

Prepared by



Livestock Development Corporation

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Intro: **Cattle enroute Central**

This week, the first batch of cattle bought from smallholder farmers in Sialum will arrive at Kiapara in Rigo, Central Province Cattle on the MV Mokerang Trader. These cattle numbering 200 in total are intended for restocking of the Livestock Development Corporation (LDC) owned Launakalana Estate under the government's National Cattle Breeding Program per the MTDP III 2018 – 2022 policy.

The other 100 cattle will be shipped to Lae for slaughtering and also for restocking at Erap.

The policy intent of government is in empowering the rural majority. For the industry to thrive we must first invest in those who have continued to hold the fort through thick and thin. They are our most important human resources. They form part of the critical cog in the wheel that turns to keep the industry running in the livestock subsector.

In order to acknowledge their years of toil and hard work, the LDC has responded to an invitation from the Member for Tewai Siassi Hon Dr. Kobby Bomareo to assist the farmers in his electorate.

LDC responded by setting up the first farmer-focused cattle buying point in PNG at Sialum.

LDC Managing Director Mr. Terry Koim commended the efforts of all those were involved in the project as the first lot of 84 out of the 300 cattle purchased last year from farmers in Sialum, Morobe province were mustered onto the panelled decks of the barge.

The shipment kick-starts the Cattle Buying Point set up under the Government's Agriculture Intervention program based on an agreement which was first signed between LDC and the Tewai Siassi District in February 2021 . It was a project established under the leadership of former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock John Simon.

This program was initiated to assist farmers in Sialum which remains one of PNG's largest cattle farming areas.

Mr. Koim said "LDC had invested more than K500 000.00 to set up the buying point in Sialum including the of a new land cruiser ute, setting up of solar panels, and a well constructed modern stockyard and permanent jetty to assist farmers who had in the past braved hundreds of kilometres of rugged terrain in search of markets in Lae'.

He said "for more than 50 years, farmers would even go to such lengths as in immobilizing cattle on dinghies and sail from Sialum across the treacherous Vitiiaz Strait to reach Lae. In the process many Papua New Guineans have lost their lives. Thankfully, this will now become a thing of the past.



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Mr. Koim added that LDC has spent more than K1.3 million for this exercise, including K450,000 in cash spent on the purchase of the first batch of 300 cattle from farmers in Sialum while an additional expenses went up to K350,000 which was spent on other essential resources including shipping costs.

He stated that the estimated return on investment is about K1.0 million for this batch but subsequent shipments should yield K1.4 million per batch.

He further stated that the cattle being shipped to Kiapara will be transported to Launakalana estate in Rigo Central province as LDC has an existing MOU with the province to use the estate as a breeding and distribution centre to support cattle farmers here.

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Pc: First batch of cattle enroute Kiapara, Central Province

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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Terry KOIM
Managing Director – LDC