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Media Release

PNGPCL paves way to equal participation in workplace

BEING a female working in a male dominated profession requires a lot of courage, patience and confidence and this Port Moresby Wharf Superintendent is thankful that PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) has given her an opportunity to prove that females can do what was predominately a male profession.

The 29-year-old Isabel Kambari from a mix parentage of Oro and Western Province joined the Company in 2005 under the Graduate Development Program (GDP) after successfully completing her Bachelor's Degree in Arts majoring in Public Policy and Management. She is married and a mother to an 18-month old boy.

Ms Kambari commenced her education at Taurama Community School now known as Taurama Primary School from 1988-1993, continued on to her grade 7 to 10 at the then Kila Kila High School, now Secondary and then to Port Moresby National High School doing grade 11 to 12 before entering into university.

This determined young mother's responsibilities as a Wharf Superintendent includes supervising and monitoring vessels and cargo operations, managing the yard and liaising with shipping agents, stevedores' clients and other port users.

Ms Kambari said being a female and performing that kind role is a bit tough especially when making decisions, delegating tasks and giving instructions as well as setting procedures to both male colleagues and port users.

"Each day I get to interact and communicate with all kinds of people as a PNGPCL clients. Whenever I am performing my duties, I try to keep an open mind and ensure that I portray good qualities and image so I could earn respect from men. I have now overcome all these barriers and have since established a good working relationship with my male colleagues where we have mutual respect for each others," she said.

Ms Kambari also monitors stevedores' usage and handling of proper equipment for loading and unloading of ships, and cargo storage to ensure they are in compliance with Dangerous Goods regulations.

She also provides guidance to the wharf and port staff on safe handling of dangerous cargo and ensures that compliance with regulations and international standards are observed. More importantly, too, is, ensuring proper personal protective equipment is worn at all times.

Ms Kambari expressed gratitude towards PNGPCL's GDP and said this development program has exposed her to all areas of the operations which were very beneficial to her career.

"I now have a good knowledge of the functions of PNGPCL as I have not only being exposed to these areas but have also worked closely and learned a lot from senior officers who have great knowledge and experience of the port operations," she said.

Ms Kambari acknowledged PNGPCL efforts in training its staff both old and new and said that there are opportunities in place like the current Company's training programs that staff should utilise for their benefit.

Her advice to the university graduates who are seeking to pursue job careers under the PNGPCL is to take each job opportunity as a privilege and said: "It is an exciting career to take up in the Port and Shipping Industry. I would like to encourage more females to take up this challenge."

Under the GDP, PNGPCL is committed to seeing the equal gender participation in its workplace.

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