

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**MARAPE LEADS  
DOWNSTREAM  
PROCESSING  
DISCUSSIONS**

- PAGE 2

**PNG  
EMBRACES  
JAPAN RELATIONS**

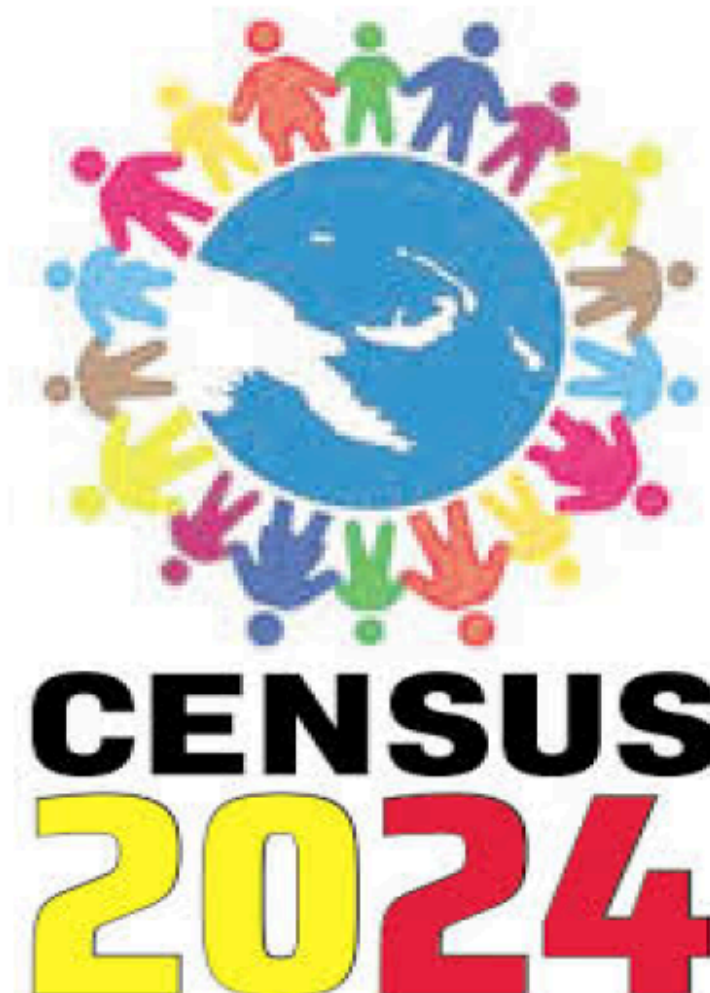
- PAGE 3

**PM MARAPE  
OVERSEASE  
ENGAGEMENTS**

- PAGE 6-7

**GOVERNMENT  
RESUMES WORK  
ON AROB**

- PAGE 11



# Papua New Guinea-Indonesian Bilateral Relations Intact



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (right) with President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, at their joint press conference, Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

The President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, made an official visit to Papua New Guinea this month , and was warmly received by Prime Minister Hon. James Marape.

The two leaders held a press conference at the Stanley Hotel in Port Moresby, marking a significant step in the bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries. Prime Minister Marape highlighted the importance of the meeting, emphasizing the strong foundational ties between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. "Today we concluded a very good

meet and greet. We touched on core fundamentals of our relationship, first and foremost, respecting each of our nation's sovereignty, as we share a common land border and common people ties," Mr Marape stated.

The Prime Minister expressed optimism about the future of the relationship, especially in the continuation of the Marape-Widodo Border Relations.

"The President-Elect has given the full assurance that the work of the Leaders' Dialogue we had with the Republic of Indonesia will continue on.

"Our work with the Republic of Indonesia in Defence exchange, educational exchange, or other exchanges will carry on, and we will look more into business-to-business relationships to fine-tune this relationship," Mr Marape added.

In a gesture of deepening ties, Prime Minister Marape extended an invitation to President-Elect Subianto to return to PNG for the country's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2025, which was graciously accepted.

"We have concluded a wonderful bilateral and our focus remains on working more on people-to-people

and business - to - business relationships," Mr Marape said, underscoring the mutual commitment to fostering closer cooperation.

President-Elect Prabowo Subianto, in his remarks, expressed his gratitude for the visit and the warm reception.

"The few minutes we have met, I felt your sincerity, your friendship, and your wisdom as a leader," President-Elect Subianto said, reflecting on his earlier interactions with Prime Minister Marape.

"And I became convinced that I must

foster and enhance this friendship and relationship with our two countries."

Mr Subianto also conveyed his eagerness to collaborate closely with PNG in various sectors, noting the unique bond between the two nations.

"We want to work more and more together in industry, defense, mining, and all other aspects," he stated. Additionally, he extended a personal invitation to Prime Minister Marape to attend his upcoming inauguration, signaling the strength of their partnership.



ECONOMY

# PNG Can Benefit from Indonesia's Resource Utilization Expertise, says Rosso



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (right) with President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, at their joint press conference, Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands, Physical Planning and Immigration, Hon. John Rosso, has expressed his confidence that Papua New Guinea can greatly benefit from Indonesia's expertise in utilising its vast natural resources.

Mr Rosso made these remarks after leading a small PNG delegation to the PT Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park, which employs 80,000 people, on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

The Weda Bay Industrial Area, located in Desa Lelilef, Kecamatan Weda, Halmahera Tengah Regency, Maluku Utara Province, is Indonesia's first integrated industrial area designed to facilitate

nickel-based mining and mineral processing.

Indonesia, PNG's closest neighbor, is a rapidly growing economy and the largest in Southeast Asia.

Classified as a newly-industrialised country, Indonesia is an upper-middle-income nation and a member of the G20.

With a nominal GDP of US\$1.371 trillion in 2023, Indonesia ranks as the 16th largest economy globally and seventh in terms of GDP (PPP).

The PNG delegation consisted of, Minister for International Trade and Investment Hon. Richard Maru,

Labour Minister Hon. Kessy Sawang, Provincial Member for Madang, Hon. Ramsey Pariwa,

Secretary for International Trade and Investment Jacinta Warakai-Manua, and officials from Kumul Petroleum Holdings Ltd, the Mineral Resources Authority, and PNG's Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Simon Namis.

The visit was the outcome of a recent discussion between Indonesian President H.E. Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, which aimed at enhancing business relations between the two countries.

"It has been a very eye-opening experience for us. As you are well aware, my country has a lot of natural resources and a lot of opportunities.

"We are seeking strategic partners who can collaborate with us not only in developing our resources but also in advancing downstream processing and value addition," he said.

"Our goal is to create more jobs and enhance the value of our exports by moving beyond the mere export of raw materials," Deputy Prime Minister Rosso said in a meeting with PT Indonesia management after touring the project.

"Visiting Indonesia, learning from their experiences with their resources, and the partnerships in such operations, would be worthwhile having in our country.

The value-adding, downstream processing, lowering of the carbon footprint, and many others, all work in favor of the future."

Mr Rosso added that solutions that Indonesia and your organisation offer is a win-win for both parties.

While Indonesia gains for its people, as seen by the amount of employment, the investor also gains with good profits.

That is a good template for other countries to emulate, especially a country like mine which has, in my view, struggled to try to find the right template."

Deputy Prime Minister Rosso extended a personal invitation to PT Indonesia to visit PNG.

"You have my personal invitation to come and visit my country.

I will be glad to take you around, as well as Minister Maru and

Minister Sawang, and we can look at opportunities we might derive from the Indonesia experience."

He also expressed gratitude to the Indonesian Government, led by President Widodo, and Indonesia's Maritime Affairs and Investment Coordinating Minister, Hon. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, for encouraging PNG to pursue downstream processing initiatives.

## Chief Secretary Affirms Agriculture's Vital Role in PNG's Development



Chief Secretary to Government, Mr Ivan Pomaleu.

The Chief Secretary to Government Mr. Ivan Pomaleu today reiterated the pivotal role of agriculture as a fundamental pillar of Papua New Guinea's culture and livelihoods.

He made these remarks whilst applauding the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Country Program Inception Workshop, early this month.

"I commend IFPRI's extensive collaboration in Papua New Guinea for over five years and applaud the organization's steadfast dedication to supporting evidence-based policy making.

He praised IFPRI's recent initiatives, such as the 2023 Rural Household Survey, which identified strategic opportunities for investments in agriculture to boost economic growth and enhance food and nutrition security in the region.

The Chief Secretary further highlighted the new 4-year IFPRI policy support program, supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and ACIAR, as a testament to the strong bilateral ties between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

"I underscore the importance of the IFPRI program in enhancing local capacities in data collection and analysis to support evidence-based decision-making.

"By establishing an in-country IFPRI office and engaging with local stakeholders, including government analysts and university graduates, the program aims to empower local experts in driving policy excellence.

"Through avenues for research dissemination and policy engagement, the IFPRI program, in collaboration with the government and stakeholders, will facilitate informed decision-making and foster dialogue on agricultural growth, competitiveness, and opportunities for improving food and nutrition security in Papua New Guinea households," Mr Pomaleu said.

He officially endorsed IFPRI's PNG Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Policy Support Program 2024-2028 and welcomed the proposal to establish a National Advisory Committee comprising members from various government ministries to enhance cross-sectoral coordination and government ownership of IFPRI's programs.

Chief Secretary Pomaleu expressed special appreciation to the Australian government, particularly DFAT, ACIAR, and all stakeholders for, and showed eagerness to shape work programs and delve into key areas for further investigation to inform strategic investments and economic and agricultural policies.

He extended their unwavering commitment, support, and partnership in advancing a more prosperous and food-secure Papua New Guinea.

# PNG Delegation Learns from Indonesia's Special Economic Zones

Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso led his delegation on Monday, August 19, 2024, to a significant meeting with the management of the Java Integrated Industrial and Ports Estate (JIPE) Special Economic Zone in Gresik, Surabaya, Indonesia.

This visit was part of a broader series of engagements aimed at attracting trade and investment into Papua New Guinea by Indonesian companies. The initiative was the result of a recent high-level discussions between Indonesian President H.E. Joko Widodo and PNG Prime Minister Hon. James Marape.

Indonesia, PNG's closest neighbour, has become one of the emerging market economies in the world and the largest in Southeast Asia.

As an upper-middle income country and member of the G20, Indonesia is classified as a newly industrialised country.

Its nominal GDP reached US\$1.371 trillion) in 2023, and is the 16th largest economy in the world by nominal GDP and the 7th largest in terms of GDP (PPP).

The PNG delegation was briefed by JIPE management, and representatives from the mining company PT Freeport Indonesia, on the operations of this flagship Indonesian project, followed by a tour of the SEZ.

JIPE was designated as an SEZ by President Joko Widodo in 2021, marking it as a national strategic

project designed to meet industrial needs.

The SEZ boasts superior connectivity through multimodal transportation, a connected deep seaport, a one-stop complete utility service, environmental permits, and expedited construction permits.

These attributes, along with the availability of essential utilities like power plants, industrial freshwater, waste management, gas supply, and telecommunication networks, have made JIPE a major investment destination in Indonesia.

The SEZ currently hosts over 17 tenants, including Bank of Indonesia and PT Freeport Indonesia.

Deputy Prime Minister Rosso emphasised the significance of the meeting, particularly in the context of PNG's own SEZ development efforts all over the country, including in Madang for fisheries and nickel, and in Lae for the Wafi-Golpu Mine.

He remarked on the relevance of Indonesia's experience to PNG's ambitions.

"You (Indonesia) have already gone down that path (SEZ development), learned from your mistakes, and you will be able to teach us.

The SEZ here replicates what we are trying to understand and achieve at two of our ports (Madang and Lae)," Deputy Prime Minister Rosso said.

"It has a lot of similarities to two of the SEZs we are trying to build in PNG."

"One in Madang where we have a nickel mine, and my home city of Lae,

which, like Surabaya, is the second-largest city and industrial hub of PNG."

Minister Maru, who oversees SEZ development in PNG, highlighted the alignment between Indonesia's SEZ experience and PNG's goals for SEZ development.

"In Madang, there is already land and a deep-water port available, which makes it the ideal location for development of a special economic zone for fisheries and other industries," Minister Maru said.

"We also want to develop a smelter in Lae so that gold and other minerals

from Wafi-Golpu, and other mines throughout the country, can be processed at this SEZ.

It can also create thousands of new jobs," Minister Maru added.

The PNG delegation comprised Minister for International Trade and Investment, Hon. Richard Maru, Labor and Industrial Minister Hon. Kessy Sawang, Provincial Member for Madang, Hon. Ramsey Pariwa, Secretary for International Trade and Investment Jacinta Warakai-Manua, officials from State-Owned Enterprises, PNG Ambassador to Indonesia H.E. Simon Namis, and embassy staff.



Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso and International Trade and Investments Minister Hon. Richard Maru with Indonesian SEZ officials.



ECONOMY

# Cabinet approves PMIZ development phases in Madang



Minister for International Trade and Investment Hon. Richard Maru

The National Executive Council (NEC) recently approved, in principle, the development of the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ) in Madang Province. The Minister for International Trade and Investment, Hon. Richard Maru in announcing the decision, said the PMIZ would be developed in two phases.

He highlighted, phase one of the project will be the establishment of a fishing Joint Venture (JV) between the State and RD.

The Government has decided to enter a strategic JV fisheries business with RD, which is a respected fishing company with established business, facilities, management and industry knowledge, skills and expertise, years of experience, and networking both in the region and globally and understands the global market.

“It makes good commercial sense for the State to approach RD with all its facilities to enter into a JV.”

According to Mr Maru, the State for its part, would inject equity to get into the fishing business and have its nationals employed and immersed into the business to learn the trade and acquire the expertise, to eventually allow them set up and own the fisheries industry in the country.

He added countries like Australia do not issue licenses to foreign fishing vessels, stating, “One day we can reach that point so we can and own our fisheries industry. For now we are only rent collectors.”

- As outlined by the Minister, the following costs will be borne:
- Wharf Establishment costs - USD\$300 million;
  - Onshore processing facilities - USD\$100 – USD\$150 million;
  - Cold storage will be USD\$30 million;
  - Purchase and own fishing vessels-purse seine – range from USD\$7 million to USD\$25 million.

He however said the cost could vary significantly based on several factors, including the vessel’s size, age, and condition, which is estimated to cost around USD\$500 million.

“For instance, the infrastructure costs for road, water, electricity and other amenities would add on to the business.

The financial costs to set up directly to enter the business would be excessive and untenable for the Government.

“Added to that, we do not have the management experience nor the technology and skills of commercial fishing enterprise as a country.

“We need to partner and learn the trade of the commercial fishing business first over a period of time until we are confident to venture on our own. We have to learn to crawl before we can walk,” said Minister Maru.

He added, “Currently, we do not have our own fishing boats, our own master fishermen, we have no expertise in fishing, and in the last 50 years we have never domesticated our

fisheries industry and as a result we have missed out in building another ten canneries because 80 percent of our catch is taken overseas.”

“We have lost 50,000 jobs, we are earning a net revenue of only K300 million a year (after discounts and rebates from our license fish) when we could be earning K5 billion in revenue.”

Minister Maru further expressed concern that Papua New Guinea is not benefiting from many revenue streams ranging from landing fees, shipping licenses, loss of jobs, wages, income taxes, corporate taxes, GST, fuel, water, electricity, and opportunities for other local commercial businesses revolving around the commercial fishing enterprise.

“We have our people graduating from the National Fisheries College in Kavieng but where are they?” he questioned.

“They are not in the industry- we are all spectators. We have lost all these opportunities because we have never domesticated the industry.”

He stressed Papua New Guinea is still a ‘Coastal State’ since both before and after Independence, and is yet to change its status to be recognized as a ‘Fishing State’.

“Coastal states have jurisdiction over the waters adjacent to their coastlines, usually up to a certain distance known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), where they have special rights regarding fishing, mineral exploration, and other economic activities.”

These states, he said, play a significant role in regulating fishing activities, conservation efforts, and resource management within their maritime boundaries. In the context of the fishing industry, a country referred to as a ‘Fishing State’ is one that heavily relies on and actively participates in fishing activities.

This term is used to describe a nation whose economy, culture, and livelihood are significantly tied to fishing and the exploitation of marine resources.

Fishing states often have a large fishing fleet, extensive coastal waters, and a strong presence in international fisheries management organizations.

“PNG has missed out big time by being a rent collector and the Marape-Rosso Government has made a very bold decision to shift us from being a rent collector to a ‘Fishing State’.

Minister Maru added: “Whilst RD has established fishing business in Madang and has all the facilities and infrastructure that the State needs to get into the fishing business, it does not have enough vessels and volume of fish caught per day to process at its processing plant which needs 200 metric tons of fish each day to make it viable for it to operate profitably. Fish security is very critical.

Meanwhile, another fishing company, a Lae-based Majestic Seafood, had folded up because of its inability to meet the volume of fish needed for its 200 metric-ton per day cannery.

Minister Maru underscores the importance of having the country’s own fishing vessels and crew, and introducing the domestication policy, to allow Papua New Guinea progress its own fish cannery and maximise the benefits from its resources.

“If Phase 1 is successful and we are able to catch enough fish, own our own fishing boats, have our own master fishermen, have our own people trained then we can move to Phase 2 which is to build our own cannery and other associated businesses in the 250 hectares of State Land at the PMIZ to take advantage of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) benefits and incentives that PMIZ can offer before we can invite other investors to come and invest in the PMIZ.”

Papua New Guinea currently has a large EEZ of 2.4 million square kilometers in extent, making it one of the most productive in the region.

It accounts for approximately 18 percent of the world’s tuna catch and controls around 15 percent of the global tuna trade with an estimate value between USD\$4 billion-USD\$5 billion (K13.3 billion – K16.9 billion) (NFA 2022).

He expressed concern that the majority of this catch is re-routed at high seas to other countries, and is processed overseas, depriving PNG of significant benefits, stating, the revenue from the fisheries sector to the Government has mainly been resources rents all these years.

Whilst the overall production output of fisheries exports for PNG has remained steady above K1 billion mark since 2016, PNG still needs to break this cycle and get into the fishing business and benefit from the K12 billion – K15 billion revenue that is generated from the fish harvested from its EEZ by others.

Minister Maru commended the Marape-Rosso Government for the decision to develop the PMIZ in two phases and described this decision as ‘an important policy shift’ by the Marape-Rosso Government.

Meanwhile, the NEC also approved the State Negotiating Team led by Chairman, Mr. Daiiri Vele to negotiate and finalize the JV company agreement with RD for a 50:50 shareholding in the next four weeks so it can go back to the Cabinet for consideration and approval.

# Treasurer Challenges Currency Devaluation Proposal

The Treasurer Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey, has expressed his disagreement with a proposed 8.5 percent annual devaluation of the country’s currency, the Kina.

Despite his strong stance, he emphasized his respect for the independence of the central bank, which is responsible for such decisions.

“As Treasurer, I strongly oppose any 8.5percent annual devaluation,” said Mr Ling-Stuckey.

“It is more than double the rate I consider appropriate. We need to address our foreign exchange shortages, but we must find the right balance in doing so.”

Mr Ling-Stuckey clarified that the 8.5 percent devaluation figure is not a government prediction but rather a forecast from a private sector bank.

He stressed that the central bank is not planning to devalue the currency as quickly as this bank suggests.

With global inflation projected at 5.8percent for 2024, Mr Ling-Stuckey advocates for a gradual approach to adjusting the Kina.

“Our goal is clear: we want a fully convertible Kina. Fixing our foreign exchange shortages is essential. Our business leaders agree that these shortages are the biggest barrier to job creation, investment, and economic growth,” he added.

# Agriculture Sector Meeting Focuses on Climate-Smart Innovations

Key stakeholders in Papua New Guinea’s agriculture sector gathered in Port Moresby this month for a pivotal meeting aimed at revolutionizing the industry.

The discussions focused on innovative strategies to boost productivity and drive economic growth in the country’s vital agricultural landscape.

Hosted by the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, the meeting centered around the theme “Growing Papua New Guinea’s Economy Through Climate Smart Commercial Agriculture Innovations and Strategic Partnerships.”

Secretary of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Koney Samuel, underscored the importance of agriculture in the nation’s economy.

“Agriculture contributes 14 percent to our Gross Domestic Product and has generated approximately K2,492 billion in export revenue,” he stated, highlighting the sector’s integral role in both PNG’s economic stability and cultural identity.

With the government’s ambitious goal of expanding the economy to K200 billion by 2030—up from the current K113 billion, Mr Samuel called for innovative approaches throughout the agricultural sector.

“Reaching this target will require strategic alignment and innovation across all agricultural commodities.

Mr Ling-Stuckey also pointed out that while some critics call for government intervention, they are the same people who previously emphasized the importance of an independent central bank.

“You can’t have an independent central bank and then expect the government to undermine its decisions,” he stated.

He also criticized the Opposition for their previous call for a 20 percent immediate devaluation of the Kina, citing a statement from the Deputy Opposition Leader in February 2023.

“I strongly oppose such an irresponsible reduction,” he said.

Mr Ling-Stuckey acknowledged the complexity of economic reforms and the differing opinions on the best approach.

“Economists rarely agree on the details, such as currency forecasts. It’s important to respect the independence of our central bank in making these decisions,” he concluded.

The Treasurer is expected to provide further updates on the foreign exchange situation, highlighting both progress and challenges.

He assured that the Marape-Rosso Government remains committed to addressing the foreign exchange shortages within the constraints of international markets and institutional structures.



Secretary, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Mr Koney Samuel

Our Medium Term Development Plan IV lays out the strategies and initiatives needed to drive this growth,” he emphasized.to drive this growth,” he emphasized.

The meeting focused on several critical areas, including productivity, sustainability, value chain development, and farmer training.

Mr Samuel urged commodity boards to pivot towards downstream processing and identify commercially viable opportunities.

“We need to ensure PNG is gaining maximum value from our resources,” he said.

Secretary Samuel emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach moving forward, highlighting that the agriculture sector’s targets are vital to the nation’s future.

The outcomes of this meeting aim to benefit the people of Papua New Guinea by fostering sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing food security, and increasing local job opportunities in a sector poised for significant growth.

As initiatives take shape, the hope is that innovations in agriculture will not only bolster the economy but improve the quality of life for citizens across the nation.



ECONOMY

Marape Re-opens K20m ANGAU Cancer Treatment Centre, Lae

ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae, Morobe Province celebrated a momentous occasion with the re-opening of its Radiotherapy Treatment Service under the National Cancer Services Unit.

Prime Minister James Marape, when officially opening the K20 million treatment facility on Friday 16 August 2024, emphasised the significance of the newly re-opened Cancer Unit, in providing critical care to cancer patients not only within Morobe Province but across the country.

“The re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service signifies a big step forward in the provision of advanced healthcare services to the people of Papua New Guinea, particularly those battling cancer.”

Prime Minister reinforced his government’s commitment to having ordinary Papua New Guineans, who have been diagnosed with cancer and heart diseases, to be able to be treated

in country, instead of struggling to seek medical treatment overseas.

He also highlighted government’s commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to quality healthcare services, particularly in the fight against cancer, stating, the facility offers a renewed sense of hope and access to much-needed specialized treatment that was previously scarce for many patients in the region,

Mr Marape acknowledged the collaborative efforts that made the re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service possible, and expressed his gratitude to the Morobe Provincial Health Authority and the Government of Australia for their dedication to improving healthcare services in the country.

He further extended his appreciation to Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited

for its partnership and support in making this essential service a reality.

The re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service at ANGAU Memorial Hospital represents a monumental leap forward in the field of cancer treatment in PNG.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a dedicated team of healthcare professionals, the facility is poised to make a big impact on the lives of those affected by cancer.

As the nation unites to combat cancer, the re-opening of this vital service under the National Cancer Services Unit marks a significant milestone towards a healthier and more resilient PNG.

According to the KPHL managing director, Mr Wapu Sonk, the radiotherapy treatment facility took four years to complete, commencing in 2019.



Prime Minister James Marape re-opening the Radiotherapy Treatment Facility at ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae. (photo credit: PM’s Media Unit).

Marape Addresses First Inaugural NCD Youth Summit & Expo in Port Moresby

The iconic Apec Haus at Ela Beach in Port Moresby played host to over 200 youth from around the city attending the 1st ever inaugural NCD Youth Summit and Expo staged from 12-14 August, 2024.

The summit hosted by the National Capital District Governor, Hon. Powes Parkop with support from stakeholders including National Youth Development Authority and the United Nation, coincided with World Youth Day celebrated on 12 August.

In his address, Prime Minister James Marape, highlighted some of the initiatives and policies his government have developed to create opportunities for youths in the country since coming into office in 2019.

“We have already opened up all opportunities in the education sector through the Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) where we are focused in ensuring youths are able to get a second chance opportunity to matriculate and able to complete Grade 12,” Mr Marape said.

“We have also engaged in SME program that is out there, on the market, for anyone to participate in SME, If you sure choose to move down this path.

“All this comes from a backdrop of knowing some statistics that has been seriously compounding our nation since the 1990s,” Mr Marape said.

He is concerned the education reform that was introduced into the PNG education system in 1991, created more school dropouts with no proper skills to prepare them for life.

“These were people who left school in grade 8, grade 10, grade 12 and even for others attending higher institutions were pushed out of the formal system through that education reform.

“This resulted in over nearly four million Papua New Guineans under the ages of 50 now with no meaningful engagement in society, and this has been a problem for successive governments over the years.”

Mr Marape acknowledged NCD Governor Powes Parkop for creating this space for young people to come together, and have a voice to discuss issues affecting the youths of this country at the national level through this summit.

He urged other governors in other provinces, the provincial governments and districts to also do the same by supporting the government to implement the

national polices already in place to create more opportunities for the country’s youths.

Mr Marape said the National Youth Adolescent and Health policy, the National Education policy now in place which embraces second chance learning, National Volunteer Policy, the National SME policy, the National Sports policy and National Employment policy have been developed and are in abundance but the practical mechanism of translating this policies into engaging the masses is something that seriously needs to be attended to and addressed immediately.

“I speak as the chief custodian of our country’s policies, and I need practical implementors out there in our to societies to drive these policies at the community level and as the Prime Minister, I cannot do it alone,” Mr Marape said.

Mr Richard Howard, United Nation’s Resident Coordinator emphasized to the youths participating in the three days summit that their ideas and initiatives emerging from this summit are central to the country achieving its 4th Mid-Term Development Plan.

He encouraged them to never underestimate how important their ideas are or where they stand.

“We value the opinions of young people at the centre of all our work, and I believe the PNG government agrees with that perspective.

“This September, in New York, the UN will hold alongside the General Assembly, a meeting called; The Summit of the Future.

“Prime Minister James Marape has been invited to attend, where he will make an intervention, on recommendations of how the UN can respond better to global crisis.

“Especially on how the UN can do its job, better in the future under what we call a “Pact for the Future”.

“A key area of work within the Summit of the Future, will be to

focus on the need of young people, and your meeting over the next three days will help us gather input that we can relay through the National Statement, in New York.

“What you are doing in the next few days is critically important for us all, as we move forward to support PNG as well as globally, and how the UN can support young people across the world,” Mr Howard said.

He said the youth summit will enable young people to meet and discuss both challenges and solutions.

“We all know very much, that the only people that can help solve these challenges of young people, are young themselves,” Mr Howard said.



Prime Minister James Marape launching the 1st inaugural NCD Youth Summit & Expo at Apec Haus. The event coincided with the World Youth Day celebrated on 12th August. (Pic courtesy of United Nations PNG).

Secretary Matainaho Encourages Digital Innovation and Monetization at NCD Youth Expo & Summit



DICT Secretary, Steven Matainaho, addressing the NCD Youth Expo and Summit 2024, at APEC Haus early this month.

Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Mr. Steven Matainaho called for a digital transformation among Papua New Guinea’s youths, emphasizing the vital role of communication technology in fostering innovation and economic opportunity.

When addressing the the NCD Youth Expo and Summitt 2024, at APEC Haus on Tuesday 13 August, Mr Matainaho underscores the relevance of communication, as being “enhanced by times of change.”

“The power to transform, innovate, and communicate

is now at our fingertips with smartphones,” Secretary Matainaho made this known when highlighting the importance of accessible technology in driving progress.

He encouraged young people to leverage social media platforms for content creation and financial gain, noting.

“When we try to monetize content, it’s a function of human nature. Monetization has different approaches and options like ads on YouTube and Facebook are available”. Mr Matainaho outlined the requirements for creators to tap into these revenue streams,

emphasizing the importance of obtaining verified accounts.

“For example, if you have a Facebook account, you have to obtain the blue tick verification on facebook, there will be monetization options available. You will have to work through some requirements,” Mr Matainaho explained.

Mr Matainaho placed emphasis on the existing challenges with payment systems, and called for greater awareness on available solutions.

“We need to provide a little bit more awareness about how to access partnerships and financial support.”

Mr Matainaho also discussed the significance of quality content and collaboration within the community, adding, “There’s a need for guidance, whether that comes from the government or social media platforms.

“Quality content is what we are committed to,” he asserted, urging young creators to rise above negative criticism.

Secretary Matainaho further encouraged content creators to understand their unique value and market their influence to private companies, urging them to harness their digital potential for impact and income.



# Prime Minister Marape Launches 2024 PNG Investment Week



(Left to Right) Leon Buskens (PNG CORE Councilor), Richard Kassman (PNG CORE Senior Vice President), Prime Minister James Marape, Anthony Smaré (PNG CORE President), and Stanley Komunt (PNG CORE Councilor) at the launch of 2024 PNG Investment Week.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape officially launched the 2024 Papua New Guinea Investment Week, an initiative of the PNG Chamber of Resources & Energy (PNG CORE), on Thursday 8 August 2024.

The event will be held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney, Australia, from 6-11 December 2024.

Prime Minister reaffirms this newly branded event marks a significant shift from the annual PNG Resources & Energy Investment Conference and Expo, which has long been the premier international platform for stakeholders in the resources and energy sectors to engage with the Papua New Guinea government.

The rebranding to PNG Investment Week reflects a broadened focus,

extending beyond the resources sector to encompass a wider range of industries crucial to PNG's economic growth.

"The name has been changed to PNG Investment Week to show that it's not just about the resources sector anymore.

It will now cover a wide range of

industries that are important for PNG's economy, like finance, agriculture, fisheries, renewable energy, and infrastructure."

PNG CORE anticipates that the expanded format of the traditional conference into five days of PNG-focused activities will significantly boost investment in the country.

The event will now highlight opportunities in sectors such as finance, agriculture, fisheries, renewables, and infrastructure, offering a platform for international and multilateral partners to advocate for Papua New Guinea as a key investment destination.

Prime Minister Marape thanked PNG CORE President Anthony Smaré and his team for widening the focus of the event.

"This new approach will be instrumental in maintaining and promoting investment in our country."

The Government is fully committed to partnering in this initiative, reflecting its broader strategy to expand investment beyond the mining, petroleum, and energy sectors.

Mr Marape believes this inclusive approach will assist the government to better promote Papua New Guinea as a top investment destination.

"The Government will provide its full support to ensure the success of this significant initiative."

Prime Minister Marape also emphasised the importance of the mining, petroleum, and energy sectors as the cornerstone of the nation's economy, while expressing optimism about promoting investment in other critical sectors.

## Domestication Policy To Reform Fisheries Sector Amid Billions In Revenue Losses

Chairman of RD Group, Roy Rivera commended the Marape-Rosso Government for taking decisive action after nearly half a century without a Domestication Policy.

Mr. Rivera said that for the first time in 49 years, the government is making a bold move to ensure that fish caught in local waters is processed domestically.

The proposed policy allows for fish caught in Papua New Guinea waters to be locally processed and exported and consumed by Papua New Guineans.

Mr Rivera said this policy gap is leaving the nation with small financial returns, highlighting an urgent need for reform.

Currently, Papua New Guinea loses billions in potential revenue from its fisheries sector, with a staggering 80 percent of fish caught in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) exported for processing abroad.

He also noted the proposed policy could lead to the creation of 50,000 to 100,000 new jobs, adding that the potential for job creation in the fisheries sector is immense and necessary for our communities.

He revealed that the company depends significantly on international markets.

"Over 60 percent of our business is conducted in US dollars.

We process fish right here in PNG and export high-quality canned tuna to Europe and the United States," Mr. Rivera said.

He emphasized the financial potential for PNG if all fishing companies were mandated to process their catches domestically.

"Imagine how much revenue we could generate if all fish caught in PNG was processed and exported from our shores."

He emphasized that this will significantly increase foreign exchange earnings and help tackle the ongoing US dollar crisis.

He expressed enthusiasm about the new

Joint Venture Fishing Company being established between RD Group and the government.

"We're excited to partner with the Marape-Rosso Government on this initiative.

We are committed to ensuring its success," Rivera affirmed, reiterating his expectation for negotiations to be finalized in the coming weeks.

The challenges faced by the industry are stark; Mr Rivera noted that RD Group is currently unable to meet local or international fish demands due to processing capacity limitations.



Chairman of RD Group, Roy Rivera (Supplied)

## PNG, Solomon Islands Forge Stronger Ties in ICT Collaboration



Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Hon Timothy Masiu (right), presenting a gift to Solomon Islands Minister for Communication, Hon. Fredrick Kologeta.

Papua New Guinea's Minister for Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Hon. Timothy Masiu, successfully forged stronger ties with Solomon Islands in areas of information and communications technology.

He visited the Solomon Islands from 10 - 12 August 2024, and met with Minister for Communication, Hon. Fredrick Kologeta, where they focused their discussion on enhancing collaboration between the ICT sectors of both countries, and at same time, addressed shared challenges faced in their respective ministries.

"We also explored how we can collaborate more effectively to benefit both our countries and improve our respective ICT sectors."

Both Ministers further discussed various issues, including connectivity, accessibility, and inclusivity in telecommunications,

ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital space, highlighting the similarities between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in these areas.

"We also took this opportunity to update Minister Kologeta on our progress in the Pacific ICT sector," Mr Masiu added.

"Our collaboration dates back to the Pacific ICT Dialogue in 2023, where we signed the 'Lagatoi Declaration'.

We resolved to meet again in New Caledonia in 2025, and this visit was to brief Minister Frederick on our ongoing efforts and achievements."

The visit marks a continued commitment to fostering stronger ties and collaboration between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, setting the stage for future advancements in the region's ICT landscape.



# PM MARAPE OVERS

## 53RD PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM (PIF)

### Prime Minister Discusses Climate Change, Economic Issues with UN Secretary-General in Tonga



Prime Minister James Marape (left) meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Antonio Guterres, on the margins of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' summit in Tonga. (photo credit: PM&NEC Media).

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Antonio Guterres, on the margins of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' meeting in Tonga, where they discussed issues on continued fight against climate change impact,

the State of the Economy after COVID19, the Pacific Islands Forum agenda, and how UN could better assist Papua New Guinea overcome challenges it is facing today.

Further to their discussions, Prime Minister Marape informed Mr Guterres that the PNG economy is recovering with a slow growth rate of

3 percent and he expects this to improve to 4 percent at the end of this year.

He said his government has begun implementing a 13-year fiscal consolidation strategy three years ago which has been reducing the country's deficit, with a surplus budget expected in 2027, adding, Papua New Guinea's debt has been reduced to 51 percent, compared to the COVID-19-induced debt which was high at around 55 percent.

Prime Minister Marape also informed the Secretary-General that Papua New Guinea is considering not attending the upcoming COP29 summit, planned for November 11 – 22 in Azerbaijan this year, as it feels there is little action following through from these meetings in support of nations actually impacted by climate change, as well as the lack of support to economies that have rainforest which is central to the climate change fight.

"Forest conservation and carbon emission reduction must be discussed together. They are two sides of the same coin. The carbon emitted by developed nations is taken in by our rainforests which, in turn, produce the oxygen needed for all our survival," Prime Minister Marape said. He elaborated that revenue collected from forestry contributes to development in Third World forest

nations, like PNG, who cannot continue to be expected to conserve these global assets when industrialised nations have not put forward funding strategies to help in conserving these rainforests.

Mr Guterres however commended the Prime Minister on his government's handling of the Bougainville peace process and offered UN's continued support in this area.

Responding to Mr Guterres' offer of UN commitment and support to PNG, Prime Minister Marape requested that the Secretary-General be a voice of the Blue Pacific and rainforest nations in urging discussions on compensation for forest conservation and reforestation, and the protection of Pacific Ocean, known as Blue Pacific.

"The Blue Pacific may be small in terms of land mass but the vast Pacific Ocean and marine life is the biggest carbon sink in the world, in addition to the rainforests of the island of New Guinea which is the world's third biggest rainforest."

Prime Minister further expressed his government's appreciation to the Secretary-General for UN's continued support to PNG in all areas of its engagements, and extended a verbal invitation to the Secretary General to attend Papua New Guinea's 50th Anniversary of Independence in 2025.

### PIF Leaders Urged to Address Fisheries Development In

Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) have been urged to make concerted efforts in developing the region's fisheries, especially in downstream processing of its tuna.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, in his plea to the Pacific Island leaders at the recent 53rd PIF Leaders' Summit in Tonga, called on them to look beyond dependence on grants and aid, and focus on developing Pacific's marine resources which the Pacific Ocean readily supplies in bountiful.

The lucrative tuna industry, he emphasised, is a \$40 billion market which Pacific countries can tap into to grow their economies,

adding that catch from the world's tuna, worth about \$10 billion (about K19.4 bil

Prime Minister has also urged leaders, a regional summit would address the processing and export of particularly tuna, with the Pacific for better return instead of continually through raw, unprocessed export.

"The task may be too large for a country to tackle on its own, land, population and sizes of the Island States this can be done collectively further revealed to the Papua New Guinea's planning into tuna de

### Pacific Islands Forum Collaborate To Set Up Pacific Climate Resilience Fund

The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at the 53rd Summit held on Vava'u Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, have collaborated to establish a Pacific Climate Resilience Fund (PCRF), aimed at addressing climate change mitigation in the region.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape commended his fellow leaders for their efforts in setting up the PCRF, one of the major outcomes of the 53rd PIF Leaders' summit held from 26 - 29 August 2024.

Mr Marape highlighted the establishment of the Pacific Climate Resilience Fund, which he said was the PIF's own initiative and answer to climate change mitigation, and will be based out of Tonga.

"PCRF is a Pacific initiative and a Pacific-led structure. We will raise the \$500 million. I want to say thank you to Australia and Nauru for their commitments announced at the summit of \$100 million and \$1 million respectively to the fund." Mr Marape further commended the United States, on behalf of the leaders, for its commitment of US\$25 million towards the fund.

He however said, for Papua New Guinea's contribution to the fund, the commitment will go through the normal Cabinet process and will be announced at a later date.

"We could not delay this further and have come to this solution on our own."

"This is our Pacific approach to climate change mitigation, long we have been talking about climate change, yet the footprint holders of the Global North seriously considered a in climate relief funding."

"Our countries comprise island states and many atolls; we are impacted by ravages of climate change, sea levels, changing patterns and so for collective position migration from our land reclamation and desalination Marape added.

When addressing leaders' retreat on Tonga's Vava'u where the summit outcome finalised, Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the country for the organisation, the meetings on the sidelines leaders' joint summit outcome well as announcements and United States to work closely with the Pacific.

"We have achieved so many things at this PIF meeting, highly commend the Minister

### Prime Ministers of Papua New Guinea and Fiji Progress Agenda in Bilateral Discussions In Tonga

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Hon. James Marape met with Fijian Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, and discussed mutual areas of concern between both countries.

The meeting, held on the margins of the 53rd Pacific Islands Leaders' Summit, continues to explore and strengthen the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The agenda covered progress of the PNG-Fiji Defence Cooperation, engagement of Papua New Guinea Defence Force in peace-keeping operations, trade and investment, land availability in both countries for respective missions, education, and the continuation of the Sir Mara and Sir Michael legacy.

Prime Minister Marape informed Prime Minister Rabuka that the defence cooperation between the two countries will be progressed.

In their bilateral discussions, Mr Marape further highlighted the great potential for trade and investment existing between the two nations,

urging bureaucracies of both countries to work together through the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) avenue to progress trade and investment further.

He informed Mr Rabuka of Papua New Guinea's focus, especially on commerce, business, trade and investment, and exploring further markets in Asia and the Pacific.

The Prime Minister highlighted the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) in PNG as a regional fisheries commercialisation concept for the fishing and processing of the region's marine resources for export.

The ENBi provides the opportunity to Pacific Island countries to invest in the project for better returns than what Pacific countries are currently getting from raw tuna export.

Prime Minister Marape also made known the availability of land to Prime Minister Rabuka for the construction of the Fiji mission building in Port Moresby, committing K25 million to commence construction.



Fiji's Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka (left) presenting a Fijian traditional gift to Prime Minister James Marape at their bilateral meeting, held on the sidelines of the PIF Leaders' summit in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, on Monday, 26 August 2024. (photo courtesy: PM's Media).

He also expressed his gratitude to Mr Rabuka for making land available for PNG to build its office in Suva.

In relation to PNG students at Fiji's University of South Pacific, Prime Minister Marape said PNG would

sign up as a member of University of South Pacific.

He also said the PNG government is looking at scholarship options for Pacific Islands students studying at Pacific Adventist University in PNG.



# SEAS ENGAGEMENT

## (PIF) LEADERS' MEETING, TONGA

### Urged To eries In The Region

catch from the Pacific  
early 60 percent of the  
, worth about USD5  
at K19.4 billion).

ter has also proposed  
regional strategy that  
ress the catching,  
and export of fish,  
tuna, within the  
better return value  
continually losing this  
y, unprocessed tuna

ay be too big for one  
ackle on its own given  
ation and economy  
land States, however  
done collectively." He  
ealed to the Forum  
y Guinea's forward  
nto tuna downstream

### s Forum Leaders o Set Up te Resilience

ot delay this work any  
have come up with  
on our own.

Pacific approach to  
ge mitigation. For so  
e been talking about  
ge, yet the big carbon  
lders of the world –  
North – have not  
nsidered assisting us  
elief funding.

tries comprise small  
and many low-lying  
are impacted by the  
mate change in rising  
changing weather  
d so forth. Our  
position is not  
om our homes but  
and desalination," Mr  
ed.

assing leaders at the  
onga's Vava'u Island  
ummit outcomes were  
ime Minister Marape  
s gratitude to the host  
r the summit  
s, the bilateral  
s the sidelines, and the  
summit outcomes, as  
uncements by China  
States to work more  
the Pacific.

chieved some major  
s PIF meeting, and I  
mend the Prime

### Papua New Guinea, Tonga Strengthen Ties During 53rd Pacific Islands Forum

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape reflected on Papua New Guinea's lasting belief in people-to- people relations with the Kingdom of Tonga, which he highlighted, began with the spreading of the Word of God by Tongan missionaries in the country.

Mr Marape acknowledged such relationship when he paid a courtesy visit to Tongan's Prime Minister Hon. Siaosi Ofakivaha Sovaleni, on the margins of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting, held from 26-29 August in the Kingdom.

He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Sovaleni for taking the time from his busy schedule as the host of the 53rd PIF Leaders Meeting to meet and hold discussions with him and his PNG delegation.

A notable example he said was the late Reverend Sione Kami, who served in the Highlands region of PNG before establishing what is now the Reverend Sione Kami Memorial Church in Port Moresby.

The late Reverend Kami and his wife were both buried next to the church, symbolising the deep ties between the two nations.

Additionally, relationships through marriage, such as the union of PNG's Governor-General H.E Grand Chief Sir Bob Dadae and Lady Emeline Dadae from Tonga, further strengthen these bonds.

In terms of bilateral relations, Prime Minister Marape assured Prime Minister Sovaleni of the PNG Government's commitment of K10 million to assist in Tonga's rehabilitation efforts following the devastating undersea volcanic eruption and tsunami in early 2022.

Prime Minister Marape also discussed key initiatives, including the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone Project, which focuses on the industrial development of offshore fisheries, and the East New Britain Initiative, a regional concept established during the recent Forum Fisheries Meeting in September 2023 held in Kokopo, PNG.

### Prime Minister Marape Calls on G20 Nations to Enhance Climate Mitigation Efforts for the Pacific

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, has called on G20 nations to intensify their climate mitigation efforts in support of the Pacific, in line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

In his address at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, early this month, Prime Minister appealed to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, highlighting that 80 percent of the global carbon footprint is attributed to G20 nations.

"I call directly for G20 nations, especially the USA, China, and Japan—three strong associates of Pacific nations—to step up in their mitigation efforts to the Pacific, consistent with our 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent."

Australia in the meantime is contributing \$100 million into the Pacific Climate Resilient Fund.

In his three-minute response to the UN Secretary-General's statement, Prime Minister Marape emphasised the importance of global responsibility in addressing climate change.

He welcomed the UN's continued support for Pacific nations and reaffirmed the region's commitment to building a resilient future.

"We recognise the unprecedented challenges we face, from climate change to poverty alleviation and improved living standards," he said.

"However, we also emphasise that Pacific nations are not just victims of climate change but also the world's largest carbon sink, thanks to our vast forests and oceans."

Mr Marape emphasised that Papua New Guinea, for example, has a negative carbon footprint of over 90 million metric tonnes, courtesy of its tropical rainforests.

"We propose that our carbon cleaning resources be utilised to assist debt relief and generate economic gains for our economies.

"Furthermore, we call on the big carbon footprint holders to adequately compensate us for our forest and ocean carbon sinks," said Prime Minister Marape.

Prime Minister Marape also commended Australia for its recognition of the 2050 Strategy for



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (left) paying a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Solaveni of Tonga, (picture credit: PM's Media)

"The East New Britain Initiative will involve the broader Forum Membership when successfully implemented as envisioned in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

"PNG welcomes Tonga and all PIF

members to partner with us in this Regional Initiative," stated Prime Minister Marape during the visit."

Tonga's Prime Minister Sovaleni warmly welcomed Prime Minister Marape and the PNG delegation, expressing his appreciation for their visit to Tonga during the PIF meeting.

the Blue Pacific Continent and their contributions towards addressing climate change challenges faced by Pacific nations.

He commended Australia, a G20 economy in the Pacific region, for becoming an active climate resistance partner.

Mr Marape urged others, especially the world's top three economies and significant carbon footprint holders, to support the Pacific Islands Forum through clean energy options, land reclamation, and growing the economies from respective resources, such as marine resources.

"In addition to climate action, we prioritise poverty alleviation and improved living standards. We must invest in education, health care, infrastructure, and sustainable development to drive economic growth and reduce inequality.

"We emphasise the importance of regional cooperation, trade agreements, investment, and cultural exchanges to enhance our collective resilience.

the Blue Pacific Continent and their contributions towards addressing climate change challenges faced by Pacific nations.

He commended Australia, a G20 economy in the Pacific region, for becoming an active climate resistance partner.

Mr Marape urged others, especially the world's top three economies and significant carbon footprint holders, to support the Pacific Islands Forum through clean energy options, land reclamation, and growing the economies from respective resources, such as marine resources.

"In addition to climate action, we prioritise poverty alleviation and improved living standards. We must invest in education, health care, infrastructure, and sustainable development to drive economic growth and reduce inequality.

"We emphasise the importance of regional cooperation, trade agreements, investment, and cultural exchanges to enhance our collective resilience.



# Minister Masiu Strengthens ICT Regional Cooperation With Vanuatu

The Minister for Information Communications Technology, Hon. Timothy Masiu, recently concluded a significant visit to Vanuatu as part of his ongoing Pacific Ministerial tour, aimed at strengthening ICT cooperation among nations in the region.

The visit, which took place from 12 – 15 August 2024, included high-level discussions with Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Hon. Charlot Salwi Tabimamas, and the Minister for Information and Communications Technology, focusing on strengthening regional cooperation in ICT.

In their meeting held at the Prime Minister's office in Port Vila on Wednesday, 14 August, both leaders emphasized the importance of regional collaboration to address common challenges in the Pacific, particularly in the areas of digital communication, disaster response, and climate change.

Prime Minister Tabimamas expressed his gratitude to Minister Masiu for highlighting the critical role of ICT in enhancing connectivity and resilience across the Pacific islands, during his visit.



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (right) with President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, at their joint press conference, Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

"It is essential for us, as Pacific nations, to work together in shaping policies that address the unique challenges we face, such as vulnerability to natural disasters and the need for better connectivity among our islands.

Minister Masiu's visit is a significant step towards achieving these goals," said Prime Minister Tabimamas.

Minister Masiu echoed these sentiments, noting the progress made during their discussions and

expressing optimism about future collaborations.

"Our discussions centred around several key issues, including the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between

our two ministries.

"This MOU will serve as a foundation for stronger cooperation moving forward," said Minister Masiu.

Both leaders acknowledged the critical need for a unified Pacific approach to ICT development, particularly in enhancing the region's resilience to disasters and fostering economic growth through digital connectivity.

Minister Masiu expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Tabimamas and the people of Vanuatu for their hospitality, underscoring the shared vision and commitment of the Pacific nations to work together for a more connected and resilient future.

"I am truly grateful for the warm reception and the productive discussions we have had here in Vanuatu.

Together, we are paving the way for stronger regional cooperation in ICT, which will benefit all our nations," he added.

## China, PNG Discuss Implementation Plan for ICT Corporation MoU



PNG ICT Delegation led by Hon. Timothy Masiu, with Ministry of Industry and Information Technology delegation led by Vice-Minister Wang Jiangping after the high-level meeting on ICT corporation at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Beijing, China.

The Minister for Information Communications Technology, Hon. Timothy Masiu, led a high-level PNG ICT delegation and met with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of the People's Republic of China, after a successful meeting with the China International Development Corporation (CIDCA) on July 23 2024.

The meeting focused on the implementation of a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening ICT capabilities and infrastructure in PNG. Minister Masiu emphasized the need for concrete actions following the

MoU, stating, "I am here to follow up on the recently signed MoU between MIIT and PNG's ICT Ministry for ICT cooperation, because over the years, there have been many MoUs signed with no implementation efforts," Minister Masiu stated.

He highlighted key areas of cooperation under the MoU, including bilateral relations, infrastructure collaboration, improvement of ICT capabilities, and maintaining regular communications.

"Our focus areas include digital transformation for the whole of government, digital government,

leveraging artificial intelligence to automate processes in public service, and critical infrastructures like the government cloud, improved broadcasting and telecommunications" he added.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Industry and Information Technology, Wang Jiangping, responded positively, aligning with Minister Masiu's views on the importance of implementation.

"China is like a man of his word, and this is known in the international community. We will proceed with the implementation of this MoU," Vice-Minister Wang stated.

He reiterated China's commitment to providing leading ICT tools to address PNG's challenges and expressed support for PNG's digital government plan.

"We want PNG to promote open-source software for mutual exclusivity," he added.

The PNG delegation included the Chief Executive Officer of Telikom Limited, Mr. Amos Tepi, Managing Director, National Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Kora Nou, NBC Deputy Board Chairman Mr. Henao Iduhu, DataCo Senior Management Representative Mr. Une O'ono,

DICT Deputy Secretary for Policy and Emerging Technologies Mr. Flierl Shongol, NCDC Senior Official Ms. Immaculate Javia, and First Secretary to NCD Governor Powes Parkop.

Each member spoke on their respective agency's focus areas, allowing MIIT to identify starting points for implementing the MoU.

Minister Masiu assured the people of PNG that his ministry, on behalf of government, is progressing the MoU, and is determined to seeking funding support from the government of the People's Republic of China for its implementation.



ECONOMY

Marape Re-opens K20m ANGAU Cancer Treatment Centre, Lae

ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae, Morobe Province celebrated a momentous occasion with the re-opening of its Radiotherapy Treatment Service under the National Cancer Services Unit.

Prime Minister James Marape, when officially opening the K20 million treatment facility on Friday 16 August 2024, emphasised the significance of the newly re-opened Cancer Unit, in providing critical care to cancer patients not only within Morobe Province but across the country.

“The re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service signifies a big step forward in the provision of advanced healthcare services to the people of Papua New Guinea, particularly those battling cancer.”

Prime Minister reinforced his government’s commitment to having ordinary Papua New Guineans, who have been diagnosed with cancer and heart diseases, to be able to be treated

in country, instead of struggling to seek medical treatment overseas.

He also highlighted government’s commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to quality healthcare services, particularly in the fight against cancer, stating, the facility offers a renewed sense of hope and access to much-needed specialized treatment that was previously scarce for many patients in the region,

Mr Marape acknowledged the collaborative efforts that made the re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service possible, and expressed his gratitude to the Morobe Provincial Health Authority and the Government of Australia for their dedication to improving healthcare services in the country.

He further extended his appreciation to Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited

for its partnership and support in making this essential service a reality.

The re-opening of the Radiotherapy Treatment Service at ANGAU Memorial Hospital represents a monumental leap forward in the field of cancer treatment in PNG.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a dedicated team of healthcare professionals, the facility is poised to make a big impact on the lives of those affected by cancer.

As the nation unites to combat cancer, the re-opening of this vital service under the National Cancer Services Unit marks a significant milestone towards a healthier and more resilient PNG.

According to the KPHL managing director, Mr Wapu Sonk, the radiotherapy treatment facility took four years to complete, commencing in 2019.



Prime Minister James Marape re-opening the Radiotherapy Treatment Facility at ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae. (photo credit: PM’s Media Unit).

Marape Addresses First Inaugural NCD Youth Summit & Expo in Port Moresby

The iconic Apec Haus at Ela Beach in Port Moresby played host to over 200 youth from around the city attending the 1st ever inaugural NCD Youth Summit and Expo staged from 12-14 August, 2024.

The summit hosted by the National Capital District Governor, Hon. Powes Parkop with support from stakeholders including National Youth Development Authority and the United Nation, coincided with World Youth Day celebrated on 12 August.

In his address, Prime Minister James Marape, highlighted some of the initiatives and policies his government have developed to create opportunities for youths in the country since coming into office in 2019.

“We have already opened up all opportunities in the education sector through the Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) where we are focused in ensuring youths are able to get a second chance opportunity to matriculate and able to complete Grade 12,” Mr Marape said.

“We have also engaged in SME program that is out there, on the market, for anyone to participate in SME, If you sure choose to move down this path.

“All this comes from a backdrop of knowing some statistics that has been seriously compounding our nation since the 1990s,” Mr Marape said.

He is concerned the education reform that was introduced into the PNG education system in 1991, created more school dropouts with no proper skills to prepare them for life.

“These were people who left school in grade 8, grade 10, grade 12 and even for others attending higher institutions were pushed out of the formal system through that education reform.

“This resulted in over nearly four million Papua New Guineans under the ages of 50 now with no meaningful engagement in society, and this has been a problem for successive governments over the years.”

Mr Marape acknowledged NCD Governor Powes Parkop for creating this space for young people to come together, and have a voice to discuss issues affecting the youths of this country at the national level through this summit.

He urged other governors in other provinces, the provincial governments and districts to also do the same by supporting the government to implement the

national polices already in place to create more opportunities for the country’s youths.

Mr Marape said the National Youth Adolescent and Health policy, the National Education policy now in place which embraces second chance learning, National Volunteer Policy, the National SME policy, the National Sports policy and National Employment policy have been developed and are in abundance but the practical mechanism of translating this policies into engaging the masses is something that seriously needs to be attended to and addressed immediately.

“I speak as the chief custodian of our country’s policies, and I need practical implementors out there in our to societies to drive these policies at the community level and as the Prime Minister, I cannot do it alone,” Mr Marape said.

Mr Richard Howard, United Nation’s Resident Coordinator emphasized to the youths participating in the three days summit that their ideas and initiatives emerging from this summit are central to the country achieving its 4th Mid-Term Development Plan.

He encouraged them to never underestimate how important their ideas are or where they stand.

“We value the opinions of young people at the centre of all our work, and I believe the PNG government agrees with that perspective.

“This September, in New York, the UN will hold alongside the General Assembly, a meeting called; The Summit of the Future.

“Prime Minister James Marape has been invited to attend, where he will make an intervention, on recommendations of how the UN can respond better to global crisis.

“Especially on how the UN can do its job, better in the future under what we call a “Pact for the Future”.

“A key area of work within the Summit of the Future, will be to

focus on the need of young people, and your meeting over the next three days will help us gather input that we can relay through the National Statement, in New York.

“What you are doing in the next few days is critically important for us all, as we move forward to support PNG as well as globally, and how the UN can support young people across the world,” Mr Howard said.

He said the youth summit will enable young people to meet and discuss both challenges and solutions.

“We all know very much, that the only people that can help solve these challenges of young people, are young themselves,” Mr Howard said.



Prime Minister James Marape launching the 1st inaugural NCD Youth Summit & Expo at Apec Haus. The event coincided with the World Youth Day celebrated on 12th August. (Pic courtesy of United Nations PNG).

Secretary Matainaho Encourages Digital Innovation and Monetization at NCD Youth Expo & Summit



DICT Secretary, Steven Matainaho, addressing the NCD Youth Expo and Summit 2024, at APEC Haus early this month.

Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Mr. Steven Matainaho called for a digital transformation among Papua New Guinea’s youths, emphasizing the vital role of communication technology in fostering innovation and economic opportunity.

When addressing the the NCD Youth Expo and Summitt 2024, at APEC Haus on Tuesday 13 August, Mr Matainaho underscores the relevance of communication, as being “enhanced by times of change.”

“The power to transform, innovate, and communicate

is now at our fingertips with smartphones,” Secretary Matainaho made this known when highlighting the importance of accessible technology in driving progress.

He encouraged young people to leverage social media platforms for content creation and financial gain, noting.

“When we try to monetize content, it’s a function of human nature. Monetization has different approaches and options like ads on YouTube and Facebook are available”. Mr Matainaho outlined the requirements for creators to tap into these revenue streams,

emphasizing the importance of obtaining verified accounts.

“For example, if you have a Facebook account, you have to obtain the blue tick verification on facebook, there will be monetization options available. You will have to work through some requirements,” Mr Matainaho explained.

Mr Matainaho placed emphasis on the existing challenges with payment systems, and called for greater awareness on available solutions.

“We need to provide a little bit more awareness about how to access partnerships and financial support.”

Mr Matainaho also discussed the significance of quality content and collaboration within the community, adding, “There’s a need for guidance, whether that comes from the government or social media platforms.

“Quality content is what we are committed to,” he asserted, urging young creators to rise above negative criticism.

Secretary Matainaho further encouraged content creators to understand their unique value and market their influence to private companies, urging them to harness their digital potential for impact and income.



DOMESTIC



6 of the 11 students from PNG Ports Graduate Development Program (GDP) with Chief Executive Officer of PNG Ports, Neil Papenfus (center left), and Chairman of the PNG Ports Board Mr Harvey Nii. [Picture Credit: PNG Ports]

# PNG Ports Graduates Showcase Innovative Solutions for Operational Excellence

Recent graduates from PNG Ports Corporation Limited's Graduate Development Program (GDP), presented compelling case studies on innovation to management, calling for enhanced operational excellence. This initiative aims to harness fresh talent and drive improvements within one of Papua New Guinea's key enterprises.

In 2023, the program recruited 11 promising graduates from various academic backgrounds.

As part of their assessment, these individuals were tasked with investigating gaps within the company and proposing effective solutions.

Their presentations, described as 'profound and enlightening,' captured the attention of both mentors and management.

Chief Executive Officer of PNG Ports, Neil Papenfus, expressed his satisfaction with the graduates' work, emphasizing the importance of their fresh ideas.

"The presentations show the caliber of each graduate and the capability they are bringing into PNG Ports," he said.

"Every organization needs fresh ideas and innovative minds who are keen to make a difference. Witnessing the quality of each case study shows that we have a very capable, young team of professionals."

Among the diverse topics tackled in their case studies were issues such as time theft, port billing and invoicing challenges, pilotage services at Lae Port, job motivation and reward systems, port infrastructure maintenance, climate change impacts, and cyber security threats.

Mr Papenfus assured the graduates that their insights would not be overlooked, promising that the suggested solutions would be pursued further.

"This commitment signals a significant opportunity for growth and improvement within the organization."

to gain first-hand experience in the workings of PNG Ports.

As they prepare to graduate this month, these young professionals are set to embark on promising careers, contributing not only to PNG Ports but also to Papua New Guinea's broader economic landscape.

The implications of this initiative extend beyond the corporate walls of PNG Ports.

By identifying inefficiencies and innovative solutions, the graduates are poised to enhance operational performance, which can lead to improved service delivery and customer satisfaction.

This shift is expected to benefit not only the company but also the people of Papua New Guinea, creating a more efficient port system that can support the nation's growing economy and improve trade logistics.

Meantime the engagement of young talent through the Graduate Development Program marks a progressive step forward for PNG Ports, promising a brighter future both for the graduates and the communities they serve.

# Stakeholders Unite to Strengthen Port Security in PNG

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNG Ports) has initiated a collaborative effort to enhance security across the country's declared ports and harbours.

This initiative comes as PNG Ports joins a working committee focused on addressing rising criminal activities in these vital areas.

In a recent workshop held at the Grand Papua Hotel this month, the Chairman of PNG Ports Board, Harvey Nii, and Chief Executive Officer, Neil Papenfus, engaged with various stakeholders to discuss maritime security issues.

PNG Ports, as the port authority, operates within specific jurisdictional boundaries.

Addressing this issue requires a united front from all stakeholders and port users, highlighting the need for cooperative measures.

The discussions also paved the way for a comprehensive policy aimed at combating crime in regulated port areas.

PNG Ports plans to bolster its Vessel

Tracking Services, which will significantly aid in monitoring maritime activities.

Chief Maritime Compliance Officer Ben Tomba, highlighted that the outcomes of this workshop would serve as the foundation for the draft policy.

"The issues we raised are critical to improving safety and security within our ports," he said.

The collaborative effort includes representatives from various government agencies, including the Department of Transport, the National Maritime Safety Authority, and Water Police, among others.

With PNG Ports serving as both the owner and manager of 15 ports nationwide, ensuring safety and environmental standards is paramount.

The improvements in port security will not only enhance operational safety but also benefit the people of Papua New Guinea by promoting safer trade and travel within its maritime domains.

# Hope Institute Graduates Head to Australia for Work

Hope Institute in Tari-Pori District, Hela, has graduated four young men who were once dropped out of high school, and have now placed under the Pacific-Australia Mobility Scheme to work in Australia.

Hope Institute is a high school institution which offers free education to young people who were pushed out from the formal education system.

The four men—Albert Angai (35), Kingston Arigo (31), Ison Tomai (25), and Aluako Tako (24)—will work for Northen Cooperative Meat Company Limited, Australia's biggest meat processing company.

They signed a four-year contract and will be working in Casino, a small town in New South Wales, after leaving Port Moresby on Monday, 11 August 2024.

Prime Minister James Marape, who initiated and supported

Hope Institute, met with the men before they departed for Australia.

"Hope Institute gives a second chance to young people who dropped out of school. I am very happy to see that this has worked for you. Now, you are going to Australia where you will earn good money to help your families."

Mr Angai, speaking for the group, said, "This is a big blessing. We thank Prime Minister Marape, his wife, Mrs. Rachael Marape, and everyone at Hope Institute for giving us this chance.

"We also thank the Tari-Pori District Development Authority for helping us join this program."

These men had dropped out of school between 2009 and 2016 due to various problems, and enrolled in 2020, at Hope Institute, where they graduated in 2022 with their Grade 12 certificates.

# UNICEF Urges Government to Aid Massacre Survivors

UNICEF has urged the national government to intensify its efforts to support remote communities struggling to recover from the traumatic aftermath of the 17 July massacre in East Sepik province, where at least 26 people, including 11 children, lost their lives.

The brutal attack, carried out by around 30 armed men from two river villages, left 395 survivors, including 220 children, homeless, as their homes were destroyed in the assault.

Many are currently living in temporary care centers in Angoram or with relatives and are facing severe shortages of essential services.

UNICEF's PNG representative Angela Kearney said these survivors need immediate support to access health care, clean water, and food security.

"We must provide mobile clinics, safe shelter, and essential tools to help them get back on their feet."

Conditions in the temporary care centers are dire with limited access to clean water and basic sanitation poses additional protection risks, particularly for women and girls.

Furthermore, families are struggling with inconsistent food supplies that are yet to reach remote areas like Magendo, Kakasiro, Kopse, and Ambamin.

In collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator, Richard Howard, various UN agencies, including UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), are uniting to deliver immediate relief.

UNICEF has already provided 100 hygiene kits and deployed specialists to offer psychosocial support to traumatized survivors within 48 hours of the massacre.

"The work of our trained psychosocial counselors from UNICEF and UNFPA continues as we help build the capacities of community volunteers," Mr Howard stated.

To further aid the recovery process, UNICEF has dispatched tents, school-in-a-box kits, recreational kits, and additional health supplies.

However, Kearney emphasized that any relief effort would be fleeting

without addressing the underlying issues plaguing these communities.

"Illiteracy, violence, and malnutrition are stealing the futures of countless young people in PNG," Kearney warned.

"The Government of Papua New Guinea must take decisive action now to ensure these communities are not left behind in the long run."

The ongoing unrest in the area is rooted in a history of unsolved murders, leadership conflicts, and lingering family feuds that extend over a decade.

With several alleged perpetrators still at large, tensions remain high, fostering distrust and animosity among survivors.

Kearney expressed optimism about collaborating with the PNG government, stating that UNICEF is eager to partner with local authorities to improve the situation in the country.

She emphasized that people require more than immediate relief, and needed long-lasting solutions that promote peace and empower them to rebuild their lives together.





# ADB Director Visits PNG, Boosts Energy Commitment

In a pivotal visit that highlights the deepening partnership between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mr. Keiju Mitsuhashi, ADB Director for Energy for the Pacific Region, engaged with key government officials in Port Moresby recently.

His visit included a courtesy call on Mr. Koney Samuel, Secretary for the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, reinforcing ADB's dedication to advancing the nation's energy sector.

Mr. Mitsuhashi's discussions focused on the new Sustainable Energy Sector Development Project (SESDP), an essential part of ADB's policy-based loan designed to strengthen PNG's energy infrastructure.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration and highlighted ADB's commitment to providing the

necessary support to help Papua New Guinea achieve its energy goals.

The ADB has played a crucial role in shaping PNG's energy landscape through substantial investments and development initiatives, which are vital for expanding the nation's energy capacity and enhancing the reliability of its power supply.

A key goal of their partnership is to support PNG's ambitious target of attaining 70 percent electricity access for its population by 2030.

Discussions also explored strategies for enhancing future cooperation, including opportunities for private sector financing and transaction support. Key topics included:

- Strengthening the policy and regulatory environment to ensure greater stability, transparency, and efficiency in energy provision.

- Improving technical capabilities for effective management and maintenance of energy infrastructure.

- Expanding the role of the private sector to drive innovation and efficiency.

- Examining innovative financing partnerships to develop a solid financial foundation for energy projects.

Mr. Mitsuhashi noted that the collaboration is designed not only to improve energy access but also to enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens of PNG.

With a continued commitment to investing in the energy sector, ADB's support is crucial for helping Papua New Guinea progress towards its energy ambitions and achieve sustainable development for its people.



(left-right): Mr. Said Zaidansyah - ADB Resident Mission Country Director, Mr. Keiju Mitsuhashi - (ADB) Director for Energy for the Pacific Region, and Mr. Koney Samuel - Secretary for National Planning and Monitoring.

# CCDA Hosts Workshop on Transparency Report and GHG Inventory

The Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) has initiated a vital workshop to shape Papua New Guinea's First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and improve the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory, with a focus on the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The three-day event, held this month, took place in the Momase Region with key stakeholders from Madang, East Sepik, Sandaun, and Morobe Province participating.

This initiative is supported by Expertise France and funded by the European Union as part of the Forestry - Climate Change - Biodiversity Programme for PNG.

The agriculture sector is a major contributor to emissions in PNG.

The upcoming BTR will provide critical insights into anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals,

helping the country assess the agricultural impact on global warming.

Key areas of focus include emissions from livestock, soil management, and rice cultivation, particularly due to methane production and manure management practices.

These findings will inform policy decisions, adaptation strategies, and mitigation efforts.

As PNG faces significant challenges from climate change—ranked as the 10th most vulnerable country to its impacts—the Vulnerability Needs Assessment (VNA) is being utilized to evaluate risks across sectors.

The VNA will lay the groundwork for adaptation policies and will be integrated into PNG's First BTR to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In his opening remarks, Mr. William Lakain, Acting General Manager for Measurement, Reporting and Verification and National Communication, stressed the importance of submitting the BTR in compliance with the Paris Agreement.

He highlighted the workshop's role in addressing data collection challenges for the GHG inventory and thanked Expertise France for its support. Mr. Lakain also emphasized the need for collaborative efforts in fighting climate change.

CCDA is committed to working with stakeholders to meet these critical objectives and ensure PNG fulfills its Paris Agreement commitments.

Additional workshops are planned in the New Guinea Islands, Highlands, and Southern Regions.

# NEC Launches Investigation into East New Britain Palm Oil Limited

The National Executive Council (NEC) has launched an investigation into the New Britain Palm Oil Limited (ENBPOL) business practices, following complaints from local oil palm growers in the Gazelle Peninsula.

Minister for International Trade and Investment, Hon. Richard Maru, indicated that farmers have reported being underpaid, receiving just K16 per metric ton for the past decade, while farmers in West New Britain earn nearly K700 per metric ton amid rising global prices.

"This is a very serious matter. We cannot allow foreign companies to exploit our people," Mr Maru stated.

The investigation team, chaired by oil palm expert Mr. Nicholas Thompson,

also includes legal and economic professionals.

Their mandate focuses on evaluating the legality of ENBPOL's pricing, the fairness of its transactions with landowners, compliance with regulations, and the potential for breaches of local laws.

Mr Maru emphasized the need for decisive action to ensure fair treatment of local farmers.

The team is expected to report back to the NEC within six weeks and will subsequently address similar complaints from farmers in other regions, including the Pomio District.

The investigation aims to uncover potential exploitation in the oil palm industry and promote equitable compensation for local growers.

Pidgin

NEC kamapim wok painim long East New Britain Palm Oil Limited

Nesenel Ekseketiv Kaunsil (NEC) i lukluk long East New Britain Palm Oil Limited (ENBPOL), na i stat long mekim wok painim i go insait long wok bisnis bilong kampani, bihain long ol i kisim sampela komplek i kam long ol fama bilong wel pam long Gazelle Peninsula.

Minista bilong International Trade na Investments, Hon. Richard Maru i tokaut long ripot bilong ol fama i kam olsem ol i save kisim liklik pe tasol.

Ol fama i wok long kisim K16 long wanpela metrik tan long las tenpela yia. Tasol ol fama long West New Britain, i save kisim klso tu long K700 long wanpela metrik tan long taim prais long wol i go antap.

"Dispela em i bikpela samting tru. Yumi no ken larim kampani bilong ol narapela kantri, i bagarapim ol manmeri bilong yumi," Minista Maru i tok.

Saveman bilong wel pam, Nicholas Thompson, i stap Siaman long

dispela lain i go mekim wok painim, na ol i kisim ol loya na saveman long ikonomi tu long mekim dispela wok.

Wok bilong ol em long skelim prais bilong ENBPOL sapos prais i stap bihainim lo, gutpela wokbung wantaim ol papagraun, ol i bihainim lo, na sapos ol i bin brukim sampela lo bilong as ples.

Mr Maru i tokaut strong long kamapim wanpela gutpela tingting long stretim ol fama long as ples.

Dispela lain i lukluk raun, bai ripot long NEC long narapela sikispela week, na ol bai lukluk gen long wankain komplek long ol fama bilong Pomi Distrik na ol narapela tu.

Dispela wok painim i lukluk long painimaut ol samting i wok long bagarapim wel pam indastri, na kirapim gutpela kompensesen plen bilong karamapim olgeta fama long as ples.

VIRAL HOAX & LIKE-FARMING SCAM

BEWARE OF VIRAL HOAXES & LIKE-FARMING SCAMS

SCAMMERS POST EMOTIONAL STORIES TO GET LIKES AND SHARES. ONCE IT GOES VIRAL, THEY CHANGE THE CONTENT TO PROMOTE SCAMS OR HARMFUL LINKS.

Verify before sharing

Avoid suspicious links

Report fake posts

Stay safe and protect your privacy online!

CYBER SAFETY AWARENESS

How can you HELP? LIKE & SHARE

ict.gov.pg





HEALTH

# Health Department Confirms No Mpox Outbreak Amid Misinformation Concern

The Department of Health, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), has assured the public, there is no confirmed outbreak of Mpox, also known as Monkeypox in Papua New Guinea.

NDOH has issued a statement to clear up misinformation about the spread of Mpox in the country.

According to Secretary of Health, Dr Osborne Liko, his Department is working closely with WHO and other partners to strengthen surveillance and response efforts across the country.

This includes securing medical supplies and resources for testing, and preparing for the availability of

vaccines, should they become necessary.

He said health officials are committed to providing timely and accurate information to the public to prevent unnecessary fear and confusion, and misinformation about Mpox can cause widespread panic and disrupt public health efforts.

He urged all Papua New Guineans to rely on information from official sources and avoid spreading unverified news.

The government and health authorities are dedicated to keeping the public informed with regular updates on Mpox and other health concerns.

The Department of Health recognizes the concern among the public and is actively monitoring the situation with WHO.

While there is no specific treatment for Mpox and vaccines are limited, basic prevention remains the most effective defense.

The Department advises everyone to practice good personal hygiene by washing hands regularly with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

He added that people should avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of Mpox, such as skin lesions, fever, headache, and muscle aches.

“When caring for someone suspected of having Mpox, wearing gloves and a mask is highly recommended.

“Mpox is a viral infection caused by the monkeypox virus and can spread through close contact, mainly sexual contact, or from contaminated surfaces.”

Common symptoms include a rash that may last 2-4 weeks, which can appear as blisters or sores on the face, palms, soles, and genital areas.

It is important to distinguish Mpox from Chickenpox, which is also common in PNG.

Chickenpox is caused by a different virus and spreads primarily through respiratory droplets, causing an itchy

red rash that progresses to fluid-filled blisters.

The Department stresses the importance of staying informed through official government channels and avoiding the spread of rumors.

Reporting any suspected cases to the nearest health center as soon as possible is crucial for controlling the spread of the virus.

The current situation calls for vigilance and cooperation from everyone in Papua New Guinea.

He emphasised that the country can reduce the risks associated with Mpox and other infectious diseases by following the recommended guidelines and supporting each other.



Chief Secretary Ivan Pomaleu in a meeting with Australia's Cyber Ambassador, Branden Dowling (right). (picture credit: PM&NEC Media Unit).

## Australia's Cyber Ambassador Visits Papua New Guinea

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Cyber Ambassador, Branden Dowling and his team, conducted an information session on cybersecurity at the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council early this month.

In his welcome remarks, Chief Secretary to Government, Amb. Ivan Pomaleu, said Mr Dowling's session was aimed at enhancing staff's knowledge and practices in protecting their digital environment especially in the government sector.

Ambassador Dowling's session covered essential cyber security information, its significance to Papua New Guinea, and the support Australia has been providing to the country, in the cyber domain.

The session further introduced different aspects of emerging cyber security challenges globally, as well as highlighting some of their experiences in Australia on how best they can be coordinated, addressed and built capabilities to address those challenges.

In addition Mr Pomaleu also acknowledged the Australian Government through its agencies, for their continued support in the cyber space, and working in collaboration with a number of PNG Government agencies and industry.

Mr Pomaleu said Ambassador Dowling has been involved in this space for a long time, in different capacities within the Australian government system, adding, “he comes to us with a very clear understanding of where we're at.”

## South Bougainville District Sets Standard for Transparent Use of DSIP Funds

Member for South Bougainville and Minister for Information and Communications Technology Hon. Timothy Masiu, has recently presented his comprehensive acquittals and reports on the District Support Improvement Funds (DSIP), to the Secretary of the Department of Implementation and Rural Development, Mr Aihi Baki.

This move not only underscores the South Bougainville District's commitment to responsible governance but also sets a powerful precedent for how public funds should be managed to benefit the community effectively.

Mr Masiu acknowledged the significant role of DSIP in the country's development and emphasized the responsibility of ensuring funds belong to the people for their intended purposes.

Mr Masiu highlighted the importance of timely reporting, stating, “I make it my business to ensure we report in a comprehensive manner because it is the people's money.”

The DSIP funds, essential for service delivery, especially in rural areas, have enabled South Bougainville to initiate 45 ongoing projects since 2022.

This includes 29 in education, six of which have already been completed, and 16 in health, including a newly opened staff house for health workers. A key project, the Buin International Market, is currently under evaluation by the National Procurement Commission.

Mr Masiu announced that this market would bolster economic opportunities for both local residents and those from the nearby Solomon Islands.

"This project, supported by district funds and government assistance, is expected to have a significant local impact," he added.

The Minister reported that South Bougainville has efficiently allocated K250,000 from discretionary funds and another K250,000 from non-discretionary funds, ensuring meticulous record-keeping as a safeguard against misuse.

“We must improve accounting and monitoring of how this money is utilized,” he stressed, reiterating the necessity for accurate fund usage and transparency.

Mr Masiu emphasized the importance of proper inspection and use of allocated funds, acknowledging past challenges of improper acquittals and the need for thorough financial reporting.

“We must see real development that aligns with the reports we give in,” he said, inviting Department representatives to inspect the ongoing projects in South Bougainville firsthand.

Mr Masiu commended his district staff for their diligent efforts in implementing DSIP, emphasizing the “Together, we can continue to make South Bougainville a model of effective development,” he affirmed.

South Bougainville's leadership's dedication to transparent fund management and open communication is a significant step towards enhancing local governance and ensuring future community benefits.



Minister for ICT and Member of South Bougainville, Timothy Masiu (left) with Secretary for Implementation and Rural Development, Mr Aihi Baki, during the presentation of South Bougainville DSIP Report.





**FREE ISSUE**

Vol. 01 Issue No. 02 August 2024



**GAVAMANI  
TOKTOK**

is now distributed to  
all provinces through  
Post PNG Ltd



**BOROKO PNG**

# Government Continues With Assistance Program For Affected Businesses



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (right) with President-Elect of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, at their joint press conference, Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

The National Government, in its restoration efforts, continues to assist companies restore their businesses destroyed in the January 10 riots, caused by police withdrawal of services over salary issues.

In its latest efforts, the Government has offered financial support to restock inventory they have lost, the need to rebuild premises destroyed in the unfortunate incident of Wednesday 10 January 2024.

The riots led to widespread chaos, with opportunists looting and setting fire to shops, resulting in significant losses for many business owners.

On August 28, Chief Secretary to Government, Amb. Ivan Pomaleu on behalf of the National Government, disbursed K7,691,222.15 to five enterprises affected by the riots.

They included: SYZ Investment Limited, awarded K6,552,802.52; TC

Company Limited, K399,299.63; JYVX Limited, K300,000.00; Pacific Pest Solution, K271,120.00; and Food Pro PNG Limited (trading as Buffalo Burgers), K168,000.00.

Among over 30 businesses affected in the riot, the City Pharmacy Limited Group of Companies was hard hit and awarded K16 million early this month, to rebuild its businesses.

Meanwhile, almost K50 million worth of cheques have been presented to the affected businesses under the government's assistance program.

Mr. Pomaleu however, underscored the necessity of a secure environment for businesses to thrive, emphasizing the importance of restoring normalcy in the community.

"Such incidents ought not to be repeated in the near future as

everyone, including those businesses affected, rely on a safe and secure environment for their businesses to operate, grow, create employment, and offer services to the people," Pomaleu said.

He added, the cheque presentation fulfilled government's commitment to assisting businesses in restocking, restarting operations, and paying wages and salaries to their workers who were also severely impacted by the incident.

Amb. Pomaleu expressed Government's commitment to aiding those businesses that experienced destruction and loss of inventory, adding, the government's support extends beyond immediate financial aid.

Amb. Pomaleu reflected on the unexpected nature of the riots, attributing them to the breakdown of

policing services over salary discrepancies.

He encouraged citizens to support local businesses, which play a crucial role in providing employment and essential goods and services in the country.

"We must continue to support and help build and rebuild business.

We must also help build a society that can exist in peace and harmony without needing the presence and visibility of such government authority as police to hold us together," he remarked.

Ambassador Pomaleu leads an Interagency Task Force to work closely with the business community to ensure government assistance was delivered effectively to the correct affected businesses.

The Task Force Secretariat (TFS) also works closely with the PNG Business Coalition to ensure qualified companies benefit from this program.

Mr Pomaleu explained that the business coalition processes the claims and then forwards the claims to TFS for validating before payment.

The government assistance program is being delivered in five different phases: direct wages support of K500 per employee for six months; support for debris removal from burnt properties; restocking; and reconstructing through concessional loans.

The fifth phase is the administrative policy support by Bank PNG and other regulatory authorities by establishing express lanes to support the rebuilding and reconstructing efforts by businesses.

## How to COUNTER MISINFORMATION



### Building Media Literacy

- Upskill your critical thinking.
- Fact-check before you LIKE and SHARE
- Diversify your news sources



### Promote Responsible Journalism and Fact-Checking

- Support credible journalists and news organizations
- Amplify fact-checking efforts



### Personal Accountability

- Be mindful of what you share
- Engage in respectful dialogue
- Own your mistakes