

Bilums & Bilums

By Annette Sete, Manager at Lavagirl & Maku Gifts

Papua New Guinea



We love it when Abu (grandmother) visits. Abu Lina Singu runs Tambawut - a small business that's big on Sepik crafts. From jewelries to headwear to bilums.

Tambawut translates to creative hands.

With COVID affecting tourists, we are pushing local demand to ensure these natural fiber bags fetch local mothers some much needed cash.

And people such as Lina (pictured) continue to help us bridge the supply and demand gaps.

Appreciate these creative women from Sepik River and thankful to have Abu Lina selling their products through us. She travels far and wide along the Sepik River, working with women on quality challenges and buying these bilums for resellers like us. So her visits from Wewak to Port Moresby is always one to look forward to.



There's no such thing as way too many earrings. Speaking from experience. It's a pair for every outfit.

And so we continue our work to get more locals making and selling earrings and other jewelries. These are made from natural items found within their environments. We do supply findings and earring-making tips to help reach a quality good enough to make our shop racks.

Of course we then put our spin on the different earrings and dress them up for our market and the customers.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) play a pivotal role in stimulating economic growth, promoting innovation, creativity and providing employment.

MSMEs Day is celebrated every year on June 27 to recognise the contribution of MSMEs in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Decent Work and Economic Growth, were among the 17 SDGs.

At Maku Gifts, we do our bit in our own little ways in contributing towards PNG's economic growth.

Winner of best established designer at the 2019 Papua New Guinea Fashion Week, Annette has been in the industry for 6 years, creating modernized traditionally inspired gifts.