



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Kaputin Awarded last spot in Team PNG to Tokyo 2020

World Athletics has confirmed that Rellie Kaputin has been awarded the Papua New Guinea universality place, in athletics, for the Tokyo Olympics.

Kaputin has been training with her coach Phillip Newton since February 2020 in Kingscliff which is just over the NSW border south of the Gold Coast. She has been working towards qualifying for the long jump event in the Athletics competition for the Tokyo Olympics.

Chef de Mission Tamzin Wardley confirmed that the PNG Olympic Committee was advised of the decision by World Athletics early this morning.

“It is an exceptional result as acceptance into a field event, such as the long jump, is not just based on her current world ranking but her current performance as well. Her place had to be approved by a Board of Technical delegates, as the field of athletes for the long jump is a set number.

“Rellie has been competing in the recent Australian athletics circuit events in her lead up to the Games and it was just this last weekend, at the Festival of Athletics in Townsville, that she landed her season best jump at 6.42 m.”

PNG athletics has had their top two female athletes, Kaputin and Toea Wisil, vying for the sole universality spot on offer. This sole spot is available to countries who have not managed to qualify an athlete by reaching the qualifying mark.

Wardley explained that achieving a qualifying time or jump has been very challenging due to the lack of competitions that have been available for our PNG athletes to attend due to the pandemic.

The final selection of athlete was based on each athlete’s current world ranking.

Kaputin is now the eighth and final athlete in Team PNG for the Tokyo Olympics, with all events now closed.

Wardley confirmed that PNG will have 4 female and 4 male athletes across 5 sports. Our team is now officially:

Athletics	Rellie Kaputin
Boxing	John Ume
Sailing	Rose Lee Numa and Teariki Numa
Swimming	Judith Meauri & Ryan Maskelyne
Weightlifting	Dika Toua & Morea Baru

The first members of the team will depart for Japan on 16 July 2021.

END. //

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The PNGOC is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation committed to inspire and unite Papua New Guineans through sporting excellence and success. PNGOC is a believer of sport as an enabler for sustainable and inclusive development. It is our responsibility to select, send and fund Team PNG to the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Pacific Games. This is achieved by working with our member national sports federations and with the support of our sponsors and partners, through fundraising events and with the backing of the Government. The PNG Olympic Committee is grateful for the wonderful support of our sponsors and partners which helps our Team PNG athletes achieve their dreams.