

# PNG artist off to UK to see Misis Kwin

CONTEMPORARY artist Mathias Kauage will leave for London tomorrow at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth to a gallery opening and show his artistic version of the monarch.

Kauage, 57, from Chimbu, has been painting for almost 27 years and will have a chance to exhibit his paintings during the opening of the gallery and also present his new creation entitled *'Simbu Kwin'* (pictured) which symbolises Queen Elizabeth as the queen of PNG.

Kauage said he was

By BRIAN TOBIA

happy to meet the Queen and present her with his likeness of her.

Another exhibition of his paintings will be staged later at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in London.

Eighty pieces of his art have been sent to the United Kingdom.

His trip is partly sponsored by a national company, Tanorama Pty Limited, while the return trip cost will be met by Rebecca Hossack Gallery.

Kauage criticised the

lack of Government support in promoting PNG art internationally. He said he had not received any incentive from the Government and neither did other artists like himself.

He said the arts industry was one of many potential revenue earners that the Government had overlooked.

His son John Kagl said "the demand (for PNG art) is overseas but there is no support from the Government to promote it". He said paintings such as his father's work sold well overseas and would be a big money-spinner if helped.

Kauage said the Government must try to help artists who were working hard to promote PNG's art and culture overseas.

Tanorama chairwoman and playwright Nora Vagi Brash said the Government should support artists, particularly when there were chances to promote PNG art and culture overseas.

Kauage will visit Germany to host a private exhibition before returning to PNG.



KAUAGE with his "Simbu Kwin" painting of Queen Elizabeth. Picture: PHILIP ARAU

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