



## Media Release

### East Sepik Provincial Government Signs MOU with IRC

The East Sepik Provincial Government signed a MOU with IRC at the IRC Provincial office in Wewak. In a small but significant event attended by Governor Allen Bird and his administration and Commissioner General Sam Koim and his senior, the MOU was the link to forge a partnership between the ESPG and IRC to increase compliance activities in the province.

Governor Allen Bird said this event was a culmination of two and half years of preparatory work.

“One of the first thing I did when taking office as governor was to check the internal revenue resources. I directed my administration to partner with IRC in increasing the revenue collections in the provinces. The partnership occurred more than two years ago, but this MOU simply formalises that arrangement,” he added.

In encouraging business representative who attended the ceremony, the Governor urged the businesses to pay their fair share of taxes. Equally taking responsibility, Mr Bird said “there are businesses that faithfully pay taxes but it now boils down to the Government to provide services in return to demonstrate that the tax are actually being used for its intended purposes. If we squander the money or divert money to private pockets, it discourages businesses from willingly paying their taxes. It is a two way thing and in ESP, I am doing my best to show that it is not one way traffic.”

Commissioner General Sam Koim thanked the Governor and his administration for supporting the Wewak IRC office to carry out their work for the last two years.

“With your help, we were able to increase the collections for the last two years and in return, we have given a big share of the 60% of the GST collected back to the province. With the increase business activities in Maprik and now Angoram coming up, and the new agricultural projects initiated with the European Union funding, I am seeing more potential for taxes hence I will be increasing manpower at our office here,” Mr Koim added.

The Wewak office has moved to a new and spacious office to cater for increased revenue collection activities.