

World Marine **AIDS to NAVIGATION** Day

World Marine Aids to Navigation Day



Bure strives to be the best

To be a marine aid to navigation technician is not a job for the faint hearted.

As travelling swelling seas, working under humid and cold weather conditions, carrying heavy loads and climbing steep mountains to name a few is a huge role one plays to ensure the upkeep of marine lights that serve as beacons to direct vessels that enter our waters carrying cargo for resource projects, or for other businesses in the country to berth safely at our ports or wharves.

For Salvator Bure, he never had in mind that this would be the type of job that he would be taking on when he started with the National Maritime Safety Authority.

When asked about how he feels of being the youngest Aids to Navigation (AtoN) technician, Bure with his natural positive energy says it has been a challenge ever since he took on the job.

He recalls his first experience or he calls it the initial challenge with a smile by saying it was a learning experience which he gladly embraced in this new working environment, as he had to learn the trade quickly and know what was required of him whilst working alongside senior technicians.

Bure's first duty travel was to Tufi, Northern Province which he recalled was a testing time for him as it involved a lengthy dinghy boat ride from Oro Bay to Spear Point then straight to the tower which housed the AtoN.

Bure said: "I had to climb 15 meters up to the top of the tower then manually pulled up the heavy N70-12V solar battery up to fix the AtoN.

"From that very moment, I told myself that I can do this job and now I love my job, especially going out to the field. And the bonus with this job is that I get to travel to all the 15 maritime provinces," he said.

Bure first joined NMSA in September 2018 as a casual technician, then a year later he was made permanent as a AtoN technician at the Aids to Navigation Unit of NMSA under the Navigation Safety Services Department.

His everyday line of duty involves working at heights, working 12 hours out at sea in good and bad weather, walking and climbing steep mountains with loads, sailing out to sea for periods of three to four weeks and fixing navigational aids both on land and at sea.

Bure plays an important role in carrying out one of NMSA's mandated roles which is promoting maritime safety. He is part of a small team that ensures the maintenance and upkeep of the day-marks, beacons, buoys and lighthouses located throughout the maritime provinces are maintained at all cost.

This energetic technician began his career in the maritime industry shortly after he graduated with a diploma in Electrical Tech from Don Bosco Techno-



logical Institution in 2017.

Being from a mix parentage of Central and East Sepik Province, working out at sea to maintain AtoNs is not something new to Bure as he very familiar with the sea and is passionate about the marine life as well.

Bure learnt his trade after graduating from grade 12 at Passam National High School in 2014 and directly enrolled at the Don Bosco Technological Institution.

After completing his academic requirements he joined PNG Power Limited as an electrical fitter in 2017 then after a year, he joined Anitua Construction & Maintenance as a trade assistant electrician before he joined NMSA.

"I have faced a lot of challenges in my short career.

"When out on duty travel to fix the AtoNs, I wake up as early as the sun rises to accomplish everyday tasks and work right through till 7pm. As I've mentioned earlier and some of these include working at heights around 30 meters above sea level whilst hanging from a rope."

He further added that there are many good opportunities for him as a technician and is always determined to give his best in executing his line of duty.

Bure's advice to young Papua New Guineans who want to take up a career as a Marine Aids to Navigation Technicians is: "You must be prepared to work in extreme conditions in either hot or cold weather and importantly you must know how to swim and not have a fear of heights because this is what you will face every day."



NMSA observes World Marine Aids to Navigation Day

The National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) will observe this year's World Marine Aids to Navigation Day on July 1, 2022.

The World Marine Aids to Navigation Day 2022 marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation known today as the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authority (IALA).

IALA is a non-profit international technical association established in 1957 with the aim to gather marine aids to navigation authorities, manufacturers, consultants and scientific and training institutes from all parts of the world and offer them the opportunity to exchange and compare their experiences and achievements.

The General Assembly of IALA who came together in 2018 initiated the idea of observing the World Marine Aids to Navigation Day (WAtON).

As a result, on July 1 each year, IALA celebrates the World Aids to Navigation Day with the theme "Successful Voyages, Sustainable Planet".

The theme aims at fostering safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels through the improvement and harmonization of marine aids to navigation worldwide.

On this occasion, IALA and its nearly 80 member states will be observing the day to create greater awareness among the wider public of the role of Marine Aids to Navigation and IALA's technical work in enhancing the safety of navigation worldwide.

PNG is a Member State of IALA through NMSA. The Aids to Navigation Unit of NMSA under the Navigation Safety Services Department will observe this Day with an awareness about the significance of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and the related services provided by AtoN.

NMSA Port Moresby based staff will be branded in the World Marine Aids Navigation Day shirts and retractable banners will be placed in front of Defense Haus & the Pacific MMI Building.

NMSA General Manager/CEO, Mr. Paul Unas said Papua New Guinea also marks the Day to create and recognise the efforts made by IALA to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, port and other vulnerable or protected marine areas. NMSA manages well over 400 AtoN sites within all the maritime provinces. These AtoNs comprises of day-marks, beacons, buoys and lighthouses.

Mr Unas urges all relevant authorities including police officers and community leaders located in the 15 maritime provinces to help prevent the tampering and obstruction of AtoNs as it imposes a high risk of possible grounding of all ships as well as damage to the marine life and environment.

He went on further by saying that these assets and equipment are owned by the State and tampering as well as obstructing of this maritime aid to navigation or similar infrastructure is punishable by law under the 'Protection of the Transport Infrastructure Act 2010, the Criminal Code Act 1974 & the Merchant Shipping Act 1975'.

Mr Unas further said that these assets and equipment serve not only large merchant vessels but also assist local fisherman who depend on these AtoNs to navigate their way to safety during bad weather when visibility is poor.

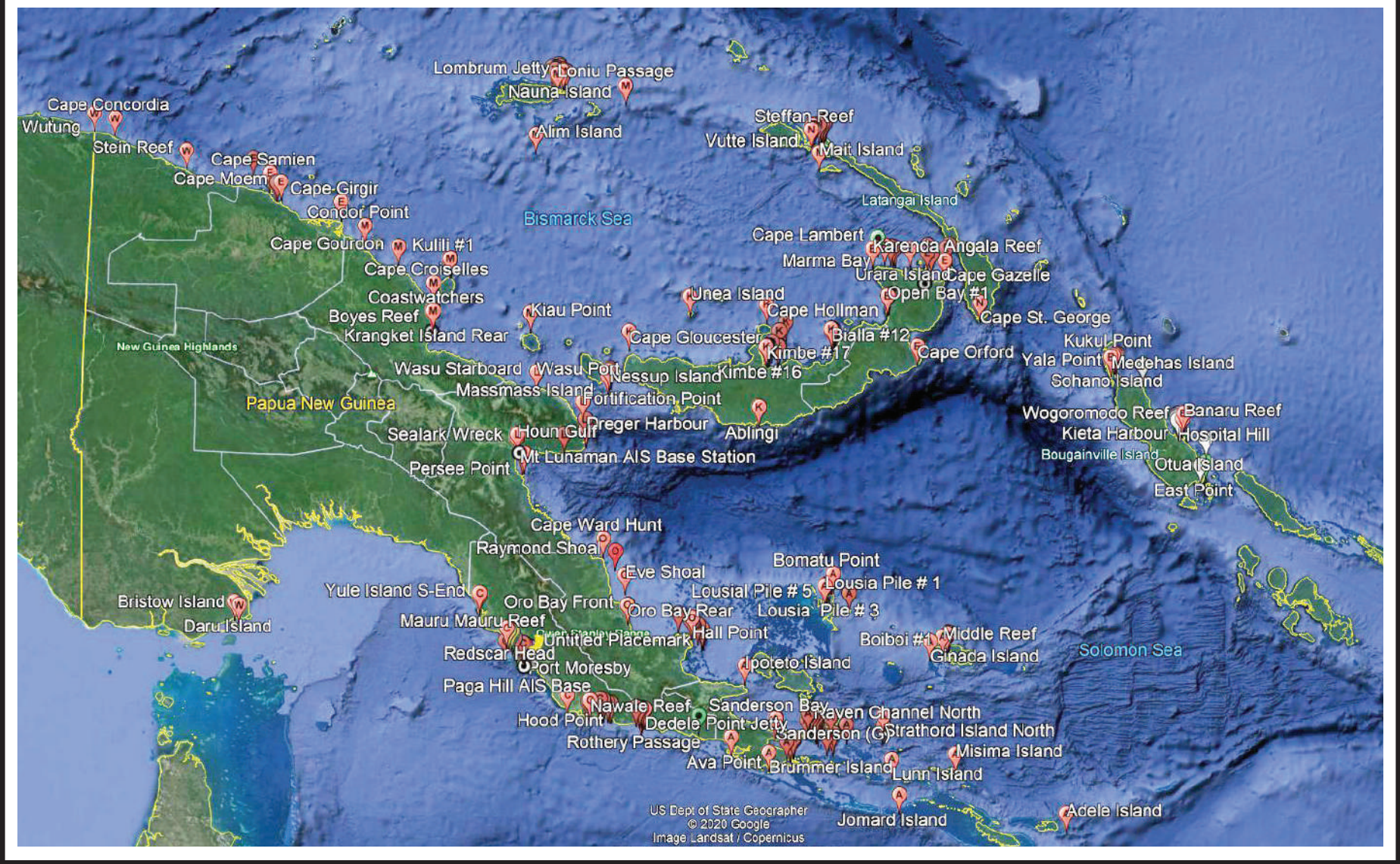
The Aids to Navigation Unit of NMSA under the Navigation Safety Services Department ensures that over 300 lights are in operation as well as attending to its upkeep including attending to all scheduled preventative and reactive maintenance as and when needed.

Their line of duty also includes forward planning and coordination of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) site maintenance.

The AtoN unit is divided into two areas of specifics in terms of upkeep and maintenance of these marine lights located along the coast, approaches and

within Port areas to assist international and domestic vessels support safe navigation. Other private lights may also exist to support local use, managed by relevant authorities. The main type of aids to navigation available in Papua New Guinea include day-marks, beacons, buoys and lighthouses.

PNG NMSA AIDS TO NAVIGATION NETWORK





Meet the **AtoN** team:



Harvey Lahani is the manager in charge of the Navigation Safety Services Department. He oversees the running of the AtoNs work activities and provides advice on issues relating to marine aids to safety navigation to other line managers and the executive management as and when required.

AtoN Engineer

The Aid to Navigation Engineer is responsible for coordinating and planning AtoN site maintenance. He is also in charge of Departmental procurements of all equipment and researching for new technologies to be introduced into the PNG AtoN network. The AtoN engineer supports the NSS Manager in terms of contract documentation, capital expenditure project supervision and long-term planning for the Department.

MEET THE ATON ENGINEERS



IAN GENIEMBO



RICHARD ASIBA

AtoN Technician

AtoN Technicians are responsible for making sure all AtoN's are in operation. They are responsible for all scheduled preventative and reactive maintenance, making sure all marine lanterns are in correct working order. They regularly respond to any technical and or unforeseen (vandalism, weather etc.) lantern outages to make sure marine traffic can navigate safely and efficiently through our waters.



KAIRI IPAI



EDWARD VURUE



JUSTUS WAYNE



SALVATOR BURE



THOMAS YINU