



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NFA and NISIT Sign MoU to Strengthen Quality, Standards, and Market Access in PNG's Fisheries Sector

PORT MORESBY: The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and the National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology (NISIT) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking the start of a strengthened technical partnership aimed at improving national standards, compliance, and market access for Papua New Guinea's fisheries sector.

The agreement—several years in the making—formalises cooperation between the two agencies across key areas such as calibration services, laboratory accreditation, certification audits, and capacity building over the next three years.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, NFA Managing Director Justin Ilakini emphasised the importance of the long-awaited partnership.

“This collaboration has been a long time coming. With the major reforms underway at NFA, we need strong development partners. NISIT plays a critical role in measurements, standards, and certification—areas that are essential for us to meet national and international requirements.”

Mr Ilakini added that the MoU will help strengthen PNG's ability to meet growing global demands, particularly as the country expands access into major international markets.

“We will make sure everything we do is according to standard. This MoU gives us the platform to build cooperation and ensure the fisheries sector remains credible, competitive, and compliant.”

NISIT Acting Director-General Joe Panga also highlighted the significance of the partnership and the extensive efforts that led to its conclusion.

“This MoU has been a long journey, with discussions dating as far back as 2011. For NISIT, partnering with a high-profile and well-established organisation like NFA is a privilege we do not take lightly.”

He further emphasised NISIT's role in reducing technical barriers to trade and strengthening PNG's competitiveness in international markets.

"NISIT is the body responsible for addressing technical barriers to trade. If the Pacific is a Blue Continent, then tuna must be at the centre of our standards work. We stand ready to support NFA in raising the quality and credibility of PNG's seafood products."

The ceremony also recognised PNG's recent entry into the Chinese seafood market, complementing its longstanding compliance with European Union requirements.

"We want to guide our small people—our SMEs—so they understand the technical and sanitary requirements for major markets," Mr Panga said. "As these markets become more stringent, this partnership will help us meet those expectations."

"This support from NFA will go a long way. If we are prioritising fisheries requirements, this partnership allows us to ensure PNG's products meet international standards before they even reach the border."

Both organisations expressed confidence in the positive impact the collaboration will have on the fisheries sector.

"Three million kina is a good start, but the work of standards and conformance is huge," Mr Panga remarked. "With stronger collaboration, the next three years will set the foundation for long-term national quality infrastructure."

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