
GOVERNMENT TO RUN GARAINA TEA PLANTATION AS A BUSINESS

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Boyamo Sali, announced in October that the Government plans to operate the tea plantation and factory at Garaina in the Morobe Province as a business venture over the next two years.

The tea plantation was established in the late 1940s as a nursery to provide tea seedlings for planting in the highlands provinces as well as to see if Garaina area was suitable for tea-growing.

Mr Sali said although some people expressed their desire to buy the plantation,

the Government wanted to operate it as a business venture first so that if it proved profitable the Government would sell it to the people.

If not, there would be no alternative but to close it down.

Mr Sali said the plantation was very expensive to maintain compared to the highlands area because of air freight and road transportation costs.

He said expenditure on the plantation over the past two years amounted to about K140 000.