



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, November 23, 2020

### **Team PNG HERO Training Ends Successfully**

The Team PNG HERO Program concluded on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby with the presentation of certificates to the participants.

A total of 31 participants from 17 sports including, Para sports, 18 females and 13 males attended the one-week program (16<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020).

The Team PNG HERO's program is the signature Papua New Guinea Olympic Committees (PNGOC) Athlete Ambassador program that reflects PNGOC's core values of Honesty, Excellence, Respect and Openness.

PNGOC sees Team PNG athletes as role models, having the potential to influence positive change in society and represent the positive values associated with sport. PNGOC also recognize the importance of empowering our athletes with the necessary skills and knowledge to allow them to become HERO.

In line with the PNGOC's current Strategic Direction in providing athletes with Opportunity to inspire, the HERO's program, provides athletes with capacity development training and then offers and supports them to find employment and educational opportunities.

The training focused on various aspects related to the Olympic and sporting movements, life skills development focusing on key areas of impact on the athletes sporting and professional development, various issues facing sport and social and development issues related to sports for development.

The HERO's take the lead within PNGOC to run sports for development programs, marketing activities and other activities as well. A team PNG HERO can be used to champion or take part in movements or activities for organisations.

Topics covered during the training included; Athlete Career Transition, Leadership Development: which focuses on the Importance of Athletes as Role Models in the society and Understanding the importance of having personal values, Goal Setting, Public Speaking, Safeguarding, Gender Equality & GBV, Sport for Development Programs, Athlete Career Transition and Leadership Development,

In presenting the certificates to the athletes, Secretary General Auvita Rapilla, stressed the importance of the program and reminded the athletes of being role models not only in the sporting arena but also in their communities. She also acknowledged the facilitators for the great work put into delivery the program.

The issuing of the certificates was witnessed by the Lead Facilitators: Ryan Pini, Andrew Lepani, Lua Rikis and Milton Kisapai - the Program Coordinator.

The program was funded by ExxonMobil PNG through the Olympic Values Education Program (OVEP) and supported by the International Olympic Committee.

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