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BUSINESS



Mr Puritau showing off some of his company's products at the national development forum. — Nationalpic by MALUM NALU

Exporter: We can make export-quality products

By MALUM NALU

PAPUA New Guinea is more than capable of producing world-class finished products that meet international requirements, according to vanilla and spice producer Micky Puritau.

Mr Puritau, managing director of 100% nationally-owned Paradise Spices Co, said this at the national development forum in Parliament last Friday.

Paradise Spices, a family run-company, has been involved in the agriculture-sector in PNG since 1987, exporting vanilla beans for the last 10 years.

This year, it received A\$170,000 (K385,660) funding from AusAID which it aims build a solvent extraction facility at its Port Moresby base to produce pure vanilla extracts, vanilla oleoresin (a naturally occurring mixture of resin and essential oil) and other spices.

Paradise Spices also aims to gain international quality standard certification to tap into other exporting opportunities globally.

"The challenge for this nation is that we cannot continue to export raw materials which are susceptible to the volatility of world market prices, generation after generation.

Mr Puritau said immense opportunities abounded in the global markets for PNG-made products

"As a producer and exporter of finished products, Paradise Spices is constantly faced with new challenges and decisions each year after participating in trade shows around the world," Mr Puritau said.

"We must change our mentality into one of growing, producing and exporting of finished products into countries like India and China."