

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the role of Multinational Corporation in the Papua New Guinea-European Union Interim Economic Partnership Agreement on tuna preference. The EU EPA is a trade in goods agreement with special preference for tuna in the Pacific ACP Region. As such, Papua New Guinea became the only country in the ACP Pacific region to export tuna to the EU market. Papua New Guinea does not own any onshore fishing facilities but all are foreign owned. Thus, Multinational Corporations play a huge role in the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between PNG and the EU but are these roles clearly understood with its impact upon the state and the local communities? As a free trade agreement with tuna preference between the EU and PNG with the multinational corporations having an upper hand in the market function of this agreement, neoliberal theory is used to explain this phenomena with critical perspective from Neo-Marxist dependency theory. Research results through a case study of RD Tuna Cannery proved that Papua New Guinea have no chance of making use of this IEPA for its development aspirations. The EU Rules of Origin have been used exquisitely by foreign fishing vessels that fish in PNG waters then take the tuna back to their own countries for processing and production. The State is controlled by the interests of the foreign fishing companies and there is increasing level of poverty among the impacted communities through the loss of land, tuna depletion for local fishermen, use of cheap labour and environmental damage. In addition, these issues have given rise to many other social issues resulting in impacted communities being marginalized on their own land through this free trade agreement.

Key Words: EU Economic Partnership Agreement, Multinational Corporation, RD Tuna Cannery, Papua New Guinea.