

MiBank partners to help farmers

BY PORENI UMAU

THE launch of a new finance product would now bring positive change for rural cocoa farming families in East New Britain province.

The product will increase income opportunities for all cocoa farmers.

This was the message from PNG Agriculture Company (PNGAC) chief executive officer Brad Jackson.

Mr Jackson was speaking at the launch of the agriculture value chain credit scheme between PNGAC, MiBank, and PNG Cocoa Board (PNGCCB) in Kokopo last week.

He said that the new product would now help farmers to access loans to buy seeds, tools and other inputs to grow their crops and that this initiative now would help farmers to increase their farm output and put money back in their pockets.

Mr Jackson said it is not easy for farmers and cooperatives in PNG to obtain loans as banks are always reluctant to take the risk to give loans, even though they always want farmers to save with them.

He said with MiBank's partnership, PNGAC have attempted to reduce the risks that the banks faced so that they can provide the loans that farmers need to grow their income.

He said PNGAC is a farmer owned company and the loan model was enabled in partnership with MiBank to place incentives for success with the farmers of PNG.

"The model does not rely on continuous government grants, but rather a commercial model with its growth driven by the farmers being incentivised and supported to better manage their farms and attract better and more valuable markets.

The partnership with MiBank proves that by taking a more professional business-like approach, banks are willing to accept a greater risk in return for many more customers," he said.



PNGAC CEO Brad Jackson speaking to farmers during the launch at Nganalaka.

Landowners a nuisance at Angore

of the same association as Mr Amile. In the advertisement, Mr Hirila claimed that the clan vetting exercise and the identification of landowners had been completed.

"This media statement by this purported chairman is totally false news," Mr Amile said.

He said the clan vetting exercise is just about to be completed and is not being fully completed as stated by Mr Hirila.

"Such a media statement is the work of paper landowners to mislead the

concerned authorities for vested interests," he said.

Mr Amile said people of Angore are happy with the current government for the initiative to appoint Deputy Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi and an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) team for a fine job in 2015 for spearheading the clan vetting and identification of landowners processes.

He said the clan vetting process is about to be completed and the declaration is still pending.

Mr Amile said the ILGs' clan vetting process was disturbed by buffer zone clan leaders like Hirila who go around forming illegal groups and making unfounded media statements.

He said the rightful beneficiaries of block 1788 are people from Yabagaru, parts of Tamita ward and the Honoka ward which he represents as clan chairman.

Mr Amile said the landowners have reach a crucial time to reap their due benefits but such crook deals will only delay the benefits.