

**Wednesday, 1 March 2023**

**Joint Media Statement: Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee & PNG Cancer Foundation to collaborate over the next 2 years**

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee and Papua New Guinea Cancer Foundation are pleased to announce their partnership engagement as program collaboration partners. The parties signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday, 1st of March, to signify their joint commitment to provide symbiotic support for respective programs throughout the duration of the two (2)-year partnership.

Representing the parties, PNG Olympic Committee (PNGOC) Secretary General Mrs Auvita Rapilla, joined PNG Cancer Foundation (PNGCF) Executive Manager Ms Priscillar Napoleon, at the signing and photo opportunity in the presence of their respective Programs officers.

“At the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee, we recognize the critical role that sport can play in addressing key societal issues. Through our partnership with the PNG Cancer Foundation, we aim to progress the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health and Well-Being, Gender Equality, and Partnerships. By utilizing our existing programs and platform, we will raise awareness about cancer prevention and support services whilst working together to create a healthier and more resilient nation”, said Auvita Rapilla.

Thanking the PNGOC for the opportunity to collaborate and work together, Ms Napoleon said, “We are grateful to the PNG Olympic Committee for their coming on board to work with us over the next two years. We believe that this partnership will have a positive contribution to the nation’s overall health indicators and development in promoting and advocacy on increased public health denominators through our respective programs to promote healthy lifestyle choices. We look forward to working with the Team PNG athletes, through the PNGOC Team PNG H.E.R.O Program, with the hope to contribute to the ‘Close the Care Gap’ and build a stronger cancer prevention campaign in PNG”.

Under the partnership, both parties will collaborate on several planned activities including school-based programs, community cancer awareness activities, and PNGCF’s calendar fundraising events - where Team PNG Athletes are engaged as cancer prevention ambassadors. These athletes are educators trained through the Team PNG HERO program delivered under the Olympic Values Education Program (OVEP) to engage effectively with young adults and children. The acronym HERO stands for Honesty, Excellence, Respect and Openness which are the organizational values of the PNGOC, and these are the values that the HERO Athletes promote through the OVEP Program.

**Ends.**

For more information on the partnership, kindly contact:

**PNGCF Programs Contact**

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## Image Attachment



Photo Opportunity 1 at signing: (Left-Right)

Captions: PNG Olympic Committee Corporate Manager Denzil Agi, PNG Olympic Committee Secretary General, PNG Cancer Foundation Executive Manager Priscillar Napoleon and PNG Cancer Foundation Programs Coordinator Renee Marru were present at the signing for the photo opportunity.



Photo Opportunity 2 at signing: (Left-Right)

Caption 1: PNG Olympic Committee Secretary General, PNG Cancer Foundation Executive Manager Priscillar Napoleon and PNG