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## **Official Opening** of PBF Office



Pacific Balanced Fund officially opened its doors to the public in a small but significant ceremony this month. The opening was at its new office of the ground floor of Defens Haus, downtown Port Moresby.

Ms. Rosa Teria, General Manager of the Pacific Balanced Fund Administration acknowledged in her speech the presence of Pacific Balanced Fund and Melanesian Trustee Services Limited staff, unit holders, special guests and the public stating that early in the year the move to the new office space was aimed at improving public access for relevant stakeholders particularly for the 20,000 unit holders.

Ms. Teria, said "our unit holders are spread right across PNG and even abroad. Many are in Port Moresby or visit the city and want to make face to face contact. The new office is intended to improve our service to people."

The new office signifies a new era of customer service for the fund. The new space offers a new way of approaching how the fund services its unit holders. Ms Teria said that, "we are also making it possible for unit holders to receive their earnings quickly, electronically, through accounts already available to them under an arrangement with the banks - a change of place and a change of pace are signs of us meeting our promise to expand and grow for the benefit of our unit holders."



#### Securities Commission Praises MTSL management of PBF

Registrar of Companies (IPA) and Acting General Manager of the Securities Commission Mr. Alex Tongayu praised the prudent management of the fund by MTSL stating that the funds path to recovery has been the result of a strategic focus and determination to work with the regulator and industry.

Mr. Tongayu, said that in 2005 the Fund had a negative balance sheet of K29 million. Since MTSL took over as fund manager in 2010 there has been a dramatic improvement – some of these improvements have

- Contributions to unit holders amounting to K35.2 million Investment value sitting above K500 million Investment values growing on an average of K51 million

annually

Based on current trends, the fund could hit the K1billion mark within the next 5 years, clearly stamping its mark as the largest private equity fund in PNG owned by ordinary Papua New Guineans.

Mr. Wemin, CEO of MTSL said "the challenges are great and we will continue to lift our game and perform as we have done to the fund to K600 million. Our audits are up to date and we are now doing our 2015 audits which should be completed by the end of this month."



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## Trukai Industries launches TruCare brand



Trukai Industries has launched the Trucare brand, which is a new initiative aimed at giving back to the community by supporting and promoting programs and events, and the advocacy of women in agriculture and business. Trucare will lead Trukai Industries Corporate Social Responsibility program for "Healthy Living"

A statement released by Trukai Industries, stated that after decades spent embodying the values and ideals of a proud Papua New Guinea rice company, Trukai has set a new standard in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), with the launch of its TruCare brand.

Trukai's CEO, Greg Worthington Eyre, said the launch of TruCare serves to re-emphasise Trukai's dedication to Papua New Guinea.

"TruCare is a brand that supports Papua New Guineans, not just in the urban centres, but also in remote areas," he said.

"Trukai Industries is well aware of the plight caused by the recent El Nino and then floods in PNG. Trukai will endeavour to reach out to the affected population. Natural disasters are unavoidable and can cause a lot of damage to food crops, which affects people's diet. Trukai has always been the number one food choice in Papua New Guinean households and during these

trying times, TruCare is an assurance that Trukai does care about our people's livelihood, health and wellbeing." PNG unfortunately, has a high prevalence of malaria, child illness and tuberculosis. Trukai Industries commitment to providing a supply of nutritional based product through its various Trukai branded products is an example of the company's promotion of a healthy diet.

The statement added that Trukai donated 200 bags of 10kg rice to the major regional hospitals in Southern, Highlands, New Guinea Islands and Momase. A tonne of rice was also donated to the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) medical ship ahead of its journey to the Southern Region and Huon Gulf. Every month, rice is supplied to feed orphaned children at the Life PNG Care centre, unemployed youth at the PNG City Mission (Port Moresby and Lae) and people living with disabilities at the Cheshire Homes.

"Trukai is much more than just rice. It's about people, communities, agriculture and knowledge. We have been In PNG for more than 45 years and look forward to feeding a healthy nation for many more years to come," said Worthington-Eyre.

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# International Women's Day



International Women's Day falls on the 8th of March and has been recognized for over 100 years globally, it celebrates the Social, Economic, Cultural and Political achievements of women. This year's theme was: PLEDGE FOR PARITY, leaders around the world are taking action to accelerate gender parity.

But what is gender parity? Gender parity is the calculated percentage of number of male/female enrolled in a given stage of education and is used by international organizations in measuring the progress of developing nations. (UN Statistics Division)

The story of the struggles of women and the inequality is what brought about an unrest in New York City in 1908 where 15, 000 women marched the street demanding shorter working hours, better pay and voting rights.

Globally women's education, health and violence are worse than that of men, according to the International Women's Day webpage women are still not present in equal numbers in politics, business and education.

However, great improvements have been made:
Today —women have legislative rights, more
numbers of girls go to school, they run businesses
and they sit in boardrooms. That is why each year
on International Women's Day we celebrate the
women who can work, who have a family, who go to
school and the women who can actually make a
difference in life. MTSL honoured this day with the
menfolk providing lunch for the women within the
organization and acknowledged their contributions
towards the business.