



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, 4 March 2024

Molen elected as New Chair of the PNG Athletes Commission

The PNG Athletes Commission (AC) has appointed its new Chair during the Team PNG Games Review Workshop led by the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) at the Holiday Inn on Saturday, 2nd of March, 2024.

Andrew Molen from the sport of Karate and Kungfu Wushu was appointed as the new PNG Athletes Commission Chair for the next four years by the members of the AC in place of the outgoing Ryan Pini. Lua Rikis from the sport of Netball was re-elected for another term and remains as the Deputy Chair. Both candidates will serve a term of four (4) years concluding at the next Pacific Games being the 2027 Tahiti Pacific Games where the athlete commission elections are next set to take place.

The purpose of the PNG Athlete's Commission is to advise the PNGOC Executives on all athlete matters that involve the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, the Pacific Mini Games, and the Pacific Games itself.

Molen expressed his gratitude by stating *"This is such a big honour and responsibility and I am privileged to be given this role. My focus has always been on recognizing and supporting athletes and that will continue. I want to give my best to my fellow Commission members and to our fellow athletes."*

"Ryan Pini has done remarkable work and I am confident in his guidance to help us through. It's also great to have Lua Rikis back. Her experience will be valuable to us. To be among such a high-quality field of people in this Commission is also a great privilege and strength for me. I am looking forward to seeing great things from everyone." Molen added.

Secretary General Desmond Kaviagu of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee expressed deep gratitude for the exemplary leadership of Ryan Pini, the outgoing Chair of the Athlete's Commission. Kaviagu stated, *"On behalf of Team PNG, the board, management and staff, we extend our sincere thanks to Ryan Pini for his remarkable leadership and tireless efforts in advancing the interests of our athletes during his tenure as Chair"*.

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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

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Press Contact

Name: Leeah Jackson

Email: ljackson@pngoc.org.pg and/or events@pngoc.org.pg

Phone: 325 1449 / 323 0108 / 323 0114