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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Voice Inc. to reach more young people through its new Centres for Leadership**

***“Lots of future leaders will come through these doors. You have no excuse not to dream. You can do anything you set your mind to. This is your space.” – Serena Sumanop, Executive Director, The Voice Inc.***

The Voice Inc has officially launched two new Centres for Leadership at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and the University of Technology (Unitech) beginning the organisations expansion into other provinces.

The opening of these two new centres allow The Voice Inc. to expand its reach in the delivery of youth empowerment, leadership and development programs throughout the country and will play a significant role in the delivery of its largest program, the Leadership Development Program.

At the launches, Executive Director, Serena Sumanop, thanked their funding partners and UPNG for their recognition of what the organisation is capable of in building confidence, values and leadership qualities of young people.

“Thank you for having the eyes to see that young people have something truly great to offer,” she said.

At the UPNG launch pro-vice chancellor of academic and student affairs, Professor Pulapa Subba Rao, added his thoughts and encouragement to the proceedings, saying that employers are increasingly looking for graduates with not only strong academic performance but those with other skills that will enable them to succeed in the work force.

He said that with the programs run by The Voice Inc. and through initiatives such as this new Centre for Leadership, “once [students] go out into the workforce, they won’t have any gaps. Their contribution can be maximised.”

These same sentiments were shared by the Unitech administration at the Lae event, which was attended by Senior Administration and SRC Leaders as well as members of the University Community. Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Satter, said he was grateful for The Voice Inc. setting up the Centre for Leadership and that the Administration will support the endeavour as best they can. He also encouraged the organisation by saying that great things start out of small ideas, so only the future will tell the full impact of this initiative.

Funding partners from the Canadian High Commission flew in to attend the events in both Lae and Port Moresby from Canberra. Second Secretary, Stephen Burrige, said that the idea of beginning at the university level was a great initiative by The Voice Inc as they grow the leaders of tomorrow.

“When we first met Serena, and heard the vision she had for the new leaders of PNG, we knew that was something we wanted to be a part of.”

“The energy that you feel here in the university is so reflective of the future of the country,” he said.

For the students that will use these new revolutionary centres, Serena had these words;

“Lots of future leaders will come through these doors. You have no excuse not to dream. You have the support of your university administration, so you have no excuse. You can do anything you set your mind to. This is your space.”

The University of Goroka will be the next to follow with a Centre for Leadership expected to open there in the coming months.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:



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Second Secretary, Stephen Burrige, of the Canadian High Commission Canberra, Serena Sumanop, Executive Director of The Voice Inc. and Professor Sattar Pro Vice Chancellor – Academic inside the Unitech Centre at the opening in Lae.



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Inside the Unitech Centre for Leadership at the University of Technology



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The Voice Inc. Executive Director, Serena Sumanop, speaking at the opening of the new Centre for Leadership at UPNG