

THE CAMPUS THIS WEEK

Issue 109

Friday Sept 08, 2023

Chief Dr Momis leads UNRE new Council

UNRE Chancellor Chief Dr John Momis and other members of the new UNRE Council were sworn in on Monday.

The members of the new Council sworn in were as follows: Chief Momis, Dr George Bopi DHERST nominee, Mr Allan Oliver, Mr Kenn Mondiai, Mr Martin Maden, Mr Austin Edo, Professor Aisak Pue (VC) and staff representative Ms Naomi Myayawa. Other members to be sworn in are: Mr Stephen Raphael, Mr Levi Mano and Mr Laurie William.

Chief Momis said higher learning institutions like UNRE has a special place not only intellectual formation but most important is moral formation. Moral formation involves growth in knowing, being and doing which together lead to moral relationships, moral living and the flourishing of humans and all creation in harmony with God.

He said the current situation faced by PNG today is the result of the negligence by leadership who failed to recognize moral formation as an essential part of human development.

Chief Momis said institutions like UNRE must take lead to take a new lift in

considering moral formation instilled in students.

He believed that the strong team of Council Members who bring with them the wealth of knowledge and experience are capable of taking the University forward and bring change.

He added that the PNG Constitution is a great moral document and it protects people's right and freedom. Dr Momis explained that PNG UNRE is unique and special as it is taken straight from the 4th goal of the Constitution and that is Natural resources and environment.

The 4th goal states that: "We declare our

fourth goal to be for Papua New Guinea's natural resources and environment to be conserved and used for the collective benefit of us all, and be replenished for the benefit of future generation."

After the swearing-in ceremony other formalities will follow after and the names are gazetted.

The VC Professor Pue thanked the members of the new Council who raised their hands to dedicate their time, knowledge and experience to help govern UNRE and urged staff and students to support them.



▲ New Council Members after the swearing in ceremony

Students challenge to take ownership in tourism

AN Indian Backpacker who has travelled to many countries around the world is challenging PNG UNRE Tourism students to use opportunities available to them to help local people benefit in the tourism sector.

Mr Salimat Kumar was in East New Britain after visiting Mt Hagen and Lae, was invited to speak to the Tourism students last Tuesday.

He explained to students why he chose to promote backpacker tourism and how they can use the resources available in marketing their tourism products.

Mr Kumar said PNG has a lot to offer to the world in terms of tourism such as the quality organic food, culture, festivals,

diving, surfing, hiking, fishing and the unique flora and fauna. According to him, the biggest challenge is the high costs in travel and accommodation and not law and order because while he was in the country, he travelled using public transportation and lived with the local people who are very friendly.

The other concern he raised was that a lot of money received from the tourism sector in PNG is not benefiting the locals but foreign companies.

He said huge amounts of money are spent on hotels and international travel agents but very little of that money trickled down to the people. Therefore, he challenged students to start local

travel companies and take ownership of the tourism industry.

In a 2018 report, PNG generated around 4.23 million dollars in the tourism sector alone, however the infrastructure to benefit the tourists is still lacking.

He told students that they could start small with promoting backpacker tourism and then venture into bigger things.

The backpacker tourists travel in low package, they normally travel in public transport, using inexpensive lodging such as hostels or homestays and other methods of lowering costs.

Three farm staff benefit from Taiwan scholarship

PNG UNRE Farm Operations recently celebrated the opening of its refurbished livestock office and farewelled three masters scholars to Taiwan.

Farm Operations Manager Mr Alex Nugi acknowledged the University Management Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue and his team for the tremendous effort in ensuring that not only academics benefit from the scholarships but have considered the technical staff, students and support staff in the study program.

The three technical staff attached with the Farm Operations are: Archie Yamb, Willie Mathew and Apelis Kapi. The other two PhD candidates Joe Aitsi and Cletus Tepaiyan will take up study next year.

Mr Yamb and Mr Kapi have been admitted to National Taiwan Ocean University to take up Marine Biotechnology and Environmental Ecology Sustainability international master's degree program.

These now brings the total to 12 staff studying overseas for their Masters and PhD study; 11 staff are in Taiwan and Career Development Officer Ms Gali Ibos is in Australia.

By next year UNRE will have 13 staff on the Taiwan scholarship, a milestone for



▲ UNRE farewells three farm staff to Taiwan

the University which is producing its own products.

Acting Pro Vice Chancellor Academic and Research Mr Peter Navus, the longest serving staff of the University expressed satisfaction.

"To me it is one of the most significant achievements so far by this University. I would like to appreciate everyone; in my heart I am confident that we will continue to deliver."

"That is the most significant thing that I am still here after so many years, going through so many hardships, sacrifices. I will be satisfied at the end

of my retirement from this University," said Mr Navus.

Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Livingstone Tavul acknowledged Acting Dean Graduate Studies and Research Dr Caleb Breria for working closely with the Senior Management in securing the scholarships. He said those small milestones would lead to bigger things/achievement in the future.

"If everyone can have the same mindset and work together, one day UNRE can become one of the top universities," said Dr Tavul. He announced that next year the University will start sending professional staff under the scholarship. The MoU is valid for five years.

UNRE Library staff attends training at UoG

University of Goroka is working in partnership with PNG UNRE to provide job placement training for library staff.

In a significant stride towards advancing the quality of library services and fostering professional growth, the University of Goroka (UoG) has partnered with UNRE to provide specialized job placement training for two library staff members.

Under this collaborative initiative, the selected library staff members from PNG UNRE have undergone a two-week intensive job placement-training program at the University of Goroka. The program, tailored to meet the unique demands of modern library management, was designed to equip participants with advanced skills, knowledge, and practical experience in library operations and administration. Mr Raphael Topagur, University Librarian of the University of Goroka, expressed his enthusiasm about this partnership and its potential impact on enhancing library services across



▲ UNRE Library staff at the training

educational institutions. "Libraries play a crucial role in supporting learning, research, and academic excellence. Our collaboration with PNG UNRE aims to strengthen the capabilities of library professionals, ensuring that they are well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of students and faculty members."

The two library staff members, Mrs Gerrada Humby and Mrs Freda Stanley, were selected based on their

demonstrated commitment to their roles and their potential to contribute significantly to the development of library services at PNG UNRE. Throughout the placement training, they were given the opportunity to engage with experienced librarians, participate in discussions on emerging library services."

The collaboration between UoG and PNG UNRE signifies a broader commitment to knowledge exchange and capacity building within Papua New Guinea's higher education sector. It exemplifies the universities' dedication to nurturing a culture of continuous learning and excellence among their staff members. As the training program commences, educators and library professionals alike were eager to witness the positive outcomes that will stem from this collaborative effort. With enhanced library services and empowered staff members, both the University of Goroka and PNG UNRE are poised to make lasting contributions to the academic community and the nation as a whole.