



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Team PNG begins preparations Samoa 2019

Sports that will be part of Team PNG at the Pacific Games in Samoa next year have begun their preparations with the aim of achieving similar Games result like they did in 2015.

They gathered in Port Moresby last Saturday with the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee in the first Games workshop to share their plans, progress and Games targets.

Sir John reminded sports that the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games presents this opportunity for Team PNG to create history on foreign soil. He also pointed out that it was the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, who presented the team with this challenge at the end of the 2015 Pacific Games.

Papua New Guinea's Vice Minister for Sports, Wesley Raminai, in his keynote speech, encouraged sports to work together to achieve their goals and not focus on their individual agendas.

"As custodians of your respective sports I encourage you to run your sport following the principles of good governance and putting athletes first.

"There should be no place for factional disputes and politics in sports. These will only negatively impact the progress of your sport," he said.

"Sports unites PNG like no other influence. We saw that during the 2015 Pacific Games and I want to see Team PNG unite the nation again in 2019."

The Samoa 2019 Pacific Games will be held from the July 8 to 20, less than a year and half away, and PNGOC Secretary General, Auvita Rapilla stressed that it is important to prepare well in advance if PNG is going to make an impact in Samoa.

"We all know that preparing for top-level events at the elite level of sport should be done years in advance... in some sense we are already behind our most toughest competitors.

"The host nation, Samoa; our traditional rivals, Fiji and of course the French powerhouses of Tahiti and New Caledonia are all preparing to wrestle away the title of Pacific's Best that we claimed in 2015," she said.

26 sports are on offer for the Pacific Games in Samoa and PNG will be aiming to compete in all of them. At the workshop, representatives from these sports expressed their commitment to repeat Team PNG's winning performance from 2015 where Team PNG claimed 88 Gold, 69 Silver and 60 Bronze for a total of 217 medals to finish on top of the medal tally.

PNG has never topped the medal tally in a Pacific Games held away from home so a first place finish in Samoa will be a historical achievement.

A major challenge for Team PNG's preparations is funding and Rapilla called on the sports to be proactive in their respective fundraising activities to sustain their programmes and help prepare their athletes.

She said PNGOC will also be striving to raise funds to assist them.

The workshop also provided updates tiering of the sports for funding support, key dates and deadlines for the 2019 Pacific Games, and analysis of previous Team PNG performances at the Pacific Games.

The Sports on the program for the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games;

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Basketball
4. Badminton
5. Beach Volleyball
6. Boxing
7. Cricket
8. Golf
9. Judo
10. Lawn Bowls
11. Netball
12. Powerlifting
13. Rugby League
14. Rugby 7s
15. Sailing
16. Shooting
17. Squash
18. Swimming
19. Table Tennis
20. Taekwondo
21. Tennis
22. Touch
23. Triathlon
24. Weightlifting
25. Volleyball (Indoor)
26. Va'a

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PNGOC Games Workshop to kick off 2019 Pacific Games preparations for Team PNG

With less than 500 days to go until the opening ceremony of the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games, Team PNG has set their sights on creating history by topping the medal table abroad come July 2019 in Samoa.

To initiate planning and preparations for the Pacific Games, the PNG Olympic Committee will be holding a Team PNG Games Workshop with National Federations this Saturday 3rd March at the Holiday Inn.

The 2019 Samoa Pacific Games will have 26 Sports on the Program of which Team PNG will be looking to replicate their performance in 2015 where Team PNG claimed 88 Gold, 69 Silver and 60 Bronze; a total of 217 medals won to finish on top of the medal tally.

The Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu in December 2017 saw Team PNG bring home 33 Gold, 30 Silver and 22 Bronze to claim the most number of medals of 85 at the Games. Team PNG competed in 10 out of the 14 sports on the program.

Although Team PNG's current focus is on the upcoming Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, PNGOC recognizes that success at the 2019 Pacific Games will come from proper planning and preparation. The Games Workshop will share important information with sports to ensure all sports and their athletes, coaches and officials are well prepared to create history and win the Pacific Games on foreign soil.

The program will begin at 8:30am and will cover Team PNG Performance Analysis, tiers and funding for sports, 2019 Pacific Games Key Dates and Deadlines, Performance Planning, with the afternoon dedicated to One on One meetings with sports.

The Vice-Minister for Sport, Hon. Wesley Raminai will be on hand to make the keynote speech at the workshop.

[Sports on Program](#)

The following sports will be on the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games program:

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Basketball
4. Badminton
5. Beach Volleyball
6. Boxing
7. Cricket
8. Golf
9. Judo
10. Lawn Bowls
11. Netball
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