

New Ireland Province: A Window to the Future of Papua New Guinea



Culture

- New Ireland is ancient – it has been settled for over 40,000 years.
- New Ireland is one of the first places in the world to move beyond hunting and gathering to horticulture and subsistence agriculture – perhaps as long as 25,000 years ago, long before Europe, Africa or America.
- The famous Lapita pottery culture was in New Ireland 3 to 4 thousand years ago.

New Ireland has 22 Language Groups



...and three ancient Cultural Traditions.....

The Tubuan of the South.....

The Kabai of the Center.....

The Malagan of the North.....

The Tubuan of the South

The Tubuan were born in New Ireland, and in the 19th century the ancestors of the Tolai of New Britain migrated from New Ireland and introduced the Tubuan to New Britain.

All the Tubuan of New Britain are children of the Tubuan of New Ireland.....



The Kabai of the Center

- The Kabai tradition is practiced in the Lelet Plateau and down to the sea on east and west .
- The Kabai tradition is closely linked to the Malagan of the North, but includes Intricately carved Uli figures used in Funerary rites.
- The Kabai culture area also includes the famous shark callers of the Tembín/ Kontu area.



The Malagan of the North

- The Malagan is a culture and way of life among the people of North West New Ireland. It is a society of the living, the dead and the not-yet born woven into a tapestry of social rights and responsibilities.
- The Malagan culture is famous for the complex masks used in funerary rites. These masks are prized objects in major museums around the world.
- Master Malagan carvers are recognised world-wide as highly talented artists.

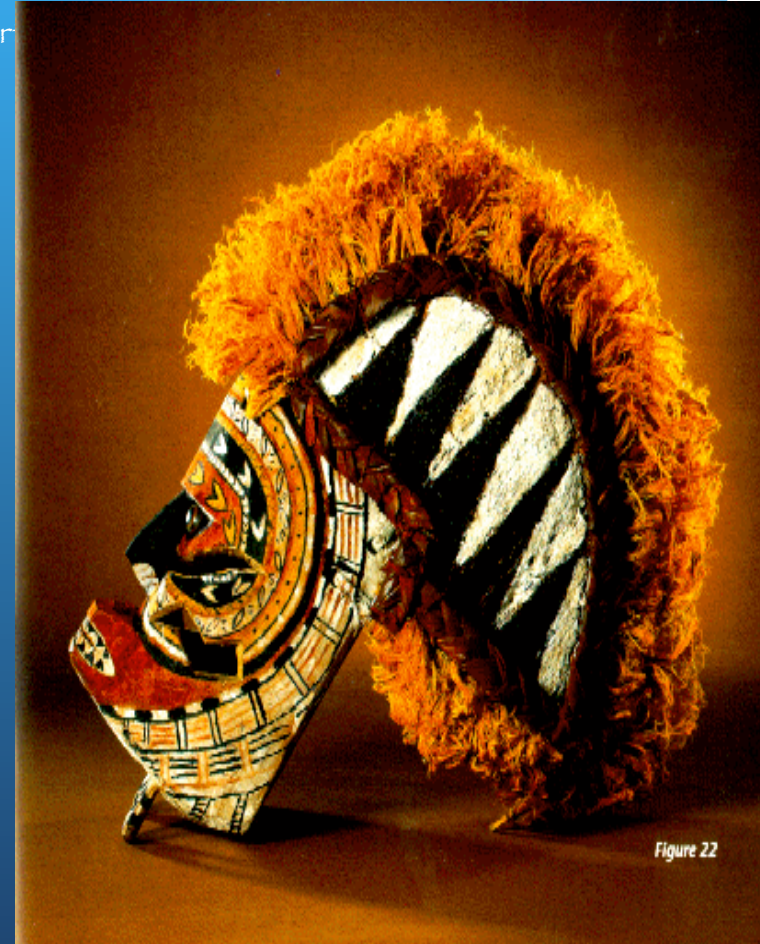


Figure 22

A Land Rich in Natural Resources

Forestry –

- Rich stands of tropical hardwood, but heavily exploited in the eighties and nineties through non-sustainable practices.
- NIPG has been in the forefront of the battle against Special Purpose Agricultural Business Leases. Working on Community Based Management.
- NIPG is moving towards a moratorium on commercial forestry, and a concentration on local, community based forestry.

Natural Resources

Fisheries

New Ireland waters contain the richest tuna fishery on earth, including the richest source of baitfish in the Pacific Ocean.

The Morgado Square is the main tuna nursery grounds in the western Pacific ocean.

NIPG is working with NFA, Forum Fisheries and international experts to develop a local sustainable and certified (Marine Stewardship Council - MSC) commercial fisheries industry, including canneries.

Working with National Fisheries Authority and Fisheries College to develop the Nago Island Marine Research Centre to be world class.

Working with NGOs to expand Community Based Management of fisheries resources.

Mining

New Ireland is rich in minerals, but those riches have not benefitted New Irelanders.

- Lihir Gold Mine – now Newcrest – is the third largest gold mine in the world, but failed to declare a profit for the first thirteen years of operation. With pressure from NIPG it has now done so and we are now implementing the Tax Credit Scheme which will finally benefit New Irelanders.
- Simberi Gold Mine has operated irresponsibly and caused environmental and social damage. NIPG is now working to correct this situation. With the recent takeover by St Barbara company-NIPG relations have improved.
- Solwara I is being forced on New Irelanders, but we have insisted that we have a full role in consultations and have insisted the company provide tangible benefits to the people of the west coast. We continue to work to ensure the project will have no negative environmental impacts.

New Ireland is working to force National Government to meet its legal obligations under the Mining MOAs.

The Governor, Sir Julius Chan, is the prime mover behind efforts to revise the Mining Act 1992 and the Oil and Gas Act 1998 to return control of land and resources to the people.

The Challenge: Bringing the Benefits of Development to the People

Despite our great Natural Wealth, the People have not shared enough in the benefits. For this reason Government drafted the Malagan Declaration in 2007.

- The Malagan Declaration set out Government's Commitment – Promise – to improve Education, Health, Infrastructure, Income Generation Opportunities and Service Delivery in General.

The Malagan Declaration: Meeting the Challenges

The Malagan Declaration is both a vision and a framework for implementation.

It is the first time any Provincial Government in PNG has had the courage to put in writing exactly how it is going to improve the lives of the people.

The Malagan Declaration **MAKES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE**... it allows the people to judge Government based on its performance.

The Malagan Declaration provides a Roadmap to the Future.

So - What is that Roadmap, and how have we fared?

Malagan Declaration: Vision

- The central vision of the Malagan Declaration is That New Ireland will be transformed into a self-reliant autonomous part of Papua New Guinea that is efficient, market oriented, internationally competitive and provides opportunities for all its people.
- To do this the Malagan Declaration promised action in the areas of Education, Health, Infrastructure and the way Government and the Administration are structured and work.

The Malagan Declaration: Education

- The Malagan Declaration declared 2008 would be the Year of Free and Subsidised Education, and that New Ireland would pursue Universal Education.
- The Malagan Declaration promised to open new secondary and high schools in the forgotten areas of the province to increase access to post-primary education for all the people of the province.
- The Malagan Declaration promised to begin the process of rehabilitation of educational infrastructure for the first time in over ten years.

The CEO for Social will give a full briefing on our progress in this area.

The Malagan Declaration: Health

- The Malagan Declaration pledged to improve health care for the rural population, including repairing and reopening all aidposts that had been closed over the past ten years.
- The Malagan Declaration promised to improve the provincial hospitals, health centres and subhealth centres.
- The Malagan Declaration promised to seek outside assistance to improve the delivery of health care in New Ireland, including improving training.

Again, the CEO Social will explain to you progress on these promises.

The Malagan Declaration: Infrastructure

The Malagan Declaration pledged to improve roads, bridges, and transport infrastructure in general, especially in the “forgotten” areas.

The Malagan Declaration recognised that only slightly more than half of our population has access to decent roads.

The Malagan Declaration recognised that the remote areas of the province – Konoagil, the islands and the west coast – were especially suffering from lack of infrastructure.

The DPA Economic and Financial will cover our performance in these areas.

The Malagan Declaration: Income Generation

The Malagan Declaration said that New Ireland will utilise its resources to create a better life for all its people and to ensure all the people of the province become partners and full beneficiaries in the development of the province,

The Malagan Declaration committed the NIPG assisting all New Irelanders in generating income and improving their lives.

The response has been a range of policies, including Sweat Equity, Subsidised Shipping, Ward Level Projects and the Stabilisation fund.

The DPA Economic and Financial will review progress in these areas.

Malagan Declaration: Good Living Environment for the People

- The Malagan Declaration declared that the people have a right to decent housing and a decent living environment.

One programme introduced to address this issue is the Roof Over Heads Programme.

The Special Advisor to the Governor will brief us on the implementation of this project.

Malagan Declaration: Caring for the Elderly and Disabled

The Malagan Declaration promised that 2009 would be the Year of the Elderly and Disabled.

The elderly have given their entire lives to their families, their communities and their province and deserve support and respect in their final years.

Those who are so disabled they are unable to engage in productive economic activities also deserve support.

New Ireland has therefore implemented an Old Age and Disabled Pension. We are the only province in PNG to implement such a programme.

The CEO Law and Order will explain our progress in implementing this programme.

A Team to Make Things Happen

I now want to turn over to a group of people who have done much to implement the programmes we have been discussing.

This is a critical part of our strategy. We have searched for and found competent, hard working, committed people to implement the Vision of the Malagan Declaration and the Malagan Declaration Forward. Now you will have a chance to meet them.