



# The Campus

## This Week

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## Lack of discipline is PNG's biggest challenge - Koim

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WITHOUT any oxen to pull the plough, your barn will be empty, but with them it will be full of corn says the Commissioner General of the Internal Revenue Commission Mr Sam Koim.

Quoting the scripture Proverbs 14:4, the Commissioner General said today the world needs people who can work the land.

He made the comment at the PNG UNRE Dedication Service last Sunday.

Mr Koim said that churches and public offices are mostly occupied by Christians with the mentality of praying for miracles without actually doing the work.

He said because people are lazy, PNG being a richly blessed nation is still importing food to feed the entire population.

“(A packet of) three pieces of corn are selling for K54, lettuce is selling at K34/kilo. Economically, scientifically and agriculturally it does not make sense. Where is the



▲ Internal Revenue Commissioner General Mr Sam Koim. Photo by Kuri Images.

ox?” he asked.

He added that though the price of imported goods has increased, PNG still imports rice and other food items that can be grown locally and commercialized. For instance, if Fiji taro can be imported and sold in Australia, there is no reason why PNG cannot commercialise its best organic taro.

He said the education system must critically look at educating and challenging people to have curious minds.

“If people told us that we can't grow rice or graze cattle here and commercialise our own produce, we must challenge it,” he said.

Mr Koim said the country needs people who can think and use different methods to utilise its resources.

He said the biggest challenge in PNG is discipline, adding that PNG is not progressing because people lack discipline in every sector.

“PNG will only prosper if everyone is disciplined and hardworking.”

Mr Koim acknowledged and thanked the University Management for inviting him.

University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue thanked Mr Koim for accepting UNRE's invitation and Member for Nipa Kutubu Dr Billy Joseph for accompanying Mr Koim.

The VC also thanked the Vudal United Church congregation choir, other important guests, students and staff for participating in the Dedication Service.

## Students undertake blue carbon research

PNG UNRE students are venturing into blue carbon research and aim to establish a mangrove nursery on campus to address the impacts of climate change.

The research is led by students from the School of Environment and Climate Change, partnering with students from the departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Marine Resource.

So far seven students are engaged in the

project titled *Mangrove Nursery & Restoration Study*.

PNG UNRE Farm Operations Manager Alex Nugi who is assisting the students said this project will look at approaches to address coastal flooding and coastal erosion. It is a bio-geoengineering technique that can be used to tackle climate change challenges that we are currently being experienced by

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Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

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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

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# PNG needs ethical workforce - Uvano

**PNG needs good ethical workforce to help solve the current situation the country is facing, says ENB Deputy Provincial Administrator Corporate Services Marakan Uvano.**

Mr Uvano made the remark during the UNRE Dedication Service last Sunday.

He said although the Government is investing millions into human resource development, the products coming out from universities and institutions are still not performing effectively and have poor moral conducts at the workplace.

Mr Uvano told those present that the biggest problem facing the world today is corruption because of human behaviour.

He said even though the world is undergoing massive reforms, high and the fastest technology, it still faces difficult times.

Mr Uvano said the government is now



▲ Deputy PA (Corporate Service) Mr Marakan Uvano (right) receives a gift from Pro Chancellor Martin Maden. Photo by Kuri Images.

focusing on agriculture and downstream processing and needs people with good values and character who are committed to taking this country forward.

He mentioned that aligning to the Government's vision, East New Britain is now focused on agriculture and downstream processing.

The province is tapping into the Agro-Industrial Special Economic Zone and it needs to work

in partnership with institutions like PNG UNRE. (UNRE is providing technical advice to the Gazelle Agro-Industrial Special Economic Zone where Professor Pue is the Chairman of the technical team.)

Pastor Nelson Taram of Christian Mission Fellowship Ministry said the foundation of any institution or government depends on Proverbs 14:34 (Righteousness makes a nation great; sin is a disgrace to any nation).

He said for an institution or government to progress, it must uphold righteousness.

UNRE Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue, acknowledge and thanked everyone who participated at the Dedication Service.

He told students and participants that the world is looking to UNRE to solve some of its problems, therefore it is important that students must learn the knowledge and the skills.

# MP invites UNRE to Nipa-Kutubu

**THE Member for Nipa Kutubu has invited UNRE to his district and is committed to send students from his district to study at UNRE after realising the potential UNRE has in the natural resource sector.**

Nipa Kutubu MP Dr. Billy Joseph accompanied Commissioner General of the Internal Revenue Commission Mr Sam Koim to the University last Sunday for the University Dedication Service.

Dr. Joseph said UNRE is a critical institution since the government is putting more focus on agriculture and downstream processing in the Natural Resources sector.

He said if the government moves away from non-renewable sector where most of the country's revenue is generated and decides to diversify to the renewable sector based on agriculture, he believes UNRE has the greatest potential to harness this government policy.

Seeing this potential, Dr. Joseph has



▲ Vice Chancellor Prof. Aisak Pue (left) presents a gift to Hon. Dr. Billy Joseph. Photo by Kuri Images.

invited UNRE to establish a campus at Nipa Kutubu and is happy to send 50-200 students from his district every year to study at UNRE.

He said there are debates on the floor of Parliament and everywhere including social media on the rise of unemployment and the

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## Forestry Department observes International Day of Forests

THE UNRE Forestry Department celebrated the International Day of Forests yesterday while the University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue announced the K500,000 presented by Forest Minister recently.

Staff and students of the Forestry Department celebrated the day with tree planting and speeches delivered by Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue and PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) ENB Provincial Forest Manager Mr Peter Ramute.

The day is observed annually on March 21. This year's theme is "Forests and Health."

In his speech, the VC announced that the Forestry Department last week received K500,000 from Forest Minister Hon. Salio Waipo.

This follows a commitment of K1million made in 2019 to the Department by then Forest Minister Solan Mirisim. The commitment was not honoured until Hon. Salio Waipo's presentation of the first instalment when he visited Kokopo earlier this month.

Professor Pue thanked the Forest Minister and said the money would be used to build classrooms and complex for the Forestry Department.

He said although the event was small, it was significant because forest vegetation continues to sustain our



▲ Vice Chancellor Prof Aisak Pue (left) and ENB Provincial Forest Manager Mr Peter Ramute plant a tree.

lives to allow us to breath fresh and quality air.

"Countries like China has jungle of buildings, but we have jungle of rain forests," said the VC.

He added that PNG has one of the largest forest reserves still intact, which is the third largest lungs of the globe.

"The most challenging task for the world is not to get the temperature beyond 1.5 degrees and that is why planting forest is very important both from lower canopy right to the treetops," said the VC.

He encouraged the department to plant more trees on campus and

to come up with a policy to regulate people cutting down trees on campus.

Mr Ramute said this global celebration of forests builds on the successes of the International Year of Forests in 2011, It provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside of forests.

He said in 2014, the PNGFA in a Policy Submission No> 194/201 sought the National Executive Council recognition of the day for the country. The NEC in its Decision No.223/2014 at its Meeting No.06/2014 approved for the International Day of Forests to be observed in PNG with other countries globally.

He said the United Nations works with governments, community organisations and the general public to promote both local and global activities for the International Day of Forests including:

- Tree planting campaigns
- Photo exhibits that portray the importance of forests and trees
- Sharing infographics, videos, news and messages via social and other media.

Mr Ramute during discussions also mentioned that PNGFA is working on a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with UNRE which will greatly benefit Forestry students and the University.

## Government should build this institution - Nipa-Kutubu MP

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(high) costs of living when UNRE is training students to create employment and to use the natural resources on the land, seas, waters and forests to sustain their livelihoods.

"I think the government should put more effort in building this institution to another level," said Dr Joseph.

He said since the Government has created additional Ministries under Agriculture; PNG UNRE students will add value to those ministries.

"PNG has the third largest rainforest in the world where UNRE can be the leader in Green and Blue Carbon," said Dr Joseph.

He added that since

everyone is sending unskilled people to work in New Zealand and Australia, he is taking different approach for his district.

He plans to send skilled workers who have received training from UNRE and other institutions.

"This is the amount of money I want to spend because this institution

will change the country. Students you are lucky to be here, you can be the employer for these people on the streets," he said.

He acknowledged and thanked UNRE for the tremendous job in educating and training students who will go out and help put money into people's pockets.



Photos by Kuri Images.

## UNRE staff publish paper on their study of chili extracts to control pests

**PNG UNRE staff collaboratively published a paper on the study of producing chili extract as a simple method of stopping pests attacking cabbage.**

Mr. Tony Fukatine, Ms Wendy Wanio, Mr. Rudopl Tarue, Mr. Peter Navus and Mr. Kari Iamba recently published a paper titled *Field Application of Ethanolic and Aqueous Chili Extracts to Control Diamondback Moth (Plutella Xylostella L.) in Cabbage (Brassica Oleracea Var. Capitata L.)*.

The paper was published in the Journal of Advanced Zoology recently.

Cabbage is a highly favoured vegetable within the Vudal area of East New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea, and it is grown all year round on a continuous cycle mostly for the local markets and consumption. The major constraint to cabbage production is insect pests. Among other pests, the Diamondback moth (DBM), *Plutella xylostella* L. (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae) is the most notorious pest attacking cabbage from seedling to mature stage (Iamba & Malapa, 2020; Iamba & Waiviro, 2021; Iamba & Yoba, 2019). *P. xylostella* is an economic and cosmopolitan pest that is globally distributed. (Zhang et al., 2016).

The Diamondback moth, *Plutella xylostella* (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae) is an economic oligophagous pest that feeds on the members of the Brassicaceae family.

Cabbage as one of the brassicas is mostly targeted by the larvae of *P. xylostella* in tropical countries including Papua New Guinea.

Attempts to control this pest continue to be a challenge for farmers since it is now resistant to commonly used synthetic insecticides. Chili (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) in particular is an insecticidal plant that has been proven to reduce the impact of pests including *P. xylostella*.

Previous studies have focused on the extraction of chili phytochemicals with ethanol as an extraction solvent (tincture). The current study experimentally tested the potential of hot water chili extract.

Tincture chili extract was relatively more effective than hot water extract against *P. xylostella*. The study further confirms that the absence of chili extracts in dry conditions enhances the recruitment of the pest, *P. xylostella*. Furthermore, the tincture extract was also capable of withstanding rainy days due to its adhesive phytochemicals.

In conclusion the methods chosen for controlling pests in developing countries should be effective, cheap, and simple to be adopted by farmers. Since insecticidal plants can be found locally and near farms, they should be much cheaper to source than synthetic insecticides. The only cost to be incurred would be labour for the collection, preparation, and application of plant extracts in cabbage (Amoabeng 2014).

Using water as a solvent to produce chili extract is one of the simplest methods to control *P. xylostella* in cabbage. Although ethanol is frequently used as an extraction solvent for phytochemicals, the procurement and process of producing it can be quite tedious, spacious, technical, expensive, and unadoptable by farmers. Through a series of field experiments over three years, this study is confident to conclude that chili extracted through hot water is effective to control *P. xylostella* in cabbage.

The team acknowledged and thanked final-year students from 2019 to 2021 for their tireless efforts in collecting the data.

They also extended appreciation to lecturer Mr. James Aipa and staff of the UNRE academic nursery section.

The team dedicated their publication to Mr. Jordan Sangi, a colleague of theirs who passed away in 2021. They appreciate him for his contribution to data collection.

The Journal of Advanced Zoology is a journal devoted to experimental and comparative animal science. It presents a common forum for all scientists who take an explicitly organism oriented and integrative approach to the study of animal form, function, development and evolution.

## Mangroves absorb more carbon emission - Nugi

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the world. It has been designed to be applicable to planting mangroves for all purposes, including carbon absorption, conservation, fisheries, and ecotourism, among others.

"We agree on the idea that mangrove trees absorb three to four times more carbon emission in the air than ordinary tree plants, and that estuarine habitats with coastal mangrove shorelines and tree roots are often important spawning and nursery territory for juvenile marine species including shrimp, crabs, etc," said Mr Nugi.

Mr Nugi added that despite increasing awareness regarding its value and importance, the destruction of mangrove forests continue to take place in many parts along the coastal regions of Papua New Guinea under a variety of socio-economic as-well-as political motives.

The Project objectives are to:

- Look at approaches to address coastal flooding and coastal erosion. It has been designed to be applicable to planting mangroves for all purposes, including carbon sequestration, conservation, fisheries, and ecotourism, among others;

- Extend the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programme to mangroves and other wetlands in line with PNG Government's 2030 vision;

- Embrace PNG's current policy on blue carbon;

- Promote the management and wise utilization of mangrove forest resources in ENB and Papua New Guinea as a renewable asset for the wellbeing of present and future generations;

- Help mitigate and adapt efforts to addressing climate change in line with the Paris Agreement;

- Capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide through carbon sequestration;

- Engage community members in protecting existing Mangrove forest areas;

- Meet the goal of REDD locally and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change goals; and

- Reforest degraded lands.

The research study gap that students are trying to accomplish are to test that mangrove plants do not have to have salt to survive. Most mangroves are capable of growing in inland freshwater habitats, although most do not; due to competition from other inland plants. The research will take eight months.

Students participating in the project are: Team Leader Raymond Yopond (BREEE 3); Hinome Kockoja (BREEE 3); Samuel Taluesina (BREEE 3); Daniel Bandi (BREEE 3); Benjamin Peken (BREEE 2); Martin Kopang (BSFMR 3); and Vincent Letakal (BSTA 4). Five more students have submitted their names.