



# Inside **SIR MANASUPE HAUS** Newsletter



Issue No. 1, January, 2023



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**PMNEC Deputy Secretary invited to Chair Session in Sydney**

**>pg04**



**PM welcomes new UN Resident Coordinator**

**>pg09**

# New Year Message

by

**Prime Minister James Marape, MP**

**My Fellow Papua New Guineans,**

It is with warm and joyous greetings, I bring optimism for a better, happy and prosperous New Year - 2023.

As I look back on this year that we are about to transit from, I notice the many challenges we have encountered; but challenges we have managed to overcome.

As we moved beyond the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were hit by inflation triggered by the Russian-Ukraine Crisis, which took a toll on our goods and services, particularly our fuel and food prices.

If that wasn't enough to bear, we encountered more challenging times during our 2022 National General Election, and the aftermath seemed unfortunate, yet we

managed to pull through, regardless.

However, despite all the economic hardships we have faced, we must walk with optimism into 2023.

With God's mercy and grace, the future holds a brighter year for us.

In this New Year's message, this evening, I would like to take the opportunity to remind us all that this Government, composed of vibrant and dedicated leaders, will serve you to the best of our ability.

Only some weeks ago, your Government passed the 2023 National Budget with a record total expenditure of K24.567 billion – a 10.8 per cent increase on the original 2022 Budget, making it the

*Continue to next page ...*



# Message from the Chief Secretary

Welcome everyone to the first 2023 edition of the *Inside Sir Manasupe Haus* fortnightly newsletter.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge everyone's contribution towards the smooth operations of the Department last year and your continued dedication to the call to serve the people of Papua New Guinea.

Everyone of us must continue to work together to continue to deliver quality basic services to our people right across the country, and enable them to become economically viable leading to economic independence.

Do not forget to adopt Christian values in your work ethics and your workplaces as well. Let us all work together with honesty, respect and tolerance to take back PNG.

In this first edition for 2023 of the *Inside Sir Manasupe Haus* Newsletter, on **pages 1, 2 & 3**, we bring to you the Prime Minister's New Year Message.

On **page 4**, Deputy Secretary Frank Aisi chairs a Session on Ease of Doing Business in PNG during the 16th PNG Mining, Petroleum and Investment conference in Sydney last year.

On **page 5**, Prime Minister Marape commends outgoing New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden on her contributions to the Pacific Community.

On **page 6**, ICAC Appointments Committee makes appointment of Commission and two Deputy Commissioners.

On **pages 7 & 8**, we bring to you the Prime Minister's Message to Public servants at the Public Service Dedication Service held in Port Moresby.

On **page 9**, Prime Minister Marape welcomes new National Trade Law.

On **page 10**, we bring to you a pictorial of the visit of the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese to East Sepik Province.

On **page 11**, Prime Minister Marape presents K20 million for Middle Fly District to Western Province Government.

On **page 12**, Western Province, South Fly District get K17 million from National for roads works and other projects.

Happy Reading!

**Ivan Pomaleu, OBE**  
Chief Secretary

*Inside Sir Manasupe Haus* is published fortnightly by the Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council.

**Publisher:** Dept of PM & NEC  
**Executive Editor:** Chief Secretary  
Dept of PM & NEC  
**Editor:** Matrom John  
**Sub-Editor:** Anasthesia Angoro  
**Reporter:** Terry Mark  
Firmin Nanol  
Royden Geno  
Anasthesia Angoro

**Photography:** Media Branch  
**Layout & Design:** Pius Eano  
**Printing:** Media Branch

For editorial comments, please write to:

The Editor  
*Inside Sir Manasupe Haus* Newsletter  
Department of Prime Minister & NEC  
P.O. Box 639  
Waigani, NCD  
Papua New Guinea

**Phone:** +675 301 9251 | 9254  
**Email:** pm\_media@pmnec.gov.pg

... from front page

largest in the 47-year history of our country.

2022 marked the first year our country reached the K20 billion mark. This is not just our budget numbers and allocations that matter, but the policies behind them.

Your Government stands ready to unlock rural Papua New Guinea and return our economy to being debt free by year 2034.

Over the four years since taking Office, your Government has successfully and steadily reduced our fiscal deficits from -8.6 percent in 2020 to a -4.75 percent projected for year 2023 and further aims to reduce it in the years to

follow.

At this optimistic rate of progress, we can already foresee budget surpluses, predictably by 2027.

As we establish measures for a zero sovereign debt by 2033, your Government has recently made our first investment of K5.6 million into the long-awaited Sovereign Wealth Fund, enabling us to be a competitive lender to our neighbours by 2040.

The 2023 National Budget also continues to move forward into spaces, where previous governments have not given enough attention.

Areas such as Health, holistic Education, Agriculture, the growth of small and medium businesses to create a

bigger economy-supporting Middle Class for PNG, downstream processing of our natural resources, and infrastructure development to connect rural PNG.

For Education, we recently paid the last tranche of K158 million from the K800 million allocated for all school fees from elementary right up to high school, colleges and universities.

All who have left schools have options of continual lower education on Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) and also a link to SME/TVET education.

We want no child to be left behind. We aspire for our children to become positive

*Continue to page 3 ...*

contributors to the growth of our country's economy.

In Health, your Government has allocated even more funding in the Budget to further rehabilitate the declining health system, consequentially from years of neglect by governments, since Independence.

As promised, this year, your Marape-led Government will continue to build the 22 world-class hospitals in each province, including the Special Autonomous Region of Bougainville, altogether totalling K470 million. Some of which will be opened this year.

Another K60 million has gone toward the construction of the heart and cancer facilities at PNG's leading referral hospital, the Port Moresby General Hospital.

I do not want to see Papua New Guineans going to seek health services overseas, and I have directed that in our country, health service access must be within one hour reach by foot, by boat, by car or by a plane.

In the Agricultural sector, K200 million has already been allocated to be within the reach of 80 percent of our rural-based population.

Complementing your Government's Price Support Programme and Agriculture Intervention, we have now created separate ministries for Coffee, Oil Palm and Livestock, respectively, for increased revenue generation and more efficiency.

In Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, your Government continues to support the growth of small businesses.

This follows through from the success of 2021, where almost 600 small and medium businesses have started out of low-cost business borrowings Papua New Guineans have made.

This is from the K100 million the Government had installed at BSP to implement our policy on growing MSMEs.

In downstream processing – an area long talked about but hardly ventured upon, our Government has already launched Manus Province as a Special Economic Zone and is now focusing on opening the Pacific Marine Industrial

Zone (PMIZ), in Madang, this year.

It is well overdue that PNG starts processing the fish caught in its waters onshore so we keep all the benefits in the value chain, such as jobs and other spin-off benefits.

This Government will also expand its focus on downstream processing for all sectors in mining, petroleum, forestry and agriculture too, so we can add value to our resources and create more ripple economic gains, including employment and Kina entrapment in our domestic economy.

With such focus, in Agriculture - for instance - we would like to put a ban on imports of foods like rice and beef, and those we can grow and process locally.

This journey has already started when we took Office and will be further entrenched in 2023, going forward.

As I have envisaged to build our economy bigger and our country better, our signature Connect PNG programme continues to put in place the country's enabling infrastructure – roads, airports, wharves, jetties, airstrips, bridges, electricity, and telecommunications.

For instance, we are currently building 323 roads covering over 1,900 kilometres into mostly rural Papua New Guinea.

All these are currently underway and will achieve a 100 percent connectivity by the Year 2040.

For the extractive sector, it is time to Take Back what is rightfully ours – a larger share of benefits in our own natural resources God has blessed us with, but of course, with respect to our laws that allow our investors to make a return on their investments, in our country.

PNG's Vision 2050 also summons us to act prudently to reach the goal where as a country, we are all "healthy, happy and prosperous by 2050".

Our Budget for this year is set, and I am very pleased with the Team headed by Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey, for putting together a very respectable budget amidst the challenges of economic hardship.

I am very mindful of the course our

country is on, especially with relation to key national milestones such as our 50th anniversary, which play essential roles in measuring our progress.

In less than two years, PNG will celebrate its Golden Jubilee.

As I close, I make a final call to all our people including politicians and residents, to respect each other and each other's rights; to be law-abiding as we proceed through 2023.

Let us commit to respect the child and wife in your house, the women and children in your community and workplace, the elderly, and those living with disabilities amongst us.

Be kind and warm to our foreign residents and visitors in our country.

By doing these, you will have truly contributed to "Taking Back PNG" from the wrong road and putting our country onto the right road to economic independence, where we do not leave anyone behind.

I want to conclude by thanking all those who helped our country in 2022. Our people and the praying Christian churches for living through with understanding of the hard times we lived in 2022, our business and civil community, foreign investors, bi-lateral and multilateral partners, the Judiciary, the Parliament, and our faithful public servants, right across the country.

It was a privilege serving you all in 2022, and I look forward to your support and to work with you all again in 2023.

In conclusion, I thank our God once again for the blessings and protection in 2022, and I wish you all a Happy and Safe New Year, as we look forward to God's continuing care in 2023 and beyond.

May God bless you all and may God bless Papua New Guinea.

**HON. JAMES MARAPE, MP**

Prime Minister

*Published on 30th December, 2022*

# Deputy Secretary chairs session on Ease of Doing Business in PNG

Mr Frank Aisi, Deputy Secretary Policy 1 Economic & Infrastructure Sectors & International Relations of the Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council was invited by the President of the PNG Chamber of Resources and Energy, Mr Anthony Smare to Chair the Session on Ease of Doing Business in PNG, at the recently held 16th PNG Mining, Petroleum and Investment Conference and Exhibition at the Hilton Hotel Sydney from 05th -07th December 2022.

In complementing the newly renamed Chamber of Resources and Energy's efforts to revamp the arrangements for this annual Conference, Government enabling and regulatory agencies were invited to speak on Ease of Doing Business in PNG.

This initiative was also welcomed by Prime Minister Marape for Government enabling agencies to give first-hand information and details of their Mandate, policy and regulatory regimes to existing and potential investors to ensure smooth facilitation and accommodation their investments in PNG, across all the renewable and non-renewable sectors in PNG.

The Session on Ease of Doing Business was well attended by investors and was an indication of increased and meaningful participation by Government to promote PNG as a safe and secure environment for business and investment as we enter into major project developments in the Mining, Petroleum and Energy spaces, that will transform the economic landscape of PNG and complement PNG's ambitions to industrialize, through downstream processing and value-add to our vast renewable and non-renewable resources.

This will greatly increase revenue streams to support the national budget and most importantly fund our national plans to improve our livelihoods and Human Development Indicators and grow the rural economies.

Speakers at this Session included; Mr Clarence Hoot Managing Director PNG Investment Promotion Authority, Mr Sam Koim, Commissioner General, Internal Revenue Commission, Mr Mathew N'drewei, Deputy Chief Migration Officer and Mr David Towe, Commissioner General Customs.

Deputy Secretary Aisi in his discussions with Mr Smare to increase Government participation at this global forum were positive and highly welcomed and will now be extended to include the Bank of Papua New Guinea, National Procurement Commission and other relevant Agencies. Note that the Departments of Mining and



Deputy Secretary (Policy 1) Frank Mohi Aisi speaking at the 16th PNG Mining, Petroleum and Investment Conference Session on Ease of Doing Business in PNG

Geohazards Management, Petroleum and Energy, and Mineral Resources Authority are regular participants at this annual

Mining, Petroleum and Investment Conference.



# Appointments made for three top positions: Prime Minister

**Work on setting up the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is moving steadily ahead as appointments were made on December 22, 2022 for the three top positions – Commissioner and two deputy Commissioners.**

Although no names are being announced at this point until letters of formalization have been exchanged, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape called it “a historic decision” as he oversaw the appointments at the ICAC Appointments Committee meeting he convened this morning in his capacity as Chairman.

The meeting saw him receive the report containing the recommendations from the Independent Interview Panel, headed by Chairman Peter Aitsi.

He said: “It is a historic decision today. We have made the appointments for the Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. We are now in the process of issuing the letter of appointments and finally completing the process.

“This is a good Christmas gift to the people of Papua New Guinea since the late Siaguru talked about setting up ICAC in the late 1980s, and seven prime ministers before me have passed through with no ICAC delivery.

“But under my time, the ICAC Bill was taken to Parliament and passed, and I want to thank the leaders who stood with me on the 30 November 2020 to pass this law which went through the process in 2021, and now it is progressing to the full appointment of the three commissioners.

“It has taken us seven months for the process to be completed. We needed to do it above politics in a fair, open and transparent manner.

“An independent recruitment agency was appointed, well over 229 applications received, both locally and internationally, and processed through an independent appointments committee headed by Transparency International chairman Peter Aitsi and assisted by Department of Personnel Management Secretary.

“Six names have come to the Appointments Committee and three were picked.

“Let me also indicate that this was also the first time that a process of appointment had to use a computerized psychometric

test on the ability of the candidates to deliver on the expected outcomes to fight corruption.

“In my commendation to the Appointments Committee, I said this law is my generation of leaders’ best gift to the country.

“I am working to build roads, classrooms, and all those others but setting up this law, in my view, is the best thing I could have done for the country. We need to fight corruption and prosecute those who commit corruption in our country.

“So finally, before Christmas 2022, we have made the appointment for the three commissioners – one Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners.

“Next year, we will fully fund ICAC and have it up and running in full,” said the Prime Minister.

The Appointments Committee comprises the following office holders:

- The Prime Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition
- The Chief Justice
- The Chair of the Public Services Commission and
- The Chair of the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches

To ensure a credible and arms-length process in the recruitment of ICAC commissioners, the Appointments Committee decided to invite a panel of five (5) highly qualified and reputable people to form the Independent Interview Panel and to engage an external recruitment agency CC Pacific Ltd via a competitive tender process to manage, coordinate and conduct the recruitment of ICAC commissioner.

The recruitment notice was widely advertised in Papua New Guinea’s major daily newspapers as required in the OLICAC Act and also published in newspapers in Australia and New Zealand. These advertisements were further supported by posts on online recruitment platforms as well as direct approaches to anti-corruption agencies and similar types of law enforcement agencies.

A total of 229 applications were received – 104 from PNG and 124 from overseas candidates to fill the positions of Commissioner and the two Deputy Commissioner roles.

The recruitment firm undertook the initial screening to arrive at a long list

and this list was further assessed by the Independent Interview Panel to settle on a short list to progress to the interview stage.

At all times, the Independent Interview Panel members conducted themselves in a highly professional manner, demonstrating individuality of thought and being very mindful of the importance of their task.

The Independent Interview Panel consisted of the following people:

- Mr. Peter John Aitsi MBE – Chair
- Ms. Taies Sansan – Vice Chair
- Dame Meg Taylor DBE – Member
- His Honour Justice Les Gavara-Nanu OBE CSM – Member
- Mr. Frawley Terrence DPS, QPM – Member

“The panel is confident the process undertaken has been rigorous and comprehensive, culminating today with the handing over of the final report and recommendations to the Appointments Committee. We commend the report to the Appointments Committee and thank them for the opportunity to be involved in this most important task” said panel chair Peter Aitsi.

The appointment of the ICAC Commissioners is a critical step forward to formally establishing the entity, and will go a long way in addressing the scourge of corruption in PNG.

Prime Minister Marape added: “I want to encourage all Papua New Guineans to not fear ICAC but to embrace it, for to fear it means you thrive in corruption.

“We have selected the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners who in my view have no link to anyone in PNG and who will assist us in this fight.

“There is no point in me taking back more for PNG in resources of our country if we have leaks in our systems, hence the need for ICAC to stop wastage of our public funds.

“We will also pass the Proceeds of Crime Act, including the Undisclosed Wealth provisions my government included to ICAC to administer. With the Whistle Blowers Act in full operation, we hope to start prosecuting corruption as soon as possible,” he said.

# STATEMENT

BY PRIME MINISTER, JAMES MARAPE, MP

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

# DEDICATION

*Service*

SIR JOHN GUISE STADIUM - JANUARY 06TH, 2023

**Honourable Ministers, and Members of Parliament;**

Heads of Public Service Departments and Agencies;

Chief Executive Officers of our State-Owned Enterprises;

Managing Directors of Statutory Bodies and Authorities;

Distinguished Guests; and

Most importantly All Hardworking Public Servants those here present as well as those viewing on live stream in the Provinces and Districts.

Good morning. Let me firstly take the opportunity to wish you all a safe, secure and pleasant 2023. Let me also welcome you all back re-freshen and re-energized to start the new working year. I want to acknowledge those of you who are here present in this venue and those who are watching on line or on live television.

I want to acknowledge the sad passing of the Secretary for the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, the late Dr. Alphonse Gelu two days ago. Dr. Gelu was an astute academic and researcher in political science before he moved to be Registrar of Political Parties for 10 years, and more recently the Secretary for the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs. It is sad when you lose a highly competent and skilled head of department and Dr. Gelu's passing will be sadly felt by all of us.

On Wednesday I returned to Port Moresby after having visited the remote parts of our beautiful country. From Nomad in Western Province, to Tari, then Kikori by road through to Hagen and all the way to Madang.

I may have been the first Prime Minister to do that route by road and it gave me an opportunity, firsthand, to view our country through the lenses of those who live in some of the most challenging locations in our country.

Infact, it gave me a fresh inspiration on why we must work hard to bring about changes to our people. It provided enough justification as to why we have

to do things differently so that the much-needed socio-economic development is reaching the unreached people of our country. We must do more for our people especially those who do not enjoy the same privileges as us in our work locations.

Our Dedication Service today is an important occasion, to give thanks to the Merciful and Almighty, and seek His wisdom and guidance as we commence another working year.

The occasion is also an ideal opportunity for us all to reflect on our performances in 2022, the current State of our Nation and reset our compasses in the right direction as we venture into 2023. The occasion calls for us to renew our commitment to the National Constitution by upholding the Public Service Pledge and Oath of Loyalty.

We are to imagine what kind of country we want to retire into and make sure we work hard to develop that country. For most of us, we will go back to our villages and our districts, and if we do not work hard enough as public servants, what kind of place we retire into will reflect the efforts that we have put in to start with.

We must also do a reality check individually and ask ourselves what my purpose is and what my calling is? And how can I improve my performances and be a critical agent of positive changes to my family, my profession, the agency that I work for, and my country. These are hard but necessary questions which would help us refocus our efforts.

Let's ingrain in our national conscience, adherence to values and principles from early learning to tertiary institutions to ensure a peaceful and harmonious environment that is conducive for our overall safety effective service delivery. This is our key mandate. To deliver effectively services for our people who rely on us to do our job.

There are exciting times ahead in terms of our socio-economic development with major non-renewable and renewable projects coming on steam from 2023 onwards. These are massive economic

projects that will redefine our economic landscape and set us on a trajectory of prosperity.

When my government resumed office, following the National General Elections in 2022, we announced our key priorities. We wanted to address the declining and deteriorating law and order situation. This means that all law breakers are to be dealt with and that we beef up the capacities of our law enforcement agencies. We wanted to improve our health and education systems to meet the demands of all our people. It means we want to build facilities and make sure that every facility is accessible within one hour from those who require its use. Covid 19 showed that we had severe gaps in our health system which we need to plug.

In education we want to ensure that no child is left behind. We want to introduce volunteerism and cadet ship for school leavers after year 12. We want to make sure our correctional facilities are supported to provide education to inmates. We need to build infrastructure and increase enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. In sync with our school infrastructure development we are also making sure that our teacher capacities are also improved and supported.

We said we will improve the electoral system and deliver a new system as part of our gift to the nation for its 50th Independence Anniversary. We want to conduct the national census so that we know exactly how many people there are in this country. We need to account for every single person in this country so they feature in our development plans for this country.

We said we will encourage agriculture and primary industries. We are connecting our people with road infrastructure so that we create opportunities for our rural folks to access markets and sell their produce. We are building accesses which were not there before.

We wanted to continue to ask for more for our resource owners. We want to make sure that all our resources owners are significant participants in our

resource projects.

We want to improve our connectivity in terms of our roads, bridges, airports and our communications. This is our flagship program which we will support and build from going forward to the next decade.

Later next week we will be finalising the MTDP 4, and I want to make sure that all sectoral inputs are fully captured in this plan. We want to make sure we have very clear targets and we want to make sure we can clearly measurable results. This plan and the KRAs from the different pronouncements we have made as a government will drive our action agenda for this life of the 11th Parliament. Each of us must use this as our yardstick to be measured against. More broadly, our people will also measure us against the plan that we will put in place.

In 2023 we brought down the biggest budget yet. This budget is geared towards addressing these priorities. The budget will likely be fully funded based on the revenue records of the last three years. We just need people to implement the budget and make sure that the priority policies are actioned.

It calls for a Public Service that is knowledge-based and is responsive to these demands. It calls for a team of people who are able to translate those broad intentions that our government into workable actions and to ensure that those actions are taken expeditiously and within the time frames intended.

The Public Service must be an effective avenue where government overarching policies and initiatives are practically and meaningfully implemented without political interference. We are legislators and we are willing to stay in our lane. But sometimes it becomes necessary to cross over and see what is happening in your lane.

Just as I have much expectations on the Public Servants, I also have much expectations from our Ministers. They are required to ensure that their sectoral Key Result Areas are achieved during their tenure as Ministers. My general expectation is that they must also deliver on their Mandates and priority Key Result Areas. I am holding them accountable for the achievements that they are expected to deliver and I need the Public Service machinery to also deliver on my Government's expectations.

Therefore, there is a great need for a well-oiled Public Service that is transparent, smart, innovative, strategic and attuned to practical and effective service delivery to our citizens both in the rural and urban areas including our foreign citizens and investors. Our people demand it, and we must respond to this demand.

The year 2023 is a time to readjust and improve individually and collectively in our respective work spaces and

I encourage you all to take time to understand your Departments' and Agencies' Mandate, your job descriptions and your purpose of being employed by the Government.

It further calls for a Public Service that is willing and able to ensure that these projects are fully resourced financially and implemented on schedule, and in strict compliance with our sovereign laws and regulations, and most importantly, that the outcomes are tangible and make a difference and lasting positive impact on the lives of our people.

We must embrace loyalty, commitment and hard work that is complementing our development agenda. Now is the time to do away with these lackadaisical attitudes and let's get back to the basics, provide good customer service by answering phone calls, responding in a timely manner to letters on issues and attend to queries by all citizens on processes and systems to move our economy forward.

Services must reach the unreached in remote Oriomo in the Western Province, Kotidanga in the Gulf Province and Divanap in the West Sepik Province, Logeia Island in the Milne Bay Province to mention a few. We must turn the equation around and make sure that the bulk of our public servants are delivering services in those far flung places and not have their talents wasted in Port Moresby.

We are a continuing government. We have gone and sold our policy positions to our people, and they have returned this government to Parliament. This is an indication and confirmation of the voters trust in our preferred policies. Our expectations on the Public Service, is the expectation of our people throughout the length and breadth of this country.

You all have the requisite skills and knowledge which must also be incentivized relative to your performance and output. Apart from other salary issues to compensate all Public Servants, I will be speaking to the Commissioner General of IRC to undertake a wages audit, especially the tax relief component that will ensure your take-home fortnightly pay is sustainable.

I wish to applaud Minister Sungi for his initiatives and his announcement this morning for a more coordinated Public Service Housing Scheme and a Comprehensive Medical Insurance Cover. This augurs well for the long-term benefit of Public Servants and serve as a platform for improved productivity.

On this note, I would like to encourage every single one of you to stand behind your Department and Agency Heads to make these incentives become a reality.

In terms of Whole of Government of coordination, when we returned

to Government, we saw the urgent need to re-establish the Office of the Chief Secretary to Government. Those required amendments have been done, and I have announced the continuation of Ambassador Pomaleu in the role of the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary is tasked to coordinate and ensure that all Public Servants are doing their jobs and doing them well. It is important that we respect and acknowledge this authority and ensure that we are able to observe directives which may be issued from time to time and on short notice for important work activities that require immediate attention.

All Departments' and Agencies' performances will be measured against Key Results Areas that have been given which will give us an indication as to whether you are performing your duties well. This will be based on the reports that you will present to us at the end of March 2023.

In that regard, I would also like to remind you that all Department and Agency Reports are due to the Chief Secretary's Office on 16 March 2023, following which his team will compile a Composite Report which will be presented to Parliament by 31 March 2023 as required by law.

In closing, I ask that there be more interfacing between Departments and Agencies and the Private sector to exchange views and ideas on practical ways and means to help grow our rural economies. We develop and implement policies that affect all our people including those who are doing business in our country. Their views are important in our deliberations as well.

I encourage you all to please move around after this Dedication Service and exchange your business cards and develop a working rapport with your colleagues from other Departments and Agencies.

Government alone cannot do it and it requires the unequivocal commitment of the Public Service to achieve this and there is no room for complacency. No one can do it for us, but ourselves and I have all the trust and confidence in you all individually and collectively to progress our country.

Last but not the least, I encourage us all for healthy living by exercising and eating our vast organic produce that has kept us healthy since time immemorial. The organic produce is plentiful in our villages and local markets for us to consume and stay healthy. We are placing high demands on you to perform your duties but you are no good to us if you are sick.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS HERE, IN THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS.



# Prime Minister welcomes new National Trade Law

Prime Minister James Marape has welcomed passage of the landmark National Trade Bill 2023 by Parliament.

The landmark bill, unanimously passed by Parliament on January 19 after much debate, was introduced by Minister for International Trade and Investment Hon. Richard Maru. It adds to the growing number of important laws passed by the Marape Government since 2019.

"I welcome passage of this very-important bill by Parliament after being introduced by Minister Maru," Prime Minister Marape said.

"It will facilitate the promotion and expansion of trade and investment in the country and do away with the bottlenecks of the past which have hindered, rather than progressed, exports of our raw materials to other countries.

"One of the most-obvious bottlenecks has been continuous transfer of the trade functions between departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry – resulting in chaos and confusion.

"Lack of properly-coordinated trade has seen smaller countries from the Pacific being able to export their taro, ginger and handicrafts to Australia and New Zealand while Papua New Guinea – which has over 80 per cent of the population and landmass – cannot get our agriculture and fisheries products into Australia and New Zealand markets

"A competent and dedicated National Trade Office will be set up – under Department of International Trade and Investment - with a clear legal mandate to identify, negotiate and secure new and better market access for our goods

and services."

The National Trade Office will:

- ❑ Provide leadership and police advice on implementation of the National Trade Policy 2017-2032 and trading matters across all sectors of the economy;
- ❑ Spearhead development and improvement of policy, negotiations, promotion and regulations of trade and advise Government accordingly;
- ❑ Coordinate and maintain oversight across all sector on implementation of the policy; and
- ❑ Play an advisory role of oversight for regulatory and facilitating agencies of Government on trade-related issues.

## PM Marape meets Puma Energy executives in Singapore



Puma Energy service station

Prime Minister James Marape leaves for Singapore today (January 7, 2023) to meet with Puma Energy executives on the ongoing saga with Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG) which continues to threaten the country with energy insecurities.

He will be accompanied by Minister for Petroleum and Energy Hon. Kerenga Kua and the State Solicitor to discuss this issue which resulted in all Air Niugini flights being cancelled on Thursday this week.

Puma Energy is a Swiss multinational mid-and downstream oil company, majority-owned by Singapore-based Swiss company Trafigura. Its operations span around 40 countries across five continents and

encompass the supply, storage, refining, distribution, and retail of a range of petroleum products.

Minister for Inter-Government Relations. Hon. Soroi Eoi, will be acting Prime Minister for the next two days as Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso is also out of the country.

"I am going to Singapore today with Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Hon. Kerenga Kua, to meet Puma executives about this ongoing saga between BPNG and Puma," PM Marape said before leaving for Singapore.

"This is so that we do not have energy or fuel insecurity issues going forward into the future.

"We cannot be held to ransom like this – which recurs every time there is an issue with foreign exchange. I know Central Bank has some regulatory issues with Puma and we want to hear from Puma leadership on why compliance to Central Bank directions are not possible and for us to find a permanent solution.

"I am also bringing our State Lawyers and we will be informing Puma that we are looking at other options, apart from fixing the relationship between them and BPNG, and finding permanent solutions so our country is not energy-insecure.

"I will also indicate to Puma that we are reviewing the NapaNapa Refinery Agreement – which gives them a monopoly of fuel supply to Papua New Guinea - and to check if they are in full compliance to all requirements that secured them this present monopoly."

PM Marape also said the Government was now seriously looking at downstream processing of PNG's oil and gas resources.

"I have signaled our major oil and gas harvesters like Santos, Total Energies and ExxonMobil that the State, through Kumul Petroleum Holdings Ltd and Mineral Resources Development Company, wants to move into the downstream processing of our own petroleum products with their partnership and we are looking at the cost of setting up a refinery."

# Australia Prime Minister's visit to East Sepik Province



L-R: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese meeting with Prime Minister James Marape upon arrival in Port Moresby



PM Marape receiving PM Albanese upon his arrival in Wewak Boram Airport



Governor Allan Bird greeting Albanese, accompanied by Minister for International Trade & Investment and Member for Yangoru Saussia, Richard Maru



PM Albanese fulfilling a customary obligation of planting a coconut palm after laying wreath at the grave of the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare



PM Albanese and PM Marape led by daughter of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare to lay wreaths at his grave site

# PM Marape presents K20 million to Western Provincial Government

**Prime Minister James Marape presented a cheque of K20 million on December 28 last year to Western Provincial in Nomad Station, Middle Fly District.**

The Prime Minister said the K10 million from the cheque will go towards fixing up the Runginai Hospital in North Fly that also serves Middle Fly. K5 million from the remaining K10 million will go towards the construction of a new road from Kiunga to Nomad Station, while the government tries to find the right bridge design for the crossing of the Fly River and Strickland River and the other K5 million will go towards building a service centre in Nomad Station, which is a new concept the Government will pilot in Middle Fly to bring people and services closer together.

The Prime Minister said these road link between Kiunga and Nomad will be a part of the Trans-Papua Road network that will go all the way to Kikori then connect to Delta Fly and back up to Hela Province.

He said this road project is already captured in the Connect PNG program therefore funding for it will be captured in the budget over the next 20 years.

Prime Minister Marape also explained about the Government's plan to make Nomad become a service centre so that people who are scattered right across the rural areas of Western Province can have access to basic services that they would normally travel for days to get access to.

To start of the concept, he said K5 million from the K20 million cheques presented to the Governor of Western Province Hon. Awi Yoto will be used to secure land for building houses for the people to move closer to the station and for service providers.

The people's appreciation of the plan was showed through their loud applause after the Prime Minister made this announcement.

Prime Minister Marape said the people will find that the Government does not usually build roads and services in areas where there are less people that is why his government would like to bring the people scattered around Nomad in their small hamlet's closer to Nomad, thereby making it possible for the Government to build roads, hospital and schools in Nomad, bringing these important services closer to the people.

"I want us to trial these concepts here because Western Province is quite big and it takes two to three days and even up to a

week to actually walk to Wipim, Nomad or Kiunga to get basic services," he said.

"In between your small hamlets and the stations that you were travelling to, there are usually casualties where lives are lost as a result of not getting to the hospital quickly or getting attacked by snakes or crocodiles.

"When the concept works, Western Province will roll out the program to places like Mogolu and areas where some form of infrastructure is already there, like airstrips and schools."

The Prime Minister told the people that he does not want the people to continue living like they are now therefore he would like to start the work to create the change needed for the good of the people.

He told the people that education is the key that is needed to bring changes to not only Middle Fly and Western Province but to the entire country.

Prime Minister Marape went on to commit counter-part funding from the National Government, to support the Province's push to have a High School built in Nomad.

He added that the school must be converted to a secondary school and a vocational school must also be built. Funding for the projects will come from the District Administration, the Provincial Government and the National Government.

The Prime Minister also appealed to the people to work with the Provincial Government and Administration to register their land that is situated close to the Nomad to Ahimbak then to Kiunga Road so that they can partner with the Provincial Government to create a company that will go into agriculture business. The National Government will help them to bring in investors for the projects.

"My Government wants the country to become economically independent but that will not happen if the people are not economically independent too," Prime Minister Marape said.

"You must work hard with the government to register your clan lands so that you can partner with the Provincial Government and the National Government to go into business.

"Do not let the road that will be built go to waste. Oil palm, fisheries products and cash crops must go out for export, and tourist must come in, bringing in money to spend.

"In the new year, a team from the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council, Department of National Planning, Department of Works and Highway and the Department of Lands will come out to Western Province to do work and come up with a land use map for the province."

Prime Minister Marape also took time to inform Ward Councillors that they have all been put on the Government payroll system therefore they can expect to receive regular salaries for the first time.

He then appealed to them to start doing a basic household head count starting next year that will assist with the National Census that will be carried out too.

The Prime Minister said starting in January 2023, he would like to see all Ward Councillors right throughout the country to start basic household head count in their respective wards.

"You took the office you are holding because you want to serve your people. Do not go into towns but stay in your wards and start the head count of the houses you have there, starting in January next year," Prime Minister Marape said.

"I need to know the number of people in the districts to ensure appropriate funding is given to the districts to develop and improve the lives of our people.

"When we do not know the population, we give the same amount of funding to everyone and often, it is not enough for some areas."

He added that two things that affect the delivery of development and services is population and the size of the land mass in all districts and provinces.

The Prime Minister urged the District and Provincial Administrations right across the country to work with the Ward Councillors and at least do a basic head count of their people before school starts next year.

He said a basic head count must be done before the officers from the National Census Office starts the National Census in the first and second quarter of 2023.

Prime Minister Marape also announced in Nomad that on average, each district will be receiving around K100 million in grants to develop the district and the National Monitoring Authority, which will soon be established, will work with independent auditors to ensure the money is used for the good of the people and not misused by Public Servants.

# Western Provincial Govt receives K17 million for projects in the province



Minister for Works & Highways, Solan Mirisim presenting a cheque of K7 million to the Governor of Western Province and the Contractor

**Prime Minister James Marape handed over K17 million in cheques to Western Province South Fly District for several projects during a brief stopover in Daru while on a tour of rural areas of the Province.**

Prime Minister Marape announced before handover the cheques that K7 million of the cheques presented is for the upgrading and sealing of the road works in Daru, the provincial capital of Western Province. This cheque was presented to a locally based contractor.

He another K5 million cheques will go towards the start of punching in a new road from Oriomo to Wiem. Another five million will go towards improving the Daru General Hospital therefore he asked the AUSAID team based in Daru, who are coordinating work being done at the hospital to discuss with the provincial areas that they can contribute towards improving so both the government of Australia and Papua New Guinea can work together for the good of the people.

The Prime Minister also presented another cheque of K5 million to the Governor of Western Province for other impact projects that he would like to implement for the province.

Prime Minister Marape is touring the Western Province to identify areas that

agricultural and livestock projects can be established so that when the missing link of Trans-Fly is built, the people of Western Province and Papua New Guinea can trade with the people of Indonesia.

“Western Province has a huge agricultural and livestock and tourism potential that has not been tapped into for many years,” he said.

“We have been hypnotised by the thought that mining and petroleum will have an abundance of money to make us all rich yet we remain poor and live in poverty in our own land we have become lazy and unproductive and not doing anything in our land of abundance.”

The Prime Minister told the people of Western Province that there are many ways to make money and not only from oil, gold and gas. There is tourism, fisheries, agriculture and livestock.

He said going into business in these areas also have the potential for people to earn a living to improve living standards but that will only come about if people work and not just sit around waiting for free handouts.

Prime Minister Marape said the Government is working to open access to the Indonesian market for beef, agricultural products, fisheries products

and even tourism by building a road link that will go from Daru to Oriomo, then to Wiem and then onto Kiunga and then connecting to Telefomin, connect the road to the Momase corridor linking Western Province to the PNG – Indonesia Border Post at Wutung and also connecting Western Province to the rest of Papua New Guinea.

In supporting the Prime Minister’s commitments to connect Papua New Guinea in the next 20 years, Minister for Works and Highways Hon. Solan Mirisim told the people of Western Province that the Trans-Fly missing links are part of the Government’s flagship program called the Connect PNG Program which will see 5.6 percent of the Countries annual budget over the next 20 years go towards upgrading exiting roads and building new ones to connect the whole country to the main road that will go from Wutung all the way to Alotau in the Milne Bay Province.

The Prime Minister did not travel alone, with him was the Minister for Livestock and Member for South Fly Hon. Saki Agisa, Minister for Works and Highways and Member for Telefomin, Hon. Solan Mirisim and senior officials from the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council and the Department of National Planning, who were specifically there to do a site inspection of major impact projects the government has identified for implementation in Western Province.

Prime Minister Marape said the officials are there to ensure work is done and progress is being made on the impact projects.

He also appealed again to public servants to keep working if they are called upon during the holidays because there is more work to be done for our people are country to take us where we want to be in the next twenty years and that is everyone becoming financially independent and having access to quality services.

The Prime Minister said our country needs to be connected in as far as development is concerned and that no province must be left behind in that area.

## DEPARTMENT VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION IS TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF PNG IN THE DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUND POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE THAT WORKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE COHERENT, HIGHT QUALITY AND TIMELY ADVISE AND SUPPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.