stocks and ensure those fish stocks reach maximum sustainable yield.

“From an operations perspective, the day-to-day issues and constraints NFA also faces challenges in its enforcement efforts.

“These include, logistics limitations, human and technical capacity and lack of regional cooperative arrangements to facilitate effective operational platforms to launch cooperative or joint enforcement capacity. These are some areas being addressed under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA), said Mr Kasu.

He said the recent amendments to fisheries laws and regulations (2015 and 2016 respectively) were affected to reflect the seriousness of IUU with corresponding penalties.

“I hope this conference is the beginning of what will be continued dialogue towards addressing IUU fishing systematically.

“We will continue working closely with the State Legal Services including the courts so that our intended objectives to reduce, eliminate, monitor and control IUU activities is achieved,” said Kasu.

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