



Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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Fisheries Minister presents VMS in FAO Meeting



• Hon. Ben Semri taking notes during the FAO meeting and immediately behind him are NFA officials who accompanied him to the meeting (left) Mr Augustine Mubiha, Fisheries Management Advisor and Mr Noan Pakop, Monitoring Control & Surveillance Manager (right).

The National Fisheries Authority has in its establishment an efficient Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in place to monitor fishing vessels in Papua New Guinea.

Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries presented the PNG VMS during the 26th Food and Agriculture Organisation, Ministerial Committee Meeting on Fisheries in Rome.

He said by working together with other countries in the region, and through the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Papua New Guinea has developed management, and monitoring control and surveillance arrangements for our respective fisheries.

"In our efforts to enhance Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures, the FFA members established in 1998, a regional Vessel Monitoring System administered centrally by the FFA Secretariat. No foreign fishing vessel can be licensed by a Forum

Fisheries Agency member unless it is installed with a transponder that allows it to be tracked by the FFA Vessel Monitoring System.

"The FFA VMS is not operating in isolation. It is implemented alongside other MCS mechanisms that have been developed by the FFA members, which take into account the special characteristics of the region and its constraints. The procedures that were developed combine legal and technical elements that are applied either nationally or regionally in cooperation with other island States." These include:

- Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions for Foreign Fishing Access
- FFA Coordinated Observer Programmes
- Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement Treaty; and
- Coordinated Aerial Surveillance

From the Managing Director's Desk

The months of March and April saw some fulfilling gestures, with the Minister for Fisheries and top management of NFA representing Papua New Guinea at the 26th Food and Agriculture Organisation Committee on Fisheries Ministerial Meeting in Rome. The Minister gave a keynote address on behalf of the Pacific Countries on the Vessel Monitoring System.

Like all government departments, the National Fisheries Authority has submitted its Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) to the National Government for inclusion in the overall National Government's MTDS. All sectors have been urged by the Government to achieve 5% economic growth in 2005. NFA will continue to work with the provinces so that they all participate meaningfully in the development of resources. NFA has signed several MOAs with the maritime provinces and five more province of East and West New Britain, New Ireland, Manus and Western Province have yet to sign an MOA.

Staff are working tirelessly with the private sector to make things happen. Developments are taking place in onshore development, especially processing facilities. Arrangements are continuing for the second loining and

canning plant in Wewak, another loining and canning plant in East New Britain. The RD Tuna Canners and Frabelle Fishing companies will be expanding their operations this year. Construction work on the Frabelle facility is still underway, which will hopefully be completed by August this year.

We would also be reviewing the proposed Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) with the fishing industry next month, with FFA as facilitator of the consultation process. The VDS will be effective in June this year and will go on a trial basis for 18 months. This consultation processing is important because the scheme will change the landscape of purse seine fishing in the region.

Internally, we have reviewed the NFA Corporate Plan for the next three years. It will reflect NFA programmes from 2005 to 2007. This revised Plan stems from 2002 to 2004. It will be finalised and published soon.

SYLVESTER POKAJAM
Acting Managing Director

Minister Presents VMS in FAO Meeting

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Sharing the Papua New Guinea experience to the high-level ministerial meeting, Minister Semri said, "Papua New Guinea has also developed a well established MCS framework that encompasses the initiatives developed at the regional level.

"One of these is a National Vessel Monitoring System that was mainly established to monitor the operations of domestic vessels, particularly in the tuna longline fishery and

the prawn fishery. The VMS is based at the National Fisheries Authority, the country's institution that is empowered to ensure the sustainable management of the fish and fishery resources of PNG.

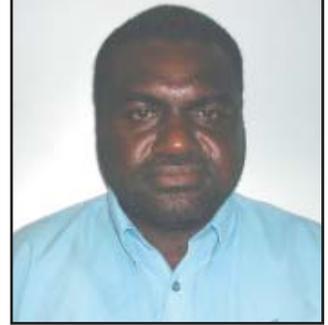
"This has enabled PNG to better control the operations of the vessels particularly in terms of fishing within the 3 mile area which is restricted to only artisan or traditional local communities." He said.



● NFA Surveillance Officers monitoring the computers are the Control Room, NFA office, Deloitte Tower, Port Moresby.

From front to back: Mr David Karis, Mr Stephen Bionde and Mr Giza Komangin.

Staff Profile



Name: Gisa Komangin
Age: 40
Marital Status: Married with four children
Qualification: Certificate in Tropical Fisheries (NFC) Bachelor of Fisheries Administration (Australian Maritime College, Tasmania)
Current Position: Acting Observer Manager.

Mr Komangin comes from Lemankoa village, Bougainville, North Solomons Province. He grew up on Bougainville and attended Lemankoa Primary School and Hutjena High School. After grade 10 in 1981, he applied to do fisheries training course at the National Fisheries College, known at that time as Kavieng Fisheries College from 1982 to 1983 and graduated with Certificate in Tropical Fisheries and also won an award in Fishing Gear Technology.

His first job was with New Guinea Marine Products as a trainee officer on board the Prawn Trawler on 4th June 1984. He was promoted the next year to First Officer on board the vessel and in charge of quality control, data collection, net construction and mending, catch records, radio logs and basically assisting the captain with his duties.

On November 6th 1989, he applied for a position with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Inspection and Surveillance Branch and worked as surveillance officer.

Since 1990, he has taken on the role of lead investigator into several foreign and domestic fishing vessels that breach licensing conditions of fishing. Mr Komangin said, working in this capacity from 1990 until the current acting appointment was not an easy task. "My area of enforcement duties commands trust, honesty and respect. It involves mostly coordinating joint patrols with the Maritime Element of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, carrying out investigations, preparing court files and attending court cases. Our lives and that of our families are constantly under threat. I have to remind my wife and children to be extra cautious when moving around whenever I'm handling a bigger case." He said. Mr Komangin's job since 1990 has landed the State millions of kina through court fines.

In 1999, he applied to the Australian Maritime College (AMC) and through NFA sponsorship and AusAID scholarship, he left for Australia to study Bachelor of Administration in Marine Resources for three and a half years. He graduated in 2003 and returned to NFA and continued working as surveillance officer, operations. Mr Komangin also received an award from the AMC on Fisheries and the Community.

He was appointed Acting Observer Manager on 20th December 2004, this job involves overseeing and coordinating the Observer Program that mostly deals with placement of observers on board fishing vessels and dealing with observer disciplinary matters.

NFA and ESPG Signs MOA



● Mr Barake Rumbam, National Fisheries Board Chairman and Deputy Governor of East Sepik, Mr Moses Burr (centre) shaking hands and exchanging the signed MOAs, while the NFA Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam and ESP Administrator, Mr Pantson Yaninen look on.

The National Fisheries Authority has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the East Sepik Provincial Government, which will allow for some functions to be performed by provincial fisheries officers on behalf of the NFA and for NFA to assist the East Sepik Provincial fisheries office where required as per the MOA.

Among other things as specified in the MOA: It provides for the development of a collaborative approach to the management by both NFA and ESPG of coastal, estuarine river and lake waters in the province and consultative and collaborative processes to facilitate this management.

It also calls for co-operation in the implementation and management of projects funded by other donor agencies for implementation in the Province.

The MOA also provides for procedures allowing for ESPG recommendations to NFA for licensing by NFA of provincially based fishing, processing and exporting operations requiring national licences. And the administrative and funding arrangements for services provided for and on behalf of NFA by the Provincial Fisheries Office of the ESPG in carrying out delegated functions, duties and responsibilities and for the continued monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the delegated functions by NFA.

It also calls for understanding by both parties on an approach to the effective utilisation and management of fishery assets, including fishery wharves and processing facilities, fish markets and other fishery facilities located in the Province.

The NFA has so far executed MOAs with six provinces last year. It has MOAs with Madang, Morobe, Sandaun, Bougainville, Central, and Milne Bay Province to assist the administration of national fisheries functions in the maritime provinces of Papua New Guinea. The NFA is able to purchase and install computers as well as renovate office building and meet some training costs for provincial fisheries officers. NFA will complete the signing of MOAs with the remaining nine provinces this year.

NFA and Oro Province Sign MOU



● From left: Mr Pokajam, Acting Oro Governor Ehenbe, Mr Rumbam and Mr Norman Barnabas, PTL Manager inspect the new Oro Fisheries Office. Picture above is the new computer set with printer. Email services will be done also in the following months.

The National Fisheries Authority has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oro Provincial Government on 6th April 2005 for the development of fisheries resources in the Province.

The signing of the MOA is a step forward for both parties to work together to conserve, manage and develop fisheries resources sustainably in the province.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Acting Managing Director of the Authority said the MOA will act as a platform for NFA and Oro Provincial Government to work on. "NFA is committed to seeing fisheries grow in every maritime province in a sustainable way. Oro Province must now get up and do something first and NFA will support the initiative." Mr Pokajam said.

He said, Oro Provincial Government must support what NFA is trying to do for the fisheries sector in their province. He added that Oro is rich with abundant natural resources and these must be tapped into for the benefit of resource owners and the province.

Also specified in the MOA, a total of K5,000.00 will be allocated each year by NFA to Oro Provincial Fisheries Office to cater for any overhead costs incurred when carrying out NFA delegated functions.

The MOA signing also coincided with the opening of the new fisheries office for the province, which was funded by the NFA at a cost of K45,000.00 and built by Popondetta based Wahu Trading and Construction company.

Mr Barake Rumbam, Chairman of the National Fisheries Board told Oro Provincial Fisheries Officers in his opening speech to look after the building and use it productively. "You must now be more efficient in your job because you have a separate office to work in. You have a totally new building to yourselves and a lot of space to do your work. If you plan and do your work properly, you will get the support from NFA.

NFA has yet to sign MOAs with five more maritime provinces of East New Britain, West New Britain, New Ireland, Manus and Western Province.

NFA & SBDC Launch SIYFB Program Materials



● Mr Pokajan, Mr Rubam signing the MOU with Mr Brian Korun, Managing Director of SBDC while witnessing the ceremony from the back is Hon. Ben Samri, Minister for Fisheries and centre is Hon. Arthur Sware, Minister for National Planning and on right is Mr Tibawi Longai, SIYFB Program Manager, SBDC.

The National Fisheries Authority and the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) have formally launched materials for the Start and Improve Your Fisheries Business (SIYFB) programme.

SIYFB programme is where specific modules are put together to address issues relating to successfully operating and managing a fishing business at the small and medium level.

A Memorandum of Agreement was also signed during the launching between SBDC and the NFA for the development and promotion of the training programme for small fisheries businessmen and women.

The programme was launched on 1st April 2005 by the Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Ben Samri. In his official speech, Minister Samri thanked the Commonwealth Secretariat, SBDC, the International Labour Organisation for having the courage and vision to partner with the National Fisheries Authority through the National Fisheries College to deliver the programme throughout the maritime provinces of Papua New Guinea.

Minister Samri also commended the National Fisheries College for taking on the challenge to partner SBDC and COMSEC in initially developing the materials, trialling it and eventually to the formal launching of the SIYFB materials.

He said, "the success of the program can be measured by the fact that it is now the standard business management training in the rural coastal fisheries management project for its clients and is about to break into other pacific countries, including Vanuatu, Tonga and the Solomon island".

Since the inception of the SIYFB program in PNG in 2001, nine trainers have been credited as trainers and one as master trainer. Training has been delivered for different target groups including:

- Prospective village entrepreneurs;
- Rural fishers;
- Recipients of aid assistance;
- Owners of small and medium enterprises etc.

The range of beneficiaries of the SIYFB program and the type of sponsors willing to adopt and be part of this initiative augers well for the sustainability of the program, its appropriateness to the needs of our people and their aspirations to participate in business, especially in fishing related business.

NFA to Have New Corporate Plan Soon



● NFA Senior Managers posing for a photograph during the Corporate Planning Workshop on Loloata Island.

The National Fisheries Authority will soon have a new Corporate Plan for the next three years, 2005 to 2007.

The Plan would be the guiding path upon which NFA will operate in the next three years. Mr John Kasu, Acting Deputy Managing Director and Corporate Services Manager said NFA has reviewed 2002 to 2004 NFA Corporate Plan to determine the next three years (2005-2007) NFA Corporate Plan. The revised NFA Corporate Plan focused on a number of new initiatives, which NFA has established relating to the development of coastal and inshore fisheries, aquaculture development and provision of training.

One of the new policies to be also included in the Plan is the Work Place Policy on HIV-AIDS. The fisheries sector was identified by the National AIDS Council working Committee as one of the high-risk areas, therefore, NFA is addressing the issue in this Corporate Plan.

Mr Ian Lister, Facilitator of the Corporate Planning Workshop said the Plan would spell out the priorities of the NFA and would serve as the base resource for the Medium Term Development Strategy (MIDS) for the NFA to the National Government.

NFA's MIDS was presented to the Government in February this year.

Senior Managers of the Authority met in November 2004 on Loloata Island, Port Moresby and reviewed the plan. Mr Lister said by getting senior managers involved in the initial planning stages would give them a sense of ownership as they deliver services to NFA stakeholders, etc..



● Minister uncover SIYFB Material - Hon. Ben Samri, Fisheries Minister and Hon. Arthur Sware, Minister for National Planning cutting off the ribbon to launch the SIYFB Program material. Holding the program material in front are: left, Ms Brenda Nini-Sainol and Mr Stanley Jogo, two of the SIYFB trainers.