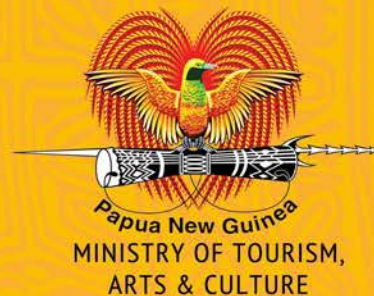




NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION



NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION | NEWS LETTER

# LONG LIVE SANA

Issue 1  
Jan - Apr  
2021

Your  
free  
copy



## CULTURE TOK PUBLICATION INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 MINISTER'S OVERVIEW
- 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD
- 3 SOMARE AND IPNGS
- 4 NCC, FRANCE MOOT CULTURAL DIPLOMACY
- 5 IPNGS' DOUBLE JUBILATION
- 6 NCC NEWS LETTER
- 7 DISPLAY OF IPNGS PUBLICATION
- 8 NCC REGISTERS NEW FESTIVALS FROM MILNE BAY
- 9 MINISTER WANTS TIME RELEVANT FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY
- 10 APPEAL FOR SUSTENANCE OF CULTURAL FESTIVALS AND CENTERS IN RURAL PNG
- 11 ENDANGERED CULTURE NEEDS PRESERVATION
- 12 NCC TO PROMOTE CULTURE IN FASHION, DESIGN INDUSTRY
- 13 LONDOL MALI FESTIVAL REVIVED
- 24 MAKE TOURISM SIMPLE
- 25 NCC SUPPORTS KARIMUI SHOW WITH K10,000.00
- 16-17 LILLIAN'S BILUM WEAR FASHION FROM SEPIK
- 18 PNG FASHION TO GO VIRTUAL
- 19 MINISTER PRAISES NCC
- 20 LONG LIVE SANA

## CULTURE TOK PUBLICATION

### Chief Editor:

Steven Enomb Kilanda

### Editor:

Erick Kone  
Christopher Puio  
Bola Noho

### Editorial Contributors:

Prof. Don Niles  
Vincent Pali

### Graphic Design / Layout:

Wesley Kuman

### Photo Credits:

Wesley Kuman  
Jeffrey Simon  
IPNGS & NCC File photos  
PNG Fashion & Design Week

### Publisher:

National Cultural Commission

### Printing:



**BizPrint**





## MINISTER'S OVERVIEW

I am aware of a similar launch held at the beginning of last year. This tells me that this organization is working very hard and moving forward. I know it does not get the funding support it deserves but I can already see evidences of National Cultural Commission delivering. As Minister responsible, I am grateful for that.

I can only hope that one day, our planners will appreciate the importance our cultural heritage and reflect that in the budget. I say this because I know National Cultural Commission does not get the desired funding it seeks but it is making wonders with limited funding it gets from the Government. This is one priority area I will push as Minister responsible, to ensure NCC gets the adequate funding it deserves to carry out its work.

When I took office in January 2020, I made a point where I wanted to see a simple tourism industry. I want to see an industry that is more people-oriented. Little did I know that NCC has already been going down to the rural communities and setting up cultural festivals and cultural centers thus, giving our people the opportunity to participate and take ownership of their cultural heritage. This is the way forward if we want to preserve, safeguard and promote our culture.

Even to the remotest parts of the country like Nete Lyaim, in Enga Province where government presence seemed non-existence for 45 years due to tribal warfare. I note with great interest NCC going in there encouraging the people to drop their weapons and take up culture instead. The Nete Lyaim Cultural Festival plus many others now registered with the National Cultural Commission are formally recognized cultural festivals in the country.

These cultural festivals are now captured in the Commission's National Cultural 2021 Events Calendar, which I will launch in a short while. But before I do, I wish to call on our development partners particularly our provincial governments to partner with National Cultural Commission so that we sustain the festivals and maintain community cultural centers. I know the Enga Provincial Government has been very supportive and I want other provincial governments to show similar support.

Going rural and supporting cultural activities is the way forward following the adverse impacts we have been experiencing in the tourism and hospitality industry as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. That is why we are now going rural. And I am happy to note that the majority of the cultural festivals marked on the National Cultural Events Calendar 2021 are in rural settings. That is where most of our people are. That is where custodians of our cultural heritage live. That is where you find and see authentic displays of our diverse cultures..



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

**'I wanted to see a simple tourism industry. I want to see an industry that is more people-oriented. NCC has already been going down to the rural'**

The calendar I will launch tonight is important. It captures the dates and venues of different NCC-sanctioned cultural festivals in the country this year, thus allowing visitors to plan ahead.

It is therefore, equally important that all major cultural festivals in the country are properly coordinated with the rural festivals as lead-up events to the bigger ones to allow tourists to plan and visit many as possible, if not, all of our cultural festivals and events before they leave our shores.

This is a challenge to the National Cultural Commission, Tourism Promotion Authority and National Museum and Art Gallery to work together and coordinate our national events so that we can take advantage of the great opportunities our land is offering.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

## LONG LIVE SANA

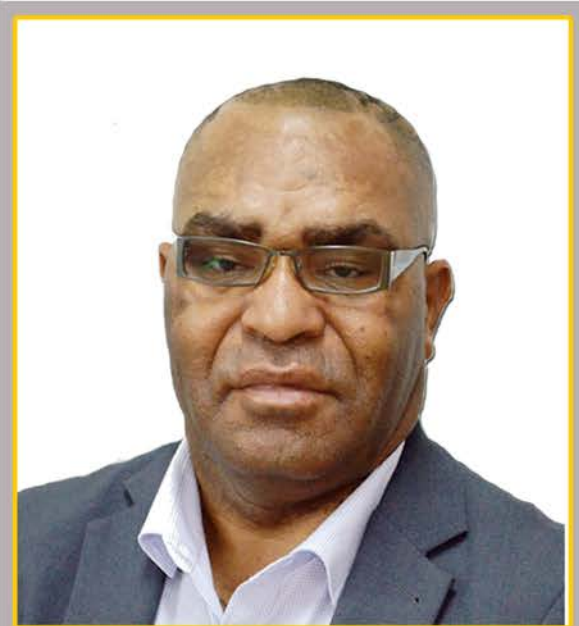
If Papua New Guinea is a picture of vibrant democracy today, the painter is Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare, GCL GCMG CH CF SSI KStJ KSG.

He mixed 1,000 paints – clay from here, tree sap from there, oil sip from another region, fruit juice from yet another part, from one sulfuric water and from another egg white – and out came, by the power of his patience and artistry, striking colors of red, gold, black, and white. These colors flutter now proudly outside the United Nations General Assembly in New York and on every flag pole where PNG missions are to be found around the world and in every part of PNG. Today and for the next fortnight those colors will fly at half-mast in respect of our fallen painter.

If Papua New Guinea is literary a masterpiece today, the author is the Grand Chief. He took 800 languages and reduced them to one – *Motu* and added the common lingua franca, *Tok Pisin* and the language of the courts and government, English, creating three national languages. With them he mouthed *Raka Hebou*, *Bung Wantaim* and unity. And it is in promoting our cultural heritage that we realize Grand Chief Somare's vision to build a modern Christian nation steeped in ancient traditions.

He carved a country as a Sepik master carver would for a human figure, with a Constitution as the head, arms and legs in the organic law and subordinate legislations and other important organs of state. Important ideas for the sculpture he borrowed from abroad but then he gave it the fine twist of customary practices and traditions and made it unique, local and home grown. From the formless trunk of a divided nation emerged the National Constitution with a unique preamble setting national goals and directive principles and a PNG Government modeled on Westminster parliamentary system.

It is our Grand Master who has fallen. And it is for the Grand Master that the National Cultural Commission, the institution that he built as a bastion of all art forms in our country, mourns. The National Cultural Commission is the embodiment of Grand Chief's vision to preserve, safeguard and promote Papua New Guinea's culture, languages, traditions and art forms.



**STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION

**'If Papua New Guinea is a picture of vibrant democracy today, the painter is Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare, GCL GCMG CH CF SSI KStJ KSG.'**

The National Cultural Commission thanks the people of East Sepik Province for faithfully and loyally giving the Grand Master sufficient time to complete his artistic enterprise. The Executive Director, the management and the staff and families of National Cultural Commission offer their deepest condolences to Lady Veronica Somare, the Somare children and grandchildren, and his relatives.

We are certain that when our Grand Chief is asked at the pearly gate by the Grand Master who painted PNG and the Universe: "Is your work complete, Michael?" He would surely say: "As far as is humanly possible, it is done, my Lord!"

And that is gratifying to know. Gratifying. Farewell Grand Chief, PNG art and culture Grand Master.



## SOMARE, IPNGS



**Sir Michael Thomas Somare, a staunch supporter and firm believer in Papua New Guinea's culture.**



The founding director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies was a man called Ullie Beier.

In 1967-71, Beier taught a very influential course in creative writing at the University of Papua New Guinea. In 1970, Beier accompanied Michael Somare to his village, a visit that resulted in a co-authored article in a publication from the National Museum and Art Gallery.

After his time at UPNG, Beier returned to become Director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ife, Nigeria.

In 1973, he had a visit from Albert Maori Kiki (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Pita Lus (Minister for Sports, Tourism and Culture). They brought Beier a message from Chief Minister Michael Somare, asking him to return to PNG to start the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

Somare wanted someone he trusted to start an institute that would be concerned with multitude of cultural traditions of the country, the problems and aspirations of ordinary people that would collect cultural materials for use in schools and discuss the impact of topics such as tourism or missions. He wanted Ullie Beier.

Ullie along with his wife Georgina and their sons, Sebastian and Tunji returned to PNG in 1974 to start the Institute.

In 1974, the first year of the existence of IPNGS, Ullie Beier had already edited a number of publications. In the first issue of *Gigibori: A Magazine of Papua New Guinea Cultures* from December 1974, Somare contributed an introductory message and an article about initiation in Murik Lakes, his home area. His support for the newly established IPNGS was ongoing.

Beier also taped interviews with Michael Somare. Beier and Tony Voutas then edited the interviews and contributed to Sir Michael's autobiography, *Sana*, published in 1975.

Sir Michael's initial involvement with IPNGS was essential to its establishment and early existence. Even later, he continued to attend various functions and launched a book on music from the Middle Sepik area. All of us at IPNGS mourn his passing.

**References:** Bikmaus appeal, Story in Ulli's book, Pix n 1977 report, *Gigibori* contributions.



## NCC, FRANCE MOOT CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



France ambassador to PNG, Guillaume Lemoine and NCC Executive Director Mr Kilanda setting the pace for cultural diplomacy



The National Cultural Commission (NCC) is embarking on foreign missions to build cultural diplomatic relationships.

This morning, the head of NCC Mr. Steven Kilanda met with the ambassador of France to PNG, H.E. Guillaume Lemoine to discuss possibilities of how the two countries could pursue the proposed desire to benefit the two countries. Amb. Lemoine said France has a long relationship with PNG since 1885 when French missionaries came to Papua New Guinea.

"I would like to work on the history of our relations," he said. He said France is the only European country that is part of the Melanesian people in the Pacific, including New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Tahiti as examples, apart from Papua New Guinea.

"France is far away. If you go to New Caledonia, that is France," he explained. Both Mr. Kilanda and Amb. Lemoine agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding would be the way forward to explore these opportunities through cultural diplomacy programs.

Mr. Kilanda said his office would prepare a draft MoU and invite input from the French Embassy before it is formally signed by both parties.

Both men passionately discussed, shared and learning from each other's cultures, history and the dream to establish cultural information centers in PNG and France.

Exchange of expertise in film making and documentary were also discussed.

The French envoy also asked NCC to help facilitate (where necessary) two French film and television companies interested in coming to Papua New Guinea.

"There are two different and interesting film companies willing to come to Papua New Guinea but they do not know how or who to approach," Amb. Lemoine said.

Mr. Kilanda offered his assistance and asked the Ambassador to advise the film companies to write to NCC expressing their interests and the reasons. He said he would assist in his capacity as the executive director of National Cultural Commission.

He said it would be an ideal opportunity to connect National Film Institute with the French film and documentary teams.

The National Film Institute is one of the three cultural institutions that operate under National Cultural Commission. The other two are National Performing Art Troup and the Institute of PNG Studies.

The mandate of National Cultural Commission is to preserve, safeguard, develop and promote the cultural heritage of Papua New Guinea.



## IPNGS' DOUBLE JUBILATION



**NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda handing over office equipment to IPNGS Acting Director Prof. Don Niles as IPNGS staff look on.**

The Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS) is a jubilant recipient of new office equipment, thanks to the National Cultural Commission.

IPNGS Acting Director Prof. Don Niles thanked NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda for his continuous support and foresight in managing cultural institutions of the country. Prof. Niles said the printer/copier would be used mainly for administration work which is essential for day to day operation of the institute.

IPNGS was called in to NCC Head Office in Downtown, Port Moresby and presented with two new desktop computers, five mobile phones and a digital camera.

"I'm happy for the support," Prof. Niles said while thanking Mr. Kilanda. He said the equipment would assist in archiving work.

He thanked the Department of National Planning and Monitoring for its continuous support in providing necessary funds to support and assist the National Cultural Commission.

Mr. Kilanda said similar support will also be given to the National Film Institute and National Performing Arts Troupe both based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.





# NCC NEWS LETTER



Different editions of NCC news letter over the years

The quarterly issue of Culture Tok, the newsletter of National Cultural Commission is not a new idea.

In 1974, the Cultural Development Act established the National Cultural Council, the ancestor of the present Commission. The National Cultural Council was responsible for coordinating the work of cultural institutions such as the National Museum and Art Gallery, the National Arts School, the National Theatre Company, the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, provincial centres, as well as subsidiary bodies such as Village Arts and Raun Raun Theatre.

In November 1978, the Council produced the first issue of Culture, described as a quarterly journal. Its purpose was to make the work of the Council and its institutions better known. Although the first issue was in English, subsequent ones were promised in *Hiri Motu* and *Tok Pisin*. The 24-page publication was filled with black-and-white photos of these institutions, staff, brief descriptions of their functions, and maps on how to find them.

The National Cultural Commission was established in 1994 as an Act of Parliament. The cultural institution including: the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, the National Performing Arts Troupe (from the earlier National Theatre Company and *Raun Raun Theatre*), and the National Film Institute (from *Skul bilong Wokim Piksa*). These were captured under the National Cultural Commission by the Act, The National Arts School was absorbed by the University of Papua New Guinea and Village Arts ceased some time ago.

While it's not clear if there were other issues of Culture, the Commission began a newsletter in 2000 called Culture Link, Although, initially appearing monthly, it became less regular and published until 2007. Initial editors were David Taim, Stephen Waive, and John Uani, but from 2001 until its end, Ethel Ageva Namuri was the editor. The first printing on glossy paper appeared in 2003.

Then Culture Tok appeared for the first time in 2009, edited by Samson Kendeman. Natasha Bodger later assisted. For the first two years of its existence, it appeared twice a year. In 2011, Bola Noho became editor, with one issue appearing each year.

The first edition of the new-look Culture Tok appeared in 2020, and will be produced three times each year. Bola Noho resumed as editor.

While there have been considerable changes to the format and presentation of these newsletters, all have tried to publicise the work of NCC, its cultural institutions and the importance of cultural activities to Papua New Guinea's identity. There is always much to say.



## DISPLAY OF IPNGS PUBLICATION



The photos show a display of publications during the 6th Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture held in the Solomon Islands in 2018.

The Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies tries its best to promote its publications on cultural aspects at every opportunity that comes its way. And one way of doing this is through displays of its music publications at various events.

Stacks of such publications are stored on site because of the difficulties of marketing locally and overseas. Some orders are made through email and are sent out through postal services.

Music publications are often displayed during the launching of new Institute publication or at events such as book fairs or cultural workshops.

Other exhibitions take place at large events, such as during the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture and the Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture, where a selection of publications was brought overseas for display.

Such displays portray the uniqueness of the cultural perspectives with in the country and the activities of one of Papua New Guinea's national cultural institutions.

After conclusion of the festivals, the publications were then donated to schools or universities for their libraries.



A presentation of our publication was then made to the library at Kukum Primary School in the Solomon Islands.



## NCC REGISTER NEW FESTIVALS FROM MILNE BAY



The people of Samarai Murua in Milne Bay Province are formally recognized as the true custodians of their unique culture.

The formal recognition was given by their local Member and Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard and the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission during the launching of the four cultural festivals in Port Moresby on March 25, 2021.

The festivals include Bagi and Tobotobo Mini Festival in Yeleyamba Local Level Government, Murua and Doi Festival in Murua Local Level Government, Giniba and Keiheha Festival in Bwanabwana Local Level Government and Saila, Ulun & Haptomwa Festival in Louisiade Local Level Government.

The festivals will now bring to life some of the popular but now dormant events like pearl farming, building of ocean-going canoes and the popular Milne Bay necklace called Bagi.

"Yes we still have pearls in Samarai and we still use clay pots to cook our food," the Minister boasted during the launch.

He said sacred dances will also be revived during these festivals, He vowed to support the festivals in his electorate during his term as the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture.

"This is the time to start reviving our culture or we'll lose all of them. Let's go local, see and experience our local culture by the villagers who are the real owners of culture.

Head of the National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda stressed the importance of preserving and safeguarding our art and cultural heritage and the concept of promoting them in the rural communities.

He reiterated that culture is the biggest stand-alone tourism product in Papua New Guinea which must be properly and effectively coordinated and marketed to fully realize and appreciate its worth.

The launch was also witnessed by the four ward council presidents of the electorate namely Bernard Jack (Yeleanba LLG for the Bagi & Tobotobo Mini Festival), Starlin Kitaega (Murua LLG for the Murua Doi & Yam Festival), Madiu Peter (Bwanabwana LLG for the Giniba & Keiheha Festival) and Turner Sil (Louisiade LLG for the Saila, Ulun & Haptomwa Festival). The four presidents will chair the organizing committees of their respective festivals.

The presidents expressed appreciation and thanked the Minister and National Cultural Commission for giving their people the power and ownership of their cultural heritage. They said the opportunity for their people to participate in the development and enhancement of their culture was a way forward for their respective wards and electorate.



## MINISTER WANTS A TIME RELEVANT FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY



**Participants of the validation workshop for the National Tourism Plan 2021-2025 in Port Moresby**



Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture, Isi Hendry Leonard, says he will ensure the tourism industry operates in an environment relevant to the present times.

He further vowed to take up the responsibility to ensure legislative reforms are undertaken, and a consolidated visionary plan determined by stakeholders are properly aligned towards making the tourism industry a key economic sector of the country.

Minister Leonard made this undertaking on January 20 when he opened a validation workshop of the five-year National Tourism Plan 2021-2025 in Port Moresby.

The workshop was attended by stakeholders from the tourism industry, representatives from relevant government departments and the lead State agencies of the industry including Tourism Promotion Authority, the National Cultural Commission and National Museum and Art Gallery.

He said: "During my tenure as the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, I will undertake the responsibility to ensure the environment in which tourism industry operates is relevant to the times.

"Regulations and enforcements of standards will add value to our competitive advantage as a destination and ensure our natural environment and resources are utilized for the purpose of tourism and travel in a sustainable manner that is beneficial to all Papua New Guineans".

"I am of the view that PNG's tourism industry is a sleeping giant and has a huge potential to generate considerable wealth for our country. So as we endeavor to advance our government's development aspirations laid out in the Medium Term Development Plan III and Vision 2050, We in the industry will play a vital role in growing our economy by harnessing the huge untapped tourism potential and open our doors to the outside world to come to our shores," Minister Leonard said.

He said he was confident that the National Tourism Plan would provide frameworks and guidelines to take back their tourism industry, and effectively drive it forward with a people-centered approach and sustainable growth for the next five years.

"We have to take back our Tourism Industry from the local level to the national level," he added. He said every citizen in the formal and informal sector including corporate organizations in all sectors of the economy must effectively participate and contribute to the overall growth and productivity of the tourism industry in Papua New Guinea," he said.

**Minister's Speech at the National Tourism Plan 2021 - 2025, Confrence in Port Moresby**



## APPEAL FOR SUSTENANCE OF CULTURAL FESTIVALS, CENTERS IN RURAL PNG



National Cultural Commission is appealing to development partners and stakeholders to support rural cultural festivals and help build community cultural centers in the country.

In a presentation, the Executive Director of NCC Steven Kilanda stressed the importance of preserving, safeguard and promote the diverse tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the need to conserve and pass on from one generation to another.

He called on development partners, provincial governments and other stakeholders to help sustain rural festivals and community cultural centers throughout the country. He said NCC, in the past two years has helped set up and launched over 20 cultural festivals in the rural areas of Papua New Guinea including remote places like Nete Lyaim in Enga Province.

Nete Lyaim borders East Sepik in the northern end of the country. This particular community was ravaged by tribal warfare for 45 years denying government services until NCC trekked 13 hours and encouraged them to put down their weapons and take up culture instead. Their festival is one of the many now included in the National Cultural Events Calendar, launched by the Tourism Arts and Culture Minister Isi Henry Leonard last night.

"NCC has never worked hard like it has been particularly in the recent past years because we believe that culture is the single biggest stand-alone tourism product in the country. It is our identity, our source of strength and life". We at NCC value the importance of ensuring that our cultures remain intact and are passed down from generation to generation," Mr. Kilanda said.

To achieve that, Mr. Kilanda said NCC has been going out to the rural communities to help set up cultural festivals and encouraging villagers to take ownership of their cultures by organizing cultural festivals in their rural settings.

"We also encourage our people to build community cultural centers to complement their live cultural performances. Community cultural centers are like mini museums where our people can put on displays their traditional instruments and attires and can also be a venue for elders to teach the young people about customary laws and traditional protocols. Tourism prospects for rural base settings can also be promising," he said.



## ENDANGERED CULTURE NEEDS PRESERVATION



**NCC Executive Director  
Mr Kilanda presenting  
gift to the PNG  
Ambassador to Japan,  
Mr Sam Abal**

Papua New Guinean Culture is not static, it is changing everyday, hence every effort is required to preserve, safeguard and promote it.

The gradual change of culture, according to our envoy to Japan Sam Abal, is already a threat to efforts by organizations like National Cultural Commission that is mandated to ensure PNG's cultural heritage is preserved, safeguarded and promoted at all times.

"Our biggest danger and the counter force is the younger generations which force is changing our culture," Ambassador Abal said. The diplomat made these remarks during a visit to the National Cultural Commission head office in Port Moresby on February 11. He was given an overview of the work NCC has been doing, the challenges and the achievements.

Ambassador Abal praised NCC for overcoming all odds and ensuring the mandate of the commission is carried out. He said he was impressed with NCC going rural to set up cultural festivals and cultural centers for villages and communities.

"We have to make that cultural impact and put it into perspective. We have to make that impact on young leaders in Parliament," he said adding that most of our young parliamentarians "are still very far from their people".



He added: "We have to ask ourselves where we are now, on who's land are we standing? Until we seriously answer these questions, we will appreciate our culture and perhaps give more attention. "Papua New Guinea is so diverse and rich in culture. But our country is not well organized yet. We still have to realize the full potential of our culture that's why culture is always last in budget priority," the former parliamentarian said.

He said he would ask the Japanese Ambassador to PNG to visit National Cultural Commission for a similar presentation so he can see and hear for himself the extent of work NCC has been doing in the recent past years.

He said he was certain that the Japanese embassy and other diplomatic missions would be interested to assist the work of NCC in any capacity they see fit but challenged the commission to invite and or visit missions and embassies.

Ambassador Abal offered to assist NCC by securing some of these proposed appointments with the diplomatic community in the country.



## NCC TO PROMOTE CULTURE IN FASHION, DESIGN INDUSTRY



The National Cultural Commission has signed a memorandum of understanding with the PNG Fashion and Design Week to drive and promote culture in the fashion and design industry.

It was a small signing ceremony at the NCC head office in downtown Port Moresby that is anticipated to enable NCC to reach out to the local experts in the fashion and design industry to promote its goals and missions.

The National Cultural Commission also committed a K10, 000.00 to support PNG Fashion and Design Week in its upcoming 2020-2021 Virtual Runaway Fashion Show.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda said the partnership was timely and would go a long way in promoting culture by encouraging local designers to promote cultural designs in fashion show internationally.

“I am pleased because NCC as the government agency mandated to preserve, safeguard, protect, develop and promote PNG’s cultural heritage. I am happy to work in partnership to accomplish NCC’s mission and goals.

“Whether it be government or non-government organizations, NCC needs partnership to execute its cultural functions and responsibilities, and our office is always open for those willing to work with us,” he said.

Mr. Kilanda said the partnership with PNG Fashion and Design Week is among many partnership arrangements NCC has engaged to boost the work of NCC. He commended PNG Fashion and Design Week Director Janet Sios and her team for promoting culture through their work.

“Fashion and design are part and parcel of PNG’s culture and tradition that is expressed through display through our unique art forms.

“And we are proud to see what PNG Fashion and Design Week is doing to promote those art forms and designs in the region and internationally.

“They preserve and safeguard our arts and culture for the future generation to embrace,” Mr. Kilanda said. Mrs. Sios expressed her gratitude and thanked NCC for the support she longed for since 2016.



## LONDOL MALI FESTIVAL REVIVED



People from Kompiam-Ambum District of Enga Province turned up in numbers at Londol village to participate and witness the revival of Mali Festival.

Mali is a traditional festival long practiced by the different tribes including Tee, Wamera and Kupupin. The last time they celebrated Mali was 25 years ago.

Under the leadership of Mr. Jerry Mara and the respective chiefs and leaders, Mali Festival was staged in January witnessed by the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission, Steven Enomb Kilanda and First Secretary to the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture, Elijah Tapie.

Mr. Tapie said there was a need to promote domestic tourism and the idea of hosting cultural festival at the local level because this was where the people practice their cultures and traditions.

Mr. Kilanda said the significance of preserving and practicing culture was one way of bringing different tribes and clans together to create peace and order in the community. He said through such events, people develop products to sell to the tourists and also bring tourists down to the village and get them to appreciate the unique cultures and traditions of PNG.

Mr. Kilanda made a commitment of K10, 000 to the Londol Mali Festival committee to build a cultural center and urged them to register their groups with NCC so they could be captured on the cultural events calendar that would lead to a potential tourism product.





## MAKE TOURISM SIMPLE

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

He stressed this during a hand-over-take-over ceremony in Port Moresby this week 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.

Hon. Leonard is the 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 put into motion by NCC, which has already gone to the remotest of places like Nete Lyaim in the Porgera area 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.



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

Mr Schnaubelt, who is now the Minister for Forest, asked Leonard to continue with the projects he embarked on during the three months he was in charge. He said a technical working committee he had established to provide advice on how to go forward must be maintained. He said he ensured the three agencies under the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture work 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.

"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 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 are honoured. "I made a commitment to support each of the institutions with a vehicle each, please continue giving that support," Minister Schnaubelt said. Both the National Film Institute and the Raun Raun Theatre come under the National Cultural Commission.







## NCC SUPPORTS KARAMUI SHOW WITH K10,000

The National Cultural Commission (NCC) today presented a cheque of K10, 000.00 to Partners with Melanesia Inc. to help stage the 4th Karimui Show this year in Simbu Province.

NCC Executive Director, Steven Enomb Kilanda said NCC's partnership with Partner with Melanesia was worth continuing because the non-government organization has been instrumental in promoting and preserving culture at the community and village level.

He said besides that, the organization has been presenting detail reports of the previous shows thus securing NCC's commitment and continuous support.

The show will be held from 17th – 19th of November this year.

Kilanda said the work of NCC requires partnership from government and non-government organizations.

He said Covid 19 has disturbed NCC's work programs, However, he appealed to the provincial governments and districts to partner with NCC to connect with the people in rural settings as per its motto "connect with communities".

"Your work is complimenting ours so we are thankful," Mr Kilanda said as he announced NCC's commitment towards the 4th Karimui Show 2021.

Karimui Show coordinator, Chris Jamie, thanked NCC for its continuous support and reciprocated with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Being mindful of the Covid 19 protocols and restrictions in place, Mr Jamie said he expected the show this year to lure a crowd between 6-7,000 people including those from the neighboring Eastern Highlands, Jiwaka, Gulf and Western Highlands Provinces.

He said Karimui was the only show in the country that has a Covid 19 plan approved by authorities to stage, adding that the committee has been carrying out awareness on the pandemic and has put in place its check and control measures to ensure Covid 19 protocols are strictly observed.

He said temperature checks will be conducted at the airport and entry points of the showground. Mask distribution and hand sanitizing points would be in place and strictly monitored by Covid 19 marshals too.

Mr. Jamie said he was confident that the show will be successful because of the full backing by the Simbu Provincial Government and the District.



## LILLIAN'S BILUM WEAR FASHION FROM SEPIK



Lillian and her wares

By Balthazar Moriguba

Papua New Guinean women have been weaving bilums (string bags) for many years before the white man came. Did they have any idea or knowledge to weave dresses, blouses, tops and skirts from those dried fibre extracted from bark, sisal or vine, then plaited into strings to weave bilums? Weaving dresses, blouses, tops, skirts from plaited length – like ropes? No!

Our women folks did not have that knowledge. Besides, they were content with their fibre skirts, Pandanus skirts or grass skirts and bark cloths they were using to cover the mid-section of their bodies.

Weaving bilum dresses, blouses, tops and skirts as clothing is a recent innovative and creative idea born and tested by Florence Jaukae, with her community mothers of Kama in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province. She is now a successful PNG's first Bilum Wear Fashion Designer.

One such women who recently started her bilum wear fashion is Lillian Faye Alings. She is from Yarr Village in the Keram Local Level Government, Angoram District in East Sepik Province.



Lillian Alings started her bilum wear fashion in 2017 in her humble home in Wewak. Weaving bilums is second nature to her and she did not need much coaching to get going. However, one day, she decided to try weaving a dress.

After completing it and seeing the beauty of her creative art work, designs and colours of her first woven dress; she wore it to showcase it within her community. This caught the eyes of her female relatives and community members, as well as her friends. There on, requests started coming in for her to weave bilum dresses, blouses, tops and skirts.

From then on, she has been weaving bilum dresses, blouses, tops and skirts as per requests from her clients in and around Wewak. She also weaves dresses, blouses, tops and skirts for small and young girls to wear for special occasions.

Demands for her creative bilum dresses are not that many but with few that she gets; it kept her busy since 2017. For now, she is working alone at home. If the requests are more, she engages two other women in her community to assist her.

She said; "it takes about four to six weeks to complete a full length dress and blouse, and four to five weeks to complete a top and a skirt. And it also depends on sizes, for a larger size woman or a smaller size woman and or for small and young girls".

**Continue next page...**



From page 16..

To weave her clothing items, such as dresses, blouses, and tops, she starts weaving from the top around the neck and down to the main body. And for the skirts, she starts from the waist down to the main body.

And the designs and colours she chooses to use mainly depict the brown and white (clear) rivers of Keram and the designs are from her clan and family. However, the popular *bilas bilum* designs and colours are also used. She only uses the plaited strings from the tree bark and not the wools.

Her *bilum* wear fashion products prices range from K200 to K600 depending on the sizes, design and colour. Her items are also going for hire from K50 to K100 a day for graduations or other special events in Wewak.

She said intricate as it is extra care should be taken when washing or cleaning the *bilum* wear to avoid stretching, shrinkage and discolouring. *Bilum* wear made from tree bark fibre, sisal or vine is more delicate. It should only be aired.



Lillian said she wants to have her *bilum* wears to be showcased by models in Port Moresby and even overseas like her fellow Sepik sister; Florence Jaukae. Her *bilum* wears are purely woven from tree barks with intrigue and elegant Sepik designs, patterns, styles and colours.

She acknowledge the fact that the art of weaving a *bilum* is not unique to Sepik women only, but women in other parts of Papua New Guinea to have this art too. It's just on how and what designs, patterns, colours, styles and materials that they use to weave *bilums*. Her main problem now is the marketing of her products.

She knows that *bilum* wear is unique and has the potential to create a niche market for her and uses every opportunity in Wewak to wear it as a walking advertisement.

Lillian is determined to see *bilum* wear transform into something bigger and better for her, the Sepik people and Papua New Guineans as a whole. Hopefully, Papua New Guinean women will take pride in wearing their own *bilum* wear fashions.







## PNG FASHION TO GO VIRTUAL

With the surge in COVID – 19 cases in the country, many agencies have devised new ways of doing business while complying with COVID – 19 preventive measures. As such the PNG Fashion and Design Week, a non-government organization that promotes local PNG designers and models is stepping up to host its shows virtually.

Its runway fashion shows would be performed to audience live on the social digital platforms and television for audience to watch from their comfort zones nationwide. PNG Fashion and Design Week Director Janet Sios said in a media conference yesterday that the COVID – 19 pandemic was here to stay and it was only proper that agencies within the entertainment and fashion industry should look into innovative ways to showcase their work.

“So we at the PNG Fashion and Design Week launched a virtual in September last year and is looking forward to host our first 2021 Virtual Runway Fashion Show come April 12 to May 26”, she said.

Basing on Empowering Youth through Fashion in PNG, Mrs Sios said PNG Fashion and Design Week was focused on providing innovative platforms to support the development and growth of fashion and design industry in PNG and the broader cultural and creative industries.

“I am grateful that we now have National Cultural Commission on board to support and recognise us as its agency in blending culture through fashion in PNG”, She said.

**National Cultural Commission is on board to support and recognise PNG Fashion & Design Week as its agency in blending culture through fashion in PNG**

The partnership through the signing of a memorandum of understanding with NCC was for NCC to provide technical advice on cultural aspect, film crew and production on the documentary for the virtual runway fashion show.

The partnership would also empower the designers to preserve and embrace culture through clothing development blending with fashion. Mrs Sios on behalf of PNG Fashion and Design Week used the opportunity to congratulate the 13 designers of which eight are established designers and five are emerging designers.

The established designers are Sebastien Sambasiban (POM), Wandid Ameni (Central), Tabu Pelei Warupi (Central), Natasha Tamnabae (Oro), Florence Kamel Jaukae (Goroka), Debra Jaukae (Goroka), Anna Amos (Simbu) and Elsie Roropie (Alotau). Who will be collaborating with Sellie Ataia and Marjorie Yambom.

The emerging designers are, Elanie Akua (NCD), Katherine Tubarat (Kokopo), Esther Sione (Kavieng) and Hannah Keroro (Gulf).



## MINISTER PRAISES NCC



Mr. Kilanda and Hon. Isi Henry Leonard, Launching the 2021 National Cultural Event Calendar , 2020 Achievement Report and 2021 Operational Plan, witnessed by the diplomatis and senior government officers.



The National Cultural Commission launched its National Events Calendar 2021 in an event witnessed by the diplomatic and senior government officers in Port Moresby Last Month.

Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon Isi Henry Leonard launched the calendar, 2020 Achievement Report and 2021 Operational Plan, He praised NCC for doing the same in the last two years which tells him that this organization is working very hard and moving forward.

He said: "I know it does not get the funding support it deserves but I can already see evidence of National Cultural Commission delivering. As Minister responsible, I am grateful for that.

I can only hope that one day, our planners will appreciate the importance our cultural heritage and reflect that in the budget. I say this because I know the National Cultural Commission does not get the desired funding it seeks but it is making wonders with limited funding it gets from the Government.

This is one priority area I will push as Minister responsible, to ensure NCC gets the adequate funding it seeks to carry out its work," Minister Leonard said. He said when he took office in January, he made a point where he always wanted to see a simple tourism industry.

"I want to see an industry that is more people-oriented. Little did I know that NCC has already been going down to the rural communities setting up cultural festivals and cultural centers thus giving our people there the opportunity to participate and take ownership of their cultural heritage. This is the way forward if we want to preserve, safeguard and promote our cultures," the Minister said.

He said: "Going rural and supporting cultural activities in rural areas is the way forward following adverse impacts we are experiencing in the tourism and hospitality industry as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. That is why we are now going rural and local.

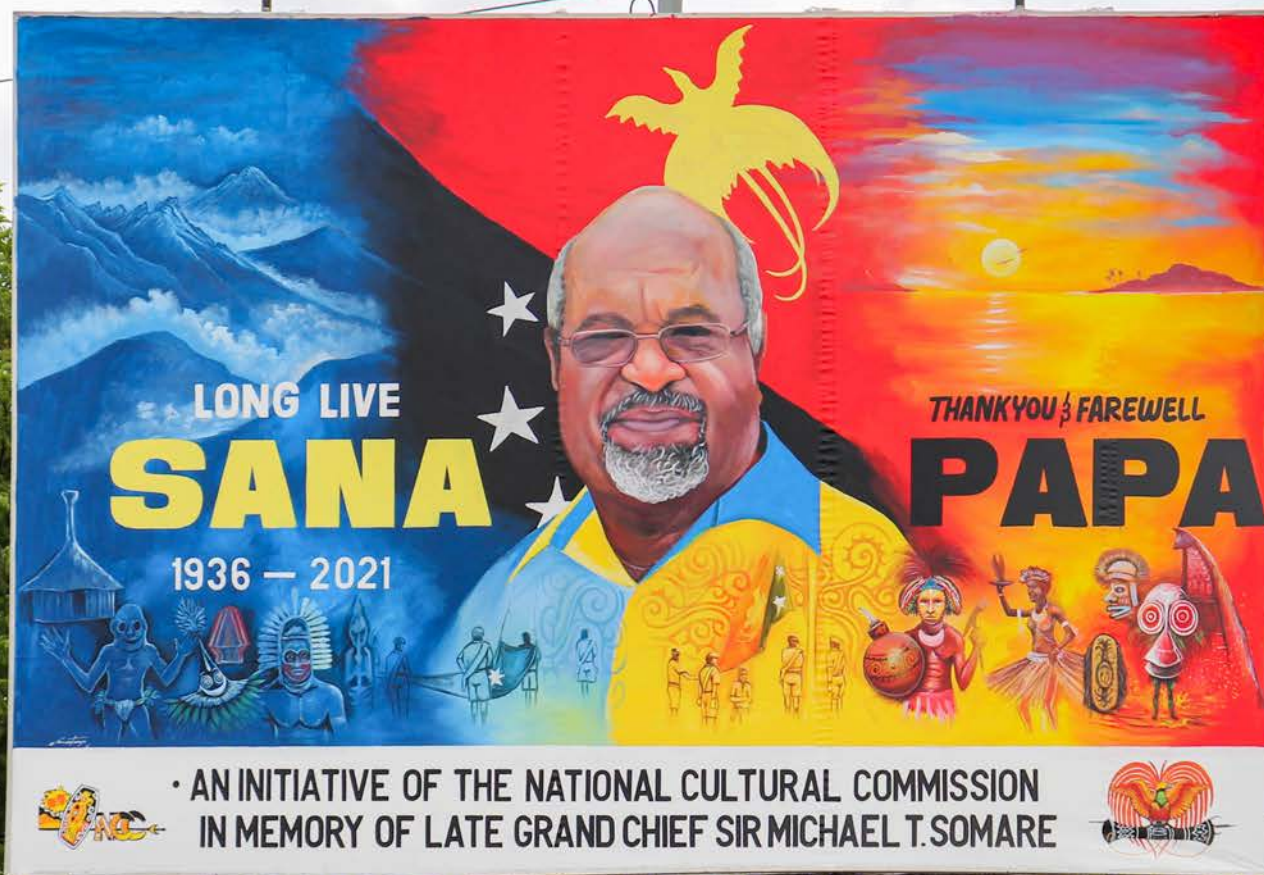
"And I am happy to note that the majority of the cultural festivals marked on the National Cultural Events Calendar 2021 are in the rural settings. That is where our people are. That is where the real custodians of our cultural heritage live. That is where you find and see authentic displays of our diverse cultural heritage.

The NCC National Events Calendar, 2021 captures the dates and venues of the different NCC-sanctioned cultural festivals in the country this year thus allowing visitors to plan ahead.

The Minister said it was important that all major cultural festivals in the country are properly coordinated with the rural festivals used as lead-up events to the bigger events to allow tourists to plan and visit most, if not all of our cultural festivals and events before they leave our shores.

He challenged National Cultural Commission, Tourism Promotion Authority and the National Museum and Art Gallery to work together and coordinate the national events to allow tourists to take advantage of the great opportunities Papua New Guinea is offering.





About 50 years ago, Somare mixed 1,000 paints – clay from here, tree sap from there, oil sip from another region, fruit juice from yet another part, from one sulfuric water and from another egg white – and out came, by the power of his patience and artistry, striking colors of red, gold, black, and white.

These colors flutter now proudly outside the United Nations General Assembly in New York and on every flag pole where PNG missions are to be found around the world and in every part of PNG. These colors have been flying at half-mast in respect of our fallen painter.

Rekindling that legacy on a billboard along Waigani Drive in Port Moresby was not an easy task. But if the Grand Master painstakingly completed his work gratifyingly, six local painters had to tell his story in the same colors the Grand Master mixed over 50 years ago.



The six painters are registered artists of the National Cultural Commission (NCC), which decided to put up a painting in memory of the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

Executive Director of NCC, Steven Kilanda, said apart from Sir Michael's remarkable political career, he was a strong advocate of Papua New Guinea's art and culture.

Under his vibrant leadership, most of the cultural centers and institutions were established during his time, Mr. Kilanda said.



# 2021

## NATIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS



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

For more information call us on +675 3235111 or email us on [culture@ncc.gov.pg](mailto:culture@ncc.gov.pg) and follow us on our face book page Niugini Culture TOK

### FREE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Yes I would like to receive my free quarterly issues of CultureTok

Name:.....  
Adress:.....  
.....  
Phone:.....Fax.....  
Email:.....

Return this form to:  
The Editor  
PO Box 7144, Boroko, NCD

Phone: +675 323 5111/3235222 Fax +675 323 5119  
Email: [culture@ncc.gov.pg](mailto:culture@ncc.gov.pg)

### REGISTERED CULTURAL GROUPS ONLY

Please complete for the updating purposes.

Group Name:.....  
Group Leader:.....  
Certificate No:.....  
Year Registered:.....Fax.....  
No. of Members:.....

[www.ncc.gov.pg](http://www.ncc.gov.pg)



NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION



# Niugini Culture Tok



National Cultural Commission



Ministry for Tourism,  
Arts & Culture