

# Fly Breeze Newsletter



This Fly Breeze newsletter is a bi-monthly news bulletin

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One of the homes in Demesuke village built for off-grid living

## Development funds build homes for mine impact community

Five new permanent houses have been completed and officially handed over to Demesuke Village under the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) in the Wai Tri Trust region.

The ceremony was held on Tuesday, 24 March 2026, witnessed by beneficiary families, community members, and development partner Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) staff and management.

The project was funded through Demesuke Village Development Funds (VDF) under Wai Tri Development Trust. The total project worth at K770,000, and approximately K154,000 invested in each home. The initiative aligns with CMCA compensation arrangements that prioritise long-term, community-owned infrastructure delivering lasting social and economic benefits.

Home owner Mrs Regina Manda Awongan expressed heartfelt gratitude upon receiving the keys.

"I am receiving the house keys on behalf of my sick husband and our children," Mrs Manda said. "I sincerely thank OTDF and our VPC Chairman for selecting my family to be one of the five families to receive a permanent home. I am lost for words."

Demesuke Village Planning Committee Chairman Mr Brene Pwene acknowledged the challenges of delivering development projects to remote communities. "As VPC Chairman, I have seen how challenging it is to bring projects into our community," Mr Pwene said. "But we have come this far. When we

wanted a road project, it was delivered. When we requested housing, today we see these five homes. We also have our food security program, with the Community Seed Bank Centre now built and ready for use at our doorstep."

He credited the progress to unity, participation, and strong partnerships, urging beneficiaries to care for the new assets.

"I urge my people of Demesuke to take care of these projects so they can benefit future generations." He thanked OTDF for its continued support and called for future inclusion under the Mine Life Extension.

"As we move into the new agreement under the eight-year Mine Life Extension period, I request that Demesuke Village be considered a model village for the Wai Tri CMCA Region."

OTDF Manager – Trust Administrator Mr Johanis Saferius described the project as a foundation for long-term community development.

"This housing project is an economic anchor for Demesuke Village," Mr. Saferius said. "These homes are not just shelter — they are platforms for self-reliance and future opportunity."

OTDF Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Andrew Mari commended the Wai Tri Trust and the Demesuke community for their leadership and unity through the Village Planning Committee (VPC). Mr. Mari emphasised that the effectiveness of leadership within any CMCA community is fundamentally strengthened by the level of support and engagement it receives

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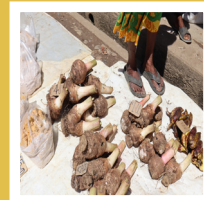
Trust Administration secure property for beneficiaries



MoA strengthens partnership with PNGUoT



Houses built for mine impact community



Food Security Goal reached



This newsletter is produced by the OTDF Public Relations to update and report on developments OTDF is carrying out throughout the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region, including the Western Province.

**Want to know more about OTDF?**

☎ 649 6426 or 649 5448

✉ team@otdfpng.org

🌐 www.otdfpng.org



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Workshop participants present discussion points during sessions

## Community Development

### Inclusive partnerships strengthen Community Development in North Fly

A two-day partners and stakeholders workshop hosted by the Western Province Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) from 9–10 April in Kiunga has strengthened collaboration toward inclusive development and service delivery across North Fly District and Western Province.

The workshop brought together key partners including the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), Australian Doctors International (ADI), district and provincial government agencies, and the media. Facilitated by national trainer Mr Ross Tito, Program Manager for the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP), the sessions focused on disability-inclusive planning and shared responsibility in development.

According to workshop facilitator it is essential for PLWDs to be included in planning and decision-making, purposely for development outcomes to be more effective, sustainable, and equitable.

For OTDF, participation aligns strongly with its commitment to inclusive, people-centred development. The Foundation’s Community Development (CD) Program works across education, health, livelihoods, governance, and social development—sectors that directly affect persons with disabilities in remote North Fly communities. Workshop discussions provided practical guidance to strengthen disability inclusion across program design, implemen-

tation, and monitoring.

OTDF Community Development Program Team Leader Mr. Polang Tommy noted to bridge the missing link in development outcomes it would be appropriate to have an OPD representative included in the CMCA Women and Children Association working committees “Persons with disabilities must be represented in the CMCA Women and Children Association executive level,” Mr Tommy said. “Having a representative to work with the association and the CD team to propose projects that genuinely reflect their needs.”

The workshop outcomes are also relevant to OTDF’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) Program, where accessibility remains a challenge. OTDF in its development work through WaSH aims to apply disability inclusion principles to promote universal design, strengthen inclusive WaSH committees, and improve collaboration with OPD during project planning going forward.

The workshop reaffirmed that inclusive development is a shared responsibility. For OTDF, it has reinforced ongoing commitment to ensuring no one is left behind as the Foundation supports sustainable development in mine-impacted communities across Western Province.

### Development Funds build homes for mine impact community

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from its people. He said that initiatives such as these exemplify the outcomes that can be achieved when community leaders and members align around a shared vision, a long-term development perspective, and a strong commitment to sustainability.

He further urged communities to embed sustainability when assessing the impact of current investments, challenging them to consider the legacy they intend to leave for future generations. He underscored that CMCA-funded housing and infrastructure should be safeguarded,

properly maintained, and managed as sustainable, intergenerational assets that will continue to deliver social and economic value well beyond the life of the mine.

Mr. Mari also called on community leaders to develop and implement clear village development plans to guide the identification and prioritisation of projects that deliver meaningful and lasting benefits.

He cautioned against the practice of nominating ad hoc initiatives, noting that such approaches often lack sustainability

and fail to achieve long-term community impact. Designed in accordance with OTDF infrastructure principles, the homes support off-grid living to suit the remoteness of Demesuke Village and similar CMCA communities. The houses provide safe, durable, and dignified accommodation, enabling families to live sustainably without reliance on external utility services.

To date 19 houses have been built in North Fly.



## Community Education

L-R: Paul Umbe – Team Leader OTDF Education Program, PNG UoT Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Garry Sali, OTDF EMPS & former acting CEO Andrew Mari, Vice Chancellor PNG UoT Professor Ora Renagi, and PNG UniTech’s DODL Director/Head of Department & Online Education Associate Professor Fred Ssemugenyi

## Agreement renewed to facilitate Adult Matriculation extension studies

The Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) has renewed its partnership agreement with the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNG UniTech) in Lae, reaffirming OTDF’s role as an affiliated Distance and Open Learning (DODL) Education Service Provider for communities in mine impact communities and Western Province.

Speaking at the signing on Thursday 2 April at the Council PNGUoT Chamber, representatives from both institutions highlighted the importance of education as a catalyst for sustainable development. The renewed agreement aligns with OTDF’s broader mandate to invest in human capital development and empower local communities through education, skills development, and lifelong learning.

Professor Ora Renagi, Vice Chancellor of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNGUoT) Lae in his welcome remarks said the renewed agreement, signed with PNG UniTech’s DODL Department, strengthens a long-standing collaboration aimed at expanding access to quality tertiary education for students who are unable to pursue on-campus studies. He said: “Through this partnership, learners in remote and rural areas of Western Province will continue to benefit from flexible, technology-supported learning opportunities delivered closer to home”. He added that after students upgrade their marks, the partnership should not be limited to distance education but give opportunity for students to also expand their options given more scholarship by partners and companies to sponsor students to reach their potential, and what more better place to development this but at the PNGUoT.

Associate Professor Garry Sali Deputy Vice Chancellor in support of Professor Renagi said, we have all felt the feeling of accomplishing a goal in life and here we sit. “Through this agreement renewal lets create opportunities for students to complete their studies, graduate and feel that they have fulfilled a lifelong goal in education.”

This continued collaboration is expected to strengthen educational pathways and create new opportunities for students across the province in the years ahead.

According to the Executive Manager Program Services and former OTDF acting CEO Andrew Mari under the renewed arrangement, OTDF will support the coordination and delivery of UniTech’s accredited DODL programs, including academic administration, student support services, tutorial coordination, and learning facilities. The partnership also reinforces joint commitments to quality assurance, academic integrity, and continuous improvement in distance education delivery.

Mr. Mari said: “At OTDF we recognised that education remains one of the most powerful drivers of sustainable development. Through our Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) commitments, we are focused on infrastructure, service delivery and investing in people by improving individuals through life skills. The DODL/Adult Matriculation Program is a critical component of this vision. As it provides flexible and inclusive learning opportunities, particularly for rural populations, women and out of school youths, this agreement gives OTDF credibility and strengthening the Organisation presence in Western Province education system.” He said and encourages students that there are opportunities after formal education is completed giving a second chance in education through the OTDF program.

PNG UniTech’s DODL Director/Head of Department & Online Education Associate Professor Fred Ssemugenyi emphasised that the partnership enables the University to reach learners beyond traditional campus boundaries, particularly in geographically challenging regions such as Western Province. “By working with OTDF as an affiliated service provider, UniTech can ensure that its programs remain accessible, relevant, and responsive to local development needs”.

The renewal of the agreement marks a significant milestone in advancing inclusive education in Western Province. Both OTDF and PNG UniTech reaffirmed their shared vision to nurture a skilled, knowledgeable workforce that can contribute meaningfully to community development and Papua New Guinea’s broader national growth agenda.



Matriculation students sit for mock exams in Tapila, South Fly



## Trust Administration

Property owners Wai Tri Holdings Limited Chairman Martin Neweng (R) receives the keys to the duplex house from contractor Derian Limited Director Gwavit Manga (L), with stakeholders and partners looking on.

## Wai Tri Holdings through OTDF purchase Kiunga property

Wai Tri Holdings Limited, together with the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), formalised the signing of the Contract of Sale and completed the Title Transfer for a newly constructed duplex property on Cook Street in Kiunga. The occasion brought together representatives from OTDF, Wai Tri Holdings LTD, Derian LTD, and other key stakeholders to mark an important step in strengthening long term investment opportunities for the Wai Tri Trust and its beneficiaries.

Mr. Gwavit Manga, Director and Representative of Derian Ltd, officially welcomed the delegations and expressed sincere appreciation to the Wai Tri Holdings Board for their commitment to securing the property. He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Derian Ltd construction team, who worked tirelessly to complete the duplex, and extended special thanks to Okau Electrical Contractor for their excellent work on the electrical installation. Mr. Manga noted that the successful completion of the contract and title transfer ceremony was the result of extensive discussions and coordination facilitated by the OTDF Business Development Team.

OTDF Trust Administration Manager, Mr. Johanis Saferius, reiterated the significance of the acquisition, describing it as a meaningful addition to Wai Tri Holdings' growing portfolio. "This is the second property acquired by the company I note that the first investment in Port Moresby is already fully tenanted and performing well, reflecting the Board's clear investment vision. Mr. Saferius expressed gratitude to all partners involved and said he looked forward to seeing the duplex generate sustainable benefits for the Wai Tri Holdings LTD and its stakeholders.

Acting OTDF CEO, Mr Andrew Mari, underscored the strategic significance of the acquisition in light of the recently approved life extension of the Ok Tedi Mine, which secures a further eight years of operational certainty and investment recovery opportunity. He said that this extension provides a critical window for the CMCA entities to strengthen their asset base and enhance long-term financial performance.

Mr Mari emphasised the importance of diversification, observing that a substantial portion of the current investments remain directly or indirectly linked to Ok Tedi operations. He stated that pursuing a broader investment portfolio, both within and beyond

Western Province will be essential to strengthening long-term financial resilience and sustainability.

At the same time, he reaffirmed OTDF's commitment to reinvesting in key centres such as Kiunga and Daru to stimulate local enterprise development, create employment opportunities, and deliver tangible socio-economic benefits to communities.

Mr Mari also conveyed his appreciation to Derian Ltd for its agreement to the negotiated settlement price of PGK 1.1 million and acknowledged Kuria Lawyers for their professional guidance and continued support in facilitating Wai Tri Holdings' property transactions. The ceremony program featured the official signing of the Contract of Sale, execution of Title Transfer documents, and a formal exchange of documents. Legal Representative Mr. Andrew Kuria of Kuria Lawyers provided a summary of the contract before the signing took place. To commemorate the occasion, Wai Tri Holdings Chairman, Mr. Martin Neweng, presented special gifts to the Director of Derian Ltd as a gesture of appreciation for the successful completion and handover of the duplex property. He thanked all stakeholders involved for their professionalism and cooperation throughout the process.

The acquisition of the Cook Street duplex marks another positive step for Wai Tri Holdings as it strengthens its presence in property investment and continues to build long term value for its beneficiaries.



Spacious living room installed with white and brown goods



## Regional Development

Jimmy and his mum selling their garden produce at Kiunga Town market

### Farming for Food Security and Income generation

Ending hunger and poverty begins at the community level, where families are empowered to grow their own food and earn a reliable income. This effort aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1: No Poverty and SDG 2: Zero Hunger, which emphasise increasing small-scale food production, improving nutrition, and building sustainable livelihoods. In rural Papua New Guinea, where access to cash income and diverse food crops remains a challenge, agriculture continues to play a critical role in achieving these goals.

One such example is Jimmy Mathew, a young farmer from Somoekwankia Village in the North Fly District, who is supporting his family through farming with assistance from the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) Food Security Program. On 27 March, Jimmy and his mother brought 69 taro combs to sell at the Kiunga Town Market, following months of hard work in their family garden.

Jimmy said the support from OTDF has made a significant difference for his family. Starting with taro planting material provided through the program, they planted a total of 575 taro plants, with 69 reaching maturity and ready for harvest.

At the Kiunga market, the taro combs were sold at prices ranging between K2 and K4 each. However, Jimmy noted that market access remains a challenge, as transport costs from the village to Kiunga average K50 one way. "Our transport costs are high, so whether we come to town depends on how successful our sales will be," Jimmy said.

Despite the challenges, Jimmy expressed pride and optimism. "I am very happy that my family now has another source of income," he said.

He added that in the North Fly District, sago is traditionally the main staple food grown for consumption and surplus sale, limiting income diversification. Through the OTDF Food Security Program, farmers are now being encouraged and supported to plant a wider range of crops such as taro, banana, cassava, and vegetables. "Thanks to OTDF for providing planting materials and extension support, this harvest shows the results of hard work and strong partnerships," Jimmy said.

OTDF Food Security Officer Mr Jethro Robert explained that the core objective of the Food Security Program (FSP) is to ensure farmers develop secure and sustainable livelihoods beyond the life of the mine, enabling families to consistently put food on the table

and earn income through agriculture.

He also highlighted the importance of ongoing monitoring and pest management, noting early signs of taro beetle (borer) infestation, which poses a serious biosecurity threat if left uncontrolled. "Our role is not only to help farmers grow their crops, but also to work with them to prevent the spread of pests like the taro borer beetle," he said.

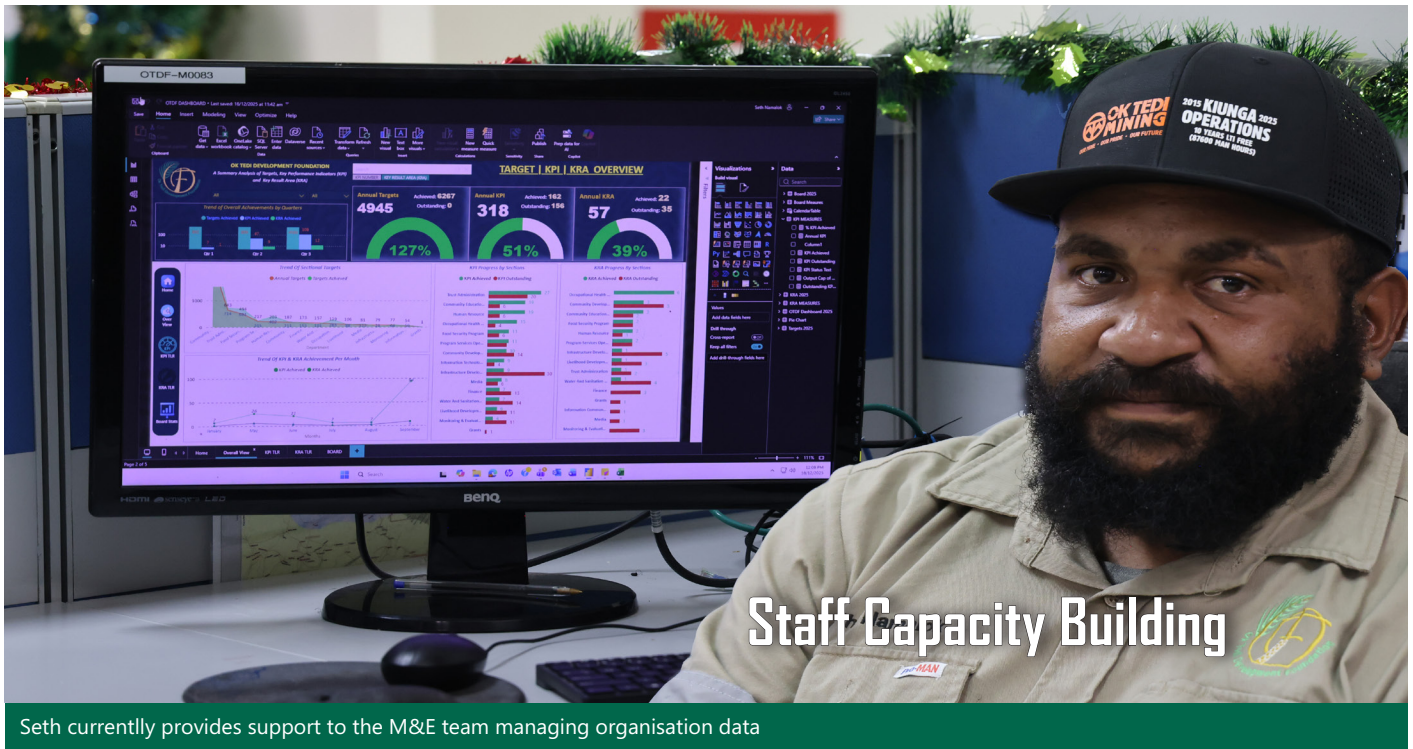
Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Mari, said initiatives such as the Food Security Program are critical to building resilient and self-reliant communities across the CMCA region.

"Agriculture remains one of the most practical and sustainable pathways for our communities to improve household food security while generating income. Through the OTDF Food Security Program, we are empowering families with the knowledge, planting materials, and support they need to move beyond subsistence and develop productive, income-generating farms," Mr Mari said.

Across the Western Province, particularly within the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region, OTDF continues to play a vital role in strengthening agriculture as a pathway to food security and income generation. Through the provision of planting materials, farmer training, extension services, and market linkage support, OTDF is helping communities build resilient livelihoods, reduce poverty, and contribute meaningfully to long-term development well beyond the mining era.



Taro combs sold for K2 and K4 each at Kiunga Town market



Seth currently provides support to the M&E team managing organisation data

## Achieving goals through employment opportunity

To ensure OTDF maintains the capacity to support the CMCA communities, staff training is critical for service delivery.

While employed with OTDF as a permanent casual staff in the Grants Monitoring and Evaluation (GME) team, he saved enough funds from sacrificing his fortnightly wage to sponsor his studies at Mt Hagen Tehnical College to gain his Diploma in Business Management in 2023.

A year later registered at Divine Word University Madang, which he completed successfully this year (2025) and will graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Business Management.

Mr. Seth Sylvester Namalok from the hinterlands of North Fly District of Western Province will be the first self sponsored OTDF casual to have completed his Diploma and Degree while employed by OTDF.

The organisation takes pride in buiding career minded youths like Seth. This humble yet high achiever deserves recognition for his contributions to the upkeep of the corporate image of OTDF.

Despite his contributions, Seth remains humble. He does not promote himself. Instead, he lets his work speak for him everyday. His pride is measured not in recognition, but in responsibility each day offering another chance to serve diligently.



Seth assisting the M&E team conduct an in house training in Kiunga

Highlights of his time spent with OTDF M&E team;

- Power BI Data capture software Management
- Field data collection
- Staff capacity building training support
- Data entry support
- Support to company events

# Month in pictures



Manawete W&CA provide support for people with special needs



CSBC buildings across CMCA region used for crop distribution to farmers



Demesuke road rehabilitation project complete



Infrastructure development for CMCA communities in NF continues



Planning sessions for the OTDF new way forward (SBP 2026-2033)



Bougainville group visit OTDF in Kiunga



OTML partners in Australia donate WaSH Hygiene Kits for Western students



OTDF Media formally recognised as affiliate member of Media Council

# Time Out



1. Community Project Delivered

2. Multiskilling - from WaSH to Media

3. Time Out at project site

4. OHS Training for new and continuing staff

5. Education Team on location, Nakaku

6. A smile a day keeps the wrinkles away

**STRONGIM**  
**WAN**  
**WOK**  
**PASIN**