



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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



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NEWS RELEASE

Fisheries Minister restocks Fish into Enga Rivers

-Food security is paramount

News Release: **Thursday 1st July 2021**

The Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Member for Wabag, Hon. Dr. Lino Tom, MP, with the assistance from the National Fisheries Authority restocked 100 thousand fish fingerlings (trout) into the rivers of Enga Province today.

The idea behind restocking of fish into the river system is to provide food security for village people living in remote and on high- altitude areas.

“We are doing a pilot project now by restocking the river system of Enga with fish fingerlings and we will do the same for all the Highlands Provinces.”

“I want people to have balance in their protein and fish is good for our health so as a Minister in charge of Fisheries, I will do my best to introduce more fish into our river system, said Minister Tom.

The restocking that was carried out today was mainly trout as it breeds well in cold and on higher-altitude where no other fisher species can survive.

The fingerlings were taken from the hatchery at the Kalopa Trout Farm and transported to Enga where they were distributed and introduced into the rivers.

There were three species of trout introduced into PNG during the pre-and post-colonial time. The Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) were introduced to the Highlands in the 1960s by the Australian colony for angling purposes. Given that many of the high-altitude rivers in PNG had very low fish fauna with angling potentials, the colony introduced the trout species as a prospective species to establish its population for the colonial angling fraternities advantage.

Since 1960s there was no restocking of fish until today where the Minister and the NFA Officers lead by the Managing Director, Mr John Kasu restocked the rivers of Enga with trout.

The rivers that restocking took place today were at Maramuni, Yokonda, Pilikambi, Tsak Valley and finally in Kandep.

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