



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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



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NEWS RELEASE

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National Fisheries Authority Commits to Support National Food Testing and Monitoring Centre

LAE: The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the development and success of the National Food Testing and Monitoring Centre (NFTMC) at the University of Technology (UNITECH) in Lae, during a recent event marking the commissioning of the refurbished Centre.

NFA's Managing Director, Mr. Justin Ilakini in his address: expressed the Authority's dedication to ensuring the highest standards of food testing and monitoring in the country, especially in the certification of seafood for the international markets.

Mr Ilakini highlighted the pivotal role of the Centre in upholding these standards, especially in meeting the stringent requirements of the European Union (EU) canned tuna market that has since been the single biggest driver for growth of the tuna processing sector in the country.

He further stated that, in its efforts to increased its contribution to the economy, the NFA is opening up the Chinese seafood market for the small people, who mostly derive their livelihoods in the non-tuna sectors such coastal, inland and aquaculture fisheries. It is in this context that the ongoing partnership with Department of Applied Science through the NFTMC is of strategic importance in driving growth in the fisheries sector.

In line with plans to tap the productive capacities of the fisheries sector and to position PNG to take advantage of new market opportunities, Mr. Ilakini made a further commitment to refurbish the Centre's processing plant, underscoring their ongoing efforts to enhance the infrastructure and capabilities vital for the production and certification of quality seafood.

National Fisheries Authority also presented a brand-new vehicle to the Centre's laboratory, a gesture of NFA's continued commitment following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2014.

The commissioning of the National Food Testing and Monitoring Centre marked an important milestone in the collaboration, signifying a shared commitment to ensure food safety and quality within the industry.

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