



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Thrills at the Imekang 7/9 Derby!

(Koror, Palau) – The Palau Sport Fishing Association (PSFA) proudly hosted the Imekang 7/9 Derby this past weekend, bringing together anglers, families, and supporters for a celebration.

This year's derby saw **Team Kosebaki**, captained by **Noel Inacio of Ngiwal** with angler **Hiram Reched**, land the winning catch—a **22-pound barracuda**—earning them the **\$1,000 top prize** and well-deserved bragging rights.

Adding to the excitement, **Team Melairei** once again defended their Marlin Pot streak that began at the Ngeremlengui Derby, this time with an impressive **153.5-pound black marlin**. Thanks to the generous contribution of **\$500 from newly installed PSFA board member William Tsung**, the Marlin Pot prize grew to a record **\$1,500**, making the victory even sweeter.

While the competition was fierce and the catches memorable, the ocean had its own surprises—**no tuna were landed this time, leaving the tuna prize unclaimed**. But as every angler knows, no one catches fish every time they go out. Saturday's conditions were particularly challenging: a hot, calm, windless day that tested both patience and perseverance. Even without tuna in the coolers, the experience reflected the reality of sport fishing—every trip is an adventure, and the ocean always has the last word.

"Events like the Imekang 7/9 Derby do more than celebrate our fishing heritage," said **PSFA board member Stomu Olebuu**. "They help skill up our community—especially young people—by exposing them to the techniques, equipment, and opportunities that come with sport fishing. With the right training and support, these experiences can grow into careers as captains, guides, and professionals in a thriving sport fishing tourism industry."

Media Contact: Communication Coordinator 488-6887



The Palau Sport Fishing Association extends its warm congratulations to the winners and heartfelt thanks to all participants, sponsors, and volunteers who made the Imekang 7/9 Derby a success. Special appreciation goes to **William Tsung** for his generous support of the Marlin Pot, and to the community of **Ngiwal** for their hospitality and commitment to keeping Palau's fishing culture alive.

The next derby is just around the corner—**mark your calendars for November 8th in Melekeok!**