



Fishing Line



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PNG to become World Tuna Capital: Hon. Ben Semri



• From L-R Fisheries Minister Hon. Ben Semri, Hon. Gabriel Kapris Department of Commerce and Industry Minister, Hon. Arnold Amet, Governor of Madang, Deputy Prime Minister Puka Temu and the members of parties and invited dignitaries. Photo Steven Poning

The Government of Papua New Guinea has set the vision for PNG to become the Tuna capital in the world once the proposed Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ) project is kicked off. This was the bold message from the Fisheries Minister, Hon Ben Semri during the ground breaking ceremony for PMIZ which was held in Madang on 19 June 2009.

"Pacific Marine Industrial Zone is a multi-billion kina project that will boost our economy which is one of the testimonies of the current government's economic policy initiative to promote downstream processing and value adding of our tuna resources and also food security for our people", Mr Semri said. It is envisaged that the project will provide between 30,000 - 40,000 direct employment and over 100, 000 indirect employment in spin-off benefits.

Minister Semri said Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) member countries contribute 30% of the total Western and Central Pacific Ocean catch, which PNG alone contributes 10% of the Global tuna catch. Most of these rich tuna stocks are not value-added and economic benefits are not maximized in the PNA member countries. The global tuna trade is valued around US\$ 6 billion where PNA members only receives about 6% of the value through access fees while most of the economic benefits are realized offshore through international tuna brokers, traders and processors.

He said PNG is taking a leading role in developing its fisheries sector through the National Fisheries Authority. "We have secured the support of the PNA members to establish this as a regional institution to ensure that fish caught in

From the Managing Director's Desk

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this fishing line news for the month of July-August. We have done so many things within these months.

One of the most significant event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PNG/NFA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Republic of Philippines for the implementation of fisheries cooperation projects and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) monitoring in both countries.

There was an official ground breaking ceremony for the Pacific Marine Industrial Park in Madang. The Government of Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority and Department of Commerce and Industry has set the vision for PNG to become the Tuna capital in the world once the proposed Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ) project is kicked off.

The Pacific Marine Industrial Zone is a multi-billion kina project that will boost our economy which is one of the testimonies of the current government's economic policy initiative to promote downstream processing and value adding of our tuna resources and also food security for our people.

And as such we also had an advanced training for the fishing industry and NFA ACU Officers. This training is an

ongoing capacity training in the area of sanitary and phyto-Sanitary (SPS). It is important because the global trend of marketing is changing. Since our fisheries products enter EU market duty free, PNG must comply with the EU regulations in terms of food and safety. The training was conducted by an EU resource personnel.

We have also launched the construction of the new Wewak fish market and jetty. This has taken a while but we have eventually launched the biggest fisheries project through the Japanese Government. Construction is under way and the facilities should be ready by next year according to schedule.

National Fisheries Authority also committed K50, 000 for the refurbishment of a very significant district fisheries office in the Finschafen district, Morobe Province. It was officially launched on 28 August 2009. This initiative was to provide conducive working environment and assist officers work closely with artisanal and small scale fisheries in the district.

NFA is embarking on supporting artisanal fisheries and aquaculture developments in Papua New Guinea and has injected K50 million through the Project Development Fund (PDF), in which the highlands region is the first to enjoy this assistance.

Sylvester Pokajam
Managing Director

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the Party waters or in the Central and Western Pacific waters be off-loaded in Vidar, Madang province for downstream processing and value adding.'

He said fisheries sector continuously boosts PNG's economy as more fisheries investors come into Papua New Guinea. PNG through the National Fisheries Authority has put in place good fisheries management plans and has attracted lot of foreign investor.

He further said that NFA will step up its observer program to ensure that our fisheries and marine resources are harvested sustainably, particularly, with respect to over-fishing of tuna stocks especially, Bigeye and Yellowfin tuna.

"NFA will step up its Observer Programme and I want to warn companies that the government will not tolerate unsustainable fishing practices that has led to the demise of tuna fishing

grounds in other parts of the world. The NFA will be vigilant in ensuring Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is stopped in our waters. We will ensure that vessels blacklisted on the WCPFC IUU list do not fish in our waters.

NFA will utilize its upgraded Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) which is the best in the region to curb IUU fishing in our waters. We will work closely with the PNG Defense Force to launch targeted surveillance patrols at our key sea borders where much of the reported IUU fishing takes place" Minister Semri said.

Minister Semri further called on the government to purchase a State of the Art Surveillance aircraft to provide up to date surveillance activities around PNG waters especially the 200 miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Public Notice

THREE-YEAR CLOSURE FOR BECHE-DE-MER FISHERY

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) wishes to advise all LICENSED Beche-de-mer (BDM) operators and the general public throughout all Maritime Provinces in Papua New Guinea (PNG) that the National Fisheries Board in its regular meeting No. 2 held in Kavieng, New Ireland Province on 12th June 2009, has endorsed a three-year closure nationwide for the Beche-de-mer fishery effective as of 1st October 2009 for conservation and management purposes. The Board decision and the action taken is in compliance with provisions under the current National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan 2003 Sect (7) (e) (viii).

All Beche-de-mer license will automatically be suspended for the duration of the three-year closer. NFA in its effort to maintain sustainability of the Beche-de-mer fishery will be implementing this three-year closure. Take note of this notice and ensure preparations are underway to cease all beche-de-mer fishing operations by the set date.

All beche-de-mer operators in all provinces are advised to declare to NFA and Provincial Fisheries Office the quantity of their products kept in storage by close of business on Thursday 1st October 2009. Non-compliance will be penalized.

You are also advised that NFA will be conducting awareness/educational meetings in Maritime Provinces to further elaborate on the rationale behind the closure as well as other related and relevant information. Concerns and questions can be raised in these meeting. A tentative programme outlining port visits will be advertised at a later date. Whilst the nationwide closure will commence on 1st October 2009, all provinces who have reached their TAC before the 1st October 2009 will however have all Beche-de-mer operations closed as of when the TAC has been reached.

All queries regarding the above should be directed to Mrs. Luanah Koren Yaman (Manager - Sedentary Fisheries) or Mr. Augustine. Mobiha (Executive Manager - Fisheries Management) on ph: 309 0444, fax: 320 2061, email: lyaman@fisheries.gov.pg/amobiha@fisheries.gov.pg

Authorised by:

Sylvester Pokajam
Managing Director

NFA Receives Overwhelming Support for Tuna Conference



- Mr. Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of NFA thanking some sponsors of the Pacific Tuna Forum.

National Fisheries Authority has received overwhelming support through major sponsorships towards hosting of the second Regional Tuna Industry and Trade Conference in Port Moresby this year. Papua New Guinea fisheries sector through the National Fisheries Authority will be hosting this conference from 2-3 September 2009.

This will be the second Tuna Conference to be held in Papua New Guinea and is being supported by various stakeholders, from the government, the fishing industry, and the corporate sector. This conference is jointly organized by INFOFISH of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and PNG National Fisheries Authority together with regional organizations such as Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

NFA received sponsorships in three major categories especially Gold, Silver and Bronze. The Gold Sponsor companies supported the event with K30, 000 and they are namely;

- RD Tuna Cannery and RD Fishing (PNG) Ltd,
- PNG Fishing Industry Association.
- Frabelle (PNG) Ltd
- Fair Well Fishery (PNG) Ltd

While South Seas Tuna Corporation Ltd and ANZ Bank supported the event with K10, 000 each for the Silver category. Pacific Blue Sea Fishing Ltd and Neptune Fishery Co. Ltd who have sponsored the event with their support of K5, 000 each for the Bronze category. Other support also came from business houses, such as Getaway Travel Ltd, Avis Renter Car Ltd, and Vanguard International with K2500.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority thanked all sponsors for supporting this conference. "This conference wouldn't become successful without your support", He said.

Beche-de-mer Fishery to Close for Three Years



- A resource owner making a point during the awareness exercise in Alotau.

Initial meetings and discussions to make people aware of the closure of the Beche-de-mer Fishery has commenced in Alotau, Milne Bay Province.

Head Scientist and Executive Manager of Fisheries Management Group, Mr Augustine Mobiha led an NFA team to Alotau during the last week of July to explain to resource owners, industry participants, relevant stakeholders and general public on the rationale and objective behind the three-year closure of the fishery.

This awareness program came about after a recent Fisheries Board decision was reached to close the fishery for three years, effective 1st October 2009 or when a maritime province has reached its total allowable catch (TAC) for this year, 2009. The closure resulted from continuous Beche-de-mer fishery monitoring and independent surveys undertaken by NFA and other implementing partners. The results revealed that there is localized depletion of beche-de-mer population, where large parts of fishing area for collection of certain species have been completely overfished; there is a serious downward trend on sizes of beche-de-mer; and a reduction in population size by 80 percent for nearly all species harvested over the last five years. This could have a serious impact on the successful completion of the reproductive cycle on all Beche-de-mer species, including their respective ecological systems.

Therefore the Fisheries Board was advised that without taking serious decision, Beche-de-mer fishery would collapse completely and it would take more than years to recover. The National Fisheries Authority in all its effort to maintain sustainability of the Beche-de-mer Fishery will be implementing this three-year closure.

This is the first time in the history of Beche-de-mer Fishery in Papua New Guinea to have a three-year closure, therefore, NFA has engaged the services of the National Broadcasting Commission, Kundu2 TV Station to record and produce a documentary on the closure awareness exercise.

PNG/NFA Signs MOU on Fisheries Cooperation with Philippines



- (L-R) Mr. Pokajam and Mr. Yap signing the MOU in Port Moresby witnessed by (standing at back) Mr Augusto Nativida, Managing Director of Frabelle Png Fishing Corporation, Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries, H.E. Shirley Ho-Vicario, Philippines Ambassador to Philippines.

The National Fisheries Authority has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Republic of Philippines for the implementation of fisheries cooperation projects and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) monitoring in both countries.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority said at the signing in July in Port Moresby that the signing actually gives effect to the bigger MOU that was signed by Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries and the Philippines Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Arthur Yap in Philippines on 30th March 2009, which was witnessed by the Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare and the Philippines President.

He said the signing paves the way for the formal arrangements to be implemented in the areas of fisheries cooperation covered in the MOU, such as; aquaculture development, fish-milling, sea caging, fish terraces in the highlands, post harvest training, market access (particularly EU market) and competency based skills training for our local fishermen and general fish processing and packaging processes.

"This is a formal arrangement to recognize what we already have and what are yet to do, particularly in aquaculture because it is the next important fishery in the Philippines and we in PNG will be moving into that soon.

"The NFA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Philippines are both EU Accredited and Competent Authorities which give both countries the leverage and mandate to eliminate problems and create harmonious relationship, especially the EU market. More importantly, as the EC Regulation No.1005/2008 on IUU Fishing will come into force on 1st January 2010. This MOU is the first important step taken which makes us the first in the world" Mr Pokajam said.

Mr Malcolm Sarmiento Jr. Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said, "This MOU signing marks new chapter in fisheries cooperation between Papua New Guinea and Philippines where we will assist each other in areas where we lack competencies, one most critical area would be to work cooperatively in terms of meeting competencies and regulations set by the EU market."

NFA Boosts Aquaculture Development in Highlands



- (From L-R) Ms Wararu presenting the K45, 000 cheque to Mr Kunda who received it on behalf of Highlands Fish Market Project while Mr Chris Martin, local fish farmer looks on.

The National Fisheries Authority has stepped up support in the highlands for the development of aquaculture and inland fish farming activities. This was made known when NFA funded a project, Highlands Fish Market Project in the Chimbu Province worth K45, 000.

NFA has made available K1.5 million to support aquaculture and mari- culture projects in PNG and Chimbu Province is one of the provinces that was considered to be funded under this scheme.

Speaking on behalf of Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority, Ms Welete Wararu, Executive Manager for Provincial Support and Industry Development said that NFA will continue to support hard working fish farmers. "Tilapia/trout is another brown coffee, if you look after it, you will generate revenue for your survival," Ms Wararu said.

She said during the cheque presentation that last year a quarter of a million was given to highlands region basically to support aquaculture projects and this year the amount has increased to K1.5 million. Inland fish farming is quite sophisticated to establish given the geographical barriers but the highland people are so keen to culture inland fish species and NFA is doing its best to support them with funding.

Ms Wararu and Mr Joe Kunda, Chimbu Provincial Administrator proposed to sign an MOA between NFA and Chimbu Provincial Government so that aquaculture projects can be coordinated through this MOA. This MOA will be significant as there are more than 50,000 fish farmers in the highlands and this MOA will support local fish farmers. According to Ms Wararu, Mr Pokajam has further increased K150, 000 to Chimbu fish farmers and called on the Provincial Government to sign the MOA before end of this year.

Mr Kunda thanked NFA for its support to Chimbu Province and is looking forward to signing the MOU for the development of aquaculture in the province. He said the provincial government has go some plans for the development of aquaculture in the province and this funding will go along way to start up things in the province.