

# CLIMATE CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



## OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Dynasty Tower, Savannah Heights,  
Waigani Drive, WAIGANI, Port Moresby

P O Box 4017, Boroko 111, NCD.  
Papua New Guinea



Telephone: (+675) 7411 2493, Facsimile: (+675) 3257620, Email: [info@ccda.gov.pg](mailto:info@ccda.gov.pg) Website: [www.ccda.gov.pg](http://www.ccda.gov.pg)

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Papua New Guinea and Pacific countries to strengthen and amplify voices of the Pacific calling for global action to address climate change**

Papua New Guinea will join hands with its Pacific neighboring countries to strengthen and amplify the voices of the Pacific calling for global action to address climate change.

Climate Change and Development Authority's Managing Director Mr. Ruel Yamuna said this in Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province at the official opening of the regional workshop today at the Highlander Hotel on the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the review of the Climate Change (Management) Act, 2015.

He also echoed this following calls from our Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) leaders, to reaffirm their commitment to taking ambitious transformative actions to address the underlying causes and impacts of global climate change during the recent Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) meetings in Suva, Fiji.

Mr. Yamuna said our Pacific leaders' call is very much in line with PNG's efforts in mobilizing Climate Action. With the country's overall development planning framework supporting and promoting a low-carbon, green growth pathway that is in line with the Government's ambitious target to be carbon-neutral by 2050, it is a critical time to re-align the enabling environment in responding to the impacts of Climate Change in Papua New Guinea.

He said the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) will ensure its policies/legislative frameworks were realistic and relevant with the current developments both in-country and at the international arena.

As the CCDA regional workshops is underway on the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the review of the Climate Change (Management) Act, 2015 (CCMA) starting this week in the Highlands region - Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province, Mr. Yamuna said CCDA requires to work with all stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels in mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation activities.

"We need to get that message across on the importance of mainstreaming climate change into planning and budgetary processes at all levels of government.

One window that can be utilized at the sub-national level is the Provincial Climate Change Committee (PCCC) or similar arrangements that can oversee/drive climate change initiatives at the sub-national level".

“We need to do this in a whole of Government approach, and talk to our people on the ground who are feeling the effects of Climate Change and take stock of their stories, their everyday struggles. ***In turn, our communities also have a role as stewards of their own environment by instilling that ownership in protecting their environment for their future – we need to create that movement of change***”, he said.

The CCMA review exercise will ensure that all sectors have a more holistic understanding of the function and integration of CCMA into different sectors, a cleared understanding of the most applicable adjustments and recommendations.

Furthermore, with the adoption of the Paris Agreement rulebook in Katowice, Poland in COP 24 which operationalizes the Paris Agreement main obligations. One includes the commitments made in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) – country’s report on climate change priorities, PNG requires to refine and update its NDC targets by 2020 and we need to know how much it will cost for our NDC targets.

Also PNG’s ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2016 and subsequently the UN Paris Agreement (Implementation) Act, 2016 requires the PNG Government to honour its commitment by implementing the regulations. Certain international mitigation obligations from former *Kyoto Protocol* to now *Paris Agreement* have now changed calling for all countries who are signatories (developed or developing countries) to all act in combating Climate Change by contributing towards emission reduction to keep temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.

“All citizens of this country – Government, Private sector, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and individuals should all be concern about the recent findings of the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C. This report concludes that the risks posed by human-induced climate change to Pacific Small Island Developing States are extensive”.

This tells us that Climate Change is real. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. In PNG, there is continuous rainfall, causing landslides and flooding in some parts of the country while the other regions experience severe and prolonged droughts, food shortages, increase in malaria cases, airborne illnesses and other disease out-breaks, coastal inundation due to sea level rise, warming ocean and increased temperature killing our coral reef and threatening our country’s rich biodiversity. Our local communities are confronted with this phenomenon threatening their very existence and putting lives at risk.

The Paris Agreement aims to keep global warming below two degrees – at 1.5°C. To stop the planet getting warmer, we need to reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase the share of renewable energy like solar farming and other low carbon sources.

In making relevance at this juncture, it is only timely that the CCMA review has to happen to realign with existing sector and international legislative frameworks.

At the same time, whilst CCDA is visiting your regions, you will require to engage with us and assist us also with our Global Green Growth Fund (GCF) Country Programme which capture all Adaptation and Mitigation activities that require funding support/intervention. All project proposals or concept notes that will be developed have to all align with Government policies/legislative frameworks such as the Vision 2050, MTDPIII 2018-2022 and the Alotau Accord 2.

I encourage all our partners to continue and build on their support for PNG as we strategically position ourselves to access the means of implementing our commitments.

Improved access to financing, capacity building and technology remain essential to our success and deserve focused attention and coordinated action.



The global community has recognized the importance of protecting biodiversity and dealing with climate change issues by establishing financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Climate Action is everyone's responsibility, Government, Businesses, Communities and Individuals. The actions we take to reduce our carbon footprint like investing in green technologies can also reduce costs and create jobs. The risk and costs of inaction are too high to ignore. The time to act is now.

**Approved for release by:**

Mr. Ruel Yamuna LLB  
**CCDA MANAGING DIRECTOR**

