



TEAM PNG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA'A SKIPPER NAMED AS OFFICIAL FLAG BEARER FOR TEAM PNG TO THE MINI PACIFIC GAMES IN NORTHERN MARIANAS.

PNG Women's Va'a skipper Ailima Kini was given the prestigious role this evening (Monday 13th June) at the team accommodation venue the Grandvrio Resort, in Saipan, Northern Marianas.

Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee President Sir John Dawanicura said the flag bearer reveal is an important role and ceremony in the lead up to the opening ceremony.

"Ailima's outstanding leadership has been key to the vaá women's success.

"Ailima was part of the women's team to the 2013 Mini Pacific Games that won three silver medals, the 2015 Pacific Games V12 team that shocked champions Tahiti for the Gold and in 2019 added another silver and a bronze for their treasure trove.

"Since being appointed as skipper in 2015, Kini continues to show outstanding leadership traits in and out of the water,"

"Being the Team PNG flag bearer is an honour and unique responsibility that places you in an elite and distinguished class with those who elegantly carried the flag and its responsibilities before you".

Team PNG Chef de Mission to the Mini Pacific Games Mr. Kila Dick while congratulating Kini on her appointment said:

"Being a flag bearer is a significant achievement and is a true reflection of Ailima's character, which is worthy of this recognition".

The majority of the traveling Team PNG contingent flew directly to the Northern Marianas from Papua New Guinea, whilst several overaseas based athletes from the United States and Australia have touched down in Saipan today to join the rest of Team PNG.

The full team is now in training mode whilst awaiting the opening ceremony on Friday 17th June to kickstart the competitions.

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About the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation committed to inspire and unite Papua New Guinea through sporting excellence and success. The PNGOC is a believer of sport as an enabler for sustainable and inclusive development. We serve the three different global games movements, those being the Olympic Movement, Commonwealth Games Movement and the Pacific Games Movement. 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. To find out more visit our website www.pngolympic.org.pg

Pacific Mini Games Press Contact

Name: Peter Sevara

Email: psevarajr@gmail.com and/or dkaviagu@pngoc.org.pg

Phone: N/A