



# The Campus

## This Week

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### OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

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Mr. Martin Maden

#### VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Aisak G. Pue

#### ACTING PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

Mr. Aisi Anas

#### PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)

Dr. Livingstone W. Tavul

#### REGISTRAR

Mrs. Jennifer G. Popat

#### BURSAR

Mr. Edward Laki

## Juffa pledges support for UNRE Popondetta campus

ORO Governor Gary Juffa has pledged his support for PNG UNRE and is committed to working in partnership with the University to rebuild its Popondetta Campus.

The Governor made the commitment at a luncheon last Wednesday at UNRE Popondetta Campus. Also at the event was the Acting Australian High Commissioner Joanne Loundes and her delegates, Chairman of Kumul Consolidated Holdings Ltd Professor David Kavanamur, representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, Oro Provincial Police Commander, representatives from PNG Ports and PNG Power, and senior members of Oro Provincial Government.

Governor Juffa was amazed that the small humble institution full of history, has grown to be a significant higher education campus in the country.

He said UNRE is the National Government's responsibility, and he is glad that the Government of Prime Minister James Marape emphasises that resources should be given directly to vital educational institutions like UNRE.

He said he believed that one day the responsibility could be transferred to the Provincial Government; or the Provincial Government could partner with PNG UNRE in many developments.

Governor Juffa said he is aware that campus security is a concern and as the Governor he has held several meetings



▲ Prime Minister Hon. James Marape meets Prof. Aisak Pue.

and discussions with the Provincial Police Commander to ensure that security is not a problem for staff and students at the campus.

"We also look at how we can partner with PNG UNRE with our program at Managalas Conservation Program, the Popondetta Heritage area and the Tuffi Marine Biodiversity. We will definitely use the staff and students in these programs and work together to help rebuild the once proud institution to become what it ought to be," said Governor Juffa.

Showing his support and commitment to UNRE,

Governor Juffa introduced the UNRE Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue to the delegates and invited the University to witness the launching of the five-year upgrade and maintenance program of the Kokoda and Afore Highways.

The upgrade of the highways and Oro Bay wharf will cost K90 million courtesy of the Australian Government and taxpayers in partnership with the National Government.

The Governor also invited Professor Pue to meet Prime Minister Marape during his visit to the Province last Thursday.

## OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

## OUR MISSION

To develop into a sustainable University through delivery of innovative research, quality teaching and learning, developing staff and students as alumni agents for positive change.

### THE CAMPUS THIS WEEK

is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Produced weekly by the University's Public Relations Office, it is the voice of the University to relevant stakeholders and the community on developments at the University.

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# UNRE to establish cocoa seedling distribution centre at Popondetta

**PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment is working towards becoming a cocoa seedling distribution centre in the Northern Region.**

To achieve this objective, the University has embarked on a cocoa project at its Popondetta Campus to develop more than four hectares of land for cocoa farming.

University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue recently visited the site that is currently under rehabilitation by Robin Darby from the University's main campus in East New Britain.

Professor Pue said apart from Oil Palm, cocoa is another revenue source for the University campus, that can be capitalized on because cocoa in Oro was not infected by the cocoa pest, Cocoa Pod Borer.

He said once the cocoa project is developed, it can be used for students' training; and a nursery to supply quality cocoa seedlings to the Northern region can be established.

He added there is huge potential for cocoa in Oro and the University's cocoa project would be a bonus to the cocoa sector in the region.



▲ Robin Darby (left) and Professor Aisak Pue.

"Oro Province topped the country in cocoa quality last year and UNRE can assist by providing quality seedlings and training," said the VC.

According to Mr Darby, the work is challenging because transportation is a problem.

Popondetta campus does not have vehicles because many of its vehicles are rundown.

Chief mechanic Philemon Kamung from main campus is on site to repair the vehicles. Five vehicles are expected to be on road by the end of this week.

Mr Darby thanked the University Management and the VC Professor Pue for

seeing the importance of developing cocoa as one of the main revenue sources for the University.

He believes the decision is appropriate for the development and growth of the University.

Professor Pue noted that the University's Memorandum of Understanding with Higaturu Oil Palms is expiring soon and said this would be revisited to see if it would be renewed.

UNRE's Popondetta Campus has 98.4 hectares of Oil palm. The crop belongs to the company and UNRE receives royalty payment for the land use.

## PNG UNRE FUNDRAISING DINNER

*Rapopo Plantation Resort*  
**SATURDAY 23**  
April

5:30 - 10:00PM

Staff and Alumni can purchase tickets for

**K200.**

Tickets available at the PLANNING OFFICE.

**Dinner and entertainment.**

**ENTRY IS BY TICKET ONLY.**



# Campus has potential to generate revenue

**UNRE Popondetta Campus has a huge potential to generate more revenue to assist with the development of the University, says the University Vice Chancellor.**

VC Professor Aisak Pue in his visit to the campus last week said its large landmass can be used to generate a lot of revenue for the University.

The campus has 600 hectares of land.

Professor Pue is looking at improving the Farm facilities to increase livestock production, revisit the Oil Palm Project, rehabilitate and develop cocoa, develop the land at Oro Bay and set up a guesthouse at the campus.

He said all of these projects will need cooperation and contribution from all staff and students; and thanked Oro Governor Gary Juffa for his support.

The VC said since the campus was given back to PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment,



▲ Senior Artisan Simon Karako (right) shows Vice Chancellor Prof. Aisak Pue the progress of the male student dormitory being built.

the Management had worked very hard to ensure that most of the facilities were upgraded and maintained within those few months.

"We still need a lot of things to be done. With the funding of K2million from Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) we were able to do ten projects onsite. Those are the work that we trying to squeeze in with the

little funding we have. It's been a challenge and for me as the CEO of this institution, I tried to squeeze in as much as possible to get more students on board," he said.

He said the campus is expanding at a rapid pace; so, he would be delivering a supplementary budget to Prime Minister James Marape to assist with the deteriorating facilities on both campuses in order for the University to function effectively in the next two years.

Addressing Governor Juffa, Professor Pue said, "You can help us put this to the Prime Minister that this is the most important area in Papua New Guinea where 80% to 85% are engaged in the rural area. Our programs at UNRE are basically focused towards helping our rural majority, so everything that we do we try to make it sustainable. Therefore, we are trying to work with our good Governor that those projects can benefit our rural communities."

## Caritas PNG and UNRE students to educate voters

**CARITAS Papua New Guinea has engaged UNRE students to conduct Voter Education Awareness throughout East New Britain.**

Twenty Year 4 students have volunteered to be part of the program which will begin next week.

According to Caritas PNG, a Justice, Peace, Development and Relief agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, most Papua New Guineans lack education and awareness on their rights to vote, but importantly their obligation to exercise that right responsibly to vote for a better representative to the Parliament.

The agency said because of this lack of awareness, candidates take advantage

and bribe people to vote for them.

"Some people also vote along tribal, church, or along other relationships of convenience. All these corrupt practices contribute to electing corrupt leaders who go into Parliament to serve their own interest at the expense of the people at large.

"But we believe we can change this cycle if we educate our people properly and correctly. The more educated and aware they are on the importance of election, the more responsible they will be in choosing better leaders.

"The voting population should understand and appreciate how their votes will impact them and their families, communities, and the country at large, in the next 5 years."

Caritas PNG is using university students to roll out this program not just in East New Britain but throughout Papua New Guinea where other Universities are located..

"To support our internal effort we intend to use the zeal and spirit of young Papua New Guineans in universities. We recognize that university students can be effective partners in disseminating key messaging and conduct awareness using their established student bodies structures, and their influence among the youth population," the agency said.

The theme of the program is *PNG is in your hands! Your vote can make or break PNG!*

Translated into Tok Pisin it is *PNG i stap long han bilong yu! Yu ken kamapim*

*or bagarapim PNG! and in Motu: PNG be oi imamu ai! Oi emu vote be PNG do ia hadikaia or hanamoa!*

Before the students go out to conduct awareness in various wards in East New Britain, they will undergo a day's training with Caritas staff.

The program aims to reach more than 3 million Papua New Guineans nationwide to promote the rights and responsibilities of citizens, particularly women and youth in engaging in political endeavors without fear, favor, or intimidation during the 2022 elections. It is non-partisan to any political party or candidate.

Caritas PNG was founded in 1974. It exists in order to play an active role in social justice, peace, human development, and emergency operations.

# ALUMNI PROFILE

**Name:** Mel-kizenderk Nili

**Organisation:** Garden Fresh Produce

**Position:** General Manager

**How long for:** 1 Year

**Year graduated:** 2017

**Course:** Tropical Agriculture

**Qualification:** Bachelors Degree

**Study Campus:** Vudal

## What is a typical day for you?

A typical day for me as a General Manager of my own fresh produce supplying company involves a wide range of experiences. It is mostly characterised by an overall wholistic healthy outlook on life.

1. The success of my day is determined in the first hour in the morning. This is simply because there is no point getting busy with any business if you're only going to make your mind, body and soul unhealthy. So I like to start off with good spiritual and physical food and exercise. 1 hour is all that's needed. And then follows the planning of the actual day's tasks of course.
2. Confirming orders and delivery schedules for the day and week over the phone. Communicating with suppliers from Hagen and Goroka and placing orders and establishing price rates. Usually we engage our regular growers who supply the fresh produce depending on the order quantity and variety. Quality is usually cross checked and confirmed via whatsapp video call to the local purchaser on sites.
3. Transportation of the produce from airport to chillroom. Because I'm an all rounder and I love my job I like to do all the tasks. At times when I'm busy with other commitments I assign the jobs to my two assistants who are usually all-rounders themselves so it saves me from employing more skilled employees. So the typical day is quite hands on for me as a GM.

## List your achievements:

I have a few but of the most significant are those of my spiritual and religious leadership of which I regard as a higher calling above all because I have developed many lifelong principles and values that can be easily applied to any aspect be it career robustness. Seeing the importance I have personally prioritised God's work over career and business.

- I was appointed the Vice President for PNG Adventists Tertiary Student's Association at the 16th biennial Convention in Goroka, EHP when I was only in 1st year.



- Praise God I was assigned the responsibility of Co-convenor role and the youngest to in history for the PNGATSA to organise the 2020 Convention in East New Britain Province.

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

I see myself applying all the principles and discipline acquired in spiritual and religious work to the busiest decade of my life according to my life's plan and goals. I shall enter politics as I have predominantly been a philanthropist/laymen/missionary serving and funding God's work with most if not all the profits He has blessed my business with.

## Life as a student is different from the life at work. What 3 things do you know and appreciate now that you didn't know as a student?

Real life out there in the city is very competitive for the average agriculture student who just graduated. Firstly, there is not enough jobs to go around for all the natural resources degrees. Government's priority is still lacking in agriculture no matter what is said on the media. The truth is overseas, especially in Western developed countries, the guy who is willing to "hold the dirt" or the agriculturalist/farmer is the most paid as opposed to the clean guy behind the computer and desk. Living in PNG is challenging for an agriculture or fisheries graduate. Minimum wage is not even enough to sustain 50% of the cost of living in our big cities such as Port Moresby, Lae or Kokopo. Rent, food, bus fare are costly. Not everyone in the city has a garden to eat free food from. When you imagine the bright city lights, also imagine that everything is money. Hence, learning important financial discipline is important. Apply it to whatever small job. Work the Job and have an SME running parallel to your 8 to 4 job.

## Words of advice for current students:

Things are all bad. The future will not be uncertain if you understand your priorities and your purpose in life. Learn to put your pride aside and humbly put God first and you will learn wonders that all the money in the world can't buy. Even landing the best job as an agriculturalist will not be so difficult and won't be much of a surprise for you. Work faithfully. For faith without works is dead. Nothing substitutes good hard work and discipline. Learn to find joy in discipline and hard work. God bless..