

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 06 July, 2023**

**First Climate Proof Wharf Opened in PNG**

The upgraded Alotau Provincial Wharf was officially opened today in Alotau, Milne Bay Province. This is the first wharf in the country to have been upgraded to a climate resilient standard to withstand the adverse impacts of climate change.

Today’s Guest of Honor at the opening ceremony was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands and Physical Planning Honorable John Rosso, who unveiled the plaque at the wharf to mark the grand opening of the wharf in the presence of key dignitaries, guests and the public.

“The Alotau climate proof wharf is a milestone achievement and sets the pace for other ports and wharf infrastructure development in PNG. It aligns well with the government’s policy to connect PNG, where we leave no place or person behind,” said Mr. Rosso.

“The Alotau Provincial wharf is not just an ordinary wharf. It is a wharf considerably designed and built to a climate resilient standard to last and withstand the impacts of climate change. The climate proof wharf is a state of the art and a first of its kind in PNG to last more than 50 years,” he said.

“I call upon relevant agencies of government including Department of Transport, Works and Highways, PNG Customs, PNG Ports Development Corporation, National Maritime Safety Authority and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring to ensure that all account for the adverse impacts of climate change in all infrastructure developments,” said Mr. Rosso.

The K36.7million project is an initiative of the Climate Change and Development Authority through its Building Resilience to Climate Change (BRCC) project and is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The improved wharf facility will serve two thirds of the total population of this maritime province by enhancing economic development, create social spaces that contribute to the well-being and vitality of communities. It also caters for the most vulnerable and those with limited mobility such as persons with disabilities.

Mr. Rosso said climate change remains a growing challenge and its impacts are already threatening the lives of the people and many different sectors and must be considered in the policy approach.

“Incorporating climate resilient element in major infrastructure developments such as wharfs, roads and bridges remain critical and must be incorporated by relevant sectors in every public policy both at the national and sub national levels,” said Mr. Rosso.

Rosso commended the leadership of the Ministry for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, led by Honorable Simo Kilepa, the Climate Change and Development Authority for working in partnership with the Milne Bay Provincial Administration and key partners to deliver this project.

Mr. Rosso further commended the Asian Development Bank and the Australian Government for the funding support for funding the construction of the wharf. The upgraded wharf replaces the former 53-year-old wharf and is able to withstand increased frequency of storm surges and last for decades.

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**About us:**

Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) is the official Government entity in coordinating climate change efforts of Papua New Guinea. It coordinates all climate related policies, strategies and actions with the vision of being the leader in promoting climate resilience, low carbon growth and sustainable development in Papua New Guinea. Find out more at: [www.ccda.gov.pg](http://www.ccda.gov.pg)

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*Accompanying picture and caption.*

 *IMG 001 R-L Deputy Prime Minister Honorable John Rosso, Minister for Environment and Climate Change Honorable Simo Kilepa, and Asian Development Bank Country Director Mr. David Hill cutting the ribbon to officially open the wharf.*

*Additional raw footages and pictures can be accessed via link below:*

[*https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jS6mWmTDRjpgEseF1LzZfymzVsIw0WhX*](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jS6mWmTDRjpgEseF1LzZfymzVsIw0WhX)