



# Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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## Pokajam Heads NFA as Acting MD and Hon. Ben Semri comes in as New Minister



• Fisheries Minister, Hon. Ben Semri addressing the NFA Management & Staff.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam has been appointed Acting Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority after the suspension of the Managing Director, Mr Molean Chapau by the National Executive Council in March this year.

Mr Pokajam was the Authority's Deputy Managing Director at the time of his appointment. He is from East Sepik Province and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy and a Post-graduate Diploma in Financial Management. Prior to joining the NFA he was Financial Controller for 10 years with the Rothmans of Pall Mall. He joined the NFA in March 2002 and had acted in the Managing Director's post on several occasions.

Meanwhile, on the ministerial level, the NFA also has a new Minister, he is Hon. Ben Semri, Member for Middle Ramu Electorate in Madang Province. Hon. Ben Semri replaces Hon. Alois King. He was appointment Minister for Fisheries on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

Minister Semri immediately took time out after his appointment as Minister on 21 May 2004 for an orientation to the National Fisheries Authority office located on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of Deloitte Tower, Downtown, Port Moresby. He met with the Chairman of the National Fisheries Board, Mr Bamake Rumbam, Acting Managing Director,

Mr Sylvester Pokajam and the staff of the Authority. Each divisional manager and fisheries managers had the opportunity to meet the Minister and briefly explained their roles within the Authority. In his address to the staff, he said, "I believe in you all of being highly qualified professionals in your own right and that you have been trying your best for this Authority, the fisheries sector and the small fishermen and women in this country. I will ask that you be accountable for all your actions and always respect the good name of this Authority."

Mr Pokajam was pleased that the Minister had the time to meet the staff of the NFA. "The National Fisheries Authority as you know, manages the fisheries resources of Papua New Guinea, comprised of six divisions based here and the seventh and the largest is the National Fisheries College in Kavieng, New Ireland Province. We congratulate and welcome you as our new Minister for Fisheries. On behalf of the Fisheries Board, Executive Management and staff of the NFA, I welcome you as Fisheries Minister and we look forward to working with you and your staff for the betterment of the fisheries sector and development of Papua New Guinea." Mr Pokajam said.

## From the Managing Director's Desk

A number of key appointments and changes took place during the May/June period. At ministerial level the Government announced the appointment of Member for Middle Ramu, Hon. Ben Semri as Fisheries Minister in place of former Minister Hon. Alois Kingsley. I have also been appointed as the NFA Acting Managing Director while the incumbent Mr Molean Chapau is suspended from duties.

With the support of the Government, stakeholders and the NFA staff I look forward to serving NFA and the fisheries sector in my capacity as Acting Managing Director. We have been assured of the new Minister's support and so look forward to working with him and doing our best for the continuing development of the fisheries sector.

On the 19th of June the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory and Straddling Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (Tuna Convention) came into force. PNG together with the other 13 Pacific Island State including Australia and New Zealand have ratified this Convention. As a coastal state that is developing its fishing and fish processing capacity, PNG has real interest in the work of the WCP Tuna Commission to ensure that its sovereign rights to develop its fish processing capacity is recognised and protected.

The change in the Palau Arrangement, a sub-regional tuna management tool from control of purse seine fishing effort based on vessel numbers to vessel days under the Vessel Day Scheme, is an important change that needs careful attention. This together with other matters relating to the management and development of the tuna fishery such as the

possible introduction of Philippines style pump boat fishing will be discussed during a Tuna Consultative Meeting in August.

The NFA will continue to support the development of the domestic based fishing industry and will ensure that the industry's sustainable growth is not unnecessarily hindered by regional and multilateral arrangements.

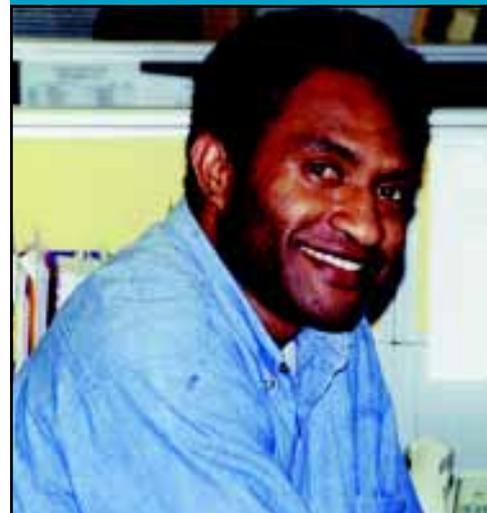
On the local front, the NFA will continue the process of entering into Memorandum of Agreement with coastal provinces. The next five provinces are Bougainville, New Ireland, Gulf, Western and Sandaun. The implementation guidelines for the MOA are also being drafted and consultants will be held with Provinces prior to their acceptance. The major aim of the MOA is to formalise and strengthen NFA's working relationship with the Provinces and to assist in developing the capacity for the provincial fisheries divisions.

We introduced a special insert on the fishing industry entitled "Hooks and Baits" that is focused on developments and profiles of fishing companies.

Finally, the next six months will be challenging for NFA as we prepare for the new tuna management regimes in the region, completion of signing of MOA with each of the fourteen coastal provinces. It will also be a time of reflection and assessment of NFA as we look forward to celebrating the four years of establishment as a Statutory Authority.

SYLVESTER POKAJAM  
Acting Managing Director

## Staff Profile



Name: **Justin Ilakini**  
Age: **29**  
Marital Status: **Married**  
Qualification: **Bachelors Degree in Commerce (Business Economics)**  
Current Position: **Industry Liaison Officer**

Mr Ilakini comes from a mix parentage of Eastern Highlands and Central Provinces.

He graduated from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology in 1999 and landed his first job as an Assistant Business Consultant with Karfu Holdings, a landowner resource company in Wewak, East Sepik Province.

The following year, he left Karfu Holdings and joined the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority (PNGIPA) in Port Moresby as the Marketing/Export Development Officer. He worked for two years within the Investment and Export Promotion Division of IPA from 2000 to 2002. Within the same year of 2002, he left IPA and again moved to the Tourism Industry Association. This time, he was employed as Executive Officer reporting to the Interim Board of the PNG Tourism Industry Association.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2003, Mr Ilakini joined the National Fisheries Authority as Industry Liaison Officer. His job involves working and liaising closely with the fishing industries and relevant government organisations both locally and overseas in ensuring that fisheries projects are sustainable. He is also involved in the negotiation of fishing access arrangements with the Distant Water Fishing Nations. Within his course of duty, he tries to maintain and encourages healthy working relationship between the industry, government and international stakeholders.

He finds his job very challenging each day as he focuses his attention in assisting and facilitating the industry achieve their goals. This he sees as very important because when the industry improves and moves forward, it creates employment and development, and that is achievement for the industry and development for Papua New Guinea.

"There are two words that describe my experience so far in working with PIL and NFA as whole. They are competence and compatibility. The NFA boost very competent staff that put demand on ones potential to perform. There is never a dull day and the environment is such that one will need to change and adjust in order to be compatible to continual change affecting government policies, regional arrangements and global business. In short if you want to sharpen your competence and enhance your competitiveness, ..... NFA is the place to be." Mr Ilakini said.

## Minister Semri Announces Increased Economic Co-operation Between PNG and Thailand

Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Ben Semri has welcomed increased economic co-operation between Papua New Guinea and Thailand, especially in the fisheries and agriculture sectors.

The Minister said this, while welcoming the Thailand's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan and his delegation at Parliament House on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

Mr Semri said, PNG has already established strong links with Thailand because it buys a lot of tuna produce from PNG and PNG would like to build on that.

"PNG would welcome more training of Papua New

Guineans by Thailand experts and vice-versa, in both sea and freshwater fishing techniques on top of what they are already doing for rice and agriculture developments in Morobe Province," Mr Semri said.

The Minister thanked Dr. Kasemsuvan for his country's ongoing interest to invest in PNG, stressing that the interest would hopefully grow from strength to strength in the years ahead.

The delegation also met with the senior officials of the National Fisheries Authority to discuss areas of interests and opportunity for investment.

## Fish Companies Participate in European Seafood Show

Nine Papua New Guinea fishing and fish processing companies have for the first time participated in an annual European Seafood Exposition in Brussels, Belgium.

The exposition was held from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2004. It was first staged in 1993 and this year is its twelfth year. The show is held annually at the Brussels Exhibition Centre. Exhibitors to the show came from more than 65 countries of the world, including Papua New Guinea.

According, Mr Justin Ilakini, National Fisheries Authority's Industry Liaison Officer, the participating PNG companies were: Ailan Seafood Ltd, Equatorial Marine Resources Ltd, Delta Seafood Ltd, Latitude 8 Limited, Sengus Investment Ltd, Perma Industries Ltd, PNG Fresh Tuna and RD Tuna Cannery. "It was a learning opportunity for our companies to see for themselves ways to improve their processing facilities. It was also an opportunity for them to talk to people on how to deal with some of their business problems. We had a problem at the exposition, where the companies' product samples did not arrive in Brussels for the display, however, that did not stop potential buyers from all over the world to make contact and enquire about the companies' products. They were able to generate leads for follow-ups and make sales at the PNG stall. Orders were made for fresh and frozen loins, canned tinned fish, sashimi grade tuna, prawns/shrimps, squid, lobster and crabs" Mr Ilakini said.

He said the companies have established contacts with overseas importers and will be exporting their products soon. The PNG companies will have to fix up some problems of processing and packaging to meet EU accreditation standards. The National Fisheries will continue to work with these companies and assist them.

PNG's participation in the exposition was co-funded by the European Union Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project, National Fisheries Authority, the INFOFISH and the Centre for the Development of Enterprises (CDE).

## Fisheries College AusAID Project Ends

The National Fisheries College Strengthening Project in Kavieng under AusAID funding has come to end.

The Project ended with the departure of Program Leader, Mr Hugh Walton from the Fisheries College after five years and five months of working under an K18 million worth of AusAID funded project.

The project came about as the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources received a major over-haul, which also called for the revitalization of the College.

The project through the strengthening process achieved the following:

- K9 million worth of infrastructure development, including the most modern fish processing facility in the country;
- K5 million on technical development; and
- K3 million worth of AusAID fisheries college courses' fees for students

(The students receiving training at the College had their fees paid for by the AusAID, which will end at the end of this year).

The AusAID Project impacted the College in a number of ways:

1. Reorientation of the training delivered at the College from a cadet type to a more competency-based training, targeting the industry, with a modular type approach.
2. College courses and training are now targeted towards commercial fishing operations and post-harvest fishing operations.
3. The AusAID Project has assisted the development of the Fisheries Officers Diploma Program to be offered at the College.
4. With the assistance of the project, the College is now in a better position to be able to deliver training in fisheries eco-development tourism using environmentally friendly fisheries management training

Mr Hugh Walton arrived in Papua New Guinea in February 1999 as a consultant on the AusAID Fisheries Funded Project to the country. In recognition of Mr Walton's contribution to the development of New Ireland Province and as leader of this AusAID Project, the people of particularly, Central New Ireland have thanked him for his immense contributions by formally according him a traditional chieftain identity in their society.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Acting Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority said the assistance from AusAID has greatly improved the image of the College and is one of the best run institution in practically providing fishing course relevant to the industry. The Board, Management and the Fisheries Minister wish to take this opportunity to thank AusAID for their generosity and kind contribution.

## Ailan Seafood Limited To Lease NFA Fish Plant



• NFA Board Chairman, Mr Rumbam and Mr Mangels signing the lease documents, witnessed by the NFA Acting Managing Director and Board Members

Ailan Seafood Limited, a local fishing company based in Kavieng has been awarded a contract by the National Fisheries Authority to lease the seafood processing plant in Kavieng, New Ireland Province.

The signing of the lease agreement was made on 15 June 2004 between Mr Reinhard Mangels, Managing Director of Ailan Seafoods Limited and the Chairman of the National Fisheries Board, Mr Bamake Rumbam on behalf of the NFA. The ceremony was witnessed by the Acting Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Mr Sylvester Pokajam and senior officials of NFA, Mr Peter Cusack of the Asian Development Bank/Gillette Preston and Associates Incorporation. The award was made after a thorough tendering process and is for a five-year lease, which maybe renewed for another five years on the date of signing.

Ailan Seafoods Limited is a local company in Kavieng, which deals with the buying of tuna and other seafood products, namely; deepwater fish, reef fish, lobster and crab from the local fishermen, and then exports them in frozen form to US, European and Japanese markets.

During the signing ceremony, Mr Mangels thanked the National Fisheries Authority for awarding the lease of the processing plant to his company and assured the NFA that they will do their best to help the local people. "We will help the local people by buying their fresh fish and processing them for sale both locally and overseas. The processing plant will be processing five tonnes of tuna loins per day to export to European markets and will also be treating and processing other fish, crab and lobster into frozen products for export to overseas markets." He said. Ailan Seafoods Limited will also be providing fish processing and packaging services to other fishing companies in New Ireland Province.

Part of the building, which accommodates the processing plant will be used by the National Fisheries College as a teaching laboratory for intakes from the fishing industry to learn processing techniques and procedures.

The seafood processing plant and the training facility was built at a cost of K4.8 million by AusAID as part of its National Fisheries College Strengthening Project, which aims to strengthen the National Fisheries College capacity in providing quality training in handling and processing of seafood products.

The seafood processing plant is built adjacent to the recently constructed National Fisheries wharf under ADB funding and within close proximity to the site of the proposed seafood market to be built under EU funding. It was officially opened by the Governor of New Ireland Province, Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey on 21 November 2003.



• Governor Ian Ling-Stuckey inspecting fish in ice-filled containers inside the newly completed fish processing plant, accompanied by Mr Morris Brownjohn, President of the Fishing Industry Association, Mr Hugh Walton of the AusAID Strengthening Project, Mr Moelan Chapau, then Managing Director of NFA and Mr Rumbam, NFA Board Chairman.

This photo was taken during the official opening of the plant in Nov, 2003.

## Officers Manieva and Teno Leave NFA



• Mr Barnabas farewelling Mr Manieva (left) and Mr Teno (right) with a gift each from the National Fisheries Authority as token of appreciation for their services.

Two officers of the Provincial and Industry Liaison (PIL) Group have left the National Fisheries Authority.

They are Mr Jonathan Manieva and Mr Oliver Teno. Mr Manieva was the Industry Liaison Coordinator and Mr Teno, Provincial Liaison Officer.

Mr Manieva has joined the South Seas Tuna Corporation as Operations Manager, whilst Mr Teno takes on the job of Projects Coordinator with the European Union in Madang.

At a small reception to farewell them, PIL Manager, Mr Norman Barnabas thanked them for their services to NFA and wished them well in their careers. "I thank you for your contributions to NFA and the fisheries sector and am glad that where you are going is still part of the fisheries circle in your new roles." Mr Barnabas said.

Messrs Manieva and Teno in their time with NFA have worked with Mr Ronald Kuk, NFA Project Manager. He bid them farewell with these words, "You have learnt a lot here with what goes on within the fisheries sector and with those experiences, I hope we will be working together to move the fisheries sector forward."

## New Ireland Recognises Walton's Services

The National Fisheries College in Kavieng and the people of New Ireland Province have recognised the services of an AusAID worker to their local communities and the New Ireland Province as a whole.

Mr Hugh Walton arrived in Papua New Guinea in February 1999 as a consultant on the AusAID Fisheries Funded Project to the country. The project was the strengthening of the National Fisheries College in Kavieng, New Ireland Province.

The project came about as the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources received a major over-haul, which also called for the revitalization of the College.

The National Fisheries College Strengthening Project under the AusAID fisheries funded project to PNG formally ended on the 30th of April 2004.

In recognition of Mr Walton's contribution and as leader of this AusAID Project, the people of particularly, Central New Ireland have thanked him for his immense contributions by formally according him a traditional chieftain identity in their society.

He was inducted into the chieftain (mimai) society of the Central New Ireland Area on Saturday, 8th April 2004. He was initiated into the Pakila Clan by clan leader, Mr Pius Laponga of the Notsi tribe of Central New Ireland.

The process of making him a chief starts with the induction process. To start this process, he was dressed traditionally and was seated on a low seat and was accorded all the necessary customs attributed to attaining the mimai status. He was then given a misz to wear, (a type of necklace) and then a bigger necklace called a kukute to wear around his neck. The 'kukute' is similar to a certificate of authority. During the same ceremony Mr Roboam Paka, Acting Principal of the National Fisheries College was also prepared for leadership in the clan. Mr Paka also belonged to the Pakila clan.

The ceremony was supposed to have happened in a men house called a 'anuen kulau', however, with the authority of the clan leader, it was performed outside for the public to witness. Mr Walton will undergo the next part of the chieftaincy process in December next year.



• Mr Walton being placed the misz around his neck.

## Audit Officers Get Thermal Processing Training

Two Audit and Certification Officers have received two-weeks thermal processing training at the International Food Cooperation (IFC) in Lae, Morobe Province.

The training was held from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2004. It was a practical hands on training to complement the two previous trainings on thermal processing received in New Zealand and USA in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Messrs Alois Kinol and Timothy Numilengi are Audit and Certification Officers. Mr Valina Roga, Information Technology Officer also participated in the training on the use of the computer softer involved. They underwent specialised training in thermal processing to test for heat application to canned fish in the cooking chamber, called retort. Retorting is the last process that the canned fish go through then cooled off and packed for markets. The officers explained that at this point of production, it is critically important that the right cooking process of applying heat is carried out to achieve product sterility. "The canned fish must be cooked at the right temperature, it should not be under-cooked or over-cooked because if that happens, commercial sterility may not be achieved, which would result in the creation of deadly toxins called botulism in the canned fish, which would be fatal when consumed.

During the thermal processing training, test considerations were also done for the product specifications, such as; size of can, maximum fill weight of can, maximum net weight of can and the processing temperature of the can.

The training was done by two Thermal Processing Specialists from the Thailand National Food Institute, Mrs Sukanya Chanlaunge, Manager, Research & Development Division, and Mr Sorose Ketsarin, Thermal Process Specialist. "We are very happy to be here in Papua New Guinea to impart the knowledge that we have to the officers of the National Fisheries Authority." They said.

Currently, IFC and RD Tuna Cannery do their own heating thermal process schedule checks without it being verified by NFA because NFA does not have the technology

and expertise to do it. However, up until last year, the NFA purchased a Thermal Processing Tester, which the officers are being trained on how to use it.

The officers said that IFC has improved a lot in terms of hygiene. "The IFC production area is kept smell free and clean after a day's work and generally the environment in and around the factory is hygienically satisfactory." They said. Within the next couple of months, the officers would have acquired the skills and will be conducting heating temperature checks at the two canneries, IFC, Lae and RD Tuna Cannery, Madang.

The training was co-funded by the NFA and Thailand Government. The NFA would like to thank the IFC for using its facilities in this training.



• The cooking chamber (retort) used by the Officers in their training.



• Mr Alois Kinol taking a reading of the temperatures on a laptop.