



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Thurston to join 20 years celebration of Trukai Fun Run**

The 2019 nationwide Trukai Fun Run was launched today at the Royal Papua Yacht Club in Port Moresby marking 20 years of Trukai Industries' commitment as the major sponsor of the event.

100,000 t-shirts will be available for the Fun Run this year and they will be auctioned to the public and private sectors on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Lae and Port Moresby respectively.

Trukai Industries Ltd also announced at the launch that Australian rugby league super star, Jonathan Thurston will also be in attendance during the auctions when he travels to PNG on Trukai's invitation.

Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> is the date set for the 2019 Trukai Fun Run and everyone is encouraged to buy a 2019 Trukai Fun Run t-shirt in order to be able to participate.

It was in 1999 that Trukai Industries painted the streets of Port Moresby, Lae and other participating centers with their bright yellow coloured t-shirts for the first time to help raise funds to take Team PNG to the Olympic Games in Sydney.

20 years on, Trukai's unwavering support to the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee and Team PNG continues through this annual nationwide event.

The number of participating centers and the excited people that join the fun run have grown during that time making it possibly one of the biggest sport-for-all events in the Pacific and the Southern hemisphere.

President of the PNG Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura said the nationwide Fun Run which began in 1983 has grown from strength to strength and thanked Trukai for its support over the last two decades.

"It has been a fantastic journey with Trukai and we thank you for the support to Team PNG through the Fun Run," he said.

Sir John also acknowledged other partners and service providers who have been part of the event to always ensure that it is fun, safe and enjoyed by everyone.

Funds raised from the sale of the shirts go towards Team PNG's participation at the 16<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games in Samoa in July this year.

After purchasing the shirts, businesses can put their logo on the shirt before donating to the school or institution of their choice. Schools can resell the shirts to raise extra cash for their projects.



Participants of the fun run also get a chance to win scholarships to study at the IBS University when they fill out a form which can be found with the shirt when they buy it. This form must be handed in at the registration desk on the day of the event.

Since becoming the major sponsor of the Fun Run, Trukai Industries has invested over K9 million into the growth and success of Team PNG at the elite level.

Trukai's support has taken Team PNG to six Olympic Games, five Commonwealth Games, five Pacific Mini Games and four Pacific Games with this year's Samoa Games being its fifth.

Trukai Industries Ltd National Marketing Manager, Maybellyn Fernandes said that the 2019 Trukai Fun Run is a significant one for Trukai as we look back on our 20 years of sponsorship. Fernandes acknowledged PNG Olympic Committee for the partnership including all other key stakeholders who continue to make this event a success each year.

"The Trukai Fun Run has become one of our largest Corporate Social Responsibility programs over the years and we are very proud of our strong support and commitment towards developing sports in PNG.

"We have a strong CSR program dedicated at improving the lives of Papua New Guinean's through various social opportunities in the community and sport is one of them, and the Trukai Fun Run is a great testament of that," Fernandes said.

"In support of our 20<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring the Trukai Fun Run, we are proud to announce that we have secured a special visit by Australian rugby league legend, Jonathan Thurston and other Cowboys legends, who will attend the auction in March to help raise funds for Team PNG," she said.

All T-shirts will be available for sale to the public after the auctions in March. T-shirts at the auction will be selling at K10 each and all sales after the auction will be at K15 per t-shirt.

For more information about the Trukai Fun Run, please visit the Trukai Fun Run Facebook page [www.facebook.com/trukaifunrun](http://www.facebook.com/trukaifunrun)

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