



**PRESS RELEASE:**

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## **EU Project prepares PNG's trade negotiators to become more effective at negotiating trade agreements**

The EU-funded Trade Related Assistance Programme (EU-TRA2) has built the capacity of trade officials to undertake costs and benefits analysis of trade agreements and Papua New Guinea (PNG) has recently launched its first ever National Trade Policy. However, having reviewed the results of the costs and benefits analysis of the various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that PNG has concluded, and the legal texts of these agreements, it is evident that the technical capacity of PNG's trade negotiators needs to be strengthened if they are to effectively negotiate trade agreements with other parties in the future.

Accordingly, an activity has been developed with a focus on providing PNG's trade negotiators with the capacity to negotiate trade agreements using modern trade negotiating skills including principles, strategies and tactics of negotiating trade agreements with other parties. In so doing it will address an important gap in existing skills, which is to build the capacity of PNG's trade negotiators to more effectively negotiate trade agreements that result in net benefits to PNG, and to renegotiate those agreements that result in net costs. The activity, to provide training for trade negotiators, is being delivered in Central Province from November 15-17, and will bring about an additional result in the creation of a Trade Negotiator's Handbook with tactics, principles, strategies and skills to effectively negotiate trade agreements.

To realise the goal of this activity, the EU-TRA2 programme has recruited the services of Dr. Moses Tekere, a highly skilled and technically competent African trade negotiator, as a Short Term Non-Key Expert, whose mission is to first identify the specific gaps in negotiating capacity, then to develop training materials and deliver an intensive training course to PNG's negotiators. Following the delivery of this training Dr. Tekere will synthesise the key issues into a Trade Negotiator's Handbook. Dr. Tekere is currently in PNG working under the supervision of the Key Expert for Component 2, Dr. Claudius Preville. The training for trade negotiators is being delivered at Dixie's Bungalows in 17 Mile, Central Province from November 15-17, 2017.

The EU-TRA 2 programme, which includes assistance in the areas of Trade Institutional Reform, Trade Policy and Trade Facilitation, is a four-year programme that runs until 2018 providing Technical Assistance and quality infrastructure and equipment to PNG. For more information on the TRA 2 project you can visit: [www.pngeutra2.org.pg](http://www.pngeutra2.org.pg).

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