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2020

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Cover Photo: A Nete Lyaim man surrendering his weapon to pick up peace.

MINISTER'S OVERVIEW

Will honor my commitments

I am ecstatic for two reasons. Firstly, to be appointed as Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture, and secondly, to have made an impact in a space of three months whilst being the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture (TAC).

Anyway, I am glad to be featured on this Culture Tok, which I will take as an opportunity to share my views on the industry where I would have pursued more had I not been moved to another Ministry.

But in the three months I was your Minister I issued a number of policy directives which amongst others, saw the establishment of a technical committee to provide advice and carve a way forward for the tourism, arts and culture industry.

I also wanted to see collaboration of the three agencies under the Ministry because I wanted to see Tourism Promotion Authority, National Cultural Commission and the National Museum and Art Gallery working together to pursue and achieve goals as one operating body.

I also want to see more coordination in organizing cultural festivals in the country particularly the major shows so that we can have tourists coming in to see all the events hence appreciating our true PNG spirit. We must plan and coordinate in a manner where the tourists can find the time to spend more time in the country to see all the shows before he or she returns home.

Other important issues I wanted to pursue was the review of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority Act of 1993 and the appointment of a new TPA Board. I have asked the new Minister Honorable Isi Hendry Leonard, who has assured me to pursue the directives I have set and I am thankful for his support.

In the meantime, I have made some commitments and I will ensure they are honored. My commitment to continue funding support for major renovation work at the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troupe will be realized including the purchase of a vehicle each for the three said institutions in Goroka and Port Moresby.

I would also like to convey my appreciation and the show of support to the Heads of the three agencies, their executive management and staff during the little time I was their Minister. Thank you very much.



HON. WALTER SCHNAUBELT, MP
MINISTER FOR TOURISM,
ARTS & CULTURE

We have a glaring tourism potential. We just have to have the will to plan, fund and execute it well.

To conclude, I would like to say that we have a glaring tourism potential to realise it, we just have to have the will to plan, fund and execute it well to develop our cultural heritage as it is the biggest stand alone tourism product in this country.

Thank you and God bless Papua New Guinea.

Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, MP.
Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture.



Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministers Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, MP and Hon. Emil Tammur, MP during the first hand-over take-over ceremony. (See story on page 16)



CULTURE TOK PUBLICATION

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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
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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
FOREWORD

Focus on rural festivals

Hello and welcome again to the third issue of Culture Tok. This edition focuses on the establishment and promotion of rituals, community cultural centers and mini cultural festival at the community and village level throughout the country, where we believe the real owners of our rich and authentic cultural heritage live.

Papua New Guinea has the most diverse cultural heritage in the world and like any nation, faces constant threat from western influence, globalization and climatic change. But the greatest danger we face is the loss of confidence in ourselves as Papua New Guineans. Our beliefs, traditions and customs that make us unique from the rest of the world. The confidence of knowing our source of strength and existence.

A nation is only as strong as its spirit. We are only as dynamic as our pride. We are only as vibrant as the faith that beats in the hearts of our people. No nation can survive without its faith in its own values, history, cultures, traditions and beliefs, for these are the sources of our unity and our vitality.

We at National Cultural Commission take this very seriously and have been going right down to our people in the rural areas to not only help set up cultural festivals but provide support to establish community cultural centers so our people can have the opportunity to attend, participate and share and pass their cultural knowledge down to the young generation.

We also see fit to go down to our people in the rural settings because we believe it is where pure and authentic festivals can be appreciated, unlike festivals and shows at the provincial and national levels where many cultural events are heavily choreographed and indiscriminately commercialized. These bigger shows are also performed and attended by the same audiences and cultural groups respectively.



STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA
Executive Director

“National Cultural Commission take this very seriously and have been going right down to our people in the rural areas”

But most importantly, we believe that setting up of cultural festivals in the community and village level will complement the establishments of community cultural centers, where our people can keep their artefacts, traditional instruments, attires and other items of traditional importance – a place to tell their stories and educate the young people about our customary laws, traditions and protocols, which are fast disappearing in many of our communities. Our customary laws and traditional protocols of tribal warfare, marriages, hunting, fishing and other related obligations are

fast disappearing thus resulting in many negative social impacts we see today. NCC, in a small way, is playing its part to fix that. We know it is an ambitious drive but at least we are making a start somewhere.

Our story on “Swapping War with Culture” in this edition is a testament to our drive.

Thank you and happy reading.

Steven Enomb Kilanda
Executive Director
National Cultural Commission





RARE FOOD CULTURE IN REMOTE BUNDI



| By Bola Noho

Even the children participated in the Bundi Komba Cultural and Food Festival.

No place is remote or isolated to National Cultural Commission, hence the saying "if there is a will, there is a way".

NCC, in September 2020, flew to Madang, got on a chopper and touched down at Yandera village in the outback of Bundi. The natural backdrop was perfect as 19 diverse cultural groups showcased their heritage before an estimated crowd of 4000 people. The Bundi Komba Festival was witnessed by NCC executive director Steven Kilanda, Tourism Ministry First Secretary Andrew Diu Yamai, senior statesman and Madang businessman, Sir Peter Barter, owner of Trans Niugini Airways Holdings, Gerard Phillip, owner of Betty's Lodge and Mount Wilhelm Trout Farm, Betty Higgins.

Mr Kilanda presented K10,000.00 to Kumura Foundation to help support the festival, which is a mix feature of both culture and food, particularly the komba or pandanus conoideus – a rare food culture in Bundi. The Bundi Komba Festival is an initiative of Kumura Foundation.

Acknowledgements were made to sponsors and partners that made the festival possible. They included Kundiawa-Gembogl District Development Authority, Trans Niugini Airways as the major sponsor, Sir Peter

Barter and Melanesian Foundation for airlifting the team from Port Moresby and the media team from MTS and Tumbuna TV from Madang, and the National Cultural Commission for the partnership and funding support.

Special thank you to five tribes in Bundi namely Yandakari, Gegru, Karizogo, Emigari and Mendi. Individuals from Simbu, foundation committee and executives from Bundi and Simbu were also acknowledged for their part in ensuring a successful festival.

The Bundi Komba Festival will now be held every year from the 5-7th August.



Officials experiencing the culinary delights of the Bundi people during the Bundi Komba Cultural and Food Festival.



They came in different colors and costumes to celebrate the Bundi Komba Cultural and Food Festival.



Komba or pandanus conoideus, a rare culinary delight of the Bundi people.



CULTURE IS OUR BIGGEST ASSET

A cultural group from the Nete Lyaim area of Enga Province.

A performer from Nete Lyaim.

| By Eric Kone

Papua New Guinea stands out when it comes to culture. It is so diverse and incomparable. Unlike anywhere, Papua New Guinea hosts the most unique and colorful cultures in today's modern time than any other nation.

PNG cultures are rich and authentic in language, lifestyle, customs and traditions. Its rituals and beliefs are even magical and eerie to some extent.

National Cultural Commission, the official custodian of the country's cultural heritage, knows very well that this potential can be translated into a multi-million Kina tourism product, and has been going out to every willing cultural group registering and supporting them with a view to not only assist to sustain their different cultures but to help promote and market it for tourism purposes.

Similar sentiments have been echoed by NCC at all cultural festivals and shows that our cultural remains the biggest stand-alone tourism product in the country if promoted and marketed well.

At the helm of this drive is NCC's executive director, Steven Kilanda. He's just about gone to every cultural festival, both old and new, in the country. Even to the most extreme remote of places like Yandara village in Bundi, Madang Province, Gimi village in the West Okapa area of Eastern Highlands, Bali Island in West New Britain Province and Nete Lyaim in Enga.

Nete Lyaim, this little-known community, borders Sepik in the northern end of the country where it is only accessible by air and foot. The cultural connection between the people of Nete Lyaim and NCC brought hope after 45 years of nil government presence. This place was a tribal war zone for many years that denied them basic government services.

December 7, 2020 was the day Nete Lyaim felt different. The air was fresh and there was a feeling of togetherness and hope. A strong desire for government services crept into the warriors who saw the festival a fitting time to surrender their weapons whilst their

"NCC at all cultural festivals and shows that our cultural remains the biggest stand-alone tourism product"

school-aged children cladded themselves in mud and begged to be educated.

"Mipla laikim skul (we want school)", the children chanted as NCC and Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) officers arrived at the no-go zone after an eight-hour walk through some of the rugged of terrains imaginable.

A visibly teary Kilanda, who arrived by chopper, was quick to assure the people that government services would trickle but only when everyone promote and maintain peace and work together. He said he had opened the doors through culture and would ensure the connection is maintained to allow for other government services to reach the people of Nete Lyaim.

Mr Kilanda told the people that he would liaise with the Rural Airstrip Agency and Enga Provincial Government to upgrade and rebuild an old airstrip nearby that was used by missionaries in the 1970s.

He committed K10,000.00 for the festival and a further K10,000.00 for the establishment of a community cultural center for the people of Nete Lyaim.

The Nete Lyaim Cultural Festival will now be staged on the 12-13 August every year.



KILANDA SIGNS 4-YEAR CONTRACT



Governor General Sir Robert Dadae (in black suit) with Mr Steven Kilanda (in grey striped suit) and his family and other dignitaries after the signing ceremony at Government House.



Mr. Kilanda was with the National Museum and Art Gallery where he was serving as Deputy Director Corporate Services when he was asked to fill the vacancy at NCC as acting executive director following the exit of Mr. Uani.

At the Government House, Mr. Kilanda said he was humbled and thanked his family for the support. He extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture for

the guidance, advice and the confidence accorded.

"This is an achievement for me personally and my family and I will now concentrate on the programs and projects that I had started.



Mr Kilanda and other signing parties having a light moment after the signing ceremony at Government House.

Steven Kilanda has been confirmed as the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission for the next four years.

He signed his employment contract at the Government House on 8th December 2020 and thanked the government for having the confidence and trust in him to head an important state agency in the country.

This position has been vacant for seven years after Dr. Jacob Simet's contract expired in 2014. There were acting appointments in the likes of a Mr. Casper Damien and Mr. John Uani over the recent past years including Mr. Kilanda who acted on the position for almost two years until his permanent appointment on 8th December 2020.



Mr Kilanda (right) and Governor General Sir Robert Dadae at the signing ceremony.

MARITA AND KOPI FESTIVAL LAUNCHED

| By Bola Noho

A Marita and Kopi Festival was held in a remote pocket of Okapa District in the Eastern Highlands Province.

The isolated outback was lit up with different traditional singing groups and witnessed by government officials led

tradition through tourism. The festival will now be held every year from 21st-22nd December. He said NCC has been going out to willing cultural groups and supporting them as part of its vision and aim to bring the office down to the community, district and local government levels.



Mr Kilanda with visiting delegates welcomed by a Bundi warrior.



The official launch of the Marita and Kopi Festival.

by officials from the National Cultural Commission who had to travel eight hours by road to reach Gimi village west of Okapa District.

The festival is the result of a mutual partnership with NCC and the Okapa District Development Authority. NCC executive director Steven Kilanda said the festival will now pave way for the people of Okapa District to showcase their culture and

“We are inviting our local members of parliament, council presidents and community based officials to come and partner with NCC to promote and safeguard our culture and traditions,” Kilanda said.

He said culture is the biggest stand alone tourism product are important assets of this country and almost 90 per cent of tourists come into the country under cultural activities and programs.

“When our renewable and non-renewable resources run out in this country, our fall

“Culture and tourism are important assets of this country and almost 90 per cent of tourists come into the country under cultural activities”

Mr Kilanda with other official guests during the launch of the Marita and Kopi Festival in Okapa.

back is our culture. That’s why we must look after and preserve our cultures and traditions,” he said.

He presented K10, 000 to support the festival earlier during the launch of the festival in Port Moresby and thanked all the stakeholders for the initiative.

The Okapa District Development Authority provided a support funding of K50,000.00 towards the Marita and Kopi Festival.

The event will now be featured from 21st-22nd December annually.



NCC LAUNCHES OVER 20 CULTURAL FESTIVALS



A Nete Lyaim warrior from Enga Province.

| By Eric Kone

The National Cultural Commission has registered and launched over 20 cultural festivals so far throughout the country.

The latest inclusion was the Mountain M Festival in Banz, Jiwaka Province. Mountain M Festival now brings to a total of 29 cultural festivals throughout the country that have been launched so far since 2019 under the new Executive Director of Commission, Steven Enomb Kilanda.

"There is another one coming up in Simbu Province and we are still looking at more and the number will surpass the 60 mark," Mr Kilanda said.

The registration and launching of cultural festivals was in line with the mandate of the commission to protect and safeguard PNG's cultural heritage and promote it as a major tourism product.

Mr Kilanda said NCC has also been partnering with provincial governments and district development authorities to jointly support hosting and staging of festivals in the country. Like any other Papua New Guinean culture, Mountain M festival showcased its vibrant heritage in a true Jiwaka style and spirit in Banz.

An elated Mr Kilanda, who opened the festival, thanked the local MP Fabian Pok for his financial support of K10,000 towards the hosting of the festival.



A lass from Central Province doing it the central way during the Sogeri Pineapple Festival.

"It is about time we work in partnership to support and sustain community base economy for a better tomorrow through such cultural programs," he said.

Mr Kilanda, on behalf of the new Tourism Arts, and Culture Minister Walter Schnaubelt, committed K10,000 towards the festival and further declared Blessed Peter ToRot Sigiri Primary School as the first culture promoting school in the country. He also pledged K5,000 to the school.

He said the National Cultural Commission would continue to work closely with the Jiwaka Provincial Government, the North Waghi District Development Authority and the local level government to promote culture. Mr Kilanda thanked and commended all the stakeholders involved in the successful host of the first Mountain M Festival and urged them to continue to work together.

"Such initiatives taken by the community will benefit every household. It's always the first impression that counts the most so let's cooperate and host this event successfully always in the years to come," he said. Mountain M cultural festival will now be showcased from the 14th to the 16th of September every year.

"We are still looking at more and the number will surpass the 100 mark"



Children from Bali Island in West New Britain Province showing their culture during the Maola Hulu Mask Festival.



A traditional regalia from Jiwaka Province.



NCC DEVELOPS COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTERS



Kop Cultural Center in Saga village of Wabag District of Enga Province.

| By Bola Noho

The National Cultural Commission has so far established five community cultural centers in the country since 2019.

“And there are plans for the establishment of more community cultural centers and cultural festivals,” NCC boss Steven Kilanda said.

The five centers include: the Nete Lyaim Community Cultural Center in Titi village in Enga Province; the Kop Community Cultural Center in Saga village in the Wabag District of Enga Province; the Nindidu Cultural Revival Resources Center in Kwarinukin village in the Wosera Gawi District of East Sepik Province; Jukana Cultural Center in Banz, Jiwaka Province and the Kupung Ku Awi Barr Cultural Center in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province.

Cultural centers are both a building facility and an agency which facilitates the management of cultural services and products.

Cultural Centers manage administrative functions and activities for the preservation, protection, safeguarding, development and promotion of cultural services and products at a lower level of that of a museum. Currently, most provinces do not have a cultural center nor a museum for the preservation and protection of the cultural



The Nete Lyaim Cultural Center in Enga Province.

artefacts of their respective provinces.

Mr Kilanda said the organization is currently embarking on and putting more emphasis on the establishment of cultural centers around the country like some years back during former executive director Dr. Jacob Simet’s time, when the organization planned to help build 60 cultural centers throughout the country.

“Under that plan, some were actually established whilst most of them did not eventuate due to unknown reasons,” he said adding that the established ones were run down over time and others discontinued,”

“The commission is now going down to the communities in the rural areas supporting in the establishment of community cultural centers”

governments.

Mr. Kilanda said the partnership with districts and local level governments is in line with the commission’s theme, “Connecting with Community.

Mr. Kilanda said. He said NCC has made a submission to the Government seeking funding support to build four regional cultural centers. That submission is still pending.

In the meantime, the commission is now going down to the communities in the rural areas supporting in the establishment of community cultural centers in partnership with district and local level



TOURISM BE MADE SIMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE: MINISTER LEONARD



The incoming and outgoing Ministers for Tourism, Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Hendry Leonard and Hon. Walter Schnaubelt respectively during the hand-over take-over ceremony.

The new Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Isi Hendry Leonard wants tourism made simple and people-oriented.

He stressed this during a hand-over-take-over ceremony in Port Moresby that every cultural festival must be made simple and taken back to the people to participate.

"I want us to make it simple and allow participation of the people," he said.

Leonard is Member for Samarai Murua electorate in the Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea and he is a first-time Minister.

He became more impressed when he learned that the National Cultural Commission (NCC) had already developed the concept of bringing back culture to the people at community level. Both the new Minister and the executive director of NCC Steven Kilanda are confident they will work harmoniously in the coming months under the theme: "Connecting with Community", which already is put into motion by NCC.

NCC has been going to the remotest of places like Nete Lyaim in the Laigap Porgera District of Enga Province, Yandara village in

Bundi, Madang Province, Gimi village in the west Okapa area of Eastern Highlands Province and Bali Island in West New Britain setting up cultural festivals and commissioning community cultural centers.

"A technical working committee he had established to provide advice on how to go forward must be maintained"

established to provide advice on how to go forward must be maintained. He said he had ensured the three agencies under the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture worked together unlike in the past and asked Minister Leonard to ensure that continues under his watch.

Minister Schnaubelt also asked his colleague to support moves to review the Tourism Promotion Authority Act of 1993, and further ensure that a new Board for the Authority is appointed.

Meanwhile, Minister Leonard thanked his outgoing colleague, Walter Schnaubelt, for the heads-up and vowed to "pursue and take on where you (Schnaubelt) left".

Schnaubelt, who is now the Minister for Forest, had asked Leonard to continue with some of the projects he had embarked on during the three months he was in charge. He said a technical working committee he had



Show of solidarity during the hand-over take-over ceremony.

"Advertisements are already out so please see to it and decide on the appointment of a new board for TPA (Tourism Promotion Authority)," he said. He also asked if the major festivals in the country could be featured in a more coordinated manner to ensure tourists get the opportunity to spend more and enough time to see the festivals spread across the country, hence appreciate the true spirit of Papua New Guinean culture and hospitality.

The new Minister was also asked to ensure commitments made to the National Film Institute and the Raun Raun Theatre be honoured.

"I made a commitment to support each of the institutions with a vehicle each....please continue lending that support," Minister Schnaubelt said.

Both the National Film Institute and the Raun Raun Theatre come under the National Cultural Commission.



NCC SWAPS WAR WITH CULTURE



| By Bola Noho

Warriors taking up culture to promote peace in the Nete Lyaim area of Enga Province.

Nete Lyaim region in Lagaip Porgera District of Enga Province is seeing light at the end of the tunnel after 45 years of darkness. Since Papua New Guinea gained Independent in 1975, Nete Lyaim region has not seen any government entity, department or agency set foot in the region.

Even their elected Members of Parliament representing them at the National Parliament in Waigani, National Capital District, have never set foot nor initiate any project, program or activity that assure his or her electors of better things to happen in their lives.

The region and its inhabitants have been long forgotten. Labeled as the 'Back Page' and a risky war-torn zone, people there are known to have no respect to human lives and property.

The region virtually has no schools, health facilities, and absolutely no sign of government vital services like road networking and bridges. It is one of the tribal fighting regions in the highlands. The women, young mothers and girls, children and the old have been longing and hoping that one fine day their good Lord, the Creator, would hear their cries and prayers from Heaven and send their rescue. Then come December 3, 2020. They saw a

glimpse of light at the end of their long and darkest tunnel when a team of government officials from the National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority walked into the war-torn region to set the stage of what was going to become a historical cultural event for the people of Nete Lyaim – thanks to a Miok Ala Michael.

Michael is a local from Nete Lyaim. He graduated with a Bachelor in Mineral Processing Engineering from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology in Lae but decided to put his Degree aside to help his people. To start with, he organized young and energetic men from his region to help clean and clear up a path from the main Highlands Highway at Mulitaka all the way to Yalum rural airstrip. The path was cleared with the intention of hosting a cultural festival in their area.

Michael posted pictures of men cutting and clearing bushes on Face Book which automatically captured the attention of National Cultural Commission. Contact was made with Michael and the rest is history now that the people of Nete Lyaim will be able to leave in peace and welcome government services to trickle in. But before all that could happen, the Nete

Lyaim people knew they had to first promote and maintain peace. They decided a cultural festival would be the trigger for government services.

“The people of Nete Lyaim to showcase their cultural heritage and tell the world that they are ready for change”

With a cultural festival in mind, they established a committee comprised of representatives from 10 ward councilors and women groups from the region and liaised with National Cultural Commission to support their concept. NCC responded positively and overtime, dates were set for the people of Nete Lyaim to showcase their cultural heritage and tell the world that they are ready for change and development.

The first sign of willingness for change sank in when they saw the advance team from NCC and TPA on the ground after trekking treacherous terrains of the Enga Province. With the support from local porters, the government team led by NCC's Bola Noho, walked for over 10 hours from Mulitaka to Yalum rural airstrip.

They negotiated steep mountains, fast flowing rivers, through the thick jungles before arriving at Yalum where the Nete Lyaim people had already constructed a Cultural Community Centre. The team rested there.



“Nete Lyaim was beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel and NCC would always be there to stay and see to it that government services reach them through culture”



Nete Lyaim people enacting a scene of tribal warfare during the launch of the Nete Lyaim Cultural Festival.

After the opening of the new Community Cultural Centre the next day, the team headed towards the spot where the festival was going to be staged. It was an additional three-hour walk. They arrived to a huge traditional welcome at Yalum village.

It was more than a cultural festival. These people were serious in what they desired for hence organized a week long church convention a week earlier and tied into the festival program a weapons destruction ceremony.

For the first time in the history of Nete Lyaim region and the Enga as a whole, this has never happened before. The history in the making was that the cultural festival hosted by NCC in partnership with the communities in Nete Lyaim created the pathway for other government services and development to reach the people in the region.

The December 7, 2020 event went down in the history book of Nete Lyaim when warring tribes for 45 years ended their hostilities in a mass surrender and destruction of their arsenal. The next day was cultural festivity that saw 46 cultural groups from within the



Mr Kilanda taking part in the Nete Lyaim Cultural Festival.

region showcasing the best of their cultural heritage.

Sound of the kundu drums by the colourful dancers from Nete Lyaim drowned as NCC boss Steven Kilanda choppered into the village where thousands had gathered to witness the event.

Mr Kilanda told warring tribes to promote peace through culture if they want to see development in their area. He said NCC was

here to stay and added that it was the only government organization to have come down to their level to try to assist and help resuscitate them.

He said after 45 years, Nete Lyaim was beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel and NCC would always be there to stay and see to it that Government services reach them through culture.

He committed K10,000.00 for the festival and a further K10,000.00 for the completion of the community culture center.

Leaders from the community assured Kilanda and his team to promoted peace through culture and look forward to see government services come into the area.

The star of this story, Michael, thanked the government team and the 10 councilors for their support and encouraged them to remain steadfast in their quest towards promoting peace and culture in the region. The 10 council wards in the Nete Lyaim region that participated in the ceremony included Yalum, Malaumanda, Poreyak, Wail Wijak, Lyaim Enop, Weilya, Tumudaun, Lauk, Tobaip and Kaudak.



EXTENDING CULTURAL EDUCATION TO THE UNDER-PRIVILEGE



Graduation day for underprivileged children of Life PNG Care Mobile Education program.



One of the underprivileged kids receiving his certificate from NCC boss Steven Kilanda.

| By Bola Noho

The National Cultural Commission has presented K5,000 to Life PNG Care to provide cultural education to under-privileged children it looks after in Port Moresby.

Life PNG Care is a non-governmental organization that looks after, feeds, educates and accommodates under privileged children in the city of Port Moresby.

Executive Director of NCC, Steven Kilanda said the donation was to continue the commission's cultural education program it started in 2019.

"We are more than happy to partner with Life PNG Care to bring cultural education program to under privileged children who have no idea of their culture," he said.

He said many children born in cities do not know their cultures because their parents had never taught them.



(from left): NCC Executive Director Steven Kilanda, Life PNG Care Director Collin Pake and NCC acting executive officer Christopher Puio during the graduation of Life PNG Care mobile education program.

Director of Life PNG Care, Collin Pake, said the center currently caters for 75 children, mostly street kids and those living in the settlements. He added that the center only educates, feeds and sends them away because there is not enough room to accommodate all of them.

Mr Pake said the center was only able to process and send 400 children to schools in the National Capital District this year (2020).

"I want to see genuine under-privileged children that need help. They are the ones the education system is unable to cater for," he said, adding it was a growing concern for the country on the growing number of children roaming the streets in Port Moresby

"It was a growing concern for the country on the growing number of children roaming the streets in Port Moresby"

and other major centers in the country.

Mr Pake thanked NCC for the funding support saying "it will go a long way in assisting Life PNG Care to educate the under-privileged children learn their culture".

He said he was happy to partner with NCC to educate and develop children culturally.



NCC RETIRES 20 AGING OFFICERS



Port Moresby-based retirees with NCC executive director Steven Kilanda.

There are more than 2000 public servants over the retirement age of 65 still working in the public service.

This, according to the Department of Personnel Management, is the sad reality because there is not enough funding to farewell them all. The department had in fact asked for K430 million to send home the aging workforce, but only K28.4 million was appropriated for that retrenchment exercise. Almost half of this allocation or K11.7 million was dished out for the retirement benefit of police personnel alone.

Interestingly, the required police retirement age is 60 whilst the servicemen in the PNG Defence Force is 55.

Meanwhile, despite the limited funding for the public service retrenchment exercise, the National Cultural Commission was lucky to relieve 20 of its aging staff.

Head of NCC Mr Steven Kilanda said during the farewell reception in November that although the organization is a small government State agency in the public service with just 51 officers, it was able to retire 20 of its aging officers.

Thirteen of the retirees were from the National Film Institute and National Performing Arts Troupe (RaunRaun Theatre) in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province whilst seven were from the NCC

“We have served the country and I commend the retirees for their contributions to the safekeeping of our culture”

Head Office and the Institute of PNG Studies in Port Moresby. Separate receptions were held to send off the retirees in Goroka and Port Moresby.

They were presented gifts and certificates of achievement by Mr Kilanda. Each of the retirees had served with distinct roles with NCC for more than 20 and

40 years under the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture and they are regarded by the commission as pioneers or backbones of the commission since its establishment in October 27, 1994.

The seven retirees sent off in Port Moresby include Sevese Mitase, Lae Eka, Robert Aufa, Aniego Hawapa, James Talepa, Manoka Guru and Mary Namba. Eka was the longest serving officer with 46 years of service to the



One of the retirees receiving her gift from NCC boss Steven Enomb Kilanda witnessed by acting Deputy Secretary Mrs Roselyn Wrakuavia and officials from the Department of Personnel Management.



NCC boss Steven Kilanda, acting Deputy Secretary Mrs Roselyn Wrakuavia and senior officials from the Department of Personnel Management with the retirees in Goroka, EHP.

commission. "We have served the country and I commend the retirees for their contributions to the safekeeping of our culture since the first day," Eka said on behalf of the retirees.

"I want to encourage young graduates that will be going into the commission to be faithful and committed to the organisation," he said.

The 14 retired officers from the National Film Institute and National Performing Arts Troupe in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, were sent off a week prior to the function in Port Moresby. They included Hitch Loape (46 years), Jack Puayil (41), Nina Yewi (41), Koniel Some (40), Wama Toyowa (39), John Jankuma (38), Brown Simbere (35), Alice Koito (35), Jedda Suari (34), Kakas

Pilai (33), David Ombiwa (29), Silas Kaina (28), and Peri Rime (26 years) of service to the State. The 14th retiree from the Goroka batch, James Talepa, was acknowledged in Port Moresby.

Mr Kilanda said although it saddened him to lose key staff in retirement due to age and health, it also gave him a renewed strength to see fresh minds in the coming restructure to bring NCC forward.

"We will still source advice from these retirees from time to time as they are still a big part of NCC as pioneers of this organization since its establishment by an act of Parliament in 1994.

'They are regarded by the commission as pioneers or backbones of the commission since its establishment in October 27, 1994'

"They are the backbones of this small organization. I went through their records and found that they do not have any disciplinary record with the commission. They have set a precedent for our young workers," Kilanda said.

He said their retirement will pave the way for young graduates to enter the workforce and that it was the first time NCC has done such a retirement ceremony.

The retrenchment ceremonies were also witnessed by officials from the Department of Personnel Management.

FUNDING, MANPOWER CRITICAL TO NCC

Funding and manpower are the two critical challenges faced by the National Cultural Commission.

"NCC is currently underfunded. It needs increased and adequate funding. Its cultural institutions also need increased funding. "NCC is currently understaff as well. It needs recruitment to fill up the vacant positions so that its 5-year corporate plan can be implemented fully. Department of Personnel Management has already approved our

organizational structure but we are waiting for the green light to advertise and recruit," NCC boss Steven Kilanda has said.

But despite the funding and manpower hurdles, he added that the organization is making progress in its work especially its cultural festival programs and the establishment of cultural centers in the rural settings of the country.

He said that the commission has been able to produce 10 documentary films in a space of two years. He said the documentaries will be officially launched for public viewing at a later date.

Mr. Kilanda said he was grateful to the National Planning and Monitoring Department for PIP funding support which saw a major refurbishment work to its cultural institutions in Goroka Eastern Highlands Province and Port Moresby.

He also thanked PNG Tourism Promotion Authority for the funding support of K100,000.00 towards the Raun Raun Theatre refurbishment work.



A SHORT TERM WITH IMPACT

Ministers Walter Schnaubelt and Isi Hendry Leonard confirming continuity of projects and programs during hand-over take-over ceremony as Chief Executive officer of Tourism Promotion Authority Eric Mossman Uvovo looks on.

| By Eric Kone

Namatanai MP Walter Schnaubelt may have served the shortest term on record as the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture but he definitely left a mark in the three-month period.

He did not move into his new office yet and definitely did not enjoy the perks and privileges of the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture when he was moved to the Ministry of Forest whilst Samarai Murua MP, Isi Henry Leonard, took his place in a minor cabinet reshuffle in December.

During his short stint, Schnaubelt issued six policy directives which saw the establishment of a technical committee to provide advice and carve a way forward for the tourism, arts and culture industry; collaboration of the three agencies – Tourism Promotion Authority, National Cultural Commission and the National Museum and Art Gallery – to pursue and achieve goals as one operating body and the review of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority Act of 1993 and the appointment of a new TPA Board.

He had asked his colleague Leonard to continue to pursue and ensure the directives are implemented. Minister Leonard assured he will.

Three months prior, a political impasse resulted in a cabinet reshuffle that resulted in the decommissioning of Kokopo MP, Emil Tammur, who held the portfolio for over three years.

Amidst the recent political changes, the National Cultural Commission, like any other State agency, stands committed to serving the political



Minister Walter Schnaubelt making a point.

head of the industry. Head of NCC, Steven Kilanda thanked the recent former Minister and welcomed the new one saying NCC will continue its support to the government of the day and serve the people of Papua New Guinea through cultural activities and programs.

“Schnaubelt issued six policy directives which saw the establishment of a technical committee to provide advice and carve a way forward for the tourism, arts and culture industry”

“I welcome the new Minister and assure him the full support and commitment of the National Cultural Commission,” Kilanda said.

Meanwhile, Tammur, during the first handover-takeover ceremony with Minister Schnaubelt, highlighted some of the major achievements during his reign. He started with TPA saying the agency had successfully hosted the 2018 APEC tourism



Minister Isi Hendry Leonard having a light moment with NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda.

sector, opened overseas destination marketing offices and supported major cultural festivals around the country.

He said NCC saw the appointment of a permanent executive director in the form Steven Kilanda after over seven years of not having one. He added that NCC further launched its five-year corporate plan for the first time, saw the launch of its official website and carried out major renovation and maintenance work at the National Film Institute, the RaunRaun Theatre and the Institute of PNG Studies.

NCC also witnessed a major overhaul of its payroll and financial management system, had its organizational structure approved by the Department of Personnel Management and also launched more than 60 cultural festivals and events throughout the country.

The former Minister said achievements for the National Museum and Art Gallery, whilst under his watch, were the establishment of the Board of Trustees after nearly five years of not having one, appointment of the director and the implementation of the Museum's military heritage policy, which resulted in the establishments of three small museums along the famous Kokoda Track.



The Video-conferencing of the International Council of Traditional Music (ICTM) in November 2020. ICTM Executive Board Meeting, top row (l-r): Don Niles, Vice President (Papua New Guinea); Carlos Yoder, Executive Assistant (Argentina/Slovenia); J. Lawrence Witzleben (USA); Tan Sooi Beng (Malaysia); second row from top: Catherine Foley (Ireland); Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, President (Portugal); Naila Ceribaši (Croatia); Marie Agatha Ozah (Nigeria); second row from bottom: Silvia Citro (Argentina); Brian Diettrich (New Zealand); Louise Wrazen (Canada); Ursula Hemetek, Secretary General (Austria); bottom row: Lee Tong Soon (Singapore/USA); Svanibor Pettan, Vice President (Slovenia); João Soeiro de Carvalho (Portugal); Marcia Ostaszewski (Canada) (Photo by Carlos Yoder).

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC MEETINGS DESPITE COVID-19

| By Don Niles

The Covid 19 pandemic did not leave any stone unturned. Every man, business and home has a story to tell. This one is from the Institute of PNG Studies.

During the height of the pandemic in November 2020, many international and regional meetings were cancelled. One of them was the Board meeting of the International Council for Traditional Music in Lisbon, Portugal. Our very own acting director of IPNGS Professor Don Niles sits on this Board as Vice President.

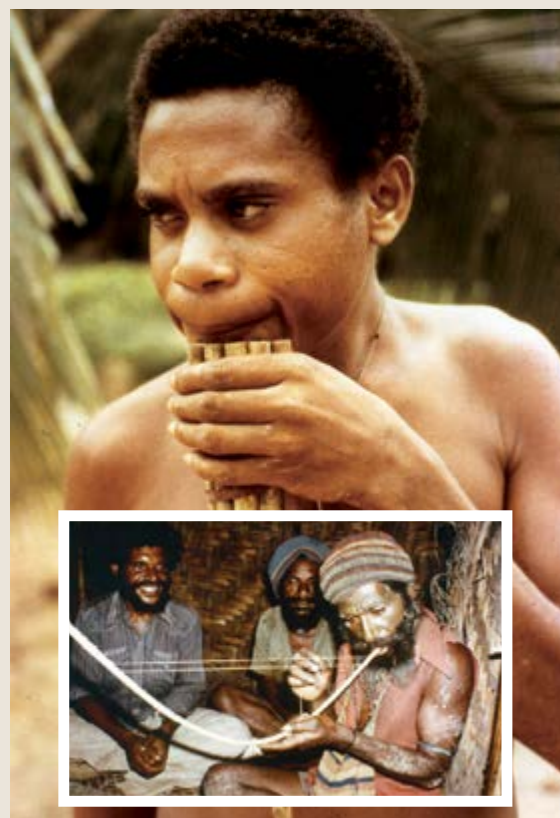
The Board was supposed to have its annual meeting and to finalize plans for the 2021 World Conference and inspect facilities in Lisbon. None of this was possible because of the pandemic.

But video conferencing via Zoom and other software enabled participants to meet and discuss many relevant issues.

While not as effective as meeting in person, costs were drastically reduced and still enabled conversations on important matters. Other conferences were cancelled completely or restructured as webinars, offering different kinds of participation but still enabling colleagues to have essential discussions.



Logo: International Council of Traditional Music (ICTM)



Some of the traditional instruments of Papua New Guinea.



SOGERI PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL



The Koiari people of Central Province in action during the Sogeri Pineapple Festival.



Central Governor Robert Agarobe, NCC boss Steven Enomb Kilanda and Kairuku-Hiri MP Peter Isoaimo jointly launching the Sogeri Pineapple Festival.

| By Eric Kone

Sogeri is a plateau perched on the spine of the country's Owen Stanley ranges northeast of Port Moresby city. It hosts scenic waterfalls and amazing landscape of mountainous rainforest with streams of fresh water and clean air. Its inhabitants are the Koiari people of Central province.

Towards the end of 2020 during the height of the Corona virus pandemic, a non-government organization called Destination Sogeri Tourism Association (DSTA) decided to promote pineapple which grows in abundance in the Sogeri area as a food tourism product to lure Port Moresby city residents.

DSTA partnered with the Central Provincial Government, the National Cultural Commission and the result was a successful fanfare. DSTA raked in the necessary funding they initially thought was impossible to raise and the event was formally recognized, registered and placed on NCC's Annual Events Calendar.

NCC Executive Director Steven Kilanda committed a funding support of K10,000.00, Central Governor Robert Agarobe topped it off with a K100,000.00 commitment and Kairuku-Hiri MP Peter Isoaimo with K50,000.00.



FESTIVAL TO RETELL THE HIRI MOALE STORY



A participant of Hiri Hanenamo Quest during the Hiri Moale Festival.

| By Eric Kone

Legend of the Motu-Koitabu people says Edai Siabo was a man from Boera village who disappeared in the ocean and returned some years later with the invention of huge double-hulled canoes called Lagatoi, which were used in long sea voyages to the Gulf of Papua New Guinea and back.

This trade eventually became known as the Hiri trade between the Kerema people of Gulf Province and the Motu-Koitabu people of Central province and has been annually celebrated in September as the Hiri Moale Festival.

The Edai Siabo Festival was held in Boera village just outside Port Moresby to retell the story of the Hiri Moale Festival and celebrate the achievement of Edai Siabo, who was said to have disappeared during a fishing expedition and never returned home until some years later.

Believed to have died, Edai Siabo returned with powers and knowledge attained from the gods of the ocean – one of them was the knowledge to construct huge Lagatoi's to travel high seas to trade food, artefacts and other wares. Sago from the Gulf and clay pots from Central were the main commodities of the trade which took many months out in the sea and made many young men hardened seafarers, some of them coming home to wives and partners that had moved or passed on.



An elder showing children how to tie knots during the Edai Siabo Festival in Boera village outside Port Moresby.

It is hoped many such stories will be told during this festival but the main aim is to retell the story of the Hiri Trade and feature it more authentically this time, unlike the Hiri Moale Festival which is heavily choreographed and commercialized.

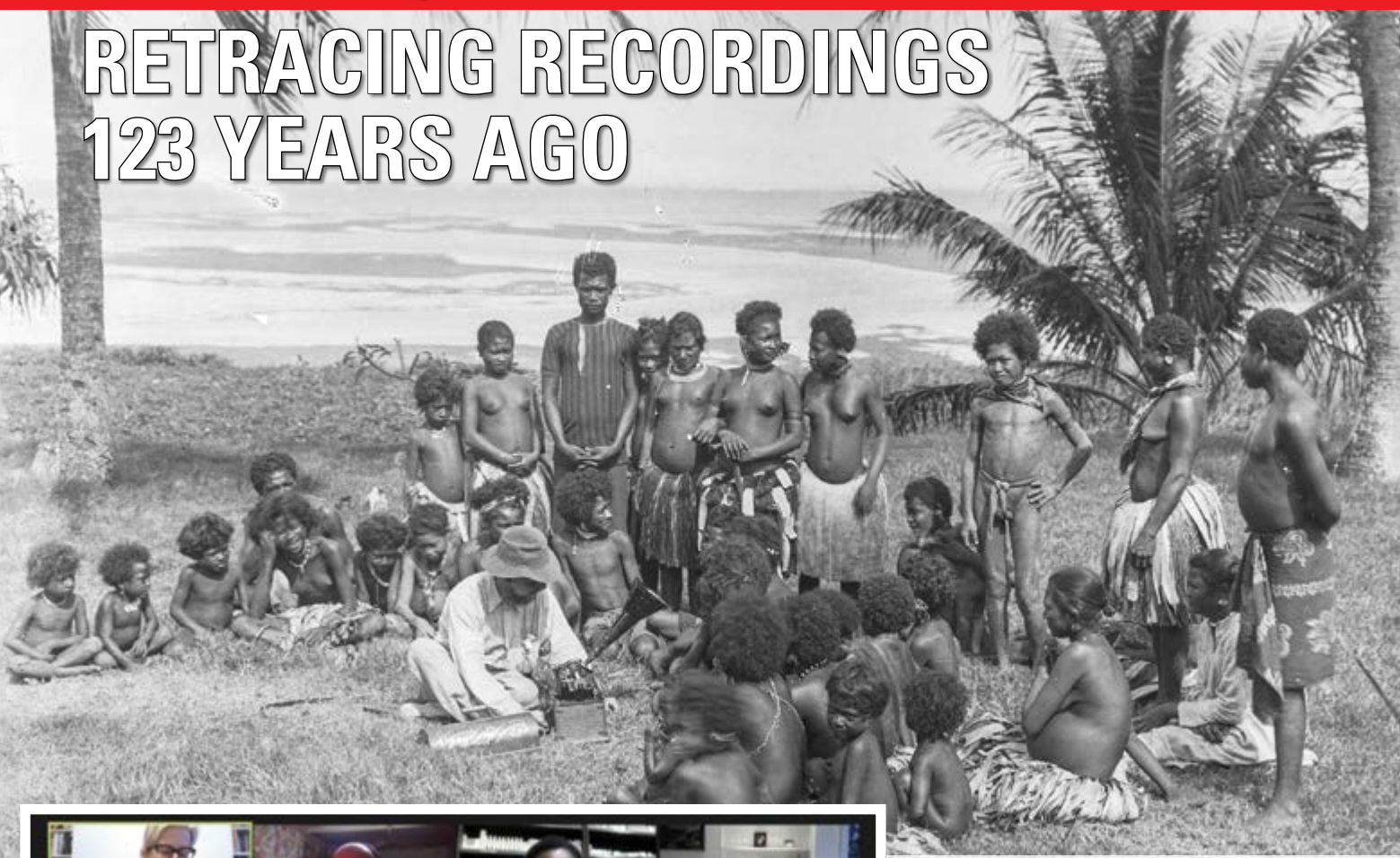
The National Cultural Commission fully supports the Edai Siabo Festival and has asked the organisers to work towards registering the festival with NCC.



A Hiri queen during the popular Hiri Moale Festival in Port Moresby.



RETRACING RECORDINGS 123 YEARS AGO



Recording in Hula, Central Province, PNG, in 1898.



"This work has been very intense, but very fruitful. We now hope to move on to reconnecting communities with these recordings, documenting them further, recording new versions of such genres, etc.

"We are presently reviewing applications from people who we hope can assist us in this work and we are in frequent communication with researchers and the principal investigator in London, although their work has been very severely impacted by the pandemic," Prof Niles said.

He said email has proved essential and more recently Zoom meetings have been very successful in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.

A True Echoes meeting on 30 November 2020 via Zoom video conferencing: (top from left): Isobel Clouter (UK); Don Niles (PNG); Gedisa Jacob (PNG); Vicky Barnecutt (PNG); (middle): Rebekah Hayes (UK); Grace Koch (Australia); Marco La Rosa (Australia); Amanda Harris (Australia); (bottom): Tony Heorake (Solomon Islands); Steven Gagau (PNG/Australia); Lara McLellan (Australia).

Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS) is part of an international group retracing and documenting further recordings of original sounds, music and speeches captured 123 years ago.

This three-year collaborative project called "True Echoes: Reconnecting Cultures with Recordings from the Beginning of Sound" is funded by Leverhulme Trust and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in partnership with the British Library Sound Archive, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta, Solomon Islands Archives and Museum, New Caledonia Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Australian Institute of Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures at the University of Sydney, Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the British Museum. IPNGS is an institute that operates under the National Cultural Commission. Other institutes include the National Film Institute and the National Performing Art Troup which is commonly known as the Raun Raun Theatre.

Acting Director of IPNGS Professor Don Niles said work on this project has primarily focused on the documentation of early cylinder recordings (1898–1918) of music and speech from historical, written sources.



One of the cylinder recordings in the True Echoes project.



KOMO FESTIVAL TIPPED TO BE BIGGEST AND RICHEST



| By Eric Kone

The Komo Cultural Festival is not just vibrant but the biggest and the richest. And it is tipped to become the lead cultural festival in the country.

The name Komo comes from the name Komo-Magarima - a district in the resource-rich Hela Province where the world's giant oil and gas company, Exxon Mobil, operates the US\$19 billion PNG LNG project since 2014.

The inaugural Komo festival featured on December 16 was a real mover. With the kick-off budget of K430, 000.00 the festival attracted cultural groups from the neighboring Southern Highlands, Enga, Western Highlands, Simbu and Eastern Highlands provinces.

As if the startup budget was not enough, more pledges came in at the close of the festival on December 18 reaching a record K1.5 million..

The different faces expressing the vibrancy and the authenticity of the Komo Cultural Festival.

An ecstatic executive director of National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Kilanda said with the kind of support and the interest Komo Cultural Festival has captured, it is likely to become the biggest in the country.

He said during the launch of the event that Hela province itself was so diverse, he suggested a mini festival be held in the Mount Bosavi area as a lead up to the main Komo Cultural Festival from September 13th - 16th every year starting 2021. Mount Bosavi is in the Komo Magarima District that borders the Gulf, Western, and Southern Highlands Provinces.

Mr. Kilanda, who launched the festival, said culture in Hela is so vibrant and authentic "and it is pleasing to note the overwhelming support coming from the leaders of the province, including the prime minister". He said the location of the festival is ideal

because Komo International Airport is just close by thus ensuring easy and comfortable access for tourists.

"The festival is ideal because Komo International Airport is just close by thus ensuring easy and comfortable access for tourists"

He thanked the organizing committee for the successful start including partners that contributed financially to host and festival. The festival was supported by Hela Provincial Government

(K350,000.00), Komo Magarima District Development Authority (K50,000.00) and Exxon Mobil

K30, 000, whilst the total financial commitment of K1.5 million was pledged by Hela Governor Philip Undialu (K1m), Komo-Magarima

MP Manasseh Quiz Makiba (K100, 000.00), National Planning and Monitoring Minister and Finchaffen MP Renbo Paita (K100, 000.00) and Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC) K50,000.00.



ENGAN TRADITIONAL CULINARY ART EXISTS

| By Bola Noho

The traditional ways of preparing, cooking, presenting, serving and preserving food in Enga Province has its place till to these days. Like any other provinces in the highlands region, Enga has the abundance of food crops grown from all corners of the province.

And also live stocks both domesticated and wild are plentiful there. They have special ways of preparations, cooking, distribution and presentation including preservation for later use.

People of Kop village on the periphery of Wabag town last September demonstrated how the Engans slaughter pigs, butcher the pork with traditional tools, prepare mumu, cook in it, serve, distribute and preserve the pork.

It was during the eve of the launching of their community cultural center that they demonstrated the traditional culinary art in the presence of the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Mr Steven Kilanda, the First Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr Andrew Diu Yamai, the Enga Cultural Show Society executives and the provincial tourism and arts officers.

Culinary arts refer to the art of preparing, cooking, presenting and serving food. This may often be in the form of meals in a restaurant, but culinary arts can refer to all professions that involve preparing, cooking and presenting food.

Preparing an Engan culinary delight the traditional way in Kop, Wabag District.



Breaking apart the term, culinary means "related to cooking" and arts refers to any broad area of interest.

"Culinary arts are related to cooking, the cuisine arts of food preparation, cooking, and presentation of food"





NCC RECOGNIZES KOP COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER



Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda and Andrew Yamai First Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture presenting certificate to the people of Kop Community Cultural Center, Enga Province.

| By Eric Kone

Youths from Sapip and Aipap clans from the big Awain tribe in Wabag Enga Province are proud owners of the Kop community cultural center.

Kop is the name of the creek that runs through the land of the Awain tribe separating the Sapip and Aipap clans. Youths from these clans took it upon themselves to preserve all their traditional artefacts and wares and built an Akalyanda – Engan word for men's house, whilst a women's house is known as an Endand.

This community cultural center (the Akalyanda) is fully furnished with all the traditional artefacts like bamboo knives, stone axes, wooden spades, bilums and other culinary items.

The center is also used as a venue to teach young people about customary laws and traditional protocols which are fast disappearing.

Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda said the youths started this project six years ago, and that NCC only realized their efforts recently.

He said the efforts of the youths were acknowledged with a support funding of K10,000.00 and the presentation of a certificate which formally recognizes the Kop Community Cultural Center.



Youths at Kop Community Cultural Center, Enga Province

Mr. Kilanda said the community cultural center would also be promoted as tourism products for both the local and foreign visitors.

The National Cultural Commission has produced a fascinating video documentary on the Kop culinary arts in which a mumu (earth oven) was prepared using traditional knives and spades at the Kop Community Cultural Center.

The film shows the skillful use of bamboo knives and stone axes and clubs to slaughter a pig – every piece of the pork all cut up using razor sharp bamboo knives and carefully wrapped with edible greens and placed in the earth oven already filled with steaming hot stones.

This documentary is yet to be launched for public viewing.

2021

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
ARTS AND CULTURE



**NATIONAL
WARWAGIRA & MASK
Festival**

08-12
July

Kokopo,
East New
Britain
Province



**ENGA 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 up-dated information on
Cultural Festivals and Shows happening around PNG.

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