

NCC EYES 100 HOMES



Issue 4
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2022

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MINISTER'S
OVERVIEW

A challenging but fruitful year

I am happy and excited to state in this 4th and the final edition of Culture Tok newsletter for 2022 that the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture could not be any happier with its agencies as we come to end what was challenging yet a fruitful year for all of us. Thank you all to the management and the staff of the Tourism Promotion Authority, the National Museum and Art Gallery and the National Cultural Commission. I will make some comments on NCC since this is its newsletter.

The National Cultural Commission excelled in a lot of fronts. I am particularly impressed with the performance of this agency which seems unstoppable since evading near-collapse some four years ago, and now unleashing huge positive vibes through its work and achievements especially in the last two years. There are a lot of milestones the agency has delivered but the most notable one that come to mind is the launching of the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032. This is the ice breaker and the portal for all spectrum of opportunities and benefits in the culture, creative arts and the tourism sector of the country thus promising meaningful contributions towards the development of our nation.

Successful implementation of this policy document, in my view, stands to be the greatest challenge. I am however content and confident that NCC will deliver through partnerships with development partners and key stakeholders from the public and the private sector. I am aware NCC has already commenced its collaborative exercise and



HON. ISI HENRY LEONARD, MP
MINISTER FOR TOURISM,
ARTS & CULTURE

"The most notable one that come to mind is the launching of the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032."

has so far successfully partnered with a number of provincial administrations including that of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and institutions like the University of Papua New Guinea.

Funding is crucial at this juncture and I as the Minister responsible will do my best to ensure NCC is not starved for want of implementing its policy. With these few observations, I now wish the management and the

staff of National Cultural Commission a very merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year, 2023.

Thank you all!

Hon. Isi Henry Leonard, MP,
Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture
and Member for Samarai-Murua Open





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CULTURAL GROUP HIRE FEES

1 x Cultural Group Hire
(Domestic | National)

Group Fee – K1,000
NCC Admin. Fee – K300
Facilitation Fee – K100
Total – K1,400

1 x Cultural Group Hire
(International | Diplomatic)

Group Fee – K1,500
NCC Admin. Fee – K300
Facilitation Fee – K150
Total – K1,950

Contact National Cultural Commission
for further information and or details.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
FOREWORD

We can all do our bit

The National Cultural Commission is committed to its mandate to deliver cultural products and services to the people of Papua New Guinea. On the same principle, NCC is equally committed to ensuring its officers are properly and fairly salaried on merits.

NCC believes in people. It confides and respects its employees and is taking bold steps to keep and extract the best from its human resources. The agency has been providing upskilling and training opportunities for its staff, sending officers to further their studies, signing contracts of employment with the middle and senior managers and is even committing itself to securing 100 dream homes for its officers.

Yes, NCC makes it its business to look after its people because it knows that an organization is as good or bad as its people. The corporate, image, reputation, and profile is built on its people. That is why it is incumbent that any good or otherwise must first come from the people within the organization.

People make the difference in every organization. They are the organization. They are the way organizations transform informational and physical resources into products and services the customers value. They are capable of generating ideas, solving problems, making decisions and learning that improves the organization.

People create the other elements of a high-performing organization and achieve its mission through the application of their capabilities and individuals and teams.



STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA
Executive Director

People are the heart, head and the muscle in every high-performing organization. They are the primary determinants of whether an organization should exist or fail to exist. National Cultural Commission, as a high-performing organization, knows the

significance of its human resource, and in return asks, not demands, but asks its people to be loyal, honest, committed and respectful when discharging their duties and responsibilities. The agency wants to see professionalism in its staff. Dressing codes be observed, attendance and punctuality be heeded and appearance and cleanliness be improved and maintained at all times during working hours.

"People are
the heart,
head and the
muscle in
every high-
performing
organization"

We can all do our bit for ourselves, our agency, our government, our fellow citizens and our home country, Papua New Guinea.

Thank you.

Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda.
Executive Director – National Cultural
Commission





NCC EYES 100 HOMES

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

The National Cultural Commission is eyeing to secure 100 homes for its staff over a period of 10 years.

This ambitious move, according to the Head of the agency, Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda, is in line with the National Government's drive to alleviate the chronic housing woes faced by many public servants in the country.

Mr. Kilanda, when signing a memorandum of understanding with the National Housing Commission on December 2, said NCC felt privileged to have been invited by NHC to be part of the move to relieve public servants of their housing worries, hence kickstarting the ambitious staff home ownership dream.

The signing of the MoU with NHC is the result of consistent dialogue and liaison between NHC and an internal housing committee established in October by NCC to look into staff housing issues.

Mr. Kilanda said housing woes have become a serious setback in public service performance outcomes affecting service

delivery in the country, and that he was humbled when a ministerial direction was issued by the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard, to proceed with the move to partner with National Housing Commission in making this dream become a reality.

"This move to secure 100 houses under the Government Public Service Scheme is in alignment with our new 10-year cultural policy (2022-2032) we have developed. "We will not secure all 100 homes at the same time but slowly working towards ensuring National Cultural Commission achieved its goal of securing 100 houses for its staff in the year 2032," Mr. Kilanda explained.

He assured that all the officers and staff of NCC would be given a house provided the Commission secure equity for each person to secure loans from commercial banks.

The Duran Farm project came about in 2014 after the National Executive Council gave approval to implement a Public Servant

Housing Program (Scheme) to relieve the public servants housing worries.

National Housing Commission Deputy Managing Director Mr. Martin Tau said that housing is a necessity hence is the priority of the housing agency to get many public servants housed.

"We are still in the developing stages in dealing with our developers. Most of the paper work such as land issues and titles are already underway. This is a good progress under this management.

"Housing is an important condition. Most of the staff are not housed properly. The cost of living in the city is high. This is why we are working around the clock to address this issue as much as we can," Mr. Tau said.

NHC legal officer, Abel Tol further explained that all land titles will be transferred to the developers as they will have used their own resources for this project. Starting off with 500 lands title that are already issued to them.



He said NHC has already signed four MoUs with the Education Department, Port Moresby General Hospital, PNG Sports Foundation and the recent one with National Cultural Commission.

He further explained that these are agreements that NHC will make available 100 houses for these departments and agencies and it is up to their staff whether or not they can meet the cost. Another agreement will be signed later.

"And I just want to give you the confidence that unlike previous management, we have settled all issues related to Duran Farm in terms of legal issues, disputes with

landowners, previous contractors and we have also got advice from the State Solicitors Office giving all the clearance and full backing from the current Marape-Rosso Government with a budget allocation of K26 million for next year to proceed with the Duran Farm project," Mr. Tol said.

He said out of the total 2500 allotments available, National Cultural Commission was fortunate to secure 100 allotments under the Duran Farm Government Basket Housing Scheme.

Meanwhile, the members of the internal housing committee have visited two proposed sites and decided Duran Farm to

be the ideal site to rollout the staff housing scheme.

One hundred homes for a small agency like National Cultural Commission may sound ambitious but the committee believes it will deliver the number based on its current approved organizational structure.

The committee is headed by Ms. Jenny Jeffrey as chairlady, Mr. Nelson Timbok as deputy and Mr. Paul Simon, Mr. Elias Kambiam and Ms. Nelcy Uri as members.

"Duran Farm in terms of legal issues, disputes with landowners, previous contractors and we have also got advice from the State Solicitors Office giving all the clearance and full backing from the current Marape-Rosso Government with a budget allocation of K26 million"





NCC INKS PARTNERSHIP DEAL WITH PARADISE PALETTE



By | PATRICK TOM

More and more opportunities for exposure and marketing for Papua New Guinean local artists continue to open as National Cultural Commission provides the leadership and taps into the network of arts.

NCC has so far staged two contemporary arts exhibitions in Port Moresby, signed a deal with an online platform for arts, and most recently, signed an understanding note with international exhibition body to further promote local artists.

The Commission, just before 2022 ended, signed a memorandum of understanding with Paradise Palette to expose Papua New Guinean local artists in foreign art exhibitions. The signing had the full backing of the Australian High Commission.

Paradise Palette is a consultancy agency that promotes Papua New Guinea's arts and artists' work through its touring and exhibitions in Australia. It was first established in 2017 with 16 local artists and ever since has promoted and given exposure to many local PNG artists and promoted their artworks prominently both locally and internationally.

Under the MoU, the National Cultural Commission, as the leading government agency responsible for preserving, communicating and celebrating Papua New Guinea's cultural diversity, agree to assist in developing and hosting cultural events such as the annual art exhibitions, artists' workshops, artists in resident programs and related cultural activities. Furthermore, NCC

be seen to be involving Paradise Palette in the curating and promoting of external art programs and exhibitions benefiting visual artists of Papua New Guinea.

In summary, the MoU serves to support, nature and further develop the productive collaboration between NCC, the Tumbuna Visual Arts Association and Visual Artists of Papua New Guinea and Paradise Palette. NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda welcomed the opportunity to partner with Paradise Palette through the Australia High Commission Office for joining force with NCC to help promote and market Papua New Guinea's arts through exhibitions both locally and internationally.

"As the responsible cultural agency in the country, this MoU signing will pave the way forward for the organizations and stakeholders involved to work hand in hand or collaboratively to help develop, promote, expose, and market Papua New Guinea's arts and culture.

"We are looking forward to work with Paradise Palette from side to side with the Australia High Commission to maintain the relationships between the two countries of Papua New Guinea and Australia through connecting the people through culture.

"We will be staging a major PNG Art Exhibition in Melbourne or Sydney in 2025. Hence, there will be lead up exhibitions that are planned to be rolled out both local and international exhibitions to be held in Cities and Towns in Australia," said Mr. Kilanda.

Paradise Palette founder, Don Wotton said: "It is a great opportunity to work in partnership with the cultural agency, the National Cultural Commission bringing Papua New Guinea's visual arts and arts to another level in terms of promoting and marketing of PNG's indigenous culture. Mr Wotton said local artists needed international exposure, something they have been promoting as part of their service through hosting of exhibitions in Australia.

It has been a challenging journey so far but one that has lasting legacies through the work Paradise Palette does in helping Papua New Guinea's visual artist's exposure to the international market.

"This platform will provide the opportunity and exposure for many of our local artists to benefits through the sell and marketing of their artistic work at any of the exhibitions," added Mr. Wotton.

Under the MoU arrangement, both the National Cultural Commission and Paradise Palette will work collaboratively to help develop, promote, expose and market Papua New Guinea's arts and visual arts products through hosting exhibitions and cultural events both local and internationally.



MILNE BAY FIRST TO LAUNCH IT'S 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE



Milne Bay is the first province in the country to launch its 2023 provincial cultural events calendar and is ready to showcase its festivals and shows in the new year. Five others are expected to launch theirs soon in the coming months.

The Milne Bay Provincial Tourism Bureau in partnership with the National Cultural Commission launched the 2023 Milne Bay Provincial Cultural Events Calendar at its provincial capital, Alotau, on December 13.

The province is one of the country's top tourism hubs where the people live their culture in harmony with nature. Locals from Milne Bay are naturally super friendly and the landscape is exotic.

The launch of the 2023 Milne Bay Provincial Cultural Events Calendar was made possible under a partnership arrangement the province signed with the National Cultural Commission earlier.

Noted representatives from the province included Deputy Governor Helena Metoa, Provincial Administrator, Ashan Numa, Mayor Gita Elliott, District Administrator Wilson Hilary, and Provincial Tourism Bureau Board chairman, Noel Davida. There were representatives from churches and other stakeholders that attended the launch.

National Cultural Commission was represented by Festivals Manager, Geno Reuben, who attended on behalf of the Executive Director, Steven Enomb Kilanda.

"I am proud and happy to declare to you all on behalf of Mr. Kilanda, the Board and the Management of National Cultural Commission that Milne Bay Province is the first province to have its 2023, Provincial Cultural Events Calendar formally registered, recognized and launched," said Mrs. Rueben. She congratulated the people of Milne Bay and urged them to take pride and ownership of their cultures.

"Culture is a commodity that will never die out unlike gold and other non-renewable resources. "Let's make sure that one day our children and grandchildren will see the importance of these festivals and events," she said.

Some of the events and festivals on the 2023 calendar include: Kiriwina Cultural Show (June, 15-17), Nuakata Sailau Canoe Show (August, 25-27); Giniuba Kaiheya Festival (September, 04-05); Murua Doi & Yam Festival (October-24-26); Huhu War Canoe Festival (October, 28-30); National Kenu and Kundu Festival (November, 03-05); Komom'la Festival (November, 17); Sailau, Ulun and Hoptomwa Festival (November, 02-04); Bagi & Tobotobo Festival (November 16-17); Crab & Mat Festival (November 29-30); Suau Dibidibi Agro & Farmers Stall Festival (November 30), and Giniuba Kaiheha Festival (November 26-28).



SHORT COURSES ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFERED AT UPNG



| BY TAVA AIRIKA

Staff-development training is one of the objectives for an organization to consider in capacity building. However, insufficient funds for such activities mean staff are sometimes overlooked or are unable to go for training.

Recently, the National Cultural Commission (NCC) sent three of its staff for short courses on information management offered at the University of Papua New Guinea, which ran from 31st October until 2nd December 2022. Two staff from the NCC head office participated: Mr. Vincent Pale, Archivist and Librarian, and his assistant Mr. Kenneth Sowaip. I participated as Librarian of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS).

The courses offered were for staff who were working in fields of information management and the techniques of bringing such information together.

There were two parts to the courses offered. Part 1 was an introduction to science and technology management. Part 2 was an advanced consideration of these topics.

The techniques concerned were: retrieving, analysing web resources; cataloguing and classification; archives and records management; database developments; architecture and web development; and data capture and basic statistical analysis. These techniques provided the tools on how to organize the information data in an organization.

Most of the attendees were not familiar with these topics, so the information techniques taught to us were quite new, but we invested the time to learn as much as we could.



The author receiving the course certificate. During the lecture sessions. Mr. Vincent Pale and Mr. Kenneth Sowaip at the lecture sessions.



There were seven lecturers, who spoke for two days per discipline. The part 1 course summary of achievements and the closing were conducted by Dr Leo Marai, Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Vice Chairman of the NCC Board.

Morning sessions were to understand the theory of the modules, while afternoon sessions concerned practical aspects with exercises to acquire hands-on experience.

Participants were also organised in group settings for the topic discussions in relation to the module. After a lengthy discussion, a presentation was done on the given topic. I did presentations twice for my group.

During the session we were taught to create and design using some of the software taught in the field of information science.

While this was enjoyable, some PCs weren't working, so we often had to rely on those who had laptops. However, we were assured that similar exercises were given in the course book. The two-part courses were quite challenging, but I was there to gain the necessary skills for the library especially, cataloguing and classification. I was thrilled that I acquired more knowledge for the position I hold at IPNGS.

I would like to acknowledge NCC and IPNGS for their support and enabling me to participate in this short-course program at UPNG. I strongly recommend that such staff development is the way to go for improving work performance for all of us.

Tava Airika is a Librarian in the Publications Division of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.



A SUCCESSFUL SUAU DIBIDIBI AGRO FARMERS FESTIVAL

| BY SOLOMON WAINE



| BY SOLOMON WAINE

Papua New Guinea's rich and diverse cultural heritage is so vibrant and thriving, the people never tire practicing it, and it has been so because it is their way of life. They are the living cultures of their societies.

And if "cultural tourism" was a special dish for tourists, "PNG cultural heritage" would be the absolute preferred recipe for that dish.

Anywhere in Papua New Guinea where there are people, there is a living culture that people relate to as part of their daily routine or activity. People connect to the environment around them and share a bond that gives them the purpose or reason and of course the comfort to live in peace and harmony with nature. People and Nature living side by side.

This scenery was flashing on my mental screen when I visited Koukou village east of Suau LLG in Alotau District in Milne Bay Province on November 29, 2022. I spent two days there to celebrate with the people the 1st Suau Dibidibi Agro Farmers Festival. I know the locality quite well this time because I was there about the same time last year (2021) when Koukou village first launched the festival.

The 1st Suau Dibidibi Agro Farmers Festival was celebrated for two days in Koukou village. It was attended by representatives from the Suau Ward Council, Koukou village, National Cultural Commission, Milne Bay



Provincial Tourism Bureau. Unfortunately, both Alotau MP Hon. Ricky Morris and Hon. Governor Gordon Wesley could not attend due to Parliament sitting.

On the first day, everyone witnessed the arrival of seven huge canoes that sailed all the way from Kwairaiwa Island, which is in the Bwanabwana LLG of Samarai Murua District. It took the Kwairaiwa Islanders two days to sail into Suau.

The evening was filled with fun and laughter as the locals strummed guitars, sang and danced till day break the Milne Bay way. The spirit of unity, peace and love was felt and witnessed by the people themselves. The second day event was all about food exchange or barter system that was practiced during the Kula Trade. Kwairaiwa Islanders partnered with Koukou people and exchanged food stuff. A total of 15 pigs and a huge amount of store goods were given



to the Kwairaiwa people while the Koukou people received a lot of baskets of yams and bananas with few clay pots and bags.

I thanked the people of Suau and Kwairaiwa for upholding their culture and encouraged them to continue to teach their young generations to value their culture as it is the source of their identity.

I also announced to the community that the National Cultural Commission was supporting the Suau Dibidibi Agro Farmers Festival with a cheque of K5,000 and thanked the NCC Executive Director Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda for his continuous support. I concluded by reminding the locals to promote and preserve their cultural heritage.

**Mr. Solomon Waine is a festival and marketing officer with the National Cultural Commission.*



WOMEN EMPOWER COMMUNITY THROUGH CULTURE

| BY PATRICK TOM



"Doris and her girls saw the fruit of their hard work, perseverance and commitment to give back something to the community"

A group of like-minded women from Aguaba village in the Togoba area of Tambu-Nebilyer District of Western Highlands Province are now custodians of a mini cultural festival they worked so hard to establish.

Their hard work paid off on October 14 when the National Cultural Commission stepped to formally recognize the Parakamb Amb Guu festival and issued the women group a certificate of recognition.

The Parakamb Amb Guu Women Association, the women group behind the festival, is led by a mother and public servant, Doris Terry, who is the rural health manager with the Tambul-Nebilyer District. On October 14, Doris and her girls saw the fruit of their hard work, perseverance and commitment to give back something to the community. The official launch day was celebrated with traditional dancers, singings, rituals and dramas.

National Cultural Commission cultural development officer Bola Noho attended the launch and presented the Certificate of Recognition to a representative from the Western Highlands Provincial Government, who then passed on the certificate to the women leader, Mrs. Terry.

Mrs. Terry thanked the National Cultural Commission and said: "It takes commitment, sacrifice, courage, and co-

operation to make such events a success. "I want to thank all the women in the communities who shared their interest, understanding, vision and desire to see change in the community," she said.

She added that the Parakamb Amb Guu Women Association was formed with a purpose to preserve, safeguard, promote and influence generations the importance of

culture and its significance to people. "We have been sacrificing a lot of time and efforts for this to eventuate. Hence, all sacrifices and hard work put into making this a reality is remarkable," she said. The Parakamb Amb Guu festival has been factored into the National Cultural Commission annual national events calendar for October 14 to be held in Aguaba village.





KANGAL CULTURAL SHOW IS FIRST FOR RAI COAST

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

The Papua New Guinea National Cultural Commission has officially launched and recognized the 13th Kangal Cultural Show hosted from the 28th to the 29th of October 2022 in Bandit village of Rai Coast District, Madang province.

PNGNCC travelled there to witness and present the event certificate of recognition. NCC Cultural Development officer Felix Kandamain while presenting the event certificate said: "Kangal cultural show is finally graduating today. With this certificate, the government through the National Cultural Commission will recognize this event as one of the registered events in the country and therefore will be published in the National Cultural Events Calendar in the proceeding years. NCC will continue to promote and support the event" Mr. Kandamain also presented a K5000 cheque to the local counselor and festival organizing committee.

"On behalf of the Executive Director of the National Cultural Commission, I present

this cheque to show support in promoting our diverse culture here in Rai Coast." Mr Kandamain said.

He further said that NCC is committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting PNG's tangible and intangible cultural resources. "As a representative of the NCC, I would urge you not to lose your culture. NCC believes that cultural resources will soon sustain all levels of economic development for your community and the government as a nation. Therefore, embrace your culture and make every effort to pass it on to the next generation.

"Since independence, the government has not been supportive in terms of policy formulation to cater for PNG's cultural resource, but just recently, the Marape-Rosso Government has launched and approved the first 10-year National Cultural Policy. This is good news for the people," Kandamain said.

The local counselor of ward six, Mr. Soge Dilambe, upon receiving the certificate and the K5000 cheque thanked the National Cultural Commission. "The organizing committee and I have been struggling to maintain and promote our unique traditions



for the past twelve years but in the end, it finally pays off. Today I graduated with this certificate, and I am looking forward to working closely with the National Cultural Commission to showcase the unique culture of Rai Coast District. Through this event, we believe it will help build our economy through tourism and other development benefits."

The event was divided into three parts. The first part of the program was theatre dance performances, drama, and traditional dances. The second was the authentic 'Kangal' dance.

This dance occurs only at three o'clock in the morning and ends before dawn. This was the heart of the festival. The final program was composed of string bands, choir groups, and contemporary music.



"Looking forward to working closely with the National Cultural Commission to showcase the unique culture of Rai Coast District"





The National Cultural Commission has formally recognized and tagged the landing of missionaries from the Pacific Islands at Manumanu village in Central Province as a national event.

NCC issued a certificate of recognition of the Sivarai Namo LMS festival on November 23 and declared it as a national event that will be celebrated annually on that day.

Manumanu, also known as Manupore, is a typical Motuan village located along the western coastline of Central Province. On the 23rd of November 1872, six Pacific Islands missionaries from the London Missionary Society (LMS) landed at Manumanu village with their wives. They were on a mission to spread the Christian Faith in Papua. The pastors included Mr. and Mrs. Piri, Mr. and Mrs. Ruatoka, Mr. and Mrs. Rau, Mr. and Mrs. Heneri, Mr. and Mrs. Anederea and Mr. and Mrs. Adamu.

Upon their arrival, they were sighted by a group of local women who were out

gardening that morning. The women had never seen people from the South Seas, who had soft curly hair and a far more complexion than their own. Thinking they have just seen ghosts; the women ran home screaming to alert their men.

Within minutes, a group of warriors approached the missionaries and were about to slaughter the men of God when two women, who were sisters of the village chief named Naime Nau, ran in between the warriors and the missionaries with a grass skirt spread between them in a bid to stop the warriors. The two women – Kari and Dai – were pleading to the warriors to spare the lives of the visitors. Their brother chief Naime Nau intervened and calmed the warriors who eventually laid down their spears when Chief Naime marked a line with his lime between the warriors and the missionaries and offered his life in order to save the missionaries. The missionaries, during the encounter, gave biscuits and tobacco to the natives, and eventually the Holy Bible to begin their mission.



NCC RECOGNIZES MANUMANU PILGRIMAGES





The formal recognition of the Sivarai Namo LMS Festival by NCC on November 23 now means that the festival is officially recognized by the Government as a national event of the country that will be celebrated annually on November 23 – the day missionaries from the Pacific Islands landed at Manumanu village 150 years ago bringing with them the Word of God.

Officers from the National Cultural Commission, together with other invited guests including Motu Koita Assembly chairman Dadi Toka Junior and Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited (NVIL) managing director Michael Makap, United Church ministers and pastors, converged at Manumanu village to witness the opening of the festival.

Three days after the reenactment of the pilgrimage, the church presented a live pig

and garden food stuff to NCC as a token of appreciation.

Chairman of the United Church Mr. Boea Eno said the food stuff was an appreciation to the National Cultural Commission staff for their work in helping to organize the Manumanu Sivarai Namo LMS Festival, and successfully registering and recognizing the festival under NCC.

The gift was presented in front of the NCC head office in Downtown Port Moresby, it was received by NCC Festivals Director Mr. David Taim and other senior staff at the office.

Mr. Taim assured the chairman that NCC will continue to support and help the Manumanu Sivarai Namo LMS Festival in the upcoming years.

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

MANUMANU 150-YEAR-OLD FESTIVAL





NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda presenting the K10,000 dummy cheque to PNG Fashion & Design Events Director Ms. Sasha Pei-Silovo (second from left) and senior NCC officers Ms. Jenny Jeffrey and Mrs. Geno Alova-Reuben look on



NCC SUPPORTS PNG FASHION & DESIGN WITH K10,000

By | ERIC de EAGLEYE

National Cultural Commission contributed K10,000 towards a successful fashion parade in Port Moresby in November.

Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda, when presenting the cheque, said NCC has been very supportive towards the fashion industry over the years, and added that the agency is proud to be able to support PNG Fashion and Design stage its annual fashion parade.

Mr. Kilanda said NCC is a small agency with a mammoth task of delivering cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea. He said supporting and assisting to develop the fashion industry in the country is part of its mandate including the support and assistance the agency provides to cultural events and festivals throughout the country.

He said the agency is expecting a bigger budget next year and will assist the fashion industry "in a big way".

PNG Fashion and Design representative, Sasha Pei-Silovo, thanked NCC for the support and said the money would be spent on the full production of the stage and other related costs. She said she was thankful to other key partners including the Tourism Promotion Authority and the National Museum and Art Gallery.

She said the PNG fashion festival is the biggest and the most successful platform, creating over 800 small business enterprises throughout the country.

The PNG Fashion festival was launched by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard at the Sir Hubert Murray stadium at Konedobu. There were leadup events during the week before the main show or the parade at the weekend..

PNG fashion festival is the biggest and the most successful platform, creating over 800 small business enterprises throughout the country.



INSTITUTE OF PNG STUDIES CLEAN-UP INITIATIVE

By JUSTINE TUNA

With the hiring of new staff at the National Cultural Commission (NCC), a clean-up activity began on Tuesday, 29th November 2022 by the staff of the Institute of PNG Studies (IPNGS) in their office premises at Boroko. The initiative was proposed by the Acting Director of IPNGS, Mr. Christopher Puio, upon a directive from the NCC Executive Director, Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda, with the aim of tapping into a new facet of development for the institution and NCC.



Since IPNGS's establishment in 1974 until now, infrastructural changes at IPNGS have been minimal. Over the years, the trees grew huge, and the palms, bamboos, and other plants grown within the area have become a thick forest. Under this bush, were the flats built some 45 years ago, but only maintained in basic ways. With the recent NCC staff restructure, the determination for change to the institute itself also developed. As the only cultural institution that deals with Papua New Guinea culture, Mr. Puio hopes the new look will drive the progress to meet the aspirations of IPNGS and NCC. Mr. Puio would like IPNGS to be a role model of the change in arts, culture, and tourism to take back Papua New Guinea through



commercialized activities the institution provides from its core functions. He further added that the current restructure at NCC and as outlined in the National Cultural Policy 2022-2032 will lead the way forward for IPNGS to facilitate and deliver the work in researching, documenting, and archiving the country's traditional and contemporary cultural diversity.

He encouraged IPNGS staff to work together as a team, forming a vibrant and dynamic workforce. "We are a clan to the tribe. The tribe is NCC, and IPNGS is the clan. To maintain the work ethics within the institution, we are to work as family." The clean-up work extended until Sunday 4th December, working two hours in the afternoon from 3pm to 5pm.

The work involved the clearing of overgrown plants and other rubbish accumulated by residents. In the office area, staff piled up the waste and separated the metals from the plants and papers, and then stacked them for removal. Work then continued around the IPNGS flats which created a new atmosphere that staff relished.

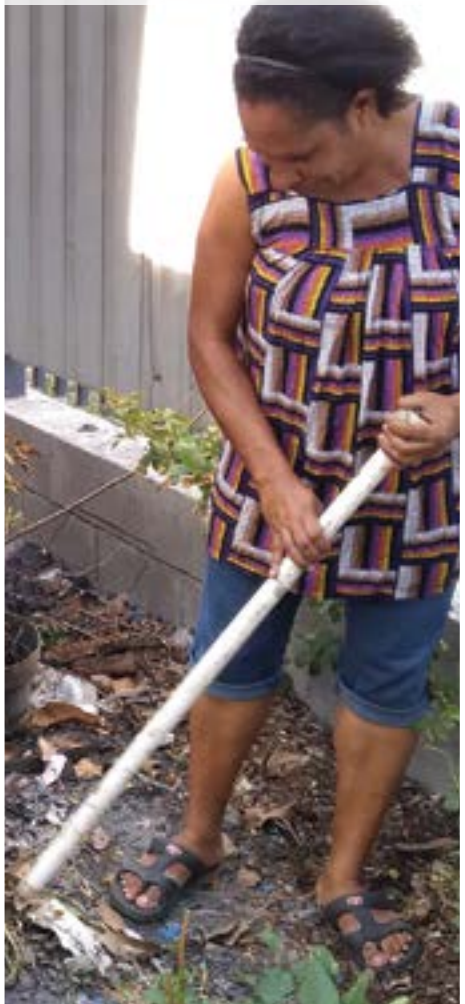
The cleaning next focused on the fencing between IPNGS and Nambawan Trophy Haus. In addition to the vegetation, a huge pile of rubbish was kept adjacent to the fence about a meter from the edge of the office. It contained tin, corrugated iron roofing, off-cut plumbing pipes, as well as



old discarded papers. Staff cleared the vines on the fence, and the weeds, bananas, and pawpaw trees alongside the fence, preparing them for disposal.

Over the weekend, these materials were carried away by a hired truck to the rubbish dump. Although much was accomplished, the clean-up is still incomplete, as more rubbish remains. It will continue until 2023, if the funding is made available then it helps pave the way for some of the major infrastructure developments planned for IPNGS.

**Mr Justine Tuna is the Assistant Director for Publications Division at the Institute of Papua New Guinean Studies.*





NCC SIGNS PACT WITH ABG

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

The National Cultural Commission and the Autonomous Bougainville Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to effectively deliver cultural services to the people of Bougainville.

The signing at Holiday Inn and Suits in Port Moresby on December 1 was the sixth MoU signed by the NCC with provincial governments so far to promote and preserve culture in the country.

Present at the signing ceremony was the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard, NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda, and Ministers from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government including Moris Opeti (Community Development, Arts and Culture) Ezekiel Massat (Justice, Attorney General and Bougainville Independent Implementation Mission) and John Bosco Ragu (Police). Minister Leonard said the MoU was an

important arrangement "because it is a partnership between the people of Bougainville and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture".

He said art, culture and tourism are products that can attract sales. "If we cannot have a product, we cannot expect sales. We must create, identify and engage product before we can think of selling, as it is in the order of things, we must have art, culture and tourism," he said.

The Minister said culture signifies our identity and society. "It identifies who we really are. Because of culture, we have a



"Why we needed a policy to pave the way to unleash our potential and with government support,

name, a place and a society. Without culture, we would be just circular people like everyone else in the world.

"Culture basically makes us stand out from everyone else. Culture is what makes Papua New Guinea so unique, in unity we strive as a country and in diversity we exist in our culture," he said.

He added that tourism has been a merging industry and that the full potential of the country was yet to be unleashed.

"That is why we needed a policy to pave the way to unleash our potential and with government support, we will see its capacity in terms of our contribution to the economy of this country.

Minister Leonard thanked and welcomed the AROB government for partnering with NCC and said Bougainville has a lot to offer in the tourism industry because of its biodiversity and geographical location.

He said such partnerships were important in the face of the mammoth task NCC is mandated to deliver.



"The partnership would also boost the implementation phase of the recently launched National Cultural Policy 2023 -2033"

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda and UPNG Vice Chancellor Prof. Frank Griffin sealing the deal as the Dean of UPNG School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Leo Marai, looks on. Prof. Marai is also the deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Cultural Commission.

NCC, UPNG SIGN DEAL TO BENEFIT AND DELIVER MORE

The National Cultural Commission and the University of Papua New Guinea reached a milestone achievement in November when they signed a deal to enhance their respective endeavors to be more constructive, collaborative and progressive in their efforts to serve the people and the country.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by UPNG Vice Chancellor Professor Frank Griffin and NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda is believed to provide the leeway to pursue their respective programs in the areas of culture and arts.

VC Griffin said he was excited now that the university would be able to collaborate constructively in capacity building, research and enter into activities beneficial to the university and the agency, particularly in areas where elements of culture and arts exist.

He noted the significance of Papua New Guinea's rich and diverse cultural heritage and stressed the importance of not just capturing it to save it from extinction but storing it for future studies and use by generations to come.

Mr. Kilanda said UPNG is an important institution NCC, as a cultural agency, needed to work closely with to better deliver cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea. He

said the partnership would also boost the implementation phase of the recently launched National Cultural Policy 2023 - 2033.

He said NCC views partnership important to deliver services effectively and efficiently. This is NCC's first MoU with an educational institution. Nonetheless, the agency has signed five MoUs with provincial governments including Enga, Milne Bay, Central, West New Britain, Madang, and will be signing one soon with the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The five-year Memorandum of Understanding between NCC and UPNG also opens up opportunities for further studies, recruitment, internship programs and other activities and programs of value and beneficial to both parties.

The signing ceremony was held at the UPNG Council Room at the Waigani campus and was attended and witnessed by university administration officials, NCC senior management team and media representatives.



NCC Executive Director UPNG Vice Chancellor Prof. Frank Griffin signing the MoU as Dean of UPNG School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Leo Marai, who is also deputy chairman of the Board of the National Cultural Commission looks on.



US EMBASSY VISITS IPNGS

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS) in October played host to the Head of Public Affairs of the United States Embassy in Port Moresby.

Mr. Damian Wampler expressed satisfaction after his visit on October 26, and was more impressed with the collection and archiving of Papua New Guinea's history in music, dance and publications.

IPNGS stores over 15,000 pieces of musical recordings dating back to the 1800s. The institute is currently undergoing a mammoth task of digitalizing its entire collection of invaluable collection of Papua New Guinean music, dance and publications.

IPNGS is one of the three cultural institutions under the National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea. The other two are the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troupe or the Raun Raun Theatre, both based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.

The National Cultural Commission is a government agency mandated to preserve, promote, safeguard and develop the cultural heritage of the country and deliver cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea. NCC, under the current leadership of its Executive Director, Steven Enomb Kilanda, has been establishing cordial and mutual relations with development partners and provincial administrations in the country.



"IPNGS stores over 15,000 pieces of musical recordings dating back to the 1800s"



INDIA BOOSTS NCC EFFORTS TO DELIVER CULTURAL SERVICES



| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

Efforts by National Cultural Commission to deliver cultural services have been boosted with a USD50,000 donated by the Indian High Commission in Port Moresby.

Indian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Shri Inbasekar Sundaramurthi, presented a cheque of over K170,000.00 to the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard on behalf of NCC.

Minister Leonard, in thanking the people and the government of India, said the donation must be seen as a challenge on how best the funds can be used by NCC to enhance its efforts in delivering cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea.

He said the assistance by the Indian High Commission will primarily be used to purchase information and technology (IT) equipment from Digitech, which will install a database system at the NCC head office in Port Moresby. The IT company will further service and maintain the system for three years.

The Minister said the installation of the equipment including 24 desktop computers, 20 laptops, four printers and a tower server would not only boost the morale of the NCC workforce but further impact its service delivery system going forward.

"These are difficult times, and Your Excellency, on behalf of the Marape/Rosso Government, I convey our appreciation to the people and Government of India for this generous gesture which you presented to the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture.



"This gesture indicates a strong mutual relationship that the Government of India and PNG have maintained and shared thus far," Minister Leonard said. Indian High Commissioner said India has been and is always willing to help its friends and partners where necessary. The envoy said Indian had established bilateral relations with PNG since 1975 and the relationship has grown from strength to strength over the years cementing a bond that has contributed immensely in the development of both nations.

The High Commissioner said India as an ancient civilization is always willing to assist and support others including a nation like

Papua New Guinea which is so diverse in culture and people. "India is still a developing country with 200 to 300 million people who are quite poor feeding on just 2 or 3 meals a day. But still we have the heart to help our brothers," he said.

He said the Indians have the heart to give to others even their very own do not have or are in need, and pointed out cases during the peak of Covid-19 outbreak in which India was donating vaccines other countries whilst she faced and suffered similar adverse effects of the pandemic.



NCC supports Anslom's Indian trip

Papua New Guinea's international reggae sensation Anslom Nakikus was given a soothing send-off to perform at the international independent Music Festival at the Kerala Arts and Craft Village in India on Nov. 9.

Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard presented the artist a cheque of K5000 on Nov. 3 in Port Moresby, and vowed to secure more funding support from the Tourism Promotion Authority for Mr. Nakikus.

"My Ministry will be supporting his travel in a small way but this will now set a pathway for further cultural exchange programs between the two countries in the future," Minister Leonard said.

Mr. Nakikus said he was thankful for the support and promised to represent PNG well at the music festival and assured to promote the country's diverse cultural heritage through his music and presentations. "At the music festival, I will showcase the kind of music that can come out of Papua New Guinea. I will showcase the PNG culture, not only through my music, but through the many meetings I will be attending," the singer and songwriter said.

Mr. Nakikus has been invited by the Department of Tourism in Kerala, India. He will be sharing the stage with 18 musical artists from seven countries including USA, UK, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Italy.



India, PNG rare cultural performance on the horizon

A rare cultural performance by India and PNG is on the horizon should all arrangements go well between the two countries.

This performance should see an Indian cultural group and a Papua New Guinean one dancing simultaneously side by side to kick start what would later become part of a cultural exchange program between the two countries.

And the Indian High Commission and the National Cultural Commission have expressed a strong desire to work in partnership towards realizing a formal cultural exchange program between India and PNG.

Indian High Commissioner to PNG, Shri Inbasekar Sundaramurthi, when presenting a USD50,000 cheque to NCC on November 3, said he has been looking forward to bringing an Indian cultural group to PNG to partner with PNG cultural groups to "dance side-by-side".

"Am looking at next year especially during a visit by our Head of State, and I think it will be a good occasion to showcase the cultures of the most diverse country with one of the most ancient countries and civilizations.

I think that would be a fitting tribute to the hard work both of us (both countries) have done. God bless India, God bless Papua New Guinea," the High Commissioner said.

National Cultural Commission Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda thanked the Indian High Commission for the kind donation and said supporting and assisting in other sectors "is one thing but partnering and supporting the cultural sector is phenomenal because you are actually helping the people of Papua New Guinea who are the custodians of their own cultures".



NCC TO LEAD CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR UNESCO

"PNG would play the lead role in intangible cultural heritage"



| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

The National Cultural Commission will be setting up a desk to research, monitor and collate data on Papua New Guinea's intangible cultural heritage for UNESCO. This work has been outstanding since Papua New Guinea was endorsed in 2003 by the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

PNG was supposed to file a sustainable research and data collation report on intangible cultural heritage after every four years to the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Asia Pacific which is based in Japan. This Centre operates under the auspices of UNESCO, which stands for United Nation Education Science and Culture Organization.

In a meeting on November 16 at the National Cultural Commission head office in Port Moresby, stakeholder representatives resolved that NCC take the lead to ensure a report is filed this time by or before December 15, 2024. The stakeholders in this daunting task include Conservation

and Environment Protection Authority, PNG National Commission for UNESCO, National Museum and Arts Gallery, Institute of PNG Studies, and of course the National Cultural Commission.

The Sustainable Research and Data Collection project is initiated and funded by the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Asia Pacific.

NCC Regulatory Manager Dorris Apuka, who chaired the November 16 meeting said the stakeholder representatives were updated on the project's progressive effort of the technical team and the expectations of the Sustainable Research and Data Collection team.

"The purpose was made known to the members to become more knowledgeable of the project and appreciate the work of the subsidiary technical team," Ms. Apuka said.

She said despite the endorsement of PNG by UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage, there has been no periodic report submitted.

"This was supposed to be submitted every four years," she said, and added that the meeting had noted that PNG would play the lead role in intangible cultural heritage if NCC established an office under its current structure to look into all ICH matters in the country and report directly to the Executive Director and the Minister responsible.

The meeting resolved that the office within NCC become the focal point of all ICH matters in the country and keep track to submit periodic reports on time.

The project is fully funded by the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage with YPN100, 000.00. The funds will be released after the formalities are done, and there will be a signing of a memorandum of understanding between NCC and the ICH in Japan to formally implement the project.



A LIMELIGHT FESTIVAL FOR UNGGAI-BENA

"we have to sustain and maintain or keep our culture alive"

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE

A mini cultural festival was recognized, registered, and launched in November by the National Cultural Commission together with the Tourism Promotion Authority at Komu village in the Upper Bena area of Unggai-Bena District in Eastern Highlands Province.

The Sinu cultural festival was named after Mountain Sinu, a culturally distinctive community that becomes the host and custodian of the festival which will be held as a leadup mini cultural festival to the popular and bigger annual Goroka Show. Tourism Promotion Authority chief executive officer Mr Eric Mossman Uvovo told the people of Upper Bena and entire Unggai-Bena, Eastern Highlands to embrace their distinctive cultural practices and traditions. Mr. Uvovo said it was essential to uphold our diverse oral and written cultural practices and passed on to the next generations.

"Culture is an important aspect of our livelihood; we have to sustain and maintain or keep our culture alive. It is through such event that will bring changes to the communities.

"When you have these organizations coming to the communities, they bring changes too like infrastructures such as roads, bridges, electricity and water supplies into the surrounding villages."

Mr Uvovo further announced a K25, 000 donations towards the Komu Resource center which he initially funded.

"This funding is to go towards running training for MSMEs in the villages like sewing, cultural training etc.," he said.

"I thank and appreciate the National Cultural Commission for recognizing, registering and certifying Sinu Cultural Festival to be a lead



up event to the famous Goroka Show.

"Sinu cultural festival will be a lead up cultural festival to the Goroka show and this festival will be held a week prior to the much bigger show, the annual Goroka show," Mr. Uvovo said.

National Cultural Commission also presented a K10, 000 cheque to go towards the launching and opening of the Sinu Cultural Festival.

NCC cultural manager, Mr. Bola Noho, when presenting the cheque and a certificate of recognition of the festival stressed the



importance of maintaining and sustaining our cultures. He added that it has been a sad scenario to see our culture dying and our children losing these vital cultural practices.

"It is therefore important that organizations like National Cultural Commission and Tourism promotion Authority (TPA)

working together under the Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture to help develop our cultures and its practices at the community level," Mr. Noho said.



CHURCH RECEIVED K50,000 FROM MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURE

| By ERIC de EAGLEYE



The Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture ended the year (2022) on a high note with a K50,000 donation to one of the mainline churches in Enga province in appreciation for its work and contribution towards nation building in the area of tourism, arts and culture.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church in Leemanda outside Wabag town, was a proud recipient of the government funding support delivered by the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard. He was accompanied by the three Heads of agencies under the Ministry including Steven Enomb Kilanda (NCC), Eric Mossman Uvovo (TPA) and Alois Kuaso (NMAG) (Post Courier 11th of January 2023)

A K50, 000 cheque was presented by the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture at the opening of the new Seventh Day Adventist church at Leemanda village outside Wabag town on the 28th of December 2022. The cheque was given to fund cultural programs and support the work of churches in Enga Province.

The opening of the church was attended by Minister Leonard accompanied by



the National Cultural Commission (NCC) executive director Steven Enomb Kilanda, the National Promotion Authority CEO Eric Mossman Uvovo and National Museum acting director Alois Kuaso.

Mr. Leonard said the gospel is every bodies business as Papua New Guinea is a Christian Nation as he goes on praising the work of the SDA church in the province. The cheque was divided between the church and the community; K25 000 was split among the four local SDA churches- Amala, Wabag

Town and Lenki getting K5,000 each while the host church Sangurap gets K10 000. The other K25 000 was given to promote tourism, arts and cultural projects that was recently established in the Leemanda Community.

This gesture of Minister Leonard was acknowledged by the community leaders of Leemanda and the broadening Wabag district. The community leaders were pleased that the service was delivered at the community level where local people can benefit from it.

2022

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS




**NATIONAL
WARWAGIRA & MASK
Festival**

**08-12
July**

Kokopo,
East New
Britain
Province



**ENG A CULTURAL
Show**

**07-08
Aug**

Wabag,
Enga
Province



**NATIONAL
GARAMUT & MAMBU
Festival**

**11-13
Sept**

Wewak,
East Sepik
Province



**MOUNT HAGEN
Show**

**15-17
Aug**

Mt Hagen,
Western
Highlands
Province



**NATIONAL
BILASIM SKIN
Festival**

**19-20
Sept**

Goroka,
Eastern
Highlands
Province



**GOROKA
Show**

**18-20
Sept**

Goroka,
Eastern
Highlands
Province



**KUTUBU KUNDU & DIGASO
Festival**

**24-26
Sept**

Kutubu,
Southern
Highlands
Province



**MOROBE
Show**

**15-16
Oct**

Lae,
Morobe
Province



**NATIONAL
KANU AND KUNDU
Festival**

**04-06
Nov**

Alotau,
Milne Bay
Province

Check our website for all the information on
Cultural Festivals and Shows happening around PNG.

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