



**NATIONWIDE** Micro Bank managing director Tony Westaway and Gumine MP Nick Kuman shake hands to seal the deal as Christopher Kiayal looks on.

# Bank, Gumine district ink deal to drive development

BY GRACE SALMANG

PEOPLE of Gumine district in Chimbu Province are expected to participate and be empowered in economic development through a ward empowerment strategy that will provide financial services to people of the district.

To implement this strategy, Minister for Education Nick Kuman who is Gumine MP, yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement that would pave the way for Nationwide Micro Bank to

## At a glance

**STRATEGY:** Ward Empowerment Strategy providing financial services to the people of Gumine district.

**PARTNER:** Nationwide Micro Bank.

**FUNDS:** K1.634m from the District Services Improvement Program.

**FOCUS:** To engage people in agriculture and other micro-economic activities at the ward level and encourage people to develop their own plans and prioritise their projects and programs.

partner the Gumine district in rolling out its strategy to the 45 wards.

"The rural people must be

empowered to drive development at their respective ward level," Mr Kuman said.

Under this partnership,

Gumine district had injected K1.634 million from 2013 and 2014 DSIP funding directly to the 45 ward development committees.

"We have introduced the concept of ward empowerment which is an economic stimulus package to enable and empower all stakeholders in the district and the people to take ownership of their own development at their respective ward levels," Mr Kuman said.

He said the focus was to engage people in agriculture

and other micro-economic activities at ward level.

This would encourage people through their ward development committees to develop their own plans and prioritise their projects and programs to align with this strategy.

The strategy is consistent with Medium Term Development Plans and Vision 2050 to increase the economy and bring about improved living standards of our people.