



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Office of the Minister

Date: 28/02/2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

**PNG NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO CONDUCTS INAUGURAL
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Minister for Education Hon. Joseph Yopyyopy, MP and the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Emil Tammur, MP have pledged their full support to the work of the PNG National Commission for UNESCO after they were sworn in as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the PNG UNESCO Board respectively.

The swearing in ceremony at the Loloata Private Island Resort on the 28th of February, 2020 was followed by the Board's inaugural meeting. The board comprises currently the following:

- Chairman – Minister for Education
- Deputy Chairman – Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Commissioner – Secretary for Education
- Commissioner – Secretary for DHERST
- Commissioner – Executive Director National Cultural Commission
- Commissioner - Managing Director National Museum and Art Gallery
- Commissioner – Managing Director NBC
- Commissioner – Managing Director CEPA
- Commissioner – National Research Institute
- Commissioner – Vice Chancellor UPNG
- Commissioner – Secretary for Community Development and Religion
- Ex-Officio Advisor – Secretary General PNG National Commission for UNESCO

The Board representation is currently limited to government agencies based in Port Moresby and representative of UNESCO Mandates. However, the Commission Membership has been further extended in seeking relevance with competencies in the work of UNESCO to currently the following:

- Commissioner – Secretary National Planning & Monitoring
- Commissioner – Secretary Mineral Policy & Geo-hazard Management
- Commissioner- Secretary Information & Communication
- Commissioner-Vice Chancellor PNG University of Technology
- Commissioner – Community Representative/NGO

Those sworn in included the two Ministers, Education Secretary, Executive Director National Cultural Commission, UPNG Vice Chancellor, Secretary General National Commission for UNESCO and representatives from the Department of Mineral Policy & Geo-hazard Management, NBC and the community and NGO. The others will be sworn in during the second meeting.

In his opening remarks at the Board meeting, Mr. Yopyyopy described UNESCO as a 'sleeping giant' because of its untapped ability to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNESCO is a UN specialized agency established in 1945, and UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

UNESCO is considered as the "intellectual" agency of the United Nations, where intelligence and innovation in science and technology expand horizons and sustain the hope for new humanity and are sustained within the minds of every man, woman and child.

There were two reports presented to the Board which focused on the status of the Commission from 2012 and beyond and the thematic programs that were implemented since its amalgamation with the Department of Education in 2014.

The Board resolved to the following;

- (i) Takes note of the contents of the Reports with the '*Way Forward*' Statements and;
- (ii) Takes note of current challenging position of the Commission and consider and assess the predicament of it, and;
- (iii) Issues directions regarding the treatment of State Assets held by the former management and the position of former personnel, and;
- (iv) Issues necessary directions on the future status of the PNG National Commission for UNESCO.

Minister Yopyyopy thanked the staff of UNESCO who have worked tirelessly behind the scene to arrive at the formation of the Board.

He also thanked the Secretary for Education Dr. Uke Kombra and two former heads of the Commission for bringing the Commission to its current status.

Authorized by:

HON. JOSEPH YOPYYOPY, MP

Minister for Education



Members and alternate members who turned up for the meeting and were sworn from left to right (seated) - Executive Director-National Cultural Commission, Mr. Steven Kilanda, Deputy Chairman and Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Emil Tammur, MP, Chairman and Minister for Education, Hon. Joseph Yopyyopy, MP, Dr. Uke Kombra - Secretary for Education and the Secretary General – PNG National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Joseph Auli.

Standing at the back are Professor Frank Griffin-Vice Chancellor, UPNG, Mr. Kevin Marai-NBC and Frank Marie-Department of Mineral Policy & Geo-hazard Management who are alternate members and Professor Kenneth Sumbuk representing the Community & NGO.