



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, 2 September 2022

# **Young Buna Primary students encouraged to look after their coastlines**

One of the deliverables under the PNG Olympic Committee (PNGOC) HERO program for elite Team PNG Athletes is the Love Your Coast initiatives (LYC) which raises important awareness on keeping local coastlines safe, clean and sustainable in our communities.

As part of the organisation's sustainability and environment practices in line with International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Sustainable Practices and PNGOC's strategic plan on the promotion of the Olympic Values and awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, Team PNG HERO athletes incorporate awareness on LYC and deliver to target members' of the communities they visit under this program.

Team PNG elite athletes that represent Papua New Guinea in international multi-sport events also deliver programs on the importance of Sports for Development and Peace as championed by 'Voices of the Athletes' through the premier elite athlete body, the PNG Athletes Commission (PNGAC) to complement the existing 'Play Safe' and 'Play True' Be a Leader awareness campaigns.

Pictured here are Team PNG HERO Athletes that recently took part in the recent delivery of the Kicks 4 Kokoda program (K4K) in Oro Province, showing pictures with examples of the effects of not effectively looking after our coastlines.

The recent K4K program is aimed at introducing evidence-based sport for development (S4D) program to empower adolescents to make better health and lifestyle decisions. The program is in partnership with the Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF), Grassroots Soccer (GRS) and the PNG Olympic Committee (PNGOC) and supported by the Australian Government through its Sport for Development Program Team Up.

The Team PNG HERO Athletes that took part were Linda Pulsan (Powerlifting), Raphaela Baki (Boxing) Dianne Vetu (Touch), Basil Joffari and Roland Bala (Soccer), Dennis Kopman (Karate), Dia Muri (Basketball) and Steven Abraham (Para Athletics).

The Team PNG HERO's program is the signature PNGOC's Athlete Ambassador program that reflects PNGOC's core values of Honesty, Excellence, Respect and Openness. It also recognizes the importance of empowering other athletes with the necessary skills and knowledge to allow them to become a HERO athlete.

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#### **About the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee**

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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. 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](http://www.pngolympic.org.pg)

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#### **Press Contact**

Name: Kessie Tadap

Email: [ktadap@pngoc.org.pg](mailto:ktadap@pngoc.org.pg) and/or [events@pngoc.org.pg](mailto:events@pngoc.org.pg)

Phone: 325 1449 / 323 0108 / 323 0114