



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

MEDIA STATEMENT

FFV WIN THAISHUN INCIDENT

12th July, 2024

Hon. Jelta Wong has expressed absolute disappointment in relation to the incident involving FFV Win Thaishun 707.

On the 10th July, at 2am the HMPNGS Rochus Lokinap 402 responded to a distress signal prompted by the PNG Fisheries Observer onboard the Win Thaishun. At approximately 10am, PB402 arrived on the scene and commenced pre-investigations onboard the vessel.

"I regret to confirm that the vessel Win Thaishun 707 which ran aground on the shores of Emirau Island, New Ireland Province at approximately 2am was indeed a Locally-Based-foreign fishing vessel. I can report that contrary to initial claims on social media, that Win Thaishun is a Locally-Based-Fishing Vessel and is a registered vessel with a license to fish in Papua New Guinea Waters.

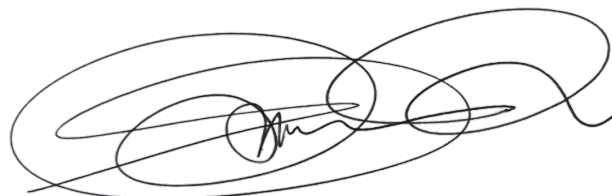
Investigations are still ongoing, and other relevant authorities such as the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) and the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) will need to conclude their own investigations before a comprehensive report is finalized.

My initial assessment however is that this incident was totally avoidable and the vessel should not have been anywhere near Emirau. I expect that the National Fisheries Authority as the regulator and the gatekeepers of our fishing grounds

leave no stone unturned in their investigations.

While I am impressed that our internal procedures allowed us to respond with our joint agency surveillance and be onboard within 8 hours of the occurrence, as a conservationist – I am absolutely devastated at the potential damage and risk the incident has caused. I expect the joint agency investigation team will undertake a thorough assessment and ascertain the impact holistically for appropriate follow up action.” Wong said.

It is expected that once the inspections onsite are concluded – the immediate salvage of the FFV Win Thaishun will be undertaken by the vessel owner and that all persons of interest will be handed over to authorities in Rabaul for further investigation. The National Fisheries Authority will then work with the vessel owner to extract catch onboard.


HON. JELTA WONG, MP
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

