



# The Campus

## This Week

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#### REGISTRAR

Mrs. Jennifer G. Popat

#### BURSAR

Mr. Edward Laki

## Plans underway for Popondetta to offer Agriculture Technology degree

**PNG UNRE aims to develop its Popondetta Campus to house technology innovations that will graduate students with Agriculture Technology Degrees.**

This was revealed by University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue while addressing Popondetta Campus students at the 2022 Orientation & Registration Welcome Program on Monday.

The VC was accompanied to the campus by University Pro Chancellor Martin Maden.

Professor Pue told staff and students that Popondetta Campus is a huge sleeping giant and the University Management and Council have plans to develop it into an Agriculture technology hub in Papua New Guinea.

He said the first thing the University is proposing to build is an Engineering shed that will house all the technology innovations.

He thanked the Pro Chancellor Maden for accepting the invitation to visit the campus so that when discussing these matters at the Council level, he would be in better position to support the agendas of Popondetta Campus.

The VC highlighted to students that UNRE is growing at a substantial pace.

He said in the last three years the growth was at 10% for student and staff population. This year, it would be at 20 % which



▲ **Popondetta Campus students at the Welcome Program on Monday.**

would mean more staff and students and this requires more facilities and money.

"We want the government to know that if they want to educate the new generation of PNG, they must invest in the education sector, the campuses, infrastructure and invest in students learning," said the VC.

He said the management is doing its best to ensure that Popondetta does not miss out on developments taking place at the main campus such as the internet connectivity, electronic library, online registration.

"You are privileged to come to UNRE so I ask you to seriously guard your studentship, guard your education and never lose focus. We're trying to develop a lot of things for this campus to make sure that your stay on campus is comfortable. You should have all the basic things; water, power and internet connectivity," he said.

Professor Pue explained to

students that the University has also signed MOUs with international universities including the national institutions in the country and is very soon considering an MOU with Kokonas Industri Koporesen, which recruited 12 graduates from UNRE last year.

He told the students that such partnerships are important for students' exposure and job experience.

"Students will learn to do things the industries expect so you become professionals in your own right," he said.

Professor Pue said more changes and developments are taking place in Academic programs.

Three new departments expected to come on board are: Department of Business, Department of Geohazard and Department of Environmental Law.

He also announced to staff and students that the University will soon

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## OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

## OUR MISSION

Commit to sustainable development of Papua New Guinea and the region by creating knowledge through quality teaching and learning, innovative research and outreach. The university also commits to developing innovative staff, students and alumni as agents for positive change.

**CAMPUS THIS WEEK** is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

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# Staff attend Gazelle Women's Forum

**FEMALE** staff of PNG UNRE joined the women of Gazelle District to participate in the inaugural **Gazelle Women's Development Forum** this week.

The event coincided with the International Women's Day celebration on Tuesday March 8 and ended on Wednesday at Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development.

Though it was first of its kind, the forum attracted more than 200 women.

Discussions held were informative as women holding senior positions in both the Government and Non-Government Organisations presented on how they see the forum theme *Break the Bias: Fostering Women's Active Participation for Sustainable Development* in their work place.

The objectives were to:

- 1) Empower, learn and share information with Women to inform decision making
- 2) Strengthen the leadership role of women through collaboration and meaningful engagement with Gazelle District Women
- 3) Create awareness in women to participate in the collection of information to use in the design and implementation of the Ward development plans
- 4) Enable women to learn how to engage with different stakeholders and partners to effect change in their individual lives and in the community
- 5) Create awareness on the importance of collecting information to inform community interventions.
- 6) Increase the participation of women public servants to work in collaboration and deeply engage with women in the community in the implementation of community initiatives
- 7) Develop a Way forward to promote leadership in women for a positive change in their individual lives, families and communities.

Presenters presented under four main subthemes:

- Women and Good Governance;
- Women's Networking and Partnership, Collaboration and Community Engagement;



▲ UNRE Registrar, Mrs Jennifer Popat (left) and some of the staff who attended.



▲ Ms Woolcott gives her presentation.



▲ The initiators of the Forum.

- Women and Economic Development; and
- Women and Social Development.

Among them was UNRE's Tourism Course Coordinator, Hannah Woolcott, who spoke about Women's Participation in Tourism Development.

The forum was coordinated via the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Unit of East New Britain Provincial Administration by Geraldine Wambo, Grace Burua, Kathleen Midal Kunai, Kiteni Kurika and Dorothy Devine Luana.

## CFSE and KCFSRD to have centres at Popondetta campus

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establish two of its outreach centres at Popondetta Campus, the Centre for Self Education and Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, to help Southern Region provinces so that the informal sector can be addressed.

Professor Pue also added that now that UNRE has a website which exposes staff and students to the rest of the world, students are expected to behave appropriately and improve on their dressing and academic performances so that they can be able

to interact with staff and students from international universities.

On behalf of the Management, the VC thanked the acting Director and all the staff who have worked tirelessly in keeping the institution running.



# Popondetta Campus back in *fullswing*

**PNG UNRE's Popondetta Campus is now fully operational and expecting more changes with support from the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and PNG UNRE's Council and Management.**

Acting Director of Popondetta Campus Mr Cletus Tepaiyan thanked the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) and the University's Governing Council and Senior Management for ensuring that deteriorating facilities at the campus were renovated and maintained for students' learning.

Mr Tepaiyan said the K2million given by DHERST in 2021 was used to renovate and upgrade up to ten buildings including Information & Communication Technology infrastructure and services.

He said the buildings include: two staff houses, three dormitories, a classroom, lecture hall, library, dining hall and the burnt down building that housed the Student Administration Office, Student Support Services and Human Resource Office.

"We have used up to K1.5 million by now and the remaining K500,000 will be used to do other maintenance work," he said.

"We need to build these facilities so that our students have a place to study. During the transition period all our staff including myself were eager to start again. We don't want this place to (be) run down. When DHERST gave us the funding in 2021 we wanted to make the best of it.

"I want to thank DHERST for the

funding and UNRE Management and Council for the negotiation with the Government to recommence the academic program again. I also acknowledge and thank the staff here. Without their cooperation and support we wouldn't have gotten this far. We now have a campus operating giving students the opportunity to come and study," said Mr Tepaiyan.

He said the Campus expects to enrol 80 Year 1 students this year. They will join the 39 students from last year.

"We want to enrol more but we are limited by bedspace in the dormitories and classroom. We only have one classroom and one lecture hall," he said.

He said after these renovations, they will move to establish the University Clinic and then staff accommodation.

Mr Tepaiyan explained that during the six years the campus was not operating, it was able to survive on internal revenue.

"We have 98.4 hectares of Oil palm. The crop belongs to the company, we only receive royalty for the land use," he explained.

The campus is now back to normal operations and is expected to develop further with assurance from University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue during his visit there on Monday (March 7).

He told staff and students that their security is a concern for the management so the University will engage a security firm to assist campus security.



▲ Mr Tepaiyan (seated on the rock) and his team of committed staff.



▲ Senior Artisan from main campus, Mr Simon Karako, is at Popondetta to supervise the building of a dormitory for male students..

The VC also made time to listen to students and staff concerns like the Online Registration, security, academic and financial matters.

In the meeting the staff also raised concerns about the need for proper communication and dialogue between Vudal and Popondetta.

## Pro Chancellor encourages Popondetta students

**THE University Pro Chancellor Martin Maden is challenging PNG UNRE Popondetta students to think critically and translate what they learn into practical fields of research.**

He told students during the 2022 Orientation & Registration Welcome Program on Monday at Popondetta Campus that the Mission of the University is *Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development*.

He challenged them to think of how they will as

future scientists interpret that mission into practical fields of research.

He said UNRE is only setting the foundations for students to learn as much as possible so that when they graduate they can be experts in the various fields.

Mr Maden mentioned that in 2019 when the University was looking at establishing the School of Environment and Climate Change with the understanding that globally Climate Change will become challenge of the future; the University did not hesitate

but established the school.

He believes UNRE is the only University in the Pacific Region and the world to offer Climate Change courses to equip students with skills and knowledge on how best they can address climate change issues.

Mr Maden said UNRE students are taught how to do research in their various fields of study including; Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Animal Science, Business and Tourism; to come up with effective strategies to address climate

change issues.

He said in fact many countries would not want to discuss Climate Change and its effects because they have contributed to the problem the world is facing today.

He believes PNG is the only country that can be able to take lead in the discussion on how best to address Climate Change, therefore, he encouraged students, saying that some of the things they study and propose will change lives and may lead to human survival.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



**ALPHIE MANDARIP** graduated in 2018 with a Bachelors Degree in Tropical Agriculture. He is now a Business Consultant at PNG UNRE's Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development.

#### What was a typical day for you?

As a student, a typical day would be attending lectures, writing reports and doing assignments and projects for submission before the due dates. As an employee, my day starts with a cup of coffee then it's off to the office for the day's tasks.

#### List your achievements:

- Graduated with Merit and also as the Top Graduating Student in Animal Science.
- Attained a three-year scholarship to Fujian Business University, China.
- Obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Fujian Business University, China.
- Accepted for the Masters in Management Program at PNG UNRE. I start in April.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I would like to attain my Masters in Business Management in three years and lecture at the University's Business Department. Who knows, if all goes well I may have also gotten my PhD by then.

#### What three things do you know and appreciate now that you didn't as a student?

1. Mistakes are opportunities for improvement.
2. Don't give up on anything until you're done.
3. Creating networks with different people is very valuable.

#### Words of advice for current students

As a student, it is your sole responsibility to study and learn as much as you possibly can. Grab this opportunity and remember you're amongst the best to come to UNRE. If you want to graduate successfully at the top of your class, the key is to study and prioritize your time wisely. But enjoy your time here and make the most of it. Follow the rules, it will keep you out of trouble. As the Chinese saying goes, "If you are poor and strong, don't lose your ambition."

## Dr Kundo Hundang overcomes challenges

**THIS is a story of perseverance, determination, courage and grace.**

It is the story of Dr Kundo Hundang, a woman who refused to let the challenges she faced keep her from achieving her dreams.

"I grew up with challenges in my life and it made me where I am now today."

Many years ago, as a little girl, Dr Hundang went with her mother from their Morobe village to sell taro at Lae market.

Recounting the story she said, "My mother came from the village. She didn't know how to speak pidgin. We were at the market when one of her brother gave her betelnut to chew. She went outside the market, chewed and that is when one of the officers from the City Council sighted her spitting and called out, *hey meri, meri yu kam*. As a little girl I held onto her meriblouse and followed her to see what would happen.

"Because she didn't know how to speak pidgin she remained silent as the securities told her what they wanted to say. They then asked my mother if she understood what they were saying and she replied, *Mi meri kanaka ya*.

"That went into my head and right into my heart. I thought to myself that one day I will prove that my mother is not a *meri kanaka*."

Dr Hundang will graduate with a Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Science at the University of Technology in Lae next month.

Before going to Unitech for studies, she was with PNG UNRE.

She returned to the University's Popondetta Campus at the end of last year to lecture in Biology.

Her University study began at UPNG.

She flunked her course twice and at one stage returned to Braun Health Centre in Finschhafen and worked as the hausgirl for singer Oshen's parents.

"I want to tell myself that if you can't perform well then you have to humble yourself," she said.

"After my exclusion period was over I went back to UPNG and because of God's grace I was able to go back on scholarship. I went back and studied very hard and I meditated upon the Word of God day and night for my success. When I finished I set good grades in my work.

"There was a particular lecturer, (the late) Professor John Kola, who was my lecturer in Organic Chemistry. He told others that I wasn't an average student and if I wanted to, I could go further. This one word changed me and made a difference in my life that I can do better."

She acknowledged and thanked her parents and elder brother as her first mentors.



▲ Dr Hundang presents her final thesis to Professor Pue on Monday evening during the farewell dinner.

"My dad would never let me stay at home even there was a death in the village," she said.

She also thanked the late Professor Kola for his encouragement; and staff from PNG UNRE.

"At UNRE I was more interested on research and wanted to know what the volcanic ash was doing (see story in Issue 95) to the environment and the people. My colleague Lloyd Werry helped me to write a proposal to Unitech and I was accepted to go there. When I went there I found the best supervisor, Professor Aisak Pue. The study relates to his speciality. Professor Pue started me off in 2013 and then he had to come to PNG UNRE. Even he was at UNRE he continued his support as Principal Advisor," said Dr Kundang.

"I was on self-sponsor but I never looked on money as a limiting factor. I was determined to study and I looked to God. That was how I obtained my Master's Degree.

"I drew most of my strength from my father. I did not want any name to change his name. I wanted to make sure that at the end I put a smile on my parents even (though) they are dead. I don't care. As long as their bones are smiling in the grave. I am happy that I have achieved something for their struggles for raising me up as a village kid. Because of God's grace, along the way He directed me to the right people, like Professor Aisak Pue. I have high regard for him. I owe this Masters Degree and Doctorate to Mr Werry and Professor Pue. Mr Werry started it and Professor Pue completed it."

Dr Hundang is the first PhD student that Professor Pue supervised.

She also acknowledged and thanked Vudal campus lab assistant Wendy Wanio for her great support.

"When you trust God, opportunities will come. God never creates junk," said Dr Hundang.