



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PNGOC thanks media and shares calendar of events**

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) has expressed its thanks to all its partners for their support in 2017 and looks forward to another fruitful year in 2018.

One of the partners that PNGOC has had a good working relationship with is the media and it took the opportunity to thank them in a special gathering yesterday (Thursday 1st February) in Port Moresby.

Secretary General, Auvita Rapilla was on hand and emphasized that PNGOC sees the media as an important partner in sports and community development by spreading positive, inspiring and empowering messages that are delivered by PNGOC in its programmes and through the achievement of Team PNG athletes.

“Each one of you; Editors, Sports Editors, Reporters, Photographers and Camera persons, have contributed to our achievements in the past through your coverage and reporting of our events.

“It is because of the support from you that we are holding this Media Briefing to acknowledge the important role you play in promoting Team PNG and the work of PNGOC with the nation,” Rapilla said.

“The PNGOC is proud of our relationship with the sporting media. We assisted with the establishment of the PNG Sports Journalist Association and we look forward to seeing the association develop. We stand ready to assist with its development where possible,” Rapilla said.

“I take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your support of PNG Olympic Committee’s activities in 2017, particularly the SP Sports Awards, Trukai Fun Run, Prime Minister’s Corporate Golf Challenge and the PNG Sports Hall of Fame.

“We are launching these events in the coming weeks for 2018 and we will be calling on your support again to inform our people about the importance and purpose of these events,” she said.

Rapilla also congratulated the media on a wonderful coverage of the Pacific Mini Games last December which featured the performance and achievements of Team PNG.

“I did not attend the Games and so followed closely Team PNG’s performances through the regular reporting you all did,” she said.

Team PNG will be attending two Games this year. The first one is the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia from April 4th – 15th and the other is Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 6<sup>th</sup> – 18th.

All fundraising events especially, the Trukai Fun Run and the Prime Minister’s Corporate Golf Challenge will be targeted towards supporting Team PNG for these Games.

Sports reporters from media organisations who attended the event also had the opportunity to learn more about PNGOC and Team PNG as well as its different programmes and activities.

Deputy Secretary General of the PNGOC, Andrew Lepani took them through an interactive quiz session which outlined important facts and information about PNGOC' programmes, Team PNG and the Games that they attend.

"I invite you to join us again for another exciting year of events as we continue to unite our people through sporting excellence and success.

"The PNG Olympic Committee relies heavily on your support to promote Team PNG athletes, inform and educate the public about our events and most importantly, spread positive and inspirational messages to all corners of our country," Rapilla said.

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**Extra Information:**

Some background and history of PNGOC as covered in the session.

- Team PNG will be attending two Games this year. The first one is the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia from April 4th – 15th and the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 6th – 18th.
- The age range for YOG athletes is 13 to 18 years of age.
- The 10 sports that Team PNG will be contesting at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games are; Athletics (plus Para), Boxing, Lawn Bowls, Rugby 7s, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis (plus Para), Triathlon and Weightlifting.
- There are two athletes who will be competing in the Paralympic event for Table Tennis and Athletics respectively.
- The Territory of Papua & New Guinea, as PNG was known then, received the status as a National Olympic Committee (NOC) in 1974 and our first Olympic Games as an independent country was at Montreal, Canada in 1976.
- PNG's first medal at the British Empire & Commonwealth Games (now known as the Commonwealth Games) was a bronze medal in Boxing. It was won by Kenneth Hopkins in 1962.
- The PNG Olympic Committee was founded on August 2, 1961. Back then it was known as the Territory of Papua & New Guinea Sports Union.
- 1962 was our first British Empire & Commonwealth Games.
- Our first South Pacific Games was in Fiji in 1963. It has changed its name to Pacific Games.

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