



# **National Fisheries Authority**

## **Papua New Guinea**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023

### **NFA RECONNECTS WITH PROVINCES AS A KEY VEHICLE TO DRIVE THE FISHERIES REFORM AGENDA**

Yesterday the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Hon. Jelta Wong, alongside Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Mr Justin Ilakini, signed a series of Memorandum of Understanding agreements with four provinces as a key signifying gesture towards renewing and strengthening the bond between rural provinces and the overarching work and vision of the NFA.

Hon. Jelta Wong stated “These MoUs were developed specifically to each province, as we know each province is different, but given these differences we all have one goal. And our governments goal and initiative is to ensure every province can generate revenue and self sustain themselves”.

Furthermore, MD Ilakini said “As previously stated, NFA is currently driving a complete review and reform of the fisheries sector. As we push forward towards impactful transformation, it is essential we must take the whole country with us, no province or people left behind.

The MOUs are our key mechanism for service delivery to the provinces. Therefore, reviewing and strengthening relations with our provinces is essential to building the momentum of our reforms to ensure meaningful impact at all levels”.

The attending Governors and Provinces involved were:

Hon. Governor Charlie Benjamin, Manus Province;  
Hon. Governor Taboi Awi Yoto, Western Province;  
Hon. Governor Noah Kool, Chimbu Province;  
Hon. Governor Philip Undialu, Hela Province.

In addition, aside from coastal fisheries development and management, the NFA is also reshaping and giving more attention and effort to Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries development initiatives.

When speaking to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture development, Hon. Jelta Wong stated that these MOUs will not only ensure food security for the people, but

furthermore seek to enhance and ensure the sustainability of the commercial aspect of the fisheries reforms currently taking place.

“We don’t realise we hold the waters in Papua New Guinea that can breed and sustain species of fish like Trout and Salmon, of which are very high value commodities within the world that people regularly consume” Hon. Wong said.

“We must find ways to balance out the benefits, both socially and economically for our coastal and inland communities. This will come in the form of projects and initiatives with peoples livelihoods at the core focus, driven at the grassroot level”.

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