



The Campus

This Week

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Chancellor Momis opens new Takubar Centre in Kokopo

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.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

CHANCELLOR

Chief Dr. John Momis

PRO-CHANCELLOR

Mr. Martin Maden

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Aisak G. Pue

ACTING PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

Mr. Peter Navus

PRO VICE CHANCELLOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)

Dr. Livingstone W. Tavul

REGISTRAR

Mrs. Jennifer G. Popat

ACTING BURSAR

Mr. Hillic Weanzinga

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment (PNG UNRE) has officially opened a new centre in Kokopo to support the expansion of its academic programs.

The Takubar Centre was officially opened yesterday by University Chancellor, Chief Dr John Momis, in a ceremony witnessed by University Council members, staff, and Postgraduate students who were in the province to graduate in today's 28th Graduation Ceremony.

The new centre will house the Centre for Postgraduate Studies, the Centre for Self-Education and the Department of Business and Economics.

ViceChancellorProfessor Aisak Pue described the opening as a significant achievement, coinciding with the University's 60th anniversary this year. Established in 1965, the institution held its first graduation in 1967, with five pioneer graduates - John Fox, Thomas Fox, Naura Luaseuta, Awandum Sip, and Kubeiri Epi.

Professor Pue noted that the University has grown from offering a single undergraduate program to now delivering nine academic undergraduate programs, including its Masters in Management program.

Over the past 25 years,



▲ Chancellor Chief Dr John Momis unveils the building plaque.



▲ UNRE's Takubar Centre.

the postgraduate program has produced many graduates who are now leaders and managers in various organisations throughout the country.

He further explained that the Takubar Centre is expected to be self-sustaining, generating its own funds to support its operations without relying on the University's main budget.

The Vice Chancellor also announced a new partnership with Wuyi

University in China, focusing on environmental engineering and climate change programs.

In his address, Chancellor Dr Momis emphasized that human development is essential, adding that the nation's Constitution was founded on the principle of humans as co-creators of the universe.

He lamented that current leaders have lost sight of the original Vision set by the nation's founding leaders.

Pioneers of progress: First School of Environment and Climate Change graduates

TODAY'S graduation ceremony marks a significant milestone - not just for the 288 students graduating across various disciplines, but especially for a trailblazing group of students from the School of Environment and Climate Change (SECC).

This year, the university proudly celebrates the first-ever cohort from SECC, with nine students graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environment and Climate Change, and five students earning a Bachelor of

Science in Renewable Energy and Environmental Engineering.

These 14 pioneering students have overcome numerous challenges throughout their academic journey.

All were self-sponsored for the duration of their four-year programs, receiving no financial support under the Government's Tertiary Education Study Assistance Scheme program.

Despite the financial burden and the demands of a newly established

school, they persevered with resilience and determination.

Their graduation today is more than a personal achievement - it is also a historic moment for the university and a step forward in building local capacity to address climate change, sustainability, and renewable energy challenges.

The graduates are now equipped to lead in shaping a greener and more sustainable future for Papua New Guinea and the region.

UNRE Vice Chancellor Profesor Aisak Pue has extended sincere appreciation to Professor Dan Orcherton, the founding Dean of the School of Environment and Climate Change, for his vision, leadership, and dedication during SECC's formative years.

He also thanked SECC's teaching and administrative staff whose tireless efforts and commitment have contributed greatly to the success of the school and its pioneering students.

UNRE graduate urges students to lead with purpose and innovation

AS graduates cross the stage today at the University's 28th Graduation Ceremony, they join a growing network of alumni who are contributing meaningfully to Papua New Guinea's development.

288 students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, will graduate today under the theme *Empowering Stewards to Create a More Liveable Planet*.

This will bring to date a total of 6,745 students that the institution has graduated since its establishment in 1965.

Among these changemakers is Joshua Masiu, a 2010 graduate with a Bachelor in Tropical Agriculture, whose powerful message to students earlier this year continues to inspire.

Speaking at the University's Orientation Welcome Program in February this year, Mr Masiu delivered an address that challenged both new and continuing students to take full ownership of their education and to see themselves not just as students, but as future leaders in agriculture, food security, and sustainable development.

Drawing from his professional journey - spanning roles with the PNG Cocoa Board, cattle farming at Koitaki, hydroponic farming, and prawn farming in East New Britain - Mr Masiu credited UNRE with providing a strong foundation of theoretical knowledge and practical training that enabled him to navigate and contribute meaningfully to a range of agricultural industries.



▲ Mr Joshua Masiu.

"Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy," he said.

"We must lead with innovation to ensure food security for our country. There are three key areas we must focus on: good crops and animal husbandry, strong management practices, and investment in downstream processing. I hope UNRE takes the lead in driving these efforts."

He encouraged students to embrace a mindset of purpose, seek practical solutions to real-world problems, and serve proudly as ambassadors of UNRE.

To emphasize his point, Mr Masiu shared the story of George Washington Carver, the African-American scientist who revolutionized agriculture in the United States through research and innovation.

He said it was Carver's perseverance, dedication to learning, and faith-driven approach that led to the development of over 300 products from peanuts, creating economic

opportunities for farmers and revolutionizing farming in the United States.

"Carver did not engage in angry protests or destruction to make his point. He did not expect others to make things easy for him. His success came because he learned to look up to God, the Creator," he shared.

Mr Masiu urged students to follow Carver's example, focusing on problem-solving, leadership, and faith as guiding principles; and seeking knowledge, working hard, and using their skills to uplift their communities.

He also challenged the University's management and staff to provide a supportive learning environment that fosters innovation and research.

"It is up to you to develop new pathways that will set students on their journeys of service and achievement. Investing in advanced technology and innovative training programs will create real change," he stated.

An active member of the University's informal Alumni network, Mr Masiu also advocated for the establishment of a formal alumni association, which could play a key role in mentoring students, strengthening industry partnerships, and supporting the university's research agenda.

As the University celebrates the achievements of its newest graduates, Mr Masiu's message serves as a timely reminder - UNRE graduates are not only recipients of academic degrees - they are leaders, innovators, and ambassadors for change in Papua New Guinea and beyond.