



Placement Program

See Page 02



2019 PEFA training

See Page 03



Fitness Walk

See Page 05

## Secretary's Kona



**DR. Ken Ngangan OBE PhD CMA CPA Secretary**

*It gives me great pleasure to announce the Department of Finance first Newsletter, Issue No. 1.*

*The Department monthly newsletter will serve as a platform to keep everyone informed with the developments in our department and our core functions, reforms and new initiatives such as promoting healthy lifestyle etc..*

*It is our vision to provide and deliver prudent Public Finance Management and Policy Advice to the Government of Papua New Guinea to enhance service delivery for the improvement of the well-being of our people.*

*As the manager of Public purse of Papua New Guinea we have to gain the trust and confidence from our stakeholders, partner agencies and the general public. Telling them what we have achieved as a Department, the challenges that we faced and what is ahead of us.*

*With these few remarks I urge all Division to submit your updates to our OSD Communications and Reporting Branch on time for any news or events coverage for our newsletter, website and also for dissemination to the mainstream media.*

*I now commend this first newsletter to all our staff and stakeholders.*

# Ngangan welcomes Minister Abel



FINANCE Minister, Hon. Charles Abel speaking during the welcome ceremony at the Vulupindi Haus.

THE Department of Finance Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan has welcomed newly appointed Finance Minister Charles Abel.

“On behalf of the staff and management I would like to thank the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape for appointing Hon. Charles Abel as the Finance Minister,” Dr Ngangan said. “Hon. Abel is a senior Minister in the Cabinet, who has a wealth of experience as the former Minister for Tourism and Culture, Commerce and Industry, National Planning and Monitoring, Treasury and Deputy Prime Minister.

On behalf of the staff and the management we are glad to welcome you to Department of Finance,” he said.

Dr Ngangan highlighted some of the achievement of the reforms the Department has been driving and is keen to work with Minister Abel to implement it.

“I’m glad to inform you Minister and all of us here today that we have actually achieved all our targets under the first Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Road Map 2015 to 2018,” Dr Ngangan said.

He also thanked former Minister for Finance and now the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape for the great support.

“We are commencing the review of that assessment and our focus is now at the sub-national level; the provinces and the districts.

“The Department main task is the production of the Public Accounts at the end of each financial year and we have worked hard to bring

Public Accounts up-to-date.

I’m glad to say that we have produced 2018 as at 31st March, which is a great achievement for us.

“With your assistance we will clean up the public accounts and that should provide confidence to the people of PNG.

“We are looking forward to do more for the nation with you as the Finance Minister,” he said.

Member for Alotau and Finance Minister Charles Abel has assured the staff and management of the Department of Finance that he will provide the leadership to add value to the good work that the Department has done.



## Secretary receives recognition from the Queen

THE Department of Finance Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his contribution to public services and public financial management and governance reform. Dr Ken Ngangan was among 87 recipients of the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honors for their services to their country and community.

"I am truly humbled and honored to be given this prestigious award (OBE) by Her Majesty The Queen," Dr Ngangan said.

"I will continue to serve the people of Papua New Guinea with respect to promote efficient, effective and ethical use of public money in the country."

Meanwhile, the Department's First Assistant Secretary for the Organisational Strategy Division Mr Stanley Tumun Yekep also received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for his public service contribution.

"I am privileged to have received this recognition from Her Royal Highness Majesty The Queen."

I give credit to my team in the Department.

"This award is a blessing which gives me more courage to carry on doing what I am passionate about and that is to serve our people with respect and dignity," he said.



**I will continue to serve the people of Papua New Guinea with respect to ensure services are delivered .**



(L-R, back to front) Ministers Abel and Cormann, Dr Ken Ngangan and counterpart Rosemary Huxtable.

## MoU signing for placement program in Australia DoF

THE Australia Finance Secretary Rosemary Huxtable at her recent visit to Papua New Guinea signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding with her counterpart Dr Ken Ngangan OBE, Secretary PNG Department of Finance.

The MoU formalises our relationship with the PNG Finance Department under the DFAT Infrastructure Partnerships Program and is the first formal MoU between our respective agencies. The MoU covers and sets in place a number of initiatives that influence the implementation of alumni networks, coaching programs and payment sharing arrangements going forward.

Finance has been working directly with the PNG Finance since 2004. This year our

engagement focused on the PNG Finance Officer Placement Program with two PNG Finance officials seconded to Canberra for up to 11 months, as full participants in the Graduate Program.

Finance Australia is also initiating a senior management exchange program which provides mentoring and support to counterparts in PNG.

The Secretary was in PNG accompanying Finance Minister Cormann and five other Australian Ministers for the 27th Annual PNG-Australia Ministerial Forum.

This annual dialogue advances key Australian policy priorities and strengthens the relationships between the two countries.



# Officers undergo PEFA training

THE Department of Finance under its Financial Management Improvement Program (FMIP) has held a training on Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) last month at the Institute of Public Administration in Port Moresby.

The training was attended by the Department of Finance staff, government agencies and stakeholder representatives to strengthen Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms through repeated assessments to give participants greater access to enhance the quality of assessments at the subnational level.

The workshop aims to familiarise the officers on the national standards of the public expenditure management and criteria for good public financial management.

Some of the areas covered during the training include Framework of Public Finance Management Accountability, Budget Preparations, Budget Execution, Accounting and Reporting.

Public Financial Management Advisor Ron Hackett said this



DoF staff and representatives from other government agencies posing for a group photo after the training.

training is to prepare officers to go out to the provinces to do assessments using the national standards.

Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Program Team Leader James Kanalnga said officers trained will go to the provinces to do PEFA assessment.

“PEFA is the best national standards used to measure our performance

and the way we do business in the area of Public Finance Management system,” he said.

“From 2016 to 2018 we implemented a number of national reform under the national PEFA platform we recommended the amendments of Public Service Management Act, national procurement policy and a number of indicators.”

# Donated APEC vehicles distributed to agencies

THE 166 donated vehicles used during the 2018 APEC meetings were distributed to the government institutions, non-government organisations and churches by the Department of Finance.

Present to officially handover the vehicles keys to the recipients were the Minister for Finance and Rural Development Hon Charles Abel and Finance Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan. The vehicles were donated to PNG Government by the governments of China and Japan.

“It has taken a long time but the process that we are going through

are done transparently so to account for all assets purchased.”

Dr Ken Ngangan said all these were submitted to NEC for noting and then to the attention of the National Procurement Commission for endorsement of the disposal assets. He said the process for the disposal of the assets follow the Procurement Act and the Public Finance Management Act and complies with the disposal requirements.

“The Department of Finance is the department responsible for the disposal of public assets and we have now taken ownership of all

the assets purchased by the APEC Authority.

The next process will include the State purchased assets which is about 321 in total,” he said.

“After that we will provide a full report and submit to the Finance Minister, to the National Executive Council, National Procurement Commission board and other oversight agencies like Ombudsman Commission and to everyone including the general public.”



# IFMS rollout to provinces continues

Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) has been successfully rolled out to all 43 National Departments and 7 Statutory Authorities. The focus of IFMS rollouts has now moved to the provinces and districts.

The IFMS roll-out to the Department of Finance's Provincial Finance offices (PFOs) and District Finance offices (DFOs) was sustainably completed last year, in accordance with the IFMS Roll-Out Plan.

IFMS is now operational in 20 provinces (NCDC and Bougainville are not part of the IFMS roll-out). All PFOs are using IFMS as well as 83 DFOs.

A success of six provinces have now begun processing transactions on IFMS; East New Britain, Central, Oro, New Ireland, East Sepik and Morobe have been successfully rolled out and have begun processing transactions on IFMS.

However, due to remote locations, difficulties with access and lack of office accommodation, ICT infrastructure could not be set-up in 2018 in 29 DFOs, 26 are operating from their PFO and three continue to use PGAS.

No further rollouts will progress until all issues raised are resolved to the satisfaction of the key stakeholders.

A tentative schedule for the roll-out to the remaining 11 provinces has been developed and will be finalised based on the outcome of the consolidation phase. It is now planned that the IFMS

Sub-National Roll-Out will be completed in late 2020.



(Front L-R) Deputy Secretaries Stephen Nukuitu, Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan and Dominic Ira with some of the 2018 graduates during the induction ceremony.

# 2018 Graduate Program a success

THE Department of Finance has successfully completed the graduate development program (GDP) for the year 2018.

The graduate development program started in 2018 with 23 graduates from various Universities throughout the country.

They have now successfully completed one year program, and have been appointed permanent positions within the Department of Finance.

Secretary for Department of Finance Dr Ken Ngangan said in 2018 the graduates have been assessed by the Human Resources Branch in the Organisational Strategic Division (OSD), based on their performances as supervised and recommended by the responsible branches of the various divisions.

"We have also 2019-2020 GDP in the pipeline to strengthen the integral human resources development in the country.

Through the current GDP, the Department will bring together University Graduates and give them

another opportunity to enhance their knowledge and build pathways in the public service.

In collaboration, training is also vital to enhance the quality of work experiences, which to strengthen the graduates' curriculum vitae for future employment career.

The GDP is crucial to acquire gains in their respective fields, on what they have already learned from the universities", Ngangan said.

The Department of Finance has signed a Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with the University of Papua New Guinea and Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG), and will eventually extend to other universities in Papua New Guinea and abroad.

The purpose of the MoA was to pave the way for dialogue, recruitment, placement, training and exchange programs.

Department of Finance is looking forward to work with all National and other international Universities to now implement the Graduate Development Program", he said.



# Promoting healthy lifestyle at workplace

## Department hosts fun day

Young Leaders Network (YLN) has hosted a Fun Day on October, 1, 2019, at the Rita Flynn Indoor Complex in Port Moresby.

The Fun Day saw staff participated in playing basketball, Netball and soccer.

It was a fun filled day where officers played while at the same time interacting with each other.

The theme of the Fun Day is "To promote health and fitness through sports" keeping the officers in good health both at home and workplace.

Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan who was there to officiate the opening of the Fun day said,

everyone should take full responsibility of their health while working to serve the nation.

The Department brings health practitioners annually to conduct medical checks for the staff. However, once this is done and your status is made known, it is up to you to take full responsibility to help yourself.

"While we care about work too much, work won't care about us when we are gone. Therefore while working your personal health should be given priority," he said.

"We also have other social events taking place and I encourage everyone to take part."



Top: Team FCD taking a break. Below: Team OSD discussing their game plan.



It was a successful and great day for those who participated as everyone

had a great time and we look forward for more social activities.

# Your health is your responsibly, Ngangan

THE Department of Finance has taken a step forward to promote healthy lifestyle at work place through fitness walk once a week.

The Fitness walk initiative aims to boost and keep officers healthy so that everyone can all work together to deliver to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan who led the walk last week urged everyone to join the walk to keep healthy and promote a health working environment while we continue to serve our people.

"Physically, mentally and spiritually

fit is the essence to a complete person. If one is missing then it is up to us individual to strive for the balance."

This is a weekly walk that is held every Wednesday 4-5.30 pm at Ela Beach.

The Department has come to realised that most of the officers are not giving enough time doing physical exercise, which contributes to lifestyle diseases that affect their lives, family and work.

"Our health is important and we should take full responsibility of it," he said.



(L-R) Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan, Samson Metofa and Marlene Philip who led the walk last week.



### Up Coming Events For November

- Regional workshop for DFOs & PFO for Highlands and Momase Region in Lae
- Retirement & Retrenchment Exercise coincide with the Regional workshop
- Commissioning of District Staff Housing in Lae
- Commissioning of District Staff Housing in ENB
- Regional workshop for DFOs & PFO in Port Moresby for Southern and NGI Region

For any stories or events contact the Communications & Reporting Branch at OSD...



Secretary Ngangan leads the walk at Ela Beach with officers tagging along at the back.



Female officers enjoying the walk.



Senior officers also took time out to join others for the walk.



Team OSD and Payments during the break.



Team Red girls cheering their team members as their take the court.



OSD FAS (left) presenting the trophy to the winner of the soccer team representatives.



Netball challenge between team red and white.



Acting Deputy Secretary Support Services Ms Margaret Tenakanai takes on the ball while the opponent puts up a strong defense against her.

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