



Issue 2
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MINISTER'S OVERVIEW

Let's collaborate to develop and promote our tourism arts and culture industry

A lot has happened in the last few months and I am quite impressed our drive to promote local tourism is gaining momentum. I give credit to the Heads of the National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority for taking the lead in developing and promoting local tourism in the country.

Yes, the Covid-19 pandemic has devastated our tourism and hospitality industry, but that does not mean we will fold our arms and wait for it to pass. We have to look for other avenues to compensate for the losses we face.

I am glad we have re-aligned and readjusted our focus and now making an impact in the rural settings of Papua New Guinea, where we have been helping to develop culture into tourism products.

We have been launching cultural festivals and shows at the local level where the majority of our people live. Our presence or the presence of the government in the rural areas gives our village people the confidence and courage to embrace their cultures more and take ownership and benefit from it.

The value of our culture has been put at US\$450 billion. The question is how do we help our people to participate meaningfully to have a share of that. Collaboration is the key.

The National Government through the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture will come in to assist if the people are willing to organize themselves and open up to other stakeholders like the provincial governments, districts and local level governments to provide support and leadership.

"The presence of the government in the rural areas gives our village people the confidence and courage to embrace their cultures more and take ownership and benefit from it"

So far only two provincial governments have signed memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture to help develop and promote the tourism arts and culture industry in the two respective provinces. The two provinces are Enga and Milne Bay Provinces.

Whilst Milne Bay remains yet to benefit from the agreement, Enga appears to be way ahead and has in fact already received its share of the benefits from the agreement. That's collaboration!

Let me take this opportunity to call on the stakeholders from other provinces to follow Enga and Milne Bay Provinces to

develop and promote our tourism arts and culture industry in the country.

Thank you.

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



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





CULTURE TOK PUBLICATION

Chief Editor:

Mr Steven Enomb Kilanda

Editor:

Eric Kone

Editorial Contributors:

Don Niles
Balthazar Moriguba
Bola Noho

Graphic Design + Photo Edit:

Cool Grafix

Photo Credits:

Bola Noho,
Gedisa Jacob,
IPNGS & NCC File photos
Tony Sipa - Cool Grafix

Publisher:

National Cultural Commission

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 7144, BOROKO, N.C.D
Phone: (675) 323 5111/ (675) 323 5222
Fax: (675) 323 5119
Website: www.ncc.gov.pg
Email: culture@ncc.gov.pg

CULTURAL GROUP HIRE FEES

1 x Cultural Group Hire (Domestic National)	
Group Fee	– K1,000
NCC Admin. Fee	– K300
Facilitation Fee	– K100
Total	– K1,400
1 x Cultural Group Hire (International Diplomatic)	
Group Fee	– K1,500
NCC Admin. Fee	– K300
Facilitation Fee	– K150
Total	– K1,950

Contact National Cultural Commission
for further information and or details.

Cover Photo:

A Siwai Penpiper from Bougainville.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
FOREWORDCulture can be a major
economic spinner

Culture is an umbrella term which encompasses the social behavior and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the members of these groups.

Wikipedia further explains culture as customs, traditions, beliefs, values and arts of a country or a people taken as a whole. It refers to the cumulative deposits of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes and religion by a group of people generally without thinking about them.

Papua New Guinea is unique. We have so many different cultures because we are a nation of many different people all clustered together as one country – Papua New Guinea.

Our attitudes, beliefs, language customs, rituals, behavior, faith and religion, food, art, drama and music vary thus creating or resulting in so many different cultures of which many remain unknown to the outside world.

Preserving, protecting and safeguarding all the different cultures from extinction is one important responsibility of the National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea. To ensure our cultures are preserved and passed from one generation to another, NCC goes out to the rural villages to help set up cultural centers and encourage people to preserve their cultural heritage.

NCC helps document the different cultures and further assist in staging live performances like festivals and shows. NCC believes that culture in Papua New Guinea is so powerful it can become a huge tourism product of the country. It is



STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA
Executive Director

“NCC believes that culture in Papua New Guinea is so powerful it can become a huge tourism product of the country”

the biggest standalone tourism product if packaged and marketed properly. Our cultures are vibrant and colorful and can become economically beneficial to our people.

Papua New Guinea has a huge potential in developing its cultural heritage into a major tourism package. It can become a powerful revenue spinner for the country after our gold, oil and gas run out.

So, let's safeguard our many cultures that identify our origin and identity and use them to sustain and improve our lives.

Thank you.

STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA
Executive Director





OBITUARY

“Georgina was involved in many types of artistic creation in Nigeria and in Papua New Guinea, such as paintings, drawings, sculptures, graphic art, silk-screen printed textiles, and theatre design”

“GEORGINA BEIER AND HER LASTING LEGACY IN PNG ART”

Don Niles
Institute of Papua New Guinea
Studies

Georgina Beier passed away last month in Sydney. In Papua New Guinea, Georgina is probably best known as the “founding mother of contemporary art” because of her early encouragement of artists such as Akis, Kauage, and Ruki Fame. But she also has a striking, very public legacy at the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

Georgina lived in Papua New Guinea during two periods of four years each. On both occasions, she was here with her husband, Ulli Beier (1922–2011). From 1967 to 1971, Ulli taught literature and creative writing at the University of Papua New Guinea, which

had been established just two years earlier. Many of the authors at that time and their writings would become well known, and much of this work was published. Their published form, whether as part of the series Papua Pocket Poets or separately, frequently carried covers designed by Georgina.

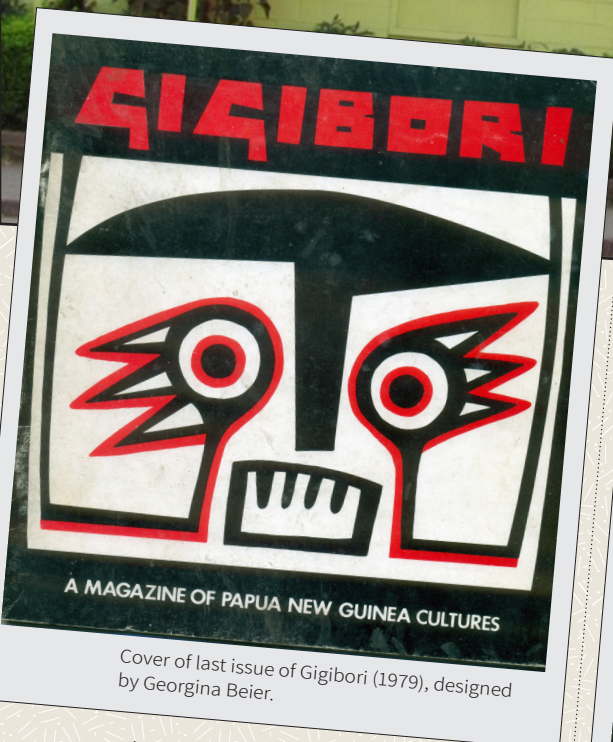
Georgina was born in London in 1938. Although she enrolled in art school in her teens, she dropped out after just over a year because she felt the academic environment at the school could interfere with her own artistic development.

She moved to Nigeria in 1959 and met Ulli who was from Germany, later becoming his second wife. Georgina was involved in many types of artistic creation in Nigeria and in Papua New Guinea, such as paintings, drawings, sculptures, graphic art, silk-screen printed textiles, and theatre design. Like her husband, she was also highly skilled in identifying new artists and encouraging them to develop their talents.

After their stay at UPNG, Georgina and Ulli returned to Nigeria. But Ulli was invited back to PNG by government ministers sent by Chief Minister Michael Somare, who had collaborated with Ulli in 1970. The chief



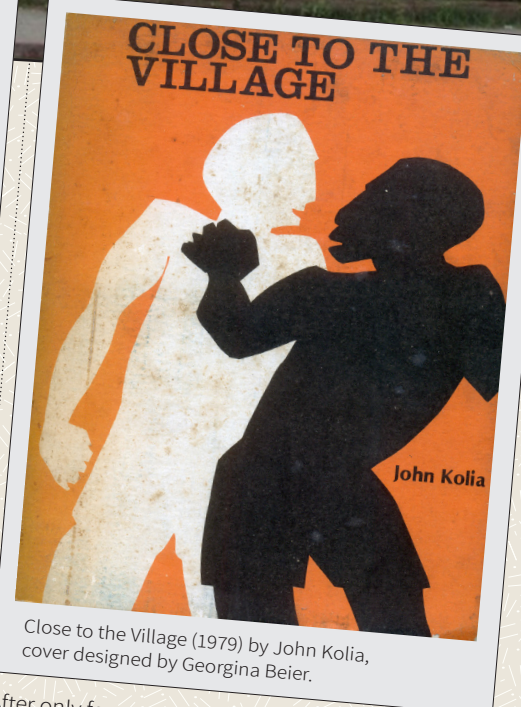
Metal sculpture on IPNGS, designed by Georgina Beier, based on an Oroko myth told by Albert Maori Kiki.



Cover of last issue of Gigibori (1979), designed by Georgina Beier.



Wanpis (1977) by Russell Soaba, cover designed by Georgina Beier.



Close to the Village (1979) by John Kolia, cover designed by Georgina Beier.

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

Ulli, Georgina, and their two sons, Sebastian and Tunji, returned to PNG in 1974, where Ulli established the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, presently a national cultural institution under the National Cultural Commission. From the very beginning, there was a flood of publications, many with covers designed by Georgina, such as *Gigibori*, which started in that very first year. Many other publications displayed her covers, including novels by Russell Soaba and by John Kolia.

But one of Georgina's largest and most striking artistic contributions greets me and every staff member of the Institute every day. The Institute is located in Boroko, just next to Nambawan Trophy Haus. If you've ever been to that part of Boroko, you would have seen the building with the striking metal sculptures on our walls.

Consisting of a metal mural and gates, those sculptures were designed in 1976 for the Institute by Georgina to tell the story of Aru Aru and his journey to the moon. Aru Aru is an Oroko cultural hero who went to fight the sun and the moon, but returned with the yam to help his people.

The story was recorded by Albert Maori Kiki, who had collaborated with Ulli when writing *Ten Thousand Years in a Lifetime*, *Hohao*, and other works. The construction of the sculpture was executed by first-year apprentice electricians and diesel mechanics of the Electricity Commission's training school, supervised by Georgina, Jim Richardson, and Siri Karr. The gates remain a distinctive part of our building, and are certainly a striking image in our corner of Boroko.

"The Institute continues to aspire to their admirable ideals"

After only four years at the Institute, the Beiers left to settle in Australia, but numerous activities continued in Germany and Nigeria.

During their stay at the Institute, they promoted knowledge, understanding, dialogue, and experimentation. Most of all, perhaps, they encouraged respect for ancestral and contemporary cultural traditions, they did not hesitate to promote the importance of culture to every aspect of our lives, and they inspired countless individuals to the excellence they were capable of.

The Institute continues to aspire to their admirable ideals. We remain immensely proud that their legacies continue to surround us and inspire us today.

Professor Don Niles, PhD, OL, is Director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.



| By Eric Kone

The National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Milne Bay Provincial Government to work in partnership to develop the arts and culture industry in the province.

Milne Bay is the second provincial government to partner NCC after Enga Provincial Government, which inked a similar arrangement last month.

The signing ceremony took place at Kiriwina Secondary School in the Trobriand Islands in August by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard. The event was witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority Eric Mossman Uvovo, Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda and officials from the Milne Bay Provincial Government.

Mr Kilanda thanked Mr Uvovo and his management team from TPA for working closely with NCC developing the arts and culture industry in the country.

"We have a common goal and interest and that is to develop our arts and culture industry because we know it is the major standalone tourism product in the country. We will realise this after our oil and gas are depleted," he said.



Minister Leonard presenting a copy of the MoU to Milne Bay Deputy Governor Tom Cameron as provincial administration officials and agency heads Steven Kilanda (NCC) and Eric Mossman (TPA) look on.

He added that the onus to seriously develop the arts and culture industry in the province was with the provincial government, which he stressed must take charge of their cultures at the provincial level and take the lead to develop the industry.

Mr Kilanda said provincial governments will have to change their current structure to include arts and culture as a separate division with funding appropriation to establish their cultural centers.

He pointed out that Enga Provincial Government has been ahead of other provinces in promoting the arts and culture industry because the province already has a fully functional and operational cultural center in the form of the Enga Takeanda.

Mr Kilanda said the signing of the memorandum of understanding with NCC will now compel the Commission to produce and deliver to Enga and Milne Bay provincial governments their respective provincial cultural calendars that will capture all the provincial festivals and shows in their respective provinces.





KOPKOP STUDENTS VISIT NCC



The National Cultural Commission played host to a total of 38 Grade 7 students from Kopkop College in Port Moresby on the 3rd of August, 2021.

Armed with their theme: "what is culture?", the students were guided by senior NCC officers, Mr Bola Noho and Mr David Taim, who shared with the students, information on the diverse and unique cultures of Papua New Guinea.

The students visited the different divisions of the commission including the gift shop where they had a look at all the traditional paintings and arts and craft from different parts of Papua New Guinea.

Students inside the Gift Shop during the excursion at the National Culture Commission Head Office in downtown Port Moresby.

The students were also given the opportunity to view a 15- minute documentary on culinary arts of the people of Kop in the Wabag District of Enga Province. The documentary was based on a pig killing ceremony using traditional bamboo knives, stone axes and wooden spades.

The students will continue their excursion at the Institute of PNG Studies at a later date.

IPNGS is one of the three cultural institutions of the National Cultural Commission. The other two are the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troupe also commonly known as Raun Raun Theatre, both based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province. IPNGS is located in Boroko, Port Moresby.





Minister Leonard and Governor Sir Peter Ipatas showing signed copies of the MoU and agency heads Steven Enomb Kilanda (NCC) and Eric Mossman Uvovo (TPA) look on.



MOU SIGNING BETWEEN NCC AND ENGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The Enga Provincial Government and the National Cultural Commission have partnered to develop cultural programs in the province.

The partnership was sealed on June 10 at the Enga Cultural Center in Wabag following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Governor Sir Peter Ipatas and NCC executive director Steven Kilanda.

Enga Provincial Government is the first to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the PNG National Cultural Commission to develop and promote culture in the province.

The signing was regarded as a 'significant event' by Enga's action Governor Grand Chief Sir Peter Ipatas in the presence of Tourism Arts and Culture Minister Isi Henry Leonard, Tourism Promotion Authority CEO Eric Mossman Uvovo.

Minister Leonard said it was fitting for Enga Provincial Government to partner with NCC because Enga has a fully operational cultural center and has been promoting culture for over 10 years.

"This is the way forward to embrace our cultural heritage because culture is our identity and we need more provinces and districts to come on board and partner with NCC, which the government has mandated to promote, protect and safeguard our cultural heritage," the Minister said. He thanked Governor Ipatas for putting his province first in embracing culture.



Minister Leonard said the famous Enga Cultural Show and many cultural festival events in each of the district within Enga shows how the province embraces and promotes culture.

To compliment and kickstart the partnership, Mr Leonard on behalf of the Ministry presented K120,000 to the upcoming Enga Cultural Show and made a further commitment of K200,000 for the renovation of the Enga Cultural Center.

Mr Kilanda expressed similar sentiments and thanked Governor Ipatas for his leadership in being the first in engaging his province with NCC to promote and develop culture.

"Culture is the biggest stand-alone tourism product in this country and must be embraced right throughout our country. Our none renewable resources which we boast about today such as gold, oil and gas will

run out one day so we have to develop and promote culture and tourism as our fall back plan to maintain our economy and progress as a nation," Mr Kilanda said.

He said NCC is willing to partner with all the provinces and districts in the country and the onus is on the people and the respective leaders to take the initiative to promote culture and invite NCC to partner with them. TPA CEO Mr. Uvovo was also overwhelmed with the event and committed K100,000 towards the up-coming Enga Cultural Show.

He said TPA has always step in to promote culture and boost tourism and appreciated Governor Ipatas' leadership in partnering with the tourism and cultural sector.

Governor Ipatas expressed his gratitude and assured to work closely with the sector to ensure his province becomes a cultural hub and tourist destination.

"It has always been my desire to make my province a tourist destination and that is why we embrace and promote tourism and culture in the province and this partnership will go a long way in ensuring my desire for my province is fulfilled," he said.

The ceremony concluded on a high note with Take Anda Director Akii Tumu giving the guests a tour of the Enga Taekanda.

"Culture is the biggest stand-alone tourism product in this country"



NCC RECOGNISES CENTRAL PROVINCE AGRO TOURISM SHOW



NCC executive director Steven Enomb Kilanda, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard and Central Governor Robert Agarobe posing for a photograph with vendors from Central Province during the show in Kwikila.

The National Cultural Commission has formally recognised the Central Province Agro Tourism show which will now be placed in its annual National Events Calendar.

Tourism Arts and Culture Minister Isi Henry Leonard who opened the show on July 16 commended the organisers of the show especially the initiator, Central Governor Robert Agarobe, and pledged a total of K70, 000.00 to support the event.

He said Tourism Promotion Authority of Papua New Guinea will fork out K50, 000.00 whilst the National Cultural Commission will throw in K20, 000.00. Minister Leonard said the show was a great initiative because it is local-oriented and based on agriculture, tourism, arts and culture.

This is the first Central Province Agro Tourism Show that has attracted a lot of interest from the corporate and other business houses thus promising an even bigger and better one next year.



On the morning of July 16, the usually quiet Kwikila town in the Rigo District of Central Province woke into a bustling township as the show got underway.

Other dignitaries that witnessed the opening of the show included Central Governor Robert Agarobe, Correctional Services Minister and Member for Tambul-Nebilya Win Daki, Member for Rigo, Lekwa Gure, Acting Central Provincial Administrator Francis Koaba and local level government members of the Central Provincial Government.

Notable bureaucrats from the corporate circle included the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea Elizabeth Genia.

The show ended on a high note and was formally closed on July 18 by Prime Minister James Marape who was accompanied by State Ministers and other dignitaries.





The turnout at the first ever Siwai Culture show was so overwhelming that both the national and local leaders vowed to support it annually.

Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard opened the show on the 13th of August 2021 and promised the people of Siwai that his Ministry will support it every year. He said the show has been recognized by the National Cultural Commission as a national event and factored it into its national events calendar.

He made a cheque presentation of K10, 000.00 to Tourism Siwai Association and a certification of recognition to an Aleta Cultural Group of Siwai. The Siwai Cultural Show will run from the 13th to the 15th of August every year.

IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT AT RURAL BOUGAINVILLE CULTURE SHOW

Minister Leonard stressed the importance of people embracing their unique cultures for preservation and tourism purposes. "Culture is not made in any place. It's ours – we the people," he said, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the tourism industry in PNG, but has repositioned our focus to rethink and promote local tourism.

He said Bougainville is blessed, it has a huge potential of declaring some of its untouched environment into natural conservation sites that can be packaged as tourism products. He added that a lot of war relics including that of a Japanese fighter pilot during the WW2, Commander Yamamoto, can also be conserved and packaged as a tourism package for the world to come and see on Bougainville.

President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Ishmael Toroama expressed support for developing tourism in Bougainville and assured the people of Siwai financial assistance for future shows. He said the extent of the support would depend on the overall budget of his government.

Patron of the show and Minister for Information Technology and Communication Timothy Masiu expressed gratitude to the people of Bougainville

for coming in number to witness and participate in the show.

He said local tourism is an untapped market hence must be supported and promoted now. He added that a K10, 000 of the K30,000.00 provided by the Tourism Promotion Authority to support tourism arts and culture programs has been injected into the rural electrification program which is currently being rolled out in South Bougainville District.

Minister Masiu is the Member of National Parliament representing the people of South Bougainville.





A DREAM COME TRUE FOR MALIT RECORDS

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda, Ministers Isi Henry Leonard and Walter Schnaubelt and Namatanai Music Festival chairman Jude Nongkas during the launch of the festival in Port Moresby.



| By Eagleeye

“Copyright law in Papua New Guinea does not have much impact on the current dying situation of our traditional and cultural way of music abused by so many”

“Developing our own songs and musical styles to encourage culture and tradition where our belief system lies”

A new recording studio aims to provide best quality musical aid to the people of Namatanai in New Ireland Province has now been formally recognized by the National Cultural Commission.

Malit Records has been the dream of three young professional musicians from Namatanai who have been vying to be formally recognized and funded for many years until recently in June when everything they longed for all came in one basket – they got more funding than they had ever dreamed of, got the recognition from the National Government via NCC and all the studio and stage musical equipment needed to get Malit Records off the ground.

That one basket came in the form of the launch of the Namatanai Music Festival in May by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard and witnessed by Forest Minister and Member for Namatanai and the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda.

Malit Records aims at providing the best quality musical aid to the people of Namatanai in terms of recording, videoing, marketing, producing and providing an opportunity of live showcasing performances. Speaking during the launch, an emotional yet proud and determined young musician and the Chairman of Malit

Records, Jude Nongkas spoke about the dream he and his fellow two musicians John Vianney and George Amba, growing up as teenagers and dreaming that one day they would own a recording studio and provide to the people of Namatanai the best quality musical aid and showcase Namatanai contemporary music to the world.

Nongkas said the Namatanai Music Festival will encourage and give an opportunity for the people of Namatanai as well as Kavieng to uphold and showcase their cultural/traditional songs and music with the aim at maintaining and encouraging cultural and personal values of respect, safety, growth, communication, understanding and unity when performing live.

He said hosting the festival was one way in which the Namatanai as a district would not lose its true cultural representations in music and songs which in many instances have been used by other regions in the country and has overtime lost its true cultural impact.

“Copyright law in Papua New Guinea does not have much impact on the current dying situation of our traditional and cultural way of music abused by so many. Upcoming artists in this generation have adapted very quickly into the new error of music and different performing styles most of which are not ours.

“We have allowed the current generation to drown in this wave of modern and western style of entertainment instead of developing our own songs and musical styles to encourage our culture and tradition where our belief system lies. Songs composed these days have been more focused on the lust kind of love-oriented situation and portray shallow messages to the public,” Nongkas said.

Minister Leonard said National Cultural Commission does not get much financial support from the government, and appealed to other government agencies, development partners and corporations to come on board and partner with the NCC so they can preserve, promote and help develop the different cultures of the people of Papua New Guinea.

The Namatanai Music Festival is an initiative of the people of Namatanai and in partnership with the National Cultural Commission. The music festival will be held in October from the 13th to the 15th every year.

Chairman Nongkas thanked his local Member and Minister Schnaubelt for the support given in registering and launching the Namatanai Musical Festival.



NEW LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES FACILITY FOR NCC

Professor Don Niles presenting files to NCC executive director Steven Enomb Kilanda during the opening of the new NCC Library and Archives facility in Port Moresby.

The National Cultural Commission has opened a new library and archive building in Port Moresby to safely keep the history of Papua New Guinea.

The building was opened by the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard in the presence of development partners in Waigani in May.

Minister Leonard expressed gratitude to the continuing effort by NCC Executive Director Steven Kilanda by living up to its mandate in preserving, promoting and safeguarding the tangible and intangible culture of Papua New Guinea.

"NCC continues to amaze me with a lot of achievements and I am proud to be here to officiate in this important event to open the building that will preserve vital records of our history," he said.

Mr Kilanda said it was important PNG's history is protected and preserved for the future generations to learn and embrace so it is



"NCC continues to amaze me with a lot of achievements and I am proud to be here to officiate in this important event"

only proper that the records are stored and archived in a proper building.

He said NCC had moved from office buildings for the past three decades and had lost a lot of records in the process so it is timely to have a proper archive and library facility to store important records.

"Indeed it is our duty to preserve, promote, develop and safeguard our intangible and intangible cultural heritage and we are doing just that for the benefit of our future generation to learn and embrace our culture," Mr Kilanda said.



Director of the Institute of PNG Studies (IPNGS) Professor Don Niles commended Mr Kilanda for the continued effort in reviving NCC and the three institutions that come under it including IPNGS.

Prof Niles presented boxes of books and documentaries to be stored in the new library and archives facility.

"Recordings on this country, dating back to 1898, had been stored and archiving is nothing new. It is something that we have been saving for a long time and we should continue to do so," he said.



LOCAL TOURISM WAY TO GO: MINISTER

Papua New Guinea is one of the last frontiers in the world where the people still strongly hold onto their cultures close to heart.

Volunteer Lucija Jacobsen spending time with Maifa Mama singing group from Laigam at the 27th Enga Cultural Festival Show

Despite an obvious decrease in the number of foreign tourists at the Enga Cultural Show over the weekend, the people of Enga came out in numbers and proudly showcased their unique cultures to the amusement of local tourists.

A number of local tourists participated dancing with some of the cultural groups at the 27th annual Enga Culture Show. Visible foreign visitors were Australians and New Zealanders living and working in the country.

A total of 60 cultural groups from across the length and breadth of Enga Province packed the Aipus show ground in Wabag last Friday. The show was opened by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard. The Minister said the show this year may not be big unlike the ones previously due to Covid-19, "but it (the pandemic) will not stop us".

"Despite Covid-19, we will still continue our cultural activities through local tourism. We need to bring tourism to where our people are in the rural settings.

He said Papua New Guinea is one of the last frontiers in the world where the people still strongly hold onto their cultures close to heart.



Kandep MP Don Polye with the Pilikambi High Price Women's singing group from Laigam at the 27th Enga Cultural Show

He said his key agencies, the National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority, have been tasked to help develop and package cultural tourism products and market them to promote local tourism in the country.

"Collaborative effort is what we need. Nobody is going to come and help," he said, and stressed the need for the national government, provincial governments, districts and local level governments to work together to promote local tourism in the country.

Minister Leonard said he was pleased to see many students and school children participating in the show, and re-affirmed the support of his ministry to help develop and assist small cultural events that will all lead up to the main Enga Culture Show. The show was formally closed by Kandep MP Don Polye on Saturday. He thanked visitors who travelled far to Wabag to see the show.

"Whether people come in numbers to see the Enga Cultural show or not, the show will continue to be staged, so let's preserve our cultures and remain as Engans," he said.



MINISTER LEONARD LAUNCHES ENGA PROVINCIAL CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR

The people of Enga now have a provincial cultural events calendar to plan and stage their activities in the province – thanks to the National Cultural Commission. The provincial cultural calendar was put together by the National Cultural Commission as part of its commitment to the Enga Provincial Government contained in a memorandum of agreement signed in July 2021.

The calendar was launched on August 7, 2021 by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard at the provincial museum known as the Enga Take Anda in Wabag. The launching was witnessed by Enga Governor Sir Peter Ipatas, Enga Provincial Administrator Dr Samson Amean, Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda and Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Promotion Authority, Mr Eric Mossman Uvovo.

Minister Leonard heaped praise on the political leadership of Governor Sir Ipatas for investing in the culture arts and tourism which has seen Enga excel in every aspect of the sector.

The Enga provincial events calendar has a total of 10 local festivals that run between July and December. The month of August alone appears to be the busiest period in which of the events and activities are scheduled to take place.

Tourism Arts and Culture Minister Hon Isi Henry Leonard cutting the ribbon with the support of Enga Governor Sir Peter Ipatas to mark the formal launching of the Enga Provincial Cultural Events Calendar inside Enga Take Anda in Wabag as ministry agency heads Steven Enomb Kilanda (NCC) (far right) and Eric Mossman Uvovo (TPA) look on.





Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard cutting the ribbon to open the new NFI studio complex as Goroka MP Aiye Tambua assists.

NFI STUDIO OVERHAULED DESPITE SCARCE RESOURCES

National Cultural Commission Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda says the Commission used scarce resources to finally complete the National Film Institute's (NFI) new studio complex.

Mr. Kilanda made this known during the opening of the studio complex in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, in July. The building was funded under the public investment program (PIP) funding from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring through the National Cultural Commission but left incomplete in 2012.

Work began last year under the new management headed by Mr. Kilanda, who managed the reconstruction and renovation work at a cost of less than K300,000.00.

Mr. Kilanda said he was pleased that NFI staff could now work in a new studio complex to archive important documentaries and films.

He said renovations started last year with funding support from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring. To avoid excessive costs and inflated variations, Mr. Kilanda had to purchase materials and hired local labor who were paid on fortnightly basis.

He said he was able to manage the funds well, spending just under K300,000.00 for the entire renovation project.

Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard pledged K200,000.00 to build a fence around the institute and called on the people of Goroka to take ownership of the property and not to destroy or steal NFI assets.



VIPs in front of the new NFI studio complex.



A local from Mt. Gahavisuka welcoming NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda as Minister Leonard, TPA CEO Eric Mossman Uvovo and Goroka MP Aiye Tambua look on.



REVIVAL OF MT. GAHAVISUKA PARK RAKES IN K300,000

An initiative by the Goroka Development Authority to revive the Mount Gahavisuka Provincial Park in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, has attracted a lot of attention and support especially from the tourism sector.

Under the “reviving tourism in Goroka” program, the Goroka District Development Authority has decided to re-open the Mt. Gahavisuka provincial park located on the outskirts of Goroka town with a view to bringing it back to its former glory days. Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard opened the park last week and stressed the importance to developing and promoting local tourism in light of the Covid-19 pandemic which has adversely affected the industry in the country.

He said his two key agencies, the National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority, would be engaged in this program to help revive the park, and emphasized the need to promote local tourism.

“Conservation of nature is an important part of tourism and we need variety of tourism products in Goroka,” Minister Leonard said.

Goroka MP Aiye Tambua said every stakeholder must work together to get this project off the ground successfully. He said he was happy to see National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority partnering to support the Mt. Gahavisuka revival program.

Mr Tambua said the National Government, the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government, NCC, TPA, and the landowners must all work together to develop the park.

TPA Chief Executive Officer Eric Mossman Uvovo supported the project with K100,000.00 of which half will be given to the landowners of Mt. Gahavisuka.

The Goroka District Development Authority injected a further K100,000.00 towards the projects whilst the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government committed another K100,000.00 to the program.

It was during this launch, the head of TPA announced his support for the Goroka Show with a total of K150,000.00.

“He was happy to see National Cultural Commission and Tourism Promotion Authority partnering to support the Mt. Gahavisuka revival program”





GOROKA DDA BOOSTS NCC CULTURAL OFFICES

Goroka MP Aiye Tambua presenting the K100,000.00 cheque to the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission, Steven Enomb Kilanda.

The Goroka District Development Authority has come to the aid of National Cultural Commission with K100,000.00 to fund its cultural projects and programs in the country.

Making the presentation last week in Goroka, local MP Aiye Tambua said his district development authority was privileged to work with the National Cultural Commission and its cultural institutions in the country to develop and promote cultural projects and programs.

He said K50,000.00 from the K100,000.00 will go to the National Film Institute whilst the other half will go to the National Performing Arts Troupe commonly known as the Raun Raun Theatre.

Mr Tambua said during the opening of the National Film Institute studio complex

that his district was also privileged to host some of the country's important national institutions naming NFI and the University of Goroka as some of the few.

"I want to see Goroka become a big city but we are not focused. We do not support key government institutions. There is no backing," he told his people.

Mr Tambua called on his people to respect State property and be hospitable to other fellow Papua New Guineans working in Goroka and help support revive local tourism in Goroka.

An elated Executive Director of NCC, Steven Enomb Kilanda, thanked Mr Tambua and his District Development Authority for supporting the National Cultural Commission particularly its Goroka-based cultural institutions.



TOURISM MINISTRY SUPPORTS GOROKA SHOW WITH K170,000



Chairperson of the Goroka Show Mrs Keryn Hargreaves receiving the NCC K20,000.00 cheque from the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard as the Executive Director of National Culture Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda and Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Promotion Authority Eric Mossman Uvovo looks on.

The Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture is supporting the Goroka Show with a total of K170,000.00 this year. These financial commitments were announced in Goroka in August by the heads of two agencies that operate under the ministry, the National Cultural Commission and the Tourism Promotion Authority.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda announced his support of K20,000.00 whilst TPA's chief executive officer, Eric Mossman Uvovo, committed K150,000.00.

Goroka Show is a well-known tribal gathering and cultural event in Papua New Guinea. It is a sing-sing held every year close to the country's Independence Day in the town of Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, from the 14th to the 16th of September.

The show attracts over 100 tribes that show their music, dance and culture. The festival started in the mid-1950s as an initiative of Australian Kiaps, and in the recent years, it has become a major attraction for both national and international tourists and remains the largest cultural event in Papua New Guinea despite similar shows now being organized in Mount Hagen, Wabag and other cities around the country.

Presenting a cheque of K20,000.00 to the chairperson of the Goroka Show Mrs Keryn Hargreaves, Mr Kilanda said NCC, as a stakeholder, has always been supportive of any event that is culture-oriented.

He stressed the importance of preserving, promoting and helping to develop culture

“Goroka Show is a well-known tribal gathering and cultural event in Papua New Guinea”

which he added “is the only biggest standalone tourism product in the country and the one to fall-back on once the country's extractive resources like gas and oil is exhausted”.

Mr Kilanda announced his commitment during the official launching of the new National Film Institute studio complex in Goroka on the 30th of July 2021, whilst Mr Uvovo declared his support on the same day during the opening

of Mount Gahavisuka Provincial Park. (See separate story)



FESTIVAL TO REVEAL UNTOLD ANCESTRAL STORIES

Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard, his wife, Enga Governor Sir Peter Ipatas, Enga Provincial Administrator Dr Samson Amean, NCC Executive Director Steven Kilanda and CEO of TPA Eric Mossman Uvovo escorted to the grandstand at Kopen, for the opening of the Kopen Take Pii Festival.



The people of Kopen in the Wabag District of Enga Province are delighted that their ancestral stories and ceremonial sites will now be revealed to the world following the launch of their cultural festival on August 7, 2021.

The launch of the Kopen Take Pii festival is quite unique from the other cultural festivals that have been launched and packaged by the National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea. It is unique in the sense that the festival, when fully developed, will include visits to ritual sites and ceremonial grounds where stories of the significance of the sites will be told.

The National Cultural Commission has taken a keen interest and will be helping to develop the festival and further package it as a tourism product for its sister agency, the

Tourism Promotion Authority, to market. People in Kopen say there is a cave that stretches from Kopen up to Laiagam and was used as a route to travel by their forefathers to and from Kopen to Laiagam. The distance between Kopen and Laiagam is about 1500 kilometers.

There are three lakes in Kopen that are said to be sacred. People from Kopen have a special relationship with the environment around them and believed their fortunes and wellbeing depended on how they interacted with their surroundings.

Kopen is said to be a ceremonial site for the people of Enga. The word "Take Pii" can be translated as "the value of the word", hence advice or wisdom on trade back in the days or ceremonial events were all sourced from Kopen back in the days of the forefathers.

All these stories and more will now be developed and packaged into tourism products now that the festival is formally launched and recognized by the Government.

Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon Isi Henry Leonard opened the festival in Kopen and said variety in tourism was important. "This country has a great potential and there is a need to revive our cultures, customs and traditions. Let's give more time to our cultures. Tourism through cultural events is important and the way forward," he said, and urged the people to stop tribal fights and take ownership of their culture for their own good.

The Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Mr Steven Kilanda, said Enga is the only province in the country that has invested substantially in the development and preservation of its culture. "It is the leading province when it comes to promoting culture," he said.

He thanked the people of Kopen for supporting the festival and the organizing committee for the initiative. He also thanked the provincial administration under the leadership of Governor Sir Peter Ipatas for his leadership and vision in developing, promoting and preserving Engan culture.



MINISTER COMMITS K20,000 TO KOPEN TAKE PII FESTIVAL

“A joint international survey conducted by TPA and World Bank and the International Financial Corporation realized the value of culture in PNG to be in hundreds of billions”



| By Eric Kone

The Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture made a commitment of K20, 000.00 to the Kopen Take Pii festival during the launch of the event on August 7, 2021.

Minister responsible Hon. Isi Henry Leonard made the commitment after formally opening the festival to the excitement of the people of Kopen in the Wabag District of Enga Province. He said his two key agencies, the National Cultural Commission and the Tourism Promotion Authority, will support the festival with K10, 000.00 each.

He said Papua New Guinea “is so unique and diverse in the world, but the challenge today is far greater because of the Covid-19 pandemic”.

He said the only way we can overcome the adverse effects of Covid-19 was to promote local tourism in the country.

“Let’s make it easy and simple by going back to the village to promote our culture. In tourism, variety is important. This country has a great potential so there is a great need to revive our cultures. Let’s give more time to our cultures,” Minister Leonard said.

Executive Director of National Culture Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda encouraged the people of Kopen to take ownership of their cultures and support other stakeholders to develop and promote their culture.



Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard presenting the certificate of recognition of the Kopen Take Pii festival to the chairman of the organizing committee Luke Lucas Lale as agency heads Steven Enomb Kilanda (NCC) and Eric Mossman Uvovo (TPA) look on.

He emphasized the importance of culture saying it is the single biggest standalone tourism product and the fallback after the exhaustion of oil, gas and other extractive minerals.

Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Promotion Authority Mr. Eric Mossman Uvovo put the value of culture at K450 billion and urged the people of Kopen to take their cultures seriously for their own benefit. He said in a joint international survey conducted by TPA and

World Bank and the International Financial Corporation realized the value of culture in PNG to be in hundreds of billions. Both Mr Uvovo and Mr Kilanda thanked Enga Governor Sir Peter Ipatas for his leadership and vision to support the tourism, arts and culture sector in Enga Province.

Their only regret was the tribal infighting in the province which they said was the only hurdle slowing down progress and development in the province.



EQUIPMENT PRESENTED TO TRUE ECHOES PROJECT ON EARLY PNG RECORDINGS

Between 1898 and 1918, some of the earliest sound recordings from Papua New Guinea were recorded by British researchers. Since 2019, staff at the Music Department of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS) have been involved in a research project seeking to reconnect these early recordings with the descendants of the performers. IPNGS is a cultural research institute under the National Cultural Commission and the Ministry for Tourism, Arts, and Culture.

True Echoes: Reconnecting Cultures with Recordings from the Beginning of Sound is a three-year (June 2019 – June 2022) collaborative project funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in partnership with the British Library Sound Archive, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, and other archives in the Pacific and the United Kingdom. See: <https://www.true-echoes.com/>

On 30 July, His Excellency Keith Scott, British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, presented to IPNGS staff some of the equipment that will be used for this project. The British High Commission has played an essential role in bringing this equipment to Papua New Guinea. All of this equipment was purchased with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The 1898 recordings in this project are the earliest recordings ever made in Papua New Guinea, and the other collections were made in 1904, and 1915–18. All these recordings were originally made on wax cylinders that are now cared for by the British Library. The three collections comprise 84 cylinders from the Roro, Mekeo, Motu, Koitabu, Hula, and Sinaugoro parts of Central province. Cylinders from Milne Bay province are from the Trobriands, Tubetube, and Wagawaga, and those from Western province are from Kiwai Island and Mowatta. As part of the British Library's work to make its collections available to researchers around the world, the cylinders have all been digitised so they can be easily played on equipment today.

Through the True Echoes project, speakers of the languages concerned will be engaged as researchers to discuss these recordings with the communities concerned to learn more about them, record other examples of such songs and stories, learn about the people who were recorded, and share copies of the information about these recordings that has been compiled from written sources such as books, articles, and diaries.

The equipment received from the British High Commission will be used to play these historic recordings, as well as to record discussions about them and new performances of related material.

British High Commissioner Keith Scott (left) presenting equipment for the True Echoes project to the Director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, Don Niles (photo by Gedisa Jacob)

The British High Commissioner (top right) discussing scanning of print materials with IPNGS librarian Tava Airika (photo by Gedisa Jacob)

IPNGS Audiovisual Technician Balthazar Moriguba, Director Don Niles, and British High Commissioner Keith Scott listening to the early recordings from the True Echoes project (photo by Gedisa Jacob)

The British High Commissioner also toured the IPNGS facilities. As a government institution focused on cultural research, the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies focuses its activities on music, dance, and oral history. It undertakes research and documentation on these subjects, maintains extensive archives of such materials, and attempts to share the results of such research through publications.

Professor Don Niles, Director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, said: "Through the upcoming work by local researchers with relevant communities, True Echoes hopes to reconnect these invaluable recordings with the people for whom they are most valuable. And during this process, we also hope to learn further about some of the rich cultural traditions of this country and how they might have been affected during the past hundred years.

"The receipt of this equipment through the generous support of the British High Commission contributes another chapter in the ongoing story of these cultural documents and the history of Papua New Guinea."



“The National Cultural Policy of Papua New Guinea will become a strategic government document for the administration of culture and arts in PNG”



A CULTURAL POLICY ON THE DRAWING BOARD



The team in session

The National Cultural Commission is putting together a comprehensive National Cultural Policy of Papua New Guinea. This mammoth task is currently undertaken by the Policy Division of NCC headed by a private consultant, Dr Michael Unagi and his assistant, Norit Luio.

The team took a week away from the hassles of the city of Port Moresby and went into camp at the Koitaki Country Club in Sogeri, Central Province where they completed the drafting of the policy document, known as the Koitaki Draft.

Dr Unagi said the team had gone through a comprehensive process of trying to put a policy together starting with the first stage of reviewing literature to define culture and identifying problems and challenges in the delivery of cultural services after having series of meetings with the staff from the head office and the three cultural institutions.

“This is to get some background idea of what a policy is about. Now we have a clear idea of the issues and what needs to be done. Having known that, we are now able to map out the structure of the policy,” he explained.

Dr Unagi said drafting the policy document in the last five days in Koitaki had been a busy but a fruitful week.

He said the next step now is to bring in the three cultural institutions together to go through the draft. He added that external consultative meetings with regional stakeholders will follow after that before friends from cultural institutions are invited to make comments.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda said consultative meetings were basically based on problem analysis, identifying and understanding problems and addressing them.

He said the National Cultural Policy of Papua New Guinea will become a strategic government document for the administration of culture and arts in PNG. “It will recognize that meaningful development must be based on a strong cultural foundation with the support and commitment of Government,” Mr Kilanda said. He said the document will mark a milestone between the Government and the cultural sector— a partnership for holistic development of culture and arts in PNG. “Ours is a very culturally diverse country

with rich cultural heritage and history going back 50,000 years. This cultural diversity serves to define the country's identity and is the source of strength giving hope, life and meaning to our people.

“The Government is duty-bound to ensure the cultural heritage of PNG is preserved, developed and promoted for its survival. “Culture is dynamic and changing all the time, such is the threat to our traditional societies that the heritage handed down to us is in danger of fading out if actions to promote and revive these cultural traditions are not part of development policies and plans of the government, provinces, districts and communities.

“The power for generational handover is in the hands of our children, young people and youths through inclusive participation in cultural activities and events in their communities,” Mr Kilanda said.

The Cultural Policy will be designed with an intent of identifying priority areas for the government to focus investment and resources for cultural development in PNG. It will take into account problems and challenges experienced by state institutions and the cultural sector in general to define a pathway forward.



A DARING TRIP TO MEET THE ORIGINAL TUMBUANS

| By Eric Kone

Travelling on an outboard motor on a rainy night particularly on the high seas notoriously known for its sea mishaps can be disturbing. Even a coastal man like me was terribly worried.

My co-worker, David Taim, and I from the National Cultural Commission were assigned to cover the Aulu Nakamutmut Cultural Mask Festival at Akonga village in the Bariai area of Kandrian-Gloucester District in West New Britain Province. We travelled at night along the Gloucester shoreline to Akonga, the last remote village bordering Kandrian.

I was so overwhelmed by the thought of encountering a mishap during the first two hours of the boat ride, the cold from the wind and rain did not bother. The wind grew stronger and the rain kept its momentum as we headed out to the open sea.

Our skipper is said to be an experienced seafarer having travelled the same route over, even cutting across the Bismark Sea to Morobe and Madang Provinces. After the first two hours of the ride, he decided we should shelter on an island and wait for the weather to subside.

I could not see well that night but I think there were only five houses on that island. We warmed ourselves with fire that night and waited. The rain and wind both eased out and by 4am, we were out again for a hard five-hour boat ride.

The rain and wind had quietened down and we were chasing the moon westward until the sun rose from our back lighting up an endless shoreline dotted with many small islands – some lifeless whilst others, inhabited. We arrived at Akonga village at 9am and

waited for the other five dinghies to arrive. I was hungry and weary. David and I freshened up after a refreshing bath at a nearby stream. We changed into dry clothes, had breakfast, and waited for the arrival of the VIPs from Kimbe.

A chopper arrived at 11am on an island just off Akonga where a welcome party was waiting in full traditional attire. The women danced and sang at the top of their lungs whilst the men beat the kundu drums and graced the songs as they floated on a double-hulled canoe with the guests towards the village.

The VIPs were given yet another major welcome reception at the jetty and escorted to the main field where more dancing and singing continued. Children, men and women, both young and old participated from start to finish.

The Aulu Nakamutmut Cultural Mask Festival was officially opened by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard on the 25th of August 2021 in Akonga village. It was a special because it is where the original Tumbuans had come from not only in West New Britain Province but on the entire New Britain Island including East New Britain Province.

Locals there say the original Tumbuans had started from the Akonga-Bariai area before spreading across the entire New Britain Island.

The Aulu Nakamutmut Cultural Mask Festival is an initiative of the West New Britain Culture and Tourism Division and the National Cultural Commission backed by the Tourism Promotion Authority. It is supported also by the West New Britain Provincial Government and the Kandrian-Gloucester

District.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture through its agencies, Tourism Promotion Authority and National Cultural Commission, gave an initial financial support of K60, 000 with a promise to continue its support every year come August 25-27.

West New Britain Governor Francis Maneke and Kandrian-Gloucester MP Joseph Lelang also supported the festival with K10,000 each.

Minister Leonard expressed confidence that the festival has the potential to be packaged into a major tourism product in the province, and thanked the Tourism Promotion Authority and National Cultural Commission for being instrumental in developing and promoting the arts and culture industry in the country, especially in the rural settings.

The Aulu Nakamutmut Cultural Mask Festival brings to a total of seven mask festivals in the country. The other six mask festivals include the National Mask Festival, the National Mambu Na Garamut Festival and the Rofu Garamut Na Mask Festival in Kubalia and, the Middle Sepik River Festival both in East Sepik Province, the Gulf Mask Festival, the Provincial Tavor Festival in West New Britain Province and the Namatanai Mask Festival in New Ireland Province.

Mask culture is predominantly strong in the Momase and New Guinea Islands regions and in some parts of Gulf in the Southern region of Papua New Guinea.

The author is the Media and Public Relations Officer with the National Cultural Commission. PH: 79303534 Email: ekone.eagleeye@gmail.com

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



**ENG A CULTURAL
Show**

07-08
Aug

Wabag,
Enga
Province



**NATIONAL
GARAMUT & MAMBU
Festival**

11-13
Sept

Wewak,
East Sepik
Province



**MOUNT HAGEN
Show**

15-17
Aug

Mt Hagen,
Western
Highlands
Province



**NATIONAL
BILASIM SKIN
Festival**

19-20
Sept

Goroka,
Eastern
Highlands
Province



**GOROKA
Show**

18-20
Sept

Goroka,
Eastern
Highlands
Province



**KUTUBU KUNDU & DIGASO
Festival**

24-26
Sept

Kutubu,
Southern
Highlands
Province



**MOROBE
Show**

15-16
Oct

Lae,
Morobe
Province



**NATIONAL
KANU AND KUNDU
Festival**

04-06
Nov

Alotau,
Milne Bay
Province

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

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