



# World Oceans Day



Revitalization: Collective actions for the Ocean





## CEO's Message

The National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) is committed to taking the lead in the prevention of maritime pollution and encourages all stakeholders to cooperate with the Authority to promote and enhance marine environment safety in PNG.

The Authority is mandated under the National Maritime Safety Authority Act 2003, for the control and prevention of pollution from ship sourced and off shore installations within the territorial seas of Papua New Guinea.

In-order to keep the marine environment free from pollution, Marine Environment Protection (MEP) Officers are empowered to conduct risk assessments along the international shipping lanes and undertake habitat mapping along coastlines to identify the communities and resources at risk.

In-order for us to have a safe and clean marine environment, the five (5) National Marine Pollution Acts were enacted by Parliament, namely;

1. Marine Pollutions (Ships & Installations) Act, 2013
2. Marine Pollution (Preparedness & Response) Act, 2013
3. Marine Pollution (Costs & Recoveries) Act, 2013,
4. Marine Pollution (Ballast Water Control) Act, 2013.
5. Marine Pollution (Sea Dumping) Act, 2013

These legislations were developed and passed by the National Parliament to ensure that the marine environment is protected from being polluted.

The MEP Department aims to further diversify and to facilitate NMSA's mandates as enshrined in the various marine environment legislations it enforces to promote Prevention of Maritime Pollution. To achieve this, the department is committed to also perform other main responsibilities to; Conduct Risk Assessment at Ports & International Transit Shipping Lanes, Issuance of Permits, Implementation of (14) IMO Conventions on Marine Pollution Preventions (MARPOL Convention and London Convention/ Protocol), Respond to Oil Spills & Chemical Spill(Tiers 1 & 2 respond locally and Tier 3 – Seek External Assistance- AMSA MOU), Investigate Pollution Incidents, Prosecute intentional polluters, Stock & Maintain appropriate oil spill, and Response equipment & trainings. This guides MEP to realise its purpose to improving its operational efficiencies so that it can respond effectively to the needs to promote a safe marine environment.

# Kimbe Oil spill incident cleared

The National Maritime Safety Authority General Manager/CEO Mr Paul Unas commended the joint efforts by the NMSA, Conservation Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), the West New Britain Provincial Health Authority, the Police and NBPOL for a job well done in cleaning and containing the oil palm spillage that had resulted in minimal impact to the coastline and the nearby marine environment.

Mr Unas further highlighted that the PNG NMSA is mandated under the National Maritime Safety Authority Act 2003, for the control and prevention of pollution from ship sourced and off shore installations and to act as the National Lead Agency for coordinating the response to spills of oil and other pollutants within the territorial seas, and therefore were the first team on the ground that carried out its mandated obligations.

"I thanked officials from CEPA, the Police, the WNB Provincial government and of course our local villages who cooperated well with the incidence response team that had prevented the spread of the spill to a wider extent," he said

NMSA team from the Marine Environment and Protection Department worked closely with NBPOL officers and provided assistance and coordination during the final termination of the recovery operations of the palm oil spillage clean up.

The investigation by the joint team investigations found that the spill was from the NBPOL crude palm oil spillage into the sea from a storage tank valve failure due to an unsecured valve closure during the process of pumping palm oil into a loading vessel for export.

"It was fortunate that the NMSA team responded instantly when it was first reported where now most of the spillage was contained and recovered," said Mr Unas.

Though there were no observed, assessed or reported marine environmental impacts caused by the palm oil spillage, the only impacts caused were socially related.

To counter the social implications effect, the NMSA team and its stakeholders also conducted an awareness with the coastline villages on health, safety, environment and social impacts that might have been caused by the palm oil spillage to be reported to the Provincial Health Authority for further review and care

There are no pollutants as Palm Oil is biodegradable and does not pose high risk to people's health and safety, including birds and marine life at sea. So far the oil spill response team led by the NMSA did a tremendous job in containing the spillage.

# NMSA conducts oil spill training

The National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) is mandated as the lead agency for the control and prevention of pollution from ship sourced and off shore installations within the territorial seas of Papua New Guinea.

As an island nation and a nation of islands, coastal and marine resources are of utmost importance to PNG, which has some of the biggest marine bio diversities in the world, which hosts some of the last remaining pristine coral reefs, mangrove forests and sea grass beds of the world.

In the coastal areas and islands of PNG, a large portion of the population of people is reliant on subsistence fishing for day-to-day survival, and the on-going development of commercial fisheries, aquaculture and other marine-based industries, form a vital part of the country's economic future. In addition, coastal and marine-based tourism and diving further holds significant economic potential.

One of NMSA's responsibilities is maintaining the capabilities of oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation from any pollution from oil and chemical spills in PNG waters. NMSA is also responsible for identifying and addressing other harmful substances, garbage, sewage, air pollution, control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships, prevention of potentially devastating effects of the spread of invasive harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water, safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships and sea dumping of other matters.

19 containers of oil spill response equipment from Europe had been procured for oil spill response within PNG. The oil spill response team from NMSA underwent rigorous training on the operations of the equipment as



well as for the up keeping of the equipment.

The CEO has called upon the shipping industry, port operators and oil companies to work collaboratively with NMSA to prevent, combat and respond to any oil and chemical spills. The enhancement of PNG's marine environment protection will ultimately result in cleaner waters and coastlines, increased food security, enhanced eco-tourism, as part of promoting sustainable socio-economic development.

NMSA is committed to keeping and maintaining the marine environment cleaner, greener and prosperous for future generations in PNG and the Region.



# NMSA: Youth say no to marine pollution



The National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) is driving the change of mindsets of our future leaders to work together to prevent marine pollution within the 15 maritime provinces of Papua New Guinea.

This is evident through the annual coastal clean-up exercise organised by NMSA whereby the Authority engages selected secondary schools located within the maritime provinces to assist its Marine Environment Protection Department (MEDP) staff to clean-up the shore lines. And more recently, a joint clean-up exercise was conducted at Dali beachfront with assistance from teachers and students from Vanimo Secondary School, Sandaun Province.

This clean-up activity is part of the Authority's Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) and more importantly, it's the Authority's mandated roles and responsibilities to prevent marine pollution to promote and improve a cleaner and safer marine environment in PNG.

NMSA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Unas said protecting our marine environment is very important as all of us living within maritime provinces are dependent on marine life to sustain our livelihood. There is a need for more collective efforts to be made by stakeholders to address this global issue which is not only affecting PNG but the world as a whole.

He said one of the most relevant approaches now is to change the mindset of school students so they see the importance of preserving the marine environment for future use and benefits.

Mr Unas thanked the staff and students of Vanimo Secondary School for their efforts whilst appealing to the shipping industry, port operators and the general public to be conscious of the environment in particularly our rich and diverse marine environment.

He said: "This activity should also be seen as educational as we want to educate our tomorrow's

leader and to instil in their minds the importance of keeping our marine environment clean and safe."

Marine littering resulting in marine environment pollution is becoming a global issue especially non-biodegradable materials such as plastics that comes in various types and forms. PNG is no exception to this major problem that many people do not realize. Plastics take considerable periods of time to breakdown. They are not completely broken down but remain as micro-plastics that our naked eye cannot see in the marine environment that can future become more toxic to marine ecosystems and people as well. Plastics to name a few include plastic shopping bags, drinking containers and their lids, cigarette lighters, drinking straws, tooth brushes, plastic forks, spoons, plates, fishing lines and nets, etc.

NMSA also donated new sporting equipment to the Vanimo Secondary School as a token of appreciation towards this coastal clean-up







The shipping industry is the backbone of trade. Without shipping, we will have no machinery, equipment, vehicles, the variety of food that we eat, materials for the house that we build to live in, the clothes and make up that we put to name a few. Therefore, shipping plays a critical role in people's daily livelihood. Imagine goods transported by plane and goods transported by ship. Because of the shipping industry, prices are affordable and people's livelihood is made easy.

For as long as shipping is there, environment issues and risk associated with that is there to remain. Equally important with safety of life at sea, marine environment protection and cleaner seas also demands a significant attention and NMSA is focused in promoting these two key pillars when discharging its responsibilities.

The Theme for the World Ocean Day is; REVITALIZATION with the focus on 'Collective Actions for the Ocean'

**NOTE THAT MOST OF THE TASK IS BASED AROUND IMPLEMENTING THE 5 MARINE POLLUTION ACTS NAMELY:**

- i) Marine Pollution (Ships and Installation) Act 2013
- ii) Marine Pollution (Preparedness and Response) Act 2013
- iii) Marine Pollution (Sea Dumping) Act 2013
- iv) Marine Pollution (Liabilities and Cost Recover) Act 2013
- v) Marine Pollution (Ballast Water Control) Act 2013

**ALL THE 5 MARINE POLLUTION ACTS COVER THE IMO'S**

Convention on marine environment protection like the MARPOL Convention (Annex I – V) with VI on Protection from air pollution, which is a common contributor to climate change is yet to be acceded to, includes the OPRC Convention for oil pollution preparedness and response, the London Convention on sea dumping, 92 Civil Liabilities Convention and the 92 Fund Convention for cost recovery when pollution occurs from ships and the Ballast Water Management Convention to protect our waters from harmful invasive species through ballast exchange.

MEPs task is to work towards implementing these Convention requirements nationally. This in fact is not all the marine environment protection conventions. Our duties contribute towards our responsibilities as a Flag State to make sure that the vessels flagged under us which are convention sized are compliant to the requirements, as a port state, make sure that those vessels that are visiting our port are compliant to the requirements, and as a coastal state provide for those requirements that a coastal state needs to provide to promote safety at sea and protect the marine environment.

# Meet the MEP team:



Manager Marine Environment Protection, Pawa Limu oversees the running of the MEP work activities and provides advise on issues relating to marine environment protection to other line Managers and the Executive Management as and when required.

Senior Risk Assessment Officer, Sammy Kalepo's role is to undertake Marine Pollution Risk Assessments and to identify potential oil and chemical spill areas for protection during spill, and look at Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Activities.



Justin Vutun is the Risk Assessment Officer who assist Mr Kalepo & contributes to other tasks as and when required.

Senior Monitoring and Compliance Officer, Gabriel Poiya's roles and responsibilities involves compliance and monitoring requirements as per the 5 Marine Pollution Acts and also assist in other activities like permit application screening as and when required.

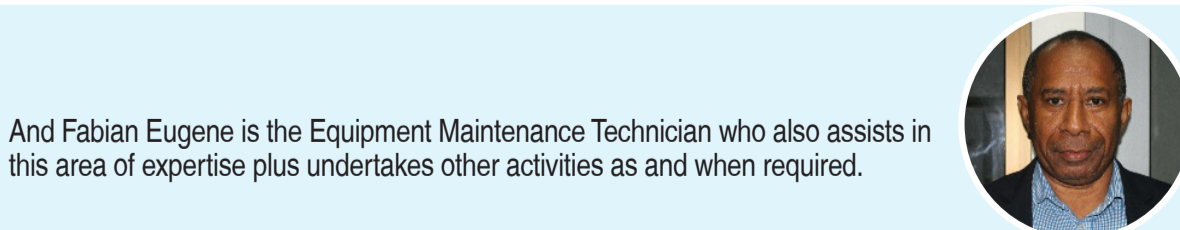


The Senior Monitoring and Compliance Officer is assisted by the Monitoring and Compliance Officer, Ms Alice Daniel who also undertakes other activities as and when required.

Senior Pollution Inspector, Johnson Maren is responsible for the implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Emergency Response Plan (NATPLAN) and to monitor, prevent and control vessel-derived pollution into seas and navigational waters as per the legislative requirements. The Senior Pollution Inspector undertakes the organization and arrangement of marine pollution spill equipment and conducts pollution inspection exercises and co-ordinates cleanup activities.



Priscilla Piandi is the Pollution Officer. She assists the Senior Pollution Inspector undertake organization and arrangement of marine pollution spill equipment as well as conduct pollution inspection exercises and co-ordinates cleanup activities.



And Fabian Eugene is the Equipment Maintenance Technician who also assists in this area of expertise plus undertakes other activities as and when required.